

S.G.A.P. ACACIA STUDY GROUP
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Your response to my efforts has been most encouraging. There are now 50 members, either rejoined or new, of whom 7 are listed in the "passive" category. Thank you to those members who have responded with reports. I realize that other members are just beginning to keep records, and to make it easier I have devised a record sheet which should cover most aspects of recording, and which will be included with May newsletter.

SEED LIST

DELETIONS

ADDITIONS

A. ericifolia
flavescens
moirii
pinguifolia

A. argyrophylla
barringtonensis
cometes
curvata
decurrens (dwarf)
hyaloneura
lateriticola
spilleriana

Acacia hyaloneura is a newly described species. It has been fully described by Mr L Pedley in "Austrobaileya" Vol 1 (2) 1978, and can be found from North of Clermont to the Great Dividing Range near Torrens Creek through north-western Queensland to Northern Territory. It is not at all common, occurs on shallow rocky soil and flowers from May to July. It is a shrub to about 3m tall with straight phyllodes 6-11cm long x 6-11mm wide with parallel veins. Flowers are in interrupted spikes, and its general appearance is considered to resemble *A. whitei* which is found west of Herberton.

Should any member traveling interstate wish to visit native gardens, lists from Victoria and Tasmania are available. South Australia suggests that instead of supplying visitors with a list of names and addresses, they will supply them with a guide who will conduct them to areas of particular interest. The contact for making arrangements is:-

Ray Smith
1 Ellerslie Street
Kensington Gardens, SA 5068 Phone 31 7881

There was no reply from the other regional secretaries contacted.

Included with this newsletter are our members' list, a book list emphasizing Acacias and a list of Objectives for the group, as I see them. Your comments, reports and assistance with fulfilling these objectives would be appreciated.

Objective 3(k) ACACIAS FROM CUTTINGS has been written for us by **Dr Ross Macdonald**, and I would like to thank him for his assistance.

“The technique for propagating acacias from cuttings is the same as for any other plant. It is important to choose cutting material which is young but firm, and cuttings should be taken when the material is ready rather than at any particular time of year. However, suitable material can be much softer in winter without wilting.

Flowers and buds should be removed because they tend to rot more easily. Leaves or phyllodes are cut off over the lower half of the cutting and it can be dipped in hormone before being inserted into a very open mix.

Acacias like *A. alata* do better if the flat green “wing” around the central stem is cut away from the lower quarter. Cuttings with large leaves or phyllodes may need these trimmed to prevent excess water loss.

Pots of cuttings are placed in a cold frame or poly-house in the usual way.

It is important to keep cuttings clean by removing any dead leaves or cuttings at once. This helps to prevent possible fungus infestation. No anti-fungal treatment is necessary if strict cleanliness is observed.

Roots usually form quickly in a bunch and have a characteristic acacia smell which comes from the associated bacterial nodules.

Acacias which we have struck from cuttings include:-

<i>acellerata</i>	<i>hakeoides</i>	<i>quornensis</i>
<i>acinacea</i>	<i>hispidula</i>	<i>restiacea</i>
<i>aculeatissima</i>	<i>howittii</i>	<i>rigens</i>
<i>alata</i>	<i>implexa</i>	<i>rostelifera</i>
<i>amblygona</i>	<i>iteaphylla</i>	<i>rubida</i>
<i>armata (paradoxa)</i>	<i>ixiophylla</i>	<i>rupicola</i>
<i>aspera</i>	<i>lanigera</i>	<i>saligna</i>
<i>baileyana</i>	<i>lasiocalyx</i>	<i>sclerophylla</i>
<i>boormanii</i>	<i>lasiocarpa</i>	<i>sedifolia</i>
<i>brownii</i>	<i>leioderma</i>	<i>semirigida</i>
<i>buxifolia</i>	<i>leprosa</i>	<i>shuttleworthii</i>
<i>calamifolia</i>	<i>leucoclada</i>	<i>siculiformis</i>
<i>celastrifolia</i>	<i>ligulata</i>	<i>spathulata (spathulifolia)</i>
<i>cochlearis</i>	<i>lineata</i>	<i>spectabilis</i>
<i>cognata</i>	<i>longifolia</i>	<i>spinescens</i>
<i>conferta</i>	<i>megacephala</i>	<i>steadmanii</i>
<i>continua</i>	<i>meisneri</i>	<i>stricta</i>
<i>crassiuscula</i>	<i>merrallii</i>	<i>suaveolens</i>
<i>cultriformis</i>	<i>mitchellii</i>	<i>subulata</i>
<i>cuneata</i>	<i>montana</i>	<i>sulcata</i>
<i>cyclops</i>	<i>mooreana</i>	<i>teretifolia</i>
<i>decora</i>	<i>mucronata</i>	<i>tetragonophylla</i>
<i>doratoxylon</i>	<i>muelleriana</i>	<i>trigonophylla</i>
<i>drummondii</i>	<i>myrtifolia</i>	<i>trinervata</i>
<i>elongata</i>	<i>neurophylla</i>	<i>triptera</i>
<i>ericifolia</i>	<i>nigricans</i>	<i>ulicifolia</i>
<i>extensa</i>	<i>nigripilosa</i>	<i>urophylla</i>

