


Eucalyptus oleosa subsp. *oleosa*

Red morrell


Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Spirales

Nomenclature


Eucalyptus oleosa F.Muell. ex Miq., *Ned. Kruidk. Arch.* 4: 127 (1856) subsp. ***oleosa***. 


T: Victoria, Murray Scrub, *H. Behr s.n.*; lecto; U, *vide* M.I.H.Brooker, *Brunonia* 2: 153 (1979), by exclusion; isolecto: MEL. The correct identity of this lectotype is ambiguous and the following specimen has been nominated by Nicolle & Whalen as an epitype: 16 km north of Paruna to [towards] Loxton, South Australia, *J.D.Turner 101 and H.Vos*, 14 September 1977; epitype AD; isoeotypes CANB, MEL, NSW, PERTH.

Eucalyptus oleosa var. *angustifolia* Maiden, *Crit. Revis. Eucalyptus* 4: 278 (1919). 


T: South Australia: near Gawler Town, Jan. 1849, *H.Behr s.n.*; syn: MEL, NSW, U. South Australia: above Salt's Creek, *collector unknown*; herbarium of cited specimen not known to us.

Eucalyptus grasbyi Maiden & Blakely, *Crit. Revis. Eucalyptus* 8: 40 (1929). T: Western Australia: Lake Barlee, Sept. 1919, *F. Fraser s.n. through W.C.Grasby*; hol: NSW; iso: CANB, K, PERTH.

Eucalyptus oleosa var. *obtusa* C.A.Gardner, *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Western Australia* 34: 77 (1950). T: Western Australia: Montana Hill, Coolgardie, *C.A.Gardner 1839*; hol: PERTH; iso: CANB. 

Eucalyptus oleosa subsp. *ampliata* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 8 (2) 179 (1999). T: South Australia: 11.6 km W of Wurrula on Eyre Highway (32° 25'S 134° 24'E), 16 Oct. 1983, *K.D.Hill 157 & L.A.S.Johnson*; hol: NSW. 

Eucalyptus oleosa subsp. *repleta* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 8 (2) 176 (1999). T: South Australia: 7 km E of Immarna along transcontinental railway line (30° 31'S 132° 12'E), 1 Sep. 1980, *J.Z.Weber 6619*; hol: NSW; iso: AD, CANB.

Eucalyptus oleosa subsp. *victima* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 8(2) 179 (1999). T: South Australia: c. 4 km from Bute on Wokurna Road (c. 130 km NNW of Adelaide), 5 July 1967, *B.Copley 1650*; hol: NSW; iso: AD. 

Eucalyptus oleosa subsp. *wylieana* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 8(2) 180 (1999). T: Western Australia: bottom of Madura Pass (31° 53'S 127° 03.5'E), 27 Oct. 1978, *L.D.Pryor & J.D.Briggs 199*; hol: NSW; iso: CANB, PERTH.

Description

Mallee to 8 m tall or occasionally a taller tree to 10 m. Forming a lignotuber.

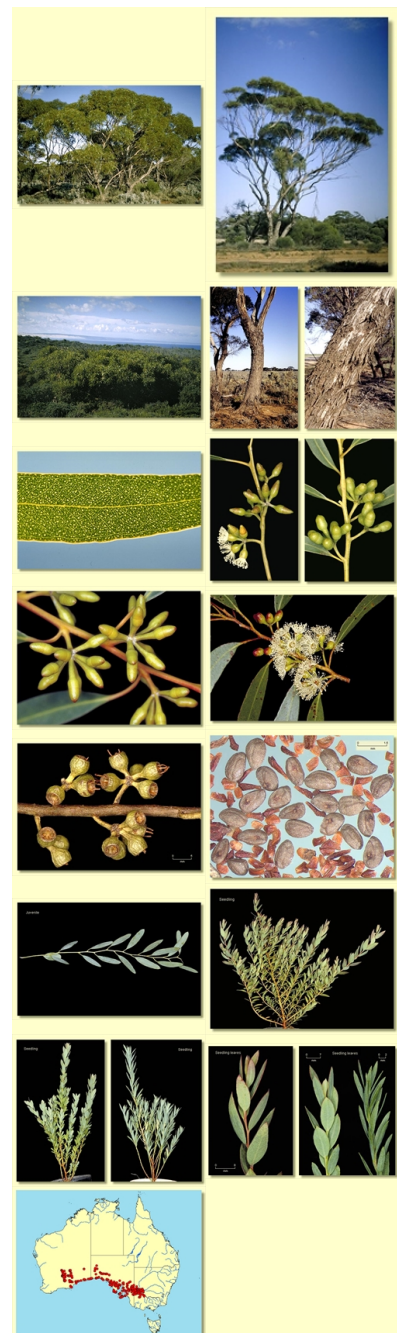
Bark usually rough on lower stems, flaky or fibrous, usually loose, grey to grey-brown, at times with short ribbons of decorticated bark in the upper branches; occasionally smooth barked to ground level, cream, grey-yellow, pink, brown or coppery.

Branchlets lacking oil glands in the pith; rarely glaucous (e.g. Lake Barlee area, WA).

