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### Trees of Western Australia - Four Bloodwoods from the Kimberley

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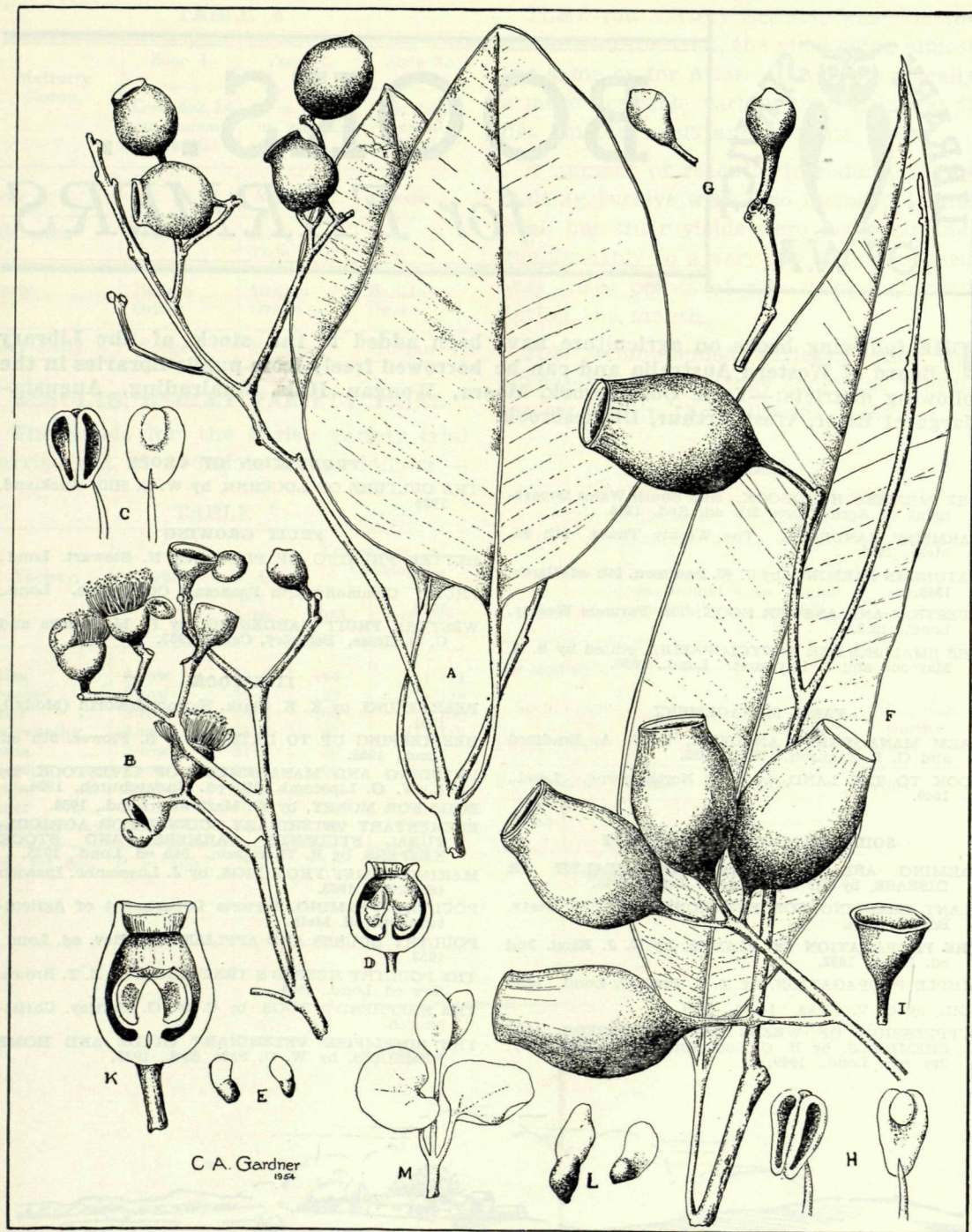
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**A to E inclusive—*Eucalyptus latifolia* F. Muell.**

A—Branchlets with leaves and fruits; B—Portion of panicle showing flowers; C—Anthers; D—Section of fruits; E—Seeds. Upper Moran River near Mount Hann. Gardner 1448 June 30, 1921

Icon. origin.

