

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SGAP QLD REGION
CYCAD & ZAMIAD STUDY GROUP - LIBRARY -

NEWSLETTER NO. 13

MAY - JUNE ISSUE

Leader: L.P. BUTT

Assistant: Brian RUNNEGAR

This newsletter comprises mainly the valuable taxonomy and observations of one of our members, Mr. Don Stallard.

His specimens sent to me from Darwin have done much to help this group. We have now about eight active group members, which is encouraging, considering we once only had three.

Some subscriptions are still overdue, but it is indeed encouraging to find at least 60% of them paid so far.

Don wrote the enclosed notes as a valuable aid to a book I hope to publish, also as a necessary aid to the Pine Rivers SGAP for their safari tour across Northern Territory in June.

Last year no sighting of cycadales was the general opinion. This year with information supplied, let us hope this is not so.

Hopefully clicking cameras will give us more transparencies of cycas we only know of by writers.

- - -

14 May '83

X819877 B/ Hours.

Hi Len,

In my usual style, I'm late again in writing. Hope this reaches you before the commencement of your safari tour.

Have enclosed a map showing area investigated and unconfirmed reports of cycas species.

Taking each in turn:

- (1) KATHERINE - Take road north to Darwin from Katherine, proceed about 12 kms to where the old main road forks off to the right. The rugged rock formations contain *C. calcicola* and appear in all their glory right at the fork. If you're a cave explorer - nearly all the Banyan trees (*Ficus*) have a cave at their base. Take a rope, light, and watch out for snakes.
- (2) LAKE ARGYLE - This was my first actual surprise find - although obvious - too obvious - carry on to dam, pass over dam and down to car park below; look up on hills as you drive into car park - within each reach. Again watch out for snakes.

- (3) KUNUNUNA - Pass on through Kunununa; over diversion dam, carry on towards Wyndham; some four or five kms passed dam a well defined road turns off to the right. (sign posted but unable to find name) It will also lead back to the Ivanhoe homestead and crossing. The first range you encounter, some 8 kms from the main road, will contain the Cycas. Take the left side track into the base - Cycas are in the valleys and face. Note: I have again seen a 4m Olive Python in the main valley.
- (4) SPRINGVALE - If you are going south to Halls Creek, some 50 or 60 kms out you will see a well marked track off to the right indicating the Springvale Homestead - The ranges you can see where the road appears to go contains *C. pruinosa* - by driving as close as possible a set of binoculars will confirm its existence, the walk is up to you. Of course, by proceeding on to the Homestead and beyond, the Cycas can be found near to the road but of course still in the hills. Although I have spent time viewing the various ranges between Springvale and Kunununa there is no proof they continue through as one species or even at all.
- (5) BOLD BLUFF - As the name suggests I am inclined to believe one would need time, homework, and a good guess to even attempt to prove or disprove the existence of *C. furfuracea*. It is on my agenda at some time, but for now only a long distance view of the Bluff from the Gibb River Road is possible.
- (6) CYCAD HILL - Your guess is as good as mine! - the name appears on a map of mine just beyond Tunnel Creek and very near to a Station (?) - but again time, homework and a good guess are needed. This species could be one of 3:- *C. furfuracea*, *C. pruinosa* or, *C. basaltica* or maybe something new if it exists.
- (7) BONOLOOLA - Mcarthur River area - I have been there, at the time I never knew a Cycad from a cricket. Since however I have heard they are near to the road and a very large species. Good hunting down there.

Not quite certain as to whether your trip will take you along the Gibb River Road - even so, other than the Bold Bluff species I know of no other close to the road. However just out of Wyndham is a place called "The Grotto" which from my study indicates the existence of *C. pruinosa* - you can be assured I have checked it out - I found nothing.

With the dry season well advanced my expeditors have taken me to some very isolated areas - generally on foot - In fact next weekend will see a team of us hiking back into a hidden valley, which from a previous excursion should be superb - the ultimate nature trip.

I have enclosed further slides which shows the 2 species, *C. armstrongii* and *C. calcicola* overlapping. This is another to that of the Florence Falls area - say some 12 kms from it. (see below).

We have a student in the Community College studying the growth of *C. armstrongii*, in particular the relevant height to the girth. I have no idea who it is, but will investigate. Whether the interest is in the Cycas or just the sample medium I'm not certain.

