

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
BOTANIC GARDENS

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Ms Jeanette Closs

176 Summerleas Road  
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Dear Jeanette

Thanks for the copy of the letter that you sent to the Director of ANBG dated 19 October. A review of the collection at ANBG is currently underway and *Dodonaea* were to be part of this review, so your letter has arrived at an opportune time.

I agree with what you say about the *Dodonaea* section. We have had some complicating factors with *Dodonaea*. No matter where in the Gardens that they are planted, many species succumb to what we believe are fungal problems, though there are some steps in progress to examine the actual cause of the problem. However, we would like to take some steps to rectify the situation with regards to cultivation, and ideally this could be done as a co-operative project between ANBG and the *Dodonaea* Study Group (DSG) of the ASGAP. This is what I propose could happen:

- 1) ANBG works toward the development of an area(s) to grow *Dodonaea*, and these areas to include improved soil zones to cater for as many species as possible. It could be developed by October 1994.
- 2) We make a concerted effort to establish *Dodonaea* spp that occur within the ecological zones that we represent at present, those being Tinderry ranges, Brindabella Ranges, mallee, Sydney Basin, Southern Tablelands, various rainforest peripheral zones, Tasmania, Cocoparra Ranges and Morton National Park.
- 3) The DSG works to providing seed or cutting material of *Dodonaea* spp to ANBG (with locality information) for display in the newly developed section.
- 4) ANBG acknowledges the assistance of the DSG through interpretation of the Section.

ANBG would also be interested in obtaining any forms or varieties of *Dodonaea* that have special horticultural merit, which we hope that the DSG might register through the ACRA. We could discuss this separately if you wish. These special releases may somehow be able to accrue royalties that may assist the DSG or the maintenance of the *Dodonaea* section.

I have also just received the Minutes of the Study Group Leaders Meeting in Sydney - thanks.

I look forward to hearing from you about this matter, as the ANBG is keen to co-operate with the DSG.

Kind Regards

Geoff Butler  
15 November 1993



Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

## DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 28 - NOVEMBER, 1993 *Jeanette Closs*

ISSN 0811 - 5354

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Dear Members,

I haven't long been back from the ASGAP Conference and seminar which was held in Sydney at the Macquarie University. I also attended the Pre-conference Tour, which took us to the Blue Mountains where we stayed at Megalong Valley the first night. We then had 3 nights at the historic town of Morpeth from whence we visited the wonderful Wetland Centre at Shortland, where a swamp land has been re-established and the birds from near and far are delighted. We also spent time at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, Tomaree National Park and the Watagan State Forest. A great few days but the only Dods that we could find were *D. triquetra* and some *D. viscosa* subspecies.

The Conference on the Saturday went well; you will see reports in Regional newsletters, I'm sure. Our greatest concern is that Jan Sked, the Study Group Co-ordinator has resigned and no one as yet volunteered to fill this position. Perhaps our members know of someone who would be interested in taking on the role. A lot of discussion covered the possibility of having further Study Group Leader's workshops and the main stumbling block is lack of finance, but avenues of funding are to be investigated.

Jan Sked had asked me to chair the Study Group Leader's meeting on the Saturday evening, as she was unable to attend. We had more people in attendance, I believe, than we have ever had before. There 13 Study Group leaders, 2 members representing leaders and 38 observers, which was very encouraging. The above items from the Conference were further discussed. Geoff Butler from the Aust. National Botanic Gardens and the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, reported on the Workshop held last October and reported that the Manual that he and the ANPC are preparing as a result of this workshop should be out later this year, it is being aimed at a wider group as well as the Study Groups, such as Landcare etc.. A draft agreement between the Study Groups and the Royal Botanic Gardens annexe at Mt. Annan was discussed - referred to later in this newsletter.

Concern was expressed that some members of Study Groups are not members of SGAP. Although it was generally felt that it was desirable that all participants are members of SGAP, it was agreed that any individual or agencies whom the Study Group needs to achieve the objects of the Study Group should be admitted as a member. Much was covered in general discussion on the direction of the Study Groups.

The seminar took up the next five days and we enjoyed

# DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

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19th October, 1993

DODONAEA  
VISCOSA ssp. ANGUSTISSIMA



The Director and staff,  
Australian National Botanic Gardens,  
P.O. Box 1777,  
Canberra ACT 2601.

