

# *Eucalyptus conveniens*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Eudesmia | Limbatae | Heteropterae | Tetraedrae

## Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus conveniens** L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Teloepa* 7: 393 (1998).



T: Western Australia: Moorlabby Road 22 km S of Midlands Highway, 30 Sept. 1984, B.G.Briggs 7506 & L.A.S.Johnson; holo: NSW; iso: AD, CANB, PERTH.

## Description

**Mallee** to 2.5 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** usually smooth, grey-brown over green, sometimes larger mallees with a short stocking of grey-brown ribbony rough bark.

**Branchlets** glaucous and with oil glands in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems square in cross-section, glaucous, lower stem hairy, juvenile leaves petiolate, opposite, ovate to elliptical to oblong, 6.5–9 cm long, 3.5–5.5 cm wide, dull, grey-green to glaucous, apex acute, base lobed to rounded, lamina sometimes hairy on lower leaves, margins sometimes denticulate due to hairs.

**Adult leaves** opposite to sub-opposite, petioles 1.3–2.5(3) cm long; blade lanceolate to ovate or elliptic, 6–13 cm long, (1.8)2.3–4(5) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull grey-green to glaucous, side-veins acute, tertiary venation sparse to moderate, intramarginal vein present, oil glands mostly island.

**Inflorescence** axillary single, peduncles 0.3–1.2 cm long, buds 3 per umbel, pedicels 0.25–0.3 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to pyriform, 1–1.3 cm long, c. 0.5 cm wide, hypanthium more or less four-angled with two opposing angles forming narrow wings, glaucous, outer perianth whorl sepaline, inner whorl operculate, operculum rounded, stamens grouped in four clusters, inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style short, stigma tapered, locules usually 3 or 4, the ovules arranged in 4 distinct vertical rows on the placentae, flowers whitish.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.25–0.8 cm long), barrel-shaped, 1–2.1 cm long, 0.8–1.2(1.6) cm wide, glaucous (diminishing with age), usually four angled, disc descending, valves 3 or 4 enclosed or near the rim.

**Seeds** dull brown to black or greyish, obliquely pyramidal, maybe somewhat flattened, with a ragged flange around the edge, 4–6 mm long, sides ribbed, surface smooth not deeply pitted, hilum ventral/terminal.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10):** cotyledons reniform; stems square in cross-section, glaucous, hairy, leaves petiolate, opposite, ovate to elliptical to oblong, 6.5–9 cm long, 3.5–5.5 cm wide, dull grey-green to glaucous, margins denticulate due to hairs, apex acute, base lobed to rounded, lamina hairy.

## Flowering Time

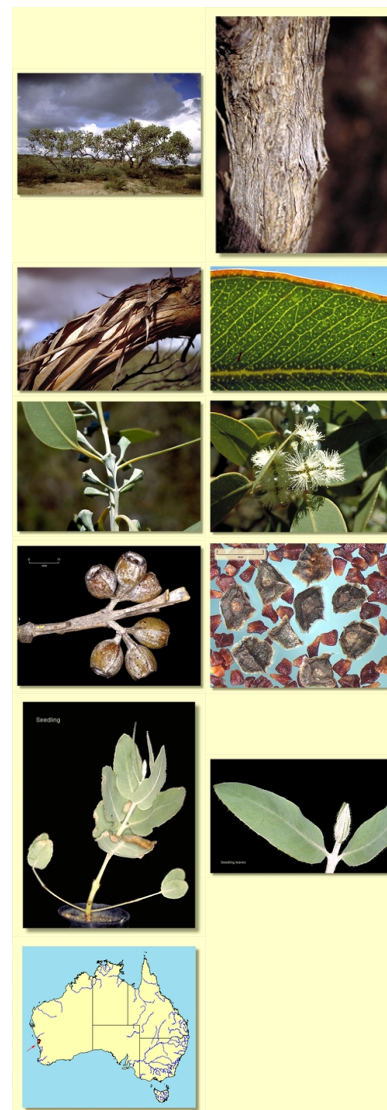
Flowering has been recorded in January and February.

## Notes

A low mallee endemic to Western Australia, growing south of Mingenew, from Mt Adams to Badgingarra. The bark is smooth and the leaves of the mature plant are juvenile to intermediate in form, petiolate and grey.

*E. conveniens* is morphologically intermediate between *E. pleurocarpa* and *E. gittinsii*. *E. pleurocarpa* differs by having glaucous branchlets and wider, ovate to elliptical to broadly lanceolate, shortly petiolate, glaucous leaves. *E. gittinsii* differs by having non-glaucous branchlets and distinctly petiolate, lanceolate to broadly lanceolate, green adult leaves (not glaucous).

*Eucalyptus conveniens* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Eudesmia*, Section *Limbatae* because of the combination of cotyledons reniform in shape and folded and clasping in embryo, buds with the calyx free and evident as four small teeth around the midline of the bud. (Sections *Ebbanoenses* and *Reticulatae* in this subgenus have the calyx fused to the corolla and evident as four small teeth at the apex of the bud.) Within subgenus *Eudesmia*, section *Limbatae*, *E. conveniens* belongs in the series *Heteropterae*, subseries *Tetraedrae*, which is



further characterised by having seedling leaves with stellate hairs, the presence of oil glands in the pith of the branchlets, stamens arranged in four bundles, flanged  $\pm$  pyramidal seeds and buds and fruit square in cross-section. The other species in subseries *Tetraedrae* are *E. gittinsii*, *E. pleurocarpa*, *E. extrica*, *E. eudesmioides*, *E. erythrocorys* and *E. roycei*. *E. conveniens* is intermediate between *E. pleurocarpa* and *E. gittinsii* as discussed above. It can be distinguished from *E. extrica* by having glaucous leaves and buds (*E. extrica* not glaucous). *E. eudesmioides* differs by having smaller leaves, buds and fruit. *E. erythrocorys* is easily separated by its bright red opercula and yellow flowers, and *E. roycei* has its buds in groups of seven in each umbel (in groups of three for *E. conveniens*).

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus conveniens*: Latin *conveniens*, coming together, referring to the position of the species between *E. pleurocarpa* and *E. gittinsii*.

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