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DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER No. 79

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Dryandra obtusa flowerhead, Point Ann

Margaret Pieroni

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Hello and welcome to our second Newsletter for 2020, from Margaret and Tony.

Since 1987, I have been the leader of the Study Group, taking over from Keith Alcock who moved to the UK to live and work. I was not capable of producing the newsletter and Tony, who founded the Study Group in 1974 agreed to help me out. Since then, he has been an indispensable assistance in getting out the newsletter; coping with all the technological changes over the years. When I joined the Study Group, I had started to grow dryandras and had enjoyed many excursions with fellow enthusiasts. Over the years, I have increased my knowledge gradually and have enjoyed the privilege of travelling with many friends made through my love of dryandras.

Alex George is of invaluable help and without him we could not have published *The Dryandras*.

Unfortunately, ill health has struck both Tony and myself and we would like to have a rest. If any of you would like to take on the position of leader, please get in touch. Study Groups are obliged to produce two newsletters, each year and we would like someone to volunteer to do the editor. I am happy to contribute as much as I can in the future.

The Dryandra Image Gallery, with photos of all taxa is available on line via the Dryandra Study Group page and there is a link on the Facebook Dryandra Lovers Group – click on 'Announcements'.

Thank you to all of you who have sent good wishes. I appreciate it very much. Finally, two items which we hope are of interest to everyone and happy *Dryandra* growing.

Breaking News - Dryandra Lovers Group on Facebook. Lyn Alcock has set up this group on Facebook, similar to the very popular Banksia Lovers Group, and we are inviting Study Group members to join. You need to join Facebook first and then go to the top left hand search box and type in Dryandra Lovers Group. You will be transferred to the home page where you can request to join. There are over 100 current members, several of them Dryandra Study Group members, not bad for a group that was only established on 29 January! Kevin and Kathy Collins from the Banksia Farm have been posting photos of their dryandras as they flower. Well done Lyn and again, very many thanks for your work.

Dryandra Photos Website For many years now Margaret and I have been collecting photos of all the taxa of *Dryandra*. We have tried to have a close up of the flower head and at least one view of the plant for each and Margaret has been especially busy in recent months updating the collection. We are very grateful that Brian Walters has now completed all the *Dryandra* photos which can be found as below:

<http://anpsa.org.au/dryandraSG/DryandraImages>

Margaret was interested in selecting for this Newsletter, some of the group of around 25 species which have underground stems, including *D. obtusa*, *D. aurantia*, *D. sp.* Boyup Brook, *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*. Most of them form clumps with upright stems. In many of them, the flower heads form under the soil as terminal buds, then flower above ground, usually around the perimeter of the plant, although some forms of *D. porrecta* have flowers which tend to form underground. As plants grow, they often tend to die out in the centre and as the original point of growth - the main stem, is hidden when this occurs, one plant will appear to be several plants rather than the new growth at the ends of the underground stems. There were some seven historical articles covering discovery of species in many of which Margaret participated while there was another article on a new form of *D. nervosa* from Lyn Alcock and a “favourites” article about *D. longifolia* by myself. We hope that you enjoy this newsletter, put out in rather troubling times.

Margaret and I have really enjoyed our times at the helm of the group but all good things must come to an end.

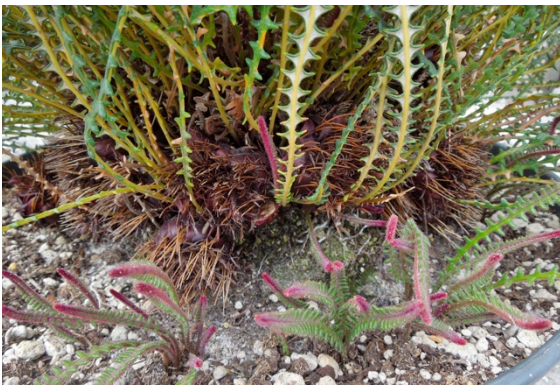
From Margaret and Tony, signing off.

