HIBBERTIA STUDY GROUP

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Through lack of reports on the first six Hibbertias selected for recording, one finds difficulty in compiling adequate and varied information, so any additional information will be gratefully received. I do hope members seeing what is required are more responsive to those selected for 1983-1984. The six selected for 1984-1985 are Hibbertias' Aspera, Empetrifolia, Pedunculata, Serrata, Stellaris and Vestita. An alternative for those who may find reports too difficult or time consuming, would be to write a few notes on the two or three Hibbertias they find the best and easiest to grow, with any relevant information, e.g., size, growth, flowering period, soil, etc.

NOTES FROM HIBBERTIA REPORTS 1982-1983

Jenny West lives in Balliang East, Victora, where hot dry summers severe winter frosts and strong winds for most of the year are normal, the soil being red clay loam. The weather during 1982-83 was extremely dry with most of the rain being in March to April. The climatic conditions in Perth are hot dry summers with many days near or over 38°C, very little rain from October to March, with June to August being the wettest time, soil on coastal plains is sandy and very porous.

H. AMPLEXICAULIS - which Jenny had planted in a Septic Transpiration bed with soil being moist for most of the year, but eventually dried out due to extremely dry weather. Planted out in May 1982 it flowered from July to October, making good growth, but died in December due to lack of water. A plant in a hanging basket in a soil mix of equal parts of mountain loam, peat moss, and propogating sand made good growth, flowering from July to December, watering was done daily during hot weather, plant died in January possibly due to not enough protection from the Hot dry winds.

The three that I monitored showed varying results, one in a open situation receiving sun from mid morning was hand watered as required during hot weather, flowered from late August to mid November, foliage becoming harsh and drying off during summer, them lush with good growth during winter and spring. The second on the southside of a Acacia with filtered sunlight from morning to mid-afternoon was on a trickle system receiving to to 3 litres of water 1 to 3 times a week during hot spells depending on weather conditions. Flowering commenced in August through to late December, with growth and appearance being good all year. The third plant was in a 9 litre pot with sand and peat at 4 to 1. flowered from August to November with odd flowers through to March. This Plant was under a patio covered with sarlon, received regular watering with a couple of exceptions during hot weather when plant wilted and leaves dried out, but made good recovery when water was applied, all plants received a teaspoon of Osmocote early Spring.

HIBBERTIA SCANDENS - Jenny has one growing on a Trellis in a bed with 15cm of sandy loam over original soil, being on the south side of the house receives no sun in winter and only late afternoon sun during summer, no growth was made over the 12 month period, plant staying at 2m diameter, flowering from December to February with foliage a healthy appearance.

I planted 3 H. Scandens out in September 1983 in varying situations with interesting results. One in straight sand with trickle system and full sun from midday and in extremely hot weather required additional watering. Though quite healthy plant has made very little growth. The second in sand with trickle is in a position with filtered sunlight until late afternoon, is half a big again and quite healthy with several flower buds at the present time. The third plant in a composted bed, receives full sun from mid morning and daily watering from neighbours reticulation made very rapid growth with many new shoots, being some 2½ times larges than when planted. I had tried numerous other plants in this position but all had failed possibly due to damp soil; compost or both, among them were H. Amplexicaulis and H. Stellaris. Two other H. Scandens in varying situations and straight sand, both about ten years old are also of some interest one receiving full sun and watering from neighbours reticulation has attached itself to a Eucalyptus Erythrocorys needs constant pruning to keep it in check. Flowers quite prolifically during spring and summer and is never without a flower or two at other times, numerous flowers can be found with 6 petals and occasionally 7 and 8 petals can be found, I would be interested to know if anyone has noticed this feature. The second plant on a mesh fence on south side receives late afternoon sun, no watering makes reasonable growth, flowering quite well over a long period and occasional flowers at other times, also has a odd flower with six petals.

HIBBERTIA DENTATA - Jenny has H. Dentata at base of a Eucalypt, in clayey loam, shaded from the sun and protected from frosts, but partly exposed to Hot winds. This plant received no water and died back from 1M diameter in July to 50cm in January, but by June had masses of new growth and was 60cm across. Flowering occurred for several weeks during October and November.

A, H. Dentata which I have under a tree and protected by other small plants receiving ample light but no direct sunlight is in sand with sawdust mulch. This plant is on trickle irrigation was 13cm across in July, 18cm in January and 26cm in June, had several flowers in August, the next 12 months plant remained static and had only one flower. Several other H. Dentata's in pots in a sand-peat mix of 4 to 1 and a handful of crushed charcoal, are under sarlon of patio and shade house made good growth with flowering from September to mid November, all plants being watered regularly and a teaspoon of Osmocote added in Spring.

All the above Hibbertias can be propogated relatively easy by cuttings, and it would appear that watering in summer is benefical particularly for H. Amplexicaulis and H. Dentata who favour shaded situations.

Three Westerm Australian Hibbertias are described in this issue and thanks go to Judy Wheeler from W.A. Herbarium for descriptions of H. Hypericoides and H. Commutata and Greg Keighery of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens for H. Selkii which was extracted from page 179 of New Species from the"Stirling Range of W.A."

HIBBERTIA COMMUTATA - is a widespread low shrub of the Darling Scarp and Range. It is an erect, multi-stemmed shrub up to about 30cm high. The leaves are rather narrow oblong, obovate or elliptic, mostly sparsely hairy and entire near Perth, although sometimes in the Eastern Darling Ranges the leaves are sparsely toothed towards the apex. It has sessile, yellow flowers occurring between July and October, which are often clustered around the stems. The sepals are narrow ovate and densly hairy, the apex acute to acuminate, the inner most sepals are broader and more sparsely hairy. The stamens are 15-30 in number and clustered into 3 groups, alternating with the 3 glaberous carpels.

It is a variable species with a small leaved variant occurring mostly in the southern and eastern Darling Range. H. Commutata has in the past been confused with H. Montana which is a species with 4 or 5 densely hairy carpels and which occurs in the Eastern Darling Range between York and Boyagin

HIBBERTIA HYPERICOIDES - is perhaps the most common Hibbertia species of the Perth region, occurring on the coastal plain, and the Darling Scarp and Range. It occurs in a wide range of Habitats throughout the southwest of the State, between Northhampton and Augusta. It is a spreading shrub .3 to .7m high, with minutely stellate Hairy branchlet. The leaves are narrowly oblong to narrowly obovate with revolute margins. The upper surface of the leaves is almost glab rous or sparsely stellate hairy. The yellow flowers are scattered up the stems solitary in the leaf axils and pedunculate, occurring between April and November. The sepals are elliptic, obtuse and minutely stellate hairy. The 10 to 15 stamens are all clustered on one side of the 2 densely white hairy carpels..

HIBBERTIA SELKII - A new species from the Stirling Range being one of the 3 orange flowered members of the Genus. A small erect much branched sub-shrub up to 30cm tall. The leaves are linear, obtuse 19=25 mm long, narrowed at the base, margins incurved usually becoming glaberous above, hairy underneath. The orange flowers are solitary, axillary almost sessile surrounded by 5 shining bracts, 5 petals obovate, notched, free to base 17 to 21mm long and 8 to 11 mm wide. Stamens 54 to 61 surrounding the 3 carpels, except for 2 to 6 not forming anthers all perfect up to 6mm long. H. Selkii has been found in several areas in the Stirling Range , and appears to germinate quite readily after bushfires.

Welcome to new members.

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