

Eucalyptus flocktoniae subsp. *hebes*

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Decurrentes

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus flocktoniae* subsp. *hebes D.Nicolle, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 12: 225 (1999).

T: Western Australia: 34.3 km from Balladonia Roadhouse towards Norseman on Eyre Hwy, (32° 11' 33"S 123° 18' 41"E), 6 Oct. 1996, *D.Nicolle 1830*; holo: PERTH; iso: AD.

Description

Mallee to 8 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark usually smooth throughout, grey over white to salmon pink to coppery.

Branchlets lacking oil glands in the pith.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem square in cross-section, juvenile leaves opposite, sessile, ovate to lanceolate, bases on lower leaves decurrent on stem, becoming rounded to tapering further up the stem, margin entire, apex pointed, 3–5 cm long, 2–3 cm wide, grey-green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1–2 cm long; blade lanceolate, 6–14 cm long, 1–2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull to glossy blue-green new adult growth, maturing to glossy blue-green to green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands mostly intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.7–1.2(1.4) cm long, erect to pendulous, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.5–0.8 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid to oblong and prominently beaked (1.3–2.1 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide), not glaucous, scar present, operculum beaked to horn-shaped (0.9–1.6 cm long), sometimes wider than the hypanthium at the join, stamens mostly inflexed, anthers versatile, basifixed, globoid, dehiscing by slits, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers pale yellow to white.

Fruit erect to down-turned, pedicellate (pedicels 0.5–0.7 cm long), urn-shaped to sometimes barrel-shaped, 0.7–1 cm long, 0.5–0.8 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, valve tips strongly exerted due to fragile style remnants.

Seeds glossy brown to grey, (1.2)1.5–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, rarely pointed at one end, occasionally with shallow longitudinal furrows on otherwise smooth dorsal surface, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems square in cross-section and prominently winged; leaves opposite, sessile, linear for the first few nodes then ovate to elliptical, dull grey-green, 2.3–4.5 cm long, 1.2–2.5 cm wide, leaf base decurrent on stem.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in September, October and November.

Notes

Eucalyptus flocktoniae is a mallee species widespread in the south-west of Western Australia from Mingenew north of Perth south-east to the Ravensthorpe area, extending east to Balladonia. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves slightly glossy to very glossy, dark green to bluish green. The buds and twigs lack visible white wax and the hypanthium of the buds and fruit lacks ribbing. The juvenile leaves are opposite for many pairs and strongly decurrent.

It belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because buds have two opercula, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. flocktoniae* is part of a large taxonomic series *Subulatae* further characterised by globoid basifixed anthers, grey smooth seeds with shallow longitudinal furrows, and fruit with persistent exerted style remnants. Series *Subulatae* is divided principally into four subspecies based on the juvenile leaves: one with spiral, crowded seedling phyllotaxis (subseries *Spirales*), another with decussate and decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decurrentes*), another with decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decussatae*), and a fourth with disjunct, petiolate seedling leaves (subseries *Oleaginae*).



Eucalyptus flocktoniae is part of subseries *Decurrentes*.

The *flocktoniae* complex was revised Dean Nicolle in 1999 and three additional related species were recognised, viz. *E. urna* from Lake Grace to Caiguna, a mallee lacking a lignotuber and with extreme sculpturing of the pendulous buds and fruit; *E. neutra* from the Corrigin – Jerramungup – Lake King area, a mallee with slightly pruinose branchlets and inflorescences and bluish green adult leaves; and *E. peninsularis* from Eyre Peninsula in South Australia which is a mallee close to *E. urna* differing in the habit and presence of a lignotuber.

There are two subspecies:

E. flocktoniae* subsp. *flocktoniae

This has glossy green, immature and mature adult leaves. It is the more widespread subspecies and occurs from Mingenew to the Stirling Range and the Ravensthorpe area.

E. flocktoniae* subsp. *hebes

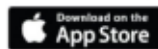
This has a more robust habit than subsp. *flocktoniae* and blue-green adult leaves, both immature and mature. It occurs from Balladonia west to Queen Victoria Rock, and north of Esperance.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus flocktoniae : after Margaret Lilian Flockton (1861–1953). Flockton was a botanical artist who worked for the Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of New South Wales between the years 1901 and 1927. She illustrated the species in J.H. Maiden's "A Critical Revision of the Genus *Eucalyptus*".

subsp. *hebes*: Latin *hebes*, dull, referring to the leaf colour compared with the typical form.

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