

EREMOPHILA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 1 SEPTEMBER 1972

Hello to you all and welcome to the Study Group. May the formation of the group be only the beginning of a rewarding exchange of news and ideas among those of us interested in this attractive and varied, but little known genus of Australian plants.

In this first Newsletter I intend to give you a broad outline of my ideas on what we hope to achieve and how we are to function as an effective group. The Federal Council of S.G.A.P. is in the process of laying down guide-lines for Study Groups and when these are finalised we will have to adapt ourselves to them.

Firstly, for those whom I have met only by letter, a word about your leader. I am Ken Warnes aged 30, single, and a farmer by trade. That's it in a nutshell. For those who missed Owen on the map, it is a town of 200 population, situated 80 km north of Adelaide.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

These can be listed as follows:

1. To draw attention to the attractiveness of many species of the genus, the majority of which are unknown to horticulture.
2. To ascertain the conditions necessary for the successful cultivation of Eremophila species.
3. To select the most suitable species for garden culture.
4. To determine methods of propagation for reliable and easy build-up of stock plants.
5. To assist each other by the free exchange of cuttings and seed, either directly between members or via the leader or his appointed agents.

I would be pleased to hear from any members who consider these aims and objectives inadequate as a base from which to operate. There will be considerable variation among us concerning the number of species we are able to try. Those who are city members will be limited by the area of their gardens, and even in the country suitable space may not be available. So we will range from those who wish to collect every species to those who may only want plants for a certain purpose or to grow in a specific position. I hope we can cater for all.

The first essential of the Group is that we share. I do not want to hear of any members refusing a reasonable request for seed or cuttings. Many of you probably do not realise just how difficult it is to obtain new species from the far interior, and if we gloatingly hoard these treasures only to have them die suddenly, a species could be lost from the Group for many years.

As an example, in 1969 during a 3000 km trip to Ooldea, we found one plant of E. battii. Ten were propagated but all except one died within six months. This survivor was in a garden 100 km away at Bute. Cuttings have since been struck from this plant, but if those original ten had not been distributed, this species would have been lost again.

You will observe on the accompanying chart that there are several species consisting of only a very few plants in cultivation. Only E. obovata is represented by a single specimen (3 years old and 20 cm high) but there are others only just in cultivation, so there are species other than E. battii which could be lost.

Along with sharing, it behoves us all to attempt to build up the number of species and here the emphasis falls on inland Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Unfortunately we have no members in W.A., but I am trying to make some contacts. King's Park advise they are unable to help us except for the supply of a few seeds. If you are travelling to these areas or know of anyone living or travelling to these areas it is your job to persuade them to collect any likely-looking plant and bring it back as cuttings. By this method I recently received several species from around Alice Springs from a person who was not even an S.G.A.P. member, just a tourist.

SCIENTIFIC WORK

Any of you with much experience in Eremophila realise that there is much to be learnt about their taxonomy. Many species show considerable variations within the species range. Other species merge together at the extension of their morphological range and there are certainly quite a number of undescribed species. So if you have any doubts about the naming of your plants please send over a small flowering specimen (with fruit if possible) and we will try to sort them out. I say 'we' because the Group is fortunate to have the services of the leading authority on the genus, Dr Bryan Barlow from Flinders University, but as he is extremely busy it is requested that your queries come through me.

I will close this Newsletter with the inclusion of a few questions asked of me by members. Mr. J. Pike of Eulo Queensland asks about germination from seed. This has been a problem for many years and in the next Newsletter I hope to summarise the information we have to date. Many methods have been tried and none can claim real success, so who can help with this one?

Bert Curtis of Piangil, Victoria, wishes to make a list of common names and is especially interested in those of Aboriginal origin. It would appear that many do not have a common name, while others have several, depending on the district. Any ideas? Do you think they should be derived from the botanical name or perhaps from a location reference? e.g., E. christophorii could be Christophor's Emu-bush or the Palm Valley Emu-bush.

Joe Mack of Waikerie, South Australia, lists E. maculata and E. glabra as being good for attracting birds. Does anyone else have this experience and can you add other species. (I have seen honey-eaters in my E. oppositifolia.)

