

# *Eucalyptus extensa*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Erectae | Annulatae

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus extensa*** L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Teloepa* 4: 219 (1991).



T: Western Australia: 14.7 km N of Hyden-Norseman track along Mt Day track, turnoff 123.0 km W of Norseman-Coolgardie road (32°07'S, 12°29'E), 7 Nov. 1983, *K.Hill* 626, *L.Johnson, D.Blaxell, I.Brooker & S.Hopper*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, K, PERTH.

## Description

**Mallet** to 12 m tall. Non-lignotuberous.

**Bark** smooth, of 'oily' appearance, dark grey to light brownish grey over yellowish green or bronze.

Pith glands present in **branchlets**; three-year old branchlets sometimes become glaucous.

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

**Adult leaves** held more or less erect, alternate, petiole 0.6–1.7 cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate, 4–10.5 cm long, (0.5)0.7–1.8(2) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margins entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, dark green, side-veins acute or obscure, reticulation obscured by numerous round oil glands, intramarginal vein close to edge or obscure.

**Inflorescence** axillary, single, peduncles broadly flattened, erect, 0.5–1.5 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0.2–0.6 cm long). **Mature buds** 2.4–3.2 cm long, 0.5–0.7 cm wide) scar present (outer operculum shed early), operculum elongated, tapering to a point, to 5 times the length of the globular hypanthium and narrower than it at the join, stamens erect, anthers narrowly oblong, versatile, sub-basifixed with the filament tapering abruptly, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style straight, just shorter than the longest stamens, stigma tapering to blunt, locules (3)4, the placentae convex, each with 4 to 6 vertical ovule rows or the rows indistinct. Flowers yellow-green.

**Fruit** erect, shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.5 cm long), hemispherical, 0.6–0.8 cm long, 0.8–1.2 cm wide, disc narrow, descending obliquely to vertically, valves (3)4, strongly exerted.

**Seeds** brown to straw-coloured, 1.8–3 mm long, cuboid to ovoid, dorsal surface narrowly and irregularly fissured, ventrally ridged, the margin irregular, hilum terminal or ventral. (Seedcoat often referred to as being honey-combed.)

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10)**: cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems square in cross-section, smooth; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 5 to 7 nodes then alternate, ovate, 2.5–4 cm long, 1.5–3.5 cm wide, base truncate to tapering, green to grey-green, dull.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in October.

## Notes

*Eucalyptus extensa* is a smooth-barked mallet endemic to Western Australia. It occurs from Clyde Rock in the east to Salmon Gums and west and north-west towards Kulin, Hyden and Southern Cross, on sandy to gravelly sites. The buds are striking with long opercula and the flowers have long yellow-green stamens.

*Eucalyptus extensa* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Glandulosae* because the buds have two opercula, the cotyledons are bisected and the branchlets have numerous oil glands in the pith. Within subsection *Glandulosae*, the 3 species *E. extensa*, *E. protensa* and *E. annulata* form series *Erectae* subseries *Annulatae* having smooth bark, buds with long operculum, erect stamens, adult leaves with numerous oil glands obscuring the sideveins and reticulation, and seed with fissured seedcoat.

*E. extensa* is most closely related to *E. annulata* from the southern subcoastal and southern wheatbelt areas, and to *E. protensa* which is found in the area from south of Norseman towards Balladonia. *E. extensa* and *E. annulata* both have broadly flattened peduncles whereas *E. protensa* has more slender, scarcely flattened peduncles. *E. extensa* has short stout pedicels whereas *E. protensa* has slender pedicels and the buds of the latter have more finely elongated opercula. *E. annulata* usually has sessile buds with shorter, blunt opercula compared with *E. extensa* and *E. protensa*. Both *E. extensa* and *E. protensa* are mallets whilst *E. annulata* is usually a mallee. Trees with rough bark and with buds somewhat similar to both *E. extensa* and *E. annulata* have been collected several times in the Nyabing area in recent years.



The fruit are on the small side (0.7–0.8 cm diameter) for these taxa and further investigation is required.

*Eucalyptus extensa* is related to the gimlets (series *Contortae*) by habit, bark type, seedcoat and the prominently exerted valves of the fruit but shares some bud and leaf characters with *E. eremophila* and related species (series *Erectae* subseries *Abundae*), viz. erect stamens and leaves with crowded round oil glands that completely obscure the venation.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus extensa*: Latin *extensus*, stretched out, extended, referring to the long opercula.

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