


Eucalyptus goniantha subsp. *goniantha*

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Falcatae | Rugatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus goniantha Turcz. *Bull. Soc. Imp. Naturalistes Moscou* 20(1): 163 (1847) subsp. **goniantha**. 

Eucalyptus incrassata var. *goniantha* (Turcz.) Maiden, *Crit. Revis. Eucalyptus* 1: 96, 103 (1904). T: King George Sound, W.A., *J. Drummond* 71, 1845; holo: KW; iso: BM, CANB, FI, G, K, LE, NSW, W.

Description

Mallee to 7 m tall, rarely single-stemmed small tree. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark on larger stems more or less rough for lower part, thin, fibrous semi-persistent strips, grey to brown, or smooth throughout, pale grey, greeny grey to white over pink-orange.

Branchlets square but not winged, not glaucous; lacking oil glands in the pith.

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

Adult leaves alternate, petioles 1–2.3 cm long; blade lanceolate, 7–13.5 cm long, 1.5–4.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex acute, glossy, green to grey-green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation dense to very dense, intramarginal vein fairly close to margin, oil glands numerous, irregular, intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles spreading to weakly down-turned, angular-flattened, 0.5–2 cm long, buds 7, 9 or 11 per umbel, pedicels angular (pedicels 0.1–1.0 cm long). **Mature buds** elongated ovoid (1–1.4 cm long, 0.6 cm wide), weakly ribbed on hypanthium at least, creamy white, scar present, operculum contracted to a stout blunt long beak, stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid, versatile, sub-basifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt to slightly rounded, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white.

Fruit shortly pedicellate (0.1–1.0 cm long), truncate-globose to hemispherical, ribbed or coarsely wrinkled, 0.6–0.7 cm long, 0.8–1.1 cm wide, rim thick, disc usually descending, valves 3 or 4, exerted but fragile.

Seeds grey-brown, 1.5–2.5 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface very shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded in cross-section; leaves sessile and linear for ca 3 to 10 nodes, then petiolate, alternate at node 11 to > 13, becoming elliptical, sometimes ovate, 2–4 cm long, 0.8–2.5 cm wide, base tapering, apex rounded, dull, green to bluish green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, February, March, June and November.

Notes

Eucalyptus goniantha subsp. *goniantha* is a species of mallee or small tree endemic to Western Australia, with southern coastal distribution from Flinders Peninsula and Albany area east to Manypeaks and Cheyne Beach. The bark is smooth or with loose rough bark near the base of the stems, branchlets angular, adult leaves glossy green and buds and fruit slightly ribbed.

In the classification of Brooker (2000) *Eucalyptus goniantha* 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. goniantha* belongs to a group of ten species and three subspecies characterised by usually pendulous inflorescences with pedicellate ovoid buds with a conical to beaked operculum, truncate-globose fruits with exerted fragile valves and adult leaves that are green, densely reticulate and have numerous intersectional oil glands. The species are the mallees *E. falcata*, *E. ornata*, *E. purpurata*, *E. recta*, *E. rugulata* and *E. annettae*; and the mallees *E. dorrieni*, *E. petrensis*, *E. ecostata* and the newly described *E. opimiflora*, plus the coastal and sub-coastal mallees *E. goniantha* (with two subspecies), *E. kessellii* (with two subspecies), *E. notactites* and *E. semigobosa*. These mallees and mallees together form series *Falcatæ* subseries *Rugatæ*, albeit in a form somewhat modified from Brooker's classification.

E. goniantha is most likely to be confused with *E. notactites* but the latter frequently has glaucous branchlets that are also winged, and sessile to subsessile buds virtually un-ribbed. *E. goniantha* and *E. kessellii* may also be confused. Both species have stout, coarsely



but shallowly ribbed buds, never finely ovoid in overall shape as in *E. dorrienii*, *E. ecostata*, *E. opimiflora* or *E. petrensis*, nor are the umbels of *E. goniantha* gracefully pendulous. The two subspecies of *E. kessellii* have broadly diamond-shaped buds in umbels of three or seven on rigidly down-turned flattened peduncles. *E. goniantha* has erect to spreading umbels of seven to > 11 ovoid buds on flattened to narrowly angular peduncles. The surface of buds of both these species is noticeably cream-coloured at maturity. Larger plants of both *E. goniantha* and *E. kessellii* may be small trees with basal rough bark, with that of the latter being harder and darker. Both species have a southern coastal and subcoastal distribution. *E. goniantha* differs from *E. semiglobosa* in the buds which are conspicuously short globular and unbeaked in the latter.

Other species in subseries *Rugatae*, viz. *E. falcata*, *E. purpurata*, *E. rugulata*, *E. recta* and *E. ornata*, are all tall mallets from the wheatbelt or nearby, and are easily distinguished from *E. goniantha* by the finely tapering conical/beaked opercula.

There are two subspecies:

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The opercula are elongate and thickly beaked, buds and fruit slightly ribbed. It occurs between Manypeaks and Hassell Beach north-east of Albany on coastal sands.

E. goniantha* subsp. *kynoura

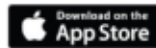
The buds and fruit are conspicuously corrugate or ribbed with the buds having an operculum with a thick blunt long beak. Only known so far from one bleak headland south-west of Denmark.

[note that *E. goniantha* subsp. *notactites* is now regarded as a species, viz. *E. notactites* .]

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus goniantha: Greek *gonio-*, angled and *anthos*, flower, referring to the ribbed buds and fruit.

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