

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants Inc.

RHAMNACEAE STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 5

APRIL 1998

Hello, members. I haven't heard from any of you for a long time now. Does anyone have any information about species of Rhamnaceae they are growing or have seen in the wild? Drop me a line if you do.

Up until now, I have continued sending our Newsletter to unfinancial members because our group is so small, but this June I'm asking for subscriptions to be paid by all members as an indication of your continued interest in the Study Group. Hope to hear from you all!

The latest volume (Volume 7) of Rodger Elliot's and David Jones' "Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants" has a comprehensive section on *Pomaderris* - 76 species, subspecies and varieties, including those recently described by N. Walsh.. Below is a list of these and the states in which they occur.

	NSW	ACT	Qld	Vic	Tas	SA	WA
<i>P. adnata</i>	*						
<i>P. andromedifolia</i>	*		*	*			
<i>ssp. confusa</i>	*	*					
<i>P. angustifolia</i>	*	*		*			
<i>P. apetala</i>				*	*		
<i>ssp. maritima</i>				*	*		
<i>P. argyrophylla</i>	*		*				
<i>ssp. graniticola</i>	*		*				
<i>P. aspera</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	
<i>P. aurea</i>				*			
<i>P. betulina</i>	*	*		*			
<i>ssp. actensis</i>	*	*					
<i>P. bilocularis</i>							*
<i>P. bodalla</i>	*						
<i>P. brevifolia</i>							*
<i>P. brogoensis</i>	*						
<i>P. brunnea</i>	*			*			
<i>P. canescens</i>			*				
<i>P. cinerea</i>	*						
<i>P. clivicola</i>			*				
<i>P. cocoqarrana</i>	*						
<i>P. coomingalensis</i>			*				
<i>P. costata</i>	*			*			
<i>P. cotoneaster</i>	*			*			
<i>P. crassifolia</i>	*		*				
<i>P. delicata</i>	*						
<i>P. elachophylla</i>	*			*	*		
<i>P. elliptica</i>	*			*	*		
<i>ssp. diemenica</i>					*		

	NSW	ACT	Qld	Vic	Tas	SA	WA
<i>P. eriocephala</i>	*	*		*			
<i>P. ferruginea</i>	*		*	*			
<i>P. flabellaris</i>						*	
<i>P. forrestiana</i>						*	*
<i>P. gilmourii</i>	*						
var. <i>cana</i>	*						
<i>P. grandis</i>							*
<i>P. halmaturina</i>						*	
ssp. <i>continensis</i>						*	
<i>P. helianthemifolia</i>				*			
ssp. <i>minor</i>				*			
ssp. <i>hispida</i>	*	*		*			
<i>P. intermedia</i>	*	*		*	*		
<i>P. lanigera</i>	*		*	*			
<i>P. ledifolia</i>	*		*	*			
<i>P. ligustrina</i>	*		*	*			
ssp. <i>latifolia</i>	*		*				
<i>P. mediora</i>	*						
<i>P. myrtilloides</i>							*
<i>P. nitidula</i>	*						
<i>P. notata</i>	*		*				
<i>P. obcordata</i>				*		*	
<i>P. oblongifolia</i>				*			
<i>P. oraria</i>				*	*		
ssp. <i>calcicola</i>				*			
<i>P. pallida</i>	*	*					
<i>P. paniculosa</i>	*			*		*	*
ssp. <i>paralia</i>				*	*	*	*
<i>P. parrisiae</i>	*						
<i>P. pauciflora</i>	*			*			
<i>P. phyllicifolia</i>	*	*		*	*		
var. <i>ericoides</i>	*	*		*			
<i>P. pilifera</i>				*	*		
<i>P. precaria</i>	*						
<i>P. prunifolia</i>	*		*	*			
<i>P. queenslandica</i>	*		*				
<i>P. racemosa</i>				*	*	*	
<i>P. reperta</i>	*						
<i>P. rotundifolia</i>							*
<i>P. sericea</i>	*			*			
<i>P. subcapitata</i>	*	*		*			
<i>P. subplicata</i>				*			
<i>P. tropica</i>			*				
<i>P. vacciniifolia</i>				*			
<i>P. vellea</i>	*						
<i>P. velutina</i>	*			*			
<i>P. virgata</i>	*			*			

Field Trip:

After the Biennial Conference last September/October, I was lucky enough to make the post-Conference trip to Kangaroo Island which is rich in Rhamnaceae species. Bev Overton and Ida Jackson did a tremendous job of showing us the Island flora - including most of the **Pomaderris**, **Cryptandra** and **Spyridium** species, some of which occur only on the Island. The following is a description of some of the plants we saw. The reason why **halmaturina/um** occurs as the specific name for some plants endemic to the Island is that the generic name for kangaroos was once **Halmatura**.

