

Medicinal Plant Images

Eucalyptus ficifolia and *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*



Figure 1: Eucalypts are the most iconic Australian medicinal plants and are possibly the most useful commercially for their medicinal properties (including antimicrobial, insect repellent, pesticidal, antitussive and decongestant bioactivities). Eucalyptus is a diverse genus of trees in the family Myrtaceae. Of the more than 700 species that comprise this genus, most are endemic to Australia. A smaller number are also native to New Guinea, Indonesia and the Philippines. Pictured is the red flowering species *Eucalyptus ficifolia* (also known as *Corymbia ficifolia*). Photograph taken in Brisbane Australia by Dr Ian Cock.



Figure 2: The genus *Xanthorrhoea* (Australian grass trees) is a small genus of slow growing and very long living plants endemic to Australia. The leaves of *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* (pictured) have recently been shown to have an anaesthetic effect (Cock and Kall, 2010) similar to the effects previously described for tubocurarine, dimethyltubocurarine and alcuronium (collectively known as curare, a South American arrow poison) from *Chondrodendron tomentosum*. Photograph taken in Toohy Forest, Brisbane Australia by Dr Ian Cock.

Cock IE, Kall FR, Toxicity evaluation of *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* leaf methanolic extract using the *Aretemia franciscana* bioassay. *Phcog Mag* 2010; 6, 23: 166-171.