

Eucalyptus dielsii

Cap-fruited mallet

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Elongatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus dielsii C.A.Gardner, *J. Roy. Soc. W. Australia* 12: 67 (1927).

T: Salmon Gums, W.A., 13 Jan. 1925, *C.A.Gardner 1051a per W.T.Brown s.n.*; holo: PERTH.

Description

Mallet to 8 m tall. Lignotuber absent.

Bark smooth throughout, dark grey over brownish and greenish.

Branchlets with oil glands in the pith.

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

Adult leaves alternate, petioles 0.8–2.2 cm long; blade lanceolate, 5–10(11.5) cm long, 0.8–2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex acute, concolorous, green to blue-green, glossy, side-veins usually acute, reticulation sparse or obscure, intramarginal vein remote from margin, oil glands numerous, slightly irregular in shape.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, pendulous, peduncles slender, 1.5–3.2 cm long, buds 7(9) per umbel, pedicels 1–1.4 cm long. **Mature buds** cylindrical to ovoid (1.1–1.9 cm long, 0.6–0.9 cm wide), scar present (outer operculum shed early), inner operculum conical, 1 or 2 outer stamens erect, most stamens variably to completely inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 4 or 5, the placentae each with 6 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers yellow to yellowish green.

Fruit down-turned, pedicellate (pedicels 1–1.5 cm long), stoutly cylindrical to hemispherical always with a marginal flange formed from the lateral spreading of the disc (look like bowler hats), 0.8–1.1 cm long, 1–1.4 cm wide, disc more or less level, valves 4 or 5, near rim level or slightly exerted.

Seeds brown, 0.8–2 mm long, ovoid to flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface clearly and shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded or square in cross-section usually scabrid; leaves always petiolate, opposite for ca 4 or 6 nodes then alternate, ovate, 3.5–5.5 cm long, 1.5–2.5 cm wide, dull, green. Leaves and stems scabrid at least until node 10.

Flowering Time

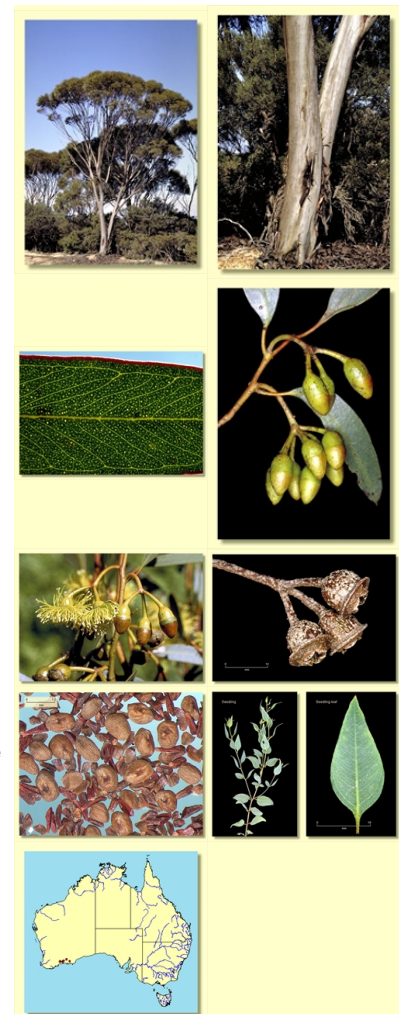
Flowering has been recorded in November and January.

Notes

A mallet endemic to Western Australia, of scattered distribution in subcoastal areas from north-west of Ravensthorpe to north-east of Esperance. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves glossy, olive-green to green.

Eucalyptus dielsii 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) *Eucalyptus dielsii* is closely related to a group of mallees or mallets (series *Elongatae*) that is characterised 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 either six or eight vertical rows. There are five species in series *Elongatae*—*E. cylindriflora*, *E. cerasiformis*, *E. dielsii*, *E. armillata* and *E. erythronema* (with 2 subspecies) .

E. dielsii is unlikely to be confused with any other species because of its unusual fruit that is stoutly hemispherical with a narrow flange (like a small bowler hat). Its buds are ovoid and pendulous. Of the related species with pendulous bud clusters *E. cerasiformis* has small buds that are narrowed in the middle and urn-shaped fruit whilst *E. erythronema* has much larger buds and obconical fruit. The remaining species, *E. cylindriflora*, has cylindrical buds in erect clusters.



Origin of Name

Eucalyptus dielsii: after Frederick Ludwig Emil Diels (1874–1945). Frederick Diels was a German botanist who, at the peak of his career, was Director of the Botanic Gardens and Museum in Berlin and a Professor at the Berlin University. He travelled widely to many parts of the world with E. Pritzel, including eastern and western Australia, where they made many collections. Their joint work *Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae Occidentalis* was published in *Botanische Jahrbucher* 35, 1905. This is regarded as an important publication on the Western Australian flora. Diels was deeply affected when much of the type collection from the Berlin Museum was lost during the second world war in an air raid on the night of March 2, 1943.

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