

# Nuclear RFLP variation in *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh. from northern Australia

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*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh. is the most widely planted eucalypt in the tropics. Natural populations are riparian and sampling strategies for breeding programmes have assumed that gene flow among drainage basins is limited. RFLP variation, within and among 31 populations from river systems across northern Australia, was analysed to test this hypothesis. To allow comparisons within and between river systems, trees were sampled from up to three populations per river system. Allele frequencies were correlated with longitude for more than half the 33 RFLP loci surveyed. Genetic identity was greatest between populations in closest geographic proximity, irrespective of river system, suggest-

ing that sampling strategies for breeding programmes should be based on geographic distance rather than river system. The level of genetic variation was similar throughout the geographic range examined (mean  $H_E = 0.49$ ). However, there was evidence of a barrier to gene flow between populations in the east and west of the species range. The RFLP data support morphological evidence of hybridisation between *E. camaldulensis* and *E. tereticornis* Sm. in several populations in northeast Queensland and the genetic divergence of *E. camaldulensis* subsp. *simulata* Brooker and Kleinig.

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## Introduction

*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh. has the largest geographical range of any eucalypt, occurring over more than 5 million km<sup>2</sup> of mainland Australia. However, it occupies a relatively narrow ecological niche, being confined mainly to watercourses. Climatic parameters vary substantially over its geographic range, for example, mean annual rainfall is mostly between 250 and 600 mm, with some areas receiving up to 1600 mm. In addition to being the most widely distributed eucalypt, it has high levels of phenotypic variation (Eldridge *et al.*, 1993). Clinal variation has been reported in morphological and adaptive traits (Grunwald and Karschon, 1983); for example, water-use strategies of tropical populations differ according to climatic variables of their place of origin (Gibson *et al.*, 1995). The broad climatic tolerances of the species have contributed to it becoming one of the most widely planted eucalypts. Southern provenances are suited to Mediterranean climates and northern provenances to tropical environments (reviewed in Eldridge *et al.*, 1993). Of relevance to breeding programmes is whether the patterns of genetic diversity reflect variation in climatic and environmental parameters.

A sampling strategy of selecting populations from different drainage systems within broad climatic zones has

been recommended for *E. camaldulensis* provenance trials and breeding programmes (Turnbull, 1973). This was based on the assumption that, because the species is largely confined to watercourses, opportunities for gene flow between populations in adjacent drainage systems were limited (Turnbull, 1973). A close relationship between morphological traits of seed sources of *E. camaldulensis* and major drainage basins supported this assumption (Grunwald and Karschon, 1983). The species differs from other eucalypts in having two seed coats (Brooker and Slee, 2000), possibly an adaptation for water-transport of seed (Boland *et al.*, 1980). Seed shed in the tropics coincides with the wet season (Doran and Burgess, 1993) and as seed is light (c. 670 viable seeds/g; Bolland *et al.*, 1980) and buoyant, it could readily be dispersed by water. The potential for downstream seed dispersal raises questions of whether levels of genetic diversity increase in the direction of river flow; and whether genetic differences can be detected among populations on different river systems.

Gene flow and the patterns of genetic diversity will also be affected by variation in flowering times and the activity of pollinators. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* has a mixed mating system with outcrossing rates ranging from  $t = 0.86$  at Lake Albacutya in southeast Australia to  $t = 0.96$  in populations from northeast Queensland (McDonald *et al.*, 1996). Trees produce masses of bisexual flowers that are generally pollinated by insects. Birds (Franklin and Noske, 2000) and fruit bats may play an important role in long distance pollen dispersal in northern Australia (Richards, 1995). Flowering can occur over an extended period within populations but follows a latitudinal cline among populations. Peak flowering occurs

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in July in populations from northeast Queensland, October to November in tropical Northern Territory and Western Australia, and December in southeastern populations. Flowering has been reported to be more heterogeneous in populations across central and Western Australia than on river systems flowing into the Gulf of Carpentaria (Banks, 1990). Whether differences in flowering have led to the genetic divergence of populations in different regions remains unknown.

The patterns of variation in *E. camaldulensis* may also be influenced by hybridisation. Natural hybrids have been recorded in northern Australia with *E. bigalerita* (Pryor and Byrne, 1969) and *E. alba* (Turnbull, 1973), and hybrids with *E. tereticornis* are common in eastern Australia where the species distributions overlap (Doran and Burgess, 1993). When closely related eucalypt species hybridise, vigorous fertile populations are often produced (Brooker and Kleinig, 1994). Evidence of hybridisation has been reported in populations of *E. camaldulensis* from the Petford region in Queensland, based on the shape of the operculum and the presence of individuals producing black seeds with a single seed coat (typical of *E. tereticornis*) (Doran and Burgess, 1993; Brooker and Kleinig, 1994). The Petford population has become one of the most important in *E. camaldulensis* breeding programmes in the tropics because of its fast growth rate (Doran and Burgess, 1993). The recently described subsp. *simulata* Brooker and Kleinig has morphological characters of *E. camaldulensis* and *E. tereticornis* (Brooker and Kleinig, 1994). Of interest is whether genetic differences can be detected between subsp. *simulata*, Petford and other populations of *E. camaldulensis*.

In this study the patterns of distribution of genetic diversity within and between populations of *E. camaldulensis sens. lat.* from river systems across northern Australia were examined. Patterns were explored in relation to geographic and climatic variables. In addition, genetic differences between *E. camaldulensis* var. *obtusa* (including Petford) and subsp. *simulata* were analysed for evidence of hybridisation with *E. tereticornis*.

## Materials and methods

### The study taxa

A number of infraspecific taxa have been documented for *E. camaldulensis* (Blakely, 1965; Pryor and Byrne, 1969; Brooker and Kleinig, 1994) but the boundaries between these taxa remain poorly resolved. Based on Brooker and Kleinig (1994), most populations in this study are putatively ascribed to *E. camaldulensis* var. *obtusa* Blakely. This variant has a mainly tropical occurrence and is widespread throughout much of inland and northern Australia. Three populations of *E. camaldulensis* subsp. *simulata* Brooker and Kleinig were also sampled in northeast Queensland. This taxon shares a number of characters with var. *obtusa* and *E. tereticornis* Sm. as it occupies a riparian habitat, has brown, double-coated seeds and juvenile foliage typical of var. *obtusa* and the tall, straight habit and long, horn-shaped operculum typical of *E. tereticornis* (Brooker and Kleinig, 1994). The geographic range of subsp. *simulata* is poorly known owing to the need to determine both seed coat anatomy and bud shape. Current knowledge suggests it is confined to the upper reaches of the Laura, Normanby, Palmer, Mitchell and Walsh Rivers in northeast Queensland.

### Sampling strategy

Leaf samples were collected from a minimum of 10 mature individuals in each of 31 populations of *E. camaldulensis*, representing the major river systems in northern Australia (Figure 1). Location details and climatic parameters for these populations are listed in Table 1. All populations were from river systems flowing into the sea (exoreic drainage) with the exception of the Lander (30) and Rudall River (31) (Figure 1) which have endoreic drainage (internal drainage by rivers which do not reach the sea). All trees sampled were at least 100 m apart and were permanently tagged. Voucher specimens were lodged with the Australian National Herbarium, Canberra. Leaves were also sampled from eight *E. tereticornis* seedlings grown from two bulked seedlots for use as an outgroup in phylogenetic analyses.