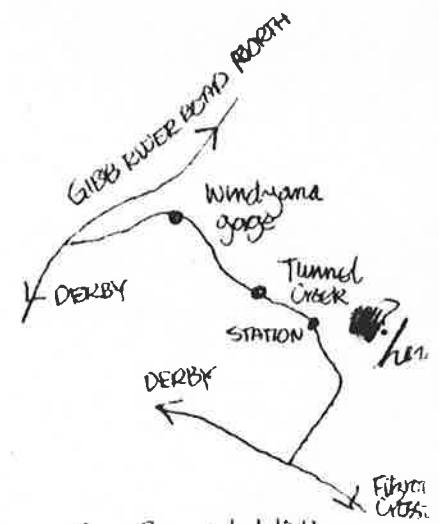
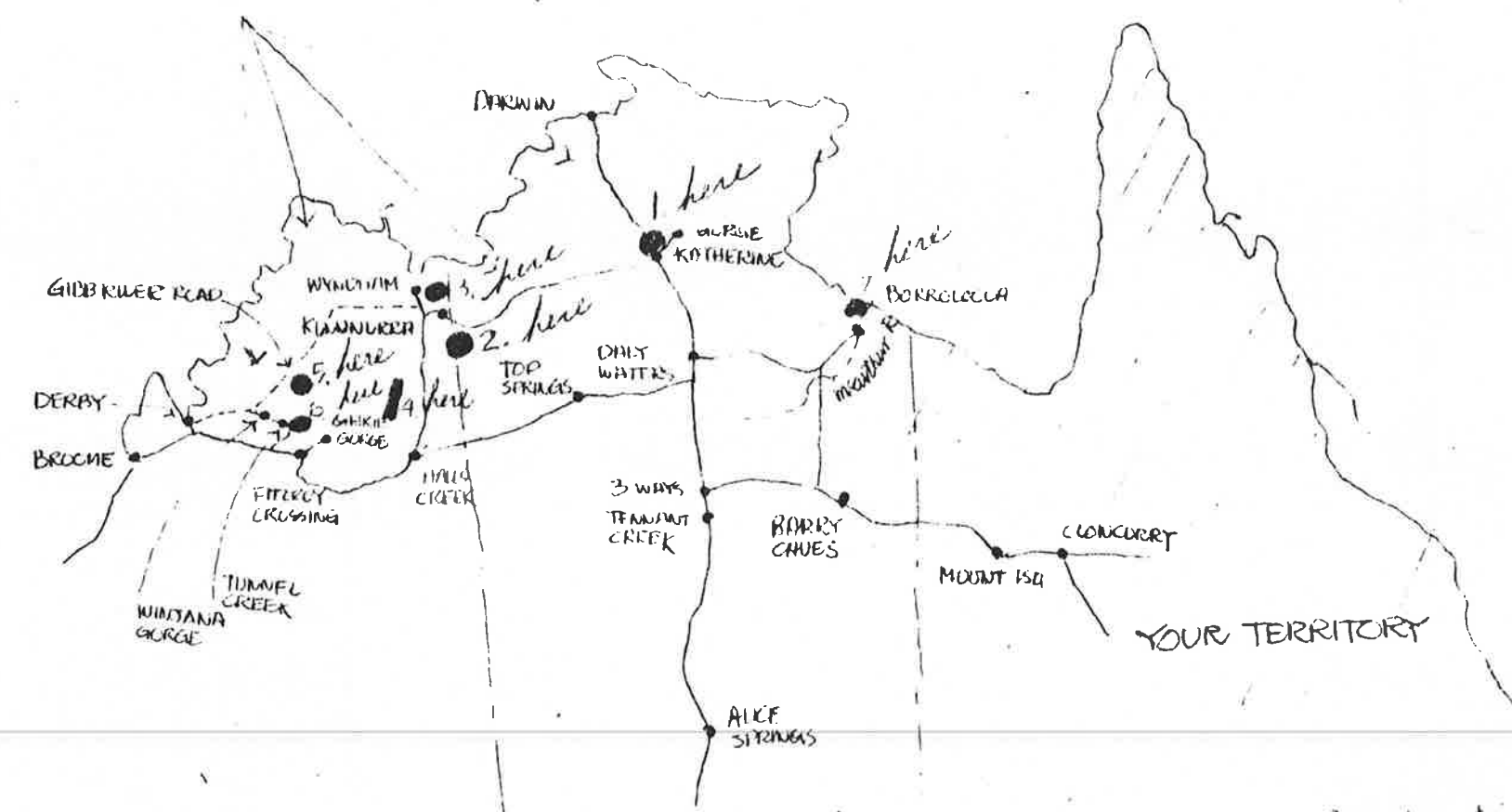
Meantime Len the best for the trip - happy hunting - hope this reaches you in time - bye for now.

Regards,

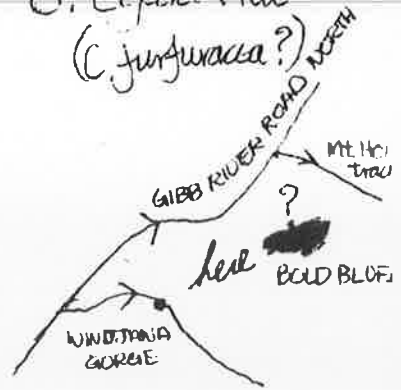
DON STALLARD.

