

MARCH 1983

NEWSLETTER NO. 39

Dear Members,

Earlier this month we had several reasonable falls of rain and it is hoped that others in drought areas have been as fortunate, although much more rain at regular intervals is needed before one could start to think that the drought has broken. After the devastating fires on the mainland it will be more necessary than ever to actively support the "greening of Australia" campaign. We can play a part by continuing to grow Acacias ourselves and to have them included in council and roadside plantings.

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**WELCOME** to our new members:

S.G.A.P. Caulfield & Districts, c/- Mrs. E. Trainor, 36 Rothesay Av.,  
 East Malvern, Vic. 3145  
 Mr. A. Edmunds, 57 Forth Main Rd., Ulverstone, Tas. 7315  
 Keilor Plains Group S.G.A.P. c/- I. Graham, 25 Lamart St. Strathmore,  
 Vic. 3041  
 J.M. & H.M. Reid, Box 19, North Shields, S.A. 5607  
 Mr. A.E. Sandell, Lot 85 Greensward Rd., Tamborine, Qld. 4270  
 Mr. C. Young, 4 McNamara St., Pwarrce, A.C.T. 2607

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 My thanks to the Study Group Leaders for their exchange newsletters. These include - Hakea, Eucalyptus, Beaufortia, Melaleuca groups, Victorian and Queensland Regions.

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 A new members' list is enclosed. Over twenty members have not renewed their subscriptions and I am sorry to say that it has been necessary to remove their names from our list. Present day costs are too high for us to carry unfinancial members.

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**SEED BANK:**

Thank you very much to the following members who have provided seed for the seedbank.

J. Closs	B. Dixon (Hibbertia Study Group)
J. Lee	P. Brown
M.E. Holmes	H. Bizzai
P. Shanahan	D. Fitzgerald
T. Bean (Euc. Study Group)	M. Borella
R. Cumming	

Please remember to label seed forwarded with whether it is collected from the bush or is from garden grown plants.

The seed which we have listed in the seed bank as A. chrysotricha is in fact a hybrid.

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**ADDITIONS**

A. arida	julifera
brunioides	lasiocarpa var.
calyculata	sedifolia
cochlearis	longipedunculata
drewiana	nesophila
enterocarpa	pinguifolia
bakeri	o'shanesii
	translucens

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**DELETIONS**

A. dermatophylla

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 Stocks are needed of

<u>A. ausfeldii</u>
<u>A. celstrifolia</u>
<u>A. megacephala</u>
<u>A. nitidula</u>

<u>A. vestita</u>
<u>A. verticillata</u>
<u>A. parvicornuta</u>
<u>A. retinodes</u>
<u>A. rhetinocarpa</u>
<u>A. spondylophylla</u>
<u>A. angusta</u>
<u>A. assimilis</u>

Four members have responded to the call by Mr. Bruce Maslin of the W.A. Herbarium for assistance with the second edition of the distribution maps. He is very pleased with the response and has asked me to convey his thanks to you. He hopes that more offers of assistance will be forthcoming. Please contact Mr. Maslin if you would like to join in when full details of what is required will be forwarded to you.

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### HYBRIDISATION

Mr. Maslin comments that "hybrids will not occur between all Acacia species - they seem to be more prevalent in certain groups e.g. Botrycephalae and certain Phyllodineae. It would be highly unlikely for example to get a Botrycephalae-Juliflorae cross while on the other hand Botrycephalae-Phyllodineae hybrids could (and do) occur, but probably only between certain species". Mr. Maslin has suggested that I contact the Botany Department at Melbourne University for further information. This I shall do and report further in the next newsletter.

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### MEMBERS NOTES:

Last winter David Shiells suffered a great deal of frost damage to many of his Acacias with quite a long list of them dead. Some were shooting again at the time of his report. It will be interesting to watch these and see if their recovery continues in the face of the extremely dry conditions.

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Malcolm Holmes of S.A. comments that the local "Acacia iteaphylla is by far the most popular landscaping plant in S.A. It seems to suffer from very little and takes hardly any looking after" His plants "are heavily pruned as they hang over into the street and are constantly cut back. They flower twice a year perhaps more profusely in spring than autumn". From the reports I receive from a wide range of conditions I think I could quite safely say that A. iteaphylla is one of the most commonly grown Acacias in other than the more northern areas.

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Some very interesting notes have been received from Mr. Bernie Dixon the Hibbertia Study Group leader who has spent a lot of time observing Acacia in northern W.A.

Several of the local Acacias (A. ampliceps, arida, bivenosa and coriacea) are considered versatile as they can be found growing inland and also on beach sand within metres of high tide. These may well be suitable for trial in similar climatic zones of Queensland.

Acacias which have been used in landscaping building or switchyard areas include A. trachycarpa

holosericea

arida

pyrifolia

A trickle system is used to water the plants.

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Margaret Wilson tells us that she germinates Acacia seed, "not in egg cartons but in used yoghurt (200 ml) containers which later have holes cut in edge and used to pot up seedlings." She heat treats "by filling container containing 5-20 seeds with boiling water, removing any seeds that float and tipping off most of the water when cold. Seeds kept damp until germinated though one or two periods of drying out do not seem to affect germination much if corrected quickly. If heat treatment

fails to swell a significant number of seeds, treatment is repeated. She has found that certain containers give better results than others.