**F to M inclusive—*Eucalyptus Foelscheana* F. Muell.**

F—Leaf and fruits; G—Flower buds; H—Anthers; I—Calyx after flowering; K—Section of fruit; L—Seeds; M—Cotyledons. Admiralty Gulf. Gardner 1486. July 24, 1921

Icon. origin.



# TREES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

By C. A. GARDNER, Government Botanist

## Nos. 31 to 34—Four Bloodwoods from the Kimberleys

**T**HE four bloodwoods dealt with in this article are small trees restricted to the Kimberley Division of Western Australia and include *Eucalyptus latifolia*, F. Muell.; *Eucalyptus Foelscheana*, F. Muell.; *Eucalyptus lamprocalyx*, Blakely, and *Eucalyptus Cliftoniana*, W. F. Fitzg. They grow in sandy soils or in stony places among sandstone rocks, and seldom exceed 40ft. in height. *E. lamprocalyx* and *E. Cliftoniana* are little-known species concerning which further information is required.

The characteristics of bloodwood trees include a persistent, flaky or flaky-smooth bark. When rough, the bark is persistent; when flaky it is shed annually. Occasionally it may be almost as smooth as the bark of a gum-tree but usually has a small quantity of flaky bark present, generally at the base of the trunk.

Another characteristic is the leaf, which has a system of close parallel nerves diverging from the midrib at a wide angle, sometimes almost at a right-angle.

The third characteristic is found in the flowers and fruits which are arranged in large branched trusses, not in simple umbels; the operculum, or bud-cap, is short sometimes almost like a disc and tardily falling away from the calyx as the filaments of the flower expand.

The fruits are globular or urn-shaped, i.e., the fruit has a "neck" or constriction below the opening. They are somewhat hard and woody, and the fertile seeds are large, few in number and usually winged.

### No. 31—THE ROUND-LEAVED BLOODWOOD

(*Eucalyptus latifolia* F. Muell.)

This tree inhabits the sandstone valleys and basaltic undulating country between the Moran, King Edward and Carson rivers in North Kimberley. It is most frequently found on the light, sandy soils, with the Woollybutt (*E. miniata* A. Cunn. ex Schau). Both the popular and specific

names refer to the shape of the leaves (*latifolius*—broad-leaved).

The species is a tree 25 to 50ft. tall with a trunk up to 25ft. in height and up to 20in. in diameter. The branches are spreading or drooping and the timber is pink, dense and rather hard.

The bark is yellowish-pink in colour, rarely white, and spotted with small purple grey-flakes of tardily-shedding bark giving the trunk a mottled appearance.

The leaves are broad and somewhat obtuse, pale green or glaucous, on long stalks, and with the blade usually 3 to 4in. in length.

The flowers are arranged in large terminal panicles, are white in colour, and the obtuse operculum (bud-cap) often remains hinged to the calyx when the flowers expand.

The ovoid-globular fruit is woody, about half an inch in length, and pale green with brown spots when ripe. The rim is rather thick and the valves enclosed.

### No. 32—*Eucalyptus Foelscheana* F. Muell.

This smooth-barked bloodwood was named after Paul Foelsch of Darwin who collected the first specimens of the tree. It differs from *E. latifolia* in its smaller size, much narrower green leaves, and the larger size of its fruits.

The tree is common on the basalt (andesite) country of North Kimberley around Admiralty Gulf, and the lower



King Edward and Carson rivers. It rarely exceeds 35 ft. in height and is usually of lesser stature. The timber is red in colour, hard and dense.

