**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, anticough 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 grasstrees) 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 Kalt, 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 Toohey Forest, Brisbane Australia by Dr Ian Cock.

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

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