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SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

CALYTRIX STUDY GROUP Newsletter No. 6

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Dear Calytrix Members,

I'm sorry there was only one newsletter last year - but I was so busy that I just didn't get the August newsletter written. Still no reports from members, so you will have to be satisfied with reading about my doings.

SEED GERMINATION & SEEDLING CUTTINGS

C. angulata This is a brief follow-up on the experiments reported in the last newsletter.

26 seedling cuttings were potted on - but 10 died during winter. The medium they were grown in did not appear to make any significant difference to the survival rate. Of the 16, I still have 13, having given 3 to SGAP friends to try out. 3 have been planted in the garden and all are alive. 2 appear to be thriving. The 10 in pots are healthy and I have just taken cuttings from them. (If you would like bare rooted cuttings sent, please let me know). I intend to try approach grafting with C. alpestris when cuttings have struck

Seed Germination

C. aurea 1 seed germinated after 13 months. It damped off before it was big enough to take a cutting. I hope to try some more on my hot bed and remove as soon as (Hopeful!) they germinate.

C. brachyphylla I have 3 plants that I grew from seedling cuttings last year. They are still very small - but healthy. I am going to take cuttings from them soon to increase my stock. I tried another punnet of seed in late winter. I had good germination (60%) but I did not pot them up quickly enough and they died.

C. exstipulata Cuttings taken from 3 seedlings grew well. Unfortunately I forgot they would be frost tender - so they died during winter. I have had no further success with seed.

C. fraseri Very low germination - 2 out of 30 seeds. They died before I could get a cutting.

C. glutinosa Good germination (50%) of seed planted July 1985. 8 plants survived after potting up. Slugs got busy while I was at the Federal Conference. I have 4 ready for seedling cutting procedure.

C. strigosa No germination.

C. tenuifolia No germination.

C. tetragona (Deep pink) No germination.

So much for the seeds - but I will keep trying.

Cuttings

C. tetragona (from S.A.) 5 plants are growing on in pots, I am about to try one in the garden and will take some cuttings soon.

C. alpestris (Grampians) 7 plants are growing well in pots. I gave 6 to SGAP friends and lost a few when we were away over Christmas.

C. sullivanii (Grampians) 6 plants growing well in pots, 1 planted out in the garden.

G. longiflora All cuttings died (I don't really know why).

C. sp. Miles All cuttings died (again I don't know why).

C. tetragona (Qld) These seem to be growing quite well. Dot Brown sent some seedlings and some of these are growing well also.

In all that, of course, there is some good news, some bad. I would like from other members - what's happening with you? to hear  
Would you like bare rooted cuttings of C. alpestris, C. sullivanii, C. angulata, C. tetragona (deep pink)? I hope to have them available soon.

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My thanks to Dot Brown of Caboolture, Qld, for the seed and cuttings she sent in November.

I am starting a collection of slides and specimens of Calytrix species also. The slides will be available for loan (with a tape) when complete.

Recently Ray Brown of Bulli gave me some cutting material of C. fraseri. While I have lost probably half of the cuttings under the misting system, the others are alive and beginning to form roots. I have brought them into the house where the atmosphere is dry but they get warmth from the heated floor now winter is coming.

Members, please write. I feel like a one-man band!!!

Gwyn Clarke