

Lodhi River Red Gum

At the green and spacious Lodhi Gardens in the heart of New Delhi, a huge Murray River Red Gum from the dry interior of Australia spreads its branches out wide.

Species: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*



Family: Myrtaceae

Latitude North: 28.593810

Longitude East: 77.221067

State: Delhi NCR

City: Delhi

Spot: Lodhi Gardens



Delhi is a crazy, busy, magic whirlwind of a city, but Lodhi Gardens provides a quiet, green, open space tucked in the middle of Luyten's New Delhi. Outside on the boulevards traffic speeds past. Just nearby are the India Habitat Centre, with The Energy and Resources Institute (my host institution) and also the World Wildlife Fund. While Connaught Place may be the commercial center of New Delhi, to me Lodhi Gardens is the geographical true center of New Delhi.

Just next to the Bara Gumbad, or Big Tomb, the Lodhi River Red Gum is at once growing strong, with wide branches, and fighting disease, with visible gnarled responses to infection I'll always enjoy coming into the garden and seeing this visitor from inland Australia.

Linkage:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lodhi_Gardens

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Red_Gum

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray_river,

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lodhi_dynasty

<http://chabg.gov.au/> => EUCLID (map)

The Murray River Red Gum forests are iconic Australian fire-dependant bush, something in between the dry Outback scrub and the wet Tasmanian rain forests. They are the most widespread eucalypt. Like all eucalypts, Red Gums grow best after a fire clears out all the competing foliage, and the oils in its leaves and bark are highly flammable to foster those conditions. The Murray River is Australia's most important river, starting on the eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range (running along the Pacific Coast) and reaching the Southern Ocean near Adelaide. The Red Gums are adapted to the flood-



ing and soils of this river valley. On this driest and least fertile of continents, the largest river often does not even make it to the sea. Agricultural and other water uses have reduced it to a trickle along its course. The management and conservation of the Murray River is a critical environmental issue in Australia.