

As this is the end of the financial year, this newsletter can serve as an annual report, and I'll even mention such mundane things as finances, But first let me restate and review our objectives. In N/L No 1 said that our objectives were to try to establish the horticultural requirements of Stylidiums. I mentioned methods of propagation, and noted that we started with a bare larder.

We have progressed-considerably since then, particularly in the last year or so. We now have more than 50 species of Stylidium established in-pots, from which, vegetative propagation is proceeding. A small amount of seed has been available from commercial sources, but we have no real results with seed yet. Some members have had encouraging results from cuttings or offsets with roots, others have been less successful and some appear to have been reluctant to try. We have thus passed stage one, we have some working stock and we must now begin serious work to establish the horticultural needs and tolerances of the genus.

There is rather more to a study group than having a few plants of a genus in the garden or in pots. Thus the members should regard it as their duty to try to propagate their plants so as to provide themselves with enough plants for experimentation. The effect of changes in soil, watering, feeding and exposure should be studied, but I will leave the details to you as we are so scattered and our climatic conditions are so varied, But I will help anyone who needs help, just ask.

Losses are bound to occur but that's not a crime unless the circumstances are not recorded. I am propagating as many species as possible and I am prepared to give numbers of plants to any member who is prepared to work out a test programme for a particular species. However, I do get unhappy when I see plants that I hand out remain undeveloped for a long time. That sort of approach achieves nothing for the Group's objectives. Stylidiums are not like Cyclamens, to be left in a pot and admired, we have work to do so that more growers, less experienced than ourselves, can grow Stylidiums with the minimum of fuss.

So from now on the emphasis will be on 'activity' and apart from providing new members with 'starter kits' I intend to leave acquisition to you. I will publish a list of plants available as plants or seed in each N/L and you can let me know your wants, and make some suitable arrangements for their collection. The following species are available as at 20/7/80.

ciliatum; repens; piliferum; spathulatum; scandens; nonscandens(?); soboliform; uniflorum;
brunonianum var. minor; breviscapum (white, pink); rupestre; verticillatum; pritzelianum;
imbribricatum(pink); striatum; adnatum platagineum caespitosum; bulbiferum;

Seed; platagineum; crassifolium; amoenum; carnosum; diversifolium.

NB - NINDETHANA SEEDS, NARRIKUP WA has the above seeds plus *S. laricifolium* if you wish to buy direct.

PROPAGATION.

Close examination of many species has shown that each year most of them produce new roots from the crown, rhizome, terminal rosettes or leafy stems. These roots appear in the autumn and winter, and seem to be essential to the health and continued growth of the plant. Divisions can be made at this time from offsets or stems, and as long as the piece has a new root there is a good chance of success. Even if the root has not reached the ground, the piece will take if it is put into a cutting frame for a few weeks then gradually hardened off. I have found that the best technique is to fill a 3" or 4" pot to within ½- 1" of the top with a free, draining gravelly soil mixture, place the new plant so that its root is either in soil or just touching it, then top with coarse sand, or gravel (Pyalong), The coarse sand supports the small plant, helps to drain water away from the stem and avoids splashing of soil particles on to the stem. Regular fungicide spray is advisable. Species propagated in this way include: repens; breviscapum; pritzelianum; uniflorum; verticillatum; scandens; adnatum; rupestre; imbricatum; dichotomum; bulbiferum.

Some of the rosetted types can be divided by breaking the clumps and planting pieces with roots as before. *S. platagineum* grows fairly well from pieces of rhizome, rather like the exotic Iris.

Some species are said to strike from cuttings, especially the leafy stemmed types, and several members are trying this method. I will report their results in, the next N/L.

The little; experience we- have had with seed suggests that patience and gentle treatment is required. Mist watering or the bog method, protection from extremes of wind and rain, regular fungicide treatment but free air circulation seem to be the order of the day. My own limited experience indicates that open air or bush. house conditions are better than a cold frame, hut I have no experience of glass or poly house conditions.

So please have a go; the plants are here for the- asking, but written reports please, to make my Job of recording and collation easier. And remember, any correspondence that needs an answer, SAE please.

NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Haddow	Box, 81, Beechworth, 3747
John Knight	23 Hodson Road Warrandyte, 3113
Trevor Sadler	c/o Redcliffe Child Guidance Clinic, Griffiths Road, Redcliffe. 4020
Robert Riedl	14 Auluba Road, Turramurra. 2014

FINANCES

Statement period ending June 30, 1980.

	debit	credit
brought forward from 1979		15.79
subscriptions		<u>24.00</u>
newsletter No 3	7.40	
stationery/stamp	5.74	
seed	<u>9.50</u>	
	22.64	40.79
cash in hand		<u>18.15</u>
		22.64

Subscriptions are now due for 1980/81, \$2.00 unless you have paid within the last three months. Acknowledgements in the next N/L.

On the subject at acknowledgements, I must record my thanks to Keith Alcock, Leonie Morgan and Lance Redman for their efforts in providing plants for the group, to Alan Lacey (not a Member) for helping Leonie out when she ran short of space, and to Peter Lumley who has had to change his status to passive due to pressure of other commitments. But we owe most to Eileen Croxford in WA, for providing: plants to get the Group started, and encouragement and interest to keep it going.

Just a comment to finish off, I have noticed that a few of my plants turn yellow and die very slowly. There does not seem to be a pattern related to either species or soil, and I suspect it may be associated with the new roots (or lack of) that I mentioned earlier.

Richard Davidson

STYLIDIUM STUDY GROUP LEADER