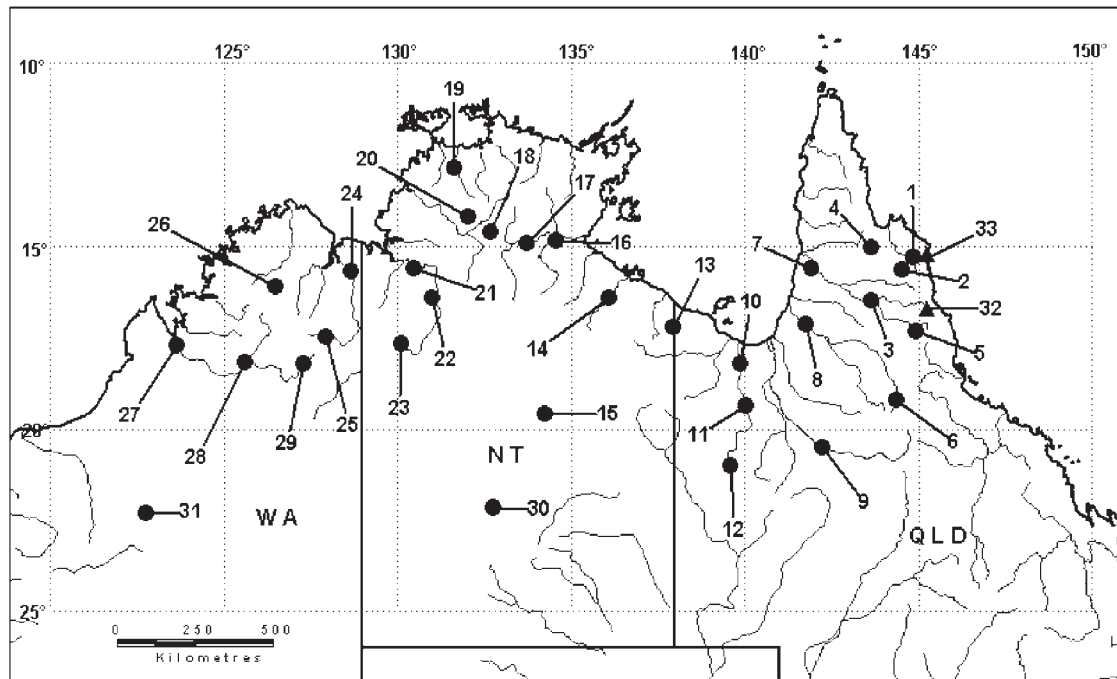
### Probe selection and RFLP procedures

DNA was extracted from leaves following Byrne *et al.* (1993). The quality of DNA extracted from several individuals was inadequate for RFLP analysis, hence only nine individuals were analysed from populations 8–10 and eight individuals from population 11. To select probe-enzyme combinations DNA from one tree in each of 13 *E. camaldulensis* populations was digested with *Eco32I*, *BglIII*, *DraI* and *HindIII* and transferred to nylon membranes by capillary blotting in 0.4M NaOH overnight. Membranes were hybridised with 40 RFLP probes which had previously been used to assess genetic variation in *E. nitens* (Byrne *et al.*, 1998). Thirty-three probe-enzyme combinations were selected which produced a clear hybridisation pattern consistent with alleles at a single locus; 17 probes were from a *E. nitens* genomic library (g059, g067, g086, g095, g099, g121, g142, g154, g174, g183, g195, g233, g243, g250, g256, g261, g409) and 16 probes from a *E. globulus* cDNA library (c030, c087, c092, c113, c115, c116, c135, c136, c137, c170, c238, c299, c333, c395, c411, c451). Thirty-one of the probes have been mapped in either *E. nitens* (Byrne *et al.*, 1995) or *E. globulus* (Thamarus *et al.*, 2001) and are therefore known to segregate in Mendelian fashion and span the eucalypt genome.

DNA samples from each population, digested with either *Eco32I*, *BglIII* or *HindIII*, were subdivided between two gels and the ordering of populations randomized to maximise comparisons of alleles between populations and membranes. Probes were prepared by PCR amplification of inserts and labelled with <sup>32</sup>P-dCTP using the random priming method (Feinberg and Vogelstein, 1983). Hybridisation and autoradiography followed Byrne *et al.* (1993) except that post-hybridisation washes were in 2× SSC, 0.1% SDS.

### Data analysis

Alleles were scored at each locus and numbered according to increasing fragment size. Allele frequencies were calculated for each population using the programme FSTAT Version 2.9.1 (Goudet, 2000) and used to estimate the proportion of polymorphic loci ( $P$ ), allelic richness (average number of alleles per locus,  $A_R$ ), the number of alleles found in only one population (private alleles,  $p(1)$ ), observed heterozygosity ( $H_O$ ) and expected heterozygosity ( $H_E$ ). The likelihood that observed genotype frequencies were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was assessed using exact tests for each locus in each population (Weir, 1996). To identify geographic trends in gene



**Figure 1** Location of sampled populations of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* var. *obtusa*, *E. camaldulensis* subsp. *simulata* and *E. tereticornis* in Queensland (Qld), Northern Territory (NT) and Western Australia (WA). Numbers refer to population numbers in Table 1. Circles denote *E. camaldulensis* populations and triangles *E. tereticornis*.

diversity statistics ( $A_R$ ,  $H_E$ ,  $H_O$ ) the proportion of variation explained by geographic parameters was estimated by linear regression. Associations between the frequency of the two most common alleles at each locus and geographic/climatic variables (latitude, longitude, altitude, mean annual rainfall and mean annual temperature) were tested using Pearson's correlation coefficients.

Inbreeding coefficients ( $f$ ) were estimated for each population using the programme GDA Version 1.0 (d13) (Lewis and Zaykin, 1999) based on formulae in Weir (1996). In addition, the total inbreeding coefficient ( $F$ ), coancestry coefficient ( $\theta$ ) and ( $f$ ) were calculated for geographic regions and over all populations. Confidence intervals (95%) for  $f$ ,  $F$ , and  $\theta$  were estimated by bootstrapping over loci 1000 times.

Several methods were used to examine the patterns of distribution of genetic variation among populations. Homogeneity of allele frequencies among populations was tested by likelihood ratio tests using the programme POPGENE version 1.31 (Yeh and Boyle, 1999). To determine whether differences between populations within river systems were statistically significant, pairwise differences in  $\theta$  among populations were also estimated, randomizing genotypes within samples, as described by Goudet (2000).

Geographic patterns in the data were investigated using principal component analysis (PCA) to reduce the dimensionality of the allele frequency data, using a variance-covariance matrix. Product moment correlation coefficients were calculated between the principal component scores and geographic/climatic variables using the PRINCOM and CORR procedures of the SAS statistical package (SAS Institute Inc, 1989).

Based on results from the PCA, populations were div-

ided into two geographic regions (east and west) to examine the distribution of genetic variation within and among regions. Genetic diversity was calculated for each region and genetic differentiation between regions estimated using co-ancestry coefficients (Weir, 1996). The proportion of variation between populations that was attributable to the difference between regions was then estimated using the methods of Nei (1973).

Nei's (1972) genetic distances between populations ( $D_n$ ) and standard errors were calculated using the programme GD (Ritland, 1989); genetic distances were then used to construct a UPGMA phenogram. Phylogenetic relationships were also investigated using maximum likelihood and the PHYLIP package (Felsenstein, 1993). Multiple datasets (500) were generated from the allele frequency data by bootstrapping (SEQBOOT programme), a phylogeny determined for each dataset by restricted maximum likelihood (CONTML programme) and a consensus tree generated using *E. tereticornis* as an outgroup (CONSENSE programme).

