

# *Eucalyptus stowardii*

## Fluted-horn mallee

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Erectae | Pedicellatae

### Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus stowardii*** Maiden, *J. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 51: 457 (1917).

T: Kwelkan, a few miles N of Kellerberrin, W.A., Apr.-May 1917, *F. Stoward 150*; holo: NSW.

### Description

**Mallee** to 5 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout, grey over bronze to silvery pink.

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

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 8–11 cm long, 2–8 cm wide, dull, bluish green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 1.3–3.3 cm long; blade lanceolate to slightly falcate, 6–13.8 cm long, 1.2–3.3 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex pointed (often a drip-tip), concolorous, green, glossy, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, reticulation sparse to moderate, intramarginal vein present, oil glands island, large, slightly irregular.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles narrow and only slightly flattened, spreading to down-turned, 1.5–3.5 cm long, buds 7(9), pedicellate (pedicels 0.3–1.2 cm long). **Mature buds** bluntly elongated-ovoid ((1.6)2.2–3.9 cm long, 0.6–1 cm wide), conspicuously finely ribbed, scar present (outer operculum falling early), operculum rounded and more or less as long as the hypanthium, stamens erect, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt to rounded, locules 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers creamy white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (0.2–1.2 cm long), cylindrical to cupular with several conspicuous longitudinal ribs, 1.2–1.8 cm long, 0.9–1.5 cm wide, disc raised annular or level then descending, valves 4, held at about rim level.

**Seeds** blackish brown, 0.7–2 mm long, ovoid to flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface shallowly and clearly reticulate, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 2–4 nodes then alternate, deltoid to broadly ovate, 8–11 cm long, 4–8 cm wide, dull greyish green.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in June, August and September.

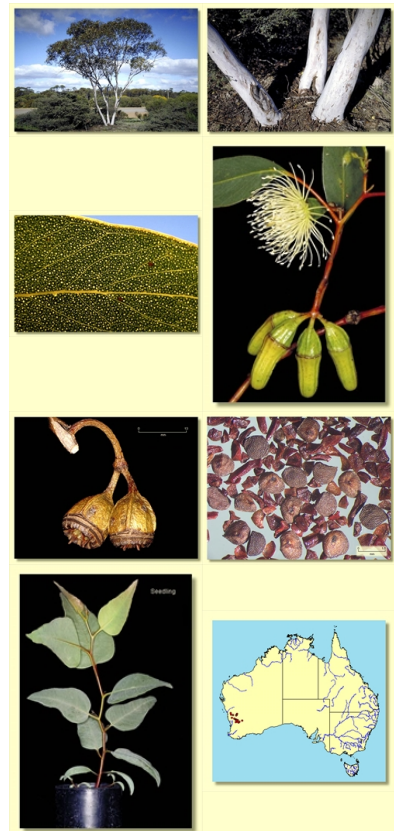
### Notes

A mallee endemic to Western Australia, occurring in the north-central part of the wheatbelt from Dowerin north and east to Carnamah, Wubin and Chiddarcooping. The stems are smooth and the adult leaves very glossy green.

*Eucalyptus stowardii* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Glandulosae* because the buds have an operculum scar, cotyledons are bisected and branchlets have oil glands in the pith. Within this large subsection (ca 80 species). *E. stowardii* belongs to a group of mallees and mallets (series *Erectae* subseries *Pedicellatae*) recognised by the glossy green leaf surface, leaves with many oil glands but not obscuring the secondary venation, peduncles long and flattened or terete, inflorescences spreading and buds with a long operculum and erect stamens arising from a narrow staminophore.

*Eucalyptus stowardii* differs from its closest relative, *E. diminuta*, by having slightly larger, shallowly ribbed rather than weakly striate buds and broader glossy green leaves. It occupies sites of decomposed granite whereas *E. diminuta* occurs on rocky hillsides or breakaways of laterite, sandstone or kaolinitic rubble.

*E. stowardii* and *E. diminuta* can be distinguished from *E. eremophila* and *E. tenera* by the ribbed or striate blunt buds on more slender peduncles, and non-glazed glossy leaves with visible side-veins. *E. sargentii*, a species of saline depressions, differs from *E. stowardii* because it has smooth (non-striate), more slender buds and usually a short stocking of rough bark.

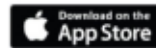


## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus stowardii*: after Frederick Stoward (1866–1931). Frederick Stoward migrated from England to Australia when he was 15 years of age. He was a member of the Hardy wine-making family. He studied wine-making under Bertrand at the Pasteur Institute of Paris and on his return to Australia held a position at the Royal Park Laboratories, Melbourne. From 1911 to 1919 he was botanist and plant pathologist with the Department of Agriculture in Western Australia and later returned to the family wine business in South Australia. Whilst in Western Australia he collected the type specimen for this species.

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