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Eucalyptus smithii

[Synonyms : *Eucalyptus viminalis* var. *pedicellaris*]

GULLY ASH is an evergreen shrub or tree. Native to Australia it has yellow flowers.

It is also known as Blackbutt peppermint, Gully gum, and Smith's eucalyptus.

The tree is grown particularly for its oil – and its yield is greater than that of the Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*).

Smithii can commemorate one or more of several people, including Christen Smith, Sir James Edward Smith, Joannes Jacobus Smith, John Smith and Karl A Harald Smith. The most likely candidate appears to be in this case an English botanist, physician, writer and lecturer, Sir James Edward Smith (1759-1828) who was a founder member of the Linnean Society of London as well as its first President in 1788 (an office he retained for life). He became a Fellow of The Royal Society following his acquisition in 1784 and subsequent public display of Linnaeus' collection of plant and animal specimens (which the Linnean Society obtained after Smith's death). Some authorities also point out his great interest in Australian plants. Of his written works authorities appear to emphasise several including *English Botany*, and *A Compendium of the English Flora* (a major extension of one of his earlier works, *Flora Britannica*).