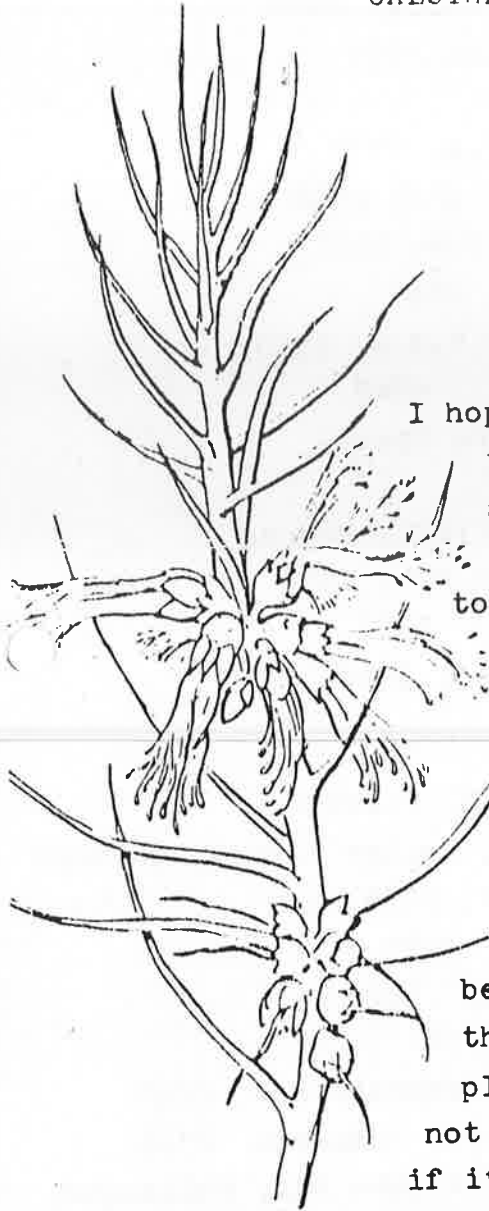


ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS  
 CALOTHAMNUS & ALLIED GENERA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER Number 16

Leader: Barb Graham,  
 Nundle Rd.,  
 Woolomin,  
 N.S.W. 2340

February, 1992.



I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas & holiday time. We were lucky here as most of the family was able to be here at different times.

With postage going up constantly, I have decided to increase our subs to \$3. Hope nobody minds. This will be from June '92.

Although Calothamnus are fairly easy to propagate from seed, I think it would be a good idea to

establish a cutting bank. This way we can

keep better forms of different species & I

find that cuttings give good plants fairly

quickly. If anyone has a Calothamnus plant & would

be willing to send cuttings to members who request

them, please let me know. Give me the name of the

plant with a very brief description & if possible (but not essential) where the plant was obtained, especially

if it came from the bush. I would put the list of those

willing to supply cuttings & those wanting the cuttings

could write with their requests to those supplying them. Of course the

postage would have to be paid by the recipient. Then of course I would

like to hear how they go. I'm sure that we would like to hear from any-

one who could supply cuttings from the other species in our Study Group.

Which brings us on to another subject, as a lot of these other species

are a bit difficult to grow in some areas it would be a good idea to

try grafting. It would be interesting to grow one plant from cutting &

another from a graft. Hope to hear from many of our members that they

would be willing to take part in these experiments, both as suppliers

& users of cutting material. It seems that Kunzia ambigua, cutting grown,

makes a good root stock. Have we any grafters in the Group? If so I would

like to hear from you to see what you think & to get a description of

your method.

It's about time I sent out a list of our members, so here it is.

Study Group Co-ordinator, Jan Sked, P.O.Box 41, Lawnton, Q'ld. 4501  
 Kaye Bartlett."Winpara", Jervois, S.A. 5259  
 Lyndal Thorburn, 3 Considine Close, Queanbean, N.S.W. 2620  
 Rhoda Jeavons, RMB 2500, Kulnura, Gosford. N.S.W. 2250  
 M.F. Cooper, P.O.Box 259, Yarrawonga, Vic. 3730  
 Sally Beck, Redgum Hill, Gill St., Mundaring, W.A. 6073  
 Heather Robb, 244 Queen's Esplanade, Thornside, Q'ld 4158  
 Graham Eastwood, P.O.Box 593, Bateman's Bay, N.S.W. 2536  
 Brenton Lee, 69 Barracks Rd., Hope Valley, S.A. 5090  
 Bill Hardin, 56 Panorama Rd., Calala, Tamworth, N.S.W. 2340  
 Klaus Querengasser, P.O.Box 73, St. Lucia, Q'ld 4067  
 Dorothy Bremner, P.O.Box 618, Nowra 2541 (Nowra Group)  
 N. Bentley, 121 Progress Rd., Eltham, Vic. 3095  
 Henri De Bono, 12 Allee des Chasseurs, 78230 LE PECQ, France  
 Charles Loxley, 142 Capt. Cook Drive, Willmot, N.S.W. 2770  
 Val Maher, 2 Langley Rd., Cranbourne Sth., Vic. 3977  
 Joan Schwennesen, (Myall Park) "Telgazlie", Surat, Q'ld 4417

