

FLORA OF AUSTRALIA

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Enekbatus Trudgen & Rye

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Etymology

From the Greek *enekbatos* (without outlet), referring to the indehiscent fruit.



Description



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Small or moderate-sized shrubs, often producing adventitious roots from prostrate stems. Leaves opposite, decussate, small, shortly petiolate, concolorous. Peduncles absent or less than 0.5 mm long, the flowers (in all but 1 species) subtended by 1 or 2 bracts as well as 2 bracteoles. Bracts shorter than and often more leaf-like than the bracteoles. Bracteoles usually persistent, broad, usually partially to fully concealing hypanthium. Flowers axillary, solitary (rarely paired), sessile or almost sessile, actinomorphic. Hypanthium adnate to ovary for at least half its length, the free part flared. Sepals 5, much smaller than petals, persistent in fruit. Petals 5, widely spreading in flower, pale to deep pink or purplish, shed in fruit or (in 2 species) persistent; antipetalous colleters usually absent. Staminodes absent. Stamens inflexed in bud, 10–25 in a circle, ± equidistant, if 10 then with 1 opposite each sepal and petal, much shorter than the petals. Filaments free, narrow. Anthers dorsifixed, versatile, about as broad as long; thecae parallel, longitudinally dehiscent; connective gland free, dorsal-subterminal. Ovary inferior, 2–5-locular; placentas axile, small, ± sessile; ovules 2 (–4) per loculus, collateral or superposed (very rarely both). Style base deeply inset in a cylindrical depression. Fruits indehiscent, fully to c. 1/2 inferior, thick-walled, few-seeded, usually partially reddish or purple, ± sessile. Seeds ± obovoid or ± ellipsoid to ± reniform, 1.1–1.8 mm long, without an aril; testa soft or somewhat crustaceous, often thin, smooth to tuberculate.

Diagnostic Features

Distinguished primarily by its ± sessile, woody, indehiscent, 2–5-loculate fruits. Other important characters: flowers (in all but 1 species) subtended by 1 or 2 bracts as well as 2 bracteoles, which conceal at least the lower part of the hypanthium; anthers versatile, with longitudinally dehiscent

thecae and a free connective gland.

Phenology

The genus flowers in winter and spring, with a peak in August and September.

Chromosome Numbers

Unknown.

Biostatus

Native.

Distribution

A genus of 10 species from southwestern and central Western Australia.

Ecology

Enekbatus comprises small shrubs that commonly produce adventitious roots from horizontal stems. Its pink flowers, with readily accessible nectar, attract native bees and varied other insects.

The very hard, indehiscent fruits are large and colourful, suggesting the possibility that their dispersal might begin with ingestion by birds.



Nomenclature and Typification

Enekbatus Trudgen & Rye, *Nuytsia* 20: 241–242 (2010). Type: *Enekbatus cryptandroides* (F.Muell.)

Trudgen & Rye.

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Taxonomic Notes

Enekbatus is closely related to *Rinzia* Schauer (Rye *et al.* 2020). There are two main groups of species, one with the ovules superposed and the other with the ovules collateral. The fruit is particularly hard in the former group, which has very thick walls between the loculi and tends to become divided transversely across the loculi as well. Convergent evolution in *Cheyनिया* Rye has led to a similar fruit type, although the fruits differ in being pedunculate.

Illustrations

M.E. Trudgen & B.L. Rye, *Nuytsia* 20: 231, fig. 1, <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/62134764> (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/62134764>); 233, fig. 2, <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/62134766> (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/62134766>); 234, fig. 3 (2010), <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/62134767> (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/62134767>).






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Source

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Taxonomy

- Kingdom: Plantae  ()
- Phylum: Charophyta
- Class: Equisetopsida
- Subclass: Magnoliidae
- Superorder: Rosanae  ()
- Order: Myrtales  ()
- Family: Myrtaceae (/opus/foa/profile/Myrtaceae)  ()
- Genus: Enekbatus (/opus/foa/profile/Enekbatus)  ()



Australian Plant Image Index
Enekbatus sessilis by Thiele, K.R., 27/08/2011 (© Thiele, K.R.)

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