farinosa
fauntleroyi
fimbriata
flexifolia
genistifolia
glandulicarpa
glaucoptera
gnidium
gonophylla

nitidula
oxycedrus
pellita
pinguifolia
pravissima
prominens
pulchella
pycnantha

venulosa
varia
verniciflua
verticillata
vestita
viscidula
wardellii
williamsonii

Ross has offered to supply any interested member with cuttings. His address is on the members' list.

Brian Lacey has reported that he has had good results from cuttings with *Acacia acinacea*, *A. aculeatissima*, *A. alata*, *A. howittii*, *A. imbricata* and *A. urophylla* and is trying many more at present. He also emphasizes the importance of members growing from cuttings to propagate particularly good forms which occur.

David Hangar has reported on container-grown Acacias. He considers his biggest problem is that, in Brisbane, the plants grow much too fast (one could never accuse them of doing that here in Tasmania), the second biggest is that he cannot keep them dry enough. This applies to nursery conditions. David listed some Acacias he has tried in containers and which were most susceptible to over-watering, especially in winter, as:

<i>A. uncifera</i>	<i>A. complanata</i>
<i>triptera</i>	<i>conferta</i>
<i>amblygona prostrate</i>	<i>ixiophylla</i>
<i>bancroftii</i>	<i>leichhardtii</i>

Species more tolerant of damper conditions in pots have been:

<i>A. fimbriata</i>	<i>A. semilunata</i>
<i>perangusta</i>	<i>farnesiana</i>
<i>hubbardiana</i>	<i>lineata</i>
<i>spectabilis</i>	<i>o'shanesii</i>
<i>baileyana</i>	<i>muelleriana</i>
<i>harpophylla</i>	<i>deanei</i>
<i>macradenia</i>	

Pat Holmes of Geranium, South Australia, has sent a comprehensive report on her area which takes in some interesting country in the Pinnaroo, Karoonda, Coonalpyn to Moorlands area. The indigenous acacias are:

<i>A. brachybotrya</i>	<i>A. microbotrya</i>
<i>calamifolia</i>	<i>pycnantha</i>
<i>havilandii</i>	<i>rtigens</i>
<i>hakeoides</i>	<i>sclerophylla</i>
<i>lineata</i>	<i>spilleriana</i>
<i>ligulata</i>	<i>wilhelmiana</i>
<i>menzelii</i>	

Betty Chandler reported that she cuts *A. pubescens* down to almost ground level after flowering. It grows to about 1m and weeps to the ground with the profusion of blooms.

This one grows well here, but does not weep. It is an upright small tree with very fine feathery leaves and bright lemon flowers. I consider it an asset to any garden.

A. biflora is a WA acacia which seems to have accepted eastern conditions and is growing well in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. (Note: The plants of *A. biflora* referred to here, and the plants we have here at Legana, are *A. divergens*. The WA Herbarium has identified a specimen for us with the comment that although the phyllode shape is similar to that of *A. biflora*, the flowers in *A. divergens* are more numerous in the heads).

