

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 25 : SEPTEMBER, 1978

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The Acacia Study Group once again has moved its headquarters, this time to Tasmania. As the present membership is rather an unknown quantity, I propose to send newsletters to all listed on the 1976 list, and those who wrote during 1977, as well as answering individual letters and seed requests. There is much work to be done with Acacias, and your assistance is essential.

It has been suggested that we work on a system of dual membership :

- (a) ~~Passive~~ members who receive all reports and newsletters
- (b) Active members who are willing to grow, record and report to the leader. This group would have first (and possibly only) call on seeds and cuttings.

Would all members please indicate in which group they wish to operate.

It would be necessary for both groups, because of high stationery and postal costs, to pay \$2.00 per year, and this is now due. It will be noted that all requests for seed must be accompanied by stamped addressed envelope, and that most of our costs are associated with the newsletter.

ACCOUNTS

Cash received from previous leader	39.16	
Subscriptions since received	<u>13.00</u>	52.16
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Stationery and stamps		<u>32.65</u>
	Balance	19.51

The Seed Bank is available to members now. A seed list will be sent to new members on receipt of their subscriptions. The old list can be ordered from if this is more convenient for members who wish to rejoin and send a seed request at the same time. Please remember to list seed in alphabetical order and send a stamped addressed envelope preferably 9"x4" or equivalent metric size.

To replenish the seed bank stock, could members collect seed of any of the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. amblygona - prostrate | A. leptostachya |
| armittii | longispicata |
| beauverdiana | melssneri |
| biflora | pubescens |
| cuneata | pugioniformis |
| cochlearis | pulchella var. glaberrima |
| coolgardiensis | pyrifolia |
| cyclops | rhetinocarpa |
| drummondii - dwarf | rossei |
| duriuscula | siculiformis |
| ericifolia | spatulata |
| estrophiolata | spilleriana |
| flavescens | stenoptera |
| gladiiformis | tysonii |
| glaucoptera | victoriae |
| gonophylla | ramosissima |
| graffiana | |
| hispidula | |
| horridula | |

When sending seed, please mention where it has been collected, whether bush or garden, indicate with a "B" or "G", and date of collection.

The matter of a cutting service has been brought forward at different times, but nothing has eventuated. I would welcome suggestions, but feel the best way seems to be for members willing to supply cuttings to be listed in the newsletter, and for those wishing to use the service to make a direct contact. Acacias have been grown very successfully from cuttings by some of our members. Your comments and names of those willing to participate would be appreciated.

Several members commented on the proposed objectives listed in Newsletter No. 24. Generally, these were approved, but one suggested addition in No. 4 was that we study the reaction of dry area species to a high rainfall area.

Records need to be updated. Could those who have kept records, please check on growth etc. and let me have the results. Use the old headings. Comments: Could particular note be taken of flowering times of each plant. This should have been commenced last month, however, there is still time for some notes to be taken. The majority of our acacias here (in the garden) are in full bloom at present, or just coming. (We have about 200 acacias). Comments on frost damage are particularly important; whether in wet or dry position. (We are often asked for acacias suitable for growing in a damp or clayey spot).

Any plants you have grown and which have died, their age at death, the reason if known (could be unsuitable site, frost, snarled up roots, cinnamon fungus etc.).

For those just starting growing or keeping records, these heading could be used:-

- (1) Name of plant (2) propagating material i.e. tip, medium, mature wood, or seed (3) where obtained (4) soil used in propagation (5) date started (6) date potted up or transplanted (7) soil used.

This information will prove of value in evaluating methods for growing cuttings in the future.

For those with mature plants to plant out:-

- (1) Date planted out and number of plants
- (2) Name of plant, whether cutting or seed growth.
- (3) Soil and situation (full sun, shade etc. well-drained, wet etc.)
- (4) Date of first flowering and size of plant at that time
- (5) Dates and length of flowering time and colour.
- (6) Any special treatment - pests or problems
- (7) Each year note the height and width.
- (8) Any deaths - reasons if known

This seems like a lot of work, but once a system has been formulated it takes very little time, and is worth a great deal when it is all collated.

Would any member who has acacias flowering during the following months list them for me please - December to July, inclusive.

I propose to resume sending three newsletters a year to members, possibly in September, January and May. I would appreciate receiving contributions from members; just short notes and observations on acacias; perhaps advice on a booklet published in your area; perhaps the occurrence of an unusual acacia in your area. There are so many things which are not reported and lost to records.

