**Eucalyptus annuliformis**

**Badgerabbie mallee**

**Classification**

Eucalyptus | Symphyomyrtus | Bisectae | Destitutae | Curviptera | Xylocarpeae

**Nomenclature**


**Description**

**Mallee** to 3 m tall. Forming a lignotuber.

**Bark** smooth throughout, greyish.

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

**Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm):** juvenile leaves always petiolate, alternate, elliptical to broadly ovate, 5–7 cm long, 2–3.5 cm wide, dull, green.

**Adult leaves** alternate, petioles 1–1.5 cm long; blade elliptical to broadly lanceolate, 4–6.5 cm long, 1–1.7 cm wide, base tapering to petiole, margin entire, apex acute, concolorous, dull, green, side-veins usually greater than 45° to midrib or sometimes acute, reticulation dense, intramarginal vein close to margin, oil glands scattered intersectional, large.

**Inflorescence** axillary unbranched, peduncles 1–1.5 cm long, buds 7 per umbel, pedicellate (pedicels 0.4–0.6 cm long). **Mature buds** ovoid (1.1–1.7 cm long, 0.5–0.8 cm wide), scar present, operculum conical or sometimes slightly beaked, outer stamens erect, inner stamens inflexed, anthers oblong, versatile, dorsifixed, dehiscing by longitudinal slits, style long and straight, stigma blunt, locules 3 or 4, the placentae each with 4 vertical rows of ovules. Flowers white.

**Fruit** pedicellate (pedicels 0.5–0.8 cm long), usually hemispherical, 0.9–1.2 cm long, 1–1.4 cm wide, disc broad and flat sloping inwards slightly at the inner edge, valves 3 or 4, at rim level.

**Seeds** rarely formed and when formed not fertile; brown, 1–2 mm long, flattened-ovoid, dorsal surface more or less smooth, hilum ventral. Fruit contain mostly chaff particles.

**Cultivated seedlings** not seen.

**Flowering Time**

Flowering has been recorded in July.

**Notes**

A mallee endemic to Western Australia, occurring north of Perth, where known only from a few plants on Badgerabbie Hill south-east of Dandaragan and 2 farms to the north. Bark is smooth and the crown dull green.

_Eucalyptus annuliformis_ probably belongs in _Eucalyptus_ subgenus _Symphyomyrtus_ section _Bisectae_ subsection _Destitutae_ because buds have two opercula, branchlets lack oil glands in the pith and internal bud features are like other species in the group. Cotyledons, however, have not been seen. Within this subsection _E. annuliformis_ fits best 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 exserted valves.

_E. annuliformis_ appears to be closely related to _E. drummondii_ and may be a hybrid species deriving from it, although the other parent species is not obvious. It differs by the larger, non-glaucous buds with beaked opercula, and by the fruit with an inward-sloping disc, which is unusual for this group of species. It produces heavy bud and fruit crops but repeated collections have resulted in a copious yield of chaff and very few seed, none of which has germinated.

**Origin of Name**

_Eucalyptus annuliformis_: Latin _annuliformis_, ringlike, referring to the disc of the fruit.