

# *Eucalyptus ligulata* subsp. *ligulata*

## Lucky Bay mallee

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Eucalyptus | Longistylus | Frutices | Calcolae

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus ligulata** Brooker subsp. **ligulata**, *Nuytsia* 1: 300 (1974).



T: c. 1.5 miles [2.4 km] E of beach near Cape Le Grand, W.A., 15 Mar. 1972, *K.M.Allan 820*; holotype: PERTH; isotype: CANB, K, NSW.

### Description

**Mallee** to 4 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth, pale grey to greenish grey over pink-brown.

**Branchlets** angular; lacking oil glands in the pith, glabrous.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm)**: stems rounded or square in cross-section; juvenile leaves opposite and sessile for ca 1 or 2 nodes (on field coppice, more on seedlings) then petiolate, alternate, oblong to lanceolate, 6–10 cm long, 2–4.5 cm wide, dull, blue-green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 0.5–2 cm long; blade narrowly elliptical to narrowly lanceolate, 4–8.5 cm long, 0.8–2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, slightly glossy, green to bluish green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, reticulation sparse, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands irregular, island, or apparently absent.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.9–1.8 cm long, buds in umbels of 9 to 13, pedicels 0.4–0.8 cm long). **Mature buds** elongated ovoid to broadly fusiform (1–1.4 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide), with ca 8 shallow longitudinal ribs, scar absent, the single operculum conical and about equal in length to the base of the bud, outer stamens erect, inner inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits that are not confluent apically, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 3, the placentae each with 2 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.2–0.7 cm long), cupular to barrel-shaped or truncate-globose, always clearly but shallowly ribbed, 0.9–1.3 cm long, 0.9–1.4 cm wide, disc usually level or descending obliquely, valves 3, enclosed.

**Seeds** blackish, 3–4.5 mm long, obliquely pyramidal, dorsal surface curved, minutely wrinkled, ventrally ridged, hilum terminal.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10)**: cotyledons reniform; stems rounded to square in cross-section, scabrid for lower 3–6 internodes then smooth; leaves opposite, sessile and amplexicaul for ca 7 nodes, alternate by node 9, petiolate, ovate–lanceolate, 6.5–9 cm long, 1.5–3.5 cm wide, dull, green, lower sessile leaves distantly denticulate due to marginal warts, lamina discolorous at lowest nodes only.

### Flowering Time

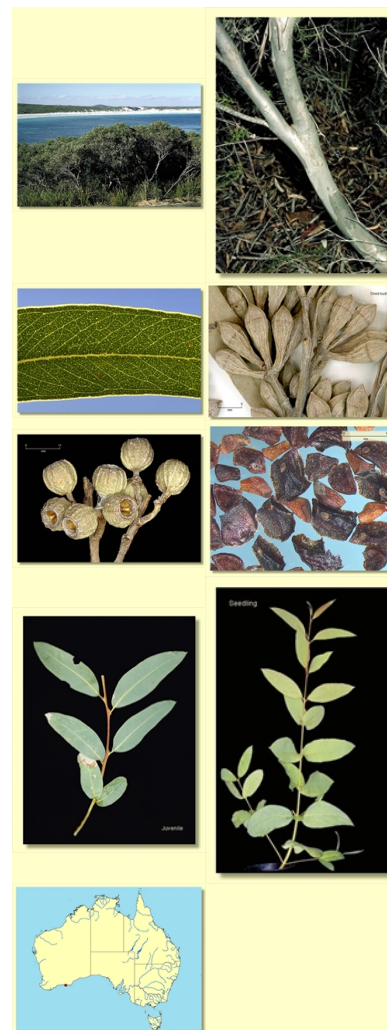
Flowering has been recorded in March, April and June.

### Notes

*Eucalyptus ligulata* is a mallee species endemic to Western Australia, mainly east of Esperance in the Cape Le Grand – Lucky Bay area and at Cape Arid but also further west in the Stirling Range. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves slightly glossy, green or sometimes bluish green, buds occur in axillary umbels and are conspicuously ribbed whilst the fruit are moderately large, barrel-shaped to cupular or hemispherical to 1.3 cm long and 1.4 cm wide with conspicuous ribs.

*Eucalyptus ligulata* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Eucalyptus* series *Calcolae*, a small group characterised by smooth bark, prominently ribbed buds with a single operculum (hence no operculum scar), more or less cuboid anthers that shed pollen by two separate slits, ovules arranged in two rows on the placenta, seedling and juvenile leaves opposite, sessile and stem-clasping at the lower nodes then petiolate and alternate, fruit ribbed and seed obliquely pyramidal in shape.

*Eucalyptus ligulata* is closely related to *E. calcicola* from the south-western coastal area from Boranup to near Bremer Bay on limestone dunes and headlands and which has broader and very glossy green seedling and juvenile leaves, seven buds in the inflorescence (nine to



13 buds in *E. ligulata*) and wider more prominently ribbed buds and fruit.

There are two subspecies:

***E. ligulata* subsp. *ligulata***

Characterised by buds with the operculum more or less equal in length to the hypanthium (base of bud), mature bud pedicels 0.4–0.8 mm long and more prominently ribbed fruit 0.9–1.4 cm wide, often with the disc sloping inwards. Occurs from Cape Le Grand to Lucky Bay and Cape Arid where found on moist granitic sand around inselbergs, peaks and outcrops.

***E. ligulata* subsp. *stirlingica***

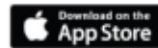
Buds have the operculum longer than the hypanthium, mature bud pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long and slightly smaller fruit (0.8–1 cm wide) which are less prominently ribbed, some almost smooth, and with the disc usually level or raised slightly. Occurs only in the Stirling Range where found on sedimentary-derived sandy soils around the foothills and also on some ridges and upper slopes.

**Origin of Name**

*Eucalyptus ligulata*: Latin *ligulatus*, strap-like, referring to the peduncles.

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