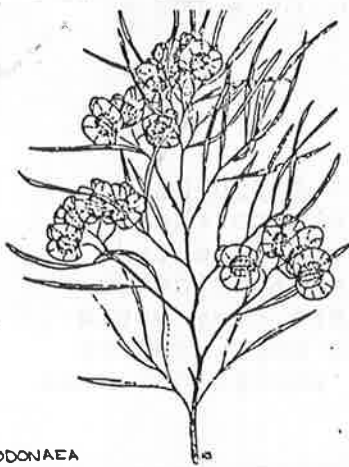


# DODONAEA STUDY GROUP



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DODONAEA  
VISCOSA SSP ANGUSTISSIMA

Dear Members,

I'm starting this newsletter on the first day of winter and the sun is shining brightly, but it is fairly cold. The growth in the garden is nearly at a standstill, this also means that the weeds are also having a rest, thank goodness. I have put in a lot of Dod. cuttings lately, namely D. procumbens x viscosa, D. humilis, D. serratifolia, D. rhombifolia, D. falcata, D. concinna, D. rupicola, D. larreoides, D. tepperi and D. inaequifolia, so I hope for some healthy new plants in the summer.

I mentioned in the last newsletter about the grafts that Merv Hodge did before leaving Hobart last January. The ones to take are  
Dodonaea multijuga on to D. rhombifolia  
Dodonaea filiformis on to D. multijuga  
Dodonaea tepperi on to D. rhombifolia  
Grevillea dimorpha on to G. robusta  
Grevillea johnstoni on to G. robusta  
Grevillea acanthifolia on to G. robusta  
They look very healthy but rather strange as they have a good crop of leaves on the graft as well as the scion.

I think that Dorothy Perret from W.A. must have put a request in the Western Australian Wildflower Society newsletter for some assistance with obtaining material and information about the lesser known W.A. Dodonaeas, because in the past few days, I have had two letters. One from Philip Reynolds of Gooseberry Hill with information regarding D. ericoides which, he believes, grows only in one spot in the Kalamurda Shire - in the Helena Valley, on a hillside with a very quartz-rich granitic soil, associated with Calothamnus quadrifidus and Stirlingia simplex. He also reports that Dodonaea ceratocarpa is much more widespread, although never common; always turning up near granite outcrops in the scarp. Apparently D. aptera, D. hackettiana and D. pinifolia also are recorded in this area, but Philip has not seen these species. I was delighted with this information and have written to Philip asking for further assistance with plant material etc.

The other letter is from Barbara Backhouse from Nedlands. I made their acquaintance at the ASGAP Canberra Conference in 1988. She and Bob have a herbarium and have specimens of D. ericoides, D. larreoides, D. rigida and D. adenophora. All of these species with the exception of D. larreoides (of which I have 3 small plants) are not represented in our herbarium or living collection.

A Victorian Nursery was selling healthy plants of Dodonaea filiformis under the name of Dodonaea filifolia. I wrote to them pointing out their error, but have had no confirmation of my letter. The one they were selling is a Tasmanian endemic and the other comes from the drier areas of Queensland, so the situation where they would be most likely to thrive will be quite different. I do hope members are asking nurseries if they are stocking Dodonaeas and checking to see if they are correctly named.

I haven't found the tape of Judy West's talk at the Seminar in January, but I have found a few notes that I took and some of this information might be of interest to members:

There is a species called D. madagascarensis which is similar to D. megazyga.

D. amblyophylla is a species which suckers.

D. aptera and D. humilis like lime.

D. ericoides is an 'odd bod' as it is the only species with opposite leaves, which are also hairy.

The seeds which have arils are best treated with boiling water.

G. glandulosa is the only species which has fruits with only two valves.

The first Dodonaea collected was from Jamaica in 1725.

