

# *Eucalyptus youngiana*

## Yarldarlba

### Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Curviptera | Xylocarpae

### Nomenclature

**Eucalyptus youngiana** F.Muell., *Fragm.* 10: 5 (1876).

*Eucalyptus pyriformis* subsp. *youngiana* (F.Muell.) Boomsma, *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Australia* 93: 161 (1969). T: Queen Victoria Spring, W.A., 1875, *J. Young s.n.*; syn: MEL; 'Fowlers Bay' [actually at Ooldea], S.A., Mar. 1875, *Police Trooper Richards s.n.*; syn: MEL.

### Description

**Mallee** to 8 m tall or, less commonly, trees to about 10 m. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** rough over part or all of trunk, grey, fibrous or shedding imperfectly in broad strips, smooth above, or on smaller stems smooth throughout, whitish grey over yellowish or salmon pink.

**Branchlets** glaucous or non-glaucous; lacking oil glands in the pith.

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves alternate, always petiolate, ovate-lanceolate, 7–16 cm long, 2.5–4.5 cm wide, base tapering to petiole or rounded, grey-green to blue-grey.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 1.5–3.2 cm long; blade usually lanceolate, 8.5–17 cm long, 1.5–3.7 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, dull, blue-green, side-veins greater than 45° to midrib, densely reticulate, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 1–2.5 cm long, stout, terete to angular, usually down-turned; buds 3, pedicellate, pedicels 0.5–1.5 cm long. **Mature buds** ovoid (4.5–6 cm long, 3–4.5 cm wide), coarsely ridged, glaucous or greeny-yellow, scar present, operculum beaked (2.8–4.2 cm long), stamens erect to oblique, arranged in 6 whorls, anthers oblong-globose, versatile, more or less basifixed, dehiscing by lateral slits, style long, stigma blunt, locules 4 to 6, the placentae each with 10 or 12 vertical ovule rows. Flowers red, pink or bright yellow.

**Fruit** spreading to rigidly down-turned, pedicellate to rarely sessile, pedicels (0)0.5–1.3 cm long, shortly and broadly obconical, 1.5–3 cm long, 3.3–6(7.2) cm wide, coarsely ridged longitudinally, disc raised, concave and often paler than the rest of the fruit, valves 4 to 6, at rim level.

**Seeds** brown-grey, 2.5–4 mm long, obliquely pyramidal, dorsal surface smooth to shallowly reticulate, sides prominently ribbed, well-developed marginal flange present, hilum terminal.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10):** cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected); stems rounded in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 7 nodes then alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 6–14.5 cm long, 2.5–6 cm wide, dull to slightly glossy, greyish green to green, thickish.

### Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in April, June, August, September and October.

*E. youngiana* is occasionally grown as an ornamental.

### Notes

A mallee widespread in the Great Victoria Desert from north of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia eastwards, north of the Nullarbor Plain in South Australia to south-east of Tarcoola, usually on sand, also on Mt Finke which is the only rocky site known. The bark is rough, loose, flaky over part or most of the stems, the adult leaves lanceolate, dull, light green to blue-green, inflorescences 3-budded and buds and fruit large (buds 3.5–4 cm wide).

*Eucalyptus youngiana* is most closely related to 3 other arid zone species *E. kingsmillii*, *E. sessilis* and *E. pachyphylla*, all with prominently ribbed to winged buds and fruit. *E. sessilis* and *E. pachyphylla* occur in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. *E.*



*sessilis* has buds in (3s)7s on erect peduncles to 0.5 cm long and fruit to 2 cm wide whereas *E. pachyphylla* has buds in threes on erect peduncles to 1 cm long and fruit to 3 cm wide. Both *E. youngiana* and *E. kingsmillii* have buds in threes on down-turned peduncles greater than 1 cm long. The buds and fruit of *E. youngiana* are larger (to 7.2 cm wide including ribs) compared with those of *E. kingsmillii* (to 4.5 cm including ribs). The flowers of *E. youngiana* are brilliant red, pink or bright yellow while *E. kingsmillii* subsp. *kingsmillii* has pale yellow flowers sometimes suffused basally with pink, and *E. kingsmillii* subsp. *alatissima* has pink or red flowers.

*Eucalyptus youngiana* 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. youngiana* is in series *Curviptera*, one of about 30 closely related species and subspecies which are further characterised by having large buds in umbels of one, three or seven, staminal filaments erect or oblique (rarely inflexed) in bud, and large fruit usually with an ascending disc and exerted valves. Several of these species are noted for their large-leaved crowns made up of juvenile leaves.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus youngiana*: after Jess Young (birth date not known–1880). Jess Young accompanied the explorer Ernest Giles on his 4th expedition across Australia in 1875. The party left Beltana, South Australia on the 6th of May and arrived in Perth on the 13th of November. This species was collected at Queen Victoria Spring, Western Australia, during this expedition.

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