

S.G.A.P. DODONAEA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 2

November, 1983

Leader: Jeanette Closs (Mrs.)
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Dear Members,

I only hope that you get as much pleasure growing Australian Plants as I do. In my last newsletter I mentioned that my husband and I have bought 34 acres of land. This project is proving a constant delight. Each weekend we visit the land we find either new plant species and/or a new bird or animal. Imagine our delight when we were sitting quietly enjoying our lunch recently, when across in front of us toddled an echidna. Quite unaware of us he nosed around for awhile then headed off behind the dam. We have found 8 different orchids and many, many other species but no Dodonaeas. However I have already planted about 10 Dods. We have a dam, but no pump as yet, so it will be interesting to see how they survive our dry summer. I have been upending a flagon of water beside each plant and refilling it as it empties.

SEED BANK

I have seed of the following species. Please send a stamp addressed envelope with your request. If you can send seed to supplement this list it would be appreciated.

D. adenophora	D. humifusa	D. ptarmicifolia
D. aptera	D. lanceolata	D. triangularis
D. boroniaefolia	D. lobulata	D. triquetra
D. coriacea	D. macrossani	D. truncatiales
D. filifolia	D. microzyga	D. angustissima
D. filiformis	D. multijuga	D. cuneata
D. hackettiana	D. peduncularis	D. spatulata
	D. petiolaris	D. viscosa
D. hexandra	D. physocarpa	

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members who joined when we met at the Biennial Conference in Adelaide in September

Claire Welsh, 2 Walter Street, Claremont. W.A. 6010
Hugh Stacey, 16 Booyong Avenue, Lugarno N.S.W. 2210.
Doris Gunn, 37 Loch Ard Drive, Ocean Grove. Vic. 3226.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

I'm delighted to report that Judy West now has a baby daughter Kim, born on 26th May. Congratulations to Judy and Ian. Judy and family were leaving for U.S.A. early in August and due to return this month. We hope that their trip was rewarding and enjoyable. Judy hoped to see D. viscosa and its close relatives in Southern U.S.A. We hope we hear more of these 'relatives' from overseas. All being well Judy's revision of the Dodonaeas should be out this month - we'll all be delighted to see it.

Honor Venning, the seed bank officer for the Western Australian Wildflower Society sent me some cuttings from Dodonaea stenozyga and D. amblyophylla. She found these when on a botanical trip to the Eyre area of W.A. So I made her an honorary member for a year!!

P.S. To save another stencil, I think I can finish off this newsletter at the bottom of page 1. I am delighted to say that of the many plants that I have planted on our block, the very first to flower and produce fruit is the Dod, which has usually been known as D. truncatiales.

Best wishes for a very happy festive season,
Kindest regards,

Jeanette Closs

Ida Jackson reports on a trip to the Centre, where she saw D. angustissima, D. coriacea and D. lanceolata. She was interested to find some bisexual flowers on D. coriacea, this I believe is usual with a number of Dod. species.

Lyn Stewart was the first member to return her list of Garden Grown Plants. She has 24, most of which she has grown from seed or cutting. Lyn, like most of us will be glad when Judy's revision comes out, to help to clarify the confusion on names of some species. The best news is that Lyn tried a new method of pretreatment of seed. She collected seed from Naracoorte at Easter from the bush, then she boiled them in a microwave oven for a couple of seconds and got 100% germination. Judy mentioned that D. humifusa was one of the species on which she used the boiled water treatment. Just before hearing from Lyn, I had a letter from the National Botanic Gardens asking if we have had any experience with pretreatment of seed. So I have at least this information to pass on.

I have planted 3 species D. coriacea, D. concinna and D. microzyga using three methods on each - one in the microwave oven (as above) one with boiled water and one with no pretreatment. Would other members do a similar trial using 10 or multiples of 10 in each trial and report back on the per centage of success. Lyn also reports that the bugs and slugs seem to be leaving the microwave seedlings alone!! Lyn and also Phyllis Dadswell have mentioned how popular Dodonaeas are becoming in S.A. Lyn queries the identification of the D. tenuifolia, a photo of which is featured in Australian Plants Vol. 8, page 68. I also believe this to be wrongly labelled, but I'm not sure which it is - does anyone know for sure?

S.A. CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR

When in S.A. for the S.G.A.P. Conference and Seminar, I met many people interested in Dods. and I did quite a bit of encouraging people to get interested. We saw a super D. boroniaefolia in Wittunga Gardens and a few (not as many as I'd expected) in the Flinders Ranges. I was taken to see Ken Warnes garden at Owen on our way back from the Flinders Ranges. He has many lovely Dods. as well as lots of other gems in his large garden. Whilst there Lyn Stewart called to meet us - the S.G.A.P. grapevine is a wondrous thing! I only wish I'd had time to get to see Lyn's garden also.

Joan Doney from N.S.W. whom I have known for years and whose friendship I renewed in Adelaide, talked of a Marie Webb, who did work on Dodonaeas - relating to poller - at Sydney University. Does anyone know this lady and of her work? Joan has promised to take me to see D. canfieldii in one of its isolated locations on the central coast and to show me how D. tricetra grades in height from higher situations down to sea level - when I get to Sydney next.

The Conference and Seminar were a great success thanks to the hard working members of S.A. Region. Jo Walker held an informal meeting of Study Group leaders, members and interested observers. A stimulating discussion ensued on the problems of study groups and many interesting ideas and comments were put forth.

PLANT LISTS

Do please fill in your plant lists and return to me. Has anyone any comments on the collection sheets. I tried using these in S.A. and I rarely found time to fill them in fully. However if I noticed anything particularly significant I would note it and this information sometimes helped me to identify the specimen when I got home.

FINANCE

Balance bought forward	\$8.32	Postage	\$5.41
subscriptions	10.00	Seed	4.00
		Envelopes	68

	18.32	10.09
Credit \$8.23		