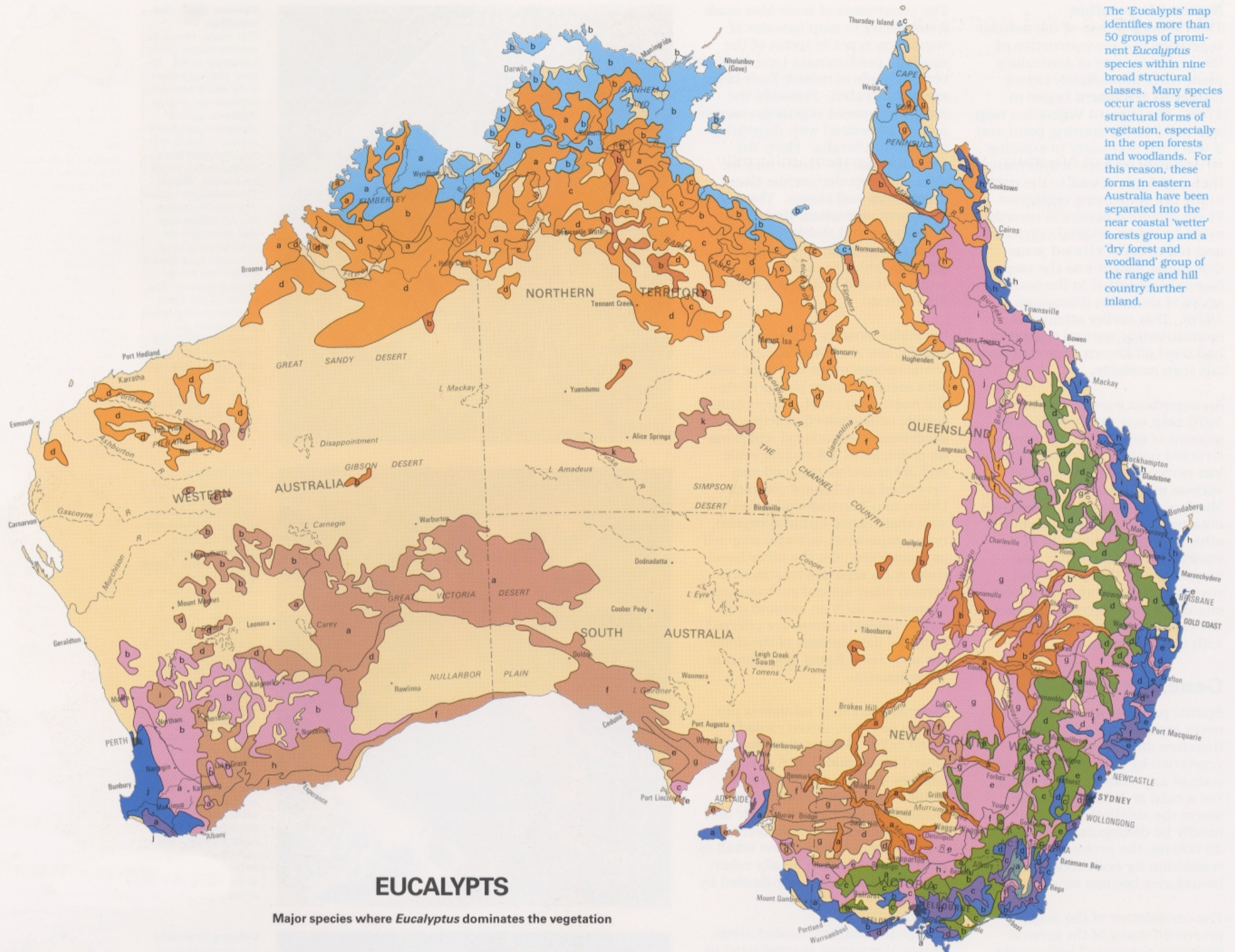


# Australia's plant symbols



The 'Eucalypts' map identifies more than 50 groups of prominent *Eucalyptus* species within nine broad structural classes. Many species occur across several structural forms of vegetation, especially in the open forests and woodlands. For this reason, these forms in eastern Australia have been separated into the near coastal 'wetter' forests group and a 'dry forest and woodland' group of the range and hill country further inland.

