

Eucalyptus ebbanoensis subsp. *photina*

Classification

Eucalyptus | Eudesmia | Ebbanoenses

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus ebbanoensis subsp. **photina** Brooker & Hopper, *Nuytsia* 9: 2 (1993).



T: Western Australia: Nanson Road, 28° 34'S, 114° 43'E, 12 Mar. 1986, *M.I.H.Brooker 9195 & S.D.Hopper*; holo: PERTH; iso: CANB, MEL, NSW.

Description

Mallee to 6 m tall, usually less than 4 m. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark usually smooth, grey to creamy-brown, sometimes grey over salmon-pink, larger individuals with a short stocking of light grey to brown flaky rough bark.

Branchlets not glaucous; oil glands present in the pith.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems rounded in cross-section, glaucous or non-glaucous, hairy; juvenile leaves opposite in the early stages, eventually alternate by ca node 13, petiolate, ovate to cordate to lanceolate, base lobed to rounded to tapering, apex acute, hairy to glabrous.

Adult leaves alternate, rarely opposite to sub-opposite, petioles 1–1.7(2.2) cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 6–13 cm long, 1–2.4 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy, green maturing to very glossy, side-veins acute, reticulation sparse, intramarginal vein present, oil glands mostly island.

Inflorescence axillary single, peduncles 0.3–1.3 cm long, buds 3 per umbel, pedicels 0.1–0.5 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to pyriform, 0.6–0.8 cm long, 0.5–0.6 cm wide, not glaucous, outer perianth whorl minutely sepaline, inner whorl operculate, operculum rounded to conical, sometimes flattened, stamens grouped in four clusters, inflexed, occasionally with the outer stamens more or less erect, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style short to long, stigma tapered, locules usually 3 or 4, the ovules arranged in 4 distinct vertical rows on the placentae. Flowers whitish.

Fruit pedicellate or sometimes sessile (pedicels 0–0.3 cm long), cup-shaped to occasionally campanulate, 0.6–1 cm long, 0.7–1.2 cm wide, not glaucous, disc level to ascending, valves 3 or 4, exserted or near the rim.

Seeds dull brown to grey to black, ovoid to cuboid in shape, without a flange, 2–3 mm long, surface smooth not deeply pitted, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons reniform; stems round in cross-section, hairy, not glaucous, leaves petiolate, opposite for the first 6 to 10 nodes then alternate, ovate, 4–7.5 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, dull green to slightly glaucous, margins entire or minutely toothed due to hairs, apex pointed, base slightly lobed to rounded to square, lamina hairy.

Flowering Time

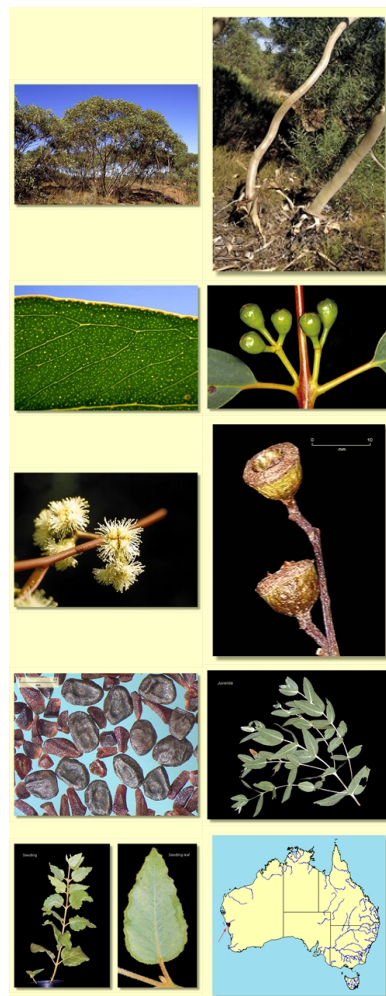
Flowering has been recorded in October.

Notes

Eucalyptus ebbanoensis is a mallee species endemic to Western Australia and of widespread distribution north and east of Perth in the northern wheatbelt to north of Geraldton and east to the western part of the Great Victorian Desert. The bark is usually smooth, sometimes rough at the base on larger individuals; the buds in groups of three, buds obovoid to pyriform, with a rounded to conical, sometimes flattened operculum.

It belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Eudesmia* because of the combination of cotyledons reniform in shape and folded and clasped in the embryo, juvenile leaves usually with stellate hairs, buds with the calyx fused to the corolla and evident as four small teeth at the apex of the bud—within the subgenus *Eudesmia*, Sections *Limbatae* and *Complanatae* have free calyx lobes evident as four small teeth around the midline of the bud—stamens arranged in four bundles, and the presence of oil glands in the pith of the branchlets. Within this taxonomically complex subgenus, *E. ebbanoensis* is the only species in section *Ebbanoenses*, distinguished by the almost complete lack of tertiary veining in the adult leaves and ovoid seeds that lack a marginal flange.

There are three published subspecies (two recognised in this edition of EUCLID):



E. *ebbanoensis* subsp. *ebbanoensis*

This is the most widespread form which occurs from the northern wheatbelt to the central goldfields to the western edge of the Great Victoria Desert. The leaves are dull and the plants from the western populations lack glaucescence, with those in the eastern population (east of Diemals) sometimes glaucous on the branchlets. This eastern form has been described as *E. ebbanoensis* subsp. *glauciramula* (Latin *gluci-*, glaucous and *-ramulus*, branchlet, referring to the wax on the branchlets). Field observations have indicated that the glaucescence is not consistent; therefore, we have included this subspecies in the typical form.

E. *ebbanoensis* subsp. *photina*

Occurrence much more localised, in the Moresby Range area north and east of Geraldton. The adult leaves are very glossy and the plant is only glaucous in seedling and juvenile phases.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus ebbanoensis : after Ebbano [a misspelling of Ebano as in Ebano Springs, east of Mingenew, WA], the locality where the type specimen of the species was collected. Two isotype specimens held at Australian National Herbarium (CANB) spell the name as both Ebano and Ebbano; the Australian Gazeteer uses Ebano.

Eucalyptus ebbanoensis subsp. *photina*: Greek *photeinos*, shiny, of the adult leaves compared with the dull leaves of the typical form.

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