

# DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

Newsletter No. 24 - June, 1992

ISSN 0811 - 5354

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DODONAEA  
VISCOSA SSP. ANGUSTISSIMA

Dear Members,

Some of you will be surprised to hear from me again as in the last newsletter issued in April, 1991, I relinquished my position as leader of this Study Group, hoping that someone else would take over leadership. This hasn't happened and at the ASGAP Conference in Perth last October, I was persuaded to consider re-activating the group as there are moves afoot to assist leaders more, with ideas of better ways to achieve results with our studies. I propose (with reservations) to continue as leader for a year or two and hope that the future will hold a more positive result with the help of ASGAP and with (I hope) renewed interest from our members.

The last year has been busy for me - in September my final duty as ASGAP President was a challenge i.e. the chairing of the Biennial Conference held in Perth. This meeting was a very full day and a great deal of business was dealt with. The new Executive is Don Wignall, W.A. President, Elizabeth,\*W.A. Secretary, Brian Moyle, W.A. Treasurer and Ray Page of N.S.W. and myself, Vicepresidents. This meeting was followed in the evening by the Study Group leaders meeting, which was helpful with a pooling of ideas and it was good to meet other leaders.

In March this year I also finished my twelve months stand-in as President of Tasmania Region, this period was also very busy but enjoyable. My husband, Don had three operations in 3 months, one being a total knee replacement so this has been a sometimes trying and often time consuming period. However he is walking fairly well again now and we both hope to get back to some bush walking before too long. These activities would have left me little time for study group work but now I'm back in the traces!!

Our garden is developing slowly and the lawn is becoming garden plots planted with natives of all kinds and mulched. Our Tassie rainforest was first to be planted as I had many advanced plants in pots. There are Dods. scattered here and there and more to be planted. Time will tell if they like the heavy basaltic soil with clay close to the surface, which is what we have on our gently sloping block which faces south-east overlooking the lovely Derwent River about 12 kms south of Hobart. This soil is credited with being the best soil in the Hobart area and there are only isolated pockets of it, so perhaps we are lucky. What is your soil and are yo... Dodonaeas doing well in it?

Most of the Dods. that I planted at Austins Ferry were in the park that adjoined our property, so I am able to visit them from time to time. They are all doing well and my neighbour who keeps an eye on them, tells me that D. concinna is the most spectacular in fruit. I plan to go and get cuttings soon as I now have my glasshouse and propagator operational.

George\*

We only have a few financial members and they are listed below but I am sending this newsletter to past members in the hope that they will send a subscription (which must now be \$5 as I no longer have access to cheap photocopying and, of course, postage has gone up) and join the group once again with renewed enthusiasm.

Financial members:

Elizabeth George, 18 Halwest Way, Alexander Heights. W.A. 6064.  
 SGAP Geelong Inc. Group, Vic.  
 Birgitte Sorenson, 115 Maryvale Road, Athelstone. S.A.  
 SGAP Victoria Region  
 Jo Walker, 21 Poppet Road, Wambuin. N.S.W.

The following people enquired about joining and I put them off, but I do hope that they will join now:

Colleen Simpson, S.A.  
 Dr. Kerry Rathie as representative of Logan River Aust. Plant Society Inc.  
 Barbara Payne, W.A.  
 Barry White for SGAP Keilor Plains Group.

NEWS OF DODS. FROM FAR AND WIDE

I was talking to Ivan Holliday at the Perth Conference about rare and endangered Dods. and he promised to pass on some information. I shall quote from his letter dated 28.10.91"....I contacted Darrell Kraehenbuehl in the Native Protection Unit of the Dept. of Environment and Planning.... and he posted me this information....(collection sheets etc. on the two rare S.A. Dods, D. tepperi and D. subglandulifera) As you can see both species are extremely rare and some of the recorded collections are so old that there is little likelihood of specimens still remaining in those localities. However D. tepperi was collected 27 kms south of Streaky Bay in 1977 by David Whibley (formerly Adelaide Bot. Gardens) and at Mangelo Water Reserve, NE of Cleve by A.J. Kinnear in 1986. It is strange that Judy West did not mention Whibley's collection, as her article appeared in Brunonia in 1984." Ivan adds a postscript: "Darrell has since rung me and I have clarified a couple of points:  
 (1) D. tepperi was found near Cleve by Sandy Kinnear one of the Nat. Veg. Units officers and has since been found at several locations in the Cleve Hills.  
 (2) D. subglandulifera was seen and photographed by Darrell between Morgan and Eudunda in recent times. This is the extremely rare species, D. tepperi not so rare. It is also a true species, D. tepperi, a hybrid".

