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SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER NO. 6 - NOVEMBER, 1985

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Dear Members,

The last newsletter went out about two weeks before we left on our trip for Cape York and other interesting places, and we've been back just two weeks as I commence to put this newsletter together.

In Canberra we stayed with S.G.A.P. friends, David and Jeny McKenzie, then I spent some time with Judy West at C.S.I.R.O. Judy was her usual helpful self and ironed out a number of queries for me. She has offered to help with materials to extend the display kit.

On our way through Sydney, after seeing our two lovely grandchildren, we called on Betty Rhymer, who was organising the N.S.W. Flower Show and left the Dodonaea Study Group display kit with Betty. N.S.W. Region had written asking if they could borrow the kit for their show, and I gather that they were very pleased with it. I'd like to thank Peter Althofer for sending live material to supplement the display. N.S.W. have promised to send me a photo - it will be interesting to see how they set up the display material.

We were unable to get to see Beverley O'Keeffe, but I did ring her and we had a chat, she had hoped to get to the Carnarvon Gorge, but unfortunately didn't make it. Maybe we will meet up another time, Beverley.

We spent two nights with Val and Roy Hando, who were able to show us a number of Dodonaeas, including an unnamed species, that is found only in the Chinchilla and Miles area of Queensland. It is a semi-prostrate shrub and would make an attractive rockery plant. A number of us are growing it. I have sent material to Judy, who has undertaken to name and describe it, so that it can be officially recognised. We also saw D. macrossani for the first time. It is also a semi-prostrate plant with very tiny leaves and hairy three winged fruits. Whoops!!! this was on the way back not on the way up.

We stayed with newly-made S.G.A.P. friends in Walkamin on the Atherton Tablelands, Peter and Abne Ratke, who have now joined the Study Group. They are a very enthusiastic couple, who I think will be active members of our Study Group. Whilst showing us their lovely native garden, I was pleased to find a number of striking plants of D. polyandra, with its large navy-blue-ish pods. We later saw masses of this beauty in areas of the Cape York peninsula, but were able to collect only a little seed as in most cases the insects had got there first. Unfortunately my slides of this plant haven't turned out very well. I did get a good slide of huge nests that the green ant makes out of the leaves of D. polyandra.

Our trip to Cape York and over to Thursday Island was a great adventure, the rough roads and creek crossings providing many a thrill.

We found D. triangularis in a couple of areas in the Biloela - Monto region and two distinctly different forms. We spent 5 restful days on Frazer Island (I definitely recommend that for a holiday) and saw D. triquetra with large navy-blue capsules - I thought I was seeing more D. polyandra at first; also heavily fruited plants of D. viscosa ssp. burmanniana.

After leaving the Handos at Chinchilla, we followed the S.G.A.P. pre-Conference bus tour to Carnarvon Gorge, what a wonderful place that is! Walking on Clematis Ridge, we found some beautiful plants of D. filifolia and D. vestita, the only plants that outshone these Dods, were the Flannel Flower, Actinotis helianthi, and then only just!

The Conference in Brisbane was well organized and all business dealt with in the one day. The Convention that followed was full of interest and delights. The greatest delight would have been the Wild Foods Afternoon Tea and Tea Party, put on by the Pine Rivers S.G.A.P. Branch. I'll enclose a copy of the menu - it was unbelievably good. Lyn Stewart managed to get to the Conference, although she had thought that it wasn't going to be possible. It was great to get to know her better. We heard many excellent speakers and saw some lovely slides - my talk on 'Four Seasons in the Tasmanian Alps' was well received. We visited some lovely gardens, but only saw a couple of Dods in the gardens. Graham Nosworthy had a lovely plant of the un-named Dod. from Chinchilla, hanging over a rock wall. Pat and Harvey Shaw had a couple of Dods. Harvey is quite a hand at grafting, so I suggested that he might try grafting female cuttings onto male plants. Doris Gunn from Ocean Grove, Vic. has joined our group and is keen to learn more. My husband, Don developed quite a tan whilst we were up north and Bill Gunn, Doris' husband called Don the 'Abo driver who drives Jeanette from one Dod to another'. We had a lot of fun.

