

Eucalyptus stellulata

black sallee

subgenus: *Eucalyptus*; section: *Longitudinales*; series: n/a

AUTHORITY: *Eucalyptus stellulata* Sieber ex DC., *Prodr.* 3, 217 (1828).

Type: Port Jackson to Blue Mountains, N.S.W., 1823, *F.W.Sieber 478* (holo: G; iso: BM, FI, K, L, MEL, NSW, W).

NAME: From the Latin *stellulatus* meaning 'set with small stars', presumably referring to the stellar arrangement of the buds in the umbels.

DESCRIPTION: Tree, sometimes several-stemmed, 6 to 16 metres tall, forming a lignotuber. Bark usually rough on the lower stem(s), thin, moderately finely fissured, dark grey; smooth above, glossy, orange-tan to olive-yellow to greyish; rarely completely smooth-barked. Juvenile leaves 30 to 45 mm wide, dull, green to blue-green. Adult leaves broadly lanceolate, 13 to 25 mm wide, glossy and green; side veins near parallel. Buds and fruits on short peduncles, occurring in groups of 11 to 21+. Flower buds in sessile star-like clusters and lacking pedicels, with a pointed operculum. Flowers white, occurring mainly in summer. Fruits sessile (lacking pedicels), rounded to cup-shaped, 3 to 5 mm wide, with a level disc and valves around rim level.

DISTRIBUTION & HABITAT: *Eucalyptus stellulata* is of scattered occurrence in the cooler, alpine region of Victoria, extending into New South Wales in cool tableland regions as far north as the Tenterfield area. The species occurs at medium to high altitudes in locally wet habitats, such as around poorly-drained frost hollows, where it sometimes grows with *E. pauciflora* or *E. dalrympleana*, and in gullies and streamlines, where it may grow with species such as *E. camphora* subsp. *humeana* or *E. neglecta*.

CULTIVATION & USES: Occasionally cultivated, *E. stellulata* is useful for poorly drained soils in cool climates with reliable rainfall. In cultivation, the species forms a small, densely crowned tree and is useful for shade, shelter and screening. Tolerant of frosts and temporary snow.

NOTES: *Eucalyptus stellulata* is closely related to *E. mitchelliana* and differs from the latter in the rough bark on the lower trunk (completely smooth-barked in *E. mitchelliana*), the broader juvenile leaves, the broader adult leaves (adult leaves 10 to 15 mm wide in *E. mitchelliana*) and the smaller fruits.

Eucalyptus stellulata is similar to *E. species aff. moorei*, and is distinguished from the latter in the less depauperate habit, the usually rough bark on the lower stem(s) (completely smooth barked in *E. species aff. moorei*), the greener juvenile leaves and the glossy green adult leaves. The habitat of *E. stellulata* also differs from that of *E. species aff. moorei*, the former being restricted to poorly drained sites (*E. species aff. moorei* occurs on well-drained rocky, high-altitude sites).

