

# *Eucalyptus georgei* subsp. *georgei*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria | Rufispermae

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus georgei*** Brooker & Blaxell, *Nuytsia* 2: 224 (1978) subsp. **georgei**.

T: 159 km E of Hyden along track to Norseman, W.A., 32°15'S, 120°23'E, 3 Oct. 1975, *D.Blaxell W75/45*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, PERTH.

*Eucalyptus assimilans* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Teloepa* 9: 308 (2001). T: Western Australia: 20.2 km W of Balladonia Roadhouse on Highway 1, 19 Oct. 1983, *K.D.Hill 218*, & *L.A.S.Johnson*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, K, PERTH.

## Description

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

**Bark** smooth throughout, pale grey and coppery-orange, shedding in long ribbons.

**Branchlets** very glaucous, oil glands present in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems usually square in cross-section, glaucous; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, deltoid to ovate to broadly lanceolate, 6–13.5 cm long, 2–10 cm wide, glaucous.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 2.5–4 cm long; blade lanceolate, 10–20 cm long, 1.5–4.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, dull, grey-green or blue-green to slightly glaucous, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation dense to very dense and broken, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles stout, glaucous, 1–2.7 cm long, buds 7, 9 or 11 per umbel, pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.5 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid to pyriform (0.9–1.4 cm long, 0.5–0.8 cm wide), glaucous, scar present, operculum conical or rounded (0.25–0.5 cm long), sometimes apiculate, equal to or slightly narrower than hypanthium at the join, radially striate or not, stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid to wedge-shaped, versatile, sub-dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma rounded to tapering, locules 4 or 5, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white.

**Fruit** pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long, obconical to cupular or slightly campanulate, 0.9–1.3 cm long, 0.8–1.1(1.4) cm wide, usually glaucous, disc descending, valves 4 or 5, near rim level.

**Seeds** reddish brown and glossy, 1.5–3 mm long, flattened-ovoid and often slightly angular in outline, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons reniform; stems square to rounded in cross-section, glaucous; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 3 to 6 nodes then alternate, ovate, 6.5–9 cm long, 3.5–5.5 cm wide, coarse, thick, slightly glaucous to greenish.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January.

## Notes

*Eucalyptus georgei* is a small tree (mallet) species endemic to Western Australia, restricted to a few localities between Hyden and Norseman and disjunctly from the Fraser Range area east of Norseman. The bark is smooth and sheds characteristically in long ribbons that remain hanging from the crown and down the trunk.

In the classification of Brooker (2000) *Eucalyptus georgei* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Dumaria* having these features: buds initially with two opercula the outer shed early, stamens strongly inflexed, ovules in 4 rows on the placentae and cotyledons reniform. Within section *Dumaria* the species belongs to a large sub-group of closely related species (series *Rufispermae*, 37 described species and subspecies) diagnosed by glandular pith in the branchlets, anthers cuboid to wedge-shaped, versatile, and by the reddish brown and glossy, flattish seeds which are unique to the series.

In the general area between Mt Day, Norseman and Balladonia the large-fruited species of series *Rufispermae* most likely to be confused



with *E. georgei* is *E. lesouefii* which, like *E. georgei*, has waxy branchlets, buds and fruits but is rough-butted and has ribbed buds and fruit. Other large-fruited tree species in this group, and likely to be encountered in this area, are non-glaucous (*E. fraseri*, *E. tenuis*, *E. distuberosa* and *E. pterocarpa*) and in some cases are also ribbed.

There are two subspecies:

#### **E. georgei** subsp. **georgei**

This form has dull, blue-green to glaucous leaves and glaucous branchlets, and usually glaucous buds and young fruit. It occurs east from the Mt Day–Bremmer Range area and disjunctly in the Fraser Range towards Balladonia. It is a slender mallet to 15 m tall. In 2001 Hill *et al* published a new tree species, *E. assimilans*, covering the eastern population from the Fraser Range area east to Balladonia. *E. assimilans* was stated to differ from *E. georgei* subsp. *georgei* by having a more or less conical operculum and shorter fruit 0.9–1.2 cm long. Whilst subsp. *georgei* consistently differs in having a rounded operculum the fruit dimensions (0.9–1.3 cm long) don't differ much at all with the smallest fruit found on trees in the Mount Day area. *E. assimilans* is here regarded as synonymous with *E. georgei* subsp. *georgei*.

#### **E. georgei** subsp. **fulgida**

This form has glossy green adult leaves and glaucous branchlets, buds and young fruit. It is known only from small stands sporadically distributed between the Mount Day area and to the south-east of there in Frank Hann National Park.

#### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus georgei*: after Alexander Segger George (1939–extant 2009). George joined the Western Australian Herbarium in 1959 and remained a member of staff there until 1981. From 1981 to 1993 he was the foundation Executive Editor of the *Flora of Australia*. His research activities span Caesalpiniaceae, Myrtaceae, Orchidaceae and Proteaceae, and he is perhaps best known for work on *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Synaphea* and *Verticordia*.

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