REFERENCES TO EREMOPHILA IN "AUSTRALIAN PLANTS"

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| Vol. 1 no. 10 p.5-8, 22
no. 10 p.31 | 16 S.Aust. species described by Ron Hill
<u>Eremophila</u> from cuttings, by R. Hardie |
| Vol. 2 no. 19 p.212, 216
19 p.218
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19 p.221 | 7 N.T. species described by R.F.C. Swinbourne
References by J.S. Beard
Some Queensland <u>Eremophila</u> , by Len Miller
Propagation of <u>E. maculata</u> , by M. McAllister |
| Vol. 3 no. 25 p.208
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28 p.343, 343 | Frost tolerance, by T.R.N. Lothian
Species in clay, by T.R.N. Lothian
Species in clay, by T.R.N. Lothian |
| Vol. 4 no. 34 p.252/4 | Propagation by seed and cutting at King's Park,
by J.S. Beard |
| Vol. 5 no. 43 p.326
42 p.262 | <u>E. santalina</u> , by D.N. Kraehenbuehl
Some W.A. plants with horticultural potential,
by I. Holliday |

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Emu Bush, by B. Curtis
Eremophila glabra, by K. Warnes
Eremophila in a different situation, by K. Warnes
Eremophila sturtii, by R. Hill
Eremophila macdonnellii, by R. Schahinger

EREMOPHILA SPECIES CURRENTLY (1972) BEING GROWN BY MEMBERS

1. Indicates plenty of cuttings available
2. Indicates limited cuttings
3. Indicates small plants only—no cuttings yet or
 very doubtful supply
4. Indicates large quantities may be supplied after field trips

<u>Eremophila alternifolia</u> 1, 4	<u>E. hillii</u> (red, orange) 3, 2
<u>E. alternifolia</u> var. <u>latifolia</u> 3	<u>E. ionantha</u> 1
<u>E. "basedowniana"</u> 3	<u>E. laanii</u> (pink or white) 1
<u>E. battii</u> 3	<u>E. latrobei</u> (several forms) 3, 2
<u>E. behriana</u> (2 forms) 2	<u>E. leucophylla</u> 3
<u>E. bignoniiflora</u> 1	<u>E. longifolia</u> 1
<u>E. bignoniiflora</u> (rose form) 2	<u>E. macdonnellii</u> (3 forms) 1, 2
<u>E. bowmanii</u> (round or narrow leaf) 3, 3	<u>E. macdonnellii</u> var. <u>glabriuscula</u> 3
<u>E. calorhabdos</u> 1	<u>E. macgillivrayi</u> 2
<u>E. clarkei</u> 3	<u>E. mackinlayi</u> 2
<u>E. crassifolia</u> 1	<u>E. maculata</u> (many forms) 1
<u>E. cuneifolia</u> 3	<u>E. maculata</u> (yellow form) 1
<u>E. dalyana</u> 2	<u>E. maitlandii</u> 3
<u>E. decipiens</u> (several forms) 1	<u>E. mitchellii</u> 2
<u>E. delisseri</u> (silver or gold leaf) 2, 2	<u>E. obovata</u> 3
<u>E. dempsteri</u> (2 forms) 1	<u>E. oldfieldii</u> 2
<u>E. densifolia</u> (2 forms) 1	<u>E. oppositifolia</u> (2 forms) 2, 4, 1
<u>E. denticulata</u> 1	<u>E. oppositifolia</u> (rose form) 2
<u>E. dichroantha</u> 1	<u>E. pantonii</u> 2
<u>E. divaricata</u> 1	<u>E. pentaptera</u> 3
<u>E. drummondii</u> (3 forms) 1	<u>E. polyclada</u> 1
<u>E. duttonii</u> 2, 4	<u>E. pterocarpa</u> 2
<u>E. duttonii</u> var. <u>parvifolia</u> 3	<u>E. punicea</u> 3
<u>E. "eriobotrya"</u> 3	<u>E. santalina</u> 1
<u>E. exilifolia</u> 3	<u>E. scoparia</u> 2, 4
<u>E. exotrachys</u> 3	<u>E. sturtii</u> 2, 4
<u>E. freelingii</u> 3, 4	<u>E. subfloccosa</u> 2, 4

<u>E. georgei</u> 3	<u>E. weldii</u> 1
<u>E. gibbifolia</u> 2	<u>E. youngii</u> (form) 1
<u>E. gilesii</u> 3	2 W.A. prostrate spp. 1
<u>E. glabra</u> (many forms) 1, 2	several W.A. spp. 2, 3
<u>E. glabra</u> var. <u>viridiflora</u> 1	<u>E. christophorii</u> 3
<u>E. granitica</u> 2	<u>E. willsii</u> 3
<u>E. goodwinii</u> 3	<u>E. pachyphylla</u> 3
<u>E. hastieana</u> 3	<u>E. parvifolia</u> 3

MEMBERS AT SEPTEMBER, 1972

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