



ISSN 1035-4638
ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
ACACIA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 70
DECEMBER 1993

Dear Members,

My apologies again for this newsletter being late. A combination of other interests have intervened. Last issue I made a rather drastic error (pushed a few wrong keys, or more accurately right keys at the wrong time) and lost some of the mailing list and addresses for ASG. If you know of anyone having missed out please let me know. I think I now have most of it in order.

Welcome to our new members. I had intended to update the membership list but it will have to wait as Christmas approaches and I would like to be able to spend it without the newsletter hanging over my head.

Some memberships are still overdue. I will send reminders with the next newsletter, which will be the last for those not subscribing by the one after that.

Best wishes to all our members for the festive season and New Year.

ACACIA PHLEBOPHYLLA - CAN ANYONE HELP?:

Bruce Clark.

Charles Andrew of the Pennsylvania University, where the library receives "Australian Plants" has joined our group. Charles has a particular interest in *Acacia phlebophylla* and wrote seeking seeds. He writes: "A publication came out in the U.S. saying that *A. phlebophylla* had never been germinated. So, I got to work asking people and writing letters. From the seeds I received and the suggestions, my guess now is:

- (1) Boiling them is fairly lethal.
- (2) Pricking the lens is a good way to imbibe them, but leaves open the possibility of infection.
- (3) Tissue paper with a little fungicide wetted in a petri dish is a good method for development, maybe a month or longer.
- (4) It is essential to imbibe them and then dry them many times until a slight crack develops around the end away from the radicle.
- (5) Stratification and acid dipping don't make any difference.

Recently, I have had three plants grow for a month and then just turn brown and die. However, now I have one that is a month old and really growing well. I am confused. I can't find out if it forms nodules on the roots or if a unique VA mycorrhizal association is occurring at Mt. Buffalo with the possibility of other bacteria or fungi doing almost as well. It would be great to have a piece of nodule or root section and some of the seeds that have been on the ground thru the winter... I am also curious about the soil around the plants. The leaves that dropped from previous years should make a humus that is high in nitrogen, but maybe underneath there is just loose granite chips and sand for drainage."

(Charles is hoping to visit Australia next year. Has anyone ~~member~~ any knowledge on the matters he raises or any comments to share? Despite a number of inquiries I have been unable to locate any seed of *A. phlebophylla* for our seed bank.)

ACACIAS FOR A "BOTANIC GARDEN":

Dr. Steve Hamilton from the Dookie Campus of the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture requested small quantities of seed for a project to establish beds of common plants from the various regions of the state (Victoria) "as recognised by Beauglehole, with an obvious strong representation from the local flora, common species from adjacent states, and beds depicting certain taxonomic groups ..."

I supplied the requested seed as this is a public and conservation orientated project, and received a \$50 donation in return. This can be put to good use in up grading the seed bank storage facilities. Many of the paper envelopes in which seed is stored are becoming tattered and I intend to gradually replace these with plastic resealable envelopes which will increase the security of the seed and hopefully reduce the time taken to get out requested seed - this is one of the most time consuming aspects of being study group leader.

SLIDE SETS:

Unfortunately I have had less time than I anticipated and the work on the set of slides did not progress as planned. However, here is a list of the slides to hand. It would be appreciated if members could look through their slides and let me know any other species, particularly rare or unusual ones, of which they have good quality slides they would be willing to contribute to this project. The Study Group will pay for copies if you wish. If you have too many slides to send a list let me know and I will perhaps make requests for slides of certain species as required.

There may be spelling, typing or reading errors in this list. These will be checked and corrected when the sets are assembled.

A.acuminata	adoxa	adunca	alata
alpina	amblygona	aneura	ancistrocarpa
aphylla	argrodendron	arida	asparagoides
aspera	aulacocarpa	ausfeldii	bancroftii
beckleribiflora	binervata	binervia	bivenosa
blakelyi	boormanii	brachybotrya	brownei
brunioides	burbidgeae	burrowii	buxifolia
caerulescens	caesiella	calantha	cabbagei
cangaiensis	cardiophylla	caroleae	celastrifolia
chalkeri	cheelii	chinchillensis	chippendalei
chisolmii	cibaria (brachystachya)	conferta	cincinata
collina	complanata	coolgardiensis	concurrans
conferta	continua	crassa	coriacea
covenyi	craspedocarpa	cultriformis	crassicarpa
crasspualongicarpa?	cretata	deanei	cyperophylla
dallachiana	dealbata	depressa	decora
deflexa	denticulosa	divergens	dictylophleba
dimidiata	diphylla	elongata	drummondii
dunnii	echinula	falciformis	eripoda
excelsa	extensa	flexifolia	farnesiana
fimbriata	flavescens	fulva	floribunda
forsythii	frigescens	glaucoptera	furfuracea
galioides	gladiiformis	hakeoides	gordonii
gracilifolia	handonis?	hilliana	hastulata
harpophylla	havilandii	humofusa	holosericia
horridula	hubbardiana	inophloia	imbricata
implexa	inequilatera	ixiophylla	insolita
irrorata	islana		ixodes

