

# *Eucalyptus rhomboidea*

## Diamond Gum

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Decurrentes

### Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus rhomboidea*** Hopper & D.Nicolle, *Nuytsia* 17(1): 189-193 (2001)

T: Western Australia: Bremer Range track [precise locality withheld], 21 Apr. 1998, *D.Nicolle* 2274 & *M.French*, holotype: PERTH; isotype: AD, CANB. (CANB specimen not received 4 December 2019)

### Description

**Tree** (mallet) to 18 m tall. Lignotuber absent.

**Bark** smooth throughout, grey to creamy-grey to orange-brown, shedding in strips and short ribbons.

**Branchlets** glaucous; lacking oil glands in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem square in cross-section, glaucous, juvenile leaves opposite, sessile, ovate to elliptical, not measured, glaucous, apex pointed, bases strongly decurrent on stem.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole (1.7)2–3(3.3) cm long; blade lanceolate, 8–15.5 cm long, 1.5–3.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull, green to grey-green to blue-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 numerous and mostly intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.7–1.3 cm long, erect; buds usually 7, pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long). **Mature buds** ± ovoid to rhomboid (c. 1.2 cm long, c. 0.6 cm wide), glaucous, scar present, operculum conical to slightly beaked (0.7–0.8 cm long), stamens irregularly flexed, anthers versatile, basifixed, globose, dehiscent by slits, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers pale yellow.

**Fruit** erect, fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long), cup-shaped to funnel-shaped, usually glaucous but glaucousness weathering with age, 0.7–0.8 cm long, 0.7–0.9 cm wide, disc level to slightly descending, valves 3 or 4, valve tips strongly exerted due to fragile style remnants.

**Seeds** brown to grey, 1.5–2 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, slightly glaucous; leaves opposite for many pairs (at least 20), sessile, linear to narrowly oblong for the first few nodes then becoming ovate, dull grey-green to slightly glaucous, 1.5–4 cm long, 0.5–3.2 cm wide, leaf base decurrent on stem.

### Flowering Time

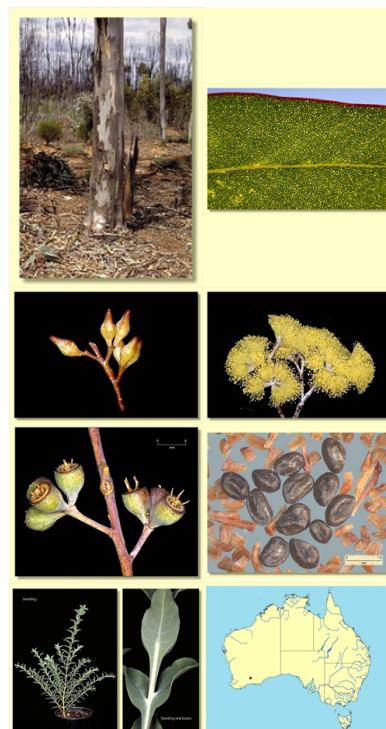
Flowering has been recorded in September and October.

### Notes

A small to medium-sized woodland tree endemic to Western Australia, restricted to areas of greenstone geology in the gently undulating Mt Glass–Mt Gordon area of the Bremer Range, ca midway between Lake King and Norseman. The bark is smooth throughout and the adult leaves are dull, light green to grey-green to blue-green, the buds glaucous and more or less rhomboid to ovoid in shape.

*Eucalyptus rhomboidea* 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. rhomboidea* is part of a large taxonomic group (series *Subulatae*) further characterised by globose basifixed anthers, grey smooth seeds with shallow longitudinal furrows dorsally, and fruit with semi-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 strongly 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 rhomboidea* is part of subseries *Decurrentes* and is closely related to the smooth-barked tree species *E. transcontinentalis*



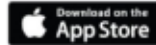
which is widespread in the wheatbelt and goldfields of Western Australia. The latter species has pendulous buds with a relatively long, narrow, beaked operculum. This contrasts with the buds of *E. rhomboidea* which are held erect and are slightly broader, with a shorter, conical to slightly beaked operculum. The fruit shape of both species is also diagnostic, with those of *E. transcontinentalis* being urceolate to barrel-shaped and *E. rhomboidea* cup-shaped to funnel-shaped. Whilst both species occur in the same general area they do not grow together on the greenstone.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus rhomboidea*: Greek *rhombus*, shaped like a rhomb [i.e. diamond-shaped], referring to the bud shape.

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