

# *Eucalyptus x erythrandra*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus x erythrandra*** Blakely & H.Steedman in W.F.Blakely, E.N.McKie & H.Steedman, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 63: 65 (1938).

*Eucalyptus angulosa* var. *robusta* C.A.Gardner, J. & *Proc. Roy. Soc. Western Australia* 19: 88 (1933). T: Kundip, near Ravensthorpe, W.A., Oct. 1930, *H.Steedman*; holo: PERTH; iso: NSW.

(Hybrid between *E. angulosa* X *E. tetraptera*, fide Brooker & Hopper (2002))

## Description

**Mallee** or small **tree** to 5 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** usually entirely smooth, fawn to grey and cream or whitish grey, may have imperfectly shed broad ribbons near the base of trunk.

Pith oil glands present in or absent from **branchlets**.

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

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 1.5–3.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, 8–13.5 cm long, 1.5–3.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire but lenticels present as dark regularly spaced spots, apex pointed, glossy, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation dense, intramarginal vein remote from margin, oil glands few, scattered, intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, pendulous, peduncles very broad, 1.5–4 cm long, buds 3 per umbel, usually pedicellate, rarely sessile (pedicels (0)0.3–0.5 cm long). **Mature buds** pyriform in outline (2.4–3.2 cm long, 1–1.5 cm wide), four-angled to slightly winged, scar present, outer operculum shed early or splitting and persisting as fragments centred on the hypanthium angles, inner operculum bluntly conical to beaked (1–1.5 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt to rounded, locules 4, the placentae each with 6 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers cream to yellowish to pink. Base of flower (hypanthium) pink to red or reddish green at flowering.

**Fruit** on down-curved peduncles, usually pedicellate, rarely sessile (pedicels (0)0.2–1 cm long), cylindrical to square in cross-section, 2–3 cm long, 1.5–2.5 cm wide (including the narrow wings), disc descending vertically, valves 4, enclosed.

**Seeds** blackish brown, 2.5–4.5 mm long, distorted cuboid to angular-ovoid or obliquely pyramidal, marginal flange present, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral or terminal.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10)**: cotyledons reniform; stems square to rounded in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for ca 3 nodes then alternate, deltoid to ovate, 8–12 cm long, 4–7 cm wide, base tapered to truncate, dull, greyish green.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in July, September and November.

## Notes

A mallee of disjunct and widespread distribution of coastal and subcoastal southern Western Australia from the Stirling Range east to Mt Ragged, on sandy soil in heathland. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves are moderately thick and glossy green.

*Eucalyptus erythrandra* is a common and frequently collected hybrid of *E. angulosa* or *E. incrassata* and *E. tetraptera*. The buds and fruits are intermediate in size between the two parents, while retaining the squareness in branchlets, buds and fruit of the latter species.

The putative parents belong in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Dumaria* because the buds have two opercula, stamens are strongly inflexed, ovules are in 4(–6–8–10) rows on the placentae and cotyledons are reniform.

## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus erythrandra*: Greek *erythro-*, red and *-andros*, male, referring to the colour of the stamens.





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