The correlation between Nei's (1978) unbiased genetic distance and geographic distance ( $\log_{10}$  transformed) was assessed by Mantel test (1000 iterations) using the computer programme of Liedloff *et al* (1997).

## Results

### Levels of genetic diversity

Polymorphisms were detected in one or more populations with all RFLP probes. A total of 413 alleles were scored at 33 loci. The number of alleles detected in each population ranged from 101 in Mary River (pop. 19) to 147 in Petford (pop. 5). The differences among populations were largely due to differences in the frequency

**Table 1** Location and climatic details of sampled populations of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. tereticornis*

| No.  | Population name           | Lat.<br>°S | Long.<br>°E | Alt.<br>(m) | Mean annual<br>temp. (°C) | Mean annual<br>rainfall (mm) |
|--|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>E. camaldulensis</i> subsp. <i>simulata</i> |                           |            |             |             |                           |                              |
| 1  | Normanby River            | 15 18      | 144 51      | 250         | 23.4                      | 1594                         |
| 2  | Laura River               | 15 39      | 144 31      | 80          | 24.4                      | 929                          |
| 3  | Mitchell River            | 16 31      | 143 38      | 110         | 25.6                      | 920                          |
| <i>E. camaldulensis</i> var. <i>obtusa</i>     |                           |            |             |             |                           |                              |
| 4  | Morehead River            | 15 02      | 143 39      | 55          | 25.4                      | 1077                         |
| 5  | Petford, Emu Creek        | 17 20      | 144 57      | 475         | 22.2                      | 831                          |
| 6  | Einiasleigh River         | 19 12      | 144 22      | 600         | 22.2                      | 621                          |
| 7  | Magnificent Creek         | 15 38      | 141 55      | 15          | 26.4                      | 1190                         |
| 8  | Gilbert River             | 17 10      | 141 46      | 40          | 26.3                      | 894                          |
| 9  | Nelia, Flinders River     | 20 32      | 142 15      | 130         | 24.8                      | 461                          |
| 10   | Floraville, Leichhardt R. | 18 13      | 139 53      | 20          | 25.8                      | 588                          |
| 11   | Kamilaroi, Leichhardt R.  | 19 22      | 140 02      | 70          | 25.8                      | 539                          |
| 12   | Mt Isa, Leichhardt R.     | 21 00      | 139 35      | 420         | 23.9                      | 352                          |
| 13   | Settlement Creek          | 17 13      | 137 56      | 50          | 25.8                      | 766                          |
| 14   | Surprise Creek            | 16 25      | 136 05      | 50          | 26.4                      | 706                          |
| 15   | Tennant Creek             | 19 35      | 134 14      | 350         | 25.3                      | 358                          |
| 16   | Hodgson River             | 14 52      | 134 34      | 25          | 27.2                      | 739                          |
| 17   | Strangeways Creek         | 14 55      | 133 45      | 100         | 26.9                      | 799                          |
| 18   | Roper River               | 14 38      | 132 41      | 170         | 26.5                      | 855                          |
| 19   | Mary River                | 12 51      | 131 39      | 60          | 26.6                      | 1410                         |
| 20   | Edith River               | 14 11      | 132 02      | 90          | 26.7                      | 979                          |
| 21   | Lower Victoria River      | 15 37      | 130 28      | 15          | 27.1                      | 776                          |
| 22   | Victoria River Downs      | 16 25      | 131 00      | 80          | 26.8                      | 622                          |
| 23   | Upper Victoria River      | 17 41      | 130 07      | 345         | 25.5                      | 461                          |
| 24   | Lower Ord River           | 15 41      | 128 41      | 25          | 28.1                      | 760                          |
| 25   | Upper Ord River           | 17 29      | 127 57      | 300         | 26.4                      | 560                          |
| 26   | Gibb River                | 16 06      | 126 31      | 425         | 25.5                      | 851                          |
| 27   | Lower Fitzroy River       | 17 44      | 123 39      | 30          | 27.3                      | 560                          |
| 28   | Fitzroy River Crossing    | 18 11      | 125 36      | 100         | 27.2                      | 481                          |
| 29   | Margaret River            | 18 13      | 127 19      | 380         | 26.1                      | 480                          |
| 30   | Lander River              | 22 09      | 132 45      | 625         | 22.2                      | 280                          |
| 31   | Rudall River              | 22 19      | 122 46      | 265         | 25.8                      | 233                          |
| <i>E. tereticornis</i>                         |                           |            |             |             |                           |                              |
| 32   | Mareeba                   | 16 46      | 145 15      | 380         | 22.4                      | 941                          |
| 33   | Helenvale                 | 15 15      | 145 14      | 200         | 23.9                      | 1859                         |

of rare alleles (frequency <0.1), with populations at the northern limit of the species distribution (4, 18, 19, 20, 26) having fewer rare alleles. The overall distribution of alleles was skewed towards alleles of low frequency compared with the U-shaped distributions reported for isozymes (for  $H_E < 0.3$ ) (Chakraborty *et al*, 1980). It was, however, consistent with an increase in the numbers of rare alleles with increasing heterozygosity predicted in the infinite alleles model with varying mutation rates (Chakraborty *et al*, 1980). Seventy-five percent of alleles occurred at frequencies of less than 5% over all populations and 30% of alleles were unique to a population. A similar distribution of alleles at RFLP loci was reported for the *E. kochii* group (Byrne, 1999).

The highest estimates of genetic variation ( $P$ ,  $A_R$ ,  $H_E$  and  $H_O$ ) were for the Petford population (Table 2) while the lowest genetic diversity was in the northern-most population of Mary River. Eighteen percent of variation in  $A_R$  was explained by latitude; 8% of variation in  $H_O$  was explained by longitude. The level of diversity was similar in eastern populations (mean  $H_E = 0.52$ ) and western populations (mean  $H_E = 0.51$ ), however more private alleles were detected in the east (73 in 12 populations) than in the west (48 in 19 populations).

There was little evidence of departure from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Thirty-four out of 1023 exact tests

for Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium were significant ( $Pr \leq 0.05$ ), fewer than the 5% expected due to chance alone. At the higher exclusion level ( $Pr \leq 0.01$ ) only three tests, for different loci in different populations, were significant (c30 pop. 22; c411 pop. 24; and c451 pop. 29). There was no evidence of inbreeding ( $f = 0.02$ ; Table 3), indicating populations are in equilibrium and have not been subject to pressures that would adversely affect mating.

#### Distribution of genetic diversity

The majority of variation (92%) occurred within populations. However, confidence intervals for  $\theta$  (Table 3) indicate significant divergence among populations. Of the 7.8% of genetic diversity attributable to differences among populations, two-thirds was due to the difference between the eastern and western regions. The greatest differences, determined from pairwise comparisons of  $\theta$ , were between the subsp. *simulata* populations (1, 2) and Edith River (20). There were significant pairwise differences among populations on five of the seven river systems; only differences along the Leichhardt (populations 9, 10, 11) and Ord Rivers (24, 25) were not significant.