Whilst at the Conference we heard that D. megazyga, which has the largest leaf of all the Dods - it is pinnate with a winged rachis - is in the Lamington National Park area. David Hockings, Queensland Region President, drew a 'rud map' for me, so after leaving Brisbane, Don and I went on a search for D. megazyga, we nearly gave up, but with the help of a Ranger, we found it in Springbrook National Park. It's a real treasure - a very erect shrub mostly 2 - 3m high with the interesting pinnate leaves from about 8 - 16cm long. The palish-pink capsules were three winged and hung daintily in small clusters. It is recorded along the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range right down to Sydney. Why aren't more people growing this delightful small tree. Even my tolerant but rather disinterested husband got excited about this one. I have two struck cuttings from material sent to me by George Althofer from Burrendong Arboretum. Their plant has since died but they have cuttings in.

We then found D. hirsuta in Giraween National Park, a lovely dainty plant. In Mt. Kaputar National Park, we found masses of D. viscosa ssp. angustifolia, also D. boreniifolia. We got badly misled in the Pillaga scrub, but we found D. heteromorpha, with its dainty transverse wings, not unlike the fruit of D. megazyga, but this species has simple and pinnate leaves as its name suggests. Then at Coonabarabran, we found D. microzyga.

I spent half a day with Peter Althofer at Burrendong Arboretum at Wellington, where I saw more Dods. than I've ever seen before. Peter showed me every one that they are growing and we checked and corrected the identity of some of them. I got a specimen of most of them for our herbarium, but just didn't have time for photographs. What an amazing collection they have at Burrendong, do visit them if in this area, join the Arboretum Association and make a donation to help maintain this comprehensive collection of Australian plants.

We saw so much and I'm sure we missed so much also, but it was a great trip and I do thank all those people who were so kind to us. I met Tony Bean, Leader of the Eucalyptus Study Group at the Conference and he very kindly sent me cuttings, seed and pressed specimens of D. rupicola, which only grows in the Glasshouse Mountains area. Tony found about 100 plants near Saddleback Mt, about 80% of which were males. He asks 'is this usual?' I'm not sure can anyone tell me?

CONFERENCE

We had a Study Group leaders meeting at the Conference. Jo Walker presented a comprehensive report and notified us that she was resigning as Study Group Co-ordinator, but that Barbara Daly had agreed to take on the job. Welcome to Barbara, and thanks to Jo for a job well done. It was stressed that all members of Study Groups must be financial members of S.G.A.P. - I think that all our members are? They have asked that all Study Group subscriptions become due on 30th June each year. This makes it easier for Region and Branch treasurers to send subscriptions all at the one time. So please all send your subscriptions of \$3 by June 30th, 1986 and if you have paid recently send only \$2, not \$3 to make up the difference. I'll give you another reminder before June 1986.

not included for obvious reasons

CUTTING EXCHANGE

I have come to the conclusion that we would be well advised to suggest that people only grow Dodonaeas from cuttings of female plants, so that they can be sure to get plants displaying seed capsules. There is still room for growing from seed, especially where one has room for planting 1 or more of each species. It appears that female plants will produce capsules without help from the males, but any seed within the capsules is unlikely to be viable. What do members think of this suggestion?

I would be happy to try for a cutting exchange between active members. If active members would like to list the good fruiting species that they are growing, I will list these in the next newsletter. You would send all requests for cuttings to the person growing them and on receipt of the cutting material, you would send a cheque (or other) for the cost of the postage plus 50c. for packaging to the grower/supplier by RETURN MAIL.

GROWTH CHART

Further to Barb Bailey's suggestion, I am enclosing a form for you to fill in, supplying any relevant information about Dods that you are growing and the conditions in which they are growing. This information will help towards our articles for the Australian Plants Journal. I haven't received any articles, except for the descriptions included in past newsletters, prepared by Barb Bailey. Please put pen to paper, dear members.

FINANCE

Subscriptions	28.00	Debit brought forward	18.20
Donations	8.00	Postage	9.66
Hire of display kit	10.00	Display kit	17.09
	<u>46.00</u>	Stationery	<u>3.82</u>
			<u>48.77</u>

Credit balance \$2.77

Donations were received from Pine Rivers Branch, Qld., Ida Jackson, Doris Gunn and Canberra Region. Many thanks to these people. As you can see we are no longer in the red.

