

DODONAEA STUDY GROUP



DODONAEA
VISCOSA SSP. ANGUSTISSIMA

Dear Members,

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I'm late in getting this newsletter out, but I hope that it will reach you before Christmas. May I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. In September, I managed to have 5 days in Sydney for the N.S.W. Flower Show. I stayed with Dennis Margan, who is leader of the Goodeniaceae Study Group and organiser of the 'Bicentennial Sydney Wildflower Spectacular'. It was a very exciting and instructional weekend, and I once again met lots of interesting S.G.A.P. folk. I set up the Dodonaea display and some N.S.W. members supplied live material, I think that it looked good. Mike Merroney from Canberra, later took the display kit back to Canberra for two displays they had there. I also helped to put up the Tasmanian and Northern Territory displays.

Later Don and I had a two week trip to Sydney, Southport and Brisbane. I attended the Brisbane S.G.A.P. October meeting, which was most enjoyable and also saw a lot of Expo 88. Irene Cullen brought along her mystery Dod and I think that we decided that it was D. procumbens.

The cuttings that I received from the Australian National Botanic Gardens are potted up and nearly ready for planting out and sharing around. I've lost a few and the remaining plants of D. falcata, D. pinnata and D. platyptera don't look really happy. I can understand the latter not liking our climate but the two former ones come from further south, so I hope that I can keep them going. The others are doing very well.

Last month I had a chance for a brief chat with Judy West. She was in Hobart for a conference of curators of herbaria (my wording) and I was invited to a 'Meet the Botanists' luncheon at the Tasmanian Herbarium. She is a very busy lady but I have asked her assistance with the article I have been preparing for the 'Australian Plants' journal.

At the Sydney Show, I met two fellows Blair McKenzie and John Ross, who are willing to prepare an article on the Sapindaceae of the Queensland rainforest, so this will be a great addition to the Sapindaceae edition of 'Australian Plants'. Please couldn't one of our members write of their experiences with growing Dods?

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Helen Bizzai in September sent me cuttings of D. procumbens x viscosa from Burra S.A. These are looking good in the cutting frame. She also sent specimens for the Herbarium. Many thanks, Helen.

Irene Champion sent me her herbarium specimen of D. platyptera which was identified by the Queensland herbarium. However I believe this to be D. viscosa ssp. spatulata. D. platyptera has much larger leaves and larger capsules, which have a transverse wing. It is recorded only north of latitude 18 degrees south in W.A., N.T. and Queensland. This in Queensland would be north of Tully and Normanton. Irene's specimen was collected near Rockhampton. A later letter from Irene suggests that it is not as I suggested, but that it is D. lanceolata var. subsessilifolia as this is listed from this area. These two species are very similar, I'd like to see the two together.

John and Marion Simmons collected specimens and took slides of a number of Dodonaeas whilst on their recent trip to Queensland and New South Wales, and we do appreciate their help. Marion has also drawn D. ptarmicaefolia, D. procumbens and D. inaequifolia for our 'Australian Plants' edition. They are most beautifully drawn as those of you, who know her 'Acacias of Australia' book, will know.

Phil Collier, a Tasmanian member collected specimens from Western Australia on a recent trip and also recorded a new siting of the Tasmanian endemic D. filiformis on the Scrubby Don Rivulet in northern Tasmania.

Barbara Evans of W.A. has sent specimens of D. hackettiana and two forms of D. viscosa. Then this week I also received a parcel with seed capsules and photos of D. adenophora from Luke Koper of Barongarook via Colac, Victoria. Unfortunately I think all the capsules are empty, this seems to happen with plants from home gardens, especially if there are no male plants nearby. The photo shows two lovely plants in tubs. There is also a possibility that these are not D. adenophora, but possibly D. sinuolata, which has been frequently incorrectly named in the eastern states. D. adenophora has smaller capsules and much smaller leaves. I shall ask Mr. Koper to send me some leaves so that we can be sure what these very spectacular bushes are. I do thank these non-members for their contributions and interest.

Doris Gunn writes that the Gunns and Sagos, their friends planned to go to Kangaroo I sland in October. I do hope that they caught up with Ida Jackson. Doris has volunteered to be our contact for the Victoria Region - many thanks. Doris writes that 'I have at last discovered that there is a local Dod. - up in the Buckley Falls area of Geelong. Our Group (Geelong) has promised to grow from seed 500 to 1,000 plants for Geelong Environment Council for this area. There has been a grant of \$3,000 for this purpose from the Govt. under the guidance of our favourite minister Joan Kerner. The seed will come from a local State Nursery and during discussion I discovered that a local plant is a Dod.' This Dod. was listed as Dodonaea viscosum. Doris has promised to send me a specimen.

Lawrie Whitmore has sent a completed record sheet and for a new member he's well on the way with three well established plants and seedlings coming of 9 other species with D. filifolia being the only unhappy species. Lawrie lives at Para Hills, north-east of Adelaide on an escarpment with a north-west aspect and a 550mm rainfall.

Phyllis Dadswell writes that she has put in the cuttings which I sent to her and sown the seed. We look forward to hearing how they progress.

Hugh Stacey has rejoined the Study Group and we do welcome him back.

FINANCE

Receipts		Expenditure	
Brought forward	62.92	Postage	20.71
Subscriptions	17.00	Copying	8.00
Postage	3.37	Seed list	1.13
	<u>83.29</u>		<u>29.84</u>

En hand £53.45

Some members are still sending only \$3.00 for subscriptions. Please note that because of increased postage and copying costs the subscription is now \$4.00 per year. If you are unfinancial a red cross will appear in this box

I do apologise for the brevity, but plan to do better next time,
Christmas Greetings

Jeanette

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