

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSCYCAD & ZAMIAD STUDY GROUP NO. 24MARCH - APRIL, 1986Russell
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Sub
SGAP QLD REGION
- LIBRARY -

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

WE ARE NOW INTO APRIL AND OUT OF 50 MEMBERS I FIND ONLY 11 ARE STILL FINANCIAL, PLEASE SEE THAT THIS SITUATION IS CORRECTED SOON.

Fee is still \$3.00 annually.

Well Friends, after that large shout let us get down to a more definite approach in our study of the cycadales.

I often have germinated seedlings from time to time, which can be got on inquiry, enclosing \$1.00 for postage and handling. Probably a bit more interstate.

It is a pity we all live so far apart, as an occasional meeting place to discuss our native plants would be very beneficial. If you have a favourite cycadprint (NATIVE) we can photocopy it for the newsletter and return it to you.

Two "get away" trips are now organised with the Palm & Cycad Society of Australia this year, Blackdown Tablelands in May and Cape York via Cairns in June. Wish I could be going myself.

After putting together 23 articles on the indigenous cycads and zamiads we are still basically quite in the dark when it comes to serious study about the various species, and in particular the genus cycas.

Very few botanists are now studying these plants and those that do are government oriented with their mere eradication as the motive.

This becomes more obvious every day I venture into cycas territory, as newer forms come to light there is a great apathy in real research and most discoveries are labelled by their district. Since John Maconachie passed away there has been a large gap in serious botanical taxonomy, but no lack in observing that these newer forms have good commercial potential at nursery level.

What is needed by our study group is that all active members make sound on the spot observations whenever we encounter the cycas. Photographs of plants, close-ups of caudices and rhachis also. Measurements of seed of each supposed new form colour of fronds and width of all caudices. Unless these observations are taken we will still be in the dark about this very interesting genus.

The time has come to make a stand in serious observation, and to protect these valuable links in our country's ancient flora. Apparently there is a new form of cycas reported from northern Queensland having very blue fronds, colour persisting even when the new fronds harden. We know this as Glen Idle and the nurseryman Stan Walkley has a fine specimen of it. Another can be seen at a tropic palm nursery and quite a bit like kennedyana but the iridescent blue fronds are really different.

QUOTATION FROM SELWYN EVERIST FROM "POISONOUS PLANTS OF AUSTRALIA"

Macrozamia miquelli (F. Muell. AABC) *Zamia* palm or wild pineapple.

As used here the species includes the plants described as *M. douglasi* (W. Hill. F.M. Bail). Fraser Island and *M. Mountperriensis* (F.M. Bailey) Mount Perry.

