

Eucalyptus selachiana

Classification

Eucalyptus | Eudesmia | Limbatae | Heteropterae | Tetraedrae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus selachiana L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 7: 390 (1998).

T: Western Australia: Useless Loop road (26° 30'S, 114° 03'E), 26 May 1983, *M.I.H.Brooker 8129*; holo: NSW; iso: CANB, PERTH.

Eucalyptus eudesmioides subsp. *Selachiana* (Brooker 8129), (Australian Plant Census (2006), unpublished combination at subspecies level).

Description

Mallee to 3 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark usually smooth, white to grey to grey-green to occasionally yellow, sometimes with a very short stocking of grey-brown tessellated, fibrous rough bark.

Branchlets not glaucous, with oil glands present in the pith (sometimes obscurely so).

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems rounded in cross-section, hairy to glabrous; juvenile leaves opposite and sessile, ovate to cordate, glossy green, base amplexicaul, apex round to broadly acute, hairy to glabrous.

Adult leaves opposite to sub-opposite, petioles 0.5–1.6 cm long; blade lanceolate, 5–10 cm long, 0.8–1.8 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy green, side-veins acute, reticulation sparse, intramarginal vein present, oil glands mostly island.

Inflorescence axillary single, peduncles 0.4–0.9 cm long, buds 3 per umbel, pedicel 0.3–0.5 cm long. **Mature buds** clavate, 0.5–0.7 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide, hypanthium four angled, not glaucous, outer perianth whorl minutely sepaline, inner whorl operculate, operculum rounded to flattened, stamens grouped in four clusters, inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscent by longitudinal slits (non-confluent), style short, stigma tapered, locules usually 3–4, the ovules arranged in 4 distinct vertical rows on the placentae. Flowers whitish.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.2–0.6 cm long), cylindrical to barrel-shaped, 1–1.4 cm long, 0.8–1.1 cm wide, not glaucous, usually four-angled, disc descending, valves enclosed or near the rim.

Seeds dark brown to black, flattened ovoid with a ragged flange around the edge, sides ribbed, 3–4 mm long, dorsal surface shallowly lacunose, surface smooth not deeply pitted, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons reniform; stems round in cross-section, not glaucous, hairy, leaves sessile to shortly petiolate, opposite, ovate to elliptical, 2.7–4.9 cm long, 1.6–3 cm wide, glossy green, margins entire, apex rounded, base rounded to tapering to the petiole, lamina hairy.

Flowering Time

Flowering time unknown.

Notes

Eucalyptus eudesmioides is a species of mallee endemic to Western Australia, extending from the northern part of the Darling Range and western part of the northern wheatbelt to Shark Bay; also further north at Warroora (*vide* D. Nicolle). The bark is smooth throughout or loose and flaky at the base. Adult leaves are opposite to sub-opposite and shortly petiolate and inflorescences are three-flowered.

It contrasts with the closely related *E. gittinsii*, which has larger, distinctly petiolate, sub-opposite to alternate adult leaves and which is prominent in the Kalbarri region.

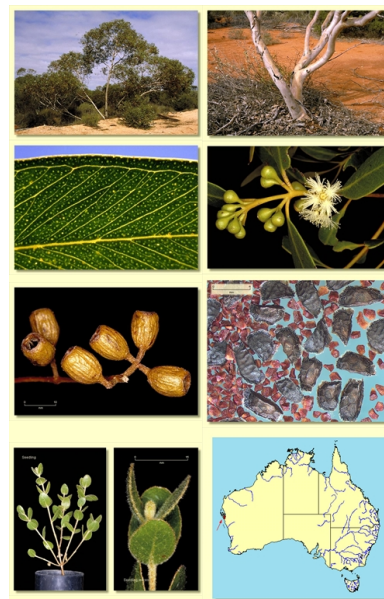
In earlier editions of EUCLID we regarded the following as three (informal) subspecies but the third of these is now included at species level:

subsp. **eudesmioides**

The leaves are dull, light green to grey-green and it occurs from the wheatbelt to Kalbarri with an outlier near Warroora.

subsp. **Pallida**

A mallee or small tree, the branchlets, leaves, buds and fruits are glaucous. It occurs in the Wannoo-Shark Bay area and to east of Woodleigh station.



Eucalyptus selachiana

A mallee restricted to south of Shark Bay and distinctive by the glossy green leaves, and fruit which are a little larger but with some overlap in dimensions.

All three taxa are regarded by other authors as species.

Eucalyptus eudesmioides belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Eudesmia* because of the combination of cotyledons reniform in shape and folded and clasping in embryo, buds with the calyx free and evident as four small teeth around the midline of the bud. (Sections *Ebbanoenses* and *Reticulatae* in this subgenus have the calyx fused to the corolla and evident as four small teeth at the apex of the bud.) Within subgenus *Eudesmia*, *E. eudesmioides* belongs in the Section *Limbatae*, series *Heteropterae*, subseries *Tetraedrae*, that is further characterised by having seedling leaves with stellate hairs, the presence of oil glands in the pith of the branchlets, stamens arranged in four bundles, flanged \pm pyramidal seeds and buds and fruit square in cross-section. The other species in subseries *Tetraedrae* are *E. gittinsii*, *E. pleurocarpa*, *E. conveniens*, *E. extrica*, *E. erythrocorys* and *E. roycei*. All these species are easily separated from *E. eudesmioides* by having larger adult leaves, usually wider than 1.5 cm.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus eudesmioides: from the genus *Eudesmia* which it supposedly resembles.

subsp. *Pallida*: Latin *pallidus*, pallid, referring to the pale glaucous parts.

subsp. *Selachiana*: stated in the protologue as from "the neo-Latin zoological group name *Selachii*, sharks and related fishes", alluding to Shark Bay.

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