DODONAEA VISCOSA SSP ANGUSTISSIMA

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

Jeanette Closs

176 Summerleas Road
KINGSTON, 7050
Tasmania Australia
Phone (002) 291710

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Dear Members,

As this is to be the last newsletter from me for the Dodonaea Study Group, I am a bit at a loss what to include and what to say. I must admit to being sad about this as I've greatly enjoyed the experience as leader of the group. I have learnt much and have made some good friends in different parts of Australia. I want to make a special thank you to Ida Jackson, who joined the group right at the beginning in about 1983 and has been a regular contributor ever since. I had the pleasure of meeting Ida and her husband some years ago when I was able to fly to Kangaroo Island for a half day visit. Ida was able to show me a lot of interesting plants in the short time that I was there. Don and I have always planned to go there for a trip and to spend more time with Ida and Garth, and I hope that opportunity will still arise. Ida's contribution has not only been with our Study Group, as I know that she contributes to others. ASGAP is only successful as a horticultural society because of the decication of members such as Ida. Extracts from Ida's latest letter will appear later in this newsletter.

Many other members have contributed to our group in their own special ways and for their assistance I am very grateful. In the early days of the group, the valuable assistance of Judy West, who is the botanist who did the revision of the Dodonaeas, was greatly appreciated. Judy's paper 'A Revision of Dodonaea Miller (Sapindaceae) in Australia' has been our 'Bible' and I still refer to it constantly. I have had my copy bound and it is a constant source of information on Dods and has helped me so often to identify the many specimens that have been sent to me.

I am still hoping that some members will send wild source material of Dodonaeas, to the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra for the Dodonaea garden which they have agreed to upgrade. Ida Jackson has responded to my appeal as you will see in her letter. When I get to the mainland again I hope to find some material to send, but it is an expensive trip from Tassie. Refer to previous newsletters for details of this project.

We have an extensive seed bank, which I expect could be shared between the Regional seed banks. The herbarium books that I put together some time ago, I propose to give to the Tasmanian State Herbarium, but there are still many pressed specimens collected over the years. I will keep them for the time being, unless someone has a better idea. What should I do with the files of correspondence, the study group display kit, the slide collection, the mini herbarium that

Judy gave me years ago and the pile of back newsletters? At the ASGAP Study Group Workshop to be held at Ballarat in September, I have suggested that the problem of disposing of the gear of no longer active' study groups be discussed, so perhaps some ideas could come out of this discussion. However, I would appreciate your suggestions.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Jan Sked of Queensland wrote in December :

"Reporting on my dods. Sadly I have lost D. truncatiales and D. pedunculariis. They were both in pots, but succumbed after rain. I still have D. viscosa ssp. cuneata in a pot. It is flowering at the moment and appears to be a male plant. I have one specimen of D. rupicola in the garden and it is doing well. I have seeds to plant from this one. Fairly recently I planted D. triquetra in the garden. It has grown very quickly and is now 2 metres high. It hasn't flowered yet; so I don't know if it is male or female

Report on flowering and fruiting:
D. truncatiales had buds from July to October, then died
D. pedunculariis flowered through July, set seed in August and September, then died.
D. rupicola flowers and fruits most of the year
D. viscosa ssp. cuneata flowered from July to December."

Thanks to Jan for this report and we hope she continues to grow Dods.

Ida Jackson from Kangaroo Island writes in December:

"We went to W.A. in August armed with your list of specimens you still wished to acquire and I felt sure that, either on the way over, or on the way back I should be able to fill in a few blanks. Nothing on the way over apart from D. viscosa ssp. angustissima on Eyre Peninsula. Not to worry we said, the fruits haven't coloured yet. We stayed with my son at Ocean Reef close to some interesting sand dunes, but no dods. We went to Margaret River and Augusta looking at caves again the only dod was our old friend D. viscosa. We intended going on a CALM expedition to Mt. Elvise but became involved in a collision with another car. No one was hurt but our vehicle was extensively damaged and we couldn't go to Mt. Elvise. On our way home, we looked in areas along the Eyre Highway where we had previously seen dods - but nothing. I think the dry year must have prevented them from putting on fruit.

At the beginning of this year I acquired some maps of K.I. f from the local branch of the National Trust and have been filling in Dodonaea locations. I'm sure the maps are not complete, but I am enclosing them so that you can add them to your store of Dodonaea knowledge. (Many thanks for these marked maps, Ida, they will be filed with the herbarium specimens. D. baueri and D. viscosa ssp. angustissima seem to be the most widely distributed species on the Island).

areas between the large dunes are called swales and are fairly well vegetated given the harsh conditions and the extensive rabbit damage. Here Hakea leucoptera..... Dodonaea calaris (?).....can be found" (I was intrigued by this specific name, as I have never come across it before. The question mark was included in the text.

