

Eucalyptus oraria

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria | Ovulares

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus oraria L.A.S.Johnson, *Contr. New South Wales Natl Herb.* 3: 103 (1962).



T: c. 5 miles [8 km] N of Dongarra, W.A., 10 Dec. 1960, *L.A.S.Johnson W33*; holo: NSW.

Eucalyptus tamala D.J.Carr & S.G.M.Carr, *Trans. Roy. Soc. Victoria* 88: 12 (1976). T: Tamala Stn road, 26 miles [c. 42 km] from junction with Denham road, W.A., 26°35'S, 113°55'E, 27 June 1969, *D.J. & S.G.M.Carr 1003*; holo: PERTH; iso: CANB.

Description

Mallee to 7 m tall, rarely a **tree** or low **shrub**. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough only on lower trunk, flaky, grey, or smooth throughout grey-green over yellowish, shedding in strips.

Branchlets have oil glands in the pith, sometimes few or only at the nodes.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 5–9 cm long, 1.3–3.5 cm wide, dull, green.

Adult leaves alternate, petioles 0.8–1.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, (5.5)6.5–10(11) cm long, 0.8–2.3 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, yellow-green to mid-green, side-veins usually acute, reticulation moderate, broken, intramarginal vein present, oil glands yellow, irregularly-shaped, intersectorial.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles narrowly flattened, 0.5–1.5 cm long, buds 9 to 19 or more, normally pedicellate, rarely sessile, pedicels (0)0.1–0.3 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid (0.45–0.7 cm long, 0.2–0.4 cm wide), scar present (outer operculum shed early), inner operculum rounded and apiculate (0.15–0.2 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers more or less wedge-shaped, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 3(4), the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

Fruit normally pedicellate, rarely sessile, pedicels (0)0.1–0.3 cm long, barrel-shaped often with a tapering base, 0.5–0.8 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, occasionally with several shallow longitudinal ribs, disc vertically descending, valves 3(4), enclosed.

Seeds grey-brown to yellowish brown, 1–2 mm long, flattened-ovoid often pointed at one end, dorsal surface shallowly and clearly reticulate, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons reniform; stems square in cross-section; leaves petiolate, opposite for 6–8 nodes then alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 5–9.5 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide, dull blue-green.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in May, August, September and October.

Notes

A coastal or near-coastal mallee on calcareous sands. It is endemic to Western Australia and is found from Cataby Brook and Jurien north to Dongarra, Kalbarri and Shark Bay area (Tamala Station and offshore islands, e.g. Dirk Hartog and Dorre Islands

Eucalyptus oraria 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 section *Dumaria* it belongs to a small subgroup of nine closely related species, series *Ovulares*. The series is further diagnosed by glandular pith, cuboid anthers, and seeds with a brown shallowly and clearly reticulate dorsal seedcoat.

Some of the species in series *Ovulares* are completely smooth-barked (*E. cyclostoma*, *E. cylindrocarpa*, *E. exigua* and smaller plants of *E. oraria*) while others (*E. aequioperta*, *E. baudiniana*, *E. comitae-vallis*, *E. myriadena* and *E. ovularis*) have rough bark over at least part of the stems.



Within its home range the mallee *E. oraria* is likely to be confused only with *E. baudiniana*. *E. oraria* has larger shortly pedicellate to sessile fruit and is mostly smooth-barked compared to *E. baudiniana*. Plants of *E. oraria* with a gnarled tree habit are known from Tamala, whilst on Dorre Island the species occurs as a low shrub to 1 m tall.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus oraria: Latin *orarius*, coastal, referring to the mainly coastal occurrence of this species.

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