

Eucalyptus astringens subsp. *redacta*

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Erectae | Pedicellatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus astringens* subsp. *redacta Brooker & Hopper, *Nuytsia* 14: 353 (2002).



T: Western Australia: Wellstead road to Cape Riche, at the Mount Melville [=Konkoberup Hill] rubbish tip with a view to the sea, 34° 35'34"S, 118° 43'54"E, 3 May 1999, A. V. Slee 4117; holotype: CANB; iso: AD, PERTH.

Description

Mallet to 5 m tall. Lignotuber absent.

Bark smooth throughout, grey over yellow then shiny bronze to salmon-coloured.

Branchlets with oil glands in the pith.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): not seen.

Adult leaves alternate, petioles 0.8–2.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, rarely falcate, 5–10.5 cm long, 1–2.5(3) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, green, at least slightly glossy, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation moderate to dense and broken, intramarginal vein present, oil glands numerous, island and intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, spreading to erect, rarely pendulous, peduncles flattened or only slightly so, 0.8–2.5(3) cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicellate (pedicels 0.2–0.9 cm long).

Mature buds elongated-ovoid (1.0–1.5(2) cm long, 0.3–0.6 cm wide), flared at the join of operculum and hypanthium, scar present (outer operculum lost early), inner operculum bluntly horn-shaped, ca 1.5–2 times the length of the hypanthium, stamens erect, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 3 or 4, the placenta each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white to pale lemon, rarely pink to red.

Fruit erect, spreading or rarely downturned, pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long), cupular to obconical or campanulate, 0.7–0.8 cm long, 0.6–0.8 cm wide, disc level at first then descending, valves 3 or 4, held at rim level or exerted.

Seeds blackish brown, 0.8–2 mm long, ovoid to flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 6 nodes then alternate, ovate, 5–7.5 cm long, 4–6 cm wide, dull, grey-green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in August, September, October and November.

The timber of *E. astringens* is very hard and strong. The species has been cultivated for use in tool handles, mining timber, farm purposes and fuel. The bark has a high tannin content.

Notes

Eucalyptus astringens is a mallet species endemic to Western Australia, distributed south-east of Perth from Brookton, south to near Albany and east to Hopetoun. The adult leaves are glossy green.

It belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Glandulosae* because the buds have an operculum scar, cotyledons are bisected and branchlets have oil glands in the pith. Within this large subsection (ca 80 species) *E. astringens* is closely related to a group of mallets and mallees (series *Erectae* subseries *Pedicellatae*) recognised by the glossy green leaf surface, leaves with many oil glands but not obscuring the secondary venation, peduncles long and flattened or terete, inflorescences spreading to pendulous and buds with operculum longer than the hypanthium and erect stamens arising from a narrow staminophore.



E. astringens is distinguished from its relatives by its mallee habit, smooth bark and stubby, blunt buds with operculum only one to two times the length of the hypanthium and its campanulate fruit. *E. thamnoides* has similar buds but differs in the consistent mallee habit. Other related species, viz. the rough-budded tree of freshwater creeks and depressions, *E. occidentalis*, rough-barked mallee *E. aspratilis*, smooth-barked mallee *E. sporadica* and rough-budded tree of saline sites, *E. sargentii*, all have more slender buds with elongated opercula.

There are two weakly distinguished subspecies:

E. astringens subsp. **astringens**

This subspecies is a taller mallee with buds usually longer than 1.5 cm. It is always found on well-drained lateritic breakaways and occurs from Brookton to near Albany, and east as far as Hyden and Newdegate.

E. astringens subsp. **redacta**

A small mallee with smaller buds and fruits than in subsp. *astringens* (buds usually shorter than 1.5 cm), occurring in southern subcoastal areas between Kambellup, Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe extending to the coast between Albany and Bremer Bay; on lateritic breakaways.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus astringens: Latin *astringens*, astringent, referring to extracts from the bark.

subsp. *redacta*: Latin *redactus*, reduced, referring to the habit, buds and fruit compared to subsp. *astringens*.

Copyright © CANBR 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid>