

October, 1984

Leader: Jeanette Closs (Mrs.)
7 Vyella Court,
Austins Ferry,
TASMANIA. 7011.

Dear Member,

At last the revision of the Dodonaeas is out. Entitled 'A Revision of Dodonaea Miller (Sapindaceae) in Australia' by J.G. West, it is published in Brunonia 1984, Vol 7. I think this could be rather expensive to buy but enquiries could be made to the Editor-in-Chief, C.S.I.R.O., 314 Albert Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002. However, it will be included in Volume 25 of 'The Flora of Australia' to be published next year, so this volume could be worth ordering. Judy has also been busy preparing this for publication. I would like to pass on our sincere congratulations to Judy for producing this monumental work; which will assist so many people to get to know and identify our Dods.. Judy has sent a copy for the Study Group, so from now on I can be more positive in identifying the new Dodonaeas for you and I'll let you know the identity of some of the specimens which you have sent to me in the past, if my filing system doesn't let me down. I have tried to keep a record of what you have sent and what I considered was the species name.

My husband, Don retired in August from his position as Sporting Supervisor for the A.B.C. in Tasmania. He will miss the activities and contacts which his work has provided for the past 30 years, but we have so many plans, projects and commitments for the future that there will never be a spare minute. The staff presented him with an electric drill, a golf buggy and a new typewriter. Hence a clearer newsletter this time, I hope.

We ~~have~~ are off to New Zealand next week for three weeks holiday. We're not looking for Dods but for Closses - our daughter has researched the Closs family and has traced some second and third cousins living in New Zealand, so we plan to call on them as well as see lots of lovely countryside and go some walking. Next year, we plan a trip to Cape York and Thursday Island, as well as a few days on Fraser Island, the A.S.G.A.P. Conference and all sorts of fascinating areas in between. It should be a good opportunity to see some new Dods.

DISPLAY

I've started to put together some material to form a display kit; which can be sent to Regions or branches to promote Dodonaeas at Flower Shows. I have had a number of requests for display material from other Regions. Kodak have made two poster sized prints for us. One from a slide taken by John Simmons of Luncheon of D. ptarmicifolia and another from a slide of Judy West's featuring line drawings of the different types of seed capsules and photos of same. I would particularly like some of the more unusual seed capsules:-

1. the transverse winged capsules such as:

D. heteromorpha	D. inaequifolia
D. pachyneura	D. platyptera
D. rhombifolia	D. stenophylla
D. tenuifolia	D. truncatiales
2. the lobed capsules such as:

D. aptera	D. baueri
D. bursariifolia	D. divaricata
D. hexandra	D. humifusa
D. petiolaris	D. tepperi
3. the horn or awl type capsules such as:

D. caespitosa	D. ceratocarpa
D. pinifolia	
4. the hairy or glandular capsules such as:

D. ericoides	D. glandulosa
D. humilis	D. macrossani
D. oxyptera	D. rupicola
D. triangularis	D. trifida
D. vestita	

I plan to display a range of these in plastic containers to show the variation in seed capsule form. I will also mount some of the best pressed specimens that I have and have them clearly labelled. I am also experimenting with leaf prints. This will all pack into a box, which can be sent to any group who request it, at a small cost to cover packing and postage.

SEED BANK

Please send a stamp addressed envelope if you are requesting seed. Donations of seed are always acceptable. If possible put the name of the species, date of collection and whether it was collected in the bush or garden and from what area, on each packet. There is still a lot of seed being wrongly labelled, so if we can keep records of what we grow and get the material positively identified, we can then let the supplier know if there is any error. If you are unsure of identification, please include a specimen of the plant.

The following species are available at present:

D. adenophora	D. inaequifolia	D. sinuolata
D. aptera	D. lanceolata	ssp. sinuolata
D. boroniifolia	var lanceolata	D. stenophylla
D. concinna	D. lobulata	D. triangularis
D. coriacea	D. Macrossani	D. triquetra
D. filifolia	D. microzyga	D. truncatiales
D. filiformis	ssp. microzyga	D. viscosa
D. hackettiana	D. multijuga	ssp. angustissima
D. heteromorpha	D. peduncularis	ssp. burmanniana
D. hexandra	D. petiolaris	ssp. cuneata
D. humilis	D. physocarpa	ssp. spatulata
	D. ptarmicifolia	ssp. viscosa.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:-

- Keilor Plains Group, C/- R.T. Goonan, 5 Bunarong Close, Kealba. Vic. 3021.
 Burrendong Arboretum, C/- Mr. P. Althofer, Burrendong Arboretum, Mumbil, N.S.W. 2920.
 S.G.A.P. Canberra Region, C/- Jon Real, P.O. Box 203, Civic Square, A.C.T. 2608.
 Maroonah Group, C/- Flora Anderson, P.O. Box 33, Richmond, Vic. 3134.
 Western Australian Wildflower Society, P.O. Box 64, Nedlands, W.A. 6009.