HISTORY

The first newsletter that I put out for the Dodonaea Study Group was dated July, 1983, nearly thirteen years ago

The members listed in that newsletter were:
Mrs. Phyllis Dadswell of Gawler S.A.
Mrs. Ida Jackson of Kingscote. S.A.
Mr. Peter Olde of Illawong NSW.
Mrs. Marion Simmons of Legana Tas.
Mrs. Lyn Stewart Avon. SA.
Judy West of Canberra - Honorary member
Werribee Group SGAP
Tasmanian Region SGAP

Only Ida and Marion are still active members and I have so much appreciated their support. Keep on growing Dods and tell others of their charm. Best wishes

Jeanette Closs.

I have the following plants awaiting the planting out process:

D. baueri
D. camfieldii - plants given me by Jo Walker, 1 male, 2 fem
D. falcata - cuttings from ANBG
D. hackettiana - cuttings from ANBG
D. heteromorpha - cuttings Jo Walker - first one planted died
D. pinifolia - seed from J.West collected Cue WA
D. pinnata - cuttings ANBG
D. ptarmicaefolia - cuttings from friends garden

STUDY GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

A letter from Helen Morrow, the ASGAP Study Group Co-ordinator reminds us of the Study Group Leaders Conference/Workshop to be held on 23rd September, 1995 at the Conference at Ballarat. There will be an afternoon session 1.30 to 5.00 pm and the evening session 7.30 to 9.00 pm. I hope that some of our members can attend as all are welcome. We have been asked to put on a display from the Dodonaea Study Group on the Tuesday of the Conference. If I can get the Display Kit over there, I will attempt to do so, but I would welcome some help.

RARE PLANT?

D. filiformis, the Tasmanian endemic was previously considered by many to be rare. In a recent list of 'Native Higher Plant Taxa, which are Rare or Threatened in Tasmania' prepared by the Flora Advisory Committee of Parks and Wildlife Service - 1994, it is not listed, which is good to know. I have certainly found it many small but widely distributed sites.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE 'ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN PLANTS'

In this recently published book it gives a list of common names and many 'Hop bushes' were listed. The following are the ones that I did not include in the last Study Group newsletter:

Angular Hop Bush - D. truncatiales
Fern-leaf Hop Bush - D. boroniifolia
Green Hop Bush - D. petiolaris
Hackett's Hop Bush - D. hackettiana
Hairy Hop Bush - D. boroniifolia
Low Hop Bush - D. bursariifolia

Some of these plants have been given two common names!! Who gives these names to plants? What value are they? How many people use them? Not many SGAPers I would think!!

In the Buloke Bulletin, which is the newsletter of the SGAP Melton Inc. mention was made of a slide show presented by Michael Marmach on the Simpson Desert. I quote in part "The

I have sent D. hexandra material to the ANBG and intended to follow it up with the rest of the Island species. However, the hot weather and the air refuellers strike made me think that I'd better wait for cooler conditions and the near certainty that material would not be delayed in the post. (Many thanks for this contribution).

We have a couple of D. viscosa ssp. angustissima growing one on each side of our drive - one the narrow leafed form, is male, the other, the broader leafed form is female. Both plants flower, but the capsules on the female do not contain seeds. Do you suppose that the two forms are incompatible? In which case surely, the narrow leafed one should be a different subspecies. Of course, it may be simply the dry year, or that the female is too young. (I'm not sure on this one, Ida. As this a local subspecies, it can't be the lack of a pollinator, maybe it is the dry year, as you suggest.)

Our male D. humilis put on a good show of red stamens, but the female is too small to consider flowering. The winter has been very dry and as we were away, she wasn't watered. Still she looks quite healthy.

With regard to using Dodonaeas as food or medicine, I think plants should be grown specifically for that purpose. 25kg of dried material seems to me to be an awful lot of Dod - I know D. viscose is common, but if any plant is collected at that rate it wouldn't take long to make it rare and endangered. What do you think? (I heartily agree with you, Ida, maybe we will hear more of this from the Australian Food Plants Study Group).

I feel that I should include in this section an up-to-date report on what is happening in my garden. We have been here just four years this month and have transformed masses of lawn into garden beds and have planted out hundreds of plants, some of I have lost, but most seem to be doing well.

D. aptera grown from cuttings from Austins Ferry was planted out in September, 1993 and has spread to over a metre and looks fine, but hasn't flowered as yet. This is the species that I still believe is wrongly named and in WA is call D. ceratocarpa.

D. biloba grown from cuttings from AF was planted out in December, 1992, but has been slow to grow in this heavier soil, however it has flowered and fruited well for the past year or so.

D. boroniifolia was grown from cuttings from a Hobart friend's garden and was only planted out in December, 1994 but is looking well. I had difficulty in keeping this species in the ground at AF.

