

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSMELALEUCA & ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUPNEWSLETTER NO. 6 - MARCH 1993

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Dear Member,

Firstly, I must record a hearty 'Thankyou' to John Turrel for his generous donation of \$50.00 to Study Group funds. John is, in his words, 84 years young and resides in Parkes, N.S.W. John was a foundation member of S.G.A.P. but, on moving to Parkes some 15 years ago where there were no fellow S.G.A.P. members he allowed his membership to lapse until last year when he rejoined. John has been propagating Australian plants and has been involved with Parkes Shire Council in street beautification projects. Again, thanks for his kind donation which will be put to good use.

Melaleuca Seedlings

Lyn Craven, Botanist with the Australian National Herbarium, is involved with the revision of Melaleuca and is currently working with the *M. scabra* group. He has recently returned from a collecting trip to Western Australia during which he collected a range of seed as well as plant specimen. Many of these seeds will be planted at the Herbarium for study of seedling leaves and juvenile stages of the various species. Some seedlings will be planted out in the gardens but there will be a surplus. Lyn has offered these surplus plants for distribution to members. Should any member be interested in obtaining any of these seedlings, which should be available in the early part of 1993, please contact Lyn direct. His address is:

C.S.I.R.O. Division of Plant Industry  
 Australian National Herbarium  
 G.P.O. Box 1600  
 CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2601.

Please note that, at this stage, some plants will not be named and these unnamed ones will be identified by collector name and a number. Special epithets will be allocated as the revision proceeds. I trust members will take advantage of this generous offer. Plants will be well-packed by Herbarium staff and forwarded by the fastest delivery service available to ensure, as much as possible, they arrive in good condition.

Plant Description Enquiry

I received a letter from Sydney Wildflower Nursery West seeking information on Melaleuca 'Ilsa'. They have a few of these in the Nursery but can't recall their origin and have no information on growth habits or requirements. At present the plants are about 1 metre high, have needle-like leaves and round cluster of buds about 1cm diameter. Does anyone know the origin or habits etc. of this plant? If so, could you let me know as soon as possible so I can pass it on to the Nursery.

Amendments to Seed List (N.L. No. 5)

Delete - Melaleuca sieberi  
           polygaloides  
           minutifolia  
           densa

These are currently out of stock.

Add - Melaleuca blaeriifolia  
calothamnoides  
globifera  
sp aff microphylla  
  
Callistemon chisholmii  
pearsonii

Other amendments are:

- Melaleuca neglecta is a synonym for Melaleuca brevifolia - delete M. neglecta
- Melaleuca pubescens is an old name for Melaleuca lancelolata - delete M. pubescens
- Melaleuca genistifolia is a synonym for Melaleuca decora - delete M. genistifolia
- Leptospermum canescens should be deleted and replaced by L. lanigerum
- Leptospermum flavescens should be deleted and replaced by L. polygalifolium
- Leptospermum horizontalis should be deleted and replaced by L. continentale  
'Horizontalis'
- Leptospermum lanigerum var macrocarpum should be amended to read L macrocarpum
- Leptospermum scoparium should have read L. scoparium var rotundifolium. It should be amended to read L. rotundifolium

There is a spelling error in L. squarrosus not L. squarrosa.

It will be noted that seeds of cultivars e.g. Callistemon citrinus 'Endeavour' are shown in the seed list. It must be realised, and I am remiss for not having brought this to notice earlier, that plants grown from seed of cultivars may not grow true to type. In fact, to be correct, plants grown from cultivar seed should not be given the name of the cultivar but should be given another name even though this will have the disadvantage of adding to an already confusing list of names.

#### Name Changes

In 1989 Joy Thompson completed a revision of Leptospermum and in 1992 A.R. Bean completed a revision of the Northern Australian and Malesia spp. As a result of revisions a number of names have been changed and a number of new names applied.

Leptospermum canescens does not appear in the literature except as Philadelphus laniger var canescens and which is shown as a synonym of L. lanigerum. L. lanigerum is the name which should be adopted.

Leptospermum flavescens is now L. polygalifolium. Thompson describes six sub species.

Leptospermum polygalifolium ssp polygalifolium  
polygalifolium ssp montanum  
polygalifolium ssp cismontanum  
polygalifolium ssp howense  
polygalifolium ssp tropicum  
polygalifolium ssp transmontanum

However, while Bean agrees that distinct forms do exist he considers there appears to be widespread intergradation between them and is advocating the use of L. polygalifolium s. lat. until a more intensive study is done on the species.

Leptospermum lanigerum var macrocarpum is now known as L. macrocarpum.

