

Corymbia watsoniana subsp. *capillata*

Yellowjacket

Classification

Corymbia | Ochraria

Nomenclature

Corymbia watsoniana subsp. ***capillata*** (Brooker & A.R.Bean) K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson, *Telopea* 6: 379 (1995).

Eucalyptus watsoniana subsp. *capillata* Brooker & A.R.Bean, *Austrobaileya* 3: 428 (1991). T: Queensland: Leichhardt District: 30.4 miles [49 km] E of Rolleston in Expedition Range, 23 Apr. 1975, *M.I.H.Brooker* 4833; holo: BRI; iso: AD, CANB, MEL, NSW.

Corymbia catenaria K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson, *Telopea* 6: 376 (1995). T: Queensland: 10 miles [16 km] from Springsure on Rolleston road, 28 Nov. 1972, *D.F.Blaxell* 963 & *L.A.S.Johnson*; holo: NSW.

Description



Tree to 15 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough almost to the smallest branches, thick, soft, loosely flaky to tessellated, yellow-brown to yellow-grey over orange-brown.

Branchlets smooth (glabrous); sometimes have \pm elongated oil bodies in the pith.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem square in cross-section, setose/scabrid until ca 10–15 nodes; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 15–21 cm long, 7–12.5 cm wide, base \pm peltate for many nodes, well into intermediate phase, apex pointed, green to blue-green, concolorous, dull, setose weathering to scabrid.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in November.

Notes

Corymbia watsoniana is a yellow bloodwood tree species endemic to central Queensland and distributed in the area from Springsure and Rolleston south-east to Eidsvold and near Gayndah, and south to Barakula State Forest. It is a component of dry sclerophyll woodlands on sandy soils in sandstone areas. It has yellowish flaky to tessellated soft rough bark throughout and dull green to grey-green crown of glabrous adult leaves, terminal inflorescences and relatively large fruit. The juvenile leaves vary depending on the subspecies.

There are two subspecies:

C. watsoniana subsp. **watsoniana**

Has buds with the operculum consistently wider than the hypanthium (base of bud), fruit >1.7 cm wide and juvenile leaves essentially non-setose and not peltate. It occurs from Wigton (S of Gayndah) west to Robinson and Isla Gorges near Theodore, with outliers to the north at Blackdown Tableland, and to the south in the Chinchilla– Pelican area where it occurs in Barakula State Forest.

C. watsoniana subsp. **capillata**

This subspecies is distinguished from subsp. *watsoniana* primarily on the juvenile leaves, which are peltate and hairy for many nodes in coppice growth; fruit are somewhat shorter and narrower than in subsp. *watsoniana* but with some overlap in both dimensions. Buds have operculum wider than the hypanthium at maturity, but during development this may not be apparent. It is restricted to the Expedition Range and Staircase Range near Rolleston.

The large buds and fruit separate this species from all other yellow bloodwoods, as does the operculum being wider than the hypanthium when fully developed.

Hill & Johnson (1995) described the yellow bloodwood *C. catenaria*, stating that it differed from *C. watsoniana* subsp. *capillata* by the narrower adult leaves, smaller fruit on shorter pedicels and peduncles. We observe that some specimens cited by Johnson & Hill are *C. watsoniana* subsp. *capillata* and that the narrower-leaved, smaller-fruited specimens cited represent intermediates between the latter and *C. leichhardtii*.

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Origin of Name

Corymbia watsoniana: after Thomas Wentworth Watson, who collected the type specimen in 1876 and sent it to Mueller in Melbourne. Nothing further is known about Watson.

subsp. *capillata*: Latin *capillatus*, hairy, referring to the setose seedling growth.

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