HIBBERTIA STUDY GROUP

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I had hoped to have notes on Hibbertia Amplexicaulis, Cuneiformis, Dentata, Scandens, Sericea and Serphyllifolia for this newsletter, but to date very little information has been received, so would appreciate any information you may have on these Hibbertias.

It would appear that quite a large number of Hibbertias are being propogated by cutting quite successfully, but there are some which are quite woody and difficult that produce very little cutting material. Among these are H. Lasiopus, H. Quadricolor - the woody type, H. Aurea, H. Hypericoides and H. Lineata, difficult types all small plants which are Florificeus, flowers over long periods. If seed was available I am sure more Hibbertias like these with a bit of patience, trial and error could be brought into our gardens.

Hibbertias that I have found produce seed and germinate in a garden situation are H. Cuneiformis and H. Dentata, whilst sowing seed from H. Vaginata into pots or insitu in gardens has produced varied results. H. Cuneiformis which flowers from late Winter to midSummer produces quite a large number of seedlings in near vicinity of the plant, normally appearing around June/July so it would appear a little weathering over the Summer is enough to breakdown the outer case of the seed. H. Dentata which I have in a 20cm P.V.C. pot had a few flowers during September/October 1982, to date I have had fourteen seedlings appear over a period of several months. H. Dentata has been located under sarlon receiving morning sun, and was watered throughout the Summer, again, weathering was effective. I would be interested to hear of any species that sucker.

H. Vaginata is one that I have found can be grown by heat treatment e.g. - placing grass and leaves over seed in garden and burning same, being the most successful method to date. I have seeds in hot water with no success, the outer case being quite thick, it would appear greater heat or scarifying is required. At present I have some seeds in, which have been cut with a razor blade, quite difficult due to size, about 1mm diameter also the danger of cutting the seed itself. Two seedlings have recently appeared in a rockery area from about ten seeds sown over three years ago, so it would appear that seed from some species are viable for a considerable period. I have normally found with fire treatment seed germinates within 2 to 3 months. If planting seeds insitu I favour Autumn hoping early rains will assist, whilst planting seeds in pots consider Spring a better period.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has had success with seed, also, if you have any surplus seed would appreciate if it could be forwarded for distribution to other members, I do find having spent a considerable time in areas where numerous Hibbertias are found that even though Hibbertias are prolific flowers, very little seed can be found, and amongst any collected a large percentage has been eaten by insects. This brings up another point of interest in that Hibbertias themselves seem free of insect attack. Would appreciate more comments on this point.

Whilst on the subject of seed, I wonder do we do the correct thing in making soil mixes for seed, would a straight sand or loam be more suitable, I have noticed wherever an area has been cleared whether small or large in our bushland prolific germination follows the following season. Hibbertias I have noticed in this category are H. Aurea, H. Amplexicaulis, H. Cunninghamii, H. Enervia, H. Huegelii, H. Racemosa, H. Stellaris, H. Sub-Vaginata and H. Vagintata, whilst most of these can be propogated by cutting with a fair degree of success the woody and difficult species previously mentioned which are also found in these areas seem to produce nil to only a few seedlings. Undoubtably there is much to learn about seed germination of Hibbertias. I would welcome comments about Eastern States Hibbertias on this point.

To those of you who have found the descriptions of H. Glaberrima in newsletter No. 9 in variance with the description in Blackhall and Grieve a list change in Blackhall and Grieve shows it should be H. Sub-Vaginata, H. Glaberrima being found in inland S.A., N.T., and Q.L.D. I hope to have clarification of several more W.A. Hibbertias for the next newsletter.

Following are descriptions of some low growing prostrate type Hibbertias.

HIBBERTIA ACICULARIS - Vic., Tas., N.S.W., Q.L.D.

A small, procumbent shrub to 30cm high, with a thick root stock. The leaves are linear, 5 to 10mm long and 1mm wide, with pungent tips and glaberous. Flowers are on short pedicels in leaf axils or terminal. Sepals are glaberous or with a few short hairs 5 to 6mm long. Stamens vary from 4 to 8 all on one side of the two carpels. Flowering is mainly in the Spring. H. Acicularis can be found growing on heaths, coast and forest areas in sand, stone and sterile inland soils.

HIBBERTIA DIFFUSA - N.S.W., Q.L.D., Vic.

A many branched prostrate, mat plant, 30cm high by 1m in diameter, with young branches being soft and woolly. Leaves linear 5mm to 15mm long tapering into short stork, being dark green and slightly succulent. Flowers being gold in colour produced mainly in Spring, are solitary about 25mm in diameter on short pedicels. There are normally 3 carpels which are surrounded by 20 to 25 stamens. The sepals are 6 to 8mm in length. H. Diffusa is found in coastal forest, heathlands and dunes. Prefers well drained light to medium soils and an open situation.

HIBBERTIA VESTITA - N.S.W., Q.L.D.

An erect or spreading shrub up to 30cm high. Branches are elongated with short spreading hairs. Leaves are linear to oblong, 4 to 8mm long and 1 to 2mm wide, with plants near coastal areas having leaves somewhat broader, fine hairs on young leaves becoming glaberous when older, margins are thickened and recurved. Flowers are in the cluster of floral leaves on short pedicels or sessile, 20mm in diameter, petals being 6 to 8mm long. There are over 30 stamens with several staminodes out side the three carpels, which are villous. Flowering period is Spring, with some flowers found through out the year. H. Vestita favours sandy soils both near the coast and inland.

I would like to welcome as a new member:

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EMERALD VICTORIA

Bernie Dixon