In the S.A. SGAP Newsletter there was an article in May 1990, entitled "A Summer Walk through That Boring, Grey Landscape" by Anne Green - she describes beautifully her impressions of the bush and its rich diversity. I include just one paragraph -

My walk concluded with a look at the few papery "hops" still hanging on the Dodonaea viscosa ssp. angustissima (syn. Dodonaea attenuata) bushes. Though past their best by now, they gave a colourful show in late spring with their dry, winged fruits, varying in colour, from bush to bush, from yellowish green to a deep maroon. In summer they are still attractive for their dense bright green foliage which is held erect and fresh-looking on the hottest day.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

A long letter from Jan Sked produced some interesting information. Jan doesn't think that the plant she found at Proston is D. biloba but she will send material to Judy West when it is available for identification. I had sent seed to Jan, this was planted on 7th January and by the 14th January all but D. stenophylla were up - just one week, this must be the warm Qld. climate. The following is a chart of germination. When Jan wrote on 28th February, she commented that growth was slow, but by now her plants may be ready to plant out.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DATE COLLECTED</u>	<u>ORIGIN</u>	<u>TREATMENT</u>	<u>GERMINATION</u>
D. filifolia	October '84	Springsure	hot water	7 days
D. lanceolata	September '83	Tanami Gorge	boiling water	7 days
D. macrossanii	1979	Nindethana Seeds	hot water	7 days
D. multijuga	November '87	Nindethana Seeds	none	7 days
D. peduncularis	1980	Barakula Forest	hot water	7 days
D. stenophylla		Springsure	hot water	none so far
D. triangularis	1984	Nindethana Seeds	hot water	7 days
D. truncatiales	June '87	S.A. Seed Bank	hot water	7 days
D. viscosa ssp.cuneata	Nov. 84	Murray Bridge	boiling water	7 days

Jan gave a talk on Dodonaeas and the Study Group, at the Pine Rivers meeting in February; this was reproduced in their newsletter, then Jan produced another article for the March Queensland Region "Bulletin". Portion of this article will be included below. I'll also quote from Jan's letter dealing with two projects she is working on with Lawrie Smith, the Landscape Architect, with whom she works.

"Dodonaeas have been receiving some prominence in the work I have been doing ...lately. We have proposed an "Outback Botanic Gardens" for Longreach, featuring a number of natural dryland vegetation communities and some specialised plant communities, including Ornamental acacias, Hop Bushes, Eremophilas, Mallee Shrublands, etc. etc. If this goes ahead, I shall probably be looking for seed and cutting material for the Longreach Shire Council.

Have been very busy these last six days getting all the plants ready and shipped to Japan for the Australian Garden display at the "1990 Garden and Greenery Exposition - Osaka". We have been working from 6.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. every day in conjunction with Harlequin Nursery staff, National Botanic Gardens staff, Department of Transport & Services and quarantine officers from the Department of Primary Industries. We are sending 10,000 Australian native plants to Japan for display in the Australian Garden, which will remain as a permanent garden after the Expo is finished. Lawrie Smith has designed the garden to represent the major plant communities of Australia and my job has been to select and find all the appropriate plants. The plant communities I have selected are:-

Temperate Coast	Alpine
Tropic Coast	Sandstone (Hawkesbury &
Tropical and Subtropical Rainforest	Grampians
Temperate Rainforest	Granite (New England)
Outback	Grasslands
Special Australian Cultivars	

Plants have been purchased from nurseries in all States and transported to a holding nursery here in Brisbane (Harlequin Nursery), where they have been treated for all pests and diseases, repotted into appropriate potting mix and generally cared for until time for transport to Japan. Japanese quarantine requirements are the strictest in the world; so our plants have been undergoing rigorous inspection and treatment by the quarantine officers.

Over the past days all the smaller plants have been packed into sealed cartons, loaded into large shipping containers to be transported by Qantas Jumbo to Japan. The larger plants (those above 1 metre tall) are packed loose in the containers. We have Xanthorrhoeas 3 and 4 metres high and Dicksonia antarctica trunks up to 5 metres high and almost a metre through. They are magnificent! They should have gone on Monday night, but the Jumbo broke down and they are now scheduled to leave at midnight. We are anticipating quite a few losses because of the delay.

We've only managed to send one species of Dod to Japan for the Expo. this is D. polyandra, which has been provided by Peter Radke (one of our members) at Yuruga Nursery on the Atherton Tableland. We are sending 20 of them."

Ida Jackson writes that she was out at Murray's Lagoon recently and there she found a lot of the prostrate form of D. humilis. Ida has put cuttings in and sent some to me which are looking good in my cutting frame. Ida had also filled in the form reporting how her Dodonaeas are progressing, also the Hardiness chart, which gives me quite a bit of information to include on our sheets.

Thanks to these two members for their reports.

