

Eucalyptus goniantha subsp. *kynoura*

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Falcatae | Rugatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus goniantha subsp. **kynoura** D.Nicolle & M.E.French, *Nuytsia* Vol. 22 (6) 138-9 (2012).

T: south-west of Denmark, Western Australia [precise locality withheld for conservation reasons], 28 January 2001, D.Nicolle 3759 & M.E.French (*holo*: PERTH 05810647; *iso*: CANB).



Description

Stunted mallee to 1 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark grey to brown, smooth throughout.

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 1–1.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, 7–10 cm long, 1.5–2.4 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex acute, glossy, dark green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation dense, intramarginal vein fairly close to margin, oil glands ? intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles spreading to weakly down-turned, angular, 1–1.2 cm long, buds ?7 or more per umbel, pedicels angular (pedicels 0.3–0.6 cm long). **Mature buds** vaguely ovoid (ca 1.5 cm long, 1.0 cm wide), strongly ribbed (corrugate) on hypanthium and operculum, creamy in colour, scar present (outer operculum presumed shed early), operculum contracted to a stout beak which is angled or ribbed and blunt, stamens presumed to be inflexed but buds not dissected yet, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy to yellowish.

Fruit pedicellate (0.3–0.6 cm long), truncate-globose to hemispherical, conspicuously ribbed or corrugate, 0.9–1.0 cm long, 1.0–1.2 cm wide, rim thick, disc descending obliquely, valves 3 or 4, exerted but fragile.

Seeds not seen.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); not grown yet.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January.

Notes

Eucalyptus goniantha subsp. *kynoura* is a mallee endemic to Western Australia, with very restricted southern coastal distribution west of Albany. The stunted mallees have smooth bark and angular branchlets, adult leaves glossy green and buds and fruit strongly 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. semiglobosa*. These mallees and mallees together form series *Falcatae* subseries *Rugatae*, albeit in a form somewhat modified from Brooker's classification.

E. goniantha is most likely to be confused with *E. notactites* but the latter 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. dorrieni*, *E. costata*, *E. opimiflora* or *E. petrensis*, nor are the umbels gracefully pendulous. *E. kessellii* has 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 mallees from the wheatbelt or nearby, and are easily distinguished from *E. goniantha* by the finely tapering conical/beaked opercula.

There are two subspecies:

E. goniantha subsp. **goniantha**

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

E. goniantha subsp. **kynoura**

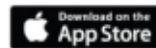
The buds and fruit are conspicuously corrugate or ribbed with the buds having an operculum with a thick blunt long beak. Only known so far from one bleak headland south-west of Denmark.

[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.
subsp. *kynoura*: from the Greek *kynouron*, sea-cliff, referring to the habitat.

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