

BRACHYSCOME/HELIPTERUM STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO.1

OCTOBER, 1981

We would like to welcome the following as members of the Brachyscome/
Helipterum Study Group:-

VIC. Joy Cook, 2 Lotus Crescent, Mulgrave 3170
Judy Barker, 9 Widford Street, East Hawthorn 3123
Beryl Birch, 45 Glen Orme Avenue, Ormond 3204
Bob Mylius, 318 Bamba Road, South Caulfield 3162
Ross Field, 4 Tyree Avenue, Springvale 3171
Eunice & Cyril Field, 4 Tyree Avenue, Springvale 3171
Claude Niero, 24 Bellini Avenue, Wheelers Hill 3150
Peter & Cheree Lewis, 45 Cornell Street, Burwood 3125
Joy Greig, 10 Stanfield Court, Glen Waverley 3150

N.S.W. Geoff Broadhead, 23 Robertson Street, Sutherland 2232
Mrs. G. Harvey, 5 Ellesmere Road, Gympie Bay 2227

W.A. John Colwill, Harper Seed Company, P.O. Box 111, South Perth 6151

~~S.A.Vic~~ Leila Huebner, Floribunda Nursery, Nelson 3292, via Mt. Gambier 5290

We hope that you will all be able to assist Joy and I in fulfilling our
objectives and aims, and that your association with the Study Group will be rewarding.

OBJECTIVES:

To promote the cultivation of Brachyscomes and Helipterums through
interested persons who are willing to fulfill the following aims:-

AIMS:

1. To find which species are available for cultivation.
2. Which methods are best for propagation and cultivation.
3. Evaluation of species for cultivation from a landscaping viewpoint.
4. Viability and life span of seed.
5. Best method of identifying different species.
6. Encourage people to give reports on particular species growing in and out
of their areas.
7. Promote the growth of rare and endangered species.

GENUS BRACHYSCOME:

We have found since starting the group contention over the correct spelling
of Brachyscome. The following paragraph has been taken from "A Horticultural Guide
to Australian Plants" on "Brachyscome Multifida":-

"The genus was originally spelt Brachyscome but later altered to Brachycome.
A case was put to the International Body to keep the latter spelling.
This was rejected, and so the correct spelling according to precedence is
BRACHYSCOME".

We have decided, therefore, to adopt this spelling.

Whilst on the subject of names, we find there is some confusion as to
whether the family name should be Compositae or Asteraceae. The following is an
extract from A.M. Blombery's book "Australian Native Plants" revised edition 1980:-

CHANGES IN BOTANICAL NOMENCLATURE

" Botanists in recent years have been bringing uniformity to plant family name
endings by ensuring that the name ends in 'aceae', and also that the family name is
based on an included genus, in accordance with Article 18 of the International Code of
Botanical Nomenclature.

Most plant family names end in 'aceae' and are based on an included genus; there are, however, some which are of a descriptive nature, e.g. the family Compositae refers to the composite nature of the inflorescence and does not end in 'aceae'. Thus this family name is now changed to ASTERACEAE, based on the genus Aster and ending in 'aceae'".

To avoid confusion, we will use the new family name followed by the older one in brackets, e.g. Asteraceae (Compositae).

SEED BANK:

Joy has been active in the past couple of months writing to several commercial outlets in each State trying to purchase a variety of seed for members. To date, we have found that there are very few species of *Brachyscome* and *Helipterum* seed available. If you know of anybody who has seed available, could you drop Joy a line. She will be grateful for your help.

Hereunder is a list of seed at present in Seed Bank, but we hope to have lots more by next Newsletter.

<i>Brachyscome</i>	<i>graminea</i>	<i>Helipterum</i>	<i>craspedoides</i>
"	<i>iberidifolia</i>		
"	<i>latisquamea</i>		
"	<i>lineariloba</i>		
"	<i>multifida</i>		

Passive members will be charged 20c per packet of seed to assist finances. Seed is free to active members, but forward a stamped self-addressed envelope with request to Mrs. Joy Cook, 2 Lotus Crescent, Mulgrave 3170.

