

## *Eucalyptus stoatei*

scarlet pear gum

**Name:** Named after Theodore Norman Stoate (1895–1979), a forester and conservator in WA from 1922 to 1953.

The common name refers to its reddish, pear-shaped buds. Also known as **pear gum**, **Stoate gum**, **Stoate's moort** and **yellow pea gum**.

**Authority:** *Eucalyptus stoatei* C.A.Gardner, Proc. Roy. Soc. W. Aust. 22: 126 (1936). T: Bandalup Creek, near Kundip, WA, Jun 1935, K.F.Dureau & J.E.Harrison s.n. (holo: PERTH; iso: K, NSW).

**Synonym:** Sometimes known as *Eucalyptus forrestiana* subsp. *stoatei* (Robinson 1985), but generally regarded as a distinct species.

**Features:** Single-trunked small tree, lignotuber absent, obligate seeder. Bark smooth. Adult leaves thick, green. Buds and fruits solitary, hanging on long stalks. Buds ribbed, shiny red at maturity. Flowers yellow. Fruits large, barrel-shaped, ribbed.

**Distribution & Habitat:** Confined to a small area east of Ravensthorpe, from the Bandalup Pools area near the Jerdacuttup River eastwards to the Jerdacuttup area on Jerdacuttup North Rd, and north-eastwards to Cheadanup NR, where it grades into the closely-related *E. forrestiana*. It grows in gravelly clays on undulating to level terrain. Commonly associated eucalypts include *E. cernua*, *E. conglo-*



*Eucalyptus* subg. *Symphyomyrtus*  
sect. *Dumaria* ser. *Tetrapterae*

*bata* subsp. *perata*, *E. kessellii* subsp. *eugnosta*, *E. leptocalyx* subsp. *leptocalyx*, *E. pleurocarpa*, *E. tetraptera* and *E. uncinata*.

**Notes:** The conspicuous buds and fruits are distinctive, and the species is unlikely to be confused with any other in the south-west region. *Eucalyptus stoatei* is occasionally planted as an ornamental small tree for its attractive reddish buds and yellowish to orange fruits.

*Eucalyptus stoatei* is most closely related to *E. forrestiana* (fuchsia gum), which occurs further east, in the Cascade to Mt Ney area in the Esperance region, and is also well known in cultivation as an ornamental. *Eucalyptus forrestiana* is distinguished from *E. stoatei* primarily by its smaller (although still large), four-winged (rather than multi-ribbed) buds and fruits. The two species intergrade in the area north-west of Munglimup on West Point Rd.

*Eucalyptus stoatei* occasionally hybridises with *E. tetraptera* (four-winged mallee) in the Jerdacuttup area, with these hybrids described as *E. xstoaptera* (the name derived from the two parent species). This hybrid has characteristics that are intermediate between its two very different-looking parents, most conspicuously in its orange flowers (*E. stoatei* has yellow flowers and *E. tetraptera* has bright pink flowers).

**Conservation Status:** Priority 4: Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring (Conservation Codes for WA Flora and Fauna, as listed on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019).



**Description:** **Tree (mallet)**, to 8 m tall, lignotuber absent, obligate seeder. Crown heavy. **Bark** smooth, grey to orange-tan. **Branchlets** not glaucous, without pith glands. **Juvenile leaves** petiolate, ovate to oblong, dull, slightly blue-green. **Adult leaves** petiolate, elliptical to oblong, 55–80 mm × 16–35 mm, thick, glossy, green. **Umbels** 1-flowered, held pendulous on peduncles 20–70 mm long. **Buds** ovoid, 28–55 mm long × 13–25 mm wide, coarsely ribbed, glossy, red at maturity, pedicels 7–10 mm long, stamens strongly inflexed. **Opercula** hemispherical to broadly conical. **Flowers** yellow, occurring sporadically throughout the year and peaking in summer. **Fruits** pedicellate, pendulous, barrel-shaped, 23–40 mm long × 20–30 mm wide, rim thick, disc descending, valves 3, enclosed. **Seeds** blackish.