To examine these differences in more detail homogeneity tests for differences in allele frequencies among the *E. camaldulensis* populations were carried out. There were significant differences ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) at nine loci (c113;



**Table 2** Estimates of genetic variation parameters in *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. tereticornis* populations based on allele frequencies at 33 RFLP loci

| No.  | Population name           | <i>n</i> | <i>P</i>    | <i>A<sub>R</sub></i> | <i>p</i> (1) | <i>H<sub>E</sub></i> | <i>H<sub>O</sub></i> | <i>f</i> |
|--|---------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------|
| <i>E. camaldulensis</i> subsp. <i>simulata</i> |                           |          |             |                      |              |                      |                      |          |
| 1  | Normanby River            | 10       | 0.94        | 3.76                 | 1            | 0.46                 | 0.47                 | -0.029   |
| 2  | Laura River               | 10       | 0.94        | 3.79                 | 2            | 0.47                 | 0.46                 | 0.022    |
| 3  | Mitchell River            | 10       | 0.97        | 3.91                 | 7            | 0.49                 | 0.46                 | 0.057    |
| <i>E. camaldulensis</i> var. <i>obtusata</i>   |                           |          |             |                      |              |                      |                      |          |
| 4  | Morehead River            | 10       | 0.94        | 3.24                 | 2            | 0.48                 | 0.51                 | -0.069   |
| 5  | Petford, Emu Creek        | 10       | 1.00        | 4.45                 | 9            | 0.56                 | 0.56                 | -0.012   |
| 6  | Einassleigh River         | 13       | 0.97        | 4.15                 | 7            | 0.50                 | 0.49                 | 0.035    |
| 7  | Magnificent Creek         | 10       | 0.91        | 4.12                 | 7            | 0.50                 | 0.53                 | -0.055   |
| 8  | Gilbert River             | 9        | 0.94        | 4.15                 | 8            | 0.50                 | 0.51                 | -0.033   |
| 9  | Nelia, Flinders River     | 9        | 0.97        | 3.79                 | 0            | 0.48                 | 0.47                 | 0.028    |
| 10   | Floraville, Leichhardt R. | 9        | 0.94        | 4.00                 | 6            | 0.49                 | 0.47                 | 0.034    |
| 11   | Kamilaroi, Leichhardt R.  | 8        | 0.91        | 3.73                 | 3            | 0.45                 | 0.44                 | 0.013    |
| 12   | Mt Isa, Leichhardt R.     | 10       | 0.94        | 3.88                 | 3            | 0.49                 | 0.49                 | 0.014    |
| 13   | Settlement Creek          | 10       | 0.91        | 3.97                 | 3            | 0.51                 | 0.49                 | 0.049    |
| 14   | Surprise Creek            | 10       | 0.94        | 3.97                 | 4            | 0.53                 | 0.50                 | 0.047    |
| 15   | Tennant Creek             | 10       | 0.97        | 4.39                 | 1            | 0.52                 | 0.48                 | 0.090    |
| 16   | Hodgson River             | 10       | 0.97        | 4.09                 | 4            | 0.51                 | 0.49                 | 0.034    |
| 17   | Strangeways Creek         | 10       | 0.91        | 3.70                 | 3            | 0.50                 | 0.46                 | 0.081    |
| 18   | Roper River               | 10       | 0.94        | 3.24                 | 2            | 0.47                 | 0.46                 | 0.024    |
| 19   | Mary River                | 10       | 0.91        | 3.06                 | 0            | 0.43                 | 0.43                 | -0.010   |
| 20   | Edith River               | 10       | 0.88        | 3.39                 | 3            | 0.46                 | 0.45                 | 0.017    |
| 21   | Lower Victoria River      | 10       | 0.94        | 3.61                 | 4            | 0.46                 | 0.45                 | 0.027    |
| 22   | Victoria River Downs      | 10       | 0.91        | 3.88                 | 1            | 0.49                 | 0.48                 | 0.012    |
| 23   | Upper Victoria River      | 10       | 0.97        | 3.76                 | 2            | 0.50                 | 0.54                 | -0.087   |
| 24   | Lower Ord River           | 10       | 0.94        | 3.97                 | 3            | 0.48                 | 0.45                 | 0.064    |
| 25   | Upper Ord River           | 10       | 0.97        | 4.03                 | 4            | 0.48                 | 0.45                 | 0.067    |
| 26   | Gibb River                | 10       | 0.97        | 3.64                 | 2            | 0.51                 | 0.50                 | 0.013    |
| 27   | Lower Fitzroy River       | 10       | 0.94        | 4.27                 | 1            | 0.52                 | 0.49                 | 0.063    |
| 28   | Fitzroy River Crossing    | 10       | 0.91        | 3.70                 | 4            | 0.48                 | 0.49                 | -0.025   |
| 29   | Margaret River            | 10       | 0.94        | 3.76                 | 1            | 0.46                 | 0.45                 | 0.020    |
| 30   | Lander River              | 10       | 0.94        | 4.06                 | 1            | 0.49                 | 0.49                 | 0.012    |
| 31   | Rudall River              | 10       | 0.88        | 3.79                 | 5            | 0.44                 | 0.42                 | 0.056    |
|  | Mean (s.e.)               |          | 0.94 (0.03) | 3.85 (0.06)          |              | 0.49 (0.01)          | 0.48 (0.01)          |          |
| <i>E. tereticornis</i>                         |                           |          |             |                      |              |                      |                      |          |
| 32   | Mareeba                   | 3        | 0.76        | 2.24                 | 1            | 0.45                 | 0.48                 | -0.097   |
| 33   | Helenvale                 | 5        | 0.85        | 2.73                 | 2            | 0.51                 | 0.53                 | -0.041   |

*n* = sample size; *P* = proportion of polymorphic loci (0.99 criterion); *A<sub>R</sub>* = mean number of alleles per locus; *p*(1) = number of private alleles; *H<sub>E</sub>* = expected heterozygosity; *H<sub>O</sub>* = observed heterozygosity; *f* = inbreeding coefficient.

**Table 3** Mean and 95% confidence intervals (in brackets) for estimates of the degree of inbreeding within populations of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (*f*); the overall inbreeding coefficient (*F*) and the ancestry coefficient (*θ*)

|                     | <i>f</i>        | <i>F</i>       | <i>θ</i>       |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Eastern region      | 0.001           | 0.066          | 0.065          |
| (Populations 1–12)  | (-0.026, 0.027) | (0.034, 0.100) | (0.049, 0.084) |
| Western region      | 0.029           | 0.073          | 0.044          |
| (Populations 13–29) | (0.010, 0.049)  | (0.052, 0.093) | (0.036, 0.053) |
| Overall             | 0.019           | 0.095          | 0.078          |
| (Populations 1–31)  | (-0.002, 0.038) | (0.068, 0.123) | (0.060, 0.100) |

g86; g99; c137; g250; c451; c299; g256; g121). These included differences in common alleles at locus c113 between populations 1–12 in Queensland (defined as the eastern region) and populations 13–29 in Northern Territory and Western Australia (western region) (Table 4). Populations 30 and 31, which differ from all other populations in occurring on endoreic drainage systems, had the same common allele at this locus as populations in

the eastern region. There were also differences in common alleles at loci g86 and g99 in the Morehead (4), Normanby (1), Laura (2), Petford (5) and Mitchell River (3) populations; a different common allele at locus c137 in Normanby (1) and Laura (2); and at locus c451 in Morehead (4). Mt Isa (12) and Floraville (10) on the Leichhardt River had different allelic profiles from other populations for locus g121 (Table 4). The pattern of allele frequencies at loci g250, g256 and g299 was more complex, however, all differences followed geographic trends. For loci c113, g86 and g99, the most common allele in the Queensland populations, noted above, was the same as in *E. tereticornis*. These data are consistent with morphological evidence of hybridisation between the two taxa.