Underground-branching Dryandras

For many years now, I have been writing and giving talks about the underground-branching dryandras but it wasn't until Liesbeth, our member from The Netherlands, posted a photo of her plant of *Dryandra obtusa* on the Dryandra Lovers Group Facebook page, that I became interested and excited about the stems, even though most of them are described by Alex George in his 1996 revision of *Dryandra*. (see *The Dryandras*).

There are 25 taxa presently known that have underground branches. Most of them form clumps with upright stems. In many of them, the flower heads form under the soil as terminal buds, then flower above ground, usually around the perimeter of the plant. The exceptions are the two forms of *D. porrecta* where the flowers usually remain underground.

As plants grow, they often tend to die out in the centre and as the original point of growth - the main stem, is hidden when this occurs, one plant will appear to be several plants rather than the new growth at the ends of the underground stems. In 1997, when I visited a garden in South Australia, I noticed what looked like several scattered plants of *D. obtusa* and I asked whether this was one old plant with the dead leaves removed in order to tidy the plant and this was confirmed. Liesbeth's photo of the potted up plant shows this, as well.



***D. obtusa*, potted up plant showing new leaf growth**
Liesbeth

In all the time I've been collecting dryandras, I haven't seen many underground stems as it would entail digging up much of the plant. The stems of *D. lepidorhiza*, are usually exposed at their tips and the bracts, (prophylls) which give it its name can be seen.

Lyn Alcock's recent discovery of what might be a prostrate form of *D. nervosa* is intriguing. I immediately wondered whether it has evolved to produce underground stems as a result of frequent disturbance in the form of clearing and fires in the area where it grows.

The photos of Liesbeth's plant of *D. obtusa* show it before and after it was potted up into a bigger pot. The stems can be seen sprouting from the old stem and coiling around the pot. They are densely hairy and have scattered prophylls just like the above-ground stems of some other dryandras.



***D. obtusa* showing old flowers, buds and multiple stems**
Liesbeth



***D. obtusa*, Stems**
Liesbeth



***D. obtusa*, Stems with prophylls outlined Liesbeth**

It occurred to me that a study of the underground stems of the 25 or so prostrate dryandras might be a worthwhile project. I had a look at the *D. lindleyana* subsp. *lindleyana* that grows naturally here, on my block. It has a small lignotuber and short flowering branches that have prophylls but no hairs. I have previously commented on the fact that this species and also *D. blechnifolia* in my hard laterite gravel and clay soil, form mounded shrubs because the stems are unable to grow outwards under the ground.



Stem of *D. lindleyana*

Margaret

I have found that dryandras and other genera that occur naturally in gravel, will do well in sand but that those that grow in sand will not thrive in hard gravel/clay soils.

I have gone back over previous newsletters to find my accounts of discovering and collecting some of the underground dryandras. The following is a list of dryandras with underground stems, including a

new prostrate one, *D. sp. collie* from north-west of Darkan, recently identified by Francis Nye.

The underground branching dryandras are:

D. arctotidis, *D. aurantia*, *D. bipinnatifida* subsp. *bipinnatifida*, *D. bipinnatifida* subsp. *multifida*, *D. calophylla*, *D. cypholoba*, *D. epimicta*, *D. ferruginea* subsp. *chelomacarpa*, *D. ferruginea* subsp. *flavescens*, *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*, *D. lepidorhiza*, *D. lindleyana* subsp. *lindleyana* var. *lindleyana*, *D. lindleyana* subsp. *agricola*, *D. lindleyana* subsp. *media*, *D. lindleyana* subsp. *pollostata*, *D. lindleyana* subsp. *sylvestris*, *D. media*, *D. nana.*, *D. obtusa*, *D. porrecta* (both eastern and western forms), *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *pteridifolia*, *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *inretita*, *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *vernalis*, *D. stenoprion*, *D. tortifolia*, *D. sp. Boyup Brook*, *D. sp. Jingaring*, *D. sp. Collie*.

