

# *Eucalyptus foecunda*

## Fremantle mallee, Coastal dune mallee

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Porantherae | Longiores

### Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus foecunda*** Schauer in J.C.G.Lehmann, *Pl. Preiss.* 1: 130 (1844).



T: Fremantle, W.A., Aug. 1839, *L. Preiss* 231; iso: G, NSW, W.

*E. leptophylla* var. *leptorrhyncha* Blakely, *Key Eucalypts* 222 (1934); T: S of Fremantle, W.A., 9 Mar. 1920, *T.W.C.Schock s.n.*; holotype: NSW; iso: CANB.

### Description

**Mallee** to 3 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough over part or all of trunks, firmly held, thin and fibrous to loose and flaky, grey to blackish, smooth above pale grey and pale brown.

**Branchlets** lacking oil glands in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems rounded in cross-section, usually not glaucous; juvenile leaves shortly petiolate, alternate, elliptic to lanceolate or linear, 4–8 cm long, 0.5–2 cm wide, base tapering, margin entire, apex pointed, dull, usually green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 0.5–1.7 cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate to narrowly elliptic-oblong, 5–9.5 cm long, 0.5–1.3 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib or obscure, reticulation dense or obscure, intramarginal vein present, oil glands intersectional or obscure.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–1.3 cm long, buds 9 or 11 per umbel. **Mature buds** pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.5 cm long, ovoid to fusiform (0.6–1 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide), scar present, operculum conical to beaked (0.25–0.6 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers cuneate-cuboid, adnate to filament apex (rigidly basifixed), dehiscing by sub-terminal pores, a few of the innermost stamens imperfectly formed, style long and straight, stigma tapered, locules 3, the placenta each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long), cupular to slightly urceolate, 0.4–0.6 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide, disc usually descending, valves 3, more or less enclosed.

**Seeds** brown-grey, 1–1.5 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface sometimes furrowed longitudinally, the surface smooth, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedling** (interpreted from the literature): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); leaves opposite for at least 10 nodes, sessile to shortly petiolate, narrowly elliptical becoming narrowly lanceolate, 4–6 cm long, 0.7–1 cm wide, green.

### Flowering Time

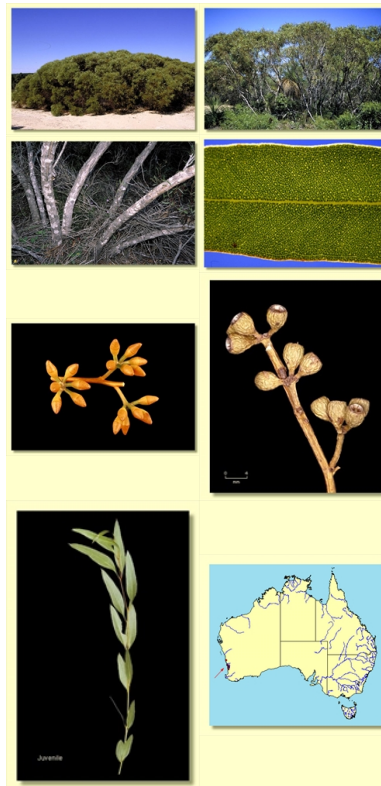
Flowering time unknown.

### Notes

A mallee endemic to Western Australia found only in coastal areas near Perth, from south of Mandurah to north of Lancelin, always on limy sands. The bark is rough over most of the trunks and the adult leaves glossy green.

*Eucalyptus foecunda* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because the buds have two opercula, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. foecunda* is one of a group of about 16 species, series *Porantherae*, that are further characterised by having anthers completely adnate to the staminal filaments, strongly inflexed stamens, densely reticulate leaves with intersectional oil glands and by the fruit with a distinct thick rim that includes a whitish descending disc. The small, glossy leaves of species in series *Porantherae* may result in confusion with species in series *Heterostemones*; however, the fruit alone usually distinguish the series. The fruit of series *Heterostemones* are thin-rimmed.

*E. foecunda* was once confused with *E. leptophylla*, which is predominantly an eastern Australian species with smooth bark, broad grey or glaucous elliptical juvenile leaves and blunt opercula. *E. foecunda* has lanceolate, green juvenile leaves and very acute opercula. Two other species of series *Porantherae* have a strictly west coastal distribution and therefore are likely to be confused: *E. fruticosus*, which occurs on red sands north from Kalbarri and has glaucous juveniles and a crown of mixed adult and juvenile leaves; and *E. sp.* Kalbarri, which has



larger, more barrel-shaped fruit than either *E. foecunda* or *E. fruticosa* and more ovate green juvenile leaves. To the east of the distribution of *E. foecunda* in the start of the wheatbelt there are three species that should not be confused: *E. albida*, a smooth-barked mallee with white-glaucous orbicular sessile juveniles; *E. horistes*, a partly rough or smooth-barked mallee with slightly warty glaucous orbicular juveniles; and *E. rigidula*, a smooth-barked mallee with green linear to lanceolate juveniles.

In the area immediately north of Coolimba (south of Dongara on the west coast) plants with prominently beaked opercula and thin, ribbonly rough bark to more or less smooth bark occur on white limy sands. These plants have been referred to as *E. foecunda* "Cliff Head form" or by the unpublished name *E. aeolica*. Further study is required to determine their status.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus foecunda*: Latin *foecundus*, fecund, referring to the prolific production of flower buds.

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