

# *Eucalyptus suffulgens*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Adnataria | Terminales | Rhodoxylon | Concolores

## Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus suffulgens** L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 4 92) 341 (1991).



T: Queensland: Callide open cut, c. 25 km north-east of Biloela, 24° 18' S 160° 37' E, L.A.S.Johnson 7123, 2 June 1971; holo: NSW; iso: BRI, CANB.

## Description

**Tree** to 25 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Ironbark**, dark grey to black. Branches c. 5 cm diameter or narrower often smooth-barked.

Oil glands sometimes present in the pith of the branchlets.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm)**: stem square in cross-section, not glaucous, smooth; juvenile leaves opposite for a few pairs, becoming alternate, sessile to shortly petiolate (petioles ca 0.5 cm long), ovate to lanceolate, 7–13 cm long, 0.6–4(4.6) cm wide, base tapering or sometimes oblique, apex pointed, glossy dark green, discolourous.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 0.8–2(2.5) cm long; blade lanceolate, rarely falcate, 8–16(18.5) cm long, (1)1.5–2.5(3.4) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous to slightly discolourous, glossy, green, side-veins usually at an angle less than 45° to the midrib, sometimes slightly greater than 45° to midrib, densely to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and well removed from the margin, oil glands intersectional.

**Inflorescence** terminal compound, or axillary compound or sometimes axillary single in axils below this, peduncles (0.8)1–2(2.2) cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicels 0.3–1 cm long. **Mature buds** obovate to pyriform, 0.7–1 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, rarely ovoid, scar present, operculum conical to rarely slightly beaked and narrower and much shorter than the hypanthium, stamens inflexed, with outer filaments lacking anthers (staminodes), anthers adnate, positioned obliquely at filament tip, cuboid, dehiscing by terminal pores, style long, stigma pin-head, locules 4 or 5, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** on pedicels 0.3–0.9 cm long, barrel-shaped, rarely cup-shaped to almost cylindrical, 0.7–1.3 cm long, 0.5–1 cm wide, disc descending, valves 4 or 5, enclosed.

**Seeds** brown, 2–2.5 mm long, flattened-ovoid, shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10)**: cotyledons reniform to oblong; stems square in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for ca 3 to 5 nodes then alternate, linear to narrowly lanceolate to lanceolate, 8–15(16) cm long, 0.8–2.2 cm wide, base tapering, glossy green.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in April, May, July, August and September.

## Notes

A small to medium-sized ironbark tree endemic to south-east Queensland, preferring hills and ranges, from the Biloela area to the Byfield Range and Stanage Bay area just north of Rockhampton then west through the Blackdown Tableland – Expedition Range east of Rolleston – Carnarvon Ranges – Isla Gorge region as far south as the area just east of Mitchell. It is characterised by concolorous glossy green adult leaves, terminal inflorescences, buds with staminodes, barrel-shaped fruit with four or five valves and linear to narrowly lanceolate to lanceolate juvenile leaves.

Within its subgroup, i.e. subseries *Concolores*, *E. suffulgens* is very close to *E. dura* and differs only marginally by having slightly bigger fruit (0.6–1 cm wide for *E. suffulgens* and 0.5–0.7 cm wide for *E. dura*) and slightly narrower juvenile leaves (0.8–2.5 cm wide for *E. suffulgens* and 3–6 cm wide for *E. dura*). It must also be close to *E. sicilifolia*. Both species have relatively narrow juvenile leaves. *E. sicilifolia* differs by having smaller fruit (0.4–0.6 cm wide in *E. sicilifolia* and 0.6–1 cm wide in *E. suffulgens*). The only other members of the subseries *Concolores* with glossy green leaves similar to *E. suffulgens* are *E. melanoleuca* and *E. virens*. *E. melanoleuca* differs by having ovate juvenile leaves (linear to narrowly lanceolate to lanceolate in *E. suffulgens*) and *E. virens* has smaller hemispherical to obconical fruit (0.5–0.7 cm wide in *E. virens* and 0.6–1 cm wide and barrel-shaped in *E. suffulgens*). All other members of this subseries have dull adult leaves.

All the species in the subseries *Discolores*, i.e. *E. paniculata*, *E. decolor*, *E. placita* and *E. sp. Dorsiventralis*, differ by having distinctly



discolorous adult leaves (*E. suffulgens* with concolorous to slightly discolorous adult leaves). *E. sp. Dorsiventralis* differs further by having four-sided fruit.

Within its area of occurrence there are other ironbarks which maybe confused with *E. suffulgens*. They are *E. beaniana*, *E. crebra*, *E. decorticans*, *E. fibrosa* subsp. *fibrosa*, *E. fibrosa* subsp. *nubila*, *E. melanophloia*, *E. rhombica* and *E. tholiformis*, all of which differ in having buds with stamens all fertile and irregularly flexed.

*Eucalyptus sideroxylon* differs by having buds that hold the outer operculum into maturity and both the inner and outer operculum shed together at anthesis (no operculum scar).

### MORE ABOUT IRONBARKS

#### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus suffulgens*: Latin *sub-* (assimilated to *suf* before *f*), somewhat and *fulgens*, shining, referring to the somewhat glossy adult leaves.

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