DODONAEA VISCOSA SSP ANGUSTISSIMA

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

NEWSLETTER No. 14: April 1988.
ISSN 0811-5354

Jeanette Closs
7 VYELLA COURT,
AUSTINS FERRY 7011
Tasmania Australia
Phone 49 1663

Dear Members:

A great start to the Bicentennial Year was a trip to Canberra in January for the A.S.G.A.P. 14th Biennial General Meeting and Seminar, which was held at the Canberra Boys Grammar School. Most of us arrived on the Friday and there was much talk and excitement meeting up with old friends; meeting people to whom you have written, or people to whom you have written or whose names have appeared in Newsletters etc; or even SGAPers whom you have never heard of and who now are listed as your friends. One new friend I made is Barbara Daly, the Federal Study Group Coordinator. Barbara is a keen enthusiast and a 'get-up-and-do-it' type of lady. I spent my last night in Canberra with Barbara at her home, and we chatted for hours, mostly about her Study Groups.

I had been asked to bring our Display Kit and display it at the seminar; it drew quite a bit of interest and comment, and I feel that a few more people know a little more about Dodonaeas!!

The first day was taken up with the Conference and the following six days were packed with lectures, outings and garden visits. On the Wednesday we had a Study Group Leaders Meeting. There were six leaders present and two members represented their Study Groups. Barbara Daly chaired the meeting. She stressed that Study Groups should be considered the basis of the Society and that financial support should be available when necessary. Each leader gave a report; this was followed by a general discussion on all aspects of running a Study Group. From these discussions it was decided to form a sub-committee, which includes Barbara Daly and David McKenzie, who is A.S.G.A.P. Publicity Officer, to look into funding, accountability, the role and status of the Study Groups and insurance. Our Dodonaea Syudy Group at the meeting was represented by myself, Marion Simmons, Doris Gunn, and new members Irene Champion and Meryl Ritchie.

Don and I then went on to spend a fortnight in New Zealand. We saw New Zealand's Dodonaea viscosa, both the green and the wine-red forms (note that the red form is not an Australian native) in many gardens and bush areas. An article from a New Zealand newspaper was sent to me on our return; it is entitled 'Natives Can Be Colourful' and this paragraph may be of interest to our members:

' Dodonaea viscosa, known as Akeake (pronounced Ackie-ackie) is a small tree (to about 4m) with pale green foliage which contrasts well with darker trees. Both this and the purple- leaved

form are useful in coastal gardens as they are very wind-resistant and can be used as windbreaks'.

In December I wrote to all Regions and Groups/Branches asking that they enlist a contact person, who could inform their members of our projects and progress and in a small way assist out group with information about Dods growing in their area. I received one response from Ross Shepherd of the Foothills Group; we do thank them for their co-operation.

Chris Cousins wrote from the Hunter Valley Branch of S.G.A.P. asking if one of our members could give a talk to their Group on Dodonaeas. Their meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month and Chris can be contacted on 62-1201 at work and 33-1253 at home, if anyone could assist the Hunter Valley Branch.

I have had three letters from Tony Bean, the leader of the Eucalyptus Study Group.

1. Tony observed **D. viscosa** on the Auburn Range S of Biloela and **D. filifolia** in full-fruit on the Callide Range NNE of Biloela - a very beautiful plant. He was looking for a red-flowered Grevillea at the time and all those red-flowered Dods didn't help at all. Also, D. sp. 'prostrate' (probably **D. biloba**) was growing under **E. moluccana** on the Cracow-Eisvold road near 'Calrossie'. This is an interesting observation, as it is quite a bit further north than previously noted sightings.
2. Tony sent seed of **D. megazyga**. He found this on the Purlingbrook Falls track at Springbrook, near where I had seen it in 1985. It is the first time that I have had seed of this, one of the loveliest of all Dodonaea. Last week I put in cuttings from one of my small plants, so I should soon have some plants to share around.
3. Yesterday, I received another letter from Tony confirming that the species found on the Cracow-Eisvold road is indeed **D. biloba**. Tony had planted his **D. megazyga** and got 100% germination (I haven't even got mine in!). Tony once more found **D. rupicola** on Wild Horse Mountain (one of the lesser Glasshouse Mountains). He mentioned that this is a lovely plant, and they will try to get photos and/or seed when they visit the area in the near future. He is next off to Cape York and the Gulf of Carpentaria in June, and has offered to try to find anything that I might want. I shall send him descriptions of **D. oxyptera** and **D. platyptera**, the species that I failed to find in that area last year. Many thanks to Tony. Could Tony be a greater asset if he was a member of our Group?

