

ANPSA BRACHYCHITON & ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

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Leader :

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Members : Welcome to new member Paul Wesener, who joined via the ANPSA website, & is so new I don't know his geographical location yet. An earlier member is the Pine Rivers branch of NPQ, which is the newish trading name of SGAP-Qld. This branch has *de facto* long been fully cognisant of the study group, as Jan Sked has had various positions in the branch over a very long period, & has also been the study groups contact for NPQ or the ANPSA Study Groups Organiser.

Flower traits measured this year : I still have not got around to repairing my microscope, but used less accurate methods to differentiate between some of the species & hybrids that flowered this year. I picked apparently intact flowers & counted their nectar numbers using a hand lens. Where most flowers of a clone had the same count I assumed that was the correct value, with possible causes of variation including birds collecting nectar plus the odd nectary, aging flowers, miscounts by me (human error), & genuine variation due to genetic &/or environmental factors acting on nectary number during flower development.

<u>Species or hybrid</u>	<u>Flower size, cm (width x height)</u>	<u>No. of Nectaries, as nectary count x no. of flowers</u>	<u>Stigma colour</u>
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Robin(known bidwillii).	4 x 4	10 x 7, 9 x 2	pink
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BV1.	5 x 4	16 x 1, 15 x1, 13 x3, 12 x 3, 11x 1	
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Cania Gorge.	3 x 2.5	14 x 1, 13 x 4, 12 x 16, 11 x3	red
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Red garrowayae.		15 x 2, 14 x 2	
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Red garrowayae	3 x 3	12 x 5, 11 x 2, 10 x 5	
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X Rosalind, (A4).

(A5).	5 x 3	13 x 5	
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Rosalind (known excellens).	5 x 5	11 x 3, 10 x 5, 9 x 2 ,	
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Dark Knight.	5 x 5	14 x 1, 13 x 1, 12 x 3, 11 x 3, 10 x 7	white
BR5.		14 x 1, 13 x 4, 12 x 14, 11 x 8, 10 x 2	
-Mt White.		16 x 1, 14 x 2, 13 x 2, 12 x 1, 11 x 4	
muellerianus.		18 x 1, 16 x 2, 13 x 2, 11 x 2, 10 x 4	
Big Pink.	7 x 7	21 x 1, 15 x 1	
Argyle Pearl.		14 x 1, 13 x 3	white
JB1.	6 x 5	12 x 3, 11 x 2	red
JB2.	5 x 4	11 x 2, 10 x 1	red

BV1 is *bidwillii* X Mt White, & the latter is thought to be a *B. x carneus*, which has a nectary count around 14, which fits in with the slightly higher average for BV1 allowing for a hybrid parent. *B. carneus* also includes 'Salmon Blush', one of Des Boorman's nicest shrubs which is doing quite well around Towoomba. BR5, with 2 hybrid parents, could have ended up with flowers of any count greater than 10, & seems to have done so, as each flower is a new sample from the parental gene pool.

As more plants flower next spring it will be interesting to see if there is any correlation between leaf size or shape, both of which vary between plants, & flower size. Some should have larger flowers than BR5 since both parents are a little larger, although I suspect all may be similar in colour, as the pale initial colour of Big Pink (& its parent *grandiflorus*) seems to be due to a recessive gene.

As found the previous year, the 'red' form of *B. garrowayae* has too many nectaries to be a *bidwillii*, & at 8 m tall & climbing it is getting too tall also, which it never did at Greenbank on the infertile sandy loam there. As neither flower shape nor leaf size matches the standard *garrowayae*, I shall have to get a DNA test run on it once my poisoned foot heals & I can travel about again.

A late flowering : On the last day of June Coen Pink resumed flowering, with a single male flower open & one bunch of 8 flower buds, all a little paler than usual in the overcast weather. Up to then, we had had 2 frosts in mid-May but otherwise a warm autumn & winter.

Fadeout : As the year is getting away from me I will wind up with best wishes for a better year ahead for you all. As of today, 97.5 % of NSW is still drought-declared, & about 70 % of Qld, & too many of those areas have been dry for 5 years or more. Quite a few of my friends & relatives are in these arid spots, & even those in the flood zone in N-W Qld got little relief in many cases as most of it drained away rapidly with no follow-up. A lot of the best pasture areas had their perennial grasses (Mitchell grass etc.) killed in the 2011 floods, so I hope the water drained away fast enough to avoid that disaster this time. So best wishes again, Kerry.