

Eucalyptus pimpiniana

pimpin mallee

Name: The scientific and common name is from its Indigenous Australian name.

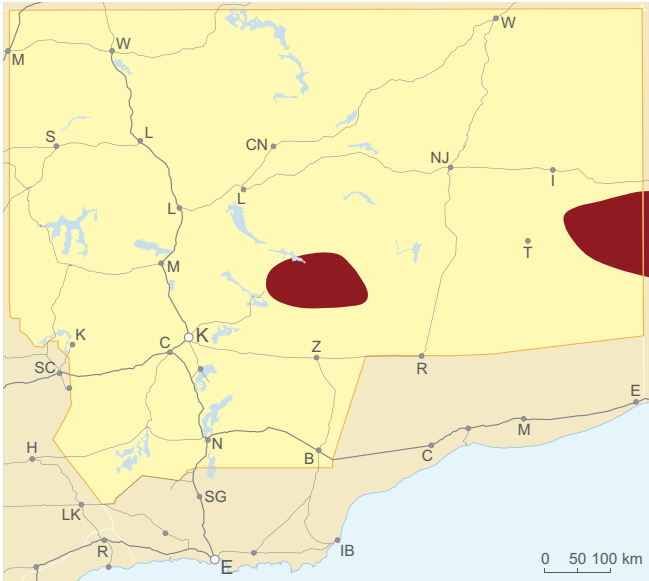
Authority: *Eucalyptus pimpiniana* Maiden, Crit. Rev. *Eucalyptus* 2(6): 211 (1912). Type: east of Ooldea, north of Fowlers Bay, SA, Jun 1909, H.Deane s.n. (holo: NSW; iso: K).

Key features: On reddish sandplains or sand dunes. Multi-stemmed, dense-crowned, low-growing mallee, lignotuber resprouter. Adult leaves dull, greyish, venation obscured by densely-packed oil glands. Buds and fruits in groups of 7 to 19, pendulous. Buds cylinder-shaped, much longer than wide. Flowers yellow. Fruits cylinder-shaped to barrel-shaped, much longer than wide.

Distribution & Habitat: **WA, SA.** Restricted to the southern half of the Great Victoria Desert in WA and SA, where it occurs in two disjunct areas, one in the Pinjin to Mulga Rockhole area (north-east of Kalgoorlie) eastwards to south-west of Plumridge Lakes, the other east of Tjuntjuntjara, extending eastwards into SA as far as the Barton area. It grows on red sands on plains and dunes, in open mallee shrubland. Associated eucalypts in WA include *E. ceratocorys*, *E. concinna*, *E. gongylocarpa*, *E. horistes*, *E. hypolaena*, *E. mannensis* subsp. *mannensis*, *E. omissa*, *E. plumula* and *E. socialis* subsp. *victoriensis*, all of which are usually taller growing than *E. pimpiniana* in the field.

Notes: A distinctive species with no known relatives. It is unlikely to be confused with any other species in the field due to its low, dense, shrubby habit, its broad, thick, dull, greyish leaves which are densely packed with oil glands, its creamy-yellow to yellow flowers, and its long, cylindrical buds and fruits.

Eucalyptus pimpiniana has become a popular small garden plant across the drier parts of southern Australia, mainly for



subgenus *Symphyomyrtus*
sect. *Dumaria*, ser. *Dissonae*

its ornamental appeal due to its low habit, bluish leaves and profuse yellowish flowers.

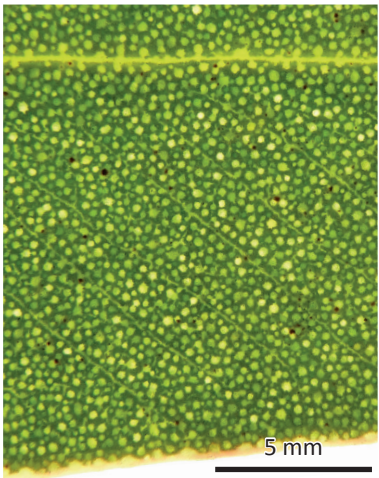
In cultivation, *E. pimpiniana* commonly hybridises with the WA goldfields species *E. torquata* (coral gum), resulting in interesting individuals that display characteristics intermediate between these two very different-looking species. The two species do not hybridise in the wild because their natural distributions do not overlap.

Conservation status: Key reserve in the goldfields is Great Victoria Desert NR.

World:	<i>IUCN Red List: Least Concern</i> (2025).
National:	<i>EPBC Act 1999: Not listed</i> (2025).
State (WA):	<i>BC Act 2016: Not listed</i> (2025).
State (WA):	<i>DBCA: Priority 3</i> (2025).



Painting of seedling from the Ooldea Range, SA



Description: Multi-trunked *mallee* or *shrub*, 0.5–2 m tall, lignotuber resprouter. *Bark* smooth throughout, decorticating in ribbons and strips, pinkish-grey to tan to white. *Branchlets* non-pruinose; pith glands present. *Cotyledons* reniform. *Juvenile leaves* opposite for a few pairs then alternate, petiolate, ovate to lanceolate, 50–80 mm long × 22–40 mm wide, dull, grey-green to green. *Adult leaves* petiolate, lanceolate to broad-lanceolate, thick, 60–140 mm long × 16–33 mm wide, dull, blue-green to greyish; tertiary venation obscured due to densely-packed, round oil glands. *Inflorescences* axillary; umbels 7–19-flowered, pendulous; peduncles 12–35 mm long; pedicels 6–13 mm long. *Buds* cylindrical, sometimes faintly ribbed on hypanthia, 20–33 mm long × 8–11 mm wide; opercula beaked, smooth, equal in length or shorter than hypanthia. *Flowers* creamy-yellow to yellow; in summer and autumn. *Fruits* pedicellate, cylindrical to barrel-shaped, pendulous, smooth to occasionally faintly ribbed, 14–22 mm long × 9–13 mm wide; disc descending; valves 3 or 4, below rim level. *Seeds* dark grey-brown.