

## Lanceleaf gum-myrtle

*Angophora costata* Domin

Myrtle family (Myrtaceae)

Post-Cook introduction

Large evergreen tree introduced in forest plantations, related to *Eucalyptus* but differing in the leaves paired (opposite) and in the five separate white petals. To 80 ft (24 m) high and 2 ft (0.6 m) in trunk diameter. Bark gray smooth, flaking off and becoming slightly mottled and gray brown, showy, becoming brown and scaly on very large trunks. Branches light gray, smooth to slightly scaly. Twigs long slender drooping, brown, hairless.

Leaves opposite or mostly so, hairless, drooping on slender leafstalks  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (13–20 mm) long, grooved above. Blades lance-shaped, 4–6 inches (10–15 cm) long, 1– $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (2.5–4 cm) wide, short-pointed at base and tapering to a very long point slightly curved to one side, slightly turned under at edges, slightly thick, dull light green with pale yellow midvein and many very fine straight parallel side veins.

Flower clusters (panicles) terminal, large, branched. Flowers many, crowded, with short hairy stalks less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) long, composed of conical basal cup (hypanthium)  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6 mm) long and broad, with five ridges and five teeth corresponding to calyx, with fine gray hairs and gland hairs; five rounded white petals  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (3 mm) long on rim of cup; many white threadlike stamens  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (10 mm) long spreading from rim about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (2 cm) across; and pistil with inferior ovary, slender style, and dotlike stigma.

Fruits cuplike or like capsules, rounded, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (13 mm) in diameter, with 10 long ridges, blackish, hard and thick-walled, opening by a lid, three-celled.

Wood light brown or gray, very hard, very heavy (sp. gr. 0.9), would be suitable for heavy timbers except that it contains many gum veins (gum-filled shakelike separations in the wood), which make it essentially useless except as pulpwood or fuelwood.

The Division of Forestry has planted almost 20,000 trees in the forest reserves, primarily on Oahu and Maui, but also on Kauai and Hawaii. On Oahu there is a stand shortly beyond the start of Trail Number 2, Manoa Cliffs Trail on Tantalus Mountain. This species is also extensively planted on the land of Waiawa and Waiau above Pacific Palisades and Waimano Home. On Maui it is

growing well on Upper Borge Ridge in the Makawao Forest Reserve. The tree has showy bark with a striking resemblance to *Eucalyptus maculata* and has potential as an ornamental.

### **Special areas**

Aiea, Tantalus

### **Champion**

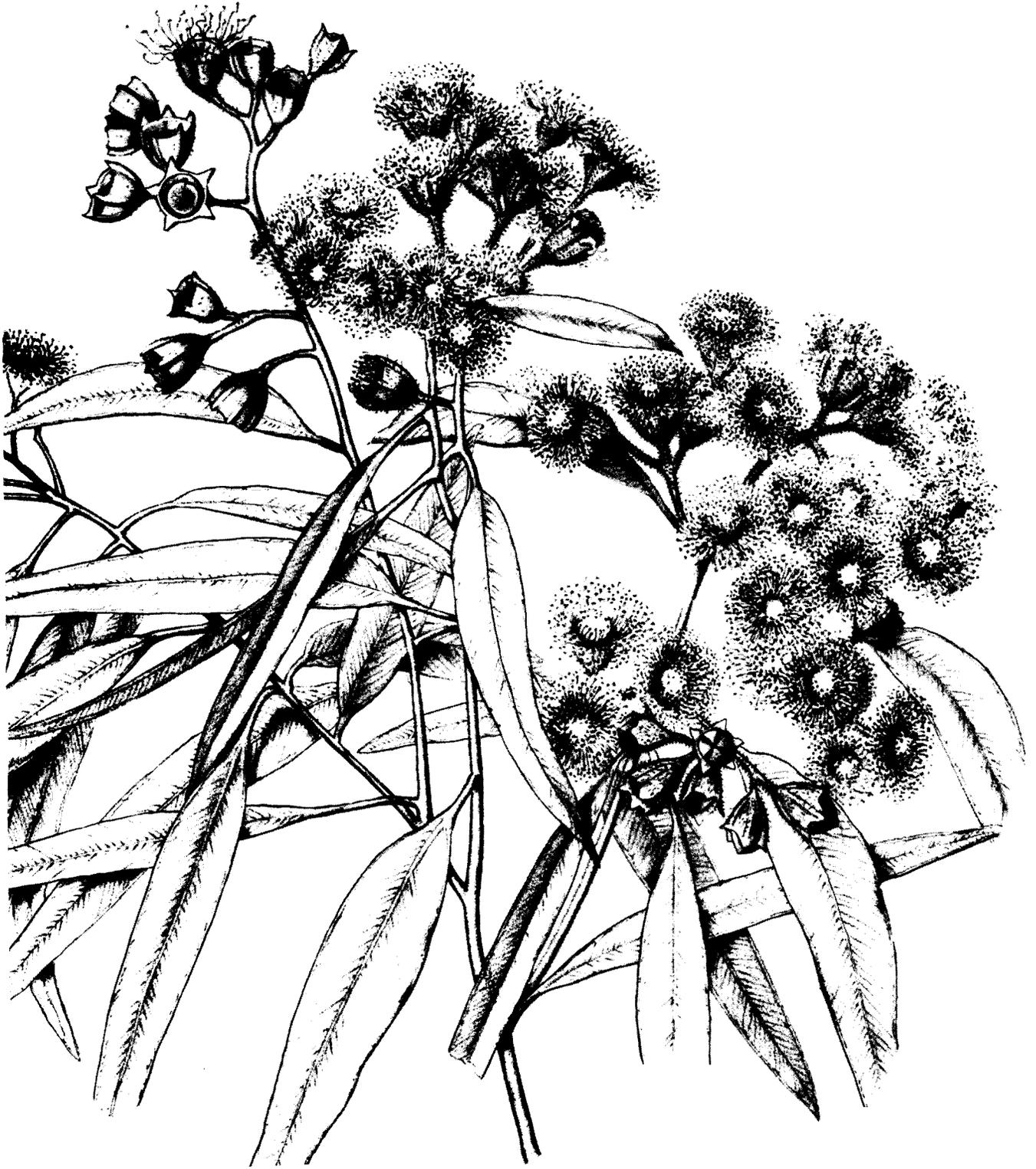
Height 132 ft (40.3 m), c.b.h. 9.6 ft (2.9 m), spread 54 ft (16.5 m). Honaunau Forest Reserve, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii (1968).

### **Range**

Native of Australia

### **Botanical synonym**

*Angophora lanceolata* Cav.



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Twig with flowers and fruits, 1 X (Maiden).