

Eucalyptus ignorabilis

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Triangulares | Acaciiformes

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus ignorabilis L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 4: 242 (1991).



T: Victoria, 4.6 km W of Seaton, 19 Feb. 1986, *K.D.Hill 1401* & *L.A.S.Johnson*;
holo: NSW; iso: CANB, MEL, PERTH.

Description

Tree to 20 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark on trunk and branches rough, firm, fibrous, with interlocking fissures, spongy, grey or brown, smaller branches shedding in ribbons.

Juvenile stem rounded in cross-section, slightly warty or smooth; juvenile leaves always sessile and opposite at first but very shortly petiolate by node ca 16, inconsistently opposite or alternate well into small sapling stage (< 2 m tall), lanceolate to oblong to elliptical to falcate, 2.8–9 cm long, 0.5–2.3 cm wide, margin entire or crenulate, tapering to petiole, dull, green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 0.6–2.7 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 7–20 cm long, 1–3 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull, green to grey-green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and well removed from margin, oil glands island and intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.3–1 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.1–0.3 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid to fusiform, 0.4–0.5 cm long, 0.2–0.3 cm wide, green to yellow, smooth, scar present, operculum rounded to slightly beaked to conical, stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid to oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma blunt or tending to pin-head shaped, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.3 cm long), cup-shaped to hemispherical, 0.3–0.5 cm long, 0.4–0.7 cm wide, disc raised-convex to annular or oblique to vertical, valves 3 or 4, broad, exserted or near rim level.

Seeds black, brown or grey, 1.5–2.5 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, often pointed at one end, lacunose, dorsal surface smooth or shallowly pitted, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons oblong to bilobed; stems rounded in cross-section, warty or smooth; leaves sessile or very shortly petiolate, opposite for 6 to 12 pairs then becoming alternate, narrowly elliptic-oblong, 4–8.2 cm long, 0.6–2.2 cm wide, base rounded to tapering, margin entire, apex rounded or pointed, concolorous, dull, green to grey-green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January and April.

Notes

An uncommon small to medium-sized tree of very scattered distribution in Victoria on ranges and subcoastal foothills, collected from near north of Erica where plentiful, Toongabbie, Seaton (near Heyfield), south of Cann River town and disjunctly in far south-eastern New South Wales near Timbillica. *E. ignorabilis* has finely fibrous rough bark throughout, dull green lanceolate adult leaves and green oblong to lanceolate juvenile leaves.

Eucalyptus ignorabilis has been confused with other species but juvenile growth will help the botanist sort things out. Fine-leaved rough-barked trees in the Mallacoota and Genoa area that have been referred to *E. ignorabilis* are in fact *E. cephalocarpa*, based on the sessile, cordate, glaucous juvenile foliage (oblong-lanceolate, non-glaucous and shortly petiolate in *E. ignorabilis*). The adult leaves of *E. ignorabilis* are dull, distinguishing it from the related species, *E. fulgens*, which has glossy green leaves, more coarsely furrowed bark and occurs from Healesville to the Latrobe Valley. Another related species is *E. aromaphloia* (with two subspecies), which occurs further to the west in Victoria, and has similar bark to *E. fulgens* and a dull-leaved crown rather like *E. ignorabilis*.

Eucalyptus ignorabilis belongs *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Maidenaria*, a large group of species more or less restricted to south-eastern Australia, characterised by bilobed cotyledons, simple axillary inflorescences, buds with two opercula, stamens with



versatile anthers and flattened seeds with a ventral hilum. Within this section *E. ignorabilis* and five other species form series *Acaciiformes* diagnosed by the rough bark, juvenile leaves that are soon alternate, glandular adult leaves, non-swampy habitat, and small fruit with valves at least slightly exerted. Three of these species, *E. ignorabilis*, *E. aromaphloia* and *E. fulgens*, are restricted to Victoria and far south-eastern New South Wales and differ as discussed above.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus ignorabilis: Latin *ignorabilis*, unknown, referring to the inadvertent earlier inclusion of this species in *E. aromaphloia*.

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