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DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

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DODONAEA
VISCOSA SSP. ANGUSTISSIMA

Dear Members,

Many of my Dodonaeas have flowered and some are setting fruit. Dodonaea megazyga, which I grew from cuttings sent from Burrendong, have started to form their beautiful clusters of pink transverse winged capsules. I had doubts if this delightful small tree from northern N.S.W. and southern Queensland, would be happy in our colder climate, but they are doing well. Also from Queensland, the unnamed new species from Chinchilla is a mass of small flowers. It is a most attractive semi-prostrate shrub with masses of tiny triangular leaves. Plants of D. rupicola, which I grew from material sent by Tony Bean are less vigorous, but I think they will survive. Some have flowered although they are still quite small. Plants of D. humilis grown from seed sent by Lyn Stewart are another joy and many have flowered. The male flowers are like tiny crowns of bright red gems. I would like to hear of the successes or failures of other members.

I have found reference to our Dods in two books lately. One - 'Wildflower Journeys' by Ninette Dutton features a lovely full page illustration of D. petiolaris, and a line drawing and photographs labelled D. tenuifolia. I believe that this is probably D. sinuolata ssp. acrodentata. A deal of confusion has been associated with the name D. tenuifolia, but now that the revision of the genus is available, we hope that this will be overcome. The second book is a huge publication entitled 'The Essential Reference Guide to Native and Exotic Plants in Australia ENCYCLOPAEDIA BOTANICA' compiled and illustrated by Frances Bodkin. It certainly covers an immense number of species and has many line drawings to illustrate them. On checking the Dodonaeas I was very disappointed at the many inaccuracies in the 20 species listed, and especially the fact that the word Dodonaea was spelt 'Dodonea' in each case. However if one can afford this tome there is much information between the covers but I wouldn't depend on it's accuracy.

I had a letter last year asking for assistance from our Study Group for a section (Dodonaeas presumably) of the Burrendong Arboretum. Unfortunately only two of our members live within the 5 - 6 hours drive from Burrendong, as suggested in the letter. However I am forwarding a copy of the letter to these two members in the hope that they may be able to offer some assistance.

You will have noticed the new letter-head. My friend Melva Truchanas helped me to devise this and the illustration is one of Karen Stewart's drawings reduced. My thanks to these ladies for their assistance.

KANGAROO ISLAND DODONAEAS

Ida Jackson

We have four species of Dodonaea on Kangaroo Island - D. humilis, D. hexandra, D. baueri and D. viscosa with two subspecies. D. viscosa ssp. angustifolia is the commonest Dodonaea on the Island and in some of its forms, my favourite.

We have a variety of soils on the Island - laterite, rough limestone, sand, clay and we have Dodonaeas to suit all types but salt marsh. I find that all types germinate fairly easily in autumn, especially if the seeds are scalded and allowed to stand for 24 hours. I haven't had much success from cuttings.

Dodonaea baueri is a small, rigid, glabrous shrub about 1 metre high and 1 metre wide. The leaves are obovate or orbicular and are often notched at the summit. They are about 6mm. long. The flowers are solitary on short peduncles. Usually male and female flowers are found on the same bush. The capsule is crimson, sometimes almost black, 4-6 angled, 5mm x 6mm, without wings. This is a small neat shrub which only seems to last for 5 or 6 years in cultivation. It is found in limestone or clay areas, under mallee scrub. Dodonaea hexandra is a low slender shrub. The leaves are very narrow, 1-2cm long with recurved margins. The 3 sepals are persistent under the fruit which is sticky, globular 3 angled, 5-6mm in diameter with a minute deltoid wing on each angle. The fruit is usually bright red. This plant seems to be confined to sandy soil in the Haines-Macgillivray area. Dodonaea humilis is a variable, low growing shrub with pinnate leaves. Inland, it reaches a height of a metre or more; on the coast, it is prostrate. There ^{are} separate male and female bushes, but the bright red anthers make the males almost as attractive as the females. The red capsule is 4-lobed with conspicuous red, glandular hairs. D. humilis seems to prefer limestone and does well on rough limestone areas on the south coast.