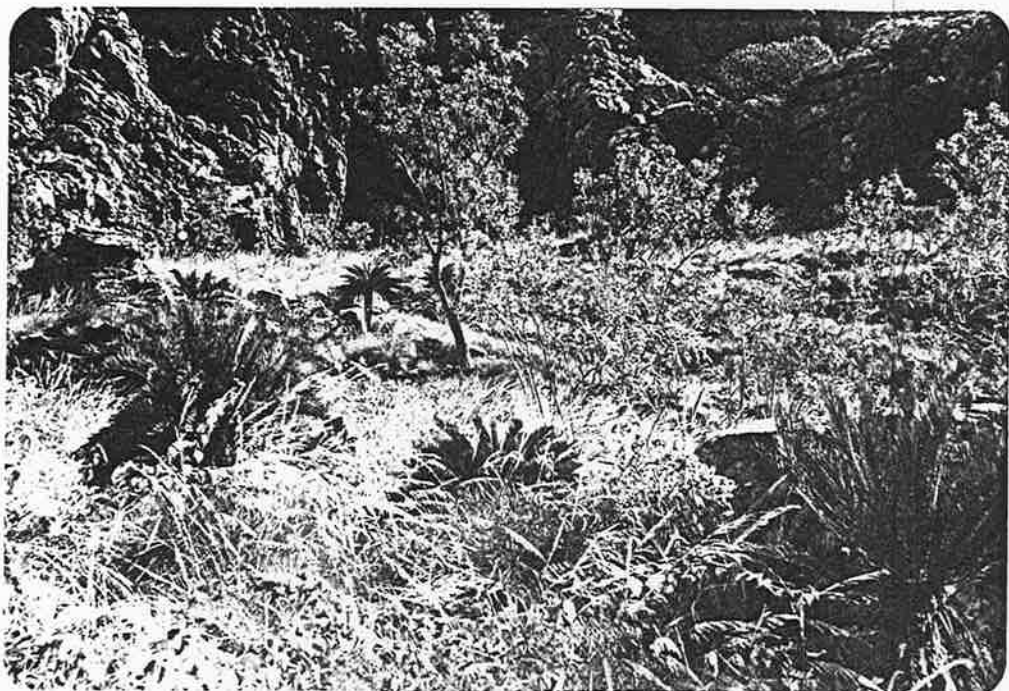
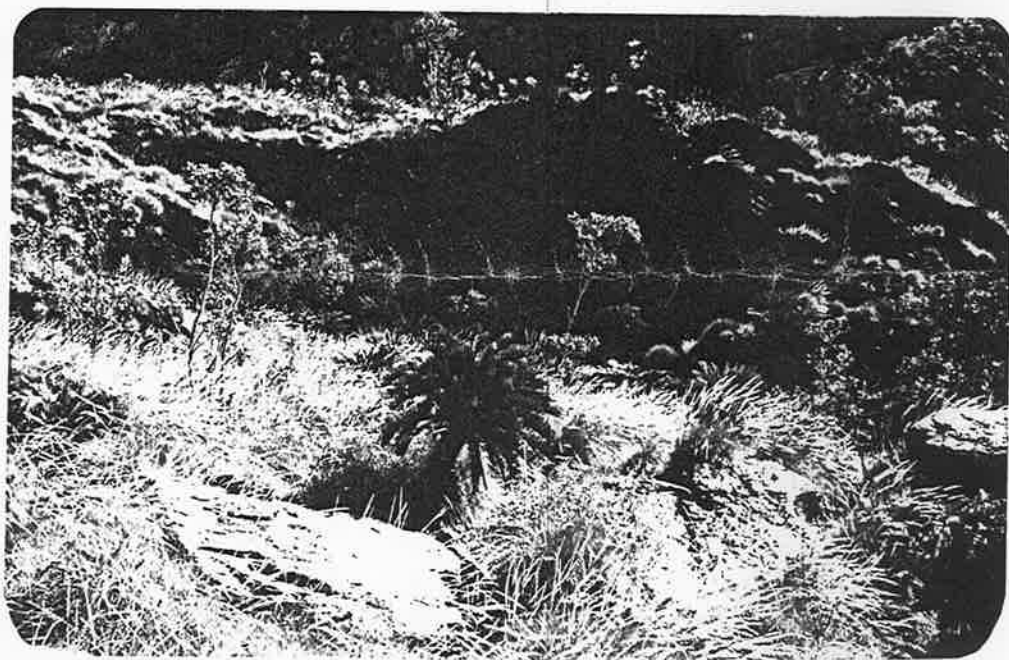
Some early references to this plant were made under the name *M. spiralis* (Johnson 1959 - 61) description similar in appearance to *M. communis* but the lower segments of the leaf closer together and the female cones somewhat more slender. The seeds are bright orange-red, typical *M. miquelli* has no trunk above ground level. The plant described as *M. douglasi* has a short trunk and somewhat larger female cones. Distribution and habitat almost confined to central and southern Qld. Chiefly in districts from about Rockhampton southward, Mt. Cootha/Upper Brookfield being closest proximity to Brisbane. One specimen has been found in northern N.S.W.

It grows mainly in Eucalypt forest on sandy or stoney soils. In some locations it is abundant. Toxic experimentation - In early tests a heifer confined to a selected paddock and offered daily 18 kg of scorched leaves and the fruits ate them gradually for 14 days and developed a rickets syndrome on the 14th day. Another animal which ate only 110 grams a day showed no symptoms in the same period.

CYCAS PRUINOSA TAKEN
BY SGAP MEMBERS AT
ARGYLE IN W.A.



C. PRUINOSA
IN HABITAT



C. PRUINOSA
IN THE ARGYLE
AREA.