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DODONAEAS FOR EAST COAST GARDENS - Jan Sked  
from Qld Region Bulletin, March 1990

Dodonaeas, or Hop bushes as they are commonly called, belong to the large family of Sapindaceae, which includes a number of our rainforest trees. However, no Dodonaeas actually grow right in the rainforest although some of our Queensland species are found on the rainforest margins. They occur over a wide range of habitats; in eucalypt forests and woodlands and in the mallee shrubland of the semi-arid and arid areas. The majority are found in the drier inland, with a few extending to the higher rainfall fringes of the continent.

Dodonaeas are woody perennial plants with alternate leaves that may be simple or pinnate. Most are small shrubs, but there are prostrate forms and some of our Queensland species may reach small tree size.

There is considerable variation in foliage form. Many have decorative, much-divided leaves. Some have leaves in clusters; some overlap so closely they obscure the branches. Some species, especially the inland ones, have sticky branchlets and foliage.

However, it is the fruits, or "hops" that are the most conspicuous part of the plant. They are dry capsules with 2 to 4 wings or angles and are found in a variety of colours from, green to yellow, pink, purple, red and brown to almost black. Most species have male and female flowers on separate plants. When no male flowers are in the vicinity to provide fertilization, female plants will still produce capsules, but no seed will form in them. The fruits of several species of Dodonaeas were used by early Europeans as a basis for home brews - hence the name "hop bushes".

The genus Dodonaea was revised by Judy West in 1984. There are now 68 recognised species, with 59 endemic to Australia. About 30 of these species occur in Queensland and of these, I think about 17 could probably be grown with success in eastern coastal Queensland. They are as follows:- (I have excluded the descriptions of each. Ed.)

D. biloba	D. filiformis
D. megazyga	D. multijuga
D. peduncularis	D. platyptera
D. polyandra	D. rupicola
D. sinuolata	D. stenophylla
D. triangularis	D. triquetra
D. truncatiales	D. uncinata
D. viscosa ssp. burmanniana	D. viscosa ssp. cuneata
D. viscosa ssp. viscosa	

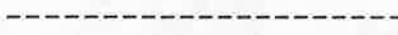
For anyone wishing to grow Dodonaeas, there is some seed in the Qld. Region Seed Bank, eg. D. lanceolata, D. physocarpa, D. platyptera, D. triquetra, D. viscosa ssp. spatulata. If you join the Dodonaea Study Group you also have access to their Seed Bank, which has a large selection.

I have found Dodonaea seed quite easy to germinate. Mostly I have poured hot water over it and soak overnight. Then planted in seed boxes containing a mixture of 3 parts washed river sand to 1 part peatmoss. This has resulted in germ .nation within about a week. They are commonly grown from cuttings taken from female plants, as these make the more attractive garden subjects.

Dodonaeas are an interesting and quite ornamental genus of plants that have not received the recognition they deserve in horticultural circles. How often do you see them in plant nurseries? Practically never, and if you do see one, it is probably of the New Zealand forms of D. viscosa.



NOTE - Ellison Horticultural Pty. Ltd. of Nowra in their seed catalogue listed a Dodonaea 'Giant Lantern'!! I have written asking for seed and asking for the origin of this name. Has anyone heard of this form?



Thanks to all Regions, Branches and other Study Groups for their newsletters. I wrote to all other Study Groups and offered to exchange newsletters with them and many responded. This helps to spread news and information.

ASGAP rules that all members of study groups much be a member of a SGAP Region.

