

# *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*

## Redwood

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Decurrentes

### Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*** Maiden, *J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales* 53: 58 (1919).

T: Western Australia: Kalgoorlie, Sep. 1909, *J.H.Maiden s.n.*; holotype: NSW348889.

*Eucalyptus uncinata* var. *rostrata* Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 3: 216 (1867), in part. T: Western Australia: cited as "Phillips Range, Maxwell; Murchison River, Oldfield, also Drummond, 5th collection n. 186" see: L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 8: 199 (1999) for further clarification.

*Eucalyptus oleosa* var. *glauca* Maiden, *J. Western Australian Nat. Hist. Soc.* 3: 171 (1911). T: Western Australia: 70 miles north of Kurrawang, *J.H.Maiden*, Sep. 1909; lectotype: NSW *vide* L.A.S.Johnson & K.D.Hill, *Telopea* 8: 199 (1999).

### Description

**Tree or mallet** to 12 m tall. Lignotuber absent.

**Bark** smooth throughout, white to grey with pale pink or pale orange patches.

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

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stem square in cross-section, glaucous to non-glaucous; juvenile leaves opposite becoming alternate further up the stem, sessile, ovate to rarely elliptic, base decurrent on stem, margin entire, apex pointed, 3.5–5.5 cm long, 1.3–2.5 cm wide, dull grey-green to glaucous.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 0.8–2.2(2.5) cm long; blade lanceolate, sometimes falcate, 5–15 cm long, 0.8–2 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull, blue-green to green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, moderately to densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin, oil glands mostly intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.5–1.6 cm long, erect to pendulous; buds usually 7, rarely more than 7, pedicellate, pedicels 0.4–0.7 cm long. **Mature buds** ± ovoid to oblong (1.3–2.2 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide), glaucous, scar present, operculum beaked to horn-shaped (0.8–1.5 cm long), stamens irregularly flexed, anthers versatile, basifixed, globose, dehiscing by slits, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers pale yellow.

**Fruit** erect to pendulous, pedicellate, pedicels 0.3–0.6 cm long, urn-shaped to barrel-shaped, rarely truncate-globose, usually glaucous but glaucousness weathering with age, 0.6–1 cm long, 0.5–0.9 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, valve tips strongly exerted due to fragile style remnants.

**Seeds** brown to grey, 1.5–2 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, rarely pointed at one end, occasionally with shallow longitudinal furrows on otherwise smooth dorsal surface, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems square in cross-section and prominently winged due to decurrent leaf bases; leaves opposite, sessile, linear for the first few nodes then linear to ovate to elliptical, dull grey-green to glaucous, 1.2–3 cm long, 0.3–1.7 cm wide, leaf base decurrent on stem.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in August, September, October and December.

### Notes

A small to medium-sized smooth-barked tree endemic to southern and central goldfields of Western Australia, widespread from the Frank Hann National Park area (just west of Salmon Gums), east to the Fraser Range area, then north through the Kalgoorlie–Coolgardie–Southern Cross region to just south of Menzies. It has a dull bluish green crown, glaucous branchlets, strongly beaked buds in clusters of 7 and yellowish flowers. The margins of the seedling and juvenile leaves are continuous with the stem (decurrent).

*Eucalyptus transcontinentalis* belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because buds have two opercula initially, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. transcontinentalis* is



part of the large taxonomic series *Subulatae* further characterised by globose basifixed anthers, grey smooth seeds with shallow longitudinal furrows, and fruit with persistent exerted style remnants. Series *Subulatae* is divided principally into four subseries based on the juvenile leaves, one with spiral, crowded seedling phyllotaxis (subseries *Spirales*), another with decussate and strongly decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decurrentes*), another with decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decussatae*), and a fourth with disjunct, petiolate seedling leaves (subseries *Oleaginae*).

*Eucalyptus transcontinentalis* is part of subseries *Decurrentes*. It is most closely related to *E. moderata* (from the northern wheatbelt extending eastwards to north of Kalgoorlie) and *E. hypolaena* (from east of Kalgoorlie). Both these are easily distinguished from *E. transcontinentalis* by the black butt of rough bark. *E. transcontinentalis* is also closely related to the smooth-barked mallet, *E. optima*, which occurs east of Norseman towards Balladonia. This species has larger buds and fruit, the fruit being truncate-globose rather than urn-shaped, as they commonly are in *E. transcontinentalis*. All four taxa have lemon-yellow flowers.

Another smooth-barked tree species very closely related to *E. transcontinentalis* is the recently described *E. rhomboidea* which has a restricted distribution west of Salmon Gums. It is similar in most respects except the shape of the buds, which are not beaked and vaguely diamond-shaped in outline, and the fruit which are cup-shaped rather than urn-shaped. The juvenile growth of the two species is indistinguishable. The distribution of *E. rhomboidea* is an isolated area within the distribution of *E. transcontinentalis* but the two don't grow together.

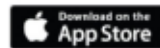
The subspecies *E. transcontinentalis* subsp. *semivestita* included an earlier edition of EUCLID is now regarded as being synonymous with *E. moderata*.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*: referring to the Transcontinental Railway Line which passes through the area of its distribution, Western Australia.

---

Copyright © CANBR 2020, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid>