



戶外通識教室：檸檬桉的心卜卜跳？

Nature's Classroom: Lemon-scented Gum has heartbeat?

檸檬桉乃桃金娘科、桉屬(*Eucalyptus*)，又稱尤加利樹，原產澳洲。常綠喬木，生長迅速，可長到40米高。檸檬桉的樹幹挺直，樹皮很薄，在每年春夏間會自動脫落露出光滑灰白色樹幹。據說用耳朵貼著樹幹皮及靜心聆聽，便可聽到樹內的毛細管吸水聲(天氣炎熱時水份蒸發較多，會較易聽到；另也有人說有牛血樹之稱的紫檀樹也可聽到樹幹內的咕嚕咕嚕聲)。檸檬桉的果為卵形木質蒴果，成熟時種子會彈出。若揉碎其葉子時會發出強烈的檸檬香味；經提煉的桉樹油是多種外用藥油的主要成份，有祛風鎮痛功效，故於50年代引入。檸檬桉的氣味有驅蚊作用，澳洲土著在野外露宿時會選擇在桉樹下過夜。(註：本地某著名驅風油所標示之主要成份為-冬綠油、薰衣草油、薄荷腦、樟腦和桉葉油)

Lemon-scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*)
A member of the Eucalyptus group, exotic, native to Australia, evergreen tree, can grow to 40m tall & straight. Its fruit is oval, woody capsule & seeds will spring out when ripe. Its leaf has a strong lemony aroma when crushed; can yield lemon-scented oil. Snuggle onto its bark closely, you may hear some low sound & indeed it's the water movement sound during capillary action.



Each koala eats approximately 200 to 500 grams of Eucalyptus leaves per day