DISPLAY KIT

So far the display kit has cost \$109.17. I felt that if I make a charge of \$10 plus freight for the loan of it, we would soon recoup that money, then I could possibly reduce the fee. The main cost will be freight. Ipec is the cheapest quote that I have and that is \$15 each way to any address (prepaid). This will mean a total cost of \$40, unless cheaper freight can be organised. Please let your Flower Show committees know of this and let me know if they wish to book a date. The box weighs about 14lb and is 8cm deep x 55cm x 80cm and has a range of display material.

NEW MEMBERS

I would like to welcome the following new members:
 Foothills Group, Vic. Region, P.O. Box 65, Boronia. Vic. 3155
 Mrs. Doris Gunn, 37 Loch Ard Drive, Ocean Grove, Vic. 3155
 Pine Rivers Group, Qld. Region, C/- Mrs. Wilna Brown, Robinson Rd., Mt. Mee 4521.
 Ann & Peter Ratke, P.O. Box 220, Walkamin. Qld. 4872.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

I don't think I mentioned in the last newsletter that Ida Jackson sent me a slide of D. humilis, many thanks for this donation, Ida. Ida also reports a 50% germination of D. humilis seed collected locally. Ida was leaving on a prolonged trip to W.A. on August 14th. We look forward to hearing of her trip.

Doris Gunn wrote that she has seed of D. cuneata, which should be D. viscosa ssp. cuneata and D. boroniifolia. This is the start of her Dod. collection, which will be planted in their garden, which is near the sea - so windy and on limestone! We'll be pleased to hear what species flourish.

Malcolm Hunt wrote requesting seed, so another active member on the way, I hope. Lyn Stewart borrowed my slides of Dods. for a talk she gave to their local group in August. Lyn also sent some more really good drawings of Dodonaeas. The artist is Karen, Lyn's 14 (or is it 15) year old daughter. I'm not sure how to put these to the best use. Perhaps I should keep them for our 'Australian Plants' issue. If they are not used then, I will include them in our newsletter with descriptions or in our display kit. Many, many thanks Karen and Lyn. Karen would like specimens of Dods from other states (than S.A.) to draw, perhaps members could oblige.

Chris Howard of the Werribbe Group writes that he has 3 D. microzyga plants about 10-15cm high and a D. procumbens about 30-40 cm high and about as wide. From seed from our seedbank Chris has 6 D. humilis, 6 D. macrossani and 3 D. lobulata plants. Another active member on the way?

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the very best wishes for 1986.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Bloss

LIST OF SPECIMENS COLLECTED FOR OUR HERBARIUM ON CAPE YORK TRIP

Burrendong Arboretum

D. triquetra
 D. Humifusa
 D. stenozyga
 D. vestita - male
 D. vestita - female
 D. microzyga
 D. multijuga
 D. baueri
 D. adenophora
 D. humilis
 D. macrossanii
 D. rupicola
 D. truncatiales - male
 D. truncatiales - female
 D. heteromorpha
 D. sinuolata ssp. acrodentata
 D. procumbens
 D. pinifolia

Queensland

D. triquetra
 D. megazyga
 D. hirsuta
 D. (un-named)
 D. triangularis
 D. viscosa ssp spatulata
 D. polyandra
 D. viscosa ssp. burmanniana
 D. triquetra
 D. peduncularis
 D. filifolia
 D. vestita
 D. boroniifolia
 D. viscosa ssp. angustifolia

New South Wales

D. viscosa
 ssp. angustifolia
 D. viscosa
 ssp. spatulata
 D. heteromorpha

DODONAEA

CHART

SOIL

TYPE

SPECIES

HEIGHT

WIDTH

DRY

WET

MOIST
WELL
DRAINED

ACID

ALKALINE

FROST
TOLERANT

HARDINESS
1 - 3

Min.
RAINFALL
required

FULL
SUN

FILTERED
SUN

CAPSULE
COLOUR