## EUCALYPTS

Major species where *Eucalyptus* dominates the vegetation

### Tall forests

- a Karri—*E. diversicolor*
- b Messmate Stringybark—*E. obliqua*, *E. nitida*
- c Alpine Ash/Mountain Gum—*E. delegatensis*, *E. dalrympleana*
- d Mountain Ash—*E. regnans*
- e Brown Barrel/Manna Gum—*E. fastigata*, *E. viminalis*
- f White Mahogany/Grey Gum/Tallowwood—*E. acmenoides*, *E. propinqua*, *E. microcorys*

### Wet forests

- a Brown Stringybark—*E. baxteri*, *E. obliqua*, *E. viminalis*
- b Messmate Stringybark/Mountain Gum—*E. obliqua*, *E. cypellocarpa*
- c Silvertop Ash/White Stringybark—*E. sieberi*, *E. globoides*, *E. gummifera*, *E. botryoides*
- d Manna Gum—*E. viminalis*, *E. pauciflora*, *E. fastigata*, *E. andrewsii* (North), *E. laevopinea* (North)
- e Blackbutt/Grey Gum/Sydney Blue Gum—*E. pilularis*, *E. propinqua*, *E. saligna*, *E. resinifera*, *E. maculata*
- f Black Peppermint/Snow Gum—*E. amygdalina*, *E. pauciflora*, *E. rodwayi*
- g Tasmanian Blue Gum/White Peppermint—*E. globulus*, *E. pulchella*
- h Pink Bloodwood—*E. intermedia*, *E. acmenoides*, *E. microcorys* (South), *E. pellita* (North), *E. exserta*
- i Forest Red Gum/Carbeen—*E. tereticornis*, *E. tessellaris*, *E. maculata*, *E. citriodora*
- j Jarrah/Marri—*E. marginata*, *E. calophylla*

### Dry forests and woodlands of the ranges

- a Red Ironbark—*E. sideroxylon*, *E. dealbata*
- b Candlebark/Narrowleaf Peppermint—*E. rubida*, *E. radiata*, *E. dives*, *E. viminalis*
- c Red Stringybark/Broadleaf Peppermint—*E. macrorhyncha*, *E. dives*, *E. rossii* (NSW)
- d Narrowleaf Ironbark—*E. crebra*, *E. fibrosa*, *E. drepanophylla* (Qld), *E. tessellaris*, *E. trachyphloia*, *E. melanophloia*
- e Red Bloodwood/Grey Gum—*E. gummifera*, *E. punctata*, *E. piperita*, *E. dives*

### Woodlands

- a Wandoo/York Gum—*E. wandoo*, *E. loxophleba*
- b Salmon Gum—*E. salmonophloia*, *E. loxophleba*
- c Yellow Gum/Peppermint Box—*E. leucocylon*, *E. odorata* (SA), *E. camaldulensis* (Vic.)
- d Forest Red Gum—*E. tereticornis*, *E. moluccana*
- e Grey Box—*E. microcarpa*
- f White Box—*E. albens*, *E. melliodora*
- g Poplar Box—*E. populnea*, *E. intertexta* (South), *E. melanophloia* (North)
- h Yellow Box/Blakely's Red Gum—*E. melliodora*, *E. blakelyi*
- i Narrowleaf Ironbark—*E. crebra*, *E. drepanophylla*, *E. alba*, *E. papuana*, *E. tessellaris*
- j Silverleaf Ironbark—*E. melanophloia*
- k Manna Gum—*E. viminalis*

### Alpine low woodlands

- a Snow Gum/Black Sallee—*E. pauciflora*, *E. stellulata*
- b Tasmanian Snow Gum/Cider Gum—*E. coccifera*, *E. gunnii*

### Mallees

- a Colde Mallee/Desert Gum—*E. youngiana*, *E. gongylocarpa*<sup>1</sup>
- b Kingsmill's Mallee—*E. kingsmillii*
- c Blue Mallee—*E. gamophylla*
- d Giant Mallee/White Mallee—*E. oleosa*, *E. dumosa* (East)
- e Soap Mallee—*E. diversifolia*
- f Red Mallee/Yorrell—*E. socialis*, *E. gracilis*, *E. dumosa*
- g Ridge-fruited Mallee/Narrowleaf Red Mallee—*E. incrassata*, *E. foecunda*
- h Mallee—*E. eremophila*
- i Narrowleaf Red Mallee/Redwood—*E. foecunda*, *E. transcontinentalis*, *E. sheathiana*
- j Tallrack—*E. tetragona*
- k Red bud Mallee—*E. pachyphylla*

### Northern forests and woodlands

- a Variable-barked Bloodwood/Darwin Stringybark—*E. dichromophloia*<sup>2</sup>, *E. tetradonta*, *E. setosa*
- b Darwin Stringybark/Darwin Woollybutt—*E. tetradonta*, *E. miniata*
- c Darwin Stringybark/Longfruit Bloodwood—*E. tetradonta*, *E. polycarpa*

