

Eucalyptus peninsularis

Cummins mallee

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Decurrentes

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus peninsularis D.Nicolle, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 12: 230 (1999).



T: South Australia: c. 2 miles [3.2 km] north-west of Cummins on the road towards Mt Hope, 6 July 1972, *M.I.H. Brooker 3866*; holo: AD; iso: CANB, NSW, MEL, PERTH.

Description

Mallee to 6 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark smooth throughout, grey or grey-brown over creamy-brown to pale coppery to pale orange, decorticating in ribbons which occasionally hang in the upper branches.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): not seen.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1.5–2.5 cm long; blade lanceolate, (6)7–13(14) cm long, 1–2.3 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy, green to dark green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands numerous and mostly intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–1.3 cm long, usually pendulous; buds 7, 9 or 11, pedicellate, pedicels 0.4–0.7 cm long. **Mature buds** 1.2–1.7 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide, with hypanthium urceolate, sometimes ribbed, scar present, operculum beaked to horn-shaped (0.7–1.1 cm long, stamens inflexed, anthers versatile, basifixed, globoid, dehiscing by slits, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers pale yellow to white.

Fruit pedicellate, pedicels 0.3–0.7 cm long, often pendulous, urn-shaped, 0.9–1.1 cm long, 0.6–0.9 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, valve tips strongly exerted due to fragile style remnants.

Seeds glossy brown to grey, 1.2–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, rarely pointed at one end, occasionally with shallow longitudinal furrows on otherwise smooth dorsal surface, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems square in cross-section and prominently winged due to decurrent leaf bases; leaves opposite, sessile, linear for the first few nodes then ovate to elliptical, dull green to grey-green, 2.2–5 cm long, 1.3–2.5 cm wide, leaf base decurrent on stem.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in December.

Notes

A mallee from southern Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, in the Yeelanna, Cummins and Koppio area. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves are glossy, green to dark green.

Eucalyptus peninsularis belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* 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. peninsularis* 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*).

Eucalyptus peninsularis is part of subseries *Decurrentes*. Within this subseries it is closest to *E. urna* and differs by its mallee habit (tree or mallet in *E. urna*). *E. peninsularis* is also close to *E. flocktoniae* and *E. neutra* and can be easily distinguished from both by its ribbed buds and fruit (both more or less smooth in *E. flocktoniae* and *E. neutra*).



Two other species in series *Subulatae* growing in the vicinity of *E. peninsularis* are *E. socialis* subsp. *viridans* and *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa*. *E. socialis* subsp. *viridans* has decussate but not decurrent seedling leaves and its fruit is not as strongly urceolate as in *E. peninsularis*. *E. oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* has narrow linear to ovate, alternate juvenile leaves, and the fruit is truncate-globose.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus peninsularis: Latin *peninsularis*, of a peninsula, referring to its distribution on Eyre Peninsula.

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