

# *Eucalyptus* sp. Kalbarri

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Porantherae | Longiores

## Nomenclature

*Eucalyptus* sp. Kalbarri (M.I.H. Brooker 7937) Australian National Herbarium (CANB).

This taxon was referred to as *Eucalyptus* aff. *rigidula* in earlier editions of EUCLID.

## Description

**Mallee** to 4 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout, grey to grey-green and brown-grey.

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

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves sessile, opposite to sub-opposite, ovate to narrow oblong, 3.5–6 cm long, 2–3 cm wide, green.

**Adult leaves** stiff, ± erect, alternate, petioles 0.5–2 cm long; blade elliptic-lanceolate, 6.5–10.5 cm long, 0.8–1.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation dense, intramarginal vein present, oil glands few, intersectional or ?absent.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles slightly flattened, 0.5–1.5 cm long, buds (?7)9 or 11, pedicellate, pedicels stout 0.2–0.5 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid to fusiform (0.7–1.4 cm long, 0.3–0.5 cm wide), scar present, operculum conical to beaked (0.4–0.7 cm long), stamens inflexed, anthers cuneate-cuboid, adnate to filament apex (rigidly basifixed), dehiscent by sub-terminal pores, a few of the innermost stamens imperfectly formed, style long and straight, stigma tapered, locules 3, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white.

**Fruit** pedicellate, pedicels 0.1–0.4 cm long, cupular to stoutly barrel-shaped, 0.5–0.8 cm long, 0.5–0.8 cm wide, disc usually descending, valves 3, more or less enclosed.

**Seeds** brown, 1–2.5 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface sometimes with longitudinal furrows, scarcely reticulate, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded or square in cross-section, maybe slightly warty; leaves sessile, opposite for ca 13–15 nodes, ovate to lanceolate or elliptical, then becoming alternate and shortly petiolate, 2.5–7 cm long, 1–2.5 cm wide, grey-green, dull.

## Flowering Time

Flowering time unknown.

## Notes

Smooth-barked mallees occurring in Western Australia on the coastal sandplain in the Eurady, Kalbarri–Geraldton area, probably extending south to Calingiri and near Wongan Hills.

These plants are closely allied to *E. rigidula*. However, they have slightly larger fruit than *E. rigidula* whilst seedling and juvenile leaves are ovate-lanceolate, dull greyish green and remain opposite for more nodes than in typical *E. rigidula*. The juvenile and seedling leaves of typical *E. rigidula* quickly become linear-lanceolate and glossy green. *E. sp.* Kalbarri is imperfectly known and worthy of further study.

*Eucalyptus* sp. Kalbarri would best be placed in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because the buds have two opercula, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. sp.* Kalbarri belongs to a group of about 16 species, series *Porantherae*, that are further characterised by having anthers completely adnate to the staminal filaments, strongly inflexed stamens, densely reticulate leaves with intersectional oil glands and by the fruit with a distinct thick rim that includes a whitish descending disc. With all species in series *Porantherae* it is necessary to have seedling characteristics to accurately make an identification, so if working with this group be prepared to grow them!





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