I do thank Ivan for this information and the collection sheets from the S.A Herbarium. It is interesting to note that D. subglandulifera is more rare than D. tepperi. I would be interested if Judy West would comment on the suggestion that D. tepperi is a hybrid?

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 Birgitte Sorenson of Black Hill Flora Centre is doing research on 5 seriously endangered plants endemic to S.A., one of which is D. subglandulifera. We hope to hear more of her research.

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 Darrell Kraehenbuehl wrote a most interesting article, which appeared in the SGAP S.A. Journal in February 1992 entitled 'The Northern Mount Lofty Range A Neglected Botanical Region'. He records finding the Lobe-leaved Hop Bush, D. lobulata in the Burra Gorge and the Crinkled Hop Bush D. baueri in the Hallelujah Hills.

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 Another article in the same Journal was 'Fleurieu Group Goes North' by Don Ackland and reported when walking in Alligator Gorge many interesting plants were seen and 'plenty of good old Dodonaea viscosa (I wonder which subspecies?).

If we had enough keen South Australian members, perhaps we could aim at re-introducing some of our rare *Dodonaeas* back into their original localities before they are lost in the wild forever.

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Ida Jackson sent me seed of *Acacia dodonaeifolia*. I have always wanted to try this species with *Dodonaea*-like foliage (like which *Dod.*? - Probably 'good old *D. viscosa*'). This acacia grows mainly on the north coast of Kangaroo Island on clay near the sea, so it should do well for me. I have a number of small plants now ready to plant out.

Our sincerest congratulations go out to Ida and her husband, Garth, for they have been included in the 100 South Australians who did most for National parks in the last century (1891 - 1991). The first park in S.A. was dedicated at Belair in 1891. They received their award from the Premier at a dinner in the Town Hall on December, 19th, 1991. It is great that dedication such as this is recognised.

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Colleen Simpson of S.A. writes that she is growing *D. multijuga* but that the fruits are a dull pink to no-colour. (Mine had dark-red to almost black fruits, what are other members experiences with this-species?) Colleen is also interested in species with lime-green fruits (I know that *D. triquetra* has this coloured fruits and some immature fruits are shades of green, but can any member make suggestions from their own experience).

Colleen wrote an article for the S.A. SGAP Journal - November, 1991 telling of a trip she and her husband by caravan in September last year to Port Lincoln via Kimba. Her descriptions of the flora seen on the way and in the Kimba area would tempt anyone, but of course the sentence that caught my eye was: 'Also growing in the same area was a lovely form of *Dodonaea viscosa*, the prettiest I have seen, and with a drift of daisies, it was a sight I will remember for a long time'. (My guess is that it would be *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *angustissima* which, I think, is the prettiest of the seven subspecies.)

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Barbara Payne of W.A. writes of seeing a *Dodonaea* with beautifully perfumed foliage near Exmouth when on a Kevin Coates Wildflower Tour. Someone else in Perth mentioned that *D. ptarmicifolia* had perfumed foliage. It may have been Claire Welsh.

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Kerry Rathie wrote from Greenbank, Qld. on behalf of Logan River Australian Plant Society and mentions that they only grow local species and *D. physocarpa*, but are interested to try more. (I wish that I could grow this species in the southern isle.)