The bark of the tree is white or pale buff in colour. It may be quite smooth, but sometimes carries patches of purplish, somewhat persistent bark, giving the trunk a mottled appearance.

The leaves, usually light green in colour, are lustrous, narrow and vary from 4 to 7 in. in length. As far as observed, they are pendulous. The sucker-leaves are remarkably large, sometimes as much as 15 in. in length and 11 in. in width.

I have not seen the flowers, but the fruits are vase-shaped mostly about 1½ in. long with faint longitudinal striations. The capsule is deeply included, and the relatively large seeds are winged.

No. 33—*Eucalyptus lamprocalyx* W. F. Blakely.

This is one of the lesser-known *Eucalyptus* species and has been included in the series in the hope that the information contained in the following notes and the accompanying plate, may be sufficient to enable interested persons to recognise and rediscover this tree. It has not been seen since its discovery 50 years ago, although I have searched for it in many places from Native Well to Kimberley Downs without success. Possibly this article may stimulate interest in this tree among local residents and those engaged in oil surveys in the area.

Specimens of the ripe fruits, and notes on the habit and size of the tree, with particulars of the bark and timber are urgently required by the State Herbarium.

The name *lamprocalyx* comes from the Greek (*lampros*—brilliant) and refers to the shining purple of the flower-buds.

On April 29, 1905, W. V. Fitzgerald, who was attached to the Crossland Trigonometrical Survey of that year, travelled with the party from Native Well near Derby to "a camp about half a mile from Meda Station homestead."

The route traversed the flats of the May River, several lagoons being passed which were covered with aquatic vegetation and the resort of ducks, ibises and other birds.

Fitzgerald collected 75 plant specimens including this one which he incorrectly named *Eucalyptus pyrophora* but concerning which he gave no definite locality or notes as to habit and general appearance.

A few twigs with leaves, buds and detached flowers were collected, but no fruits.

The tree is apparently a small one with moderately thick opposite or alternate leaves, which are a slightly darker green above than below. Branches are angular and the leaf-stalks very short and compressed (flattened).

The flower-buds are about half an inch long, purplish and lustrous, the operculum being short with a small boss-like apex. The filaments are white.

The plate is prepared from the original material and shows the twigs and buds.

No. 34—*Eucalyptus Cliftoniana* W. V. Fitzg.

This species grows at Mount Anderson among sandstone rocks, and Fitzgerald also recorded it from the Grant and Packhorse Ranges and from the summit of Bold Bluff in the King Leopold Range. What appears to be the same species (it has not been seen in fruit) occurs on the red sandy country between Margaret River and Bohemia Downs Stations. It has also been collected on Carlton Station near the Northern Territory boundary.