### Northern low woodlands

- a Darwin Box—*E. tectifica*, *E. foelscheana*, *E. ptychocarpa*, *E. confertiflora*, *E. grandifolia*
- b Scarlet Gum/Rusty Bloodwood—*E. phoenicea*, *E. ferruginea*, *E. bleeseri*, *E. aspera*
- c Pale Bloodwood/Silverleaf Box—*E. terminalis*, *E. pruinosa*, *E. argillacea*
- d Snappy Gum/Migum—*E. brevifolia*, *E. leucophloia*, *E. setosa*, *E. dichromophloia*
- e Yellow Jacket/Ghost Gum—*E. similis*, *E. papuana*, *E. whitei*
- f Mountain Yapunyah—*E. thozetiana*, *E. terminalis*, *E. normantonensis*
- g Cullen's Ironbark/Molloy Red Box—*E. cullenii*, *E. leptophleba*, *E. alba*

### Forests and woodlands of the inland floodplains

- a River Red Gum/Black Box—*E. camaldulensis*, *E. largiflorens*
- b Coolibah—*E. microtheca*

<sup>1</sup> low tree  
<sup>2</sup> taxonomic complex

SCALE 1:15 000 000

SOURCE: Based on information used to compile the 1: 5 million map 'Natural Vegetation'.

The complexity of eucalypt distributions is exemplified on the map by the number of widespread species—such as *E. viminalis*, the manna gum—which occur in more than one structural type and in several species groups. Widespread species also often have different associates at opposite ends of their range. Species followed by a state or region in the legend have a limited distribution within the wider mapped area of the major species. Common names are given for regionally important species, the more widespread appearing first. While many widespread or locally dominant species do not appear on the map, some 20% of the total, are included.

## Eucalypts and acacias

Two dominant elements of Australia's vegetation—*Eucalyptus* and *Acacia*—occur right across the continent. They are to be found in almost all possible habitats—from the alps to coastal heaths and from the deserts to wet forests. These two genera between them dominate the top stratum of the vegetation over three-quarters of Australia. Despite this apparent uniformity, a closer look reveals a remarkable diversity even within these common generic groups.

These two maps identify species which are characteristic of the areas dominated by *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* on the 1:5 million scale map of natural vegetation. They show the most prominent species, or groups of species, for all areas where 'e' or 'w' appear in the codes on that map. Although these genera do occur elsewhere, they are not the major floristic type of the vegetation within the unclassified areas.

The maps are not intended as species distribution maps as most of the boundaries come directly from the map of natural vegetation structure. The species named are those identified as dominant in each map unit, but most also occur

outside these areas. There are also large overlaps in the ranges of individual species. However, the vegetation within the areas mapped is well described by the major species, such as 'poplar box' country or 'mulga' country.

In the inland areas where *Acacia* is the primary floristic type, a few (and often only a single) species clearly predominate. In the *Eucalyptus* forests, on the other hand, the tree species often overlap in intricate spatial distributions governed by the complex topography, soils and microclimate of the coasts and ranges. Nearly every map unit of the natural vegetation in the south-east contained several *Eucalyptus* species associations.



**Gum tree flowers**  
More than any other plant, the gum tree is associated with the Australian bush. *Eucalyptus* is an Australian genus of over 500 species, but a few also occur on islands to the north of Australia. The distinctive features of all eucalypts can be seen in this photograph—the mass of stamens, the capped buds and the woody fruits (gumnuts). The leaves generally have a tough waxy cuticle and contain numerous oil glands. There is a variety of rough-barked types (e.g. ironbarks, stringybarks and boxes) as well as the smooth-barked gums. The success of the eucalypts in Australia is now being mirrored overseas, where they have been widely planted.