This brings our membership to 22, sadly only 6 of these members could be classed as active. I would urge all members to send specimens for identification, seeds for the seed bank, subscriptions on time and respond to any request listed in the newsletter.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

George Althofer from Wellington, N.S.W. has sent me a most impressive list of Dods growing at Burrendong Arboretum as well as many cuttings of Dods. and Prostantheras. I am hoping that I can get to see the Burrendong Arboretum on our way to Queensland next year.

Beverly O'Keefe from Springsure, Queensland, (hopefully another stop on our trip next year) writes that having collected seeds of D. stenophylla from the Tambo Road, she put them in a glass, poured boiling water over them and left them to sit. These were left in the glass and forgotten as they didn't seem to swell. One day about a month later, she found that they had put out small shoots (roots) and she potted them into little tubes, and since then into 5" pots of loam sand and animal manure. They seem healthy, so far, though they were only about 1" high when Beverly wrote in May. They could be in the garden by now?

Phyllis Dadswell of Gawler, S.A. uses the boiling water treatment for seeds. The D. humifusa seed that Judy West sent, germinated well, unfortunately 7 were enjoyed by a slimy hungry slug. It was squashed out of recognition before it devoured any more. From 22 seeds, 17 germinated so Phyllis now has 10 healthy survivors. Phyllis also mentions that the area where most of her Dods are planted has to be levelled to make way for a shade house in the nursery. In June she had 15 species ready to plant out and another 5 to plant out in the spring when they have grown a little bigger.

Ida Jackson's results with the boiled water method were not too good viz.

- D. lobulata - 24 seeds scalded
 15.5.84 seeds sown
 17.6.84 6 germinated and more germinated later.
- D. hexandra - 6 seeds scalded
 16.5.84 seeds sown
 17.6.84 - germination nil
- D. coriacea 36 seeds scalded
 19.5.84 seeds sown
 17.6.84 - only 1 germinated
- D. lanceolata 24 seeds scalded
 26.5.84 seeds sown
 17.6.84 - 6 germinated and more germinated later. Was your seed fresh?

Lyn Stewart's experience with seed, also indicates that pretreatment with boiling water is essential for good germination. I sent seed to Lyn and only a few came up. Lyn says that she was rather busy at the time and didn't

pre-treat them, just put a few seeds direct into each bag. She goes on to say that she had lots of D. angustissima (D. viscosa ssp. angustissima) seed but it looked all shrivelled up and useless, so she decided to soak it for a few days, but went on a school camp for 4 days and forgot them. When she got home they were all swollen and they germinated within a week and are still coming up, so Lyn thinks soaking really is good for them. Lyn is not only my best correspondent and, I think, our most active member, but she is also involved in a 'Greening of Australia' project. The 'Greening of Mallala' is a pilot scheme and it's aim is to put the local flora back on the roadsides. Lyn mentions that she was aiming for a thousand plants but the way everything is germinating it will probably be 2,000, as she hadn't started the Eucalypts when she wrote in June. The school children clean the seed and fill the bags, then she shows them how to sow the seed directly in the bags. Good luck with this project, Lyn. We would be interested to hear of other members who are working on similar or other interesting projects.

I have planted out quite a number of Dodonaeas on our block on the hill and they are doing well. I have lots of cuttings in and they don't look that good. Does anyone have lots of success with cuttings, and if so, what soil mix do you use. I suspect that I should use a coarser, better draining mix. I will be putting a lot of seed in next week. Here's hoping for good results.

DODONAEA angustissima

(Ida Jackson has very kindly written a description of this species for us. I believe that it is Dodonaea viscosa ssp. angustissima as described in the revision.)

J.M. Black records this plant for "temperate Australia". I have seen it growing in the Great Victorian Desert, which is in the north-west of our state (S.A.), as well as on Kangaroo Island. It is a slender, upright single trunked shrub, usually about 2m. high, but I have seen it growing as a small tree. There are separate male and female plants. The fruits are 3, rarely 4, winged 10-18mm long and broader than long. The colours range from pale lemon through orange to deep crimson. The 'hops' grow in bunches and are very attractive when ripe. Both male and female flowers are insignificant. This Dodonaea was formerly D. attenuata and had a subspecies D. attenuata var linearis. Now they consider that species and subspecies blend into one another. On the Island, the type has narrow lanceolate leaves 2-4mm broad; the subspecies has leaves 1-2mm broad and it is easy to distinguish the two.

