

# *Corymbia peltata*

## Yellowjacket, Rustyjacket

### Classification

Corymbia | Ochroraria

### Nomenclature

***Corymbia peltata*** (Benth.) K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson, *Telopea* 6: 381 (1995).

*Eucalyptus peltata* Benth., *Fl. Austr.* 3: 254 (1867) subsp. *peltata*. T: Queensland: Newcastle Ranges, Oct. 1856, *F. Mueller s.n.*; holotype: K; iso: MEL, NSW.

### Description

**Tree** to 10 m, rarely 20 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough to limbs ca 5 cm diameter, tessellated to finely flaky, yellow-brown to yellow-grey with a hint of orange.

**Branchlets** scabrid with setae or their weathered remains; elongated oil bodies often present in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem rounded to square in cross-section; juvenile leaves opposite, always petiolate, ± orbicular to ovate or elliptical, 6–21 cm long, 4–12 cm wide, base lobed and peltate, green; setose with bristle-glands, becoming scabrid as these weather, on stems, petioles and lamina.

True alternate petiolate lanceolate.

**Adult leaves** very rarely formed and then only a very small part of the total crown leaves and still scabrid. **Crown** predominantly of scabrid juvenile leaves, opposite to sub-opposite or occasionally alternately arranged, petiole 1–2.6 cm long; blade sub-orbicular to ovate-elliptic, (4.3)6–13.5 cm long, 3.5–11 cm wide, flat or undulate, base of most leaves peltate, rarely rounded to lobed, apex rounded or emarginate, margin usually entire, concolorous, dull, green to grey-green, penniveined, densely to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands island.

**Inflorescence** terminal compound, peduncles 0.8–3.2 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, sessile or pedicellate (pedicels to 0.3 cm long). **Mature buds** obovoid, 0.6–0.7 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, white on surface due to rubbery cuticle (not wax), scar present (outer operculum shed early), operculum rounded and umbonate to conical, stamens inflexed, anthers ± oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma tapered, locules 3, the ovules not arranged in clear vertical rows on the placentae. Flowers white.

**Fruit** sessile or shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0–0.1 cm long), barrel-shaped to urceolate or truncate-globose, 0.7–1.4 cm long, (0.6)0.8–1.2 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3, enclosed.

**Seeds** reddish brown and shiny, 3–6 mm long, boat-shaped with a keel on the smooth and usually cracked dorsal surface, not winged, but some seeds have a short flange at one end, hilum ventral.

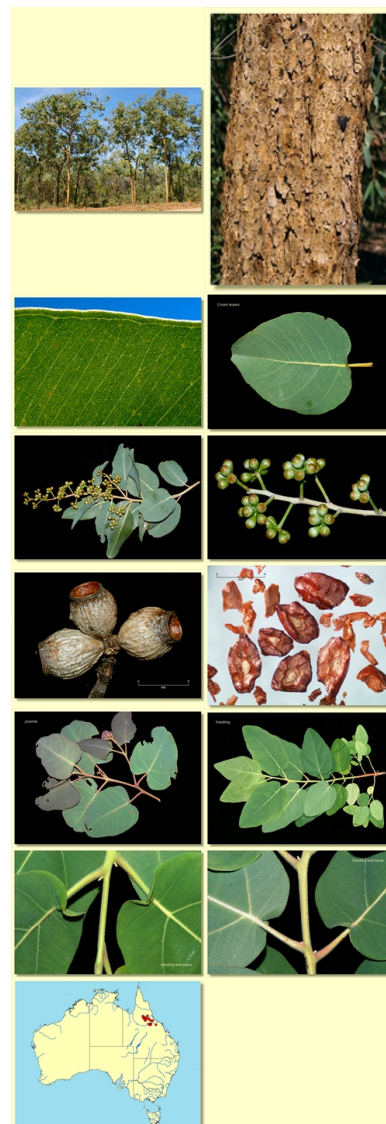
**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons large, reniform to orbicular; stems rounded in cross-section, setose throughout; leaves always petiolate (to 2.2 cm), opposite at most nodes, sometimes sub-opposite, ovate-elliptic to cordate or broadly lanceolate, 4.5–13 cm long, (1.8)2.5–8 cm wide, base peltate after node 4, margin entire but may be undulate, apex ± rounded, more or less concolorous, dull, green, setose throughout on both sides.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in February.

### Notes

A small to moderately-sized tree endemic to northern Queensland distributed from the Newcastle Range south-east to the Hervey Range near Townsville, and south to the Burra Range east of Hughenden. It is a component of tropical dry sclerophyll woodlands and forest, preferring sandstone slopes and ridges with shallow sandy soils. *Corymbia peltata* is fully rough-barked on the trunk and branches with finely flaky to softly tessellated, thickish yellow-brown bark. Inflorescences are terminal, fruits urn- to barrel-shaped and juvenile leaves scabrid. The crown remains developmentally juvenile, having orbicular to ovate-elliptic peltate leaves, scabrid throughout, with non-peltate, more developmentally adult leaves rarely formed, but if so they are still scabrid.



*C. peltata* occurs within the northern part of the distribution of another yellow-bloodwood species, *C. leichhardtii*. It is easily distinguished from that species by the crown leaves that are juvenile in character, being scabrid,  $\pm$  opposite, sub-orbicular to ovate and with peltate base, compared with the glabrous, alternate, lanceolate, concolorous adult leaves of *C. leichhardtii*. Similarly *C. leptoloma* differs from *C. peltata* in having true adult leaves that are glossy, green and discolorous, quite glabrous and placed alternately on the branchlets. *C. aureola* differs in having a crown of adult, glabrous, glossy, concolorous, green leaves. Much further to the south-west, between Springsure and Tambo, there is another yellow bloodwood with peltate, scabrid leaves forming the crown. This is *C. scabrida* and differs from *C. peltata* by having ovate-lanceolate crown leaves usually < 3.5 cm wide (rarely to 4.8 cm wide), compared with the ovate-orbicular leaves 3.5-11 cm wide in the latter.

East of the northern part of the distribution of *C. leichhardtii*, in the Hervey Range from Laroona to Ewan, and sporadically north of Hughenden, and at Mount Stewart near Pentland, plants are often found morphologically intermediate between *C. leichhardtii* and *C. peltata*. These plants were originally described as *Eucalyptus peltata* subsp. *dimorpha* by Brooker & Bean (1991), revised as *Corymbia dimorpha* by Hill & Johnson (1995). These plants have a crown made up of a variable mixture of juvenile, intermediate and adult leaves with some scabrid,  $\pm$  opposite,  $\pm$  ovate leaves with peltate base, always present along with glabrous lanceolate adult leaves, compared with the normal glabrous, alternate, lanceolate adult leaves only of *C. leichhardtii*. Therefore *C. dimorpha* is regarded in EUCLID as being morphologically intermediate, not as a good taxon.

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#### **MORE ABOUT YELLOW BLOODWOODS**

#### **Origin of Name**

*Corymbia peltata*: Latin *peltatus*, armed with a small shield, referring to the petiole insertion into the underside of the leaf rather than the end of the leaf as in most eucalypts; thus the peltate leaf resembles a small shield.

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