# *Eucalyptus  sparsifolia* – Narrow-leaved Stringybark
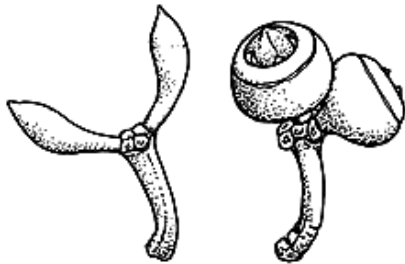
**Family:**
Myrtaceae

**Common Name:**
Narrow-leaved Stringybark

**Distribution:**
Widespread in drier forest or woodlands mainly across the central coastal region of NSW extending up and beyond the ranges as far as the Pilliga scrub in north-west NSW. In HSC commonly found on sandy or sandy lateritic well drained soils on ridgetops in woodland or open forest. In HSC; Community DF (15.5 ha) & C (638.4 ha), E (46.5 ha) & F (1289.6 ha) & D (4408.7 ha). A common species.

**Derivation of Name:**
*Eucalyptus*, Greek, derived from eu "well" and kalyptos "covered", a reference to the caps covering the flowering buds. *sparsifolia*, Latin, simply meaning sparsely foliaged.

**Conservation Status:**
Although a common species in many vegetation communities, *E. sparsifolia* is threatened by land clearing and other degrading influences where it is located on ridgetops close to human activity.

**Description:**
A small to medium sized tree with a generally slender appearance and thin spreading branches. Grows to around 20m in HSC but is usually around the 10-12m range. The trunk has a persistent tight stringybark, grey, light brown to reddish in colour extending well onto the outer limbs. Disjunct adult leaves are narrowly lanceolate, concolorous, greyish green and glossy; they range from 8–12 cm long and 1 –2cm in width. Flowers generally in late summer although it is highly variable, small flowers are white to cream coloured. Fruit are small woody capsules rounded and globose to 5-8mm long with valves exerted above a reasonably thick rim. *E. sparsifolia* may be difficult to distinguish from the very similar stringybark species *E. oblonga*.

**Longevity:**
Over 100 years.

**Horticultural Merit and uses:**
Virtually unknown and unused in horticultural applications. Honey production. Used for fuel wood.

**Fauna Value:**
General food and habitat tree for a wide range of birds and arboreal mammals as providing resources such as insects for food and flowers with nectar and pollen.