

# *Eucalyptus campaspe*

## Silver gimlet

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Contortae

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus campaspe** S.Moore, *J. Linn. Soc., Bot.* 34: 193 (1899).

T: Gibraltar, W.A., 1895, *S.Moore 90*; holo: BM; iso: K, MEL, NSW.

### Description

**Mallet** to 10 m tall, stems fluted. Non-lignotuberous.

**Bark** smooth throughout, shiny, greenish grey to yellow-brown, red-brown or coppery.

**Branchlets** copiously white-waxy, oil glands present in pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems rounded in cross-section, glaucous; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite for 1 to 4 nodes then alternate, lanceolate-ovate, 5–8 cm long, 1.5–3.5 cm wide, glaucous.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 0.7–2.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, 7–12 cm long, 0.8–2.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, dull, glaucous or grey to grey-green weathering to glossy, green, side-veins acute, reticulation usually moderate to dense and broken, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands highly irregular in shape, island or sometimes obscure.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles flat, broadening apically, 0.5–1.5 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long). **Mature buds** ovoid and obese (0.9–1.2 cm long, 0.6–1 cm wide), glaucous, scar present, operculum obtusely to acutely conical, stamens inflexed to varying degrees, anthers narrowly oblong, versatile, sub-basifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 4(5), the placentae each with 8 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

**Fruit** shortly pedicellate or sessile (pedicels 0–0.3 cm long), cupular to hemispherical or broadly and shallowly obconical, 0.5–1 cm long, 0.8–1.5 cm wide, disc level, valves 4(5), exserted.

**Seeds** mid-brown, 1–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface narrowly and closely fissured, margin closely toothed, hilum ventral. (Seedcoat often referred to as being honey-combed.)

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems more or less square in cross-section, glaucous, sometimes warty; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 5 nodes then alternate, lanceolate, 4.5–7 cm long, 1–2.5 cm wide, dull, grey-green to slightly glaucous.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in April, August and December.

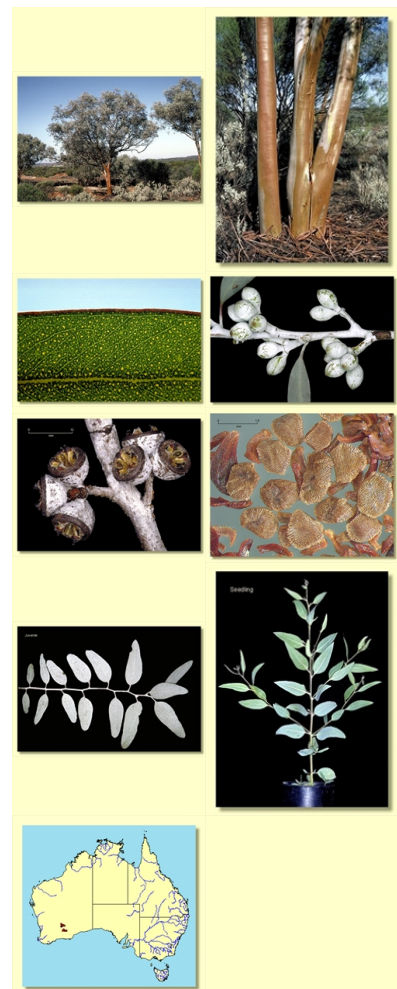
### Notes

A small mallet endemic to the central goldfields of Western Australia, from Coolgardie to Kalgoorlie. The bark is always smooth, yellow-green, grey, or in season, rich coppery. The crown is conspicuously silver-grey while the individual adult leaves are glaucous or grey to grey-green but ultimately weathering to glossy, green. Buds are in sevens on prominently flattened peduncles, and buds and fruits are glaucous.

*Eucalyptus campaspe* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Glandulosae* because the buds have two opercula, the cotyledons are bisected and the branchlets have numerous oil glands in the pith.

Within this subsection *E. campaspe* belongs to a small well known group, the gimlets (series *Contortae*), a group notable for the slender fluted, twisted shiny trunks. The gimlets are further recognised by very irregular island oil glands in the leaves and irregularly and deeply fissured seed-coats.

The silver-greyish crown colour distinguishes *E. campaspe* from all the other gimlets. Both *E. campaspe* and *E. ravida* have conspicuously



waxy branchlets but the latter has an olive-green crown with only the new growth glaucous, and smaller buds and fruit. The other gimlet species, *E. creta*, *E. diptera*, *E. effusa*, *E. salubris*, *E. terebra* and *E. tortilis* are non-glaucous.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus campaspe*: after Campaspe, the mistress of Alexander the Great, allusion unknown.

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