Eucalyptus grandis   *Myrtaceae*

Northern New South Wales, Queensland (Australia)

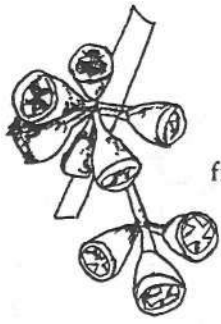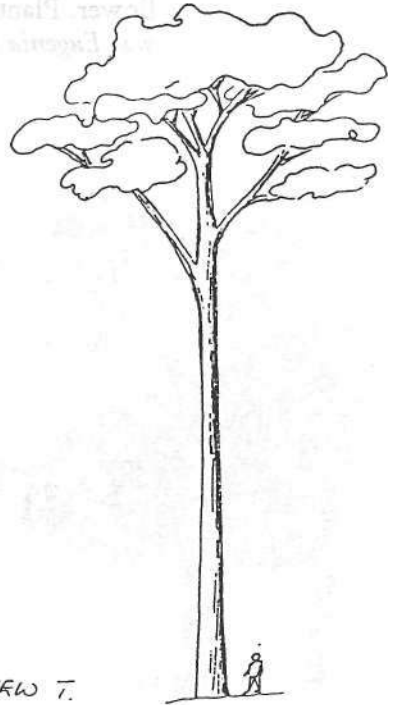|	
Common names:	**English:** Flooded gum, rose gum **Luganda:** Kalitunsi.
Ecology:	This gum tree grows best in humid subtropical conditions, but has been widely planted all over the world (e.g. South Africa, Brazil). In Uganda it has attained maximum growth in Kabale, Kisoro and Rukungiri Districts. It has also been naturalized. It performs best on light and medium neutral-to-acid soils that are free draining and moist, 1,600-2,300 m.
Uses:	Firewood, charcoal, poles (building, electricity transmission),posts, timber (heavy and light construction, furniture, boxes, veneer, plywood), bee forage, shade, ornamental, windbreak, short-fibre pulp for paper.
Description:	An evergreen tree 40-55 m, to a diameter of 2 m; with an excellent **straight trunk** and widespreading thin crown, self-pruning of branches in plantations. BARK: reddish at first, later pale grey, **fibrous bark** extends **several metres up the trunk** (more than in *E. saligna).* Upper bark is **smooth, silvery white** (greenish). LEAVES: similar to those of *E. saligna.* FLOWERS: white,'small. Buds (larger than in *E. saligna)* with a bluish bloom (waxy powder). FRUIT: pear-shaped, **gradually narrowed to an ill-defined stalk,** teeth of capsule 4-6, **mostly** 5, pale, the **blunt tips turned inward** like "clutching fingers".
Propagation:	Seedlings.
Seed:	No. of seeds per kg: 600,000-650,000. Germinates in 7-8 days,
treatment:	not necessary.
storage:	can store for several years if kept in cool, dry and airtight containers.
Management:	A fast-growing tree. Coppicing. Protect from termite attack when young.
Remarks:	It is fire sensitive and has a tendency to split when being felled. It produces flowers and seeds in 4-5 years and is moderately frost resistant as well as salt and wind tolerant. The pink to pale red-brown timber is softer and lighter than that of many gums and more easily worked. (£. *saligna* and *E. grandis* have been confused over the years and they will hybridize.)

A. Birnie

fruit capsules

DAMTEW T.