

# *Eucalyptus capillosa* subsp. *capillosa*

## Wheatbelt wandoo

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Levispermae | Cubiformes

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus capillosa** Brooker & Hopper, *Nuytsia* 8: 41 (1991) subsp. **capillosa**.



T: 9.5 km N of Merredin on Nungarin road, Western Australia, 15 Sept. 1982, *M.I.H. Brooker 7620*; holo: PERTH; iso: CANB, NSW.

### Description

**Trees** to 12 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout, sometimes powdery, grey over salmon pink to yellow or bronze.

**Branchlets** often glaucous; pith always with oil glands.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems rounded in cross-section, glaucous, densely scabrid; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite at lowest node only then becoming alternate, more or less lanceolate, 4–8.5 cm long, 2–4.5 cm wide, margin appearing irregular due to hairs, glaucous, scabrid until ca 50 cm tall.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 1–2.7 cm long; blade lanceolate to elliptical, 7–12.5 cm long, 1–2.2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, dull, grey-green to green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation moderate to dense, intramarginal vein remote from margin, oil glands mostly intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles widening apically, 0.6–1.8 cm long, buds 9 to 13 per umbel, pedicels 0.2–0.6 cm long. **Mature buds** fusiform (1–1.3 cm long, 0.25–0.4 cm wide), scar present, operculum conical, to twice as long as hypanthium and equal to it at the join, few outer stamens erect, most stamens variably deflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma more or less blunt, locules 3, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long), barrel-shaped to cylindrical, 0.5–0.7 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3, near rim level or tips scarcely exerted.

**Seeds** pale brown to straw-coloured, 0.8–1.5 mm long, sub-spherical, surface smooth, hilum ventral/terminal.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded in cross-section, glaucous, scabrid; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 8 nodes then alternate, ovate-lanceolate, 3.5–8.5 cm long, 1.2–3.5 cm wide, margin slightly to quite irregular or undulate, lamina and petiole conspicuously scabrid, glaucous. The hairs have a multicellular base surmounted by a pair of long cells that are basally appressed, and apically divergent.

### Flowering Time

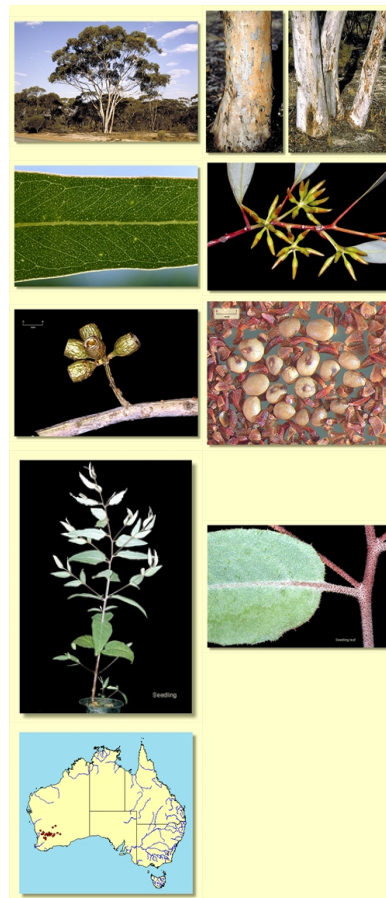
Flowering has been recorded in January and February.

### Notes

*Eucalyptus capillosa* is a tree or mallee species endemic to Western Australia, found in the central and eastern wheatbelt. The bark is smooth, the adult leaves dull and the juvenile leaves are hairy-scabrid.

It belongs to *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Glandulosae* because the cotyledons are bisected, buds have an operculum scar and the branchlets have oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. capillosa* is one of a group of 14 species that form series *Levispermae* subseries *Cubiformes*, characterised by having smooth almost cuboid to sub-spherical seed (not spherical), flattened peduncles that widen apically and buds that are narrowly fusiform with some stamens erect and others variably deflexed.

*E. capillosa* differs from all related species in series *Levispermae*, except *E. nigrifunda* and *E. livida*, by having scabrid seedling and juvenile leaves. It has a more inland distribution than the common and closely related tree *E. wandoo*. *E. nigrifunda* differs from *E. capillosa* only in having some rough blackish bark on the trunk and a more arid distribution on lateritic breakaways and associated flats in the Great Victoria Desert. *E. capillosa* differs from *E. livida* in always having glaucous branchlets. *E. livida* is non-glaucous and has a much greyer crown than *E. capillosa* and is restricted to rocky sites.



There are two subspecies:

**E. capillosa** subsp. **capillosa**

A tree more widely distributed than subsp. *polyclada*, forming woodlands on heavier soils but often on lateritic rises in its eastern occurrence. Occurs east from Pithara, Kellerberrin and Brookton to the Die Hardy Range and Southern Cross.

**E. capillosa** subsp. **polyclada**

A mallee of the central wheatbelt from Pithara north-east of Perth south-east to Wickepin and Burngup and east to the "Hyden Scrub", on sandy and gravelly sites, not associated with breakaways. Dubiously distinct from the typical subspecies, its mallee habit may reflect simply harsher growing conditions.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus capillosa*: Latin *capillosus*, hairy, referring to the seedlings.

subsp. *polyclada*: Greek, *poly-*, many and *clados*, branch, referring to the mallee form.

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