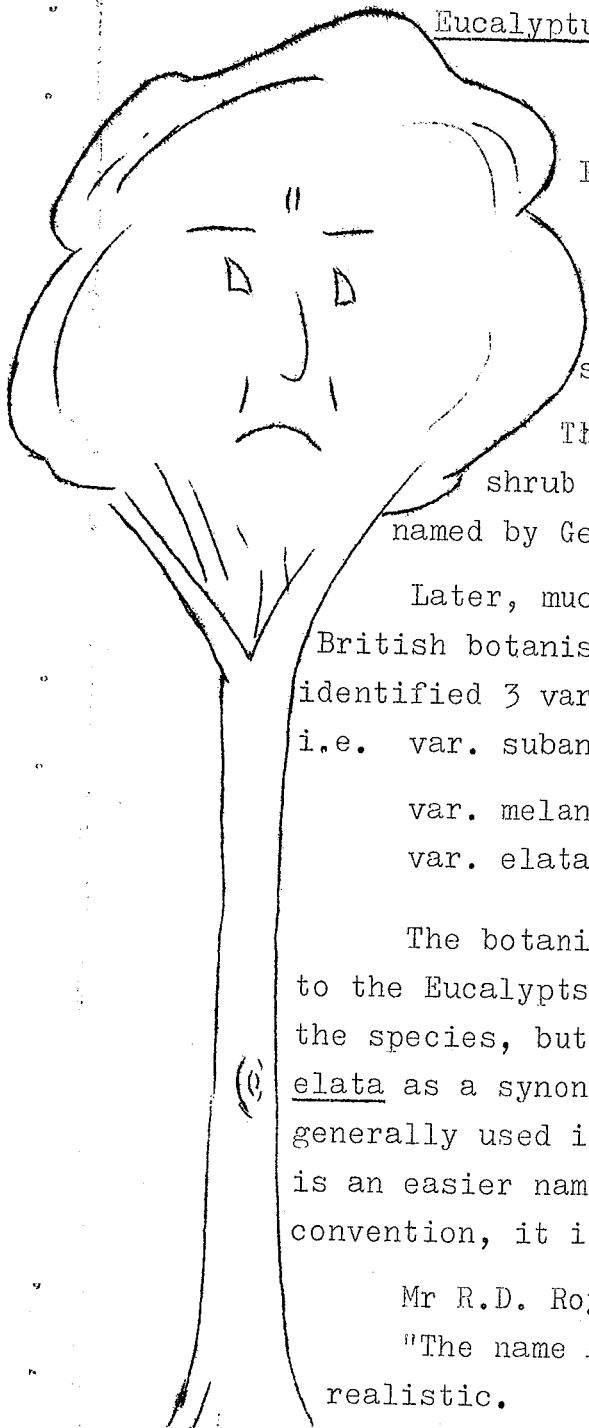


WANDOOEucalyptus redunca var elata

or

Eucalyptus wandoo

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Periodically, the question of the right name for this species comes to our attention. Some research into this problem has brought a few facts to the surface.

The original Eucalyptus redunca was "a shrub or mallee 3 to 8 feet high" which was named by German botanist Schauer.

Later, much botanical material was sent to the British botanist, Bentham at Kew Gardens, London. He identified 3 varieties of this species.

i.e. var. subangusta (tree, 25 feet with persistent bark.)

var. melanophloia (small tree; black bark.)

var. elata (large White Gum 50' - 100' high; wandoo.)

The botanist Blakely (1934), in his book "A Key to the Eucalypts", gives the name "Eucalyptus wandoo" to the species, but quotes the name Eucalyptus redunca var elata as a synonym. Eucalyptus wandoo is the name now generally used in the Eastern States, and certainly it is an easier name to use than the other, but by botanical convention, it is not correct.

Mr R.D. Royce, curator of the State Herbarium says:
"The name Eucalyptus wandoo, Blakely, is not realistic.

"The differences between the mallee and the tree are very obvious, but in view of the other forms within E. redunca accepted by Blakely, and particularly in view of the overall variation in Eucalyptus, the creation of a

new species for a tree originally described as a mallee is not feasible. There are ^{nearly} a hundred species of Eucalyptus in this State which occur as both mallee and tree, and a few of these even have varietal names."

Botanical convention requires that the name applied with original description, if it was correct and accepted, should always be applied thereafter to that species or variety. Subsequent revisions sometimes reveal the need for a change in name, and while this often happens with Australian flora, Blakely's naming here cannot be accepted.

So the correct naming of this tree is Eucalyptus redunca Schau. var elata Benth.

It is also acceptable in general use to drop the "authority" - or shortened name of the describer vis Eucalyptus redunca var elata.