

# *Eucalyptus pilbarensis*

## Classification

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Glandulosae | Accedentes

## Nomenclature

***Eucalyptus pilbarensis*** Brooker & Edgecombe, *Nuytsia* 5: 376 (1986).

T: Western Australia: W of Hamersley Gorge, 8 July 1983, *M.I.H. Brooker* 8236; holo: PERTH; iso: CANB, K, MEL, NSW.

## Description

**Mallee** to 3 m tall, sometimes a low **shrub**. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout, white and pale grey to pink or coppery.

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

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm)**: stems rounded in cross-section; juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate except for lowest pair, broadly lanceolate, ca 5–8 cm long, 2–5 cm wide, green, dull.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 1–2.3 cm long; blade lanceolate to falcate, 6–11.7(14.7) cm long, (0.7)1–2.2 cm wide, base tapering, margin entire, apex pointed, concolorous, glossy, green, side-veins at less than 45° to midrib, reticulation dense, intramarginal vein present, oil glands island and intersectional.

**Inflorescence** axillary single, peduncles broadly flattened, 0.3–1.6 cm long, buds 7, sessile or shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0–0.3 cm long). **Mature buds** cylindrical to elongated-obovate (0.9–1.4 cm long, 0.45–0.6 cm wide), scar present (outer operculum shed early), operculum hemispherical, stamens irregularly flexed to mostly inflexed, all fertile, anthers oblong, basifixed, versatile, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 3(4), the placentae each with 4 vertical ovule rows. Flowers white.

**Fruit** sessile or shortly pedicellate (pedicels 0–0.3 cm long), obconical to barrel-shaped or ± cylindrical; 0.8–1.2 cm long, 0.6–0.9 cm wide, disc descending vertically, valves 3(4), enclosed.

**Seeds** mid-brown, 1–2 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface shallowly reticulate, hilum ventral.

**Cultivated seedlings (measured at ca node 10)**: cotyledons Y-shaped (bisected), the lobes moderately broad; stems rounded or square in cross-section; leaves always petiolate, opposite for 4 to 7 nodes then becoming alternate, ovate-lanceolate, 5–9 cm long, 2.2–4 cm wide, base tapering, apex pointed, dull, green.

## Flowering Time

Flowering has been recorded in March and July.

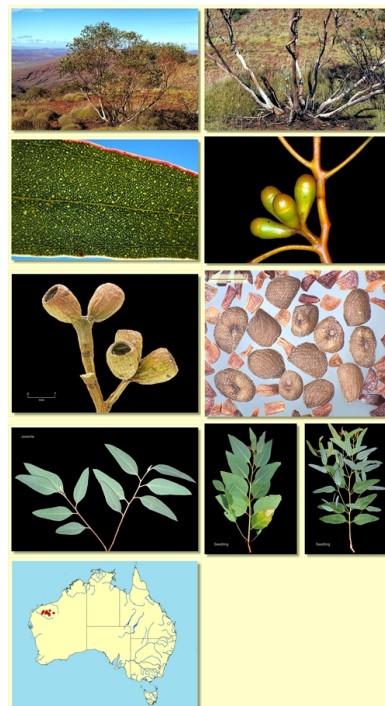
## Notes

A mallee endemic to the Pilbara Region of Western Australia, where found on upper slopes and mesa tops, e.g. Mt Nameless, Mt Robinson, above Hamersley Gorge, Mt Bruce, Roy Hill. recognised by having pith glands, glossy green leaves, smooth bark and blunt buds longer than wide and smooth long fruit on flattened peduncles.

*Eucalyptus pilbarensis* belongs to *Eucalyptus* subgenus *Symphyomyrtus* section *Bisectae* subsection *Glandulosae* because the cotyledons are bisected, buds have an operculum scar and the branchlets have oil glands in the pith. Within this subsection, *E. pilbarensis* belongs to a small subgroup of eight species, series *Accedentes*, further characterised by having buds with more or less inflexed stamens, ovules in four rows and juvenile leaves petiolate. The species, all Western Australian endemics, are *E. accedens*, *E. laeliae*, *E. leprophloia*, *E. pruiniramis*, *E. zopherophloia*, all of which occur well to the south of the Pilbara region, and *E. trivalva* and *E. prominens*, which occur in or near this region.

*E. pilbarensis* is distinguished from *E. trivalva* by having green, not glaucous juvenile growth, glossy, not dull, crown leaves, fruit with completely enclosed valves, and buds and fruit on much more broadly flattened peduncles. *E. trivalva* also usually has some loose rough bark whilst *E. pilbarensis* is completely smooth-barked.

*E. pilbarensis* is distinguished from *E. prominens* in usually having sessile buds and fruit on much broader peduncles, enclosed valves to the fruit and broader juvenile leaves. *E. prominens* is a mallee species of coastal limestone areas from Kalbarri north to Exmouth, and has some rough bark, exerted valves to the fruit, and in exposed windy areas may be virtually prostrate, whilst maintaining a typical mallee form in less exposed sites.



## Origin of Name

*Eucalyptus pilbarensis*: epithet based on the Pilbara geographic region of Western Australia.

---

Copyright © CANBR 2020, all rights reserved.



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