

# *Eucalyptus longissima*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Subulatae | Oleaginae

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus longissima*** Nicolle, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 18 (6) 550 (2005).



T: Western Australia: 19.6 km south of Nepean Mine on Burra Rock road, *M.I.H. Brooker 9076*, 12 November 1985; holo: PERTH; iso: CANB, NSW.

[This species was referred to as *Eucalyptus grasbyi*. The type specimen of *E. grasbyi* is now regarded as belonging to *E. oleosa*, therefore a new name was required for this taxon. See Nicolle, *Austral. Syst. Bot.* 18 (6) 550 (2005)].

## Description

Usually a **mallee** to 8 m tall, rarely a slightly taller **tree**. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** usually rough over most of the lower stem, hard, fibrous, flaky, grey to brown; occasionally completely smooth-barked, smooth bark grey over coppery-brown, rarely white and slightly powdery.

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

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** not seen.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petiole 1–2 cm long; blade lanceolate, 5.5–11 cm long, 0.7–1.6(2) cm wide, base tapering to petiole, concolorous, glossy green, side-veins at an acute or wider angle to midrib, densely to very densely reticulate, intramarginal vein parallel to and just within margin or, rarely, confluent with margin, oil glands relatively sparse and mostly intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 0.7–1.7 cm long, buds usually more than 7 up to ?15, pedicellate, pedicels 0.3–0.7 cm long. **Mature buds** narrowly ovoid to fusiform (0.7–1.2 cm long, 0.2–0.6 cm wide), scar present, operculum conical to horn-shaped (0.4–0.9 cm long), stamens irregularly flexed, anthers adnate to weakly versatile, basifixed, globoid, dehiscing by lateral pores, style long, stigma tapered, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.3–0.8 cm long), truncate-globose, 0.4–0.6 cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3 or 4, valve tips strongly exerted due to fragile style remnants.

**Seeds** light brown to grey, 1–2 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 appearing rounded to square in cross-section, rarely slightly warty; leaves opposite, petiolate, dull grey-green for the first 5 to 7 nodes then alternate, petiolate, ovate to lanceolate further up the stem, 5.5–9 cm long, 1.3–3.2 cm wide, glossy to dull green.

## Flowering Time

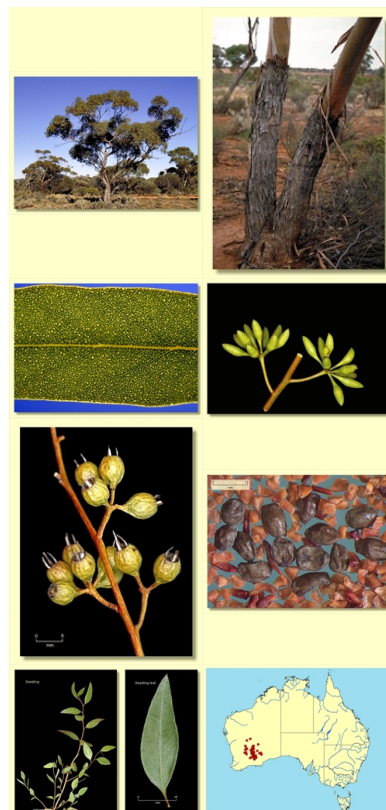
Flowering has been recorded in January, February, April, June, August, September and November.

## Notes

A mallee of the central Goldfields area of Western Australia, from Lake Barlee south-east to the Fraser Range. The bark is rough on the stems and the adult leaves glossy green.

*Eucalyptus longissima* 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. longissima* 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 (subseries *Decurrentes*), another with decussate non-decurrent seedling leaves (subseries *Decussatae*), and a fourth to which *E. longissima* belongs with disjunct, petiolate seedling leaves (subseries *Oleaginae*).

The other members of the subseries *Oleaginae* are: *E. kochii*, *E. eremicola* and *E. ultima*. Within this group, *E. longissima* can be



distinguished by its often large stature, the intramarginal vein close to the edge of the adult leaf, the long conical operculum, the small truncate-globose fruit and the long slender peduncles and pedicels.

It had been regarded as closely related to *E. longicornis*, a member of the subseries *Spirales*, which differs however in the taller stature, tree habit, rough bark over the whole trunk and the spiral, heath-like seedling leaves, typical of that subseries.

The petiolate, disjunct, seedling leaves of *E. longissima* separate it from another member of the *Spirales*, *E. oleosa*, which grows in the vicinity of *E. longissima* and superficially looks very similar to it. Without seedling leaves, the two species can be very difficult to distinguish. The intramarginal vein of *E. longissima* tends to be very close to the edge of the margin of the adult leaf, while in *E. oleosa*, it tends to be further removed from the edge of the adult leaf.

### Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus longissima*: Latin *longissimus*, - longest, referring to the long petioles on seedling leaves and also the long peduncles and pedicels.

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