Seventy-three alleles were restricted to the eastern populations, 71 of which occurred at a frequency less than 5% and 51 of which were unique to a population. Eighty-six alleles were detected only in the western populations, all at a frequency of less than 5% and 50 of which were unique to a population. While there were differences in common alleles between *E. tereticornis* and *E. camaldulensis* at six loci (c87, c135, g142, g183, g299 and c395), only three alleles were detected in *E. tereticornis*

**Table 4** Frequencies of the most common alleles at six RFLP loci (allele number in brackets) for populations of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *E. tereticornis*

| No.  | Population name       | c113<br>(7) | c113<br>(12) | g86<br>(6) | g86<br>(12) | g99<br>(3) | g99<br>(5) | c137<br>(5) | c137<br>(8) | c451<br>(1) | c451<br>(7) | g121<br>(3) | g121<br>(4) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>E. camaldulensis</i> subsp. <i>simulata</i> |                       |             |              |            |             |            |            |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 1  | Normanby River        | 0.95        | –            | 0.20       | 0.55        | 0.05       | 0.95       | 0.25        | 0.20        | 0.05        | 0.60        | –           | 0.85        |
| 2  | Laura River           | 0.95        | –            | 0.30       | 0.50        | 0.30       | 0.70       | 0.65        | 0.15        | 0.05        | 0.40        | –           | 0.75        |
| 3  | Mitchell River        | 0.94        | 0.06         | 0.35       | 0.40        | 0.45       | 0.50       | 0.20        | 0.40        | 0.10        | 0.50        | –           | 0.80        |
| <i>E. camaldulensis</i> var. <i>obtusa</i>     |                       |             |              |            |             |            |            |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 4  | Morehead River        | 0.60        | 0.25         | 0.05       | 0.75        | 0.30       | 0.65       | 0.22        | 0.56        | 0.35        | 0.15        | –           | 0.80        |
| 5  | Petford, Emu Creek    | 0.80        | 0.15         | 0.35       | 0.45        | 0.50       | 0.50       | 0.10        | 0.25        | 0.17        | 0.39        | 0.05        | 0.90        |
| 6  | Einiasleigh River     | 1.00        | –            | 0.50       | 0.39        | 0.54       | 0.42       | 0.27        | 0.39        | 0.06        | 0.56        | –           | 0.96        |
| 7  | Magnificent Creek     | 0.65        | 0.20         | 0.40       | 0.30        | 0.75       | 0.25       | 0.15        | 0.40        | 0.05        | 0.30        | 0.05        | 0.75        |
| 8  | Gilbert River         | 0.67        | 0.28         | 0.56       | 0.11        | 0.78       | 0.22       | 0.11        | 0.22        | –           | 0.56        | 0.06        | 0.78        |
| 9  | Nelia, Flinders River | 0.89        | 0.06         | 0.56       | 0.22        | 0.67       | 0.33       | 0.17        | 0.28        | 0.06        | 0.67        | –           | 0.94        |
| 10   | Floraville            | 0.72        | 0.11         | 0.83       | –           | 0.83       | 0.11       | –           | 0.50        | 0.06        | 0.44        | 0.44        | 0.50        |
| 11   | Kamilaroi             | 0.56        | 0.38         | 0.75       | 0.06        | 1.00       | –          | 0.50        | 0.06        | –           | 0.50        | –           | 1.00        |
| 12   | Mt Isa, Leichhardt R. | 0.95        | –            | 0.89       | 0.11        | 0.85       | 0.10       | –           | 0.42        | –           | 0.56        | 0.38        | 0.63        |
| 13   | Settlement Creek      | 0.15        | 0.70         | 0.95       | –           | 0.80       | 0.20       | 0.20        | 0.40        | –           | 0.20        | –           | 0.85        |
| 14   | Surprise Creek        | 0.15        | 0.85         | 0.85       | –           | 0.90       | 0.10       | –           | 0.40        | –           | 0.40        | –           | 0.95        |
| 15   | Tennant Creek         | 0.40        | 0.55         | 0.95       | –           | 0.89       | 0.11       | 0.06        | 0.33        | –           | 0.28        | –           | 0.90        |
| 16   | Hodgson River         | 0.50        | 0.30         | 0.80       | 0.05        | 0.80       | 0.20       | 0.10        | 0.40        | –           | 0.44        | 0.11        | 0.89        |
| 17   | Strangeways Creek     | 0.55        | 0.15         | 0.80       | –           | 0.85       | 0.15       | 0.06        | 0.56        | 0.06        | 0.56        | –           | 1.00        |
| 18   | Roper River           | 0.40        | 0.60         | 0.90       | –           | 0.95       | 0.05       | 0.15        | 0.10        | 0.11        | 0.22        | –           | 1.00        |
| 19   | Mary River            | 0.45        | 0.55         | 0.55       | –           | 0.80       | 0.20       | –           | 0.75        | –           | 0.60        | –           | 1.00        |
| 20   | Edith River           | 0.06        | 0.94         | 3.39       | –           | 0.95       | 0.05       | 0.06        | 0.50        | –           | 0.39        | 0.11        | 0.78        |
| 21   | Lower Victoria        | 0.25        | 0.50         | 3.61       | –           | 0.95       | 0.05       | 0.05        | 0.60        | 0.05        | 0.35        | 0.05        | 0.90        |
| 22   | Victoria River        | 0.30        | 0.50         | 3.88       | –           | 0.50       | 0.45       | 0.05        | 0.50        | 0.30        | 0.35        | 0.06        | 0.78        |
| 23   | Upper Victoria        | 0.44        | 0.44         | 3.76       | –           | 0.75       | 0.25       | 0.10        | 0.30        | –           | 0.35        | 0.10        | 0.85        |
| 24   | Lower Ord River       | 0.15        | 0.70         | 3.97       | –           | 0.90       | 0.10       | 0.10        | 0.20        | 0.11        | 0.33        | –           | 0.75        |
| 25   | Upper Ord River       | 0.10        | 0.60         | 4.03       | –           | 0.85       | 0.10       | 0.25        | 0.40        | –           | 0.20        | 0.06        | 0.88        |
| 26   | Gibb River            | 0.15        | 0.85         | 3.64       | –           | 0.80       | 0.20       | 0.15        | 0.30        | –           | 0.25        | 0.11        | 0.78        |
| 27   | Lower Fitzroy River   | 0.39        | 0.50         | 4.27       | –           | 1.00       | –          | 0.20        | 0.40        | 0.05        | 0.50        | 0.10        | 0.85        |
| 28   | Fitzroy River         | 0.15        | 0.75         | 3.70       | 0.05        | 0.89       | 0.11       | –           | 0.45        | 0.19        | 0.44        | –           | 0.94        |
| 29   | Margaret River        | 0.22        | 0.78         | 3.76       | –           | 0.70       | 0.25       | –           | 0.22        | 0.06        | 0.50        | –           | 0.93        |
| 30   | Lander River          | 0.60        | 0.25         | 4.06       | 0.10        | 0.75       | 0.20       | 0.25        | 0.50        | –           | 0.45        | 0.17        | 0.78        |
| 31   | Rudall River          | 0.45        | 0.30         | 0.95       | –           | 0.40       | 0.60       | 0.25        | 0.60        | 0.06        | 0.45        | –           | 0.85        |
| <i>E. tereticornis</i>                         |                       |             |              |            |             |            |            |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| 32   | Mareeba               | 0.83        | –            | 0.33       | 0.67        | –          | 0.67       | 0.50        | 0.50        | 0.05        | 0.50        | –           | 1.00        |
| 33   | Helenvale             | 0.70        | –            | 0.40       | 0.60        | –          | 0.75       | –           | 0.50        | 0.10        | 0.50        | 0.20        | 0.70        |

and not in *E. camaldulensis*. These included the most common allele at g87 in *E. tereticornis* and rare alleles at g243 and c136. The low number of alleles specific to *E. tereticornis* in part reflects the small number of individuals sampled.

