

HIBBERTIA STUDY GROUPNEWSLETTER NO. 6

MARCH 1981

Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of members which I hope will prove useful for several reasons.

Firstly if you know each other exchange of cuttings, seeds, information, etc may be much better to arrange between individual members. If for example any member has cuttings available that they would be prepared to send to other members, if they let me know I will place a notice in future newsletters. At present only a few members are sending information of their efforts in propagating and growing of Hibbertias, so the more information I receive will help me in my efforts to produce this and future newsletters.

Secondly I have 18 slides covering 9 different Western Australian Hibbertias, with a few notes about each slide which I am prepared to send, so if you or your branch would be interested let me know. If any members are in the same branch then possibly you could see each other so as to save any double ordering. I would require several dates as to when it would be suitable so as to work out a schedule to send slides. The Tasmanian branch has been allocated the 9th July, for these slides. I would also appreciate if any member has any slides of Hibbertias from whom I could obtain a copy, at this stage I would only want advice as to the particular species you have.

Another reason is as I have not heard from some of you for some time it indicates you are still on the list for Newsletters, if I receive no reply and no subscription before the next newsletter I will assume you do not require any more newsletters. If you know any of the members listed then you can possibly help one another by direct contact.

A few notes on some of the Hibbertias that members are having success with propagating and growing are:-

HIBBERTIA SERPYLLIFOLIA - A small shrub, procumbent or prostrate with numerous slender branches, spreading up to 50 cm, young stems and leaves glabrous or with scattered short hairs and linear leaves. Flowers solitary terminating short lateral branches with short pedicels. *H. SERPYLLIFOLIA* is found in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

John Knight from Warrandyte in Victoria has had great success with cuttings John also find it a very hardy plant growing up to 1.2m in heavy soil which has been well composted and built up approximately 30 cm succeeding in both open and semi-shade.

HIBBERTIA OBTUSIFOLIA - A small much branched erect or procumbent plant up to 30cm high. The leaves are linear or oblong spatulate 1 to 3 cm in length. Solitary flowers with short pedicels and terminating short lateral branches. *H. OBTUSIFOLIA* has been found in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania.

This Hibbertia is one that can readily be propagated from cuttings as is Hibbertia Scandens so to those of you who have not had much success possibly these two are the ones you could begin with. *H. OBTUSIFOLIA* is one that makes a good subject for a hanging basket or large pot.

Phyllis Dadswell from Gawler in South Australia has found that it has self layered itself in a large tub. It will grow in full sun where it is advisable to give it a little water during the summer months and also semi shade, which some members seem to prefer.

HIBBERTIA EMPETRIFOLIA - A straggling shrub with tough woody stems up to 1m long, which tend to trail over surrounding plants. Leaves are usually together at the end of short lateral branches. *Hibbertia Empetrifolia* is widespread in Tasmania from sealevel to an altitude of 2500 feet in sand heaths, also found in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

HIBBERTIA EMPETRIFOLIA can also be propagated quite successfully from cuttings. This *Hibbertia* appears to be very hardy and quick growing. John Knight planted a plant raised from cuttings in spring of 1979 and it has developed into a plant some 1m by 2.5m and proving difficult to control. John has this plant in full sun in a clay soil which has been well composted to allow drainage.

Whilst there are numerous *Hibbertias* well known, there are a large number that we know very little about as far as growth, description, locality etc. Over the next few Newsletters I will name some from all states with the hope that some of you may be able to come up with some information on these *Hibbertias*.

As an example, last year whilst working South of Perth I located a *Hibbertia* which I had not seen previously. I had this identified as *Hibbertia AUREA*, the only description I could find was erect woody shrub 2 to 3 feet. My description without getting into too much botanical details is as follows:-
 A small erect plant up to 50 cm high by 60 cm wide, narrow linear leaves 1 cm long with pungent point, flowers terminal on short pedicels. Flowering period midwinter and spring, possibly at its peak late winter early spring. Located in several areas on coastal plains between 25 and 65 km south of Perth, in banksia woodland and along cleared road verges where large numbers of small plants could be seen. Soil is grey to black sand, plants favour open to light top shade, with banksia attenuata, and merziesii, adenanthos cygnorum, stirlingia latifolia, *Hibbertias* HYPERICOIDES, SUB-VAGINATA, VAGINATA, HUEGELII, being some of the plants associated with *Hibbertia AUREA*.

HIBBERTIAS REQUIRING DESCRIPTIONS

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|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| HIBBERTIA ACEROSA | W.A. | HIBBERTIA BRACTEATA | N.S.W. |
| " AMPLEXICAULIS | W.A. | ! CISTIFLORA | VIC, N.S.W. |
| " ARGENTA | W.A. | " DIFFUSA | VIC. |
| " BRACTEOSA | W.A. | " HERMANNIFOLIA | VIC, N.S.W. |
| " EXUTIACIES | VIC, S.A. | " HUMIFUSA | VIC, |

Bernie Dixon

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