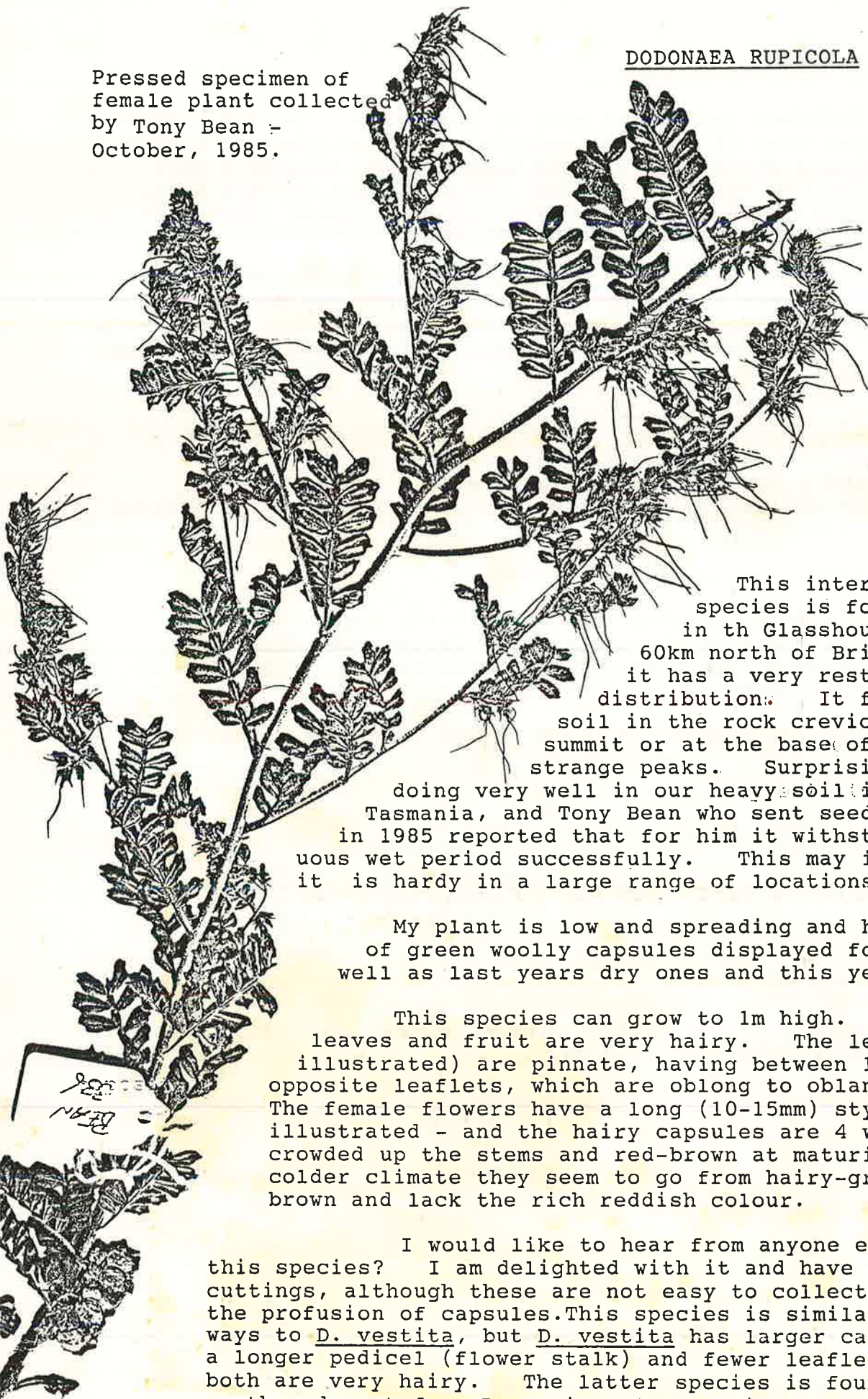
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All subscriptions fall due on 30th June so please send \$4.00 to cover your subscription for 1990/1991.



Pressed specimen of  
female plant collected  
by Tony Bean -  
October, 1985.



This interesting species is found only in the Glasshouse Mountains 60km north of Brisbane, so it has a very restricted distribution. It finds enough soil in the rock crevices on the summit or at the base of these strange peaks. Surprisingly it is doing very well in our heavy soil in Southern Tasmania, and Tony Bean who sent seeds and specimens in 1985 reported that for him it withstood a continuous wet period successfully. This may indicate that it is hardy in a large range of locations.

My plant is low and spreading and has masses of green woolly capsules displayed for months, as well as last years dry ones and this years flowers.

This species can grow to 1m high. Branches, leaves and fruit are very hairy. The leaves (as illustrated) are pinnate, having between 10 to 18 opposite leaflets, which are oblong to oblanceolate. The female flowers have a long (10-15mm) style - illustrated - and the hairy capsules are 4 winged and crowded up the stems and red-brown at maturity. In our colder climate they seem to go from hairy-green to papery-brown and lack the rich reddish colour.

I would like to hear from anyone else growing this species? I am delighted with it and have put in more cuttings, although these are not easy to collect because of the profusion of capsules. This species is similar in many ways to D. vestita, but D. vestita has larger capsules and a longer pedicel (flower stalk) and fewer leaflets, although both are very hairy. The latter species is found further north and west from D. rupicola's location.