

Eucalyptus interstans

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Liberivalvae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus interstans L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 4 (1) 47 (1990).



T: New South Wales: Northern Tablelands: Wilsons Downfall, *R.H.Cambage* 2833, 4 Sept. 1911; holo: NSW.

Eucalyptus disclusa L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 4 (2) 226 (1991). T: Queensland: Rainbow Falls, Blackdown Tableland, *M.I.H.Brooker* 3776, 31 Aug. 1972; holo: NSW; iso: CANB.

Description

Tree to 20 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark smooth, mottled grey, white, pink or orange.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem square in cross-section; juvenile leaves alternate, petiolate, ovate to broadly lanceolate, (5)8–12(14) cm long, 3–6.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole to rarely rounded, dull, green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1.7–2.7(3) cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 8–18 cm long, 1–3.2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull, green, side-veins acute or at an angle slightly greater than 45° to midrib, moderately to densely reticulate, intramarginal vein present, oil glands mostly island.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.7–1.6 cm long, buds 7, 9 or 11, pedicellate (pedicels 0.3–0.7 cm long). **Mature buds** elongated-ovoid (1.1–1.4 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide), green to creamy, scar present, operculum conical to horn-shaped (0.8–1.1 cm long), stamens erect, anthers cuboid to oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 6–8 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.2–0.5 cm long), cup-shaped to hemispherical, 0.3–0.6 cm long, (0.5)0.6–0.8 cm wide, outer operculum scar prominent as a broad vertical rim, disc annular and free from the 3 or 4 strongly exerted valves.

Seeds brown, 0.9–1.2 mm long, pyramidal to ± linear, dorsal surface smooth, hilum terminal.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons bilobed to oblong; stems square in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 6 nodes then alternate, ovate, 5.5–8 cm long, 2–4 cm wide, base tapering to rounded, margin entire, apex pointed to rounded, dull, mid-green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in June.

Notes

A small to medium-sized woodland red gum tree with two disjunct populations, one from the Blackdown Tablelands area of central Queensland (formerly described as *E. disclusa* but rejected by the authors of this work—see notes below) and the other from the Warwick–Stanthorpe–Legume region of southern Queensland and northern New South Wales through to the Emmaville region on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales. *Eucalyptus interstans* is characterised by its smooth bark, the ovate to broadly lanceolate juvenile leaves, the dull green, narrowly lanceolate to lanceolate adult leaves, the non-glaucous buds with a long, narrow, acute operculum and the fruit with strongly exerted valves and an annular disc which is free from the ovary roof.

E. interstans belongs to a small group of red gums that is distinguished by having fruit with an annular disc. Other members of this group are *E. bancroftii*, *E. parramattensis*, *E. prava* and *E. seeana*. *E. interstans* is closely related to *E. seeana* and differs by the juvenile leaves, which are narrowly lanceolate in *E. seeana* and ovate to broadly lanceolate in *E. interstans*. *E. interstans* is also closely related to *E. bancroftii*, which normally has much broader adult leaves, normally wider than 3 cm in *E. bancroftii* and narrower than 3 cm in *E. interstans*. *E. prava* is a small tree or mallee which differs by having glaucous buds and fruit, and dull grey-green to blue-grey to glaucous adult leaves. *E. parramattensis* has much smaller ovoid buds with a shorter, bluntly acute to rounded operculum.

Within its area of occurrence, *E. interstans* may be confused with *E. tereticornis*, another closely related red gum. *E. tereticornis* is normally a well-formed tree which can be distinguished by having fruit with a steeply ascending disc that is fused to the ovary roof.



In the original description for *E. disclusa*, no comparison was made with *E. interstans*. Both have broad juvenile leaves. Instead, *E. disclusa* was compared to *E. seeana*, which clearly differs by having narrow juvenile leaves. Comparison between *E. disclusa* and *E. interstans*, on specimens held at CANB, show that the juvenile leaves of *E. disclusa* are slightly wider than those of *E. interstans* and that *E. disclusa* tends to have a flatter disc than *E. interstans*. However, the juvenile leaf dimensions overlap and the disc shape is not consistent within the population of *E. disclusa* on the Blackdown Tableland, and therefore *E. disclusa* is regarded by the authors of EUCLID as being conspecific with *E. interstans*.

MORE ABOUT RED GUMS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED GROUPS

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus interstans: Latin *inter*, between and *stans*, standing, referring to the position of this taxon as an intermediate between *E. prava* and *E. seeana*, in both geographical and morphological senses.

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