

BEAUFORTIA (and allied genera) STUDY GROUPNEWSLETTER N° 13JANUARY 1984INTRODUCTION

Yes!! I know it's been over 12 months since the last Newsletter, but the group is still functioning ... if a little inconsistently.

The change in style of this newsletter has been brought about through necessity. I no longer have time available to spend a week typing stencils my typing ability is pathetic (to put it kindly). So, it was a case of "do it by hand or not at all." I hope the scrawl is reasonably legible.

I don't intend to issue regular newsletters in future - there is simply not sufficient membership to justify the expense. Future contact will rely, to a large extent, on correspondence. So please let me know if you're still out there!

As far as I am concerned the only worthwhile research we can carry out is experiments with grafting. We can continue to propagate Beaufortias, etc. from seed and cuttings and they will continue to be unreliable in most summer rainfall areas. So, if you're into plant propagation, PLEASE have a 'crack' at grafting it's easier than you might think. There are encouraging signs, as reported below.

SEED BANK

I am discontinuing the seed bank service. All seed, in the past, has been obtained from commercial seed suppliers and individual members can do that just as easily as I and the seed will be fresher anyway.

If you require the addresses of seed suppliers, let me know.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Because of the scaling down of newsletter activity membership fees are suspended for the present. If you receive this newsletter you can regard yourself as financial for 1984.

Any donations to meet postage costs, etc. will, however, be appreciated.

"PARAFILM"

I have available a reasonable quantity of "Parafilm" which

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is ideal for grafting, particularly with small stem diameters as it does not require to be tied..... when stretched it tends to adhere to itself.

It is available in lengths 100 mm wide and is cut into strips for use. Cost is \$1.00 per metre, incl. postage.

GRAFTING

The following are some recent results. Please refer to previous newsletters for other reports. Those listed below are young grafts so long term compatibility has yet to be established. They are, however, fully hardened and growing in full sun.

Can anyone add to the list?

SCION	STOCK	METHOD
<i>Beaufortia sparsa</i>	Callistemon 'Chinchilla'	Top wedge
<i>Beaufortia interstans</i> (?)	Regelia ciliata	Top wedge cutting graft
<i>Beaufortia</i> sp. aff. <i>bracteosa</i>	Regelia megacephala	Top wedge cutting graft
<i>Eremaea beaufortioides</i>	Callistemon 'Endeavour'	Top wedge
<i>Eremaea</i> sp. aff. <i>violacea</i>	Callistemon subulatus	Top wedge
Regelia cymbifolia	Callistemon 'Endeavour'	Top wedge

EREMAEA REVISION

Dr. Roger Hnatiuk advises that the revision is continuing but that *Eremaea* has proved to be a much more complex genus than originally expected. Some 17 taxa of indeterminate status have been recognised to date but, before final taxonomic decisions are made, further evidence must be obtained from studies of plant proteins.

Final analyses are almost complete and the studies are expected to give the evidence necessary to base a sound decision on how to treat the 3 major species complexes. In a broad treatment there may only be 3-6 species recognised, whereas a narrow treatment might yield 17 or more species.

MEMBERS NOTES

Some of these go back quite some time sorry!!

Lyndal Thorburn (ACT) reports that *B. sparsa* in 1982 weathered one of Canberra's coldest winters with no sign of damage. 27 frosts were recorded in July 1982 with a minimum air temperature recorded at -9°C. Lyndal advises that many other plants that survived previous winters were severely damaged in 1982.

David Henderson (TAS) also reported frost tolerances for a number of species, recorded during the 1982 winter which, like Cambetta, was exceptionally severe. This report was compiled for the period 1 May to 15 November :-

Nº of frosts :- 75 (22 in July)
Min. grass temp :- -7°C

Eremaea purpurea :- 40 cm high; some damage to growing tips, subsequent recovery.

E. beaufortioides :- 20 cm high; all green shoots killed; new growth from base after pruning.

Regelia inops :- 25-30 cm high; no damage

R. velutina :- all exposed plants killed in June; plants in sheltered spots (in pots) showed no damage.

Beaufortia sparsa :- 1m high; no damage

Alan Foster (N.S.W.) reported grafting experiments with several Eremaea and Beaufortia species using Callistemon pallidus and C. brachyandrus as stocks. These were generally unsuccessful due, largely, to poor material. Allan is continuing the experiments. Allan also reported seed germination for Autumn 1983 sowing of 6 Eremaea species and 13 Beaufortia species. Germination overall was about 50-60% (range 5% for B. micrantha to 90% for B. elegans and B. incana) with germination times from 1 to 4 weeks.

Barb Graham (N.S.W.) reported that her B. squarrosa (30 cm high) was killed by late frost in October 1982 after showing apparent recovery after winter frost damage.

Peg Butterfield (N.S.W.) reported seed germination from Autumn 1982 sowing. Generally germination was acceptable but Peg experienced the usual problems after potting on and/or planting out.

Alan Lacey (Vic) at last report had got the grafting 'bug' in a bad way. Several Beaufortias and Eremaeas were being side and wedge grafted onto various Callistemons and Kunzea ambigua. How are they going, Alan?

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (1.11.82 to 31.12.83)

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Brought forward	6.61	Stationery	4.96
Membership	20.00	Correspondence	10.68
Donations	6.00		
Seed sales	5.00		
Misc. income	3.22		
TOTALS	40.83		15.64
BALANCE	25.19		

FINALLY

Well, that's about it. Not really a lot to report for over 12 months study but some interesting results appear to be just "around the corner" as far as grafting experiments are concerned.

If I can suggest one new year's resolution for 1984 it is not to try too much, too soon. It is, perhaps, best to concentrate on 3 or 4 species and gradually work up from there. This is the method I am adopting (particularly for grafting). I have far fewer *Beaufortias*, etc now than I did a year or two ago and I won't be acquiring any additional species until some reasonable grafting success has been achieved with the ones I now have.

Best wishes for 1984 and keep in touch.

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SGAR



IF YOU REALLY CARE YOU'LL WRITE

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