From newsletter no. 23, January 1993:

This was published before Alex George's revision of *Dryandra*. We had numbers assigned to the unnamed dryandras. ASG 3 was *D. porrecta* and ASG 22 was *D. pteridifolia* subsp. *vernalis*. This one is *D. aurantia*.

A Possible New *Dryandra* from the Little Darkin Swamp

Last year, one of the CALM rangers collected a specimen with a nearly spent flower head, of a *Dryandra* from the Little Darkin Swamp area. At the time, I thought it might be a form of ASG 3 (aff. *calophylla* – *pteridifolia*) but I needed a fresh specimen to be sure. In late May, I drove out to the location with one of the rangers. It's about 30 km south of York in a heathland surrounded by (Wandoo) forest. After several hours of searching, we finally re-located the plants, only to find that they'd finished flowering at least a month before. From the old flowers, I would say that it is more like a miniature *D. blechnifolia* or ASG 22 (aff. *pteridifolia*) than the ASG 3, which was my first thought. The flowers are only slightly smaller than *D. blechnifolia* but the leaves are only half the size. The size of the leaves and habit of the plant, (with underground stems) are like ASG 3 but the shape of the leaves is more like *D. blechnifolia*.

From newsletter no. 24, July 1993

This was written before the revision of *Dryandra*. The current names are in brackets.

Third Time Lucky

On 17th April last, Elizabeth George and I went back to Little Darkin Swamp, hoping to find the "new" dryandra in flower.

The location is south-west of York, between the Great Eastern and Brookton Highways, some 100 km from Perth. North of the Brookton Highway, the route takes in a wide variety of habitats with several *Dryandra* species. In the Jarrah forest there are; the *D. nivea* form (*D. lindleyana* subsp. *sylvestris*), and *D. bipinnatifida* (subsp. *bipinnatifida*), which are prostrate plants and, on gravel rises, pure stands of *D. squarrosa*. In Wandoo woodlands, there are patches of *D. armata* (subsp. *armata*) and the occasional granite outcrop has *D. fraseri* (var. *fraseri*), *D. praemorsa* (subsp. *praemorsa*) and the northern, winter-flowering sp. aff. *drummondii* (*D. drummondii* subsp. *hiemalis*), occur in small numbers.

We passed Darkin Swamp – an open, winter-wet area, which is rich in *Verticordia* species – a spectacular sight in late spring - and areas of sand and open woodland which contain some of the typical sandplain plants far from their usual locations. Several rare and endangered plants occur in this interesting region, which is not very well known, except to a few Department of CALM forest rangers. There are trial pine plantations scattered about the region to take advantage of the diversity of soil and vegetation types.

I thought I'd be able to locate the *Dryandra* plants immediately, having been there twice before, but it took about half an hour to find them. Last year, it took more than two hours to locate them. The area is not large but it is covered in small, dense melaleucas, not much more than knee-high, with occasional bushes of *Hakea prostrata*. There are several kinds of prostrate plants growing among them, including a form of *D. nivea*, (probably *D. lindleyana*) but they and the *Dryandra* we were looking for are not visible from more than a metre or so distant, so it was a case of combing the area for them. They are confined to a small section of about 50 square metres.

The habitat is a swampy heathland of grey sand, quite dry at this time of year, surrounded by Banksia woodland rich in plant species, including one of the rarer verticordias, *V. bifimbriata*, which Elizabeth was keen to see and photograph.

Having finally located the dryandras, I was delighted to find them in flower. Some were finished and some were in tight buds. The leaves, 30 cm long and 5 cm wide are a pale blue-green with golden tomentose ribs. They are similar to *D. pteridifolia* (*D. blechnifolia*) but only half the size. The plants have underground stems with flowers at the ends, at ground level. The perianth and limb of the flowers are covered in golden-brown hairs and the wide, felty bracts are rusty-red. The yellow style splits from the base of each flower but curve only slightly and are more or less the same length as the perianth parts which, on opening do not relax so that the form of the flower head is what we call the "shaving brush" type. There are about 60 flowers per inflorescence. The whole flower head seems to glow with a deep, golden colour, making a lovely combination with the blue-green-greyish leaves. Altogether, this is a very attractive plant.



