



Study Group

SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

CALECTASIA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Group No: _____

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Study Group Leader

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Dear Members,

I wish to apologise for not having the first newsletter out until now, but would like to welcome all those members that have joined the study group and they are:-

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Linda Floyd | 543 Dandenong Rd, ARMADALE | VICTORIA | 3143 |
| VICTORIA SGAP | C/- Mr P. Kennedy
17 Craig Court, | HEATHMONT | VICTORIA 3135 |
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MY CALECTASIAS

I fell in love with Calectasias about 2 years ago when I was studying for my certificate in Horticultural Practice at the Bentley Tafe College here in Perth. It started when I had to collect a specimen to complete a workbook and at that time of the year I could not find a flower or even a plant of it and from then on I was determined to find out more about this plant.

The next was to join the Wildflower Society here in Perth and from then I was hooked with growing native plants. It was then that I heard about the study groups that were running and the fact that so much information was coming together about a particular plant. This was why I started the Calectasia study group for those people that are interested and for the fact that I hope I will be able to provide some information about this plant for other people who might want to grow it their garden or promote it to the horticultural industry as a going concern.

In Western Australia there are three species of *Calectasia* and they are *C. cyanea*, *C. grandiflora* and *C. arnoldii*. The plant belongs to the *DASYPOGONACEAE* family (formerly *LILIACEAE*). I believe that there are at least three species in Victoria but am not sure of the number of species in South Australia and I will be looking into it in the near future. So if there is any member who knows, it will most helpful if you could let me know.

The *Calectasia cyanea* is the most widespread of our species and in WA and it grows from Eneabba south-eastwards and it could be far as possible to the south coast of our state. The *Calectasia grandiflora* grows between Serpentine and Cannington which is south of Perth.

Calectasia arnoldii is listed under the Western Australia's Endangered Flora as Priority One and is found in the Quairading area.

Because of its beautiful flower the plant I think has a huge market potential as a potted specimen in small gardens or those people that only have a small space where they live, a small unit with only a limited garden area.

Calectasia cyanea is a plant that varies considerably in size from a small plant with two or three upright stems to a bushy plant up to 60cm wide and 60cm tall and they can occur as isolated single plants or I have seen them in small colonies close together. The soil type they grow in vary from very poor freely drained sands to loamy sands, and lateritic soils, in very dry areas to winter wet soils, eg. edges of swamps which fully dry out in summer. Also can be found in light shade, open woodland or low scrub. The flower is usually from June to September but can flower periodically throughout the year. The colour ranges from iridescent blue to bluish blue, but they turn a bluish white and as they age a reddish colour may be seen. The anthers change colour also from yellow to red as they age and finally they may live as long as 50 - 100 years.

Calectasia grandiflora are much larger species and the anthers do not change colour as they age. Flowering is from August to October and is fairly rare in its natural habitat between Serpentine and Cannington. They are found growing in *Banksia* woodland in sandy soil or sandy clay at the edge of winter-wet swamps and also found there is *C. cyanea*. The plant is also has a long life span and like *C. cyanea* it will resprout after fire.

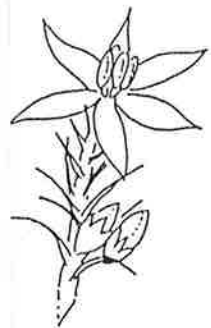
Calectasia arnoldii flowers are produced in winter and early spring and are similar to *C. cyanea* but a more intense blue. Its main distinguishing feature is their stilt roots which are 1-3 mm thick and 1-15 mm long where as the other two species have a underground rhizomes and fibrous roots. The branches of *C. arnoldii* or main stems are up to 60 cm long and are upright and this species are killed by fire and regenerate from seed.

Well I am going to conclude my first newsletter and I hope that those people who are members will pay their membership as it is due now.

Hope to hear from you all soon.

Ruth

P.S. Welcome to Peta would has just join the study group and she is a member of the Victoria Waverly Group. Also I would like to thank I.R. Dixon from Kings Park for some of the information in this newsletter.



Calectasia cyanea
(Blue Tinsel-lily)