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems more or less round in cross-section; juvenile leaves alternate, sessile to shortly petiolate, elliptical to lanceolate to oblong, 4.5–8 cm long, 0.4–2.2 cm wide, bluish green to grey-green.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 0.7–2(2.5) cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate to lanceolate, (4.5)5.5–10 (12) cm long, 0.5–2(2.2) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, densely to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands mostly intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.4–1.3(1.7) cm long, buds 7, 9 or 11, pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.6 cm long. **Mature buds**



ovoid to broadly fusiform, egg-in-eggcup (0.6–1.3 cm long, 0.3–0.6 cm wide), scar present, operculum rounded or broadly and bluntly conical (0.3–0.8 cm long), usually narrower than the hypanthium at the join, stamens irregularly flexed, anthers weakly versatile or adnate, basifixed, globoid to cuboid, dehiscent by broad lateral pores, style long, stigma tapered or blunt, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.7 cm long, truncate-globose, 0.4–0.7 cm long, 0.4–0.8 cm wide, disc usually descending, valves 3 or 4, valve tips strongly exerted due to fragile style remnants.

Seeds brown or grey, 1–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, occasionally with shallow longitudinal furrows on otherwise smooth dorsal surface, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems appearing round in cross-section but in reality more or less 5-sided; leaves opposite, sessile and linear for the first 2–3 nodes then spirally arranged, sessile and becoming elliptical to narrowly lanceolate further up the stem, (1)1.5–7 cm long, 0.2–1.5 cm wide, dull grey-green, rarely slightly glaucous on new growth.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in all months except June.

Notes

Eucalyptus oleosa is a species of mallee, or rarely a small tree, very widespread across southern Australia from the goldfields of Western Australia east through South Australia to north-western Victoria and south-western New South Wales. The bark is usually rough over part of the stems and the adult leaves glossy green.

Eucalyptus oleosa belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because buds have two opercula, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. oleosa* is part of a large taxonomic series *Subulatae* further characterised by globoid basifixed anthers, grey smooth seeds with shallow longitudinal furrows, and fruit with persistent exerted style remnants. Series *Subulatae* is divided principally into four subseries based on the juvenile leaves, one with spiral, crowded seedling phyllotaxis (subseries *Spirales*), another with decussate and decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decurrentes*), another with decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decussatae*), and a fourth with disjunct, petiolate seedling leaves (subseries *Oleaginae*).

E. oleosa belongs to subseries *Spirales* characterised by the heath-like seedlings with crowded linear to narrowly elliptical leaves.

E. oleosa is closest to *E. longicornis* and *E. delicata* (two other members of the subseries *Spirales*). *E. longicornis* occurs in the wheatbelt east of Perth and is a completely rough-barked, well-formed tree, with elongated conical opercula. *E. delicata* occurs from east of the crossroads east of Hyden, south-east to Peak Charles and Kumarl, extending north-east to the Norseman-Fraser Range area and can be distinguished by its small narrow adult leaves and the small buds and fruit.

Other members of the series *Subulatae* which co-occur in places with *E. oleosa* and may be confused with it are: *E. socialis* subsp. *socialis*, *E. socialis* subsp. *viridans*, *E. longissima* and *E. yalatensis*.

E. socialis subsp. *socialis* and *E. yalatensis* can be easily distinguished as both have dull adult leaves (*E. oleosa* glossy) and both belong to the subseries (*Decussatae*) with decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves.

E. socialis subsp. *viridans* and *E. longissima* both have glossy adult leaves like *E. oleosa*. *E. socialis* subsp. *viridans* can be distinguished by the operculum shape which is usually long and beaked and by the decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves. *E. longissima* can be distinguished by the early petiolate, disjunct, seedling leaves (subseries *Oleaginae*) and by the intramarginal vein which is usually much closer to the margin than in *E. oleosa*.

Three subspecies are recognised in *E. oleosa* by the authors of EUCLID:

E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa

This is the most widespread form that occurs from near the Lake Barlee region of Western Australia south to the coastal region near Israelite Bay, then eastwards through the Western Australian Goldfields, the southern part of the Great Victoria Desert and along the coast of the Great Australian Bight to the Eyre, Yorke and Fleurieu Peninsulas and Kangaroo Island and then further east into the south-west corner New South Wales and north-western corner of Victoria. Subsp. *oleosa* is characterised by usually having linear to elliptical seedling leaves that are not crowded as much on the stem as they are in subsp. *corvina* and subsp. *cylindroidea*. Subsp. *oleosa* can often have the egg-in-eggcup buds, where the base of the operculum is narrower than the hypanthium at the join.

E. oleosa* subsp. *corvina

Is endemic to the south-western region of Western Australia from the Lake King area, south through the Ravensthorpe area to the coastal region around Hamersley Inlet. Subsp. *corvina* is distinguished by having very crowded linear seedling leaves on the stem and by having smaller buds with an acute operculum and smaller fruit.

E. oleosa* subsp. *cylindroidea

Large mallee or small tree endemic to the south-western region of Western Australia from the subcoastal area north of Esperance (Mt Ney to Salmon Gums area), eastwards to the Mt Ragged region. It differs from the other subspecies by its very crowded seedling leaves on the stem and its larger buds with long opercula.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus oleosa: Latin *oleosus*, bearing oil, referring to the conspicuous oil glands in the leaves.

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