D. aurantia, plant & flowerhead F. Nge



From an article in newsletter no. 33, July 1997

Notes on *Dryandra aurantia* (Little Darkin Swamp *Dryandra*)

I recently spoke to the ranger who discovered *D. aurantia*. He has found two more populations – one 700+ metres north of the original one, in the same type of habitat and a much bigger one 5 km north in a similar habitat but with Blackbutt eucalypts instead of *Banksia attenuata*. *Hakea prostrata* is common in all three locations.

The ranger made the same observation regarding the difficulty of counting the plants but estimated 1,000 in all. Nevertheless, he has submitted a recommendation for 'Rare and endangered' status.

In mid-April, Alex George and I went back to Little Darkin Swamp to follow up on the earlier discovery of the two additional populations of *D. aurantia*. We went with the ranger who had found the populations. Anne Cochran had been there a few days before, collecting seed for her research work and, from what she'd reported, had apparently found another population. They are all in a similar habitat, in a north – south line, separated by only a few kilometres. We met up with Anne and some other people. There were 7 of us, in all. We visited all of the populations, beginning with the original southern-most one. The plants were flowering, though not very well and most had finished. We all helped to look for seed capsules but only a handful were to be had. *D. aurantia* must be among the worst seed-setters among dryandras. I wouldn't think that pollinators would be lacking. The area is in a conservation park in a fairly undisturbed water-catchment forest.

I consider that the ranger's estimation of the number of plants to be far too many, though he did realise that the exact number was hard to estimate. He had previously burned a plant to see what would happen. I had told him what to expect but the following year he said he that there were lots of seedlings coming up and this year he told me that he dug one up and that it had, 'a funny, very thick sort of root'.

The northern populations of *D. aurantia* provided us with a surprise. The flowers, rather than a burnt orange, were cream with brown bracts.

More Discoveries

From newsletter no.48, January 2005

Early this year, in response to a request from Tony for the latest information regarding the conservation status of *Dryandra*, I sent to the appropriate CALM department for the list of Declared Rare and Priority species. I was surprised to find the location 'Kirup' against the rare *D. aurantia*. It was originally found near Little Darkin Swamp, east of Perth, about 200 km, in a straight line, north of Kirup. I am very familiar with the habitat of *D. aurantia*, having made the first collection of it in flower after several visits to the location. I resolved to see for myself whether the 'Kirup' *Dryandra* is *D. aurantia*, or not.

I contacted the botanist who had collected the specimen in August, 2000, after it had finished flowering. Through him I was provided with the exact location which proved to be closer to Boyup Brook and not too far from Darkan, where our member Val Crowley lives. Val has made extensive collections of plants in the surrounding West Arthur Shire and we have had several very enjoyable and productive *Dryandra* trips in the past, so it was great to have another excuse to meet up with her and spend the day in the forest. The 'aurantia' location is just outside her shire.

It was April, the flowering month for *D. aurantia*. We drove to the nearest point on a back road and then walked about a kilometre into the Jarrah forest until we reached the location with the help of an indispensable GPS device. There was no sign of a prostrate *Dryandra* there but just in front of us was a flat, sandy, winter – wet area with grassy and short, bushy vegetation, which reminded me of the Little Darkin Swamp habitat. I was so sure that we would find the *Dryandra* there, rather than in the Jarrah forest that we spent too much time looking for it...in vain.

We had arrived at the position according to the latitude and longitude recorded by the collector. His description was of large patches of the *Dryandra*, forming the dominant understorey. I'd been given two GPS readings and it occurred to me that the second one could be a correction since an adjustment was made to the units a few years ago. That turned out to be the case but, meanwhile we

had run out of time to investigate the second location.