Dear Sir,

In October last year I attended the ANPC/ASGAP Study Group Workshop, which was of great value to the participants. Earlier this month, I was again able to visit our National Botanic Gardens, this is always a highlight of my trips to Canberra.

I wish to congratulate you and your staff on the progress made in the development of the new Tasmanian section. We, in Tasmania, are proud of the contribution made by Dick Burns towards the plant material for this garden.

I always visit the Dodonaea area of the gardens and am saddened at the poor show displayed here. In 1992 the plants looked poorly and the selection very limited. This year some of the plants looked healthier but they are almost starved of the sunshine that they mostly get in their natural habitat. Nobody would enthuse about this genus after seeing them at the ANBG or at Mt. Annan Botanical Gardens. In both cases these lovely plants are placed in heavily shaded areas and they have become leggy and fail to produce the very colourful fruit, which is their major visual attraction. Many members of our Study Group and other growers are delighted with these plants for their horticultural value. We would ask that in the future a more sympathetic approach could be maintained to the growing of Dodonaeas.

I realize that funding is limited these days and sadly this is apparent in many sections of the gardens. Perhaps with the advent of national celebrations in the years 2000 and 2001, the Government will realize the value of this jewel in our "floral crown" and its quality as a tourist venue as well as a research institution, and allocate more funding and resources in the months and years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Closs (Mrs.)  
Leader.

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some excellent talks on quite a range of subjects:  
Day 1. Australian Flora: Past, Present and Future.  
Day 2. Flora of the Hawkesbury Sandstone - a day tour.  
Day 3. Cultivation and Propagation of the Australian Flora.  
Day 4. Flora of Western Sydney and Blue Mountains - excursion and garden visits.  
Day 5. Flora of New South Wales.

At the Castlereagh State Forest, I was delighted to be lead to an area of *Dodonaea falcata* and they looked great presenting masses of light red fruits. My friend, Peter Olde, who is leader of the Grevillea Study Group was hunting (as he always is) for some Grevilleas. Imagine my delight (it may never happen again) when I remarked to Peter: 'Just this once Peter, you'll have to admit that the dodonaeas outshine the grevilleas' and he graciously agreed!!!

The next Conference/Seminar is at Ballarat, Victoria in September, 1995 and I do recommend it to you.

One evening at the Seminar, Study Groups, Regions, Branches and members were invited to put on displays and sell goods (if they would like to). I put up the Dodonaea Display, and Shona Sadlier brought in some good specimens of Dods in pots. Much interest was shown and a few people joined the group, and others requested seed. I have sent off some seed to those requesting same and hope to get some feed back from these folk in the future.

Les Robinson on Day 1 of the Seminar spoke on the 'Aboriginal Uses of Plants around Sydney'. I asked if he knew of aborigines using Dod capsules to make a beverage (as I have heard reported). He said that there is no record that he knows of, of this being so. I rather feel that this 'myth' comes because *Humulus lupulus* (the hops of) were/are used to make beer by white settlers and this is from whence the confusion probably originates.

At the Hunter River Botanical Gardens a pamphlet on foods probably used by Aborigines notes: "*Dodonaea triquetra* 'Hop Bush': apparently the leaves of some species were chewed to relieve toothache or rubbed on as a treatment for stings such as stingray's".

Alan Hodge, one of the NSW members, who led us on walks in the Brisbane Waters and Bouddi National Parks mentioned that *Dodonaea triquetra* seeds are a staple food of the Wonga Pigeon which is a large slaty-grey pigeon with white forehead, white 'V' on breast and black spots on the flank. He also said that this bird makes a noise like a car alarm. I don't know this bird but other members will and I would be interested if anyone else has observed this bird feeding on Dods.

The final draft for the issue of 'Australian Plants' on Dods has gone back to Bill Payne. I'm not totally happy with it but maybe it will be OK in the long run. It should be in the December 1993 issue. Many thanks to Marion Simmons for at the last minute, providing us with a beautiful illustration of *D. biloba* which was needed to complete the illustrations of all the Dods. Thanks also for the contributions made by Judy West, Jan Sked, Bob Dixon, from King's Park in W.A. and Ida Jackson. I would value your comments and criticisms when you receive your issue.

## RESEARCH cont.

planned. I will not be able to complete all the work I had planned for *D. subglandulifera* but I will still finish some of the experiments that are in progress. I will be able to give you an update towards the end of the year when the experiments have been completed."