#### Patterns of genetic variation

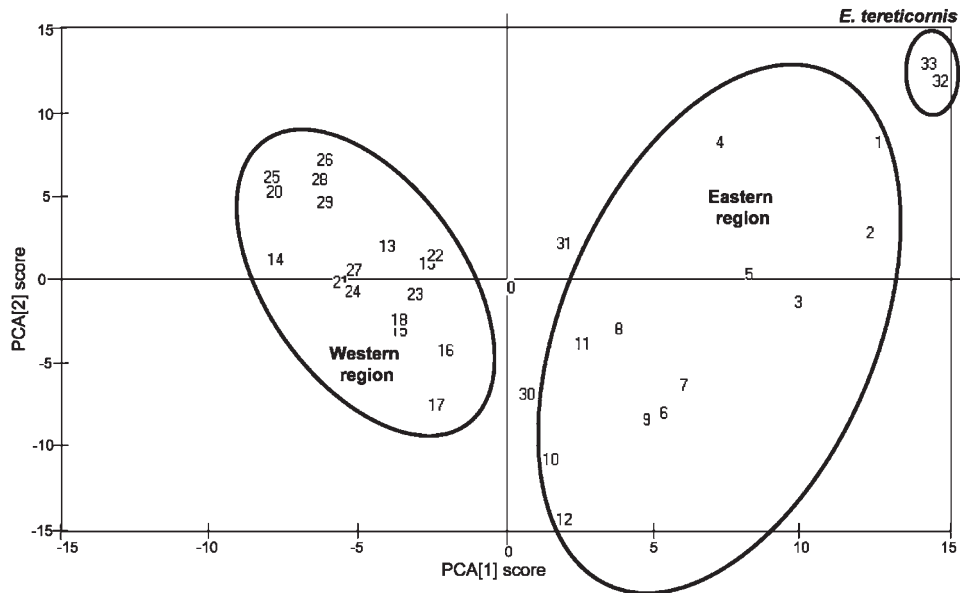
Geographic trends were evident in the plot of principal component scores (Figure 2). Eastern populations had positive values on the pca-1 axis and western populations had negative values. The two populations on inland drainage systems (30 and 31) were positioned between the eastern and western regions. Western populations were also more tightly clustered than eastern populations. The first two principal components accounted for 21% and 10% of the variance respectively. Longitude ( $r = 0.82$ ;  $Pr \leq 0.0001$ ), mean annual rainfall ( $r = 0.38$ ;  $Pr \leq 0.038$ ) and mean annual temperature ( $r = -0.61$ ;  $Pr \leq 0.0003$ ) were correlated with the first principal component; latitude ( $r = 0.46$ ;  $Pr \leq 0.0003$ ) and mean annual rainfall ( $r = 0.39$ ;  $Pr \leq 0.032$ ) with the second principal component. There was no correlation with altitude.

The associations between allele frequencies and geographic variables were further demonstrated by signifi-

cant correlations between the frequency of the most common allele at 15 of the 33 loci and longitude; four loci and latitude. There were also significant correlations ( $Pr < 0.05$ ) with mean annual temperature at seven loci and mean annual rainfall at six loci. Correlations with altitude were significant at only one locus; two loci would be expected due to chance alone.

#### Genetic distance

Genetic differentiation between populations in the eastern and western regions was also evident in the UPGMA phenogram (Figure 3). The average genetic distance (Nei, 1972) between populations in the eastern region and western regions ( $D_n = 0.163$ , s.e. = 0.039) was greater than the average distance between populations within these regions;  $D_n = 0.119$ , s.e. = 0.028 for eastern populations and  $D_n = 0.101$ , s.e. = 0.023 for western populations. Genetic distances among populations in the eastern region were also greater, on average, than between populations in the western region. This difference increased when the two populations (30, 31) on inland drainage systems were excluded from the western region (mean  $D_n = 0.096$ , s.e. = 0.022). Based on genetic distances, *E. tereticornis* was most similar to the subsp. *simulata* populations (1, 2 and



**Figure 2** Plot of scores from a principal component analysis of allele frequencies from 31 populations of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and two populations of *E. tereticornis*.

3) (mean  $D_n = 0.144$ , s.e. = 0.032). Overall, the mean genetic distance between *E. camaldulensis* populations was 0.134 (s.e. = 0.032).

The phylogenetic analysis, based on maximum likelihood, showed bootstrap support for a split between populations east and west of the Leichhardt River with western populations remaining unresolved (Figure 4). It was consistent with a decreasing influence of *E. tereticornis* from the subsp. *simulata* populations to Petford.

Genetic distance (Nei, 1978) was positively correlated with geographic distance (mantel coefficient  $r = 0.554$ ,  $Pr \leq 0.001$ ). This is reflected in the dendrogram (Figure 3) where populations in closest geographic proximity cluster together. Populations on the same river systems often did not cluster into the same group. Genetic distances and geographic distances were also positively correlated within the eastern and western regions ( $r = 0.683$  and  $r = 0.559$  respectively,  $Pr \leq 0.001$ ).

## Discussion

### Genetic diversity

The level of genetic diversity in populations of *E. camaldulensis* was high throughout the northern distribution of the species' geographic range. The northern-most population, Mary River (19), had the lowest genetic diversity ( $H_E$  and  $A_R$ ) and no unique alleles, consistent with fewer opportunities for gene flow at the extremes of the species distribution. The association between allelic richness and latitude also suggests a general trend of reduced genetic diversity at the periphery of the species distribution. However, there was no evidence of increased inbreeding. Within river systems there was no consistent pattern of increasing genetic diversity from upstream to downstream populations which might be expected if water-borne transport of seed was important.

The Petford population (5), which had the highest genetic diversity, has consistently outperformed other seed sources in provenance trials throughout the seasonally

