

DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

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DODONAEA
VISCOSA SSP. ANGUSTISSIMA

Dear Members,

Once again we have enjoyed a fascinating trip exploring Australia's outback. One of our first stops was at Shepparton, Victoria where I had been asked to speak on Alpine plants of Tasmania. We received a wonderful welcome and saw some lovely gardens. I have since been asked to come and talk on Dodonaeas next time we are in Victoria.

In South Australia I met up with Helen Bizzai and Phyllis Dadswell at Phyllis' nursery in Gawler. We had a great chat about Dods and looked over Phyllis' nursery. It is good to meet members and it makes writing to them more meaningful. I do hope that members will contact me if coming to Tasmania.

The first new area that we went to was the Gawler Ranges. They are north of Iron Knob and west of Port Augusta. We camped on a sheep station - Mt. Ive - and to my delight our hosts were plant enthusiasts. We were shown around the property and spent a day exploring the area around a huge salt lake, Lake Gairdner. I found D. lobulata, D. viscosa ssp. angustissima, D. viscosa ssp. mucronata with a narrow leaf. I rather think that this is an intergrade species as it is much too far south. D. intricata which I had hoped to find, eluded us.

We climbed Ayers Rock in the early dawn and were astounded to find D. viscosa ssp. mucronata growing near the top, beneath which was the lovely Isotoma petrea. We again found D. viscosa mucronata and D. viscosa ssp. angustissima in a number of areas. We visited the herbarium at Alice Springs and were very kindly given copies of Herbarium collection sheets for the Northern Territory. I felt sure that with the help of these we would find D. aptera, D. platyptera, D. petiolaris, D. coriacea, D. physocarpa and D. lanceolata! We did find D. physocarpa with its large pinnate leaves and huge balloon-shaped fruits with a very narrow wing, on the Carpentaria Highway near Hells Gate. The 'highway' here is a dirt track and quite an adventure. It's on the 'road' from Boroloolo to Bourketown, south of the Gulf of Carpentaria. But I had found D. physocarpa on a previous trip! I did hope to find some new ones! The only new (to me) species that I found was at Lawn Hill National Park, which is south of the Gulf and a truly lovely spot with deep winding gorges, deep water on which one can canoe and lots of nice walks. This species was D. lanceolata ssp. lanceolata, a most uninspiring plant! D. viscosa ssp. mucronata was also there.

I hunted for D. megazyga, my favourite Dod., when we were at Barrington Tops National Park (north west of Newcastle, N.S.W.). This is a lovely place and I highly recommend the Barrington Tops Guest House for warm, cheerful, inexpensive and really great old fashioned hospitality. D. megazyga is listed as found here, but we couldn't find it. I would dearly like to get more cutting material of this species - how about it members from N.S.W. and Queensland?

So as a Dodonaea hunt, it was far from successful. Our friends Melva Truchanas and Bob and Phyl Wyatt travelled some of the way with us. Bob and Phyl left us after Kakadu and headed west. They managed to collect for me, D. petiolaris, D. stenozyga and D. inaequifolia and they profess to know nothing about Dods.

Back in Victoria we visited Bill and Doris Gunn; we looked at their lovely garden and they took us to see an amazing streetscape that has been developed by Kevin Hoffman at Lara. Both these people are growing some good Dods. One of the loveliest gardens we saw, was Kath Deery's at Ringwood. Kath is the lady who developed Karwarra Gardens at Kalorama, and she is now developing a large native garden at the Burnley Horticultural College, this will be worth a visit if any of you are in the area. Kath has a number of D. sinuolata ssp. sinuolata plants and as the sun lit up their masses of red fruits, they were a sight to see.

John Simmons who with his wife Marion, has done many trips around Australia hunting Acacias, has donated all his slides of Dodonaeas to our study group. John is an excellent photographer and his work has featured in many publications. This is a very welcome addition to our slide bank and we sincerely thank John for this assistance.

I also wish to thank Tony Bean, leader of the Eucalyptus Study Group for sending seeds of D. physocarpa. Tony travels a great deal in the bush and is an excellent plant spotter and collector.

Heather Gulline, a Tasmanian S.G.A.P. member recently found a variegated form of D. viscosa ssp. spatulata in the bush. She has struck cuttings so I hope to see some plants soon.

Earlier this year I wrote an article for the Western Australian Wildflower Society newsletter, requesting assistance in collecting specimens of some of the lesser known Dodonaeas from the west. I'm not sure if it has been printed as I have not had a W.A. newsletter this year. I also wrote to Austrafloora, informing them that the Dodonaea that they were selling as D. adenophora, is D. sinuolata ssp. sinuolata. I had an appreciative letter in reply, so I hope that they have corrected this error. I do hope that members are checking what Dodonaeas are being sold in their local nurseries.