Slides 1. *C. calcicola* foreground *C. armstrongii* background
 2. *C. armstrongii* (as seen in one) female plants.

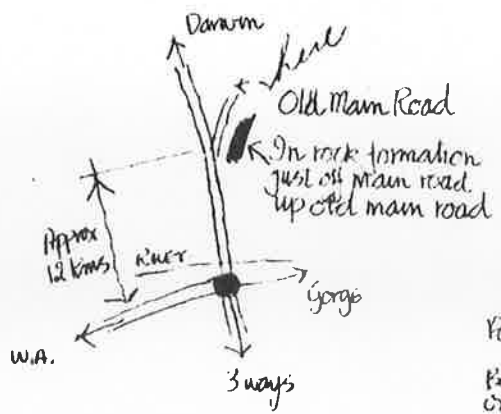
OTHERS RECORDED



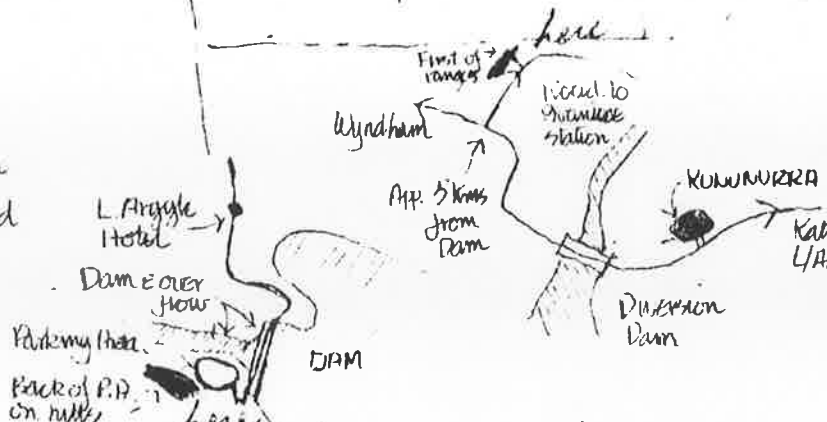
6. Cycled Hill
(*C. furfuracea*?)



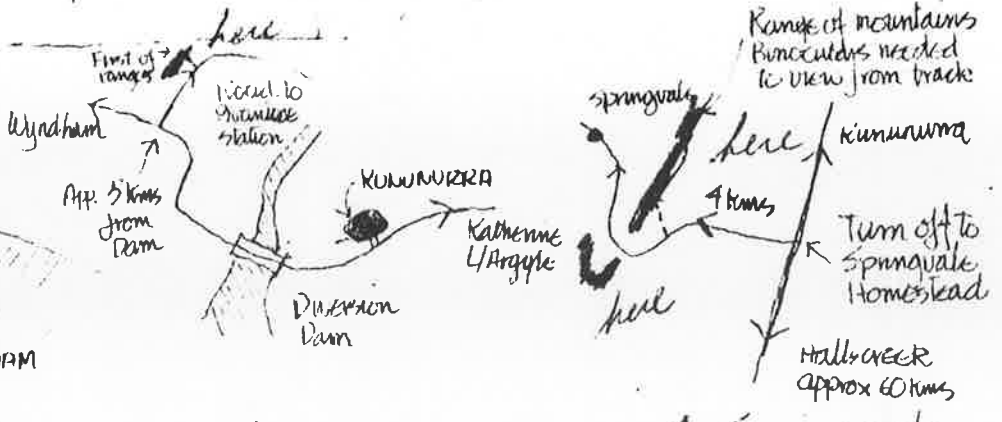
5. Bold Bluff
(*C. furfuracea*)



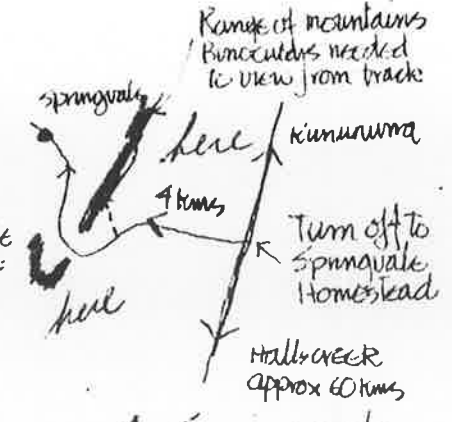
1. Katherine
(*C. calcicola*)



2. Lake Argyle
(*C. prinosa*)



3. Kununurra
(*C. prinosa*)



4. Springvale
(*C. prinosa*)