

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants  
GOODENIACEAE STUDY GROUP  
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Newsletter No. 2

ISSN 0819-8527

Welcome to all Study Group members. Our membership list is growing steadily and we are always keen to have interested people join the group.

Our financial year ends on June 30th each year so the 1988/89 subscription of \$3 is now due. If you have not already done so would you please send your \$3 to Dennis (address below).

Included in this newsletter are two articles from study group members Ida Jackson and Martin Swanson. Contributions such as these are most welcome. It is great to hear from members giving descriptions of their gardens, growing conditions, lists of species grown or perhaps writing about favourite plants or plant forms.

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In Newsletter No. 1, Dennis asked for members to write to him giving details of their own gardens, growing conditions, successes and failures etc. Martin Swanson of Glenmaggie, Victoria has sent the following description:

"Our annual rainfall averages 600mm but some years are very dry (400 - 500mm). We live in a rainshadow in eastern Victoria in the foothills of the Great Divide. Our rain tends to fall in April and then in October and November. Summer is very hot and very dry. Apart from an occasional "tail end" of your N.S.W. South Coast rain depressions it is common to record no rain during January, February and most of March. Winter frosts are very light due to the slope of our land, but it does get very cold. (we're not far from the snow country).

Goodeniaceae grown are:

Anthotium humile (white) (seed Nindethana)  
Dampiera cuneata (2 forms), D. diversifolia, D. hederacea, D. purpurea, D. sericantha (?), D. trigona, D. sacculata (seed Nindethana)  
Goodenia scapigera (seed Nindethana)  
Lechenaultia biloba (deep blue), L. biloba (suckering), L. floribunda (? not sure - but very hardy), L. formosa El Dorado (orange), Pink Princess, red/yellow suckering plant - could be called Sunrise or Daybreak, prostrate plant with big red flowers - long lived (4 years etc.)."

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Ida Jackson, of Kingscote, S.A., has sent in the following article on a plant which she says has long been a favourite of hers.

She writes:

"According to Black's "Flora of South Australia", Scaevola crassifolia is a spreading shrub 1.5m high and 3m wide. We have a form growing in our garden which is under 60cm high. It is not quite 3m wide - yet.

The stems are erect, terete, striate, glabrous. The leaves are broadly ovate tapering into a long petiole. Usually they have serrated margins. Young growth is viscid. The blue flowers grow in terminal or axillary spikes. They are aromatic and very showy. The corolla is 8 - 11mm long. Fruits are 3mm long, thin and dry.

I have never tried to grow this species from seed as it is so easily propagated by cuttings. The colour varies from white to blue to pale purple. Flowers occur from September to January or even later Scaevola crassifolia grows in South Australia on Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, southern Lofty Ranges, the South East and Kangaroo Island. It is also recorded for W.A.

Cuttings can be taken from autumn through to early spring. Our specimen is growing in clay.

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From Your Leader

Welcome to all new members of the study group. I apologise for my tardiness in getting out this newsletter however my energies this year have been taken up predominantly with the Australian Wildflower Spectacular which took place in Sydney over the weekend 16-18 Sept. Most of my collections of Goodeniaceae and Sterculiaceae were on display at that Show and elicited a lot of comment. Unfortunately artificial light is not kind to Goodeniaceae washing a lot of the colour out however it was obvious that public interest was high particularly in some of the species.

We have a significant number of new members to acknowledge including the following active members:

Joan Carr	Bacchus Marsh Vic.
Kathie Strickland	Balnarring Vic
Martin Swanson	Glenmaggie Vic
Beverley Truscott	Sth Oakleigh S.A.
Heather Wood	Menai N.S.W.
Pat and Harvey Shaw	Macgregor Qld
Laurie Deane	Lindfield N.S.W.

In addition we have a number of new passive members

S.G.A.P. Canberra Region

S.G.A.P. Maroondah Group  
 S.G.A.P. Queensland Region  
 S.G.A.P. South Australian Region  
 S.G.A.P. Victorian Region  
 Western Australian Wildflower Group

If any members would like more detailed addresses or telephone numbers of other members please get in touch and I will forward them as soon as possible (stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated).

A number of the Regions also send me a copy of their newsletters for which I am grateful as they are a great help in establishing contacts and determining sightings of species.

I should also recognise donations above and beyond the call to duty from Pat Shaw (\$2), Canberra Region (\$2), Maroondah Group (\$2), and Queensland Region (\$2).

