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SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSSGAP QLD REGION  
- LIBRARY -CYCAD & ZAMIAD STUDY GROUPNEWSLETTER NO. 11NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1982

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Seems like this newsletter gets later and later. However Merry Xmas to you all and here's hoping for better growing and more enthusiasm in 1983.

Must comment however that I did get a little more enthusiasm from some members, and for those who wrote to me thanks a million. It was appreciated. My active members been also doing their own little research, and Don Stallard has been a great help with plant heads and study seeds during this year. Don has promised more photo material of the cycas of Northern Territory which will be invaluable. SGAP on their trip by bus north and west to Broome, came back with glowing wildflower reports, but no-one saw even one cycas!! Next year they are off to Northern Territory again, so here's hoping a few zamiad group members go with them!

Margaret Telfer visited Noel McCormack also this year and missed us by only one day. Margaret is an active group member interested in all the cycadales from other countries as well. There seems to be more enthusiasm in our plant group from Victorian SGAP and Vic. Waverley group SGAP than there is with our local branches excluding of course those enthusiasts from Pine Rivers SGAP.

One observation I must make on the Bundaberg macrozamia. The twisting <sup>pinnae</sup> rachis is at least 1.5 cm. across and we found flat slices of the caudices which had rooted again and formed small fronds.

1982 RAMBLINGS

Early in July the palm and cycad society went into Carnarvon Gorge country. I advertised this trip to the study group, but only palm and cycad society members turned out for it, which was unfortunate.

To see Macrozamia moorei in its main habitat is worth the trip. Even in the National Park camping area the cycad is in abundance.

The large stands predominate even over the one indigenous Livistona palm there.

The caudices are all very thick and very clearly defined with the diamond shaped dead leaf bases making the age count very easily carried out, probably better than in most other cycads. To do this fairly accurately you must know, the exact number of new fronds that arise from the crown of the plant to be assessed.

This was not possible in the July period.

Seed cones were apparent on a few in the park area and these were photographed. Outside the park we found some germinated seedlings plus a few seed germinating.

Mine are just showing first leaf early November.

Along the main river track between about 6th and 9th crossing two very large specimens form "gate posts" on the main track. The fronds arch and join. My estimation is they have at least 60 cm's in the trunk and about 3 metres of trunk before the first rachis occurs. Although I saw some hundreds of plants in the Gorge those two were the largest.

1982 RAMBLINGS

My next trip with the palm and cycad group led us to Calaves near Bundaberg. Right on the Elliott River bank is the home of a more enthusiastic member of our group, Mr. Noel McCormack.

On Noel's property there is a small zamia which has been identified locally as *Macrozamia pauli guielielmi*.

Photographs and rachis sent to me previously did not follow the pattern of the plant from Tin Can Bay that we had all accepted as *M. pauli guielielmi*. Noel showed us the plants growing on his property quite near the river, and these were photographed. After learning of a large section of these plants being ploughed in on a farmer's vegetable farm we obtained permission to remove some and converged on the farm, with picks, shovels and a few crow bars.

At least 60 caudices were saved to my knowledge, there may have been more.

Digging in the soft grey sandy wallum was quite easy, but some of the plants were double and triple headed and quite firmly rooted. Most of the fronds had been ploughed off before and had re-foliated again.

Some coning was evident and for these lucky people both male and female plants were obtained.

Observing these plants it becomes fairly clear this is not the type of *pauli guielielmi* we all know but possibly of a near relationship.

CURRENT MEMBERS TO END NOVEMBER, 1982

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| 2. SGAP Qld. Region,<br>P.O. Box 809,<br><u>FORTITUDE VALLEY. QLD. 4006.</u>                         | 9. Noel McCormack,<br>Calaves,<br>M/S 963,<br><u>BUNDABERG. QLD. 4670.</u>         |
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