An interesting article in the Queensland newsletter entitled ' The Plants of Expo 88' makes interesting reading and tempts me to get up to Brisbane to see the landscaping at Expo. They have planted some **D. viscosa**, so this is good news.

Inez Armitage, also a non-member, has sent slides of Dods for our slide bank. Also seed and a pressed specimen of D. physocarpa. Inez'friend, Mr. L. Quinn, also sent seed for the seed bank. A very special thanks to these kind people.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

I omitted from the last newsletter a report by Malcolm Hunt of Dubbo. I had sent him cuttings and he reports that they are all doing well and have been planted out in the Forestry's Arboretum area behind the nursery. The most successful Dods. have been **D. biloba**, **D. baueri** , and **D. heteromorpha**, which is carrying seed although the plants are only 0.5m high.

With Judy West's Christmas greeting, she says that they are enjoying their stay in London. She is doing a few bits and pieces on Dods. over there, so maybe we will hear more from Judy before too long.

In December 1987, Ida Jackson wrote: 'A fortnight ago we went cliff-top walking at Cape Hart (Kangaroo Island). Garth (husband) was hoping to see Sea-eagles and Ospreys and I, of course, was looking for anything I could find. Most of the Dodonaea humilis had dropped its seed, but we found a couple of pro-strate plants with plenty of ripe seed capsules. I enclose your share. (Now in seed bank). The plants were growing on top of limestone cliffs, in calcareous sand. We walked more or less out along the cliff edge and returned further inland, across sand dunes. Here, D. humilis was a plant about a metre high.' (This species seems to do well in my rather acid soil, so I don't think that lime is required for this species to flourish. They are most attractive plants. Has anyone had any trouble growing it?

Helen Bizzai is now at her new home in Gawler. She has been propogating busily and has put in lots of Dodonaea seedand has requested more. So there should be some reports coming in within the next year or two.

Randy Linke from California (USA) is a regular correspondent, who hopes to come to Australia with his wife in 1990. We look forward to meeting them. Randy reports:

'Trials of eighteen species and varieties of Dodonea seed were conducted using different treatments to assess their effect on germination and to see if there was one treatment that worked best on all types. For each species there were three samples of twelve seeds. Each sample was subjected to a different pretreatment and sown in the seed flats.

Pretreatments:

(I) The first sample of each species was given no pretreatment and sown directly into the seed bed.

(II) The second sample was treated with hot water, allowed to soak overnight, and then planted.

(III) The final sample was placed in a small amount of water in the microwave oven. The water was brought to a strong boil. After the water cooled the seeds were placed into the seedbed.

The Seedbed: The mix consisted of equal parts perlite and commercial planting mix with a peat base. This was bottom heated at 70^{O}F (21^{O}C).

The test was conducted over a four week period with notation being made of those samples which had germinated seed after two weeks and the total number of seeds that had germinated in each sample after four weeks. Two samples of D. filifolia, from two different sources, were tried. The first was a brownish color and rough looking, and the second was smaller, smooth and glossy.

SPECIES	GERMINATED (AFTER 2 WEEKS)			NUMBER GERMINATED (AFTER 4 WEEKS)		
	I	II	III	I	II	III
D. baueri		x	x	1	11	7
D. boroniifolia	x	x		10	2	1
D. bursariifolia		x	x		7	12
D. concinna				1		1
D. coriacea		x	x	3	11	9
D. filifolia I		x	x	1	2	1
D. filifolia II			x	2		2
D. filiformis					1	
D. hackettiana		x	x		10	7
D. hexandra		x	x	2	9	6
D. heteromorpha	x	x	x	1	9	4
D. hirsuta		x	x		9	6
D. humilis						
D. inaequifolia						
D. juncinifolia		x	x	1	8	6
D. lanceolata		x	x	1	1	10
D. lobulata	x	x		10	9	
D. triquetra		x	x	1	9	11
D. viscosa ssp. angustissima		x	x		6	6

It is difficult to draw precise conclusions due to the small sample sizes, limited samples, and differences in the age and storage methods of some of the seeds. However, it seems that best results were obtained by the hot water treatment. The microwave treatment did give good results as well and gave better results in a few cases, though there were some that did not respond to this treatment at all. These were largely those that grew well with no treatment or did not respond to any treatment. At time of mailing (March '88), all those that had not sprouted except **D. inaequifolia** had produced a few seedlings.'

