

Eucalyptus stoatei

Scarlet pear gum

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Dumaria | Tetrapterae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus stoatei C.A.Gardner, *Proc. Roy. Soc. W. Australia* 22: 126 (1936).

Eucalyptus forrestiana subsp. *stoatei* (C.A.Gardner) C.J.Robinson, *Nuytsia* 5: 197 (1985). T: Bandalup Ck near Kundip, W.A., June 1935, *K.F. Dureau & J.E.Harrison s.n.*; holotype: PERTH; iso: K, NSW.

Description

Mallet to 6 m tall. Non-lignotuberous.

Bark wholly smooth grey over brown to cream, shedding in strips.

Branchlets lacking oil glands in the pith.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems square in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, usually ovate to oblong, 5–8.5 cm long, 4–6.5 cm wide, base tapering to rounded, apex rounded to pointed, bluish green becoming green and glossy at upper nodes.

Adult leaves thick, alternate, petioles 1–2.2 cm long; blade elliptical to oblong, 5–8 cm long, (1.4)1.7–3.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed to rounded, concolorous, glossy, mid-green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, reticulation dense to very dense or obscure, intramarginal vein remote from margin, oil glands intersectional or obscure.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, pendulous, peduncles rounded proximally, broadening and flattening distally, 2–7 cm long; bud solitary, pedicellate, pedicels 0.7–1 cm long. **Mature buds** obovoid with many longitudinal ribs, red, (2.9–5.5 cm long, 1.3–2.5 cm wide), scar present, outer operculum ceases to grow but remains on apex of inner operculum, inner operculum broadly conical (0.6–2 cm long), stamens inflexed, filaments glandular, anthers cuboid, versatile, sub-basifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma tapered, locules 3, the placentae each with (8)10 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers yellow.

Fruit pendulous, pedicellate, pedicels 0.4–2.5 cm long, barrel-shaped with many longitudinal ribs, 2.2–4 cm long, 1.8–3 cm wide, disc descending vertically, valves 3, enclosed.

Seeds brown, 3–5 mm long, pyramidal to obliquely pyramidal, prominently ridged, the ridges continuous with the marginal flange, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, hilum terminal.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10): cotyledons reniform; stems square to rounded in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for ca 4 nodes then alternate, ovate, 5.5–8 cm long, 3–5.5 cm wide, dull, grey-green becoming slightly glossy by 8–10 nodes.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in January, February, September and November.

E. stoatei is becoming a popular ornamental, often not as tall as *E. dolichorhyncha* or *E. forrestiana*.

Notes

A mallet endemic to Western Australia, of restricted subcoastal distribution west and north-west of Esperance to the Cascades area, as an emergent in heath on sandplains. The bark is smooth and the adult leaves glossy green and flower buds solitary in the leaf axils.

Eucalyptus stoatei belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Dumaria* because the buds have two opercula, stamens are strongly inflexed, ovules occur in (8)10 rows on the placentae and cotyledons are reniform. *E. stoatei* forms a small subgroup (series *Tetrapterae*) with *E. tetraptera*, *E. forrestiana* and *E. dolichorhyncha*, all with single-flowered inflorescences with buds that are ultimately red, all lacking oil glands in the pith of the branchlets, and with blackish pyramidal seed.



The many-ribbed large pear-shaped buds distinguish *E. stoatei* from its near relatives, all of which have four-winged buds square in cross-section. *E. stoatei*, *E. forrestiana* and *E. dolichorhyncha* have yellow stamens whilst *E. tetraptera* (and two newly described close relatives *E. brandiama* and *E. sweedmaniana*) have pink-red stamens.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus stoatei: after Theodore Norman Stoate (1895–1979). Theodore Stoate was a forester and joined the Forest Commission of New South Wales in 1919 as lecturer-in-charge of the sub-professional forestry school at Narara. After the school was closed in 1921 he was seconded to the Forests Department of Western Australia for six months to conduct a forest guard's school at Ludlow. In 1923 he was appointed Assistant Working Plans Officer in Western Australia and before 1930 had risen to be Senior Assistant Conservator. From 1942 to 1945 he was Acting Conservator until he was appointed Conservator, a position he held until 1953. He was a foundation member of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and its president from 1941 to 1945.

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