

## HIBBERTIA STUDY GROUP

Newsletter No 13

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This issue completes notes on Hibbertias from which information was compiled during 1982-83 period. More information on plants selected for 1983-84 period is required before the next newsletter. Also of interest are some notes from Dewi Price of Swansea, in Wales who has been successful in growing Australian Plants, among them several Hibbertias.

The slides of Western Australian Hibbertias, which has been increased to 39, have been seen by several groups this year, and one of the comments received is if species from the Eastern States could be included and described. I would like to hear from anyone who has slides of Hibbertias, preferably view of plant and close up of same, with a few notes on locality, soil conditions, size, flowering period, whether in forest, heathland etc. Information on what slides you have is only required at this stage, cost of reproducing slides and postage will be refunded to those whose slides are selected.

### NOTES FROM HIBBERTIA REPORTS 1982-1983

Information on *H. Cuneiformis*, *H. Sericea* and *H. Serpyllifolia* comes from Jenny West of Balliang East, Victoria, see N/L 12, and Phyllis Dadswell who is from Gawler in South Australia, where main rainfall is April to August, the yearly average being 450mm. The summers are hot and dry with temperatures up to 45°C, soil is sandy loam which provides good drainage.

#### H. CUNEIFORMIS

Jenny planted one out in April 1982 clayey loam soil, height being 30cm. It was in an open position receiving heavy frosts in winter and subjected to Hot dry winds in the summer. Plant received no water apart from rainfall, made no growth and eventually died in December through lack of water.

Phyllis has a *H. Cuneiformis* which was planted out in 1978 and has attained a height of 1.5m x 1m wide. Plant faces east, being surrounded by other shrubs, and receives sun until mid afternoon, and is watered by sprinkler once a week during summer, flowering through Spring and Summer.

I have an established plant of several years facing west and surrounded by other plants, and receives sun from mid-day. This plant is 90cm high by 1m wide and somewhat open in form, it was mulched with small limestone and receives only a occasional watering in the Summer. Flowering commences in August carrying through to February.

#### H. SERICEA

Jenny has *H. Sericea* in a rockery some 60cm above natural ground level, which is filled with local soil. This plant is in an exposed situation receiving full sun, it is composted with horse manure and newspaper, received only two watering between November and February. It is a dense compact plant which doubled its size in 12 months, flowering took place in September to mid November and again in May and June.

I also had a plant in a rockery growing in sand in an open situation, growth was quite rapid from July to January, but plant died in February possibly due to lack of water.

H. SERPYLLIFOLIA

Jenny has one which was planted in June 1981, as a tiny plant from a cutting, by July 1982 it was 6cm diameter and by June 1983 15cm. This plant was in natural soil, at the base of a rockery in an exposed, sunny position and mulched with stones, received only 2 waterings between November and February. A few flowers were produced during March. A second plant which was planted in a raised bed using local soil for fill, was shaded by a Eucalypt giving it some protection from wind and frost. This plant had grown quite well, attaining 35cm diameter by July 1982, it was heavily mulched, plant was not watered and died in March. Jenny felt had it been watered it would have survived as it lasted through the worst of the drought.

Phyllis has H. Serpyllifolia growing in sandy loam, and is protected by other plants, receives only morning sun. Watering is done by a trickle system once a week during summer or if very hot weather twice a week, a small amount of osmocote is applied during the period September to March. This plant from a cutting has grown to healthy plant 30cm in diameter.

I had H. Serpyllifolia growing in sand, protected by other plants received sun from midmorning to mid afternoon. Watering was from a trickle system once a week or twice if very hot during the summer about 3 litres at the time. A small amount of osmocote was applied in September, plant struggled making a small amount of growth then dying back, shooting again after being trimmed back, this process continued, and plant eventually died after about 12 months.

The following extracts are from Dewi Price's letter written in June of this year. My H. Scandens is grown in a 6 inch diameter by 9inch deep clay pot with a compost of loam, peat, sand and granite grit in the ratio 1-1-1-1-. A layer of pea gravel is placed on top. The plant is located in a south facing conservatory with obscure roofing so that it receives full light but no sun. It is being trained on a wall trellis and is about 6 feet high. It is watered as required as indicated on a moisture meter and gets a liquid feed of general fertilizer at monthly intervals during the summer. The young plants of H. Procumbens and H. Obtusifolia were inadvertently exposed to too much sun (we had continual sunshine from the beginning of April with brief showers during the night on two-three occasions) and quickly burnt out. I hope to replace them in the Autumn, especially as the Nursery man from whom I obtained them gained a Award of Merit for his H. Procumbens at the Chelsea Show.

The other Australian plants in flower at the moment are Styliidium Graminifolium, Prostanthera Cuneata, and Helichrysum Bracteatum. Dewi also mentions that he has just obtained a Hibbertia Dentata which gives every indication of being successful.

I would like to welcome to the Study Group Mrs Barbara Rowley, 21 Michael Crescent BOYA 6056 Western Australia.

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