

# *Eucalyptus imlayensis*

## Mount Imlay mallee

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Maidenaria | Euryotae | Semiunicolores

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus imlayensis** Crisp & Brooker, *Telopea* 2: 41 (1980).



T: Mt Imlay, NSW, 16 May 1978, *M.D.Crisp 4021, I.R.Telford & S.I.Parker*; holo: CANB.

### Description

**Mallee** to 7 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout or with some thin persistent strips at the base of largest stems; smooth bark predominantly green, with orange, brown or grey patches, shedding in ribbons from the stems and branches.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems square in cross-section, sometimes winged, slightly warty; juvenile leaves sessile for at least 20 pairs, opposite for about 7 to 13 pairs, then alternate, elliptic to ovate, 4–7.5 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide, margin entire or crenulate, base rounded to tapering, green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1–1.6 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 7.5–15 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and remote from margin, oil glands obscure.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.2–0.5 cm long, buds 3 per umbel, usually sessile (rarely with 0.1 cm pedicel). **Mature buds** ovoid, 0.5–0.6 cm long, 0.3–0.4 cm wide, smooth, scar present, operculum conical to slightly beaked, stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid to cuneate, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** sessile, cup-shaped, campanulate or hemispherical, 0.4–0.5 cm long, 0.6–0.7 cm wide, disc raised-oblique, valves 3 or 4, exserted.

**Seeds** brown to grey, 1.5–2.5 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, sometimes pointed at one end, usually lacunose, dorsal surface smooth or shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons bilobed to oblong; stems square in cross-section; leaves sessile, opposite for many nodes, elliptical-ovate, 2–6.5 cm long, 2.5–5 cm wide, base tapering, margin entire or subcrenulate, apex pointed, concolorous, dull, green to grey-green.

### Flowering Time

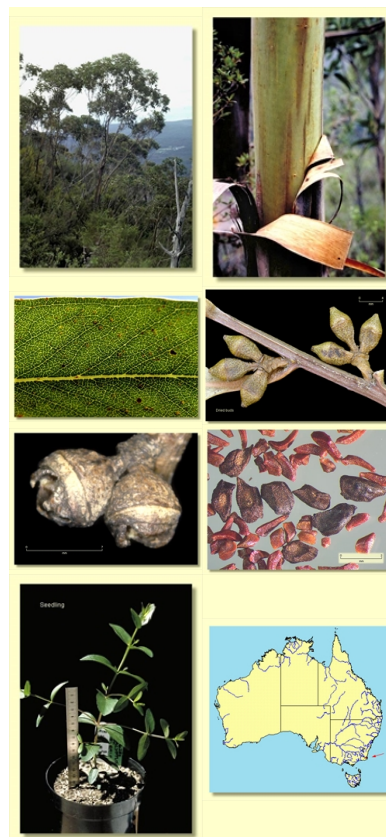
Flowering time not known.

### Notes

A small straggly mallee with smooth greenish bark known only from near the top of Mt Imlay south-west of Eden in sub-coastal far south-east New South Wales where it occurs on steep granite with *E. sieberi*, a blue-leaved ash species with a rough black trunk. *Eucalyptus imlayensis* is a smooth-barked, three-budded species and has opposite broad juvenile leaves.

*E. imlayensis* differs from any other 3-budded species in this area by its slender stature, mallee habit, green, non-stem clasping juvenile leaves, predominantly falcate adult leaves held somewhat erect, and stout buds and fruit that are scarcely pedicellate. It closely resembles *E. elaeophloia*, a species of similar size and habit from high country on the Nunniong Plateau in far eastern Victoria, which differs only by having orbicular early juvenile leaves (elliptical juvenile leaves in *E. imlayensis*) and shorter fruit with less prominent disc and valves.

*Eucalyptus imlayensis* belongs in *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. imlayensis*, with four other species, forms series *Semiunicolores* having smooth bark, subcrenulate and strongly glandular juvenile leaves opposite for many nodes, a crown of green, densely and finely reticulate adult leaves, buds in threes, and small fruit with relatively prominent valves. Three of the species in this series



are Tasmanian endemics, viz. *E. johnstonii*, *E. subcrenulata* and *E. vernicosa*; the fourth species is *E. elaeophloia* mentioned above.

*Eucalyptus imlayensis* is listed as "Endangered" under the Australian Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. Further information may be found at this web address:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl>

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus imlayensis*: referring to the exclusive occurrence near the top of Mt Imlay, which is in the hinterland just south-west of Eden, near the coast close to the New South Wales and Victorian border.

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