Leptospermum horizontalis is not a species and should be known as L. continentale 'Horizontalis'.

Leptospermum scoparium occurs mainly in Tasmania and New Zealand but with scattered population from the far south coast of N.S.W. to the Grampians in western Victoria

Names of species previously listed as variations of *L. scoparium* are:

*Leptospermum continentale* was previously *L. scoparium* forma *angustifolium*  
*juniperinum* was previously *L. scoparium* var *juniperinum*  
*squarrosus* was previously *L. scoparium* var *squarrosus*  
*rotundifolium* was previously *L. scoparium* var *rotundifolium*

### Members Reports

Ivan Holliday sent me a photograph of the only known specimen of a genuine pink flowering form of *Melaleuca huegelii*. The plant is growing in Kay Bartlett's garden near Jervois in South Australia. The photograph indicates the plant is very floriferous. Colour would be best described as mid-pink. White anthers give the flowers the appearance of being dusted with powder. Cuttings of this plant have been put down and, hopefully, they will be available at S.A. Region's Autumn Plant Sale.

### Leptospermums in Great Britain

Britain has an annual publication called "The Plantfinder" which lists availability of plants and is compiled from catalogues of those nurseries which have supplied a catalogue to the compilers. The 1992/93 edition lists 18 *Leptospermum* names but unfortunately many of the *Leptospermum* grown in British gardens are incorrectly named.

Jeff Irons has forwarded details of *Leptospermum* species being grown in his garden which is on the West Coast and which receives 500-600mm of rain per year. Droughts of up to 7 weeks can occur in spring and summer. Sunshine is less than that received on Tasmania's west coast and temperatures approximate those of inland Tasmania.

Details of Jeff's plants are as follows:

*Leptospermum rupestre* - About 16 years old and, according, to Jeff, if it hadn't been trimmed it would probably now be about 6 m across and 1 m high. White flowers appear in May.

*Leptospermum obovatum* - Also needs to be trimmed and is currently about 2 m high by 2 m wide. It is outstanding in flower. Winter snow bows the branches almost flat but they don't break. It will withstand normal frost but -14°C one winter caused leaf and tip damage.

*Leptospermum riparium* - Two specimens to about 3-4 m high by about 1 m wide. They first flowered at 6 years old and are now 9 years old.

*Leptospermum lanigerum* - Seed collected from Mt. Wellington, Tasmania produced 50 seedlings. They were planted out 1986 but only one remains and this is about 70 cm high with arching branches but has not flowered.

### Other Species

A grey foliated plant grown from seed collected near Kanangra Walls has yet to be identified.

Three plants were obtained as '*L. grandiflorum*'. One has been identified as *L. lanigerum*. The others have not yet flowered so have not been identified.

Gary Leske wrote in Nov 92 and says that the past year had been remarkable in Port Pirie. They received about 510 mm of rain compared to the normal 250-300mm. All of his plants including Myrtaceae are thriving with some good flowering displays. He had no losses from the above average rainfall.

Barbara Buchanan writes that she is confused by the number of *Melaleuca* around

Esperance (Join the club - Ed.) and last year collected a lot of seed but didn't have any reference books so is a bit confused about species. To return to her own garden, Barbara advises she lost quite a few plants to frost during last winter which included quite a few plants grown from the seed collected at Esperance. Plants lost included *M. urceolaris* Type C, *M. suberosa*, *M. calothamnoides*. Barbara also advises that there are several indigenous *Leptospermum* species in their area including *L. juniperinum*, *L. lanigerum*, *L. brevipes* and a few others which haven't yet been sorted out.

Derrick Arnall writes that during the severe drought in Malawi last year he lost a large number of plants as he wasn't able to keep water up to them. Food crops warranted more priority than ornamentals. His recent letter stated the wet season had started in earnest and he hoped for a good season this year. Derrick has considerable trouble getting seedlings to move after germination. I have passed on all information I know but if any member has any ideas which may help let me know and I will pass them onto him.

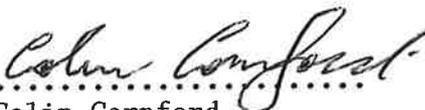
#### Slide Programme

I have put together a collection of about 80 slides of *Melaleuca* species and cultivars together with a written, not taped, commentary which is available for loan to members and groups. It would be expected that the programme be returned promptly after use and that the borrower pay the cost of express delivery postage.

#### General

I haven't yet received much information on *Leptospermum* species being grown by members and would appreciate any information you can provide on this and other genera covered by the Study Group.

Regards,

  
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Colin Cornford