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I wrote to Jo Walker of Canberra after reading an article she wrote for the December, 1991 SGAP Canberra Journal. She mentioned 'a *Dodonaea* (species unknown from W.A.) which Jo purchased from Neil Marriott's nursery in Victoria and it has grown steadily into a tight little shrub about 30cm across. It has tiny dark green leaves and small reddish fruits. Jo later sent me a pressed specimen and I identified it as *D. caespitosa*. Jo is also growing *D. boroniifolia*, *D. hirsuta*, *D. macrossani*, *D. multijuga* (what colour are the fruits, Jo?) *D. procumbens*, *D. truncatiales* var *heterophylla* [now *D. heterophylla*] and 2 unidentified species. Jo mentioned that her *D. heterophylla* had male flowers followed by fruit in which healthy looking seed developed, this species is listed as dioecious - a mystery as yet unsolved!

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Randy Linke from U.S.A. writes that he is giving up his nursery for the time being and going to graduate school and hopes to major in horticulture but he still plans to grow and experiment with Dods. Good luck, Randy.

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Jan Sked writes that she is having great success with D. rupicola from the Glasshouse Mountains, even through the dreadful drought they have had; and the two plants are loaded with flowers and seed capsules. She plans to send us some seed when time allows.

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Jan has also, in her role of Study Group Co-ordinator, sent me an invitation to a Study Group Leaders Workshop and Seminar, which is to be held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra on the 10th and 11th October this year. I shall look forward to this weekend as this should give the Study Group some valuable input and hopefully, more can be achieved.

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Irene Champion in her Christmas card noted that her D. vicosa ssp. viscosa which is found only growing naturally in the north of Queensland are just full of fruit and at that time were all green in colour.

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Anne and Peter Radke of Yurnaga Nursery had an article in 'Australian Plants Vol 16, No. 130. The article was entitled 'Planting a Native Garden in North Queensland' and amongst the plants listed was:

D. polyandra. Large bushy shrub from Cape York Peninsula. Flowers insignificant, but are followed by masses of very unusual and showy green and purple seed pods. Fast grower and good screener.

( I wonder how many of our 'northern' members are growing this species?)

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Some of my friends found Dods. as they travelled to and from Perth for the ASGAP Conference. Melva Truchanas (Tas) collected specimens of D. polyzyga, D. microzyga and D. inaequifolia. John and Marion Simmons (Tas) have passed on slides of Dods seen when they crossed the Gunbarrell Highway and explored W.A.'s country areas. Jill Roberts (Tas) took slides of D. stenozyga and brought cuttings to me, which have potted on and are now ready to plant out. I have some of my Tassie friends well trained!!

Barbara and Margaret Evans took me to see D. aptera, which grows strongly along the foreshore at Peppermint Grove in W.A., not far from their home on limestone cliffs, so no wonder it prefers an alkaline soil. Some fruits in this area had 3 and 5 lobes, which I believe, is unusual.

It was great to meet a number of people in Perth who were interested in Dods., I wish I had had more time to spend with them.

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I noted some time ago, on plants of D. baueri I had planted in the park at Austins Ferry, that the leaves adjacent to the wine-red fruits, were also wine-red but the lower sides of the fruit and the leaves were pale green. Leaves not adjacent to fruit were green - another mystery maybe?

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This newsletter contains a lot of trivia, interesting but hardly scientific studymaterial - shall we resolve as a group to come up with some reports of seed viability, seed dispersal, the adaptability of Dods. to frost and other conditions or plans of how to re-introduce rare species into the wild?

DODONAEA INAEQUIFILIA Turcz.

