

Eucalyptus cladocalyx

Myrtaceae

South Australia

Eng: Sugar gum

Tg: Keih-kelamitos

Tr: Kalabitos

Ecology: This tree is endemic to a very few sites around the Eyre Peninsula of South Australia in open forest and woodland where the mean annual rainfall is less than 600 mm with a winter maximum. Outside its natural habitat it has been successfully planted in South Africa, North Africa, Spain and Portugal. In Eritrea, it is widely planted in the central highlands, e.g. on hillsides in Quahaito catchment, around Segenaiti, Betghiorgis, Arberebu, Lessa, Nefasit and Dbarwa, 1,900-2,500 m. It tolerates acidity and infertile soils.

Uses: **Firewood**, timber (construction, sawn wood), **poles, posts**, bee forage, windbreak.

Description: A medium sized or tall tree which exceeds 30 m on favourable sites. It is vigorous with a straight bole and light crown. **BARK: Smooth, often colourful** due to irregular patchy shedding of outer bark showing pale grey and yellow-brown below. **LEAVES: Young leaves stalked, rounded to 6 cm, often wider across than long, dark green above, pale below**, becoming longer. **Mature leaves long and thin, 11-15 cm, shiny and dark above, pale below**. **FLOWERS: 7-11 white flowers** in groups on short stalks, to 1.7 cm, **buds cylindrical-bottle-shaped about 1 cm, the bud cap hemispherical and wide with a small pointed tip**. **FRUIT: Stalked, oval to flask-shaped, ribbed, 1.0-1.5 cm, the 3-4 valves** which open to release seed **deep down in the centre**.

Propagation: Seedlings, sow seeds directly in containers in the nursery.

Seed: About 100,000 viable seeds per kg.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Stores well at room temperature in air-tight containers.

Management: Coppicing

Remarks: The honey produced by bees visiting *E. cladocalyx* is pale yellow and of good density and taste. The wood is pale yellow-brown with fine uniform texture, the grain frequently interlocked, hard and moderately strong.

