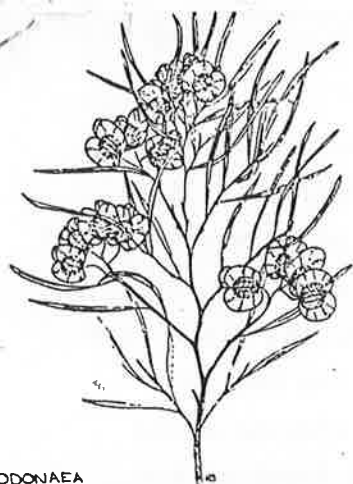


DODONAEA STUDY GROUP



DODONAEA
VISCOSA SSP. ANGUSTISSIMA

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Dear Members,

It's very wet and windy at present, a good time to do some writing. However, I did get outside this morning and potted up some cuttings. In May I received an exciting parcel from the Australian National Botanic Gardens, in Canberra containing pressed specimens and cutting material of:

D. falcata	D. hackettiana
D. pinnata	D. platyptera
D. procumbens	D. rhombifolia
D. serratifolia	D. trifida

and D. viscosa ssp. spatulata; but it was D. viscosa ssp. viscosa that I had requested. This and a number of other species which our collection lacks, are also not in the A.N.B.G. live collection. They have all put out good roots, I only wish more of our members lived near me, so that I could share these goodies with you.

However I put the following notice in our Tasmania Region Newsletter:

DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

A small range of plants of the genus Dodonaea are available free to members of Tasmania Region. These plants range from groundcovers to medium sized shrubs and are generally hardy. In return the Study Group would like to know how they stand up to conditions such as frost, sandy soil etc., and would welcome cuttings of really good specimens. Please ring Jeanette Closs on 491663.

A number of members took me up on this offer so hopefully in the years to come we will get some feedback.

In June this year members of S.G.A.P. Tasmania Region visited the Allport Collection at the State Library as the guests of Mr. G. Stillwell to view some of the early botanical collections including 'Banks Florilegeum' which is a collection of copperplate engravings of plants collected on Captain Cook's voyage in 1768 - 1771. Specimens were gathered by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander and were accurately engraved between 1771 and 1784 after drawings taken from nature by Sydney Parkinson.

One of the plates featured Dodonaea polyandra collected at Cape Fear in Queensland. Another plate featured DISTOCHOSTEMON HISPIDULUS in brackets underneath this name was DODONOIDES VILLOSA. This plant was collected near the Endeavour River. Dodonoides is obviously an older name for Distochostemon hispidulus, but 'Australian Plant Genera' - Baines, lists this plant as being in the Kimberleys in Western Australia and in the Northern Territory - 'a shrub 1m high with green flowers and red fruit growing among rocks'. Do the Queensland members know if this can still be found on the Endeavour River where Banks originally collected it, or is D. polyandra still to be seen at Cape Fear, wherever Capè Fear is??

In Judy's Revision of the Dodonaeas, in the section entitled 'Taxonomic History of Dodonaea in Australia' she notes that Bentham and Hooker 1862, listed Dodonaea, Distochostemon and other genera in Suborder Dodonaeae - one of five suborders of the family Sapindaceae.

I have just read the amazing book 'The Greening of Gondwana' by Mary E. White. The following is an interesting quote from this book entitled:

FAMILY SAPINDACEAE

'Pollen of Sapindaceae appears in the record at the start of the Eocene. It represents the closed Forest component of this family, which flourished in the Miocene and then declined with contraction of the Rainforest.

The sclerophyll derivative of the family, with pollen referable to the modern genus Dodonaea, enters the record in the Mid Miocene as the Rainforest members decline.'

Our Dods have been around for a long time!

Miocene = 23.7 - 5.3 million years ago

Oligocene = 23.7 - 36.6 million years ago

Late Eocene = 36.6 - 46 million years ago

Early Eocene = 46 - 57.8 million years ago

DISPLAY KIT

A number of enquiries have been received from Regions for a display or cut flowers for their flower shows. The outcome of this is that my husband, Don, has offered to buy my plane tickets to go up to Sydney for their Bicentennial Sydney Wildflower Spectacular on the 16th to 18th September, 1988. I shall take the Display Kit as well as some cut material and do my best to present Dodonaeas to their best advantage. Can anyone bring some cut material to the Bankstown Basketball Centre on Thursday 15th and help me to set up the display? Canberra Region and Victoria Region, I will be unable to help, but perhaps some of our members will volunteer to mount a display?

TRACKING DOWN DODS.

I managed to get seed of D. platyptera from the Queensland Region seed bank. This is one of the species I was unable to locate when in northern Australia last year. The seed was evidently sent by Bruce Sanders from Weipa (western Cape York Peninsula). I have written to Bruce asking for more information and possibly more material.