I have included a financial report as compiled for the Federal body as of 30th June, 1988.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 1988-89 HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 1988 YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE CEASED.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT GOODENIACEAE STUDY GROUP 1987-1988

INCOME:

	\$
Donation - Federal body	50.00
Donations- General	8.00
Subscriptions 1987-1988	39.00
Subscriptions in advance	39.00
Postage refunds	37.50
Interest	4.89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178.39</b>

EXPENDITURE:

Postage refunds	43.50
Postage	38.95
FID	0.02
Stamp duty	0.70
Newsletter	7.06
Phone	3.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93.63</b>

BALANCE: 84.76

## COMMON FORMS OF LECHENAULTIA FORMOSA

This is a continuation of my article (first newsletter) about growing Lechenaultia in Sydney. I tend to pontificate a little however bear with me while I attack a few of my favourite windmills. It has always concerned me that species and varieties of plants can be sold and/or cultivated under a variety of names with little apparent effort to either check on precedence or even species identification. This can lead to a great deal of confusion even in the minds of "experts" and some degree of hostility with the public. In some ways L. formosa is a classic example of this type of problem with numerous colour variants throughout the industry and the Society being sold/exchanged under a variety of names of little or no official credence. I do realise that there is no official/legal registrar of cultivars/hybrids/sports/variants as yet (the Australian Cultivar Authority still has no legal standing) however this is likely to change as the PVR legislation becomes more established. It is probably time then to survey the "tried and true" common forms of L. formosa available in the trade and to try and establish name precedence for these extant varieties; I have side-stepped the more thorny problem of whether, in fact, names should or should not be used. I think the public has embraced the use of naming varieties and this technique will be used even more frequently in the future. All we can attempt to do is make sure the names are used properly and consistently. Interestingly, there is only one variant of any Lechenaultia species "officially" recognised (by the ACA), i.e. the variety of L. biloba known as "White Flash", although a huge number of names have been submitted. Unfortunately, in most cases, no plant material has been supplied with the submissions so very little cross-referencing can be achieved and I have had to rely to a large degree on discursive descriptions to justify my "library" of named variants which have survived the passage of time. I would very much appreciate some feed-back with regard to my comments below particularly if you know how and by whom these variants became known and named. Anyway, here goes:

Beaumaris Red: This particular variant has been variously called red lechenaultia, prostrate red, large-flowered red and suckering, prostrate red all titles which are very subjective and hardly an advantage when one is trying to determine name precedence. I have not seen this variant ever sucker anywhere (as yet) however the description in Australian Plants vol.3,p. of flower shape and growth habit does seem to fit closely to what we know about this plant. The flowers are certainly some of the largest of the species, the habit is quite prostrate, and the colour description appears correct. If it is the same form, it was collected at Beaumaris in Western Australia in the late 50's and has performed well in the more Mediterranean climate regions particularly in Victoria. It is very susceptible to fungal attack in Sydney and should be grown over rock for any degree of

success as infection does seem related to direct soil contact and the build-up of moisture in the foliage, which does tend to be very lush and dense even for L. formosa.

Harlequin: This name has been used a number of times over the years however recently it has more commonly been used for one particular colour variant, with basic cream petals and almost magenta tips. This appears to be a hardy variant in my garden however, because of the basic white colour, the flowers do not stand out against the crushed quartzite I use as a mulch. My plant is growing in hard rocky ground and is in its third year. As with all L. formosa forms the mature foliage tends to be very small and sparse except during active periods; it has not suckered to my knowledge. I have no idea where it was collected however it has been around for some 10 years or more with enthusiasts. It does make a nice large rounded display plant if it can be carried through its first year.

Tango: This relatively new variant with quite large red and yellow flowers was introduced to the commercial world by John Rose of Sydney Wildflower Nursery fame. I will have to remind myself to ask him where he obtained the original material. It is a neat prostrate plant and very floriferous. Appears frost-tender, particularly the lush growth, and, for me, has distinct autumn and spring flushes of flowers. Has a lot of potential for the future.

Golden Glow: This variant appears to be the real stayer of the field. Beautiful clear yellow flowers which age a lovely burnished gold and red bracts (?). Suckers freely and can form drifts of plants or substantial clumps depending on soil consistency, aspect, etc. Should be the first form tried in any garden. This would have to be the hardiest variant of this species available at present. My garden plant is going on 4 years old and suckers are still surviving.

Eldorado: Again a basically clear yellow form with small splashes of bright red (ca 10%) on the tips of the petals. The foliage tends to be a little grey-green. This form has a lovely rounded habit making a beautiful pot plant. Relatively untried in Sydney but has great potential. Not common in the trade although it has been around quite a while.