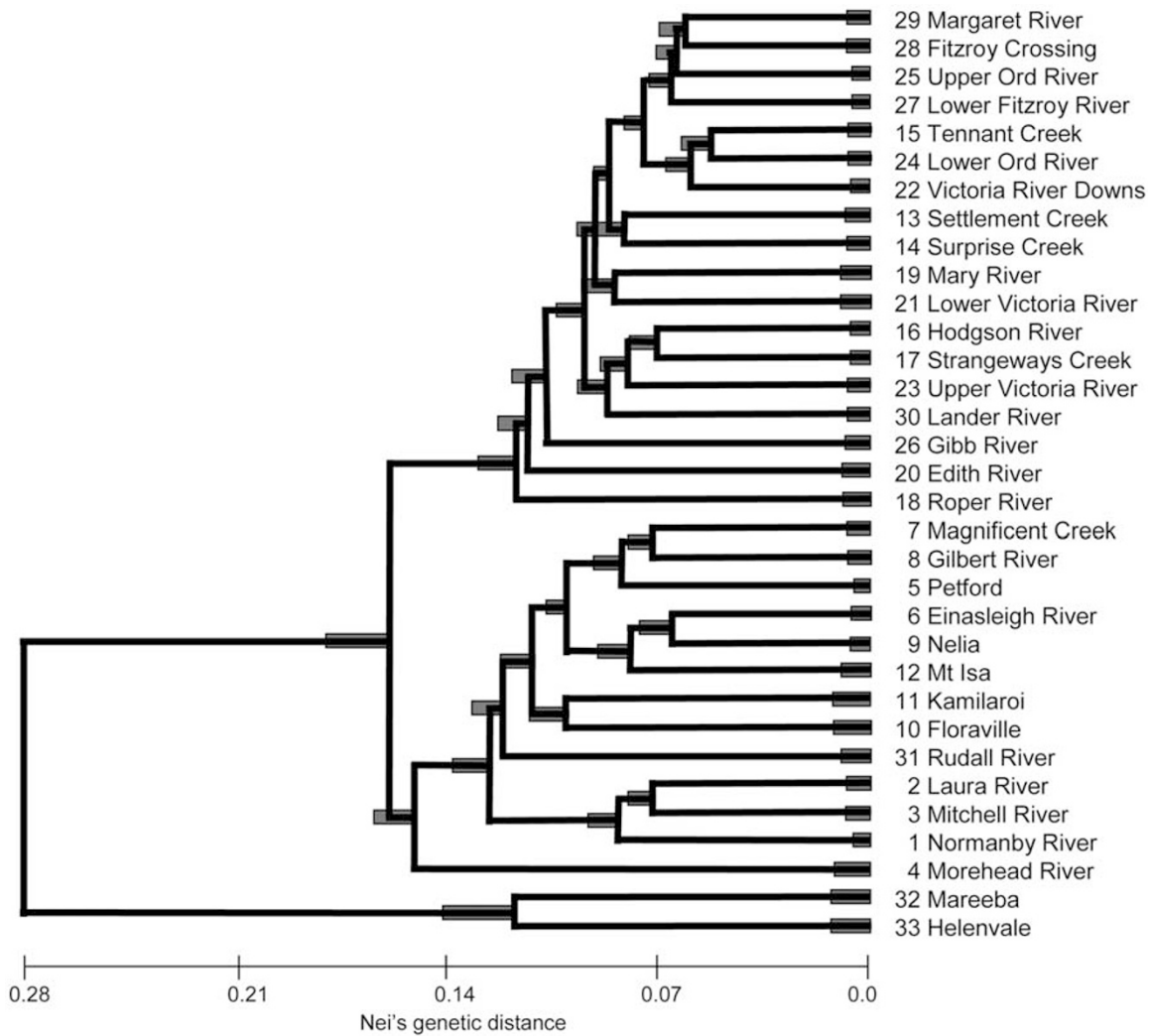
dry tropics (Otegbeye, 1985; Midgley *et al*, 1989; Pinyopusarerk *et al*, 1996). A similar trend of high genetic diversity in populations with high growth rates has been reported in *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (Moran *et al*, 1989) and *Acacia mangium* (Butcher *et al*, 1996). While parallel rankings have been reported at the population level, data to support a similar trend at the individual tree level are lacking (eg, Aradhya and Phillips, 1995; Savolainen and Hedrick, 1995; Aravanopoulos, 2000).

At the species level, RFLP variation in *E. camaldulensis* ( $H_T = 0.53$ ) was similar to that reported for other eucalypts using the same genetic markers, for example, *E. nitens* ( $H_T = 0.45$ ) based on 40 RFLP loci (Byrne *et al*, 1998); *E. kochii* ssp. *kochii* ( $H_T = 0.49$ ), *E. kochii* ssp. *plenissima* ( $H_T = 0.51$ ) and *E. horistes* ( $H_T = 0.49$ ) based on 30 RFLP loci (Byrne, 1999); and *E. sieberi* ( $H_T = 0.40$ ) based on 10 RFLP loci (Glaubitz *et al*, 1999).

### Distribution of genetic diversity

The correlation between geographic distance and genetic distance, together with results from the multivariate analyses, indicate that genetic similarity is associated with geographic proximity, irrespective of whether populations occur on the same river system. This suggests that pollen flow is more important than water-borne seed dispersal to gene flow in *E. camaldulensis*. If water-borne seed dispersal were important, levels of differentiation among populations from different river systems would be expected to be higher than among populations on the same river system. Instead, populations tend to be most similar to those in closest proximity (Figure 2). Similarly, genetic diversity might be expected to be greater in populations at lower altitudes that sample a larger proportion of the catchment. There was no evidence to support either scenario.

The geographic and climatic trends in allele frequencies are consistent with reports of clinal variation in morphometric and adaptive traits. Clinal trends in adaptive variation have been reported for *E. camaldulensis*



**Figure 3** Cluster analysis of 31 populations of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and two populations of *E. tereticornis* based on Nei's genetic distance and the UPGMA algorithm. Clusters are significant if the standard error bar, depicted as a broad line, is less than half the branch length.

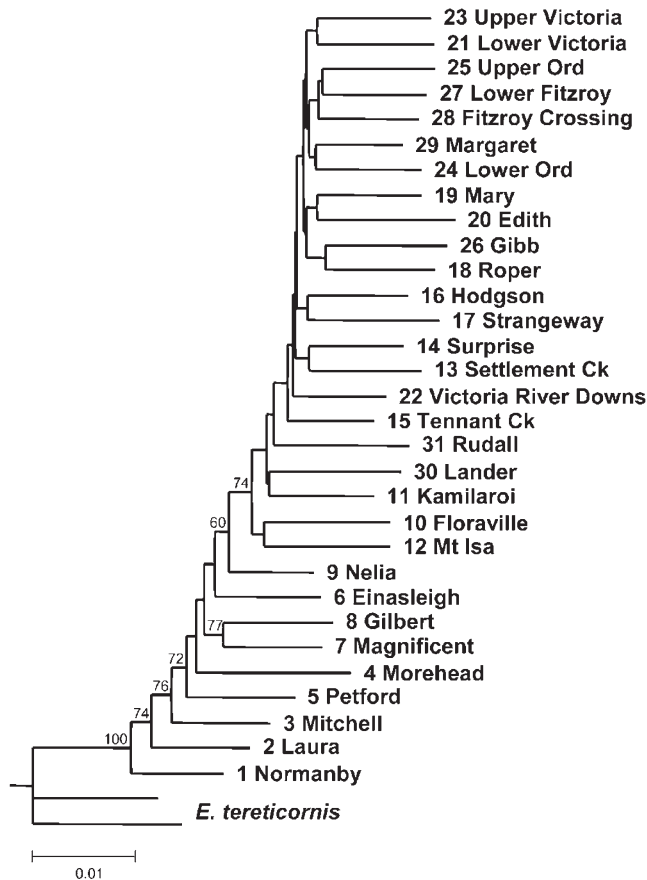
populations relating to tolerance to drought (Gibson *et al*, 1995) and frost (Grunwald and Karschon, 1977). Latitudinal and longitudinal clines in morphometric characters were also reported by Grunwald and Karschon (1983), based on data from 31 seed sources of tropical *E. camaldulensis* planted in provenance trials in Israel. Sclerophylly and epicuticular waxes increased with latitude while the presence of lignotubers decreased. Lignotubers increased with longitude and oil gland density decreased. Significant correlations with climatic parameters of the seed source were also reported. Oil gland density was positively correlated with mean maximum temperature while sclerophylly and epicuticular waxes were negatively correlated with rainfall.

