

Eucalyptus wyolensis

Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Decussatae

Nomenclature

Eucalyptus wyolensis Boomsma, *J. Adelaide Bot. Gard.* 11 (1) 59 (1988).



T: South Australia: 50 km W of Lake Maurice [south of Lake Wyola] (29° 25'S 130° E), 27 Dec. 1987, *G. White* 13; holo: AD; iso: CANB, K, NSW.

Description

Mallee to 7 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

Bark usually rough over most of the lower stem, sometimes extending to the larger branches, fibrous, light grey to brown; upper stem mostly smooth-barked, smooth bark grey to brown to cream.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stems markedly glaucous and square in cross-section; juvenile leaves opposite and sessile, cordate, 5–10 cm long, 4–7 cm wide, glaucous.

Adult leaves in the mature crown similar to juvenile leaves, opposite, sessile, cordate to ovate, bases amplexicaul to rounded, 5–10 cm long, 3–6 cm wide, concolorous, glaucous, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib but venation often obscured by the white surface wax, moderately to densely reticulate, oil glands intersectional and island.

Inflorescence axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.8–1.5 cm long, buds 7, 9 or 11, pedicellate, pedicels 0.4–0.6 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid (1.2–1.7 cm long, 0.6–0.8 cm wide), markedly glaucous, scar present, operculum beaked (c. 0.8 cm long), stamens irregularly flexed, anthers versatile, globoid, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers yellow.

Fruit pedicellate, pedicels 0.3–0.6 cm long, cup-shaped to barrel-shaped, glaucous, 0.8–1.1 cm long, 0.8–1 cm wide, disc descending obliquely, valves 3 or 4, valve tips strongly exerted due to fragile style remnants.

Seeds brown, 2–3 mm long, ovoid or flattened-ovoid, 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, glaucous; leaves opposite, sessile, cordate to ovate, 2.5–5 cm long, 1.7–3.5 cm wide, glaucous.

Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in July.

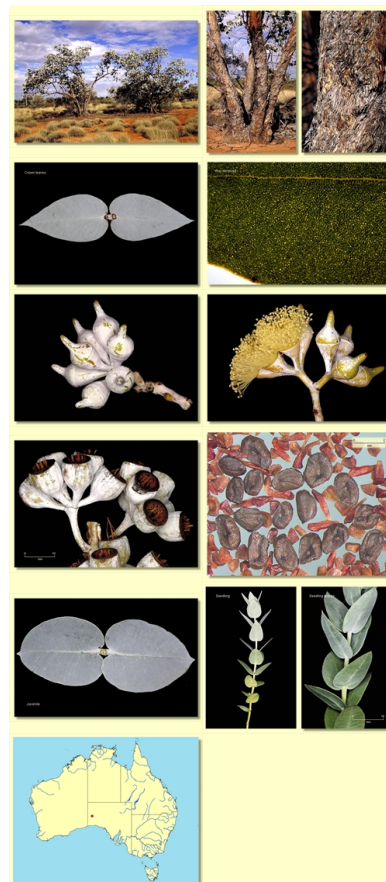
Notes

A straggly mallee known only from one small area in the Great Victoria Desert north of Cook, South Australia. (Cook is on the Transcontinental Railway Line.) The bark is rough on the lower half of the stems, the mature crown is very distinctive being composed of large, sessile, rounded grey juvenile leaves and the glaucous buds are beaked.

Eucalyptus wyolensis 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. wyolensis* is part of a large taxonomic series (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 (subseries *Decurrentes*), another with decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decussatae*), and a fourth with disjunct, petiolate seedling leaves (subserie *Oleaginae*).

Eucalyptus wyolensis is part of subseries *Decussatae*.

Because of its crown of juvenile leaves, *E. wyolensis* could only be confused with *E. gillii*, which occurs in the North Flinders Range of South Australia and from north of Broken Hill in New South Wales. *E. gillii* has smaller buds, leaves and fruits than *E. wyolensis*. Both have



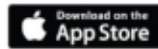
beautiful yellow flowers.

The juvenile crown also distinguishes *E. wyolensis* from *E. vokesensis*, which occurs in the Vokes Hill area of the Great Victoria Desert and has petiolate crown leaves which are dull blue-grey to glaucous. Another desert dwelling close relative of *E. wyolensis*, *E. socialis* subsp. *victoriensis*, which occurs in the southern fringes of the Great Victoria Desert from Forrest Lakes in Western Australian to the Gawler Ranges and north-western Eyre Peninsula in South Australia also differs in having a crown of petiolate adult leaves and buds only rarely glaucous.

Origin of Name

Eucalyptus wyolensis: referring to Wyola Lake, South Australia, near the only known occurrence of the species.

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