Scarlet O'Hara: This brilliant crimson upright form has been very successful over the years. Sensational colour just after rain with the flowers standing out from over 100 m away. Smaller flowers than the Beaumaris Red form but more closed in shape however most certainly hardier than the former due in no small part to the sparser foliage.

Princess Pink: This is the most common pink variant on the market. Has been popular in Sydney over the past 5 years and has survived the pressures of popular support so has potential. Again not a suckering form however the colour gives a good

contrast to other pinks and reds. This is also an upright form. Has reasonable survival rate over here however still relatively untried at present.

This concludes my list of "common" variants of this species. There are also a significant number of other forms available at present however none of these has been tested significantly to my knowledge. These include

1. A bushy, very floriferous form similar in flower shape and form to Scarlet O'Hara but the flowers are smaller.
2. A basic red form with some yellow on the petals; the latter are however deeply divided. Again an upright form and very floriferous.
3. A brilliant upright, red form with large flowers similar to Beaumaris Red. Collected by Glen Sago, I believe, and very attractive.
4. An orange form I saw in the Austraflora Nursery last year. Seemed to be quite happy in their new sand bed so I am optimistic that this form will survive in the trade.
5. A very attractive small, prostrate form with large red-yellow flowers tentatively called Carnivale. Collected by Max Hewett near Lake King a couple of years ago. Flowers 10 months of the year.
6. A deep pink form (almost mauve) which is significantly different from Princess Pink. I recently obtained a plant from Roger Elliott which appears to be quite happy under my growing conditions.
7. A bright orange form tentatively called Fireball. Forms a small mound covered in quite sizeable flowers. Has great horticultural potential. Unfortunately I am not sure if it is still extant.
8. An orange-red cascading form with large terminal flowers. Not easy to keep going in Sydney.
9. A large-flowered candy pink prostrate form also collected by Max Hewett, tentatively called Coral. Unfortunately this form is also sensitive to fungal attack in Sydney.

That just about exhausts me for the time being. There are other forms around that I haven't mentioned, I'm sure, and I would be pleased to receive knowledge and propagating material of such forms if available. I will add to this list in future newsletters if more forms come to mind.

## Propagating Material

I am just getting to the stage of having significant quantities of propagating material available for members to work on. The Study Group isn't just about collecting species although it is necessary to establish an organised genetic pool with which to work. During October I will be sending out cutting material (on request) with costs to be borne by the recipients. At this stage I will be keeping this list short to facilitate dispatch and to have some control over the direction of the group activity. Also quite a lot of the species I have available are unnamed at present and I am loath to distribute them until such time as they can be identified properly. Again I urge members when collecting plants or propagating material to try and find out as much as possible about locality, etc. It is a very important aid in identification particularly of *Dampiera*. Members visiting Sydney can have access to other species and material if it is available.

Species available for general request:

### Goodenia ovata

This species is very common on the eastern seaboard. It has large (1 cm) clear yellow flowers on pedicels and is very floriferous. Grows up to 2 m in height and about a metre across. Leaves tend to be sticky. The form I have was collected from near Colo just north of Sydney growing on sandstone base. Some die-back of lower leaves (on woody stems) however excellent fill-in, screen plant for protected area. I also had a variegated form but it was lost recently after too heavy a pruning. Flowers most of the year in mild climate with seasonal flushes.

### Goodenia varia

Quite a number of forms of this species which, as the name suggests, is very variable in leaf form and growth habit. I currently hold about 5 forms loosely collected under this name. Two of these were collected by Ida Jackson on Kangaroo Island, one coastal and one inland. Although both are upright the leaves vary in size and shape. The origin of the others is relatively unknown at present although one is thought to come from the Sth Australian coastal area along the Bight and has large round, almost succulent leaves and a prostrate habit. This form appears to like a little limestone. Another forest form has narrow leaves and a weeping habit while yet another has large, dark green, dry leaves and an arching, prostrate habit. Variable flowering times from spring to autumn.

### Goodenia blackiana

A groundcover species with creeping habit. Attractive grey, new foliage which darkens during the summer months. Bright, yellow buttercup flowers held closely above foliage. Likes sunny

aspect and appears tolerant of dry conditions. Commonly confused with Goodenia affinis. Flowers summer.

#### Goodenia hederacea

This is another very variable species. Currently I have about 4 forms including var. alpestris. All forms are prostrate creeping groundcovers with bright yellow flowers. Foliage tends to be a dark grey-green. Seems to prefer areas with access to some moisture but tends to rot if constantly wet or in humid conditions. Flowers spring to summer.