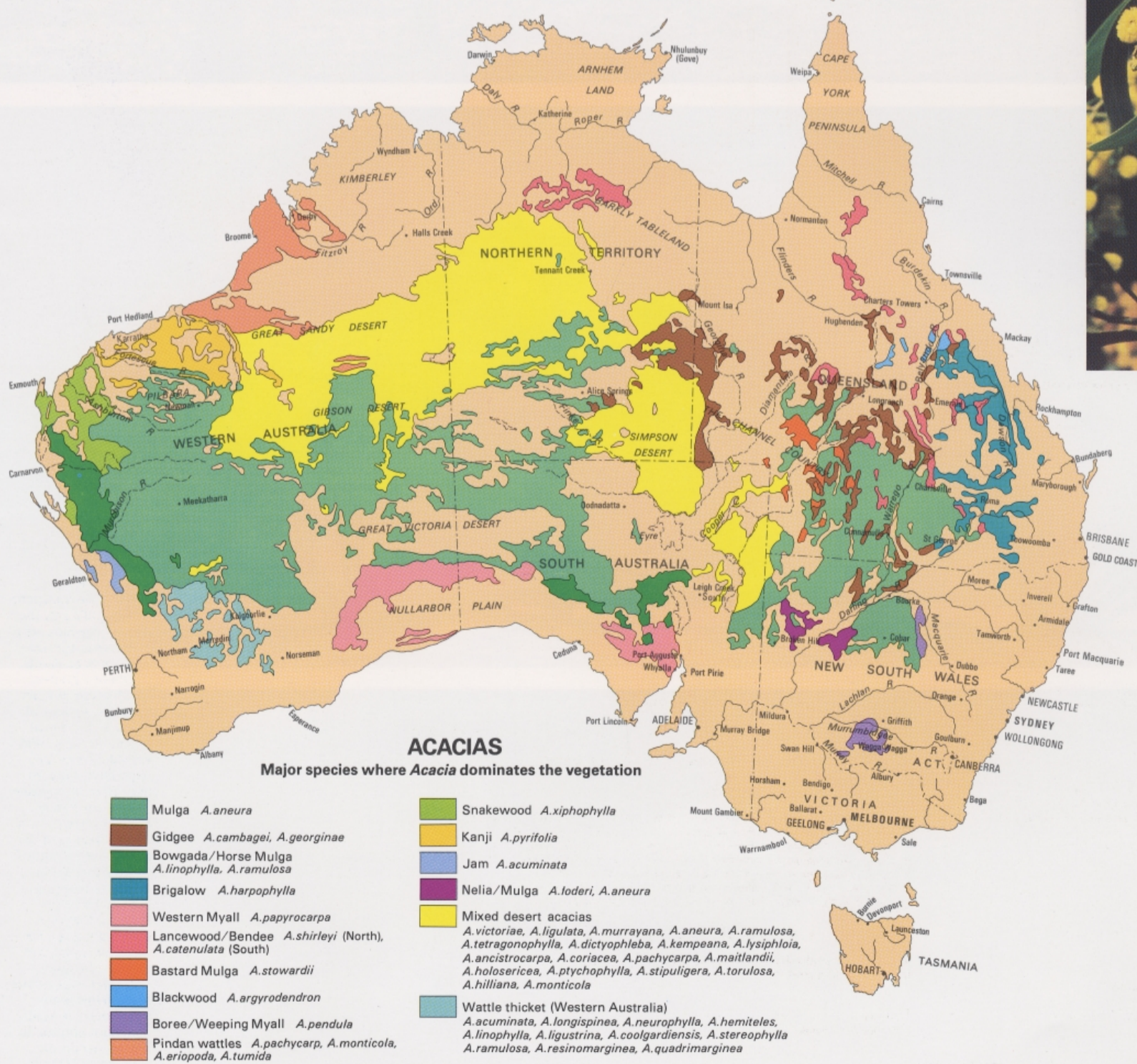


**Acacia** occurs elsewhere, notably in Africa, but the largest number and greatest diversity of the species are found in Australia, so it is rightly considered a symbol of Australia.

**Golden wattle**  
The golden wattle flower (*Acacia pycnantha*) is Australia's floral emblem and *Acacia* is the botanical name given to the many different plants which bear this distinctive flower type. Australia has over 700 named species of *Acacia*, displaying such a diversity of leaf forms and growth habits that many appear to be totally unrelated when they are not in flower. Leaf shape and size varies from the feathery, bipinnate leaves of many eastern understorey species to the leathery or spiny leaf-like phyllodes of most inland trees and shrubs. Phyllodes are the mature foliage of all species included on the 'Acacias' map.

As the map clearly demonstrates, very large areas are dominated by *Acacia*. But there are some widespread and familiar species, particularly in south-eastern Australia, which do not appear because they generally occur as an understorey to *Eucalyptus* forests and woodlands. Some of the species which are shown, such as brigalow (*A. harpophylla*) and boree or weeping myall (*A. pendula*), no longer occupy their entire mapped range, which is based on natural vegetation.

Recent taxonomic work on the genus has suggested that most of the species currently assigned to *Acacia* should, by historical precedent, be more correctly known as *Racosperma* (Pedley 1986).



SOURCE: Based on information used to compile the 1:5 million map 'Natural Vegetation'.