To add to our group of salt tolerant species, **Inez Armitage** has forwarded this list:

<i>A. hemignosta</i>	<i>A. calamifolia</i>
<i>anceps</i>	<i>farinosa</i>
<i>quadrilateralis</i>	<i>ligulata and/or A. bivenosa ssp wayii</i>
<i>torulosa</i>	

I would like to acknowledge receipt of publicity material from both Mrs Inez Armitage for her recently published book, "Acacias of NSW" which is mentioned in our book list, and from Mr G A Althofer for his book on Prostantheras, "Cradle of Incense". Acacias and prostantheras are a terrific colour combination if you can persuade them to flower at the same time. Both these books are published by SGAP.

NAME CHANGES

In *Austrobaileya* Vol 1 (2) 1978 by Mr L Pedley:

A. fimbriata var. *perangusta* has been changed to *A. perangusta*.

A. gnidium var. *latifolia* is now *A. ixodes*.

SEED FOR THE SEED BANK

Thank you to those members who have forwarded seed. We now have plenty in stock of the more common species, but are very short of the following:-

<i>adunca</i>	<i>ericifolia</i>	<i>meisneri</i>
<i>axillaris</i>	<i>falcata</i>	<i>moirii</i>
<i>beauverdiana</i>	<i>flavescens</i>	<i>obtusata</i>
<i>bidentata</i>	<i>fragilis</i>	<i>obtusifolia</i>
<i>biflora</i>	<i>glandulicarpa</i>	<i>pendula</i>
<i>blakelyi</i>	<i>glaucoptera</i>	<i>pinguifolia</i>
<i>celastrifolia</i>	<i>gunnii</i>	<i>pritzeliana</i>
<i>cochlearis</i>	<i>hilliana</i>	<i>pubicosta</i>
<i>collettioides</i>	<i>hispidula</i>	<i>restiacea</i>
<i>continua</i>	<i>lanigera</i> var. <i>venulosa</i>	<i>sedifolia</i>
<i>cuneata</i>	<i>lasiocarpa</i>	<i>shuttleworthii</i>
<i>denticulosa</i>	<i>leuoclada</i> var. <i>argentifolia</i>	<i>sibirica</i>

<i>desertorum</i>	<i>mabellae</i>	<i>spathulata (spathulifolia)</i>
<i>drummondii</i> (dwarf)	<i>maitlandii</i>	<i>spinescens</i>
<i>echinula</i>	<i>megacephala</i>	<i>trinervata</i>

If anyone can help with supply of any of this seed, our seed bank should be in good condition for the next growing season. Incidentally, autumn germination is reasonably successful in Tasmania, so should be much better in warmer parts.

I have written to regional branches in WA appealing for seed of any of the small acacias which are so numerous in the south west and other areas. Also contact was made with a number of commercial seed suppliers and from some of these acacia seed is available for 50c to \$1.00 a packet, size of packet not stated.

Trevor Blake has made a few observations on *A. urophylla* growing in two different spots in Melbourne for nearly two years.

1. Growing in a raised bed of clay loam, broken up with gypsum, leaf and buzzer chips in an extremely open, windy, dry, north-facing position. Good drainage and is never watered, Sub-soil 25cm down is pure yellow brick clay. In spite of plenty of competition from other plants it has grown rapidly to 1.3m x 1.5m and flowered twice.
2. Growing in almost total shade except for late summer sun in a raised bed of heavy grey clay over mudstone and yellow clay which is always moist. It is almost 2m x 2.5m across and has flowered well.

Mr Kurchian our USA member has to face special hazards in his efforts to grow acacias. In Massachusetts the winters are harsh with snow 36 inches deep and temperatures which stay 10° below 0°F for three weeks. Mr Kurchian says that most of the acacias are very susceptible to a host of mites, but by increasing the humidity and a spray of program he is able to keep them under control.

Eventually all his plants will be grown in the greenhouse. At present only the larger are planted in the ground, wit the smaller ones outside under high-headed oak trees.

I would like to wish you well for the coming year and look forward to your renewed enthusiasm for the growing of Acacias.

Marion Simmons