

FLORA OF AUSTRALIA

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Euryomyrtus Schauer

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— Schauer, J.C. (1843), Genera Myrtacearum nova vel denuo recognita. *Linnaea: ein Journal für die Botanik in ihrem ganzen Umfange, oder Beiträge zur Pflanzenkunde* 17: 239

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Nomenclature

Schauer, J.C. (1843), Genera Myrtacearum nova vel denuo recognita. *Linnaea: ein Journal für die Botanik in ihrem ganzen Umfange, oder Beiträge zur Pflanzenkunde* 17: 239 ()

Etymology

From the Greek *eurys* (broad or widespread) and the genus *Myrtus* L. (myrtle), possibly referring to the prostrate or widely spreading habit of the type species or to the wide gap formed when the anthers dehisce longitudinally.

Type

Euryomyrtus diffusa (Sieber ex DC.) Schauer = *Euryomyrtus ramosissima* (A.Cunn.) Trudgen.

Description

Small, prostrate to erect shrubs. Leaves opposite, decussate, shortly petiolate or sessile, usually with 3–5 parallel veins visible on adaxial surface. Peduncles solitary in the axils, 1-flowered. Bracteoles opposite, persistent, ovate. Pedicels usually present. Flowers actinomorphic. Hypanthium broader than long, adnate to the ovary for more than half of its length. Sepals 5, much shorter than petals, persistent in fruit. Petals 5, widely spreading in flower, 1–6.5 mm long, white or pink, shed in fruit; antipetalous colleters usually prominent on a reddish, semicircular or more crescent-shaped base, absent in 1 species. Staminodes absent. Stamens inflexed in bud, 3–29 in a single series, often 10

with 1 opposite each sepal and petal, if 3–5 then all antipetalous, much shorter than the petals. Filaments free, narrow. Anthers dorsifixed, versatile; thecae parallel, longitudinally dehiscent; connective gland free, dorsal. Ovary usually half- or largely inferior, 3-locular; placentas sessile; ovules 2–6 per loculus, collateral when 2, in an arch if 3–6. Fruits dehiscent by 3 valves, largely inferior to largely superior, few-seeded. Seeds 1.3–2.3 mm long, usually with an obvious pale aril; testa crustaceous, colliculate or tuberculate, pale to moderately dark brown.

Diagnostic Features

Unique in having antipetalous colleters prominent on a reddish, semicircular or more crescent-shaped base in all but one species. Other important characters: leaf blades usually with parallel veins visible on adaxial surface; anthers versatile, with longitudinally dehiscent thecae and a free connective gland; seeds with an aril.

Phenology

In Western Australia the genus flowers primarily in winter and spring. Flowering times for the two eastern Australian species appear to be more variable.


Biostatus

Native.

Distribution

 genus of 7 species, one with 2 subspecies, widespread in southern Australia.

Ecology

 Two species are able to produce adventitious roots. The flowers attract varied insects to exposed nectar. Seeds usually have an obvious aril and are dispersed by ants.

Nomenclature and Typification

Euryomyrtus Schauer, *Linnaea* 17: 239 (1843); *Baeckea* sect. *Euryomyrtus* (Schauer) Benth., *Flora Australiensis* 3: 76 (1967). Type: *Euryomyrtus diffusa* (Sieber ex DC.) Schauer = *Euryomyrtus ramossissima* (A.Cunn.) Trudgen; lecto, designated by M.E. Trudgen, *Nuytsia* 13(3): 546 (2001).

Taxonomic Notes

The closest relative of *Euryomyrtus* remains unclear but it has been presumed to be related to genera with arillate seeds, such as *Rinzia* Schauer. The bracteoles tend to be stem-clasping and overlapping one another at the base or separated (sub-opposite) on a long stalk. There is usually just one pair of flowers borne near the end of each short lateral branchlet but there may be numerous such flowering branchlets along a more major stem.

Illustrations

W.J. Hooker, *Icones Plantarum; or Figures, with Brief Descriptive Characters and Remarks of New or Rare Plants*. London 3: t. 284, fig. 1A,B (1840), <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/16044157> (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/16044157>); J.H. Maiden & E. Betche, *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 34: pl. 32 (1909), <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/6381364> (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/6381364>); G.W. Carr, *Telopea* 1(6): 417, fig. 2 (1980), <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/57786798> (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/57786798>); J.A. Jeanes in N.G. Walsh & T.J. Entwisle (eds), *Flora of Victoria* 3: 1037, fig. 214h (1996); M.E. Trudgen, *Nuytsia* 13(3): 552, fig. 2 (2001), <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/53424805> (<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/53424805>); Peter G. Wilson in G.J. Harden (ed.), *Flora of New South Wales* rev. edn, 2: 214 (2002).

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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: *Euryomyrtus* (</opus/foa/profile/Euryomyrtus>)  ()



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Euryomyrtus maidenii by Thiele, K.R., 30/03/2013 (© Thiele, K.R.)

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