Are there any members willing to collect seed to help us build up our seed bank in the next few months? For those members who are not aware of how to collect seed, the following will help:-

Don't collect in wet weather as seed retains moisture and fungus will destroy the seed rapidly.

Watch out for caterpillars eating the seed and destroying the whole head. When collecting spray with insecticide if in doubt.

With *Helipterums*, the fruit usually has a feathery pappus attached to it which assists in seed dispersal by wind. When these parachutes become loose in the centre of the flower head, the seed is mature and ready to harvest.

It is very important when forwarding seed to the bank to include the following information:-

Species name.	Date of collection.
Collector's name.	Place of collection.

If not identifiable, try if possible to include a pressed sample of the flower and foliage.

As I have not collected any *Brachyscome* seed myself, as yet, I will reserve my comments until next issue of Newsletter when I may have had more experience. As they strike readily from cuttings, this has been my main method of propagation.

We know that *Brachyscome iberidifolia* germinates very quickly (5 days or less), but Joy and I have had no success in germinating *Brachyscome latisquamea* or *lineariloba*. Anyone willing to advise of their experiences with these two species?

CUTTING EXCHANGE:

We would be pleased to hear from members who have cutting material available, or root cuttings for sale, so that we can publish it in our next Newsletter. Members who are interested, could make personal contact regarding cost and postage.

Struck cuttings can be exchanged by washing the sand from around the roots and packing with moist peat moss. The whole package is then wrapped in a plastic bag and sealed. The plant can then be posted in a carton. I believe Jiffy Bags are excellent for exchanging cuttings. Any other suggestions or methods of transportation

would be welcome.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION:

We need to acquire a good photographic collection of all species and forms of Brachyscomes and Helipterums with a view to starting a slide library and displays at flower shows etc. If there are any shutterbugs in the group, please let us know if you can help. Don't forget to include name of plant, where it is growing, whether in cultivation or in indigenous habitat.

Thank you Judy for starting off our collection with photos and slides of several species growing in your garden and in the Anglesea area. Judy also collected some seed for us of Brachyscome graminea which is growing in the swamps at Angahook, so if anybody is looking for a suckering plant, which grows rapidly in a wet situation, give this little one a try.

BRACHYSCOME ULIGINOSA "Small Swamp Daisy"

This delightful little daisy is endemic to Western Victoria according to Dr. Jim Willis.

It occurs naturally in swampy heathland in a wide variety of places from the Eltham-Kinglake district to the coast around Anglesea, from the Grampians to the Little Desert.

In August, around Anglesea, it pops up everywhere in open heath and in lightly forested areas under the stringybarks. The plant is completely inconspicuous until it sends up slender stems (10 to 25 cms. tall) topped by a single head, 2.5 - 3.0 cms. in diameter. Each flower head has white or pale mauve rays (less than 25), backed mauve, which seem to turn their faces to the sun - a most endearing trait for would-be photographers.

The leaves are small, thin, dark green tinged red or even dark plum red where exposed to salt-laden winds. They are usually entire, 4 - 9 x 0.5 - 1 cm., though they may be irregularly lobed. They are always broadest at the tip.

The stems are green, hairless, usually leafless, but sometimes have a few small leaves. Each rosette sends up several stems; usually a new bud is developing while each head is maturing, but sometimes three flowering stems will be sent up simultaneously.

The flowering period is said to extend from October to February, occasionally starting in September, but it probably varies with the season and from one area to another. In Anglesea it appears in August and I can't remember seeing it after October.

