

Eucalyptus cordata subsp. *cordata*

Heart-leaved silver gum

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Euryotae | Orbiculares

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus cordata Labill., *Nov. Holl. Pl.* 2: 13, t. 152 (1806) subsp. **cordata**

T: Van Diemens Land [Recherche Bay, Tas.], *J.J.H. de Labillardière s.n.*; holo: FI; iso: BM, G, L, MEL.

Description

Shrub 1.5 to 5 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark smooth, mottled, greenish yellow, white, brown, green, blue-grey and purple, branchlets glaucous.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem rounded in cross-section, glaucous, very warty; juvenile leaves opposite and sessile for many pairs, orbicular to cordate, 3–8.4 cm long, 2.8–6.3 cm wide, base amplexicaul, margin sub-crenulate, glaucous weathering to grey-green or green.

Crown of juvenile leaves only (adult leaves not formed).

Crown leaves opposite, sessile; blade broadly orbicular to cordate, dimensions as above, base amplexicaul, margin crenulate, concolorous, dull, usually glaucous more heavily so on underside, weathering to blue-green, grey-green or sometimes green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, moderately to densely reticulate, intramarginal vein well removed from margin, oil glands island and intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.2–1.2(1.5) cm long, buds 3 per umbel, sessile or with a 0.2 cm pedicel on central bud.

Mature buds obovoid to pyriform, 0.9–1.1 cm long, 0.6–0.8 cm wide, green or glaucous, scar present (outer operculum shed early), inner operculum ca 0.4 cm long, rounded to flattened and sometimes apiculate, stamens mostly inflexed, anthers cuboid to oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma blunt or tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 6 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

Fruit sessile or rarely with a 0.3 cm pedicel (on central fruit), cup-shaped to truncate-globose, 0.6–1.2 cm long, 0.8–1.3 cm wide, sometimes weakly angled longitudinally, usually glaucous at least when newly formed, disc descending vertically or obliquely, valves 3 or 4, near rim level or just enclosed.

Seeds dark brown, greyish or black, 1.5–3 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface smooth, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons bilobed; stems rounded in cross-section, glaucous, very warty; leaves opposite and sessile for many nodes, orbicular to cordate, 3–4 cm long, 2–3 cm wide, base amplexicaul, margin sub-crenulate, apex pointed or rounded, usually glaucous.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded from April to July (see Williams & Potts, 1996, p. 62).

Notes

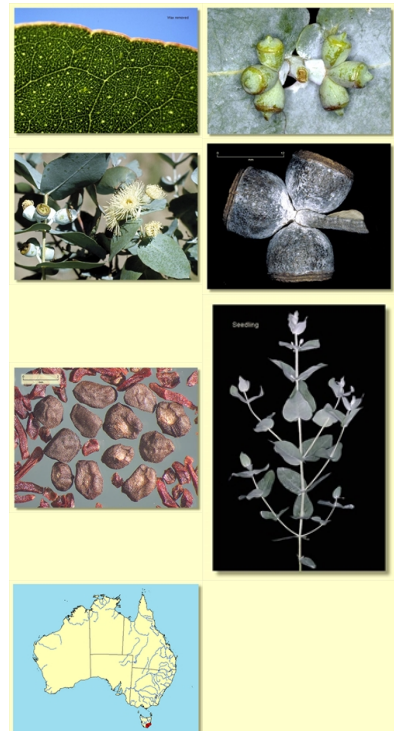
A shrub or small to medium-sized tree restricted to south-eastern Tasmania from Moogara to Port Arthur and Mt Wellington, and Maria Island, at intermediate altitudes on well developed loams on moist sites and in coastal heath.

Eucalyptus cordata differs from the other three-budded species by the persistence of large, opposite, orbicular to cordate, glaucous juvenile leaves through much or all of the mature crown. These leaves have subcrenulate (scalloped) margins. Buds and fruit are large, smooth, glaucous when young and may be sessile or very shortly pedicellate. Populations vary in width of leaves and whether the branchlets are square or rounded in cross-section.

E. cordata has two forms, the eastern typical form and the western form (see Potts 1989) which were formalized as subspecies in 2008:

E. cordata* subsp. *cordata

Has branchlets rounded in cross-section both in reproductive plants and coppice growth, and is always a large shrub, never a tree. It is



found in coastal and subcoastal south-eastern Tasmania, from Mount Grosse south of Hobart north to Bluestone Tier near Triabunna and east to Bruny Island and Maria Island, occurring in moist situations in woodland and heath at altitudes from near sea level to ca 450 m asl on silty clay soils that are often shallow.

E. cordata subsp. **quadrangulosa**

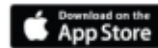
Branchlets squared in cross-section both in reproductive plants and coppice growth, and can form much larger shrubs and trees to 25 m tall. Restricted to the subcoastal ranges of south-eastern Tasmania, especially Snug Plains, Moogera and the Wellington Range. Habitat: moist loamy to clayey soils at altitudes 400 to 700 m asl, on margin of swamps or seepages on level to gently sloping sites near taller forests.

In the classification of Brooker (2000) *Eucalyptus cordata* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Maidenaria*, a large group of species restricted to south-eastern Australia, characterised by bilobed cotyledons, simple axillary inflorescences, buds with two opercula the outer of which sheds during bud growth leaving a scar, stamens with versatile anthers and flattened seeds with a ventral hilum. Within this section, *E. cordata*, with nine other species, forms series *Orbiculares* having orbicular juvenile leaves opposite for many nodes, usually glaucous crown, and buds in threes. Series *Orbiculares* is confined to far south-eastern New South Wales, eastern Victoria and Tasmania.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus cordata: Latin *cordatus*, heart-shaped, referring to the leaves.

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