Although the female flowers obviously need pollen to produce seed, without fertilisation these will still produce their bunches of 'hops'. In the only specimen I have seen growing like this, the hops were very pale. Without more experiment it is impossible to say whether the 'hops' were pale because they did not contain fertile seeds or whether they were pale for some other reason.

(Other members may wish to comment on Ida's observations).

NUMBERING SPECIMENS

I've tried out a system with Lyn, using numbers to help keep track of the many specimens that are sent to me. I plan to give all active members a membership number, perhaps I could give all members a number to encourage them to send material. Lyn's number is 100, she will then use her own numbering system to keep record of what she sends me, then she can add the date. So her first specimen is labelled 100-1-7/84.

her second specimen is labelled 100-2-9/84. If she keeps a duplicate specimen in her file with the same number on it, I can just refer to that number. Please let me know if this is not clear.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER IS 1900

FINANCE

Balance brought forward	\$ 12.04	Postage	\$ 13.75
Subscriptions	18.00	Seed	4.00
Donations	6.00	Posters	30.00
		Stationery	1.12
	\$ 36.04		\$ 48.87

Debit balance \$12.83

As from now I plan to increase the subscription to \$3, this should cover regular expenses and allow a little towards setting up display material

YOU ARE FINANCIAL

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION OF \$3 IS DUE ON 27.1.85

EXTRACTS FROM 'FLOWERING PLANTS IN AUSTRALIA'

Ed. by B.D. Morley and H.R. Toelken

SAPINDACEAE Hop bushes

Most of the species of the family are trees and shrubs and about 15 per cent of the species are climbers.

Distribution

The family exhibits a predominantly tropical and subtropical distribution, with some extension into temperate regions. Its greatest centre of diversity is in the south-east Asian region.

(Then follows a botanical description of the family entitled Diagnostic features. There is a botanical key to the family also.)

Classification

The family is closely related to Melianthaceae, Aceraceae and Hippocastanaceae, the last two often being included in Sapindaceae.

Classification of the genera into two sub-families and 13 tribes seems to be generally accepted. The Australian genera belong to 10 of these tribes, the majority being included in Cupanieae and Dodonaeae. Dodonaea is the largest and most wide-spread genus in Australia.

Notes

Many genera are cultivated for ornamental and economic uses. Of the ornamental species Koelreuteria paniculata is probably the most widespread. Cardiospermum halicacabum, the balloon vine, is grown for its bladdery fruits and Xanthoceras sorbifolia, a deciduous shrub, for its attractive flowers. Several species of Dodonaea, hop bushes, are cultivated for their attractive foliage and brightly coloured fruits.

Several economically important food plants belong to Sapindaceae genera, Litchi chinensis, litchi or lychee, is native to China, but is widely grown in tropical regions for its edible aril. Blighia sapida, a tree native to West Africa, is cultivated for its fleshy aril, which is edible when cooked. Nephelium lappaceum the rambutan, and the Euphorbia longan, the longan, are also cultivated for their fruit.

Note: This section was provided by J.G. West and featured a coloured picture of Dodonaea lobulata with fruit. I hadn't realised that our Dods are closely related to the families of the Maple and the Chestnut, the seed capsules of these genera do resemble the winged fruit of many Dodonaeas. I was also interested to note that the lychee and the rambutan, two fruits of which I am very fond are members of the Sapindaceae family. We ate quite a lot of rambutans when in Malaysia some years ago. J. C.

REQUESTS

1. Have you been asking at nurseries, if they grow Dodonaeas, I would like to know the result.

2. Ida responded to my request and wrote the description of a species. Would another member do one for the next newsletter. I will try and get one out about March next year. *capsules*

3. Please send seeds, as listed on page 1, and pack in a matchbox or similar to prevent them from being crushed.

4. Could anyone do a poster sized drawing of a Dodonaea for our display kit.

Thanks to members, who have sent cutting material, seeds and pressed specimens for our herbarium. Special thanks to Marondah group and Canberra Region for their donations. Your comments and criticism of the newsletter would be welcome as would contributions. Although Christmas is a good way off yet I would like to wish you all the best for the festive season. A good New Year resolution would be to grow more Dods and get your friends growing Dods.

Regards,

Jeanette

Jeanette Closs.

P.S. Another thank you to Judy West who is sending an article to be included in this newsletter.