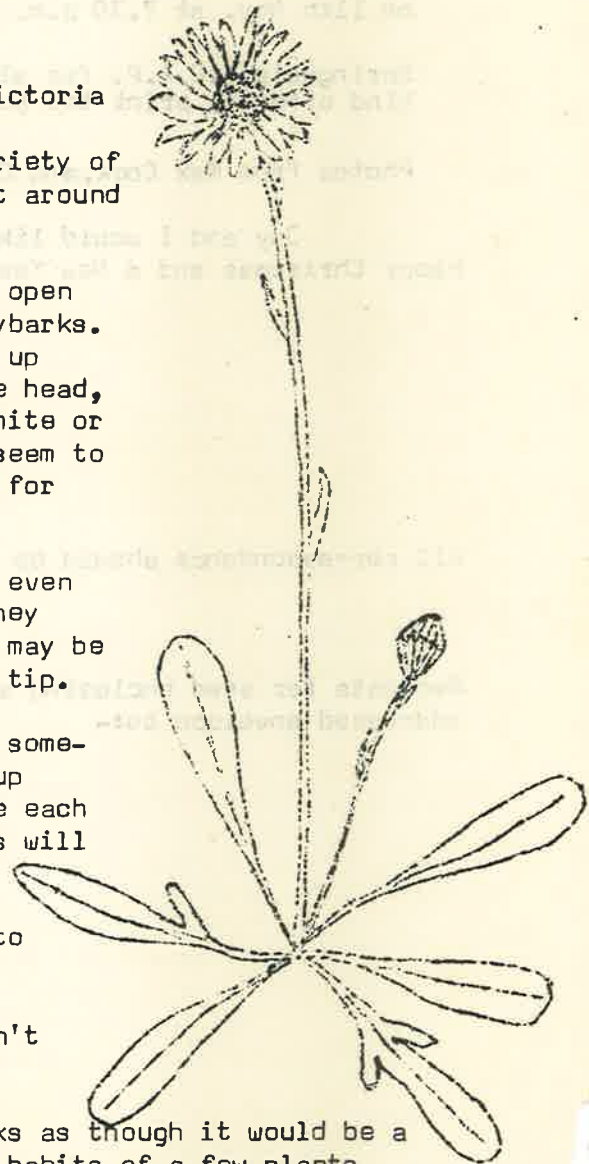
Brachyscome uliginosa is a dear little thing and looks as though it would be a pleasure to cultivate. We are studying the growing habits of a few plants transplanted from private property, and will hope to collect seed and report more fully later.

Judy Barker

Thank you Judy for your contribution to our first Newsletter.

As we would like to make this a regular feature, would other members like to participate by writing about their favourite Brachyscome or Helipterum, or one they consider worthy of cultivation. It is not necessary to include a drawing with article, but will be very much appreciated if you can.

I had pleasure in meeting and hearing John Colwill talk on Annuals at the Maroondah Group Meeting in September. I am grateful to John for such an informative evening, and greatly enjoyed his superb slides showing many daisies I had not seen before. His beautiful flowering specimens brought gasps from the audience and new members to the Study Group. Thank you John for sharing your knowledge with us.



PLANT SALE.

Joy, Judy and I propagated and sold Annuals and Perennials at Waverley's S.G.A.P. spring Plant Sale held in October at Damper Creek Reserve.

I am delighted to report that we raised \$26.25 for the Study Group. My sincere thanks to Joy and Judy for their help and assistance.

I would also like to thank the following for their kindness:-

Beryl Birch and Judy Barker for their donation of \$6.00 to the Group. This will help us in the purchase of seed.

Gifts of Brachyscomes and Helipterums from Judy, Joy Cook, Joy Greig and Alf Salkin, most of which still have to be identified.

Frank Feltham, Waverley S.G.A.P. member, who has offered to help us with unidentifiable species. Frank has kindly arranged a Meeting at his home on 11th Nov. at 7.30 p.m. to help us with dissecting and identifying.

Springvale S.G.A.P. for allowing us to use their copying machine. Ross Field's kind offer to print the Newsletter.

Photos from Max Cook, and Claude's offer to take photos for us, too.

Joy and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with growing Brachyscomes and Helipterums.

Maureen & Joy
Maureen and Joy

All correspondence should be addressed to:- Mrs. Maureen Schaumann,
88 Albany Drive,
MULGRAVE. 3170

Requests for seed enclosing stamped self-addressed envelope to:-
Mrs. Joy Cook,
2 Lotus Crescent,
MULGRAVE. 3170