jiggerdingensis	juncifolia	jucunda	julifera
juncifolia	lanigera	latipes	lateriticola
latisepala	lasiocalyx	lasiocarpa	latisepala
leichardtii	leioocalyx	leprosa	leptocarpa
leptoloba	leptospermoides	leptostachya	ligulata
lineata	littorea	longifolia	longiphyyodinea
longispicata	lunata	lycopodiifolia	lysiphloia
macradenia	megacephela	melanoxylon	melvillei
merinthophora	microcarpa	mittchellii	moirii
mooreana	monticola	mucronata	muelleriana
multispicata	myrtifolia	nano-dealbata	neriifolia
notabilis	obliquinervia	omalophylla	oshanesii
oswaldii	oxycedras	parramattensis	papyrocarpa
paradoxa	parvipinnula	pendula	penninervis
pentadenia	peuce	phaeocalyx	phasmoides
pilligaensis	podalyriifolia	polybotrya	prominens
pruinosa	ptychophylla	pubescens	pulchella
pulviniformis	purpureapetala	pycnantha	pyrifolia
restiacea	retivenia	rigens	robinae
rossei	rothii	rotundifolia (acinacea)	
rubida	ruppii	salicina	saliciformis
saligna	schinoides	sclerophylla	semilunata
semitrullata	shirleyii	shuttleworthii	signata
simsii	sparciflora	sphaerostachya	spectabilis
stenophylla	stipuligera	stronglophylla	suaveolens
subporosa	sulcata	sutherlandii	tetragonophylla
translucens	terminalis	tindaleae	trachyphloia
transluscens	trineura	triptera	truncata
tumida	ulicifolia	uliginosa	urophylla
varia	venulosa	verniciflua	victoriae
uncifera	wardellii	wickhamii	willdenowiana
xiphophylla			

MEMBERS' S LETTERS:

David Gordon is involved with the Myall Park Botanic Garden which specialises in growing rare and endangered species.

Kevin Penny, (Stratford, Vic.) writes: "A good year for the wattles at my place. A real pleasure to see *A. macradenia* in golden blooming in the shade of my creek. Unusual to see the intensity of colour in a shaded area. I finally got a *A. glaucescens* to survive the winter.

The best flowerer this year seems to be *A. williamsonii*, one mass of blossom. I have two *A. acuminata* planted right near each other, but one seems healthy while the other looks chloritic. *A. silvestris* is growing tall and is it very difficult to distinguish between it and *A. decurrens*. An *A. elata* I planted near the creek has grown tall and is starting to give that rainforest effect they get from it in the Canberra Botanic Gardens."

ACACIAS FOR GARDEN DESIGN:

Diana Snape the Leader of the newly formed "Garden Design Study Group" has written requesting information on acacias suitable for use in garden design. The aim is to establish a list of "proven" plants - plants regarded as being reliable under the conditions they are generally grown (as described in the literature), be readily available from nurseries or through SGAP and reasonable long-lived. Diana would also welcome members to the new group as she thinks acacias have a special place in garden design.

ACACIAS ALL THE YEAR AROUND:

Dr. Malcolm Reid, President of Australian Flora Foundation Inc. has written: "A recent fuss in Syney about the date of Wattle Day has provided opportunities to publicise SGAP and the Flora Foundation. Trevor Ophel wrote to the Sydney Morning Herald saying how easy it is to have wattle flowering throughout the year in Coastal NSW.

Have members of the Acacia Study Group similar lists for around Australia? I could use them to keep up the momentum of publicity throughout the year. Any help would be most welcome."

Trevor Ophel's letter included this paragraph: "The truth of the matter is that the flowering of wattle varieties spans the full year. One of the objectives of the Mt. Annan gardens was to have at least one species flowering at any time. In a modest coast garden, I have achieved this for some years with a small number of species. (Trevor listed the species he achieves this with.)

(Can ASG members supply year around lists for their areas? As flowering time can vary with climate and conditions include a brief description of your climate and a fairly accurate idea of where you are situated. B.C.)

"The Elms" PANMURE VIC 3265

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