

CARNE'S BLACKBUTT

Eucalyptus Carnei C. A. Gardn.

A—Branchlet with leaves and flower-buds; B—Branchlet with slightly immature fruits; C—Flower-cluster (enlarged); D—Fruits—Sandstone Gardner 2073 (Type); E—Fruit (enlarged); F—Section of enlarged fruits; G—Seeds. Sandstone, Gardner 13430.

TREES

of Western Australia

By C. A. GARDNER

No. 95—CARNE'S BLACKBUTT

(*Eucalyptus Carnei* C. A. Gardn.)

Named after the late Walter Mervyn Carne, a former Economic Botanist and Plant pathologist of the Department of Agriculture in Western Australia, this species was discovered at Sandstone by the writer in July, 1927, and subsequently collected in August 1961.

It is not uncommon on the ironstone and sandstone hills near Sandstone, occurring on the steep sides of the hills and breakaways in shallow soil. It is a typical "Blackbutt" with a rough, dark persistent more or less tessellated bark on the lower and greater part of the trunk, this being succeeded by a smooth yellowish bark shedding in plates. The branchlets, which spread widely or are even pendulous, are ashy-white.

The timber is yellowish-brown, very dense, hard and straight-grained, but the trunk seldom exceeds four or six feet in length. The foliage is a blue-green in colour, but here and there trees with yellow-green foliage are also seen.

The tree rarely exceeds 15 or 16 feet in height.

This variation in the colour of the foliage in the inland species of *Eucalyptus* is not an uncommon feature of some species, the most noteworthy being *Eucalyptus Le Souefii* (No. 77 of this series), in which green foliage sometimes occurs, although typically the foliage of this species is a blue-green. The same thing occurs in *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, the "York Gum" in the far eastern parts of its range.

The flowers of *Eucalyptus Carnei* are still unknown, but probably have sulphur-yellow filaments as in *Eucalyptus Stricklandii* (No. 78 of this series). A glance at the illustrations of the two will illustrate this point. Both species have the same general appearance in the field, but *Eucalyptus Carnei* differs in that it has smaller narrower leaves, smaller flowers with a shorter obtuse operculum, always shorter than the hypanthium, and always without the compression of operculum which characterises *Eucalyptus Stricklandii*. The valves of the ripe fruits are exerted in both species.

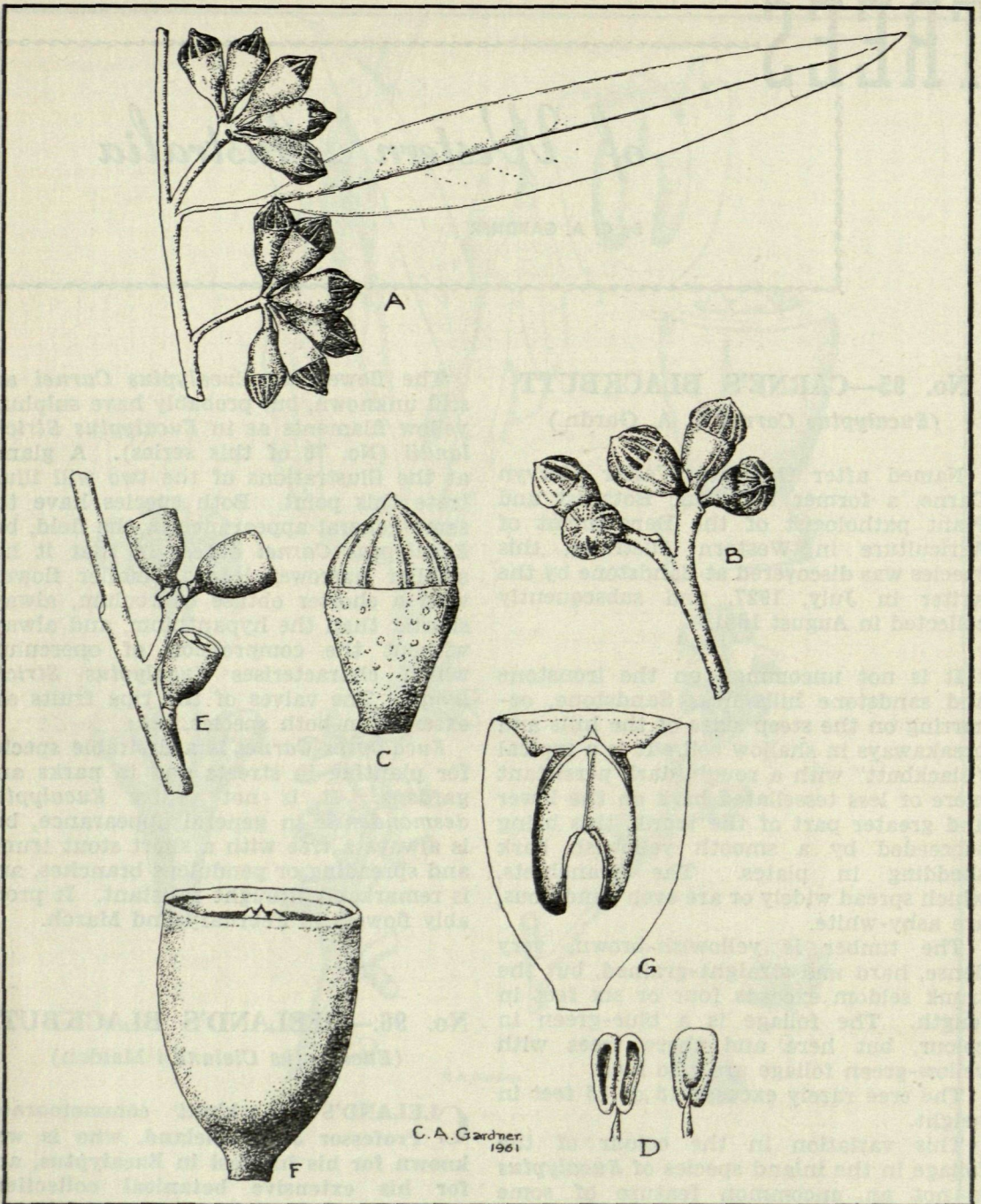
Eucalyptus Carnei is a desirable species for planting in streets and in parks and gardens. It is not unlike *Eucalyptus desmondensis* in general appearance, but is always a tree with a short stout trunk, and spreading or pendulous branches, and is remarkably drought-resistant. It probably flowers in February and March.

