

Rather later than I had hoped, but finally in print. I see by **reading** N/L 5 that I omitted one important aspect of the objectives of the Group. Horticultural potential is something I should have mentioned. It would be easy to get so carried away with the propagation and growing aspects that we might forget we are a part of SGAP, whose aims include the "popularization" of native plants and selection of horticulturally desirable species and forms. So for the grower, our propagation, results are important, but for the gardener ( and these outnumber the propagators by a large margin ) our how to grow, what to grow and where to grow results are important.

The response to my- offer of plants and seed to members has been disappointing, but the list has been reduced by various means. The current list of plants is;

*S. verticillatum*; *scandens*; *pritzelianum*; *spathulatum*; *ciliatum*; *breviscapum*; *repens*; *crassifolium*; *productum*. Seed List as in N/L 5.

I have begun a small experiment, with *S. pritzelianum* in which I have put plants in 3 different soil mixtures and I am subjecting sets of 3 to two different climatic conditions; one set sheltered and watered sparingly, and one set more exposed but watered, daily.

#### PROPAGATION. CUTTINGS

Several well-known propagators have airily said that "Stylidioms, are easy from cuttings, especially the leafy stemmed ones." I have seen no evidence of this ease of propagation in terms of supply of the plants in well-known nurseries; we have been unable to get details of technique, time of year, species etc, but we have tried several species and succeeded.

Keith Alcock took cuttings of *S. adnatum*, *imbricatum* and an unnamed species similar to *S. falcatum* in April 1980. They were mainly stem cuttings and were set in a 3:1 coarse sand/peatmoss mix, in a heated frame (22° C) with misting; about 2 sec. each 20 minutes. Plants were potted up after about six weeks. The survival rate was rather disappointing and Keith thinks that heat and misting is probably not necessary and results in very soft plants.

Leonie Morgan struck cuttings of *S. rhyncocarpum* taken in early **May**: a wall sheltered cold frame and coarse sand/peatmoss were used. Roots were well developed in one month.

My own efforts were limited to *S. adnatum*, *imbricatum* and *spathulatum*. The: cuttings were taken in mid-June, set in a mix of coarse sand/compost (2:1). A well sheltered cold frame (mini-glasshouse) was used and roots formed in 1-2 months. There did not seem to be any difference between tip, stem and basal shoot cuttings, in the rate of strike. The *S. spathulatum* was a plant sold in the trade as *S. spathulatum* var. *lehmannianum*; I doubt that, but the cuttings were side shoots. No special treatment was given, and they were treated as normal cuttings.

Further work on leafy stemmed species is indicated for this year, and should present no difficulty. The next stage is- to look at rosetted and tufted types, especially the former. From experience in WA it is possible that new rosettes formed early in the season could form the basis of a cutting in the: sense that it could be treated as one, having been cut from the parent plant rather like a cabbage. Tufted species do not seem to produce as well defined a rosette or plantlet so that they may be more difficult. There does not seem to be much point worrying about the creeping types that produce adventitious roots, though it would be interesting to know whether early soft growth will strike.

#### LAYERING

Leonie Morgan has successfully propagated *S. rhyncocarpum* by layering; she experimented with nicking the stems before pinning down and found that the nicked stems died, but the others produced roots. This work was also done in June. Keith Alcock has propagated *S. rhyncocarpum* and *S. falcatum* by this method.

#### SEED

All the seed listed in N/L 5 has been successfully germinated, and in some cases grown on by members. Normal treatment for fine seed seems to be satisfactory.

#### OFFSETS

Several members have tried and succeeded with offsets since my comments in N/L 5. Alan Thomas reports that offsets placed in a glasshouse died, possibly from overwatering, but those placed in a capillary bed are OK.

#### NEW SPECIES.

Robert Riedl has drawn my attention to a new species for NSW, described in *TELOPEA*, vol 1, No 5(1978), and reported in *Australian Plants Journal*, Vol 10, No 82 (March 1960). The new species is *S. productum* and is in fact the plant long known as *S. graminifolium* from the Hawkesbury sandstone area. Robert very kindly sent some specimens to me. The foliage is very short and fine; it is quite unlike any of the forms of *S. graminifolium* that I have seen.

#### RESEARCH:.

Dr S. James at UWA is continuing his work. on *Stylidium*, and a recent publication deals with *S. crossocephalum*. (**CHRONOSOMA**, 72, 347-356 and 357-376). Although these papers deal mainly with chromosome variations, there is mention of the lethality factor which reduces self-pollination to a very low level. Mention is also made of the way in which the plants survive the hot summers. It seems that the leaves die but are retained on the plant to provide the dormant bud at the apex with protection from the sun. Autumn rains induce now growth from the dormant bud.

#### REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Reports continue to trickle in, but I would like to have more material to work with. I would appreciate reports on seed germination with details of soil, watering, conditions, time for first seedlings to appear, subsequent treatment, survival rate etc, etc. Any further results with cuttings or offsets, including progress of those already propagated would be welcome. And your treatment of the plants over Summer, any losses? Where did you keep them, did you water them etc?

#### NEW NUMBERS.

W.T. (Bill) ARMSTRONG.	5 Yanigin Drive, Glen Waverley 3150
NATALIE PEATE	c/- P.O. Park Orchards, 3114
MARTIN LESSWARE	1 Vincent St. Oak Park 3046

I think we are making reasonable progress, and if anything we have too much material to work with. We still do not know what the average life span is in the wild, whether this is affected, either way by cultivation, and whether we can extend the life of a plant by adjusting its growing conditions. And what about improving the flowers and/or flowering. I hope you will each give some thought to some aspect of the cultivation of *Stylidium* and let me know the results.

Richard Davidson,  
Stylidium Study Group, Leader.