The forest is Jarrah/ Marri which has been extensively logged. There are many plantations of Eastern States eucalypts in the area. *Dryandra lindleyana* subsp. *sylvestris*, (the southern form with short, wide leaves with fine, narrow lobes) and *D. bipinnatifida* subsp. *bipinnatifida* are common, on the forest floor.

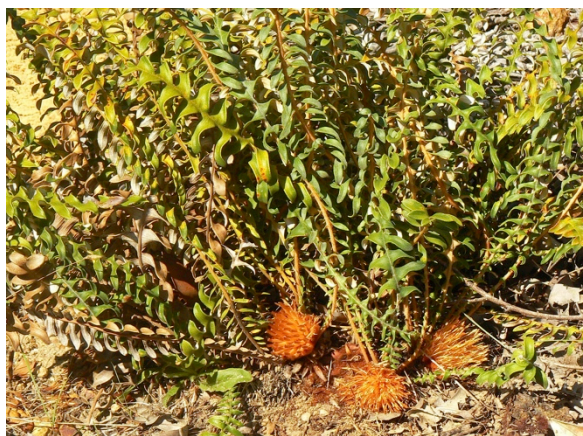
We returned to Val's place, feeling quite disappointed though we had enjoyed our day out. That evening I went through Val's collection of local *Dryandra* specimens, making notes of the locations for the maps, for 15 taxa, including a range extension for *D. acanthopoda* that she has found. She had told me about one that she hadn't had identified and I wondered whether it could be *D. aurantia* from another location. When I saw it, however, I took it to be *D. porrecta*, albeit a more robust specimen than usual. I assured Val that it grows just like that further south, for instance, at Mount Barker. Val has collected *D. porrecta* and has had it growing in her garden.

The larger specimen had been collected by a friend, further west, towards where we had just been.

Brian Moyle offered to go back with me, to try again but the soonest we could go was early in June. Val had left for a holiday in warmer climes so Brian and I allowed ourselves plenty of time to search by planning to stay the night at Boyup Brook. The day was overcast and it rained heavily that night and the next day so we were lucky not to get wet while walking into the forest. As it was too late for *D. aurantia* to be in flower and in order to lighten the load, I decided to leave my camera in the car.

We reached the first location and then struck out for the second one which was only about 200m further on. I was disconcerted to find that we were heading into the forest again, not down into the sandy, open flats but, as we approached the spot we saw that an area had been marked out with pink ribbon. There was the *Dryandra*, just as it had been described, growing in a clearing in the Jarrah forest! The plants had been taped soon after they were discovered, I learned later, so that they wouldn't be disturbed by the loggers.

My first remark, on seeing the plants was: "Oh, no, we've come all this way and it's only 'porrecta' but...they were in flower! We had arrived at the right time for the flowers though there were not very many of them. They are just like those of *D. aurantia* – the same glowing orange colour that fades quickly after the specimen is collected. The leaves, however are quite different. They are longer and dark green rather than blue – grey and the lobes are more triangular, especially near the top of the blade. Each lobe twists to the horizontal and the leaves themselves are spirally twisted. Unlike *D. porrecta*, the flowerheads are above the ground but are not produced in such numbers. It seems to be intermediate between *D. porrecta* and *D. aurantia*."



***D. sp.* "Boyup Brook", plant & flowerhead MP**



The weather improved so we walked all the way back to the car for the camera. The sun appeared in time for me to photograph the plants. I couldn't help thinking that if Val and I had found them in April, I might still think they are *D. porrecta* because they wouldn't have been flowering!

Margaret Pieroni 20/6/04

Excursions and more on flowering times

From Newsletter no. 71, July 2016

Kevin Thiele, who has recently resigned as the curator of the WA Herbarium, was the co-author of the paper which resulted in the transfer of *Dryandra* to *Banksia*. While still at the Herbarium, last year, he helped us with the Conferta Project, as I reported in the last newsletter. At the time, he asked me for information about *Dryandra (Banksia)* sp. Boyup Brook, as he had an Honours student about to work on it.

