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SOCIETY FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTSCYCAD & ZAMIAD STUDY GROUPSGAP QLD REGION  
- LIBRARY -NEWSLETTER NO. 21JULY - AUGUST, 1985 ISSUE

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Well friends things are well away again in our year and events have been happening. The Cycad Society of South Africa is publishing a world list of Cycads and the Palm & Cycad Society of Australia has just put their one in the Magazine No. 7 April - June 1985 copy. All very comprehensive and very enlightening.

For Australian lists we get the discoverer or who got the credit for it.

Cycas angulata	-	R. BR.
Cycas armstrongii	-	Miquel
Cycas basaltica	-	C.A. Gardner
Cycas cairnsiana	-	F. Mueller
Cycas calcicola	-	J. Maconochie
Cycas furfuraceae	-	W.G. Fitzgerald
Cycas kennedyana	-	F. Mueller
Cycas lane - poolei	-	C.A. Gardner
(closely synonymous with armstrongii)		
Cycas media	-	R. BR.
Cycas normanbyana	-	F. Mueller
Cycas newcaledonia		(Indonesia & Australia)?
Cycas pruinosa	-	J. Maconochie
Cycas sp. NOV (West Aust.)	-	J. Maconochie
Cycas sp. NOV. (N. Territory)	-	J. Maconochie

I am only listing the cycas group here as that is now my main study for the future.

I notice that all world lists to date list Macrozamia, but delete use of the sections PARAZAMIA, which according to L.A.S. Johnson although only a section of Macrozamia, should be listed Macrozamia section Parazamia.

I myself find very specific differences in these sections, which does not give them a new species warrant, but does stick out that they have differences to the type plant we know, making them not a new species, but a smaller version of the type Macrozamia.

Recently near Mackay I found very nice plants of a *Cycas media* type growing on very hard sparse terrain. Also as Bob Dinte reports there is a really huge plant on Brampton Island reported to be of really great age - 3,000 years. It is the most colossal cycas I have seen having three trunks one of which reclines on the ground. From photo I would judge it at 10 metres in height.

Andy Anderson from South Australia writes that he is seeing some success there with his plantings in Pasadena, South Australia. Easiest to grow for him in his environment are *Cycas media*, *Cycas cairnsiana*, *Bowenia serrulata*, *Macrozamia douglasii*, *Macrozamia moorei* and *Cycas furfuraceae*.

Andy liked the Australian Plants No. 101 and comments that the *Macrozamia communis* on Page 9 was his slide.

Mrs. F.B. Bosworth of Ingham also comments she was pleased to see her slide on *Cycas media* used in the booklet.

Interesting letter from one very active member: Don Stallard,

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DARWIN. N.T. 5794

Regarding the Australian Plants No. 101 *Cycas* article.

Yes the slide on Serpentine Gorge and the adjoining one of Stanley Chasm are mine. They being now some 9 years old the reproductions have obviously had some work done on them. Whatever, they express what is required of our study group - that being the need to take an interest in these "prehistoric" plants for the future existence and benefits they may hold. I can understand your disappointment Len by the limited number of slides published, yet again like yourself, see the need to organise a much more comprehensive presentation through a magazine/book of larger distribution.

Will need to examine it further and get outsiders views before making any further comment. Whatever, congratulations and thanks Len for taking the time and effort to publicise our "pet plant" - they would be obscure if left to any one of us in the Club - I think I speak for us all! Just a few comments on the notes on "Living Fossil Seed - Ferns"

1. Page 2 - speaks of "From Darwin the Cycas occur also south into the centre of Australia" is of course the Macrozamia.
2. Page 4 - speaks of Cycas calcicola "Grows thickly in the Fincke River districts" should be "in the Finnis River districts".

While on the topic of Cycas distribution I have recently investigated some of the areas skirting southern Arnhem Land - that is an area some 150 kms. S-E of Katherine in the Northern Territory and discovered what appears to be the remains of Cycas angulata - only 2 sightings were made one of a group of 4 or 5 plants and a single plant  $\frac{1}{2}$  km. from the others. They were growing in sandy soils within a valley which led to a pass over a small range of hills. Growing also in very limited numbers was a palm which by all accounts is a Livistona sp. Within the same area occurred a Banksia of unknown species but taken as being our "supposed" one and only top end species.

I have enclosed prints of both the cycas and palm for your perusal.

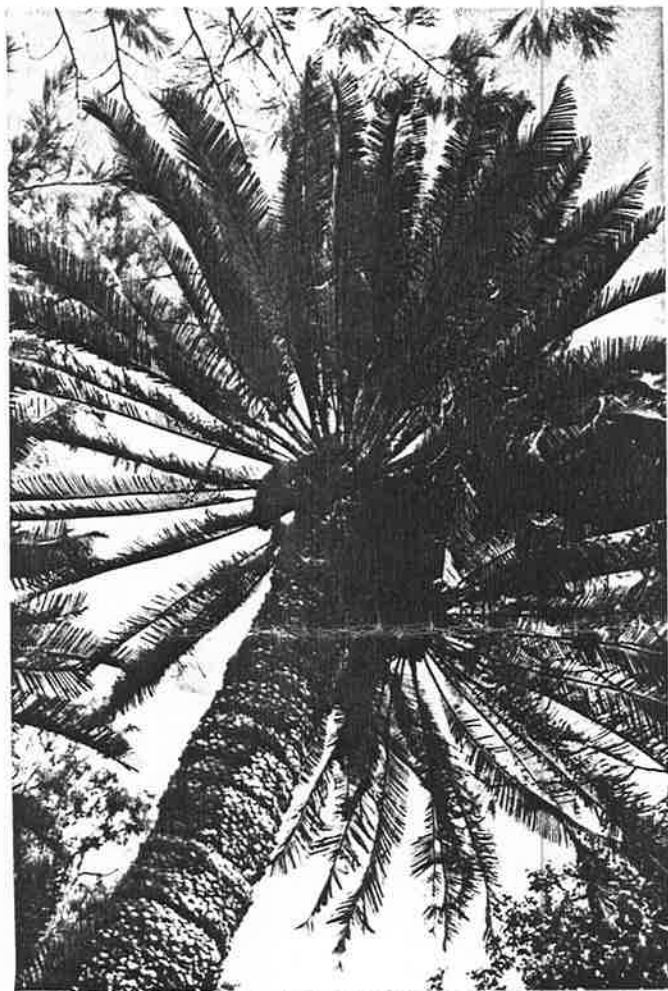
If by chance this sighting is C. angulata of the Gulf of Carpentaria regions then it may give some reason and link with the supposed isolated group of the same species reported just S.W. of the Daly River Crossing (some 200 kms. S.W. of Darwin).

In passing may I mention the sighting of a pair of parrots in the same area which have left some of us in the Field Naturalist Club a little bewildered.

Meantime I look forward to the day that our various sightings and studies may evaluate into a distribution map which may give some bearing on our continent's background - as I see the Cycad and Palm representing a living link in doing just that.

Bye for now Len,

Don Stallard.



*Cycas* species, possibly angulata  
found near southern Arnhem Land  
by Don Stallard.