Birgitte is still working at Black Hill Flora Centre but on another project and this is being funded by the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. I'm sorry that her funding has ceased for the Conservation of endangered species and I am wondering if there is any way that the Study Group can assist.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE

Welcome to new members:

Klaus Querengass, P.O. Box 73, St. Lucia, Brisbane, Qld. 4067.  
Coral Moore, Harris Road, Woolsthorpe, Vic. 3276.  
Jonathon Lidbetter, Horticultural Research and Advisory Station,  
P.O. Box 581, Gosford, NSW. 2250.  
Julie Sutcliffe, 27 Boothby Street, Northcote, Vic. 3070.

Thank you to the Regions and Branches who send their newsletters, and thanks to the members who sent their subscriptions so promptly and especially to the following who also add a donation:

SGAP NSW Region	\$25	Elizabeth George	\$10
SGAP Qld. Region	\$10	SGAP Pine Rivers	\$ 2
SGAP New England	\$ 5	SGAP Vic. Region	\$ 5
Irene Champion	\$ 5	SGAP Blue Mts.	\$ 5

Our balance at present is \$151.48

OTHER BUSINESS!!!

I have run on too much and I now realize that I will not have room to include notes from members and other tit-bits that I have collected, so I will start another newsletter in the New Year and include these then.

The mail yesterday(25/11/93) included a reply from Geoff Butler, to whom I had sent a copy of the letter on Page 7, and the first copies of the December issue of 'Australian Plants'. I believe that the Study Group should take on this proposal from the ANBG and I will send seed as soon as possible, but I again ask members to send cutting material with locality information to the ANBG and the RBG MT. Annan. Could you please also let me know when and what you send so that the Study Group has a record.

You should receive your copies of the Dod issue of 'Australian Plants' soon. I am reasonably happy with it, I haven't read it all yet, but there a few mistakes. On page 216, the captions should be reversed, on Page 217 it should read fruit not flower and I really can't understand why they used the photo of *D. viscosa* ssp. *cuneata*, it is so unnaturally blue. However its great to have it all finished and on record. May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a rewarding New Year especially in the bush and the garden.

Best wishes,

*J. Anne*

RESEARCH

The Garden Design Study Group has asked us to let them know what we consider are very reliable dodonaeas for use in gardens and garden design. What I would like is a pen picture of one or more Dod from each members garden, please. That is assuming that you have some that are a delight for you.

I recently was loaned a copy of 'ANZECC List of Threatened Australian Flora' for June, 1993. *D. rupicola* was listed as (V) Vulnerable Taxa and *D. subglandulifera* was listed as (E) Endangered Taxa. I hadn't heard of the listing of *D. rupicola* before. We know it is found only in the Glasshouse Mountains in Queensland, so it is not surprising. I sowed seed of this species, given to me by Jan Sked and I have lots of them potted on. There is still plenty more seed if anyone would like some.

Some interested people on one of the Sydney excursions were discussing with me why some *Dodonaea* fruits colour well and others in similar positions don't. Where I drive frequently on the road to New Norfolk, there are masses of *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *spatulata*. Plants alongside one another can put on displays of varying shades. Some plants may have all green fruits, some plants deep wine and others rusty red. I sometimes think that it depends on the amount of sun they get, but I'm starting to doubt this theory - can members let me know their observations and conclusions please.

In previous newsletters I have expressed my doubts that a species which we now call *D. aptera* prostrate form, is indeed that. I have seen it growing in gardens in WA and NSW and I have grown it for sometime. It was given to me as *D. bursariifolia* by Gwenda MacDonald of Victoria. I asked Bob Dixon of Kings Park, WA and he doesn't know it's wild origin. Max Hewitt of Sydney is growing it and he got it from Tony Clarke, a nurseryman from South Australia. I wrote to Tony asking him of it and he rang to say that George Lullfitz collected it on the beachside near Albany, WA. I plan to write to Eileen Croxford, a friend of mine who belongs to the Albany Branch of WSof WA to see if she can track this plant down. Judy West has requested material to propagate and if we can find wild source material, Judy will have a further close look at it. This mystery species is prostrate, the leaves are fleshy - spoon-shaped to 2.5cm long and the stems are squarish. The fruits are small green and lobed. George Lullfitz and Tony Clarke are calling it *D. ceratocarpa* and it certainly resembles this species in the fruit, but the leaves of *D. aptera* prostrate form are broader and more fleshy.