I was happy to help as the plants are so rare and they need to be described as soon as possible in order for it to be protected. Sp. Boyup Brook, which was originally mis-identified by the Herbarium when it was first collected as *D. aurantia*, was flowering in June when I collected it in 2004. This is also the usual flowering time of *D. porrecta*. The student, Francis Nge, had looked at specimens of both and had found the two from the original location and another from a private property and some of the *D. porrecta* from nearby locations which seemed to be different from the eastern (type) locations. He wanted to also compare them with *D. aurantia* which he had collected earlier.

A date in April was arranged to collect leaf material from *D. sp.* Boyup Brook and from *D. porrecta* from nearby and across its range to the type location, east of Woodanilling. They didn't necessarily need flowering specimens.

I had suggested that *D. sp.* Jingaring, which I had also photographed in flower in June, could also be included in the study. It is also very rare – as far as I know there are only a few plants in Jingaring Reserve.

My plant of *D. sp.* Boyup Brook here, in my Denmark garden was flowering well, with 9 flower heads. It has always flowered earlier than those in the wild.

I contacted Val Crowley, a Study Group member from Darkan, with whom I had travelled previously, looking for Dryandras in her area. (She was the discoverer of two populations of *D. subpinnatifida* var. *imberbis* which are since probably destroyed). I remember her showing me a specimen of what I thought was *D. porrecta* that looked different from

others I'd seen. It had been collected by Brenda Trigwell from what was then her property, not far from the *D. sp.* Boyup Brook location and well before that was first collected. Val was able to supply the name and contact details of the present owner of the property. She also had records of the *D. porrecta* specimens that Francis had looked at and I had one from the roadside adjoining the property.

On 7th April, Brian Moyle came down to Denmark and the next day, we met Kevin, Francis and another student at the road, 20 km north of Boyup Brook to walk into the forest for about a kilometre to find the plants. After a fruitless search at the GPS location of the first specimen, collected by Leigh Sage, Kevin suggested that we go further, to the location of my specimen. The GPS co-ordinates system had been changed when Brian and I found the location in 2004. (See newsletter no.48).

We eventually found the plants and leaf samples were collected. Surprisingly, it was beginning to flower. One of the 'patches' (probably one plant) is still fairly compact but others appear have spread out with their underground stems, to merge with nearby plants and it is not possible to determine the number of individual plants without DNA sampling as was done with *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*.

After leaving the location, Kevin tried to ring the property owner without success. When we reached the roadside location we found the verge completely cleared for road widening and the search for Val's other *D. porrecta* collection was equally futile. The plants might have been *D. sp.* Boyup Brook, *D. porrecta* or perhaps intermediate between the two – we may never know.

We didn't find any more plants of *D. porrecta* until we got to the reserve on Orchard Rd, at the end of Dinwoodie Rd (see Hot Spot map). I only knew of a couple of plants there but the others found plenty of them, further east on Orchard Rd.

Kevin rang the owner of the property that evening and arranged to visit it later. The man was aware of a "Banksia thing" having been collected there and mentioned a Western Power survey.

The next morning, after staying at Woodanilling, we went south to Broomehill Golf Course to check

another population of *D. porrecta* from a Herbarium collection. We walked the full width of the course, crossing fairways with remnant vegetation between but failed to find the plants at the GPS location. We did find them, however, while walking back to the cars.

All the plants of *D. porrecta* that we saw on the trip were in very poor condition and showed no signs of flowering, this year.

We went north to the type location of *D. porrecta* at Bibiking Reserve, where a further collection was made and then to another location that I have not previously seen, south west of Highbury. This population of what I assume is *D. porrecta* looked somehow different. The leaves appear to be larger and I found a dead flower head with the optimum number of flowers for the species. This population is possibly the northernmost one and quite a distance from others that I know of. Lyn Alcock lives not far from there so, providing it gets some rain, she might be able to find some flowers, next year.



