

PROSTANTHERA STUDY GROUP

Patron
George Althofer
60 Thorton St
Wellington 2820

Newsletter
Vol 1 No 1 June, 1980

Leader
Les Taylor
4 Prospect St
Blacktown 2148

Dear Study Group Member:

Newsletter This is our first newsletter, and I hope I can impart some news to you.

Patron Members will be pleased to know that George Althofer has accepted the position of PATRON of the Prostanthera Study Group and has provided some news for our newsletter; see later items.

Correspondence In any correspondence with the leader or patron please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope, otherwise a reply cannot be guaranteed because of the high cost of postage.

Please let me know what you are growing and/or send any articles for publication.

Identification Les Taylor can assist members in the identification of PROSTANTHERAS. If you wish to use this service send fresh or pressed pieces. Please describe habitat and growth of plant. If you know where it grows naturally, give the approximate area and habitat. If possible draw a MAP, as I would like to make a master map to show areas of locations.

Material for identification will not be returned unless this is specifically requested, and money for return postage enclosed.

Seeds Has anybody had any success with growing PROSTANTHERAS from seed? I would be pleased to hear from anyone having such luck. I have not tried to grow from seeds, but I get quite a lot of seedlings coming up in the garden, with good results. I have at least 3 or 4 plants that show great promise.

Pro-formas Some members have not as yet returned the PRO-FORMAS. If you cannot fill in these forms, as to the death of your plants, use them to record the different types of PROSTANTHERAS that you have growing, and return them as soon as possible.

Cuttings Members can send cuttings of any unusual PROSTANTHERAS, or in fact any PROSTANTHERAS, as George Althofer would like to see the Group grow as many as possible of the various forms that have such a variable growth habit. This way we may be able to clear up some of the anomalies that now exist throughout this genus. This can be carried out by starting a 'Garden of Incense! George Althofer has offered an area in the Burrendong Arboretum, and also our member Sam Jack from Warrimoo has offered the same. While I think that George's offer is exciting, I feel the closer offer from Sam Jack would be more acceptable as most members at present, live close by. However I think that spare plants could be sent to the Burrendong Arboretum for planting there as well. What do you think?

News Now for some news on new species from our Patron:

Prostanthera Report from George Althofer

Gwen Harden, New England University Armidale, informs me that Prof. Williams collected specimens of a spiny mint in 1974, on Coaldale Road near Grafton. I have since had pressed specimens and two tiny rooted cuttings. I have been able to identify it as P. Spinosa. The nearest previous collection was at Mt Arapilas in the Victorian Grampians. This is a tentative identification, and I will send more details as soon as I can get them.

Prof. Williams and Gwen Harden, last year collected a strange mint evidently related to P. Prunelloides, but the flower is not right. Have several small plants, which Peter will photograph as soon as they flower. The new plant was first found at the base of Boonoo Boonoo Falls, and later on top of the high peak alongside. Gwen also recently sent cuttings of a strange mint from Howell, N.S.W. The leaves are thicker and more fleshy, but undoubtedly it is a form of P. Cryptandroides, only previously known from Glen Davis and the Upper Hunter River. Keith Ingram tells me of a mint he found at Glow Worm Cave on Newnes Rd. He said it looked like P. "Gilessii", but I think that very unlikely, and feel it will prove to be the new species from Khyber allied to P. Ovalifolia.

Bill Cane reported two separate findings of mint bush. "Two distinct species on Coolgardie Rd. not far from Norseman, growing with Phebalium, Rulingia, Halganina, Thomasia and Grevillea. Also where the road crosses the railway on the Southern Rd. from Norseman to Esperance, another dwarf mint was found. I found this one and have cuttings striking. Height 12-15". Looks new. Night time when we went through, but found it with the aid of a torch.

Les Taylor
Leader 02 6215840.

P.T.O.

Prostanthera Study Group MembersN.S.W.

Mr Evan Weatherhead	63 Bellbird Cres. Blaxland	2774
Mr & Mrs Sam Jack	16 Railway Pde Warrimoo	2775
Mr Alan Burke	53 Pioneer St Seven Hills	2147
Mrs Ruth Overton	11 Hill St Glenbrook	2773
Mrs Joyce Ward	66 Cecil St Gordon	2072
Mr Don Stitt	52 Fairlawn Ave Turrumurra	2074
Mr Brian Timmis	102 Lugarno Rd Lugarno	2210
Mr Roger Bagley	37 Powell St Blaxland	2774
Dr Ken Phillis	P.O. Box 3 Kendall	2439

Victoria

Mr Ross MacDonald	1 Balcombe Court Croydon	3136
Mrs L.W.Huebner	Nelson 3292 Via Mt Gambier	5290

Mr. George Bright 32 Maxwell Ave Malperra 2214 NSW

Mr Arthur D. Chapman 8 Morne Place Latham 2615 ACT

Mr Col Scott 231 COORIENGAR HTS RD Edgeline 2233 NSW

Mrs HP Bithrey Barrington via Gloucester NSW 2422

Queensland Region SGAP P.O. Box 809 Fortitude Valley 4006 Q

QUESTIONNAIRE:

(To try and establish reasons for death and some facts about surviving plants)

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____ State: _____
 _____ Post Code _____

Place a tick in the appropriate square, with relevant information. Fill in appropriate squares simply.

		SPECIES									
1.	What species of Prostantheras are you growing successfully? (Use one space for each plant)										
2.	How old is the plant?	Age in Years									
3.	Is the plant in a well drained site?	Yes									
		No									
4.	Is the plant watered with a fixed sprinkler?	Yes									
		No									
6.	If NO, how long has it been unhealthy?	Time in Months									
7.	Does the plant show any sign of disease or pests?	Yes									
		No									
8.	Were the plants raised from:	Seed?									
		Cuttings?									
Bought from a Nursery, or don't know											
9.	Comments on the successful cultivation of Prostantheras which may be useful:										

CAUSE OF DEATH:

		SPECIES							
1.	What species of Prostantheras have died in your garden?								
2.	How old was the plant when it died?	Age in Years							
3.	Were the plants raised from cuttings?	Yes							
		No							
4.	Did you examine the roots of the dead plant?	Yes							
		No							
5.	If YES, was the root system poor?	Yes							
		No							
6.	Did the plant die in the summer?	Yes							
		No							
7.	Did the plant die quickly?	Yes							
		No							
8.	Was the plant in a well drained site?	Yes							
		No							
9.	Did part of the plant die before the rest?	Yes							
		No							
10.	Did the plant have any disease symptoms or pests?	Yes							
		No							
11.	If YES, describe it:								
12.	Do you have any personal theories, opinions, or observations on the death of Prostantheras not already covered?								