Tetrapora 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: 238

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: 238 ()

Etymology

From the Greek *tetra-* (four-) and *poros* (passage or pore), possibly referring to the anthers having 4 lobes, although their pollen is released via only two pores.

Top

Description

Shrubs small, glabrous, single-stemmed at base. Leaves opposite, decussate, shortly petiolate; blade dorsiventrally compressed or about as thick as wide, ± concolorous, not or scarcely pointed. Peduncles solitary in the axils, 1–21-flowered; secondary axes ± absent. Bracts and bracteoles somewhat scarious, shed in bud to persistent in late flower. Pedicels long. Flowers actinomorphic. Hypanthium shallowly cup-shaped to broadly campanulate, adnate to ovary for most of its length, dotted with oil glands. Sepals 5, much shorter than the petals, entire, not horned. Petals 5, widely spreading in flower, ± circular or very broadly obovate, 1.5–5 mm long, usually white (rarely pale pink), shed in fruit; antipetalous colleters absent or minute. Staminodes absent. Stamens inflexed in bud, 3–14, all or mostly antisepalous, variable in number within each species except in the regularly 5-staminate *T. glomerata*, geniculate at base of connective, much shorter than the petals. Filaments free, narrow. Anthers ± globular or ellipsoid including the non-protruding connective gland, with closely fused thecae, dehiscent by 2 terminal pores, the base not becoming hollowed after pollen release. Ovary inferior, 3- or less commonly 2-locular; summit dotted with oil glands, raised and usually becoming somewhat 3-lobed in fruit; placentas peltate; ovules (2) 3–12 per loculus, variable in number within each species and never uniformly 2, radially arranged. Style base deeply inset; stigma ± capitate, small. Fruits ½–⅔-inferior, 3- or less commonly 2-valvate, thin-walled. Seeds thinly crustaceous, unfacetted or weakly facetted, 0.4–1.1 mm long; testa pale to very dark brown, smooth.



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Diagnostic Features

Distinguished primarily by its globular to ellipsoid anthers with the connective gland fully enclosed and not becoming hollowed, and its unfacetted or weakly facetted seeds with a smooth testa. Other important characters: stamens 3–14, all or mostly antisepalous; ovary 3- or sometimes 2-locular; ovules (2–) 3–12 per loculus.

Chromosome Numbers

x = 11 (Rye 1979).

Biostatus

Native.

Distribution

A genus of 5 formally named species endemic to southwestern Western Australia, extending from near Winchester south to Collie and southeast to Cape Arid National Park.

Ecology

Flowers attract varied insect pollinators to readily accessible nectar. Small seeds are released from the summit of a valvate capsule.

Nomenclature and Typification

Tetrapora Schauer, *Linnaea: ein Journal für die Botanik in ihrem ganzen Umfange, oder Beiträge zur Pflanzenkunde* 17: 238 (1843). *Tetraspora* Miq., *Nederlandsch Kruidkundig Archief* 4(1): 150 (1856), *orth. var.* Type: *Tetrapora preissiana* Schauer.

Taxonomic Notes

Tetrapora belongs to the large subtribe Hysterobaeckeinae and appears to be very closely related to *Anticoryne* Turcz. (Nge *et al.* 2025), differing in having smoother seeds (Rye 2026). A common habit within the genus is one with long, erect, flowering stems from a bushy base that has much longer leaves than on the flowering stems.

Illustrations

B.L. Rye, *Nuytsia* 37: 52, fig. 1 I, J; 80, fig. 3 (2026).

Excluded or Uncertain Names

The name *Tetrapora* sp. Youndegin Hill (A.S. George 15772) (Western Australian Herbarium 1998–) has been applied to some of the relatively broad-leaved and large-flowered specimens from the very variable *T. preissiana* complex, which needs further study.

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Top

Source

Published 19 May 2026.

Taxonomy

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

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Last updated: Juliet Wege; Mar 18, 2026 1:08 Status: Partial

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Editor - J.A. Wege & K.S. Downes

Contributor - C.J. Ely provided technical support.

Cite this profile as: B.L. Rye. Tetrapora, in J.A. Wege & K.S. Downes (ed.), Flora of Australia. Australian Biological Resources Study, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water: Canberra. https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Tetrapora [Date Accessed: 10 June 2026]

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↑ Top