D. porrecta, eastern, plant & flowerhead MP



By the time we got to Jingaring Reserve, South east of Brookton, we were running late. Brian and I had to return to Perth for dinner with old friends from

Attadale to celebrate my birthday. At the reserve, I quickly located the plants of *D. sp.* Jingaring to show the others. I left my camera in the car not expecting the plants to be in flower – but they were – two months earlier than before. Francis took some photos after we left and kindly sent them to me.



D. sp. Jingaring, flowering habit F. Nye
Kevin and Francis had already decided that *D. sp.* Jingaring should be dealt with along with the *D. pteridifolia* group. They were interested to see it, nonetheless. Its flowers are similar to both *D. aurantia* and *D. sp.* Boyup Brook.

Dryandra ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix

From Newsletter no. 65, July, 2013.

Just before Alex George's revision of *Dryandra* was published in *the Flora of Australia* (Vol. 17B) in 1996, *D. ionthocarpa* was discovered near Brookton. As this location is about 300 km north of the very restricted population of *D. ionthocarpa* at Kamballup, I wanted to see the plants for myself.

I had the opportunity to go to the location which is in a reserve, south east of Aldersyde. The very few plants there were not flowering. But I could see that they were different from *D. ionthocarpa* which is a small, mounded plant without a lignotuber. I wrote in an article for our newsletter no. 39 (July 2000) that: "The 'new' ones have a lignotuber and underground stems. This means that it is very difficult to estimate the number of plants in the population, as foliage and flowers at the branch tips appear to be separate plants when the older, underground parts in the centre of the plants die. There may be only about 6 or 7 plants, or, possibly only one. Seed set appears to be almost nil. The

leaves are more rigid and the lobes more triangular than those of *D. ionthocarpa* (Kamballup).”

In early October, 1999, I revisited the reserve and found the plants in bud so two weeks later, with friend and Study Group member, Shirley Loney, I returned.

On the way to the reserve, just outside the small town of Aldersyde, we stopped to look at an area that looked similar to the reserve and discovered another population. The area had been burned and the plants were in full bloom. (See newsletter no. 39 for article and colour photos). I found one plant that had not been burned with a few seed follicles. They were not viable but I was able to draw one for the book, nevertheless. The flowers are more colourful than those of subsp. *ionthocarpa*, with golden hairs on the long limbs.

Alex George, in 2005, published the description of this new taxon and named it *Dryandra ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix*.



In 2007, I was asked by the Dept. of Environment and Conservation (DEC), at Narrogin whether I could supply a photo of *D. ionthocarpa* subsp. *chrysophoenix* for the cover of an interim recovery plan. I asked for and received a copy of the plan and made some suggestions, pointing out that they wouldn't find any viable seed and that because of the nature of the plants with their underground stems, it would be necessary to establish the number of actual plants. They had counted 852 plants and discovered another 3 populations.

The leaf sampling was carried out and the analysis revealed that there are, in all, just 16 plants or clones as they call them. The 'new' population being one plant, DEC has now made new

recommendations for a recovery program and I have asked for a progress report. As the plants are a fair distance apart, I also suggested that they attempt to hand pollinate the flowers in order to obtain some viable seed.

Margaret Pieroni 14/6/13

Interesting discovery in the Stirling Range

In early March this year I was in the Stirling Range inspecting the area after the devastating fires, and decided to investigate an area I was very familiar with...an old gravel pit on Salt River Rd. This was actually outside the fire area.

I immediately came across an unusual looking *Dryandra*. It appeared much like *D. nervosa* (*B. alliacea*) but the flowers were slightly larger and the plant did not have the usual mound appearance. However the biggest difference was that the flowers were all on the end of underground stems. And it was flowering much earlier than any other normal *D. nervosa* in the vicinity.



