

# *Eucalyptus deflexa*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria | Deflexae

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus deflexa*** Brooker, *Nuytsia* 2: 106 (1976).

T: 35 km E of Lake King towards Daniell, WA, 33°05'S, 120°02'E, 11 Nov. 1966,  
*P.G. Wilson 5745*; holo: PERTH; iso: CANB.

## Description

**Mallee** to 3 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout, dark or pale grey to whitish.

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

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** not seen.

**Adult leaves** thick, erect, alternate, petioles 0.5–1.2 cm long; blade linear to narrowly falcate or narrowly elliptical, 5–7.5(9) cm long, 0.5–0.9(1.1) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, yellowish green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation moderate to dense, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands scattered, intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, pendulous, peduncles 1–3 cm long, buds (3)7 per umbel, pedicels 0.6–1.8 cm long. **Mature buds** cylindrical (0.8–1.2 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide), white (not waxy), scar present, operculum shallowly and obtusely conical to rounded or flattened (0.2–0.25 cm long), stamens inflexed with the outer filaments longer than the inner, anthers oblong to wedge-shaped, versatile, sub-dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt or slightly rounded, locules (3)4, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers cream with basal pinkish flush.

**Fruit** pendulous, pedicellate (pedicels 0.9–2 cm long), barrel-shaped, 0.9–1.2 cm long, 0.7–0.9 cm wide, disc descending vertically, valves (3)4, deeply enclosed.

**Seeds** ornamentation whitish to translucent over brown background, 1.5–2.5 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface pitted below the ornamentation, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons reniform; stems rounded in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 or 5 nodes then alternate, lanceolate becoming linear, 4–8 cm long, 0.6–1.2 cm wide, dull, greyish green becoming glossy higher up stem.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in May, August, September, October and November.

## Notes

A small, low mallee endemic to Western Australia and of restricted distribution, from east of Lake King north-east towards Mt Day and to north-east of Ravensthorpe. It is found on sandy soil. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves narrow, slightly glossy green.

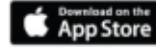
*Eucalyptus deflexa* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Dumaria* because the buds have two opercula, stamens are strongly inflexed, ovules are in 4 rows on the placentae and cotyledons are reniform. Within section *Dumaria* it is not closely related to any species and occupies a monotypic series (series *Deflexae*).

The inflorescences are notably pendulous and the buds conspicuously creamy white, while the flowers (stamens) are pink or creamy white. The seeds which are prominently pitted on the dorsal side with raised whitish borders to the pits are like those of *E. merrickiae* and *E. surgens* but there are no other obvious similarities between the two species.

## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus deflexa*: Latin *deflexus*, deflexed, referring to the inflorescences.





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