#### Goodenia humilis

The form of this I have is from Melbourne and is a clumping groundcover found near moisture i.e. in small depressions or at the side of roads. Can give a dense cover and is very floriferous when established. Flowers summer to autumn.

#### Goodenia viscida

This species is a very desirable plant when in flower. Tends to stiff, upright form with bright green foliage. Leaves are minute and sticky. Flowers are small, yellow and displayed all along stems. Suckers freely and is very easy to propagate. Flowers summer.

#### Goodenia paniculata

This is a local (to Sydney) species often found in damp, sometimes swampy positions. Very narrow, herbaceous foliage. Large quantities of yellow flowers held above foliage. Flowers in summer. Relatively untried in gardens but should make a nice clumping rockery plant with a mature size about 0.5 m.

#### Goodenia heterophylla var. glandulosa

This is another local species with purplish, serrate leaves which shows off the yellow flowers well. Again about 0.5 m in height but should be more adaptable than G. glandulosa. Flowers spring through summer and propagates easily from cutting.

#### Dampiera diversifolia

I guess just about everybody in the study group has tried this species already however I am not too sure how successfully. At best an outstanding border plant and groundcover with masses of bright purple-blue flowers. Tends to die out in the centre with continued hot, humid conditions sometimes with dire consequences for the plant however does sucker freely and is very easy to propagate.

#### Dampiera linearis

Again an extremely variable species but more in terms of flower colour, flowering time and growth habit. Brilliant depth and intensity of colour makes all forms very desirable feature plants. All forms appreciate open, sunny position. Currently I am holding about 5 forms including the species called D. cuneata (there is no such species). All forms propagate easily from cutting and most sucker freely. Different forms flower at



different times of the year.

Dampiera trigona

There are also a number of forms of this species including two colour variants (blue and pink) and a dwarf form with very fine foliage and smaller, darker flowers. All appear adaptable and excellent small feature plants. They propagate freely from cutting. Flowers spring to summer.

Scaevola hookeri

This species is endemic to the Snowy Mountain ranges. It is a creeping groundcover with masses of small fanflowers in summer. Tends to flow over rocks with roots protected in rock crevices. Not too keen on our humid summer months but a very desirable species.

Scaevola "Mauve Clusters"

Possibly a form of S. rotundifolia or S. albida. Has masses of small mauve flowers over mounded growth form. Very adaptable and appears hardy.

Scaevola aemula

This is also a very variable species. The local form is a very pale mauve rosette of flowers held above medium-sized hairy foliage. The flowers of the Victorian form I have are much larger and a darker colour and the foliage although again somewhat hairy is broader and coarser in shape. Growth tends to be straggly. The flowers and foliage of the mainland Sth Australian form are in turn larger again with more compact growth (a very desirable plant). The Kangaroo Island form however is entirely different being almost totally prostrate with masses of very small (for the species), pale flowers. This form has potential as a rockery plant.

Scaevola candulacea

This species exists naturally along the coastal dunes of most of Australia. It has large fleshy leaves and a floppy, haphazard growth habit. Flowers are pale blue with white centres and held on random racemes. Quite a large groundcover which appreciates sun and water and will stand salty conditions. Flowers spring through summer.

Scaevola striata

A very attractive, small groundcover from Western Australia with dark, flattened foliage and large, showy mauve flowers. Suckers freely and a very desirable plant.

Scaevola sp. aff. ramossissima

Similar foliage and flower to S. striata but found on the central to northern coast of N.S.W. Flowers and foliage however larger and darker. Much easier to propagate and grow than S. ramossissima. Very attractive form.

Scaevola albida

Also a very variable species in terms of flower colour in particular. I have the white and pink forms at present. Very dependable plant growing to about 0.5 m.

Lechenaultia formosa

Most of the forms mentioned in the article are available or accessible (from Max Hewett).

Lechenaultia chlorantha

A bushy plant to 0.5 m with grey-green flowers. Quite floriferous in autumn to spring. Garden adaptability is unknown.

Lechenaultia laricina

Again a bushy shrub to about 0.5 m. One of the hardiest species in Sydney with bright red flowers in summer. Sometimes wrongly confused with L. formosa forms but much longer lived and adaptable.

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Dennis's collection of plants grown from cuttings sent to him by members is coming along nicely. We still want to set up one or preferably two collections of live material in each state. If anyone is willing to maintain such a collection please contact Dennis at 58 B NORMAN AVE, THORNLEIGH, N.S.W. 2120. Phone (02) 4819406.

PLEASE NOTE DENNIS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FROM LATE NOVEMBER UNTIL LATE JANUARY.

Editor: Phil STRONG

Leader: Dennis Margan