

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

CYCAD AND ZAMIAD STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. V

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1981

Let us endeavour to make 1981 a special year of study and investigation in the field of the plants we all enjoy.

Each one of us has a particular interest in the cycadales and there is quite a lot of aspects about them that need clarification.

Although quite a lot of investigation has been done recently by John Maconochie of Alice Springs there still remains a great deal to do concerning the genus *Cycas* on our Northern Coast.

I would like every member living North of Noosa Heads to become involved in the particular species or genus nearest to them.

Such mysteries as, what really is the great tall cycas of our far north. I have seen photos of several so high they dwarf a car.

Just which one is it that is blue, V-Channelled in leaf fronds with a growth pattern like the exotic *C. REVOLUTA*, and comes from north of the DAINTREE.

Mr. Caulfield mentioned a cycas that has a two metre height with a silver pubescence on all foliage. Has any member come across this one?

What is the real area of habitat of *Cycas normanbyana* and just what main difference is there to it and *cairnsiana*?

If you use a camera please take close-ups of seed formations of any cycas in your area growing naturally.

Also close-up shots of fronds taken at about 30cm. away are needed.

If you are travelling north this year spare a few moments to give close scrutiny to any naturally growing cycas you encounter.

In this way we will have a great deal of interesting material for future newsletters, and perhaps will be a lot farther along the road of cycad clarification.

LEN BUTT
EDITOR.

Your 1981 subscriptions become due in March, 1981, please remember this date.

So far costs have been met easily due to the efforts of Brian Runnegar who does our typing etc. My grateful thanks for this service.

I would like also to thank those members who contributed with photos and letters during 1980. Apparently though, judging by the lack of correspondence I get from members, we so far have a very passive membership.

This whole project will fail if involvement is not the key word, so again I beg you all to write to me, and especially to correspond with one another. Addresses can be obtained of all members from my address. March-April issue will contain a financial members list.

Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi ssp. plurinerva.

A recent excursion by member Brian Runnegar to the Granite Belt and southern Darling Downs has failed to confirm existence of *Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi* ssp. *plurinerva* in Queensland.

This sub-species is reported by L.A.S. Johnson to be in the areas of northern New South Wales and in the extreme south of Queensland. However, due to cultivation, areas of accessible natural bushland are now hard to find.

It seems the best chance of finding this form is in the area south of Wallangarra on the Queensland-New South Wales border around the towns of Barnshaw, Tingha and Bungarra. If visiting this area it is also worthwhile looking for the *M. moorei* east of Stanthorpe at the head of the Clarence River. Considering the distance between the two known areas of *M. moorei*, it seems there is a need to establish if this New South Wales form differs from the Queensland variety, and if so, in which way. Any information from members would be appreciated.

C S I R O

DIVISION OF FOREST RESEARCH

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL STATION

MAUNDS ROAD ATHERTON P.O. BOX 273 ATHERTON QUEENSLAND 4883 TEL. 911755

TELEGRAMS FORESEARCH ATHERTON

Dear Mr. Leonard Butt,

I apologise for the delay in answering your query re Cycad species, but have been quite busy of late. With reference to the *Cycas normanbyana*, *C. cairnsiana* and *C. kennedyana*, there appears to be some problems involved. Our herbarium here has all the specimens referred to as *C. cairnsiana*, under the name *C. normanbyana* and the only Queensland species present in the herbarium are *C. media* and *C. normanbyana*. I notice that Bob Maconochie uses or refers to *C. cairnsiana*, so I am not quite sure why our specimens are regarded as *C. normanbyana* when they are all from the localities of *C. cairnsiana*.

Port Denison is an old name for Bowen (Port Bowen). The Normanby Ranges are the source area of the Don River and part of the Clark Ranges, almost dead south of Bowen and almost due east of Collinsville, Latitude $20^{\circ} 36'$ Longitude $148^{\circ} 15'$. This is the type locality for *C. kennedyana*.

C. normanbyana is reported to have originally been collected from mountains around the mouth of the Burdekin. There are a few small round hills in this area rising to 200-250 metres above sea level eg., Beach Hill, Mt. Alma and Mt. Inkerman ($19^{\circ} 44'S$). The latter abuts into the Bruce Highway and is more elongated in shape. Probably these are the hills where the species occurs? Lappa Junction would refer to Lappa Station on the Dimbullah-Chillagoe Road, $17^{\circ} 22'S$, $144^{\circ} 53'E$, at 610 metres above sea level. Lappa Creek is nearly at $17^{\circ} 16'S$ and $144^{\circ} 54'E$. Newcastle Range is crossed by the Georgetown-Forsayth Road at around $19^{\circ} 05'S$ and $143^{\circ} 55'E$ and rises from 600 metres to 760 metres above sea level. (This is the road to Normanton from the Ravenshoe). The localities of this species come much closer to Atherton on the Stannary Hills Rd., 2km. past the Irvinebank Turnoff at $145^{\circ} 14'E$ (longitude) and $17^{\circ} 24'S$, 760 metres above sea level, and between Watsonville and Bakerville on the same road, about 6-8 km. west of Herberton.

All the above localities are those for *C. cairnsiana*, but as stated above, they are referred to as *C. normanbyana* in our herbarium. Perhaps the species around the Burdekin area is the same and *C. normanbyana* is the older name?

I trust the above information will help you re the localities.

Yours faithfully,

TONY IRVINE.