

Eucalyptus leptocalyx

Hopetoun mallee

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria | Furfuraceae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus leptocalyx Blakely, *Key Eucalypts* 118 (1934).



T: 9 mile Tank from Hopetoun, W.A., Sept. 1909, *J.H.Maiden s.n.*; syn: CANB, K, NSW, PERTH (see image of type specimen held at CANB); Grass Patch, W.A., 23 May 1924, *C.A.Gardner 2221*; syn: NSW.

Eucalyptus leptocalyx subsp. *petilipes* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 9: 287 (2001). T: Western Australia: 5 km NW of Coolinup Road on Kau Rock Road, NE of Esperance (33°34'S, 122°25'E), 12 Aug. 1982, *M.I.H.Brooker 7548*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, PERTH.

Description

Mallee to 5 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark wholly smooth, brownish-white and grey over light salmon-pink.

Oil glands present in pith of **branchlets**.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, ovate, 5–8.5 cm long, 3–4.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole or rounded, apex rounded or pointed, dull light green to bluish green (not glaucous).

Adult leaves alternate, petioles 1.2–3.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, 7.5–12 cm long, 1–2.8 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, slightly glossy, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation dense to very dense, intramarginal vein remote from margin, oil glands mostly intersectorial, irregular.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–1.5 cm long, buds 7, 9 to 15, pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.6 cm long). **Mature buds** cylindrical (0.8–1.3 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide), scar present, operculum conical to slightly beaked (0.2–0.5 cm long), smooth or scarcely striate, stamens inflexed, anthers cuboid, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt to rounded, locules 4 or 5, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white, very rarely red.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.5 cm long), barrel-shaped to cylindrical, 0.7–1.2 cm long, 0.6–0.8 cm wide, disc descending vertically, valves 4 or 5, enclosed.

Seeds black-brown to grey-brown sometimes with paler, scurfy area on ventral side, 1.8–3.2 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, some seed with narrow partial flange, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons reniform; stems rounded to square in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 or 5 nodes then alternate, ovate, 3.5–6.5 cm long, 2–5.5 cm wide, dull, green to blue-green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, March, September, October, November and December.

Notes

A mallee or rarely a tree, endemic to Western Australia, found in southern coastal and subcoastal areas from Fitzgerald River National Park east towards Israelite Bay. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves glossy green.

Eucalyptus leptocalyx belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Dumaria* because the buds have two opercula, stamens are strongly inflexed, ovules are in four rows on the placentae and cotyledons are reniform. Within this subgroup *E. leptocalyx* is closely related to only two other species—*E. scyphocalyx* and *E. platycorys*—the three species forming series *Furfuraceae*. All have flattened grey-brown seed that have a pale scurfy patch on the underside and have branchlets with oil glands in the pith.

E. leptocalyx is distinguished from *E. scyphocalyx* and *E. platycorys* by the combination of smooth bark, cylindrical buds in umbels of nine to 15 and barrel-shaped fruit to 0.8 cm wide. Both the coastal smooth-barked *E. scyphocalyx* and inland rough-trunked *E. platycorys* tend



to have cylindrical-pyriform buds and cylindrical-cupular fruit. *E. platycorys* also differs by having buds in umbels of three or seven and larger fruit with a wide vertical scar left on the rim by the shedding on the inner operculum at flowering.

The bud and fruit shape of *E. leptocalyx* parallel that of *E. cylindrocarpa*, which belongs in a different series and has a more inland distribution.

The more recently published *Eucalyptus leptocalyx* subsp. *petilipes* is regarded here as not significantly different from *E. leptocalyx* Blakely and in any case the cited type specimen of subsp. *petilipes* is also cited on the next page of the same publication as representing an intergrade between *E. leptocalyx* subsp. *leptocalyx* and *E. leptocalyx* subsp. *petilipes* (see Hill *et al.*, 2001).

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus leptocalyx: Greek *lepto*, narrow or slender and *calyx*, an uninformative reference to the bud shape.

Copyright © CANBR 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid>