

# *Eucalyptus ovularis*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria | Ovulares

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus ovularis*** Maiden & Blakely, J. & *Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 59: 194 (1925).



T: Salmon Gums, W.A., 24 May 1924, C.A. Gardner 2227; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, PERTH.

## Description

**Tree** to 12 m tall or **mallee**. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough, grey to blackish, flaky, fissured, firm, extending over part of trunk, rarely to large limbs, smooth above, white and greenish to pale grey and pinkish or orange.

**Branchlets** have oil glands in the pith, although sometimes glands very few.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems square in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite for ca 5 nodes then alternate, lanceolate, 6.5–10 cm long, 1.5–2.5 cm wide, dull, grey-green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 0.4–1.2 cm long; blade linear to narrowly lanceolate, 6–10 cm long, 0.5–1 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex finely pointed, glossy, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation moderate to dense, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.7–1.7 cm long, buds 9 to 13, pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid to cylindrical (0.45–0.8 cm long, 0.25–0.4 cm wide), usually widest near base of hypanthium, scar present, operculum rounded to conical (0.15–0.3 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma broadly rounded to blunt, locules 3, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.4 cm long, barrel-shaped to slightly urceolate, 0.4–0.6 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, disc descending vertically, valves 3, enclosed.

**Seeds** mid-brown, 0.8–1.5 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface shallowly but clearly reticulate, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons reniform; stems rounded in cross-section; leaves always shortly petiolate, opposite for 5–7 nodes then alternate, narrowly lanceolate to linear, 3.5–7 cm long, 0.5–2 cm wide, dull, green.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in June and August.

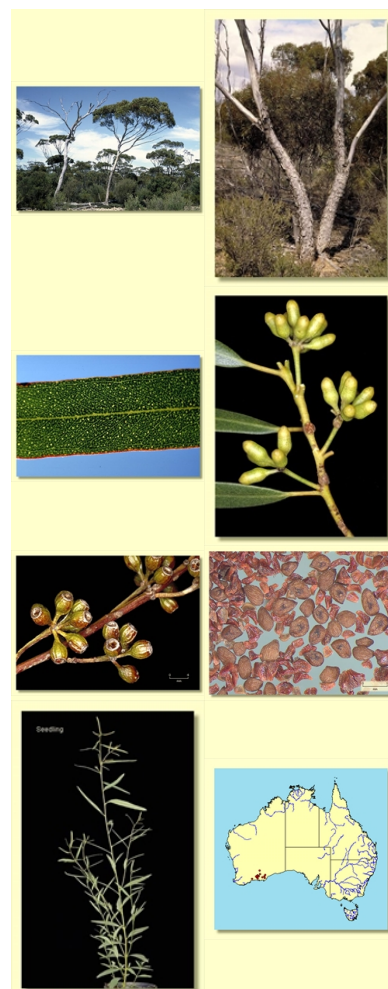
## Notes

*Eucalyptus ovularis* is a tree or mallee of low woodlands on calcareous sandy loams and is endemic to Western Australia. It has a scattered distribution from around Salmon Gums, Grass Patch and near Peak Charles north to Dundas Nature Reserve, near Binyarinyinna Rock, and in the south-east in the vicinity of Mt Ney, Clyde Rock and Junana Rock south of Balladonia.

*Eucalyptus ovularis* 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*) and therefore easily distinguished, while others (*E. aequioperta*, *E. baudiniana*, *E. comitae-vallis*, *E. myriadena* and *E. ovularis*) have rough bark over at least part of the stems.

*E. ovularis* has a rough trunk, glossy green crown and more or less cylindrical buds that are basally dilated unlike any other species in series *Ovulares*. Within its natural range it is only likely to be confused with *E. myriadena*, which has smaller, more cylindrical buds and fruits and *E. aequioperta*, which has small ovoid buds.



## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus ovularis*: Latin *ovularis*, pertaining to an egg, referring to the bud shape.

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