Pomaderris halmaturina: This is a rare species occurring in coastal areas of Kangaroo Island and south-eastern South Australia. We were unable to see it in the wild but Bev had a healthy and vigorous specimen in her garden. It is a bushy shrub of 2m+ with soft, very green, oval leaves with toothed margins. Flowers are greenish with pink to red tinges. Although not a showy species, the attractive foliage would make it worth growing as a background plant.

Spyridium halmaturinum var. **halmaturinum:** A usually low-growing, compact shrub to 1m. Leaves are wedge-shaped with a notched tip and stellate hairs on both sides of the leaf. Flowers are tiny and cream-coloured and surrounded by four or five whitish floral bracts. They give the plant a white starry appearance. Grows mainly on ironstone on the Island.. The variety **scabridum** is a taller, more open shrub with narrow notched leaves and simple, not stellate, hairs on the upper surface.

Spyridium phyllicoides: Another small, compact plant, growing to probably 1m - although most of the ones we saw were only about 45 cm tall. Leaves are small, narrow and stiff with edges rolled under. They are glabrous and dark green which accentuates the flowers and floral bracts. The whitish bracts surrounding the clusters of tiny flowers are not much wider than the leaves. Would make an attractive, neat filler for the garden.

Spyridium thymifolium: A small shrub to about 60 cm tall - rather open and straggly, but with attractive, dark green oval leaves about 1 cm long. The floral bracts are roundish and there are usually three surrounding the very small cream flower clusters. New growth is rusty, giving the stems a brown velvety look. We saw one which had been cut down to ground level by road machinery. It was regenerating with quite lush new rusty growth, so, in a garden situation, regular pruning would probably be tolerated - and beneficial in shaping this handsome little shrub.

Spyridium nitidum: A slender erect shrub 1.5m tall. The tiny hairs on both sides of the leaves give the whole plant a striking silvery appearance. Flowers are in small, mostly terminal, clusters and are cream. Buds are brown and slightly sticky. This one would make a lovely contrast plant for the garden.

Cryptandra leucophracta: A little prostrate to low, compact plant with tiny round to heart-shaped, glossy, darkgreen leaves. The clusters of tiny cream flowers are surrounded by four or five heart-shaped white floral bracts. A pretty little plant for a small gap in the garden.

Cryptandra waterhousei: A beautiful open shrub 2m or so in height. Has long willowy stems and very narrow greyish leaves. Also plentiful clusters of cream flowers. A very attractive plant.

Pomaderris obcordata: An extremely beautiful little plant. Described as growing to 2-3 metres, but all the ones we saw on the Island were 40-60 cm tall, most being very compact, rounded little shrubs. Leaves are dark green and wedge-shaped with deeply notched tips. Flowers are white to pale pink in dense terminal clusters 3-4 cm across. They had finished flowering before our visit, and were carrying large clusters of seed capsules which were eye-catching in themselves. One population had masses of very dark red (almost blackish) capsules. I have two **P. obcordata** growing in my garden (from cuttings Jeanette Closs sent me several years ago). They are fairly slow-growing, but have maintained their compact growth habit.

Propagation:

From the cuttings I brought back from this trip I've managed to strike the following:

Pomaderris halmaturina and **P. obcordata**
Spyridium halmaturinum var. **halmaturinum** and var. **scabridum**
Spyridium thymifolium and **phylicoides**
Cryptandra leucophracta

Spyridium nitidum and **Cryptandra waterhousei** produced roots but died soon after potting up.

Propagation method: 1:2000 IBA hormone was used and cuttings placed in 1:1 perlite and river sand. Pots were placed in an open cutting box (unheated) and watered twice daily.

Finances:

Balance September 97		319.82
Interest	0.24	
Subscriptions	35.00	
FID		0.05
Postage (Sept 97)		12.60
Herbarium equipment		6.60
Seed purchase		18.90
Balance April 98		316.91

Jo Walker
 Leader, Rhamnaceae S/G
 21 Poppet Road
 WAMBOIN NSW 2620

ph (02) 62 383 415

Note: Address will be 159 Poppet Road from July 98 due to Rural Address Program changes.