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From Paul Brown of Townsville - "Once again we are having trouble with longicorn beetles (Penthea pardalus). It has mainly attacked A. holosericea, A. lazaridis, A. mangium, A. polystachya, and to a minor extent A. lentoloba. I have cut out two holosericea and one lazaridis in the last fortnight and the mangium may go tomorrow. In all probability, there are quite natural predators that help in the natural cycle. However, it hits a bit harder when a home garden has only one or two specimens that get wiped out. All in all, it is pointing to the use of species that are not favoured by such vicious predators. An obvious one for Townsville is A. flavescens, a tree indigenous to this area. I have three in my yard, none of which have been affected by the beetle.

Paul comments that he heard recently "that CSIRO in Atherton provided 11 kg. of seed of A. aulacocarpa for China where they use it as a shelter for growing lemon grass. After harvesting the lemon grass, they then cut down the aulacocarpa to use for fuel, having gathered the seeds for regeneration."

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Further to my paragraph on the attack by "wattle fire blight beetle" on Acacia dealbata which is a very common wattle in Tasmania, we now observe that the completely defoliated trees which looked quite dead, are covered in fresh young growth. Of course some of the attacked trees succumbed, but the majority are demonstrating their survival abilities.

#### REPORTS

I see that it is Acacia report time again so the appropriate sheet is included. I would emphasise that a report is required only for those plants that have been in the ground for at least a year. I look forward to hearing how your plants have survived this difficult year.

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NEW SPECIES - published in Nuytsia Vol.4(1) 1982 by B.R. Maslin.

Two species found in the Wongan Hills, W.A.

#### A. botrydion Maslin

Craggy much branched shrubs 0.5-1.3m tall x c.3m dia., lateral branchlets ending in spines; phyllodes hairy elliptic to widely triangular; flowers globular, golden - July-September. Known only from Wongan Hills where it is relatively common on lateritic hills.

#### A. pharangites Maslin

Somewhat spindly open shrubs to 3(4)m tall; phyllodes linear-rounded concentrated towards ends of branches; Golden obloid flowers, August. Known only from 2 or 3 scattered sheltered gullies, Wongan Hills.

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Eight species from Hamersley Range area, W.A.

#### A. erecta Maslin

Dense spreading shrubs to 1 mx2m; phyllodes rounded curved upwards near base; flowers globular large light yellow, mainly December-August. Found Millstream east to near Nullagine and south to around Wittenoom Gorge.

#### A. atkinsiana Maslin

Spreading, rounded or umbrella-shaped shrubs to 3.3m; phyllodes leathery variable, narrow-elliptic to narrow-oblongate; flowers dense obloid, collected May-July, also December and March. Found from Mt. Bruce to North-West Coastal Highway around Yarraloola Station.

A. cuspidifolia Maslin

Bushy shrubs to c. 3m, growing to  $\pm$  gnarled trees to 7m; phyllodes variable narrow flat sharp pointed; twin spiny stipules at base. Flowers globular pale yellow; October-December. Favouring open flood plains extending from near Shark Bay east to near Meekatharra and north to Hamersley Range.

A. daweana Maslin

Low spreading shrubs to 1 m tall, stipules often persistent on branchlets; phyllodes narrowly elliptic; flowers light golden spikes; collected mid-July (collections few); at present known only from two localities in Hamersley Range National Park.

A. effusa Maslin

Low somewhat sticky wide-spreading shrubs to 1m x 2-3 m; bark 'minni Ritchi'; stipules persistent on young branchlets; phyllodes small elliptic rounded at tip ending in sharp point; flowerheads bright golden spikes, May-August. Locally abundant but known only from Hamersley Range National Park around base of Mt. Bruce.

A. exilis Maslin

Shrubs or small trees 3-4m tall; bark fibrous or fissured; phyllodes long, threadlike; flowers light golden spikes; May to July. Known only from area of range from Hamersley Station south-east to Coppin Pool.

A. hamersleyensis Maslin

Spreading open shrubby trees 3.5-4m; phyllodes slightly falcate with many veins; bright medium yellow spikes; July-late August; known only from range Mt. Newman west to Paraburdoo and north to vicinity of Mt. Brockman.

A. marramamba Maslin

Spreading shrubby trees 2-3(5)m tall; spiny stipules; phyllodes elliptic unequal-sided 2-4 cm x 1-2 cm ending in long sharp point; flowers globular light or medium golden, May-July. Low rocky hills in range. Closely related to A. inaequilatera but differs in non-corky bark, hairless branchlets, smaller less wavy phyllodes, red-brown racemes and flower stalks (not purple) and slightly curved pods (not circular).

NEW SYNONYMS

In this paper A. clementii Domin. is made a synonym of A. pyrifolia DC

A. clementii Maiden et Blakely is made a synonym of A. xiphophylla E.Pritzel

A. gonocarpa var. lasiocalyx F. Muell. is provisionally made a synonym of A. trachycarpa E. Pritzel

Two NEW SPECIES from Eastern GoldfieldsA. kerryana Maslin

Low spreading shrubs 0.5-0.6 (1m) x 2m; phyllodes threadlike, tortuous, decurrent; light gold obloid flowers; late October to mid February; pods twisted and coiled. Scattered on low rocky hills in Coolgardie-Roe Botanical Districts.

A. warramaba Maslin

Shrubs to 3.5m tall; phyllodes variable linear to narrowly oblanceolate tips hooked; small light golden globular flowers; probably November-February. Scattered in area bounded by Mt. Day in Bremer Range, Spargoville, Fraser Range, Lake Dundas.

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