Dodonaea viscosa is a viscid, rather straggly shrub about 1.5m high. The leaves are 3-8cm. long, 6-14 mm. wide and tapering into a short petiole. They are dark green and shining. The flowers are in short panicles. There are 4 sepals. The capsule is 3, or rarely 4, winged, red or purple. Usually male and female flowers are on separate plants.

D. viscosa ssp. angustifolia - formerly in South Australia this was D. attenuata and D. attenuata var linearis. The type has narrow, lanceolate leaves 2 - 4 mm wide and 3 - 8cm. long. The variation has leaves 1 - 2mm. wide. This variation now seems to be disallowed, possibly because type and variation shaded into one another on the Mainland. Here they are quite distinct and plants grown from seed resemble the parent.

D. viscosa ssp. angustissima is a slender upright bush, usually 1-2 metres high, but can be up to 4 metres and resembles a small tree. The leaves are not sticky when fresh, but become sticky when pressed. The bunches of "hops" are larger than in the type and vary in colour from pale lemon through orange and crimson to deep purple. It is common to find fruits of all different colours on the same tree. Usually there are separate male and female plants, but we have a specimen in our garden that put on both "hops" and stamens last year.

Ida Jackson sent this article to me in January 1986 for inclusion in 'our' edition of the 'Australian Plants'. As we have received no other contributions I felt that it was advisable to include it in our Newsletter. Thank you very much for this article, Ida.

NEW DODONAEA NAMES

The revision of the genus *Dodonaea* was written by Judy West and published just after the 'Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants', Volume 3. The following are the correct names of the plants listed in the 'Encyclopaedia'.

<i>Dodonaea</i> aff. <i>boroniifolia</i>	= <i>D. uncinata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>cuneata</i>	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>cuneata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>cuneata</i> var. <i>rigida</i>	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>spatulata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> aff. <i>filifolia</i> (Qld,NSW)	= <i>D. falcata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> aff. <i>filifolia</i> (WA)	= <i>D. rigida</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> aff. <i>humilis</i>	= <i>D. glandulosa</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>lanceolata</i> (a for that occurs inland along the Great Divide) in description	= <i>D. lanceolata</i> var. <i>subsessifolia</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>microzyga</i> (a form which occurs in WA) in description	= <i>D. microzyga</i> var. <i>acrolobata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> aff. <i>tenuifolia</i> (Qld,NSW)	= <i>D. sinuolata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> aff. <i>tenuifolia</i> (SA)	= <i>D. subglandulifera</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> aff. <i>truncatiales</i>	= <i>D. heteromorpha</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>viscosa</i> ssp. A	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>viscosa</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>viscosa</i> ssp. B	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>burmanniana</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>viscosa</i> ssp. C	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>angustifolia</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>viscosa</i> ssp. D	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>angustissima</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>viscosa</i> ssp. E	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>cuneata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>viscosa</i> ssp. F	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>mucronata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> <i>viscosa</i> ssp. G	= <i>D. viscosa</i> ssp. <i>spatulata</i>
<i>Dodonaea</i> species (Gawler Ranges)	= <i>D. intricata</i>

My sincere thanks to the Regions who send me their newsletters, I do enjoy reading them and will pass on any information which I think will interest our members.

My husband and I are heading off for inland Australia again at the end of June this year. Our itinerary includes, Melbourne, Shepparton, Adelaide, Gawler Ranges, Ayers Rock, Kings Canyon, Palm Valley, Darwin, Kakadu National Park, Lawn Hill National Park, Carnovan Gorge, Charlieville, Sydney, Melbourne and home. I hope that we can find some of the many Dods. that I have yet been unable to track down and possibly to meet up with some of our members.

Don't forget that if you have *Dodonaeas* that you can't identify, send me a specimen and I will do my best to identify it for you. I would very much like some notes for our newsletter and some news on your experiences with this interesting genus.

Best wishes

Jeanette Closs.