A new membership list should be possible by the time the January newsletter is due.

NOTES ON NAME CHANGES:

A. CAROLEAE - this name change has been published in Queensland Herbarium's "Austrobaileya" Vol.1:2 1978, based on the old name of A. doratoxylon var. angustifolia.

A. LEIOPHYLLA - was previously known as A. retinodes var oraria

A beautiful shrub 1 - 2.5 m tall which we should all be growing. Its range is from the vicinity of Coffin Bay (South Eyre Peninsula, S.A.) south-east through southern Yorke Penin., Kangaroo Island, the Coorong to near Mt. Gambier. It is not known from Victoria, but it is felt that collecting in the near coastal areas near S.A. border will extend A. leiophylla's range.

A. CYANOPHYLLA is often listed separately in Regional seed lists. In Muytsia Vol.1 No. 4 1974 this was discussed in detail, and A. cyanophylla was relegated to synonymy, with ACACIA SALIGNA being recognised as the correct name.

At the end of his original description of A. REDOLENS (Muytsia Vol.1, No.4 1974) Bruce Maslin says:-

"In 1962 Mr. R. Pecoff of Pecoff Bros. Nursery, California, collected seed of A. redolens from plants growing at Ongerup. The seedlings which were subsequently germinated produced some forms that were more prostrate than others. As the species at that time was not described, Pecoff registered the cultivar name "Ongerup" for the most prostrate plant, and all his stock since has been grown from cuttings derived from this original specimen. This species is now grown in Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arizona and California, where it is used in soil erosion control programmes, in the landscaping of median strips on highways and in the reclamation of dredged soils containing sand, sodium, salt, sea shells and clay. A. redolens has a deep fibrous root system; it grows exceptionally well (in the U.S.A.) on the coast under extreme conditions without any wind burn damage."

It is strange that so often overseas countries know more of the value of our plants than we do ourselves. There is seed in the seed bank of this one, and obviously we should be growing it in different conditions and keeping careful records of its progress.

A. redolens is described as a dense, spreading, often rounded fragrant shrub 1-2m tall, occasionally prostrate x 2-7m. wide, with grey-green phyllodes small yellow ball flowers which appear in August to October. It grows naturally in the Ongerup, Ravensthorpe to Newdegate area of W.A.

SALT SPRAY TOLERANT ACACIAS - from Trevor Blake

A few notes on Acacia and their tolerance to airborne salt spray in coastal conditions. I divide them into three groups:-

- (1) Those that will exist in exposed situations in a front line withstanding heavy salt precipitation and strong winds.
- (2) Those that require some protection, i.e. behind the frontal dunes or trees, but still tolerate some direct salt laden winds.
- (3) Those that require shelter from strong wind buffeting and heavily salt laden airs.

I indicate their tolerance by 1, 2, 3.

A. aculeatissima	3	A. longifolia	2
alata	2	mucronulata	?
aulacocarpa v. macrocarpa	1	myrtifolia	2
baileyana	2	nigricans	1
" v. purpurea	3	nitidula	2
biflora	3	notabilis	?
bivenosa	2	oxycedrus	2
brownii	2	paradoxa (armata)	2
cedroides	2	pulchella v. glaberrima	2
celastrifolia	3	" v. goadbyi	2
cochlearis	1	pilosa	2
continua	1	podalyriifolia	2
cupularis	3	pravissima	2
calamifolia	?	pumila	?
dealbata	2	pycnantha	2
decipiens	2	ramosissima	1
discolor (terminalis) ?		retinodes	2
drummondii	2	rostellifera	1
dodonaeifolia	?	rotundifolia	?
empelioclada	1	saligna	2
farnesiana	2	sophorae	1
graffiana	?	stricta	1
heteroclita	1	suberosa	1
holosericea	2	subporosa (now cognata)	2
insolita	?	simsii	?
iteaphylla	2	salicina	?
lasiocarpa v. lasiocarpa	2	verticillata	1
ligulata	?		

A number of these require further observation. Perhaps some members may have knowledge to add to this list - others may have had experience which may cause them to disagree. If so, could we have some data. T.B.

A. verticillata var. ovoidea grows in Tas. on the coast, does anyone have any experience with this plant? Any seed?

All members' support and participation is needed if the Acacia Study Group is to survive. It's over to you!

Marion Simmons