I first saw this species of Dodonaea in Ken Warnes garden at Owen S.A. where I had been taken by Brian and Wendy Fopp on our return from the SGAP excursion to the Flinders Ranges following the SGAP Conference in 1983. I had corresponded with Ken and knew that he grew many Dods. so his garden was a joy and an education. This plant was a great sight - a well rounded tall shrub (about 2m high) with masses of attractive finely divided leaves and small clusters of pink winged fruits. If I remember aright, Ken beleived it to be Dodonaea tenuifolia which has often been confused with D. inaequifolia

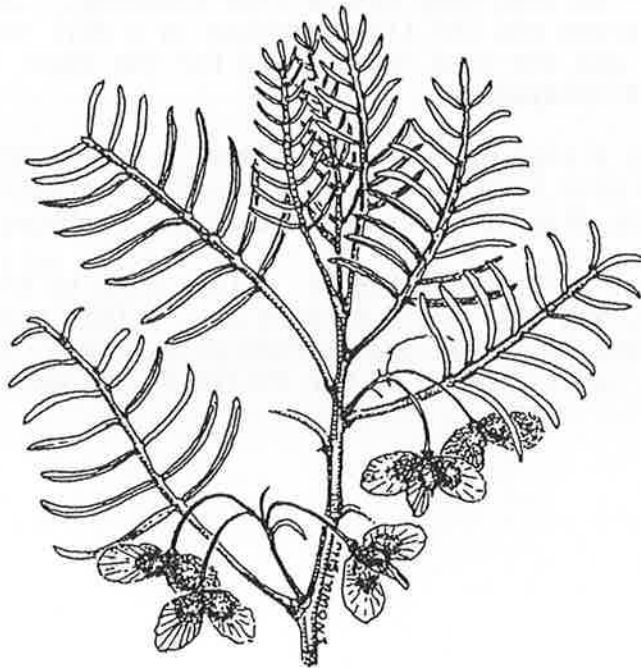
This species is confined to south-west Western Australia in semi-arid areas usually in rocky granite or laterite soils in mall scrub or open woodlands.

D. inaequifolia flowers in autumn and early winter and the fruit may be seen from August to November. These capsules have 3-4 transverse wings and are an attractive dark-red when mature.

It resembles D. tenuifolia from Queensland, which has longer leaves and no hairs. The leaves of D. inaequifolia are 3 - 5cm long with 19 - 23 leaflets and are sticky and slightly hairy.

A female plant was growing successfully in my garden at Austins Ferry and had flowered and fruited well, but had not reached maturity.

This beautiful drawing was done for us by Marion Simmons of Legana, Tasmania and we do thank Marion for this contribution.



*Dod. inaequifolia*

## DODONAEA DISPLAY KIT

This kit has not been used for displays for some time. Let me remind you of what it contains so that you may feel like using it at your next Flower Show or similar display.

The kit is housed in a strong cardboard box, which we had made to fit the kit. It measures 54cm x 80cm x 8cm deep and is fastened by a leather strap with a handle.

There are three large poster size prints of Dodonaeas i.e. D. inaequifolia from a slide of John Simmons', D. ptarmicifolia from a slide of mine and the third from a slide of Judy West's illustrating three different types of capsule. These were mounted by a book binder.

On card 50cm x 34cm, I have mounted two leaf print displays, one a range of simple Dodonaea leaves and the other a range of compound Dodonaea leaves. This is done by photocopying the actual leaves on a sheet of white paper and enlarging the copies. A scale is indicated.

Good pressed specimens have been mounted on card and covered in plastic sheeting. There are nine of these. Each has a clearly printed caption with the name of the plant, its distribution, where it was collected, by whom it was collected and the date of the collection.

On another sheet of card; cellophane packets of 4 different types of seed capsules are displayed, with line drawings of each species, drawn by Karen Stewart, to highlight the difference in each capsule type.

Each display card has a cardboard fold-out - similar to those found backing old photographs - so that they can be free standing. All backing cards (mounts) are bush green and the signs printed in a dull red - resembling the red of many fruits; and the same red is used for the small cards used to label any potted plants displayed.

Two signs printed by a sign-writer i.e. DODONAEA and PRESENTED BY THE DODONAEA STUDY GROUP are also included. Thin sheets of plastic foam are placed between most of the display cards to protect the surfaces.

The display kit cost a total of \$109.17. Ipec used to transport it to any address for \$15 each, but this could be more now. This charge would be paid by the borrower unless it can be transported privately. The box weighs about 7 - 8 kg. (14lb). Just ring me on 002 291710 if you want to borrow the kit