D. ceratocarpa grown from seed from Nindethana (I'm not positive this is the true identification) was planted out in December, 1992. It has done well but produces only very few, very small fruits.

D. concinna was grown from cuttings from AF and planted out in September, 1993 and although still only a small plant it has put on a good display of fruit.

D. filiformis was grown from cuttings from our sons block at Molesworth, where plants are thriving on a dry bank with only 18 in. rainfall. My plant was planted in December, 1992 and flowers and fruits well. This is a Tasmanian endemic species and the flowers can be quite bright and colourful.

D. hexandra is much admired as it is such a neat compact bush. The cuttings came from the Simmons garden at Legana Tasmania. Two plants were planted in 1993, but one died, the other looking very good and had some fruit through last summer.

D. hirsuta was grown from seed and later cuttings, but hasn't prospered. I planted one out last December in a well drained bed, so hope that it survives.

D. humifusa is another one that doesn't thrive here, although the plant at AF is still OK.

D. humilis is more successful, the prostrate form from cuttings sent by Ida Jackson was planted out in September, 1993 and has fruited well. I have rooted cuttings from AF awaiting planting.

D. inaequifolia was grown from seed sent by Lyn Stewart from SA in 1983 and was planted out here in 1992, it is over a metre high and produces fruit each winter.

D. larreoides plants were given to me by friends and planted out in April 1992 and doing well. It is a most attractive plant and fruits well in winter/spring.

D. megazyga is still my favourite. I have a male and female plant in the garden and the male is over 2m high, and they both flower and the female puts on its lovely clumps of pink fruits in spring/summer.

D. microzyga var acrolobata grown from cuttings from AF and planted out in April 1993. It is growing slowly but hasn't flowered as yet.

D. multijuga grown from cuttings from a friends garden, I have always had trouble keeping this plant growing well and although it started out well it died after about a year. I have a couple of plants and will try again, as I think that it should do well here, it grows in NSW and Vic.

D. procumbens x viscosa originally grown from seed sent by Helen Bizzai of SA, this was cutting grown and planted out in December 1992. It has had very little fruit, but it is a pleasant low plant and looks happy where it is.

D. rhombifolia has been planted in heavy soil and I don't think it is very happy, although it is over 1m high having been planted in May 1992.

D. rupicola grown from seed sent by Jan Sked of Brisbane, they seedlings prospered and I was giving them away to all my friends. However many have died and I think that it is unlikely to prosper so far south. I still have a couple in my garden and one has female flowers on at present.

D. serratifolia is very happy here and has presented it's large fruit in November, December and January for the past two years. It was grown from cuttings from AF and planted out in April 1992. It is about 1m high, and by the book it should reach 1.5m.

D. 'Simmons hybrid' is my name for what I believe is a hybrid that arose in John and Marion Simmons garden. The leaves have a winged rhachis, with six or eight short broad lobes and the leaves are between 2 and 3 cm long , the flowers are in groups of up to 10 and it is forming fruits now. The leaves are a dark green and the plant is very open and about 1.5m at present.

D. sinuolata ssp. acrodentata is not happy in the heavy soil so I should get it into one of the built up beds. *t was planted in December 1992 and is only about 60cm.*

D. sinuolata ssp. sinuolata is the progeny of the first Dod that I ever had, which I had bought from Austraflora in 1974. This plant was planted in July 1991 in a very shaded position and as far as I can see has not as yet flowered. I shall have to try it somewhere else, because it is a lovely plant and the one most available at nurseries.

D. stenozyga was grown from cuttings brought back from WA by my friend Jill Roberts in October 1991 and planted out in September 1993. It was doing well, but I had to move it as we are having a deck built, however it still looks well in a well drained bed in full sun.

D. subolandulifera was grown from cuttings from Af, but the seed of this rare and endangered South Australian endemic was sent to me by Lyn Stewart in 1984. I put 2 plants out in early 1993 and they are doing well but they are male plants.

D. tepperi originally came from cuttings sent by Helen Bizzai in 1989. My best plant is one grafted by Merv Hodge onto D. rhombifolia stock in Jan. 1990 and planted out in April 1992. It looks great, it is dense and about 1m high x 1.5m across.

D. triquetra grown from cuttings from AF and planted out in fairly heavy soil in September, 1993. It hasn't put on the good show of fruit that I have seen in NSW but a few fruits were observed in October/November last year.

D. viscosa ssp. angustissima was given to me with a request to identify it for a friend in northern Tasmania. I planted it out in December last year and it looks fine.

D. viscosa ssp. spatulata - variegated form. This form was found in the wild by a Tasmanian SGAPer and as far as I know it is the only variegated form recorded. My plant was struck from the plant at AF, which has now proved itself a female and put on a good display of fruit. It was planted in September 1993 and is now about 2m high.