Atypical *D. nervosa* flowers at stem ends Lyn

There was a small population of 13 plants, and the main, healthiest plants were right on the edge of where there had been a recent grading...just missing them.



Both Kevin Collins and Margaret Pieroni felt it was atypical and a few days later, Kevin met me there and on showing them to him, he definitely felt they were not the normal *D. nervosa* where the flowers appear deep inside the mounding plant.

A specimen was collected and sent to Mike Hislop for botanical inspection.

His reply was as follows:

“The Banksia specimen has come through to me and I can see why it might cause some head-scratching!

Aside from the atypical growth habit however I can't see any compelling reason not to refer it as *B. alliacea*. There are two other collections of that species at PERTH where it has been noted that the flowers are held at ground level: *Pullen* 10.047 & *Beard* 7490 – the latter possibly collected from the same Salt River location as your specimen. Both of these were determined by specialist Alex George.

If it is a hybrid the only other parent that really makes any sense in that area would be *B. pellaefolia* (*D. blechnifolia*). As you would know that species has the prostrate habit but has more revolute leaf margins and a shorter perianth limb. In regard to the latter two characters your specimen is a good match for *B. alliacea*.

In short then I would personally just leave it as an atypical variant of *B. alliacea*.”

I was extremely happy that I had recognised an atypical variant and will certainly be keeping an eye on the population in the coming months and years.

Lyn Alcock

(One of) **My Favourite *Dryandra*(s)**

In Newsletter 75 of October, 2018, I wrote about the life of dryandras as garden plants, showing that some species could live for more than thirty years. One of my most successful species is *D. longifolia* subsp. *longifolia*, still with us after more than thirty years and currently in beautiful flower. It is one of three subspecies from the south coast area east and west of Esperance, with one subspecies confined to the peaks of the Cape Arid National Park. Its natural soil is the coarse sandy loam of the near coastal area although in cultivation, it grows well in

well drained clay loams and gravels, preferring a sunny location but surviving well in light winter shade situations. It is also one of the oldest dryandras in cultivation, the original specimens having been collected by Robert Brown in 1802 while the gardener Peter Good collected seed. It was first flowered at Kew Botanic Gardens in 1813 and in four other European countries in later years, so has a long and honoured history.



Near 40 year old plant of *D. longifolia* Tony

I have several plants around my garden and all flower well with large yellow-orange terminal flower heads inside the dark green leaves which are up to 30 cm long with slight prickly rigid triangular lobes. It grows typically as a 2-3 m bushy shrub and flowers between June and August. It is one of my favourites because it flowers well every year and is a very hardy, attractive and reliable plant. It is also quite long lived. It sets masses of viable seed and has a high success rate as seedlings, with garden seedlings up to 10 cm high being readily transplantable.



Large yellow flowerheads and greenish foliage

I would like to hear from you about your favourite dryandra(s), and yes, you can have more than one! Just a few paragraphs is sufficient, telling us the good features of your species, the garden conditions which suit it best, how you propagate it and of course, please provide a couple of photographs. Over to you!

Tony Cavanagh July 2020.

And just to fill in the space, here are several others of my favourite dryandras, *D. anatona*, *D. baxteri*, *D. brownii* plant and *D. calophylla* at Cranbourne.



Dryandra baxteri



Dryandra anatona



***Dryandra brownii* plant**



***Dryandra calophylla* at Cranbourne**

A.N.P.S.A. DRYANDRA STUDY GROUP

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020- 2021

The group’s year runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and subscriptions would normally now be due. The subscriptions of \$10.00 enables Australian members to receive the Newsletter by post but as printing is becoming a problem, we would like to encourage all members to receive it by email, as below. The cost for receiving by email is \$5.00*. As we are unsure of the future of the Group, Margaret and I will keep abreast of developments and inform you by both email and post where necessary, when we have a new team ready to take over. Thanks to all those who have paid.

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