Congratulations to Randy for this very instructive experiment.

Some quotes from Doris Gunn's letter will be of interest: 'On the way down from Canberra we found Kooringa Native Plants Nursery at Wangaratta where, among other plants, I found a pot

of Dod."prostrate - large capsule form". Don't know what it is but it looked like D. humulis. The nurseryman said that he had obtained the cuttings from David Sheilds of Shepparton.' (From this description I doubt if it is D. humulis, as that species has rather small fruit and is procumbent rather than prostrate; however, I have asked Doris to send me a leaf and we may be able to tell the nursery the correct name).

'My plant of D. multijuga in the garden has grown to about 1m and is a lovely foliage plant, but the hops are insignificant." (The fruit on my plant is very small also and almost black. Has anyone had the much larger fruit 14.5-16 x 16-20mm, as in the description of D. multijuga? It may be that the plants are immature?)

'We plan on getting to Kangaroo Island in the Spring of this year and there I will at last see a Dod. growing in the wild.' (I hope she meets up with Ida Jackson.)

STUDY GROUP ACTIVITIES

(1) I don't believe that I've had even one record sheet returned. Did I forget to send them with the last newsletter? Or did you forget to fill them in and return them to me? I'd particularly like to know if you have any good fruiting forms.

(2) I'd like you to check if your local nurseries are growing Dods. If you have a good fruiting form, take a specimen when it's at its best and a small bundle of cuttings to your local Australian plants nurseryman and encourage him to grow them. If you think that any Dods. are wrongly labelled, send me a piece and if I can identify it, I will write to the Nursery if we believe that the name is incorrect.

(3) Another big request is as mentioned in our last newsletter. Will you please consider writing an article for the ' Australian Plants' Journal. We are aiming to have an edition featuring Dodonaeas and other members of the Sapindaceae family. I have made a start on my effort. Ida Jackson has revised her article and I have sent this on the Bill Payne along with Barb Bayley and Karen Stewart's drawings. Bill Payne, the Editor of 'Australian Plants', is due in Hobart this week, so I hope to see him and his wife Beryl.

(4) I have been asked to give a talk on Dodonaeas at the June meeting in Hobart and I've also promised a talk to a couple of mainland groups. So I'm putting together my slides and will prepare a commentary to match them. These could be borrowed by other members who would like to spread the word about these fascinating plants. There are two slides I would like to acquire:

(1) a slide of the introduced 'Hop' Rumex roseus, also known as the 'Pink Dock', which has spread so widely in the Flinders Ranges and north into Northern Territory; I hope to show that there are other plants known as 'Hops' which are not related to our Dodonaeas, and

(2) a slide of Maranoa Gardens (preferably with the name visible) in Yarrabat Avenue, Balwyn, Victoria. This is where my love affair with Dodonaeas began. D. adenophora (now D. sinuolata) really attracted my interest and about 1971 I managed to acquire a plant from Boddy's Nursery (closed many years ago) in Victoria. This plant was sent by mail and it still greets me as I walk out my back door. Can anyone help me to acquire these two slides? Costs will be refunded.

Dodonaea biloba (leaf print)

Dodonaea biloba (J.G. WEST)

D. biloba is found only in a small area of the Chinchilla-Barakula and Miles region of SE Queensland. More recently, it has been sighted further N on the Cracow-Eidsvold Road. As with most Dodonaeas, it has male and female flowers on separate plants. It is a spreading or prostrate shrub, which often roots at the nodes. It usually spreads to 1.5m, ocaasionally to 3.5m. Its leaves are simple, sessile, cuneate 6-8mm x 3-5mm, sticky with flat glands. The base is narrowed and the apex has 2 or 3 lobes. The female flowers protrude their styles well beyond the leaves (see leaf print). The capsule is 3 - 4 -winged, 4.5-6mm high by 5.5-8mm wide, viscous, glabrous and red-brown at maturity, which is from May to September.In general appearance it is very attractive, with bright green foliage and quite compact in form. It apears to be hardy, as it does well in Hobart's cold, dry climate. Marion Simmons experiences severe frost at Legana in northern Tasmania, and it thrives in her garden. Then I photographed a lovely specimen cascading over a rock wall at Graeme Nosworthy's garden at Pullenvale, just out of Brisbane.

