

Eucalyptus macrocarpa

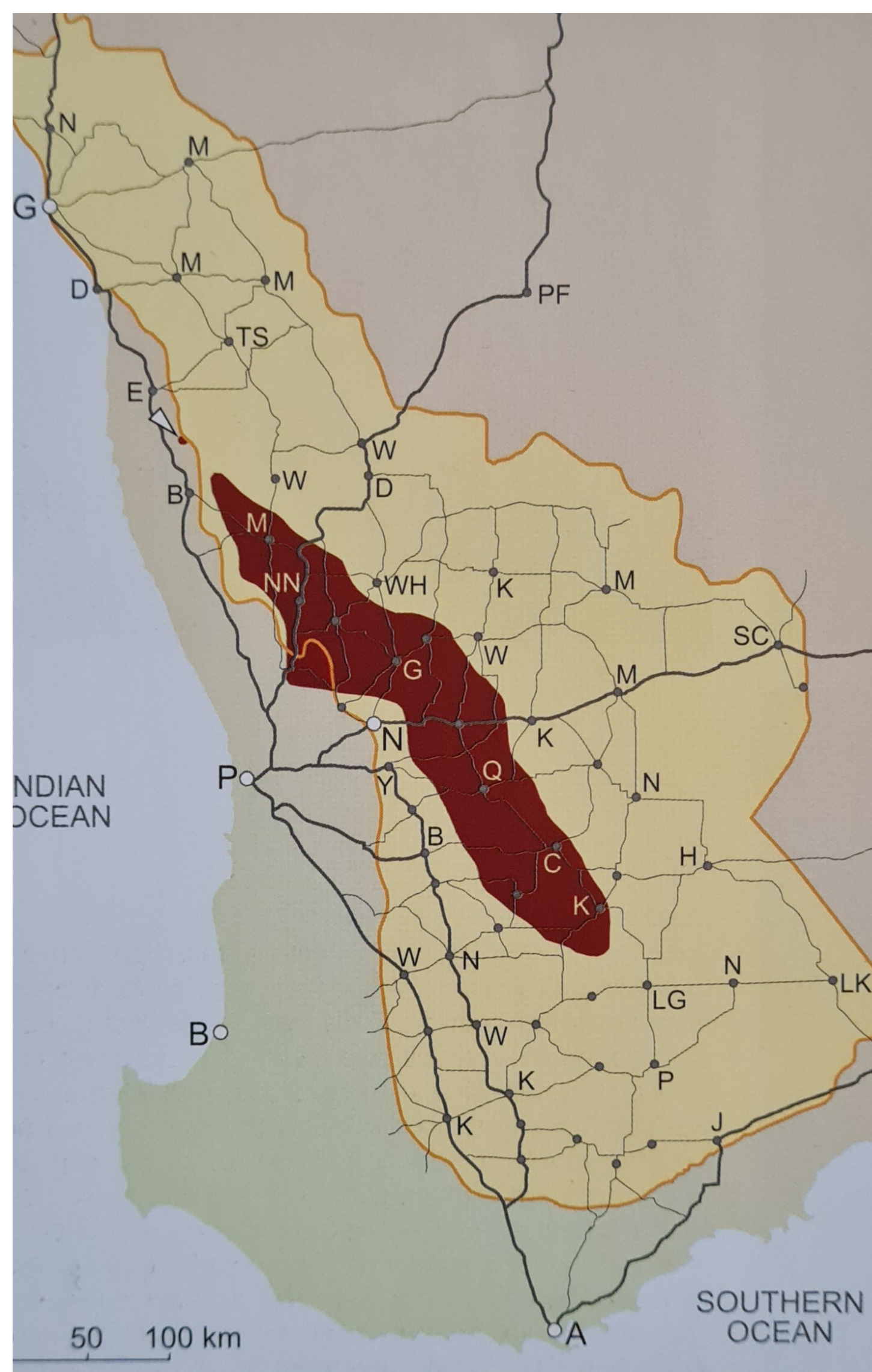
Mottlecah

morrall, mottlecar



Mottlecah is one of the most striking and revered Eucalypts of Australia with its huge red flowers and silvery-blue foliage.

Description: Mottlecah, is a sprawling multi-stemmed (mallee) endemic to Western Australia and can grow up to 5 metres tall. With smooth, shiny bark that sheds in short ribbons and large ovate grey leaves. Flowering occurs from Spring to early Summer. The vibrant red bristly blooms can be prolific and as large as 100 mm in diameter, boasting the largest sized flowers of all the eucalypts (Macro: meaning large + Carpus: meaning fruit). The "gumnuts" which follow the flowers are also very large and have a powdery grey covering.



Distribution: Of widespread but scattered distribution from north-west Moora running south-west to Kulin. The species grows on lateritic white or grey sandy soils on slightly undulating terrain.

Subspecies *macrocarpa* is classified as "not threatened", but subspecies *elachantha* is classified as "Priority Four" meaning that is rare or near threatened.

Environmental, social & economic benefits:

- ⇒ Useful native habitat tree especially for small birds. It is well known to attract fauna such as nectar-loving honeyeaters.
- ⇒ Flowers attract a large array of pollinating insects - both native and introduced honey bees which get buried deep in the large flowers looking for pollen.
- ⇒ Extensively cultivated throughout Australia as an ornamental shrub due to its visual beauty. Grows well once established and needs minimal maintenance.
- ⇒ Due to its spreading bushy nature, can be grown as a useful windbreak and screen.
- ⇒ A photographers favourite especially during the initial flower cap opening phase. The contrasting red and silver makes for rewarding photos.