Don Wignall of WA collected seed of *D. polyzyga*, a lovely species from far north WA and NT with large pinnate foliage. Would any members from Qld willing to try these seed please contact me. I think that it will be too cold down here for me to try and maybe waste the seed.

## DRAFT

## CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN RBG AND ASGAP

The RBG will be pleased to enter into a co-operative association with ASGAP via the Study Group Leaders (or their nominees).

The RBG contact officer is the Curator, Mount Annan Botanic Garden, P O Box 913, Campbelltown 2560. The ASGAP should nominate their contact person to the RBG contact officer.

Particular conditions of the Agreement are as follows:

1. Study Group Leaders (or their Nominee) will be welcome visitors to the Mount Annan Botanic Garden, with prior arrangement with the RBG's contact officer.
2. Access to propagation material from Mount Annan Gardens' Living Collections will be available, with prior contact from ASGAP's contact person.
3. Opportunities can exist for co-operative collecting trips.
4. Propagation material received by the RBG will be documented in the Living Collections Database and continuity of this documentation is essential, particularly when supplied to Study Group Leaders (or their Nominees).
5. The RBG may be able to assist collectors, nominated by the ASGAP contact person, with some of the costs involved with the collection and dispatch of propagating material.
6. The RBG may be able to assist collectors with the obtaining of collecting permits from various authorities. However, any breaches of any of the conditions imposed for such authorities by the collector or others can nullify this whole agreement.
7. Adequate notice must be given of dispatch of propagating material to Mount Annan Botanic Garden, with a minimum of two weeks for batches of over 20 accessions.
8. Once plant material has been received by the RBG it is, and will remain, the property of the RBG and we reserve the right not to distribute material of some accessions.
9. The RBG's holdings of native species are of wild origin, with the exceptions of cultivars and hybrids of cultivated origin. With these latter exceptions, propagating material of species from non-wild sources will not be accepted.
10. RBG requires Study Group Leaders to send Study Group Newsletters, or any other literature that may be produced, to the RBG Library.
11. This agreement will be reviewed by a meeting of relevant members of both parties after a one year period.

The Draft Agreement printed on the previous page is being trialled between the Royal Botanic Gardens at Mt. Annan, NSW and the ASGAP Study Groups. When we visited the Mt. Annan gardens at Campbelltown south of Sydney on the Hume Highway, I was very disappointed to see the poor (in quality and quantity) state of their *Dodonaea* collection. As you will note they require material from wild sources, so any member who can do so are asked to send cutting material with fruits and flowers (where available) to this address noting accurate source locations and also noting that I as leader of the group, requested you to do so. I will send them our newsletter, but for now I can't see that they can contribute anything to us. My own collection far outshines theirs, but getting wild source material is difficult for me except for *D. viscosa* ssp. *spatulata* and maybe *D. filiformis*.

The *Dodonaea* collection at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra is equally disappointing and I'm sure that they would also appreciate material from wild sources. I was able to visit these gardens on my way back from Sydney and this prompted me to write the letter which appears on Page 7..

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Birgitte Sorenson writes that she was moving into her first home and getting married in September. We wish them both the very best of best wishes for a happy future. She further reports :  
 "The *D. subglandulifera* plantings in Yookamurra Sanctuary have survived the summer and have developed lush growth. Unfortunately, there were more losses at Brookfield Conservation Park due to drier conditions and grazing by rabbits/goats/kangaroos.

A *D. subglandulifera* population near Wallaroo is heavily infested with wild oats, horehound, soursobs and Salvation Jane ( or Patterson's Curse) and there are very few young seedlings. Dr. Manfred Jusaitis and myself set up a herbicide trial to investigate the effects of weed competition on the establishment of seedlings. We sprayed plots with pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides and left adjoining plots unsprayed. Young seedlings were planted in each of the plots and their heights were recorded.

I did not have a great deal of success with cuttings but it would be interesting to try the techniques tested by the Australian National Botanic Garden (newsletter no. 27). I still have one germination experiment in progress so I will report on that at a later date.

Late last year I was informed of a putative population of *D. subglandulifera* near Knotts Well in the Murray Mallee. About 20 plants occur on the roadside and on private property. I have visited the site a couple of times and all the plants are very dense as a result of heavy grazing. The plants are a deeper green and not sticky like typical *D. subglandulifera*. The plants have not flowered at all this year and we need flowering/ fruiting specimens to be able to positively identify the plants.

Unfortunately, the funding from World Wide Fund for Nature for the project that I am working on has ceased a few months earlier than