FINANCE

Receipts		Expenditure	
Brought Forward	$60.94	Postage	$39.03
Subscriptions	33.00	Copying	17.00
Donations	2.11	Envelopes	5.96
Hire of Display Kit	10.00	Seed	5.38
		IPEC (returning display kit from Canberra)	20.00
TOTALS	**$106.05**		**$87.37**
IN HAND	**$18.68**		

You will observe from this statement that I will be out of pocket sending this newsletter, so I reluctantly put our annual subscription up to $4.00. This is due in June 1988, but if members wish to send it now, I won't complain. If there is a red cross in this box, you will be unfinancial.

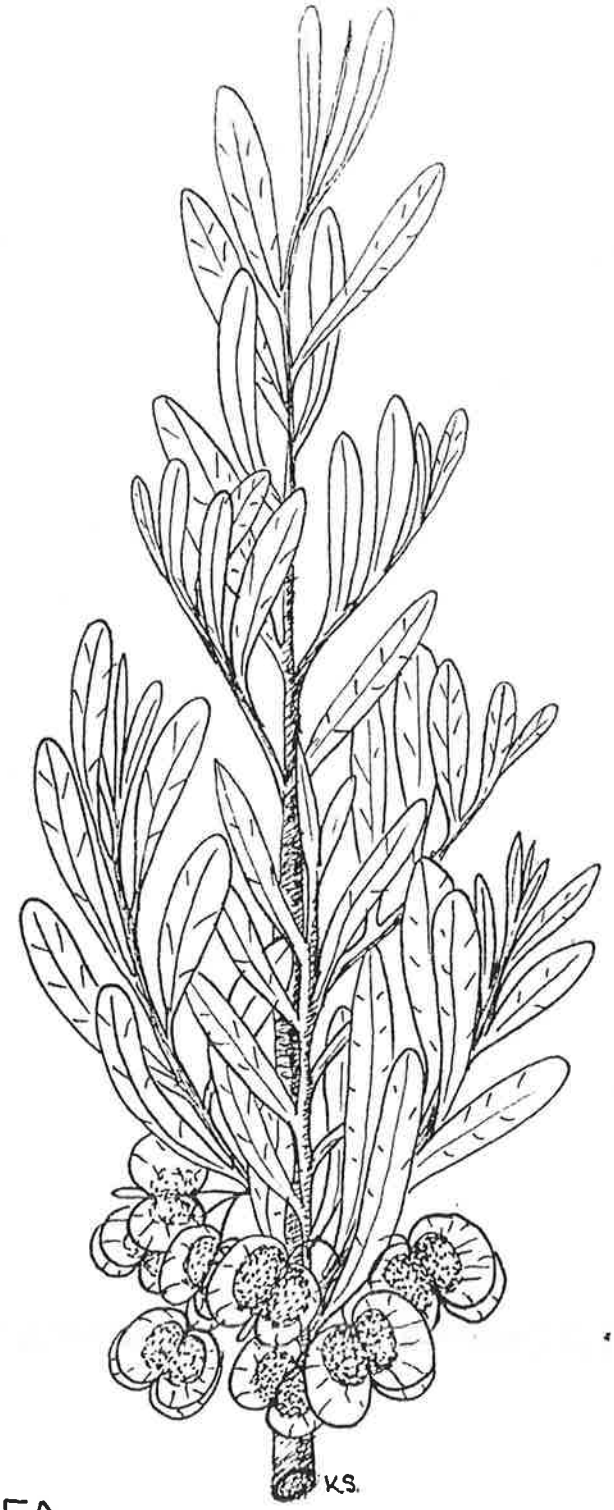
NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:
Irene Champion, 20 Swift St., Slade Point, Qld. 4740.
Meryl Ritchie, PO BOX 27, Walkerston, Qld. 4751.
Laurie Whitmore, 4 McGill Cres., Para Hills, S.A. 5096.
This brings our membership up to 18 individual members and 15 Regional or Branch members. We are growing slowly and starting to achieve something as a group.

OUR NEWSLETTER

Tasmania Region SGAP members Anne and Tony Crawford kindly offered to type this April Newsletter on a Macintosh microcomputer and print it on a Laserwriter printer. Many thanks to them, and I'm sure the more professional appearance will be pleasing to our members.

Best wishes



DODONAEA

VISCOSA SSP SPATULATA