

Eucalyptus cylindriflora

White mallee

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Elongatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus cylindriflora Maiden & Blakely, *J. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 59: 180 (1925).



T: Bendinger, W.A., 5 Feb. 1923, *C.A. Gardner* 1909; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, PERTH.

Description

Mallee to 4 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark smooth throughout, white to pale grey and yellowish grey.

Branchlets with oil glands in the pith.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves always shortly petiolate, opposite for up to ca 15 cm of growth then alternate, lanceolate becoming linear up stem, 4–8 cm long, 0.5–1.5 cm wide, lower leaves dull, upper leaves glossy, green.

Adult leaves alternate, erect, petioles 0.3–1.3 cm long; blade linear, 4–7.5(9.5) cm long, 0.4–1(1.2) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins acute, reticulation sparse to obscure, intramarginal vein present, oil glands irregular, intersectional and island.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles slender, 0.9–2.7 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, with long pedicels 0.4–1 cm. **Mature buds** ovoid to cylindrical (1–1.3 cm long, 0.4–0.7 cm wide), scar present (outer operculum lost early), inner operculum conical, outer stamens inflexed to varying degrees (rarely 1 or 2 fully erect), inner stamens strongly inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt to slightly dilated, locules 4(5), the placentae each with 6 or 8 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.3–1.2 cm long), cylindrical to cupular, 0.6–1 cm long, 0.6–0.9 cm wide, disc usually descending obliquely, valves 4(5), small, about rim level.

Seeds brown, 0.5–1.5 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface clearly reticulate, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 6 nodes then alternate, lanceolate, 5–9 cm long, 1.5–2.5 cm wide, dull, greenish.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, February and March.

Notes

A small mallee endemic to Western Australia, from east of Bendinger to Salmon Gums and almost to Balladonia but not coastal. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves narrow and glossy green.

Eucalyptus cylindriflora belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Glandulosae* because the buds have an operculum scar, cotyledons are bisected and branchlets have oil glands in the pith. Within this large subsection (ca 80 species) *E. cylindriflora* is closely related to a group of mallees or mallets (series *Elongatae*) recognised by the glossy green leaf surface, leaves with many oil glands obscuring the reticulation but not the main side-veins, buds with very long conspicuous pedicels, short opercula, inflexed stamens and ovules in 6 or 8 vertical rows. There are five species in series *Elongatae*—*E. cylindriflora*, *E. cerasiformis*, *E. dielsii*, *E. armillata* and *E. erythronema* (with 2 subspecies).

E. cylindriflora is distinguished in its natural range by its linear leaves, erect inflorescences, long-pedicellate cylindrical buds that are in erect (not pendulous) clusters of seven and more or less cylindrical fruit with an obliquely descending disc. Its closest relative is *E. cerasiformis*, which has pendulous clusters of smaller, more blunt buds that are narrowed in the middle. *E. dielsii* is a mallet with pendulous



buds in sevens and a fruit with a "brim" like a small bowler hat. *E. erythronema* is a mallee with larger buds in threes (sometimes sevens also) and obconical fruit.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus cylindriflora: Latin *cylindri-*, cylindrical and *flora*, flower, referring to the cylindrical buds.

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