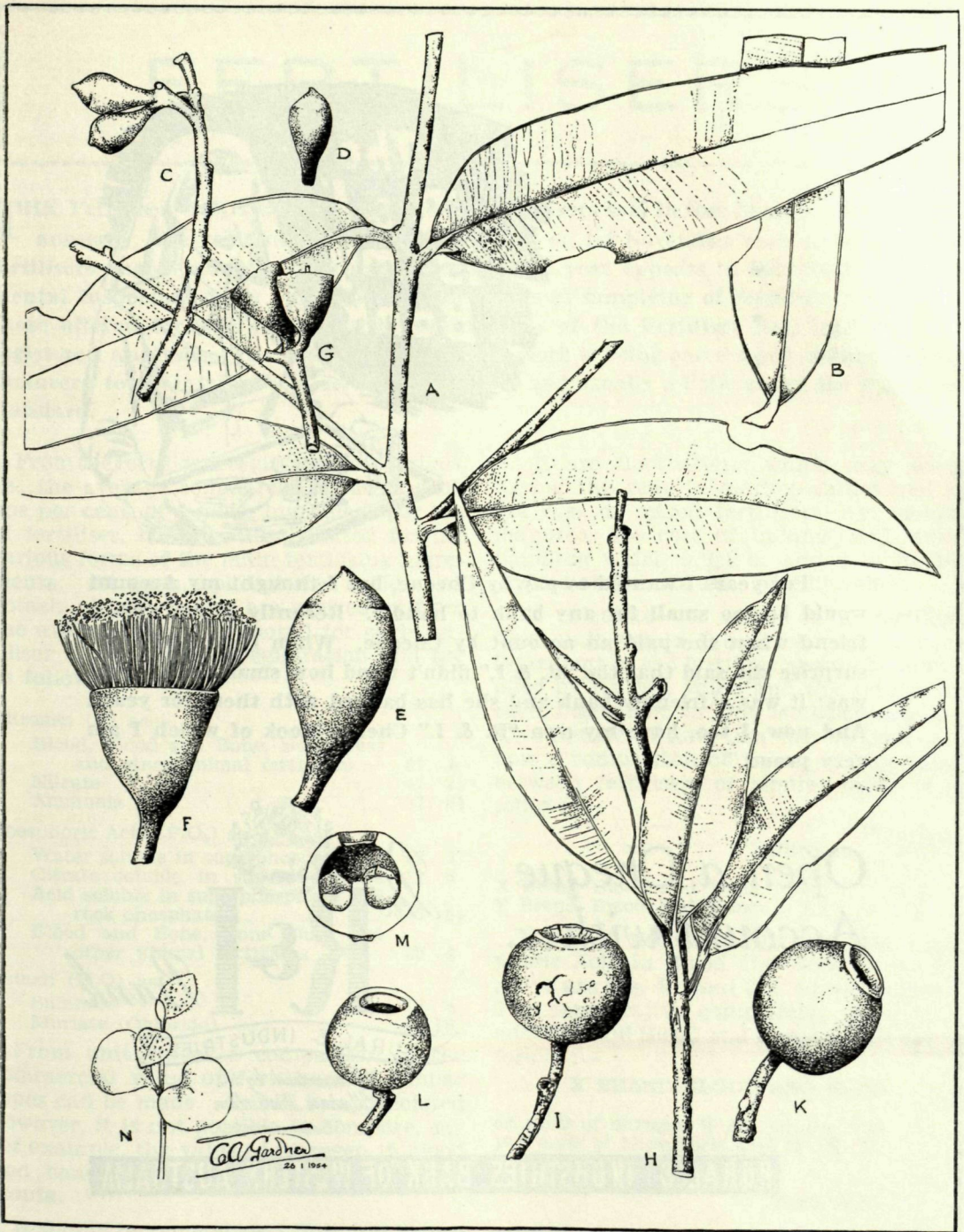
We possess neither flowering nor fruiting material in the State Herbarium, and suitable specimens would be appreciated.

The tree is named after R. C. Clifton, a former Under-Secretary for Lands in Western Australia. It is a bloodwood attaining a height of about 30 ft. with a rough, persistent bark throughout. The bark is scaly-fibrous, friable and somewhat tessellated and is reddish or grey in colour.

The branches are mostly spreading or drooping and the leaves narrow, green and lustrous.

The flowers are white, in rather large, corymbose panicles, and the woody fruit is globular—often broader than its length—on a very short stalk. The thick rim slopes inward. The seeds are reddish-brown and winged.





**A to G inclusive—*Eucalyptus lamprocalyx* W. F. Blakely**

A—Branchlet with leaves; B—Lower part of leaf showing distinctive leaf-stalk; C and D—Flower-buds; E—Flower-bud, slightly enlarged; F—Flower; G—Calyx after flowering. Meda Station, Lennard River. W. V. Fitzgerald 416, April 1905

**H to N inclusive—*Eucalyptus Cliftoniana* W. V. Fitzg.**

H—Branchlet with leaves; I, K and L—Fruits; M—Fruit in section; N—Cotyledons. Mount Anderson. W. V. Fitzgerald

Icon. origin.



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