Tony Bean of the Eucalyptus Study Group requested details of our display kit. These have been sent to Tony and to the Study Group Co-ordinator. The kit has been used at the Maroondah and Geelong flower shows. If any member has seen it on display, I would welcome some comments or suggestions on how to improve it. I have been asked to present it as part of the Study Group activities at the A.S.G.A.P. Biennial Seminar in Canberra in January, 1988. I do hope that some of our members will be able to attend and to participate in the Study Group session.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Arnold Sandell wrote of his experience with growing seed, that I had sent him. Germination was reasonably satisfactory. After germination they grew quickly to $1\frac{1}{4}$ " , then quite suddenly they started to fall over and die. Some seemed a bit stronger and about 20 were potted up. Unfortunately after a while the same thing happened and he was left with only 1 plant of D. subglandulifera which Arnold planted out last December. This is enough to put anyone off. I can only think that they may have grown too quickly initially - can anyone offer a suggestion.

Notes from Members cont.

Randy Linke, a new member from California, U.S.A. is starting up a nursery. He is growing D. viscosa, D. lobulata, D. boroniifolia, D. filifolia and D. triquetra and he is keen to grow more. He has sent to Nindethana for more seed and I shall send some for him to try. Randy and his wife hope to visit Australia in 1990. We look forward to meeting them.

Last month I received a very welcome letter from Judy West. Judy left for London in September to take up an appointment as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew Gardens, London for one year. Ian is taking study leave at Imperial College in London and they now have two little girls, who will go with them. The baby is now one year old. We do hope that their year in the U.K. is a great experience and we congratulate Judy on her appointment.

Judy has described the unnamed *Dodonaea* from Chinchilla, but I gather that we can't use the new name until it is published. I rang the Division of Plant Industry, C.S.I.R.O., where Judy was working and they have promised to let me know when it is published. This is an excellent garden species, almost prostrate with small lobed leaves and red fruits. Val Hando of Chinchilla has evidently been a great help with information regarding this species.

Doris Gunn wrote sending specimens of a number of *Dods.* growing in her garden for me to identify. She has also requested more seed and cuttings.

FINANCE

Receipts		Expenditure	
Brought forward	32.12	Postage	34.89
Subscriptions	51.40	Stencils	1.50
Hire of display kit	10.00	Envelopes	7.59
Donations	13.00	Receipt Book	1.60
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	106.52		45.58

In hand \$60.94

If you are unfinancial, a red cross will appear here

X

\$3 due 6/87

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE STUDY GROUP

Mrs. Helen Bizzai, 19 Donnington Road, Elizabeth North. S.A. 5113.
 Burrendong Arboretum Assn., C/- P. Althofer, Mumbil, N.S.W. 2820.
 Mrs. Jeanette Closs, 7 Vyella Court, Sustins Ferry, Tas. 7011.
 Mrs. Phyllis Dadswell, 10 Duffield Street, Gawler, S.A. 5118.
 Mrs. Irene Elbourne, 12 Raven Street, Gladesville, N.S.W. 2111.
 Kathy and John Etheridge, Planet Earth Wholesale Growers, 14178 W. Kearney,
 Kerman, Ca. 93630, U.S.A.
 Mrs. Doris Gunn, 37 Loch Ard Drive, Ocean Grove, Vic. 3226.
 Mrs. Gladys Holmes, 13 Anne Street, Berriedale, Tas., 7011.
 Mr. Malcolm Hunt, 34 Hampden Street, Dubbo, N.S.W. 2830.
 Mrs. Ida Jackson, 7 Centenary Avenue, Kingscote, S.A. 5223
 Mr. Randy Linke, 26440 Bennie Lane, Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437, U.S.A.
 Ann and Peter Radke, P.O. Box 220, Walkamin, Qld., 4872.
 Mrs. Marion Simmons, P.O. Box 1148, Legana, Tas. 7257.
 Mrs. Lyn Stewart, C/- Post Office, Balaklava. S.A. 5461.
 Ms. Jo Walker, 16 Blundell Street, Queanbeyan, N.S.W. 2620.
 Ms. Judy West, Division of Plant Industry, CSIRO, P.O. Box 1600, Canberra City
 A.C.T. 2601.

plus all S.G.A.P.Regions and the following branches:

Blue Mountains	East Hills	Foothills
Geelong	Keilor	Maroondah
Werribee		

DODONAEA PINIFOLIA

This species is evidently widespread in south-western Western Australia. It extends from Cue and the Geraldton area in the north, to Wongan Hills, further south to the Stirling Ranges and Ravensthorpe, and to Peak Charles and Cape Arid National Park east of Esperance to the east.

It is a very variable plant, mostly spreading to 1.5m. across and to a height of 0.2 - 1m. The leaves are simple, linear, sometimes terete, 1.5 - 2.5 cm. long and crowded. The margins are usually entire but frequently revolute and sometimes with 1 - 4 irregular teeth or lobes.

D. pinifolia flowers from December to March and the 3(-4) angled globose capsules have erect horn-like appendages to each segment of the capsule. They are 5.5 - 10mm. x 8 - 11.5mm. and light to pinkish-brown at maturity, which is late August to November.

It is evidently a good road colonizer and grows in granite and lateritic rock, or in sandy and gravelly soils, occasionally in sandy loam.

Specimens in our herbarium were collected from Burrendong Arboretum and by Marion Simmons from two sites in south-west Western Australia. I would be pleased to hear of anyone, who has grown this species or has seen it in the wild. Again I would like to thank Karen Stewart for her excellent drawing.



Dod.
pinifolia