

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

NEWSLETTER Number 19

June, 1993

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Thought I'd start with a report on the new planting at the Arboretum, as I feel that already there were some interesting observations, remembering that our Arboretum has no watering system, any water for planting is generally brought around in small drums. We had a very dry summer & autumn, no rain at all in April & very little any other month, the grass drying out & even some large trees looking very stressed. But most of our plants did very well, especially a form of *C. quadrifidus*, the seed collected from a native plant garden near the Pioneer Cottage at Walpole, W.A.. It was a very bushy shrub, massed with such thick flowers that it was just about impossible to press them. The staminal bundles were yellow with orange stamens. Quite spectacular. This seedling in our collection hasn't even slowed its growth during this very dry time, so hope the winter, which looks like being fairly cold, doesn't effect it.

As the soil dried out the *C. homolophyllus* became very stressed, and even with a bit of water it died. I have had a bit of trouble with this species in the dry weather. The two *C. validus* also died at this time, even though one was quite large.

I had planted two varieties of *C. graniticus*, one the v. *graniticus* & the other the v. *leptophylla*. After both being frostbitten in the early spring the var. *leptophylla* recovered very quickly while the var. *graniticus* was much slower. Then with the prolonged dry var. *leptophylla* continued raging while var. *graniticus* just stood still, looking nice & green but not growing a single leaf in three months. I had nearly the same results at home, except that my var *graniticus* died.

C. chrysantherus, *quadrifidus*, *macrocarpa* & *rupestris* doing well, even though the latter two have been eaten off (rabbits? roos?).

The Herbarium has been tidied up, with most of the specimens mounted, so I would welcome any specimens, especially of our allied Genera.

Quite a long time ago Geoff Smith from Geraldton, W.A. sent me some interesting specimens of *Calothamnus quadrifidus* var *obtusus*. This form is very floriferous, masses of red flowers with even more buds to follow. It grows naturally around Geraldton & Geoff sent some seed if someone would like a little. I will try to get some going for our collection.

Rhoda had some *Calothamnus* seedlings that looked so miserable that she abandoned them, when along came the worst weather for them, hot & very humid. So of course four of the plants (two *C. graniticus* & two *C. homolophyllus*) decided that it couldn't be worse than being dead, so are now four healthy & well growing plants! Don't know whether the moral of that is don't give up Or do give up!

I have planted two of Rhoda's *Calothamnus asper* & two *C. quadrifidus* Rhoda's Special in our collection at the Arboretum, so hope they do as well there as they have at her place.

Sally from near Perth successfully uses CLONEX, which is a hormone gel, for cuttings. Being a gel it could stay on the cutting a bit longer than other systems.

Graham from N.S.W. South Coast is still having great success in growing many of our plants. His *Calothamnus rupestre* is slow in flowering, nearly four years old without a sign. I do know that these plants are generally very large before flowering, but his friend who has a plant from the same lot of seedlings has buds on his although it is much smaller.

The *Regelia velutina* are growing well, but tardy in flowering too -- has anyone else any experience with these? My cuttings which have been in since September still look great, but are not showing any sign of growth.

One of Graham's *Beaufortia schaueri* flowered profusely, but his second one not as well, so he will be pruning it to get better flowering this season. *B. elegans* & *macrostemon* both flowered well.

Eremaea violacea flowered well & is putting on a lot of new growth, & Graham is hoping that *Eremaea fimbriata* will flower soon. An *E. beaufortioides* which was bought as a tiny plant last April has grown ferociously & is now 2' high by 4' wide. It is growing in a hot spot on a slope & has never been watered. (But of course his area gets a reasonable amount of rain.)

Graham has sent some *Calothamnus rupestre* seed if someone would like it.

I feel that the aim of our Study Group should be to find out which *Calothamnus* & allied genera are suitable for growing in home gardens, public parks & gardens. Also what conditions are needed for the different species. If anyone would like to agree or disagree, please get in touch.

As we have 16 species of *Beaufortia*, 37 *Calothamnus*, 7 *Eremaea*, 2 *Phymatocarpus* & 5 *Regelia* the group needs as many reports as possible. Maybe some friends who are growing any of our species could fill out a report form to widen our data base. If so please let me know that you need one (or more). But I will be away from mid June until September, so it may take a while for me to answer.

I have had a couple of replies about growing yellow *C. quadrifidus* from seed & so far these have all had yellow flowers. I realise that it will be a few years before we have enough information to confidently say that most of these will come true to the patent plant. All reports also tell us that so far all the shrubs are low spreading ones, not prostrate. So each bit of information helps to build a picture of the uses of these wonderful plants.

<u>SEED BANK</u>	All <i>Calothamnus</i> at present.	* rare & end.
<i>aridus</i>	<i>graniticus</i>	<i>quadrifidus</i> var <i>obtusus</i>
<i>asper</i> *	<i>homolophyllus</i>	" var <i>hirsutus</i>
<i>blepherantherus</i> *	<i>pinifolius</i> *	No.1 " tall form, from Peak Charles
<i>borealis</i>	<i>robustus</i> *	No.2 " med bush, attractive, narrow leaves, reddish stems
<i>chrysantherus</i>	<i>rupestris</i> *	
<i>gibbosus</i>	three forms	No.3 " red new shoots, slightly flatish leaves
<i>gilesii</i>	available,	
<i>gracilis</i>	1. very large	No.4 " Rhoda's Special
<i>tuberosus</i>	2. smaller	No.5 " (not <i>torulosus</i> as sold very tall attractive shrub.
	(could be where it is growing)	
	3. pink flowers.	" yellow flowered form

Calothamnus formosus (*formosus* meaning beautiful, referring to it's form, large shrub to tree like habit, growing from 2.5 m to 4 m.

It grows in the lower Shark Bay area with the subsp. *rigidus* a little south nearly to Geraldton. The main subsp. has leaves from 3 to 7 cm long, ^{young} ^{leaves} slightly furry, while the subsp *rigidus* has smooth more rigid leaves from 6.5cm to 11 cm. *Calothamnus formosus* has 5 staminal bundles are crimson with pale yellow-green at the base, the style being slightly smaller. Fruits cylindrical, 6.5 mm long, 5-6mm wide with short, rounded protrudences. The tops are either smooth or with 5 short lobes. It would be wonderful to be able to get some seed of this unusual *Calothamnus*, but at least the subsp. *formosus* should be protected in the new National Park around Shark Bay. Another feature of this plant is that it has pink petals.

Balance sheet from 30th June 92 to May 30th 93

Brought forward	\$137-11	Expenses	
Subs	73-00	Photocopying	\$24-70
Donations	128-00	Postage	37-80
Interest	<u>*---3131</u>	Envelopes	5-68
	341-42	Address labels	9-87
		Record Book	5-00
		Herbarium	13-82
		(paper, protectors, binders)	<u>96-87</u>
		Cash in Bank	<u>244-55</u>
			341-42

This was done a month early as I will be away at the end of this month.

All the best,

Barb