Clines can be attributed either to adaptation to different environments, or to non-adaptive processes related to population structure and history, for example genetic drift, gene flow, or isolation by distance. Drift or historical processes should affect all loci equally while selection determining allele frequencies at a specific locus should have no effect on allele frequencies at unlinked loci (for neutral RFLP markers) (Cavalli-Sforza, 1966). The high number of RFLP loci (15/33) for which the frequency of

the most common allele was correlated with longitude indicates genetic drift or historical processes have influenced the patterns of variation. This is supported by the significant correlation between genetic distance and geographic distance, consistent with the isolation by distance model. The correlations between allele frequencies at several loci and climatic variables, together with evidence of different physiological responses to water stress among northern populations of *E. camaldulensis* which relate directly to climatic parameters (Gibson *et al*, 1995), indicate that selection has also influenced the patterns of variation.

**Differentiation among eastern and western populations**  
Affinities between the eastern-most populations of *E. camaldulensis* and *E. tereticornis* suggest that introgression of genes from *E. tereticornis* contributed to the differentiation between the western and eastern regions. This is also reflected in the higher level of differentiation among populations in the eastern region. The significant difference between populations to the east and west of the Leichhardt River in the phylogenetic analysis (Figure 4) may reflect the temporal shift in flowering between these





**Figure 4** Consensus tree based on restricted maximum likelihood analysis, showing phylogenetic relationships among 31 populations of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, with *E. tereticornis* as an outgroup. Numbers on the nodes represent the percentage of trees containing the group of populations above the node, out of 500 bootstrapped trees. (Only bootstrap values >50% are shown.) Scale represents expected accumulated variance based on Cavalli-Sforza distances.

regions. Differences between the peak flowering times of June–July in the eastern region and October–November in the western region, would severely limit gene flow. Historical processes may also be involved. In the Late Tertiary and Early Pleistocene eastern and central Australian populations belonged to the same drainage division. Relative up-tilting at the margin of the Barkly Tableland and establishment of internal drainage north of the MacDonnell Ranges (Mabbutt, 1962) may have isolated these populations from the Gulf of Carpentaria system and formed a barrier to gene flow between eastern and western regions. This is consistent with reports of genetic divergence in several other species with distributions extending from Queensland to Northern Territory. For example, allozyme surveys revealed populations of *Acacia auriculiformis* from Northern Territory were genetically distinct from Queensland populations and had lower genetic diversity (Wickneswari and Norwati, 1993). Similarly, a population of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* from Northern Territory was genetically distinct from populations in Queensland and New South Wales (Moran *et al*, 1989). In common with *E. camaldulensis*, these species are confined to locations where their roots can exploit a supply of permanent or semi-permanent ground or surface water.

Divergence between eastern and western *E. camaldulensis* populations has also been reported in growth rates, phytochemical traits and morphology. In provenance trials of *E. camaldulensis* in Thailand, mean volume per tree was, on average, 25% higher for Queensland populations than sources from Northern Territory and Western Australia (Pinyopusarerk *et al*, 1996). Banks and Hillis (1969) divided *E. camaldulensis* populations into phytochemical provinces which corresponded with the major river drainage systems and with groupings based on morphological characters. However, the correlation between phytochemical profile and geographic region was poor for populations in inland Western Australia, Northern Territory and the Lake Eyre Basin. Similarly, Grunwald and Karschon (1983) were able to differentiate populations from the Timor Sea drainage division (the north-west of Western Australia and Northern Territory) from those in the Gulf of Carpentaria drainage division (northern Queensland and the north-east of Northern Territory) in factor and cluster analyses based on nine morphometric traits. Populations in these drainage divisions had exoreic drainage. Again, populations with endoreic drainage did not follow this trend. Populations around Alice Springs had closer affinities with the Gulf of Carpentaria drainage division. This is consistent with the RFLP data, where the Rudall and Lander River populations, with endoreic drainage, had closer affinities with the eastern populations than the west (Figure 2).

#### Hybridisation between var. *obtusata* and *E. tereticornis*

The low genetic distances separating subsp. *simulata*, Petford and Morehead populations and *E. tereticornis* supports morphological evidence of hybridisation in regions where the species are parapatric. Subspecies *simulata* has morphological characters of *E. camaldulensis* (juvenile leaves and brown seeds) and *E. tereticornis* (habitat, horn-shaped operculum, single seed coat). However, populations such as Morehead and Petford include individuals with a combination of morphological characters that cannot easily be assigned to either taxon.

The high level of variation in the Petford population, together with the high number of private and rare alleles is consistent with speculation that the population is in a zone of introgression (Doran and Burgess, 1993; Brooker and Kleinig, 1994). The Petford and subsp. *simulata* populations had the same common allele at three loci as *E. tereticornis*, which differed from all other populations sampled. The Petford population is located on a southern tributary of the Walsh River which, like many upper tributaries of rivers in this region, extends east into the forest habitat of *E. tereticornis*. Based on bud shape, Doran and Burgess (1993) presented morphological evidence of a complex introgression pattern between var. *obtusata* and *E. tereticornis* in the Petford region. When seed coat anatomy and seedling morphology is considered the pattern becomes even more complex. The presence of individuals producing single-coated, black seeds (typical of *E. tereticornis*) and other individuals producing brown, double-coated seeds (typical of var. *obtusata*) suggests that the Petford population includes *E. camaldulensis* × *E. tereticornis* hybrids rather than subsp. *simulata*. Interestingly, the nearest known population of subsp. *simulata* to the Petford population is about 30 km away. *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and var. *obtusata* flower synchronously and viable seed has been produced following cross-pollination

(Doran and Burgess, 1993). Based on genetic distances from the limited number of individuals of *E. tereticornis* examined, subsp. *simulata* populations have closer affinities to *E. tereticornis* than Petford (see Figure 3).

Rare individuals having the morphological characters of subsp. *simulata* have also been documented in the Morehead population (4) (DA Kleinig, personal communication). This population had the same common alleles at two loci as subsp. *simulata*, Petford and *E. tereticornis*, providing some evidence of hybridisation. It was, however, genetically distinct (Figure 2), having a different common allele to all other populations at one locus. The difference may reflect the location of Morehead at the northeastern limit of the distribution of var. *obtusata*. The Morehead River is the only river system flowing east into the Pacific Ocean; all other Queensland populations are located on rivers flowing into the Gulf of Carpentaria.

#### Implications for breeding programmes

The patterns of genetic variation in northern populations of *E. camaldulensis* revealed by RFLP analysis will assist in more clearly defining genetic boundaries for tree breeding programmes. Differentiation among populations to the east and west of the Leichhardt River did not coincide with the current boundaries between drainage divisions. While the majority of variation was detected within populations, the significant differences among populations, together with the geographic trends in allele frequencies, emphasise the importance of the concept of geographic provenance for breeding and/or conservation programmes. In general, geographic distance provides a reasonable indicator of the degree of genetic divergence in northern populations of *E. camaldulensis*. Superimposed on this trend is the correlation of allele frequencies with climatic parameters (mean annual rainfall and temperature) supporting the need for climatic profiling of provenances for domestication programmes (Booth, 1996).

Greater differentiation among eastern populations indicates the need for greater sampling effort in this region for breeding programmes than among the western populations. In addition, the morphological and genetic affinities of the easternmost populations of var. *obtusata* with *E. tereticornis*, in particular Petford, Morehead and subsp. *simulata* populations, should be considered when designing sampling or breeding programmes. RFLP data for populations of *E. tereticornis* throughout its northeastern range would assist in more clearly delineating the boundaries between these taxa.

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