

# FLORA OF AUSTRALIA

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## *Austrobaecka* Rye

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– Rye, B.L. (9 December 2021), *Austrobaecka*, a new south-western Australian genus of Myrtaceae (Chamelaucieae: Hysterobaeckeinae). *Nuytsia* 32: 178-180. Fig. 1 (map)

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### Nomenclature



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### Etymology



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From the Latin *austro-* (southern-) and the genus *Baeckea* L., under which the species were previously included.

### Description

Shrubs glabrous. Leaves opposite, decussate, small, shortly petiolate; blade thick, dorsiventrally compressed to bilaterally compressed but commonly about as thick as wide, entire. Peduncles 1–3 (–9)-flowered (never consistently 1-flowered), often shorter than the pedicels. Flowers actinomorphic. Hypanthium broad, usually shallowly cup-shaped, adnate to ovary for most of its length. Sepals 5, persistent in fruit, much shorter than the petals, dorsally ridged to prominently horned. Petals 5, widely spreading in flower, shed in fruit, very broadly obovate to ± circular, 1.2–4 mm long, white on inner surface; antipetalous colleters often present, minute. Staminodes rare or absent. Stamens inflexed in bud, (2–) 5–13 (–25), with 0–5 opposite each sepal or rarely in a complete circle, commonly 8 in the arrangement 2,2,1,2,1, geniculate at the base of the connective, much shorter than the petals. Filaments free, slender, ± terete. Anthers ± globular but broader than the length of the thecae, introrse, dehiscent by two pores or short slits that tend to diverge basally; thecae short, closely connate, their junction marked by a groove; connective gland fused over its full length, not greatly protruding below the thecae, becoming hollowed on the exposed surface. Ovary inferior, 2- or 3-locular; summit glandular, green at first, becoming deep pink to red in fruit; placentas

axile, distinctly stalked; ovules 5–14 per loculus. Style with base deeply inset. Fruits small, 2/3 to fully inferior, 2- or 3-valvate, many-seeded. Seeds faceted, often wedge-shaped, 0.45–1 mm long; testa crustaceous, yellowish to dark brown, colliculate on lateral surfaces.

## Diagnostic Features

Distinguished from other species of *Austrobaekea* by the following combination of characters: peduncles 1–9-flowered (never consistently 1-flowered); anthers small, broader than the length of the thecae; connective gland fused, very shortly protruding below the thecae, becoming hollowed; ovules 5–14 per loculus; fruits dehiscent by 2 or 3 terminal valves; seeds faceted.

## Chromosome Numbers

Unknown.

## Biostatus

Native.

## Distribution

A genus of 8 species endemic to Western Australia, extending from north of Lake Muir east to Cape Arid National Park and north to the Merredin area, with its greatest concentration of species along the south coast.



## Ecology

The small white flowers attract insects to readily accessible nectar. Like other genera of tribe Chamelaucieae that occupy damp habitats, *Austrobaekea* has small seeds.



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## Nomenclature and Typification

*Austrobaekea* Rye, *Nuytsia* 32: 178–180 (2021). Type: *Austrobaekea verrucosa* (Turcz.) Rye.

## Taxonomic Notes

The closest affinities of this genus remain unclear.

## Illustrations

B.L. Rye, *Nuytsia* 32: 184, fig. 3 (2021).

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## Source

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## Taxonomy



- Kingdom: Plantae ()
- Phylum: Charophyta

- Class: Equisetopsida

- Subclass: Magnoliidae

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- Superorder: Rosanae ()
- Order: Myrtales ()
- Family: Myrtaceae (</opus/foa/profile/Myrtaceae>) ()
- Genus: *Austrobaecka* (</opus/foa/profile/Austrobaecka>) ()

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