

Eucalyptus baudiniana

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria | Ovulares

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus baudiniana D.J.Carr & S.G.M.Carr, *Trans. Roy. Soc. Victoria* 88: 12 (1976).



T: Bungabandi Ck road, 36 miles [58 km] from junction with North Coastal Hwy, W.A., 27° S [sic], 115° 22'E, 25 August 1969, *D.J. & S.G.M.Carr 972*; holotype: PERTH; isotype: CANB.

Description

Tree or mallee to 10 m tall. Forms a lignotuber.

Bark rough over part or all of trunk, fibrous to flaky, dark grey, then becoming smooth, grey-brown to brown.

Branchlets with oil glands in the pith, sometimes sparse and only found at the nodes.

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

Adult leaves alternate, petioles 0.7–1 cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate to falcate, 4.5–9.5 cm long, 0.5–1.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins acute or sometimes at an angle greater than 45° to midrib, reticulation usually moderate to dense and broken, sometimes obscured by the island and intersectional oil glands, intramarginal vein present.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles narrowly flattened, 0.5–1 cm long, buds 7 to 15 per umbel, pedicels 0.2 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid (0.5–0.8 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide), scar present (outer operculum lost early), inner operculum rounded and apiculate to shortly beaked (0.15–0.2 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid to wedge-shaped, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma quite blunt, locules 3(4), the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.2 cm long), barrel-shaped, 0.4–0.6 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide, disc descending vertically, valves 3(4), enclosed.

Seeds brown, 1–1.5 mm long, flattened-ovoid sometimes pointed at one end, dorsal surface clearly but shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons reniform; stems rounded in cross-section, smooth or sometimes slightly warty; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 5 to 7 nodes then alternate, ovate-deltoid at lower nodes becoming narrowly ovate, 5.5–7 cm long, 2.5–4 cm wide, dull green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in November.

Notes

A spreading small tree with a glossy green crown and rough trunk endemic to Western Australia where it grows on calcareous sandy loams or gypseous clay soil sometimes near salt lakes. It is found from north of Kalbarri south-east to Yarra Yarra Lakes, Perenjori and Coomberdale.

Eucalyptus baudiniana belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Dumaria* because the buds have two opercula, stamens are strongly inflexed, ovules are in four rows on the placentae and cotyledons are reniform. Within section *Dumaria* it belongs to a small sub-group of nine closely related species which are together called series *Ovulares*. The series is further diagnosed by glandular pith, cuboid-wedge shaped anthers, and seeds with a brown shallowly and clearly reticulate dorsal seedcoat.

Some of the species in series *Ovulares* are completely smooth-barked (*E. cyclostoma*, *E. cylindrocarpa*, *E. exigua* and smaller plants of *E. oraria*) while others (*E. aequioperta*, *E. baudiniana*, *E. comitae-vallis*, *E. myriadena* and *E. ovularis*) have rough bark over at least part of the stems.

E. baudiniana has been confused with the more coastal species *E. oraria*, which is a mallee or low tree with little or no rough bark, has



slightly broader leaves and larger, shortly pedicellate to sessile fruits. Other rough-barked species in series *Ovulares* have more southerly and easterly distributions. *E. baudiniana* is closely related to *E. myriadena*, which has denser oil glands in the leaves and occurs in the central wheatbelt and adjacent goldfields and appears to be somewhat salt tolerant.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus baudiniana: honouring Nicolas Thomas Baudin (1754–1803). Nicolas Baudin was a highly regarded navigator in the French Navy. He was placed, by the French Government, at the disposal of Francis I of Austria, who needed a navigator to assist him in his hobby of collecting plants and other natural history specimens from throughout the world. He made collecting trips to the many parts of the world. In 1800 Baudin was commander of the ship *Le Geographe* which arrived in Australia in 1802 to perform cartographic and other scientific work. He died in Mauritius.

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