No. 96.—CLELAND'S BLACKBUTT

(*Eucalyptus Clelandii* Maiden)

CLELAND'S Blackbutt commemorates Professor J. B. Cleland, who is well known for his interest in *Eucalyptus*, and for his extensive botanical collections made both in the drier parts of Western Australia and in Central Australia.

The tree is fairly widely distributed throughout the drier eastern areas of Western Australia. Extending from Goongarrie in the north, it is fairly common in the Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie



CLELAND'S BLACKBUTT

Eucalyptus Clelandii Maiden.

A—Leaf and flower-buds; B—Flower-buds; C—Flower-bud (enlarged); D—Anthers; E—Fruits F—Fruit (enlarged); G—Fruit in section. Montana Hill, Coolgardie, Gardner 1277.

districts, especially the latter where it is common on the schistose hills, but is also freely met with on the red loamy flats. It is also found in the Ninghan district near Mount Gibson, but we do not know of it from any intermediate localities. In the Ninghan district it is not uncommonly an erect tree up to 35 feet or more in stature, but around Coolgardie it is usually a much smaller tree with a relatively short trunk—often only six feet in length, and with widely spreading branches.

The field characteristics of the tree are the short stout trunk covered with a dark grey or almost black bark throughout or over the greater part of the trunk, this succeeded by a yellowish-brown or almost green smooth bark on the branches, and this in turn succeeded by powdery white smooth branchlets. The leaves are a blue-green in colour, and of a lanceolate shape. The timber is light or dark brown in colour, very hard and dense and straight-grained.

Among the floral characteristics of the tree are the very shortly stalked buds and

fruits, both of which are powdery-white. The hypanthium is almost bell-shaped, and the flowers five to seven in the umbel, the umbels being in the axils of the leaves. Although the hypanthium is smooth, the operculum—shorter than the hypanthium in the typical form—is rather prominently ribbed, and broader in diameter than the hypanthium. The filaments are white.

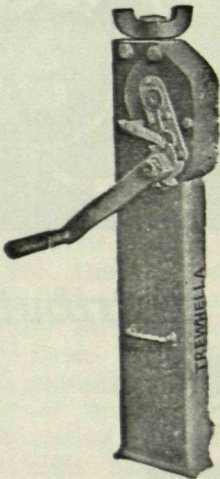
Eucalyptus Clelandii is a most desirable species for planting because of the attractive appearance of its various types of usually dense branches. The typical Coolgardie form found so abundantly on Montana Hill, rarely exceeds eighteen feet in stature, and thus, as a street tree would require little or no mutilation. It is drought resistant, as indicated by the climate and soil of its habitat, and although happy in this arid environment, it responds well to cultivation in the light sand of the Metropolitan area.

It is of fairly rapid growth, and flowers abundantly from August to February.

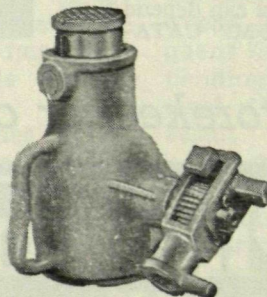
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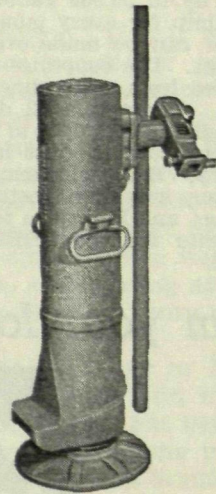
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