

Eucalyptus vokesensis

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Decussatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus vokesensis D.Nicolle & L.A.S.Johnson, *Telopea* 8 (2) 194 (1999).



T: c. 130 km N of Cook along track to Vokes Corner, South Australia, *J.Z. Weber* 6343, 19 Aug. 1980; holotype: AD; isotype: CANB, NSW.

Description

Mallee to 7 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark rough, fibrous, grey-brown, on lower trunks and large branches; smooth bark light grey or pale coppery brown or cream, often decorticating in ribbons or strips.

Branchlets lacking oil glands in the pith, always glaucous.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem usually square in cross-section, glaucous; juvenile leaves sessile, becoming shortly petiolate further up the stem, non-decurrent, opposite for few many pairs, becoming sub-opposite then alternate, ovate to broadly lanceolate or elliptical, usually glaucous.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1–2.7 cm long; blade ovate to broadly lanceolate, 7–11 cm long, 2–5.4 cm wide, base usually rounded, sometimes tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull blue-grey to glaucous, side-veins at a wider angle than 45° to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and usually well removed from the margin, oil glands intersectional.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.9–2.2 cm long, buds usually 9 to 13 per umbel, rarely more than 15 per umbel, pedicellate, pedicels 0.5–0.9 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid (1.2–2 cm long, 0.5–0.8 cm wide), glaucous, scar present, operculum beaked or horn-shaped (0.7–1.2 cm long), stamens irregularly flexed, anthers adnate or weakly versatile, globoid, dehiscing by broad lateral pores, style long, stigma tapered, locules 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers pale yellow.

Fruit pedicellate, pedicels 0.2–0.6 cm long, cup-shaped to ± barrel-shaped to slightly urceolate, 0.7–1 cm long, 0.6–0.9 cm wide, disc descending obliquely, valves 4, enclosed but surmounted with prominently exerted but easily broken style remnants.

Seeds grey to brown, 1.5–2.5 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface smooth, sometimes furrowed, hilum ventral.

Cultivated seedlings (measured at node 10): cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems square in cross-section, glaucous; leaves opposite, sessile, ovate to elliptical to broadly lanceolate, 3.7–8 cm long, 2–3.6 cm wide, base rounded to tapering, dull blue-grey to glaucous.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in July, August and September.

Notes

A mallee of the deep red sands of the Great Victoria Desert in South Australia, restricted to north and south of Vokes Hill in the Ooldea Range. *E. vokesensis* is distinguished by its very glaucous branchlets, buds and fruit and by its crown of relatively large, ovate to broadly lanceolate adult alternate leaves.

Eucalyptus vokesensis belongs in *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Destitutae* because buds have two opercula, cotyledons are Y-shaped and branchlets lack oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection *E. vokesensis* is part of the large taxonomic series *Subulatae* further characterised by globoid 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 decurrent seedling leaves (series *Decurrentes*), another with decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decussatae*), and a fourth with disjunct, petiolate seedling leaves (subseries *Oleaginae*).

Eucalyptus vokesensis is part of subseries *Decussatae*.



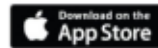
Within this subseries it is closest to *E. wyolensis*, *E. socialis* subsp. *victoriensis* and *E. socialis* subsp. *socialis*. *E. wyolensis* is easily separated by its mature crown of opposite, sessile juvenile leaves. *E. socialis* subsp. *socialis* is distinguished by frequently being non-glaucous and by having slightly smaller adult leaves, buds and fruit. *E. socialis* subsp. *victoriensis*, however, is not so easy to separate. The best feature is the consistently glaucous stems of *E. vokesensis* on seedling, juvenile and adult leafy branches. Both taxa have relatively large buds and fruit compared with subsp. *socialis*, those of *E. vokesensis* always being glaucous (the fruit may weather to non-glaucous). *E. socialis* subsp. *victoriensis* is normally not glaucous and its adult leaves are usually narrower than those in *E. vokesensis*. However populations of *E. socialis* subsp. *victoriensis* from the Wirulla area on the northern Eyre Peninsula may have typically narrow adult leaves but glaucous buds and young fruit.

Within its area of occurrence, *E. vokesensis* may be confused with another strikingly glaucous species *E. canescens* subsp. *canescens*. This belongs to an unrelated group of eucalypts (series *Rufispermae*) noted for having oil glands in the pith of the branchlets and glossy ruby red seeds. Also the buds of *E. canescens* subsp. *canescens* have a rounded operculum and the juvenile leaves are always petiolate and are soon alternate on the stem.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus vokesensis: referring to the area around Vokes Hill in the Great Victoria Desert north of Cook, South Australia, where this species was first discovered.

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