

Eucalyptus acies

Woolbernup mallee

Name: From the Latin *acies* (sharp edge or angle), referring to its strongly angular young branchlets.

The common name refers to the occurrence of the species at Woolbernup Hill, in Fitzgerald River NP.

Authority: *Eucalyptus acies* Brooker, *Nuytsia* 1: 245 (1972). T: Woolbernup Hill, Fitzgerald River Reserve [NP], WA, 4 Aug 1970, M.L.H. Brooker 27725 (holo: PERTH; iso: CANB, GAUBA, K, MEL, NSW, PERTH).

Features: Multi-stemmed shrub or dense mallee, lignotuber resprouter. Bark smooth. Branchlets strongly angular. Adult leaves coarse, bluish green to green. Buds and fruits in groups of sevens, held on rigidly down-turned group stalks. Bud caps short, rounded to bluntly conical. Fruits with a broad, level to slightly ascending disc.

Distribution & Habitat: Endemic to the south-west region. Known only from the south coast of WA, where it is restricted to two disjunct areas, one north-east of Albany, in the area bounded by Mt Manypeaks, North Sister NR, and the Green Range, and the other on Mid Mt Barren and surrounding hills (e.g. Thumb Peak and Woolbernup Hill) in Fitzgerald River NP. It is restricted to hilly or undulating terrain, on shallow or stony loams or on white sand. It grows as a component of dense mallee shrubland. Commonly associated eucalypts

Eucalyptus subg. *Eucalyptus*
sect. '*Frutices*' ser. *Proximae*

include *E. decurva*, *E. doratoxylon*, *E. goniantha* subsp. *goniantha*, *E. preissiana* subsp. *preissiana* and *E. staeri*.

Notes: *Eucalyptus acies* is a distinctive species that is unlikely to be confused with any other. It is not closely related to any other species, and can be easily distinguished from other associated *E.* subg. *Eucalyptus* species by its strongly angular branchlets, and its rigidly down-curved buds and fruits, among numerous other distinguishing characteristics.

Eucalyptus acies rarely hybridises with associated *E.* subg. *Eucalyptus* species in the wild, including with *E. buprestium*, *E. marginata* subsp. *marginata*, *E. preissiana* subsp. *preissiana* and *E. staeri*. These rare hybrids are usually conspicuous in the field, as they look quite different to both parent species, with their features being intermediate between the parental species.

Conservation Status: Not currently conservation listed by WA (10th May 2019). Some of the western populations are well conserved in Waychinicup NP and North Sister NR. The eastern populations all occur in Fitzgerald River NP.



Cheyne Beach, east of Manypeaks



Bluff Creek Road, east of Manypeaks



Painted seedling of unknown provenance



Description: *Shrub* or *mallee*, to 4 m tall, lignotuberous. Crown dense. **Bark** smooth, pinkish grey to cream, shed in strips. **Branchlets** strongly angular, not glaucous, pith glands absent. **Juvenile leaves** sessile, opposite, elliptical to broad-lanceolate, dull, blue-green. **Adult leaves** subopposite, shortly petiolate, elliptical to lanceolate, 80–135 mm × 20–40 mm, dull and blue-green at first, maturing glossy and green. **Umbels** 7-flowered, held on rigidly down-turned peduncles 15–32 mm long. **Buds** club-shaped to globular, 6–11 mm long × 7–10 mm wide, pedicels 2–9 mm long. **Opercula** rounded to bluntly conical, much shorter than hypanthia, smooth to very slightly ribbed. **Flowers** cream, occurring mainly in spring and summer. **Fruits** obconical to cupular, 9–13 mm long × 13–15 mm wide, irregularly ribbed, rim thick, disc broad, level to slightly ascending, valves 3, around rim level. **Seeds** black.