SGAP Blue Mtns Group, P.O.Box 23, Glenbrook, NSW 2773  
 " Keilor Plains, R.T.GOONAN, Bunarong Close, Keilor Plains, Vic 3021  
 " Maroondah Group, P.O.Box 33, Ringwood, Vic 3134  
 " Foothills Group, P.O.Box 65, Boronia, Vic 3155  
 " Mildura Group, P.O.Box 259 MCP, mildura, Vic 3500  
 " GEELONG Group, POBox 387, Belmont, Vic 3216  
 " East Hills, Gwen Dunn, 13 Othello St., Blakehurst, NSW 2221  
 " Tamworth Group, Don McTavish, 99 Rawson Ave., Tamworth 2340  
 " Pine Rivers Branch, Esther Wilson, 30 Goodfellows Rd., Kallangur,  
 Q'ld 4503  
 " Armidale Group, P.O.Box 735, Armidale, NSW 2350  
 Logan River Aust. Plants Society Inc., Dr. Kerry Rathie, 5 Salston Rd.,  
 Greenbank, Qld 4124

SGAP, Q'ld Region, POBox 586, Fortitude Valley, Q'ld 4006  
 " Victoria Region, 17 Craig Court, Heathmont, Vic 3135  
 " Canberra Region, POBox 217, Civic Square, ACT 2601  
 " Tasmanian Region, GPO Box 1353p, Hobart, Tas 7001  
 " S.A. Region, PO Box 304, Unley, SA 5061  
 " NSW Region, 3 Currawang Place, Como West, NSW 2226  
 Western Au t. Wildflower Society, PO Box 64, Nedlands WA 6009

As you can see, we have a lot of Groups & the Regions supporting us, &

I would welcome any enquiries or news of *Calothamnus* growing in the gardens of any group members.

Sally Beck sent a very nice letter enclosing a couple of photos of her yellow *Calothamnus quadrifidus* which looked to be a pretty colour, a slight salmon tint. It is an open shrub, making the flowers stand out. The one at the Arboretum has a similar growth pattern, I thought that it was going to be prostrate, but although it started out like that it is growing taller now. The flowers are a paler yellow than Sally's.



Hopefully, this photo may give you an idea of this attractive shrub. It really is a very good photo, but they don't seem to reproduce very well.

When the young ones from this shrub flower themselves Sally will let us know if they are yellow. But we really

need others to try as well. I have seed of my yellow one if anyone else could help. This would let us know if the yellow flowered ones were a sport, if there was a mixture of red & green flowers, or a separate form if the flowers were all yellow.

Please forgive me if I go on too much about *Calothamnus villosus*, but it has become quite a challenge to obtain a proper one after so many have turned out to be *Calothamnus quadrifidus hirsutus*! So I purchased one, named *C. villosus* from the Gunnedah Forestry Commission although I had my doubts even then, as it had such delightfully furry leaves. Even more so than the ones I had grown from seed. It is growing into a beautiful bush, it's first branchlets growing thickly along the ground before sending up it's main stem from which are growing long pendulous stems covered with finely haired, grey leaves. This may only be a juvenile characteristic, I am looking forward to see how the adult bush will look. It could be a very spectacular plant if it keeps this pendulous habit.

Another interesting *Calothamnus* is *C. aridus*. As it's name implies it grows in very dry, arid country with *Spinifex* or *Spinifex* & *Eucalyptus* in red

sandplain country around Meekatharra, Wiluna area & south. To help it survive in this area it has very hairy petals & calyx tubes. The very narrow, dark to olive green leaves are held erect, also helping in the climate. The staminal claws, more or less equal, are orange red in the lower half to two thirds & pink red for the rest. The fruit is nearly globular & generally smooth. Five lobes are present on young fruits, but absent on older ones. It would be an interesting one to grow if we could obtain propagating material.

Calothamnus macrocarpus is said to be one of the most beautiful of the genus, the much branched shrub being about 2 m. high, but sometimes will grow to 3 m. Leaves are somewhat succulent & oil glands

are prominent. The crimson staminal claws have yellow anthers. But the most interesting thing is the very large size of the fruit. They are smooth & dark brown, almost globular; calyx lobes persistent, nearly enclosing the orifice. Although this plant is quite rare its future should be assured as it is growing in Fitzgerald R. National Park.

Although I couldn't find any illustrations of these species I thought that these photos of Herbarium specimens would give some idea of them.

Best wishes to everyone,

Barb.

