

## *Eucalyptus tereticornis*

Myrtaceae

### Eastern Australia

**English:** Forest red gum, horn-cap eucalyptus

**Nyanja:** Bulugamu

**Senga:** Bulugamu

**Ecology:** A gum tree which can grow from hot wet lowlands to cool dry highlands and is the most widely planted, e.g. in Uganda and Malawi. In Zambia, it is now grown in village woodlots in order to replace *E. grandis* which dies in drought conditions and is prone to termite damage. It is grown in the valleys and plateau of Eastern Province where it prefers deep well-drained soils.

**Uses:** Firewood, timber (heavy and light construction, boxes, boat building), **poles**, transmission poles, fence posts, bee forage.

**Description:** An evergreen tree, up to 30 m, branching to an open crown. **BARK:** **smooth, later peeling** in irregular flakes leaving coloured patches; base dark grey. **LEAVES:** drooping to 21 cm long, often curved, both surfaces shiny green. Young leaves much wider. **FLOWERS:** have **distinctive bud caps**, long and conical (tereticornis = long round, horn), 12–17 mm. **FRUIT:** woody capsules half rounded, **less than 1 cm across**, a ring around the top; shiny dark seeds within.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 300,000–800,000. Seed germinates in 14–30 days.

**treatment:** Not necessary.

**storage:** Can store well if kept in cool airtight conditions.

**Management:** Coppicing after 5 years. Rotation 6–10 years.

**Remarks:** Drought-resistant and can be coppiced after five years. Tolerates occasional flooding and slightly saline soils. Normally used for electric transmission poles as the timber is strong and durable—but difficult to work. Less susceptible to termites than most other eucalyptus. Does best in fertile soils or with fertilizer application, but survives and grows slowly on poor sites. Susceptible to boron deficiency.

