

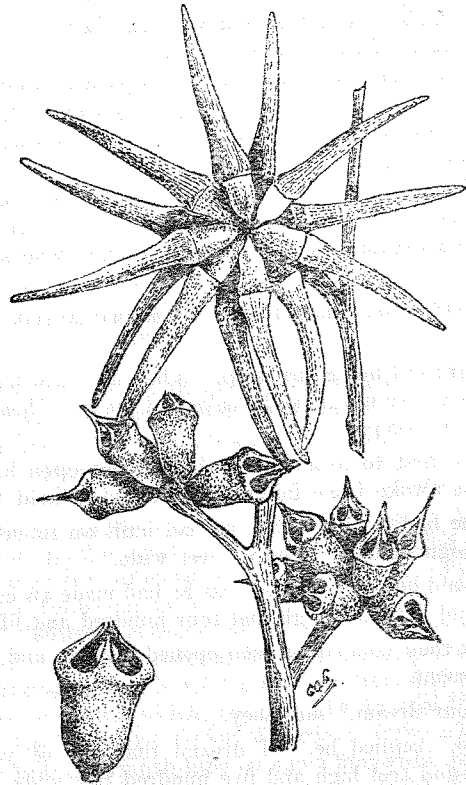
## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TREES.

## No. 10: The Yate.

*(Eucalyptus cornuta, Labill.)*

By C. A. Gardner, Government Botanist.

The Yate is not one of our commoner trees, but is of special interest by reason of the density and strength of its timber. Well grown specimens reach a height of 70 feet, but usually the trees are much smaller. They occur, as a rule, in small patches in depressions or on granite hills in the extreme south-west of the State, especially between King George Sound and the Vasse River. This tree should not be confused with the Swamp, or Flat-topped Yate (*Eucalyptus occidentalis*), which is common along parts of the Great Southern Railway, and is quite a different tree.



The Yate.

*(Eucalyptus cornuta, Labill.)*

The Yate, like some other Western Australian trees, assumes two forms: the tree, and the mallee. The latter form is found near Albany, the region of the Stirling Range, and eastwards towards Esperance. As a mallee it is a small straggling shrub of very untidy

growth, rarely exceeding six feet in height. The tree has a dark grey persistent bark with narrow and deep fissures on the trunk. The branches have loose ribbony bark which hangs from them in long strips of a greyish colour. The branchlets are smooth. The leaves are dark green and glossy and hang almost vertically; their oblique veins being rather conspicuous. The flowers are yellowish-white in dense heads on peduncles which are almost round in section (terete), about twelve flowers making up the head. The flowers possess no individual stalks, but are sessile and closely packed. The calyx-tube is almost pear-shaped, and the operculum long and horn-like—hence the name “cornuta.” The fruit is much the same shape as the calyx, and has prominent valves which remain more or less united at their tips. The seeds are very small and reddish-brown in colour.

The timber of the Yate is pale yellow in colour, and is one of the strongest and hardest timbers in the world, having a tensile strength almost as great as that of wrought iron. In the days of buggies and sulkies this timber was in great demand for shafts, and it is still generally used by wheelwrights.

The Yate tree might easily be confused with the Swamp Yate, but the bark is more fissured, and closer-fitting. The leaves are more glossy, and the heads of flowers with their peculiar fruits at once distinguish it from any other tree. The Swamp Yate prefers heavy cold clay soils subject to flooding, while the Yate is generally found in lighter soils, especially those derived from granite. The mallee form is not so easily recognized, unless one bears in mind the fact that the fruits with their characteristic valves are not joined into a solid mass as they are in its closest relative—the Bald- or Middle-Island Marlock (*Eucalyptus Lehmanni*).

## CONTRIBUTIONS BY PUPILS.

Owing to limited space we are reluctantly compelled to hold over the prize-winning essays written, for the recent exhibition of work, by pupils of Classes II., IV., VI., and VIII.

## LITTLE FOLKS' PAGE.

## PETER AND PENELOPE.

## Part 10: A Merry Christmas.

It was the day before Christmas Eve. Children all over the world were talking and dreaming of Santa Claus and plum puddings and bon bons and lots of other “Christmassy” things. But two little people that we know of had a more wonderful treat in store than even the visit of Santa Claus. Their Mummie and Daddy were arriving home on Christmas Eve.