A Tasmanian member, Phil Collier reports that he has found Gunns Tree Orchids (Sarcochilus australis) growing on Dodonaea viscosa ssp. spatulata in a north-east facing gully near Brushy River, inland from Swansea on Tasmania's east coast. This is a dainty orchid with clusters of dainty, fragrant flowers hanging down beneath strap-like leaves. Has anyone else heard reports of orchids being found on Dodonaeas?

Our friend, Tony Bean, the leader of the Eucalyptus Study Group, has just returned from a trip to Cape York and the Gulf country. He was unable to find D. platyptera or D. oxyptera. He had been informed that the latter was to be found at Lawn Hill National Park, but he simply could not find it. He did manage to see D. peduncularis, later, for the first time. He also notes that his seedlings of D. megazyga are well over 30cm high and begging to be planted out.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Lawrie Whitmore, S.A. writes that he has a really good form of D. inaequifolia and hopes to share some cuttings with us when it is bigger.

Ida Jackson writes of D. tepperi, probably the rarest of the Dods. It appears that there is a recent report of it being found in the southern Flinders Ranges - more details later. Here is a challenge for South Australian members to find, propagate; but protect with the greatest care, this rare plant.

Jan Sked has taken on the role of contact person for the Pine Rivers Group, Queensland Region. She has collected seed of D. rupicola and D. triquetra ready to be sown. Jan was involved with the landscaping at Expo 88, which I mentioned in our last newsletter.

Bunny Holmes has a lovely plant of D. microzyga var acrolobata putting on a great display of fruit. She thinks that the plant came from me, so we hope to put some cuttings in next year.

Irene Cullen writes that she will be our contact person for the Queensland Region. Irene is only growing one Dodonaea at the present time - a very promising looking prostrate one of Peter Althopher's for which she only has a number! Perhaps she will send a specimen and we will try to identify it for her.

Our Study Group Co-ordinator, Barbara Daly is off on another Kombi trip 'up north', we hope that she has a great trip and finds some Dods along the way.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

The following species are not represented in our herbarium. If any of our members has the opportunity to locate any of these species and could send a pressed specimen and/or cuttings, it would be appreciated:

D. aptera W.A.	D. concinna W.A.
D. divaricata W.A.	D. ericoides W.A.
D. glandulosa W.A.	D. intricata S.A. Gawler Ranges
D. oxyptera N.T. & NE W.A.	D. pachyneura W.A.
D. polyzyga N.T. & N W.A.	D. tenuifolia Qld.
D. tepperi S.A.	D. uncinata Qld - Townsville area
D. viscosa ssp. viscosa Qld - Cape York	

We do need some members in Western Australia. I have made a number of appeals but there has been no response. We'll just have to plan a trip to W.A. soon!

Please check your last newsletter to see what else you can do for our group. I have managed to get the slides that I was asking for in our last newsletter. I will include a record sheet, once again for those who forgot to send them in.

The next Federal Conference and Seminar will be held in Hobart in January, 1990. We do hope that a number of our members will be able to attend. On the strength of this, I have just laid out a new Dodonaea bed and have planted one or two of each of the following:

D. procumbens	D. ptarmicifolia
D. biloba	D. rupicola
D. concinna	D. multijuga
D. bursariifolia	D. camfieldii
D. stenophylla	D. baueri
D. hexandra	D. sinuolata
D. subglandulifera	D. inaequifolia
D. lobulata	

I do hope that they will do well, as it would be a good opportunity to show SGAPers what beaut plants Dods are.

FINANCE

Brought forward	\$18.68	Postage	\$23.69
Donations	8.11	Stationery	2.98
Subscriptions	77.00	Copying	14.20
	<u>103.79</u>		<u>40.87</u>
In hand	\$62.92		

If a cross appears in this box your subscription of \$4.00 is due



Dodonaea tepperi F. Muell ex Tepper

This is an extremely rare plant. It is small and possibly not very significant.

J.G.O. Tepper was the first to collect this species at Androssan ($34^{\circ}26'$ S, $137^{\circ}55'$ E) on the East Coast of the Yorke Peninsula and later in Spencers Gulf. Other early collectors found it in the Gawler Ranges, Port Lincoln and Port Elliott. The species was rediscovered in 1975 in the Monarto area. These areas have, I believe, been cleared for farming and agriculture, so I rather thought that D. tepperi may have been extinct. However, Ida Jackson's letter indicates that it has been found recently in southern Flinders Ranges, near Streaky Bay and near Cleve; as reported in the 1985-86 South Australian Report on Native Vegetation. I am attempting to get a copy of this report through the State Library.

Judy West has suggested that it may be a hybrid; the possible parents being D. hexandra and D. viscosa due to its spasmodic occurrences.

It is a small spreading shrub to 0.6m high. The leaves are simple, linear-oblong or narrow-elliptic 1-1.2 x 0.2-0.3cm, sticky, especially when young with a tapering base and revolute margins. The single flowers appear from December to March and the 3-4 angled sub-globose capsule is dark-red to brown and irregularly orange speckled at maturity. These capsules are only 4-5 x 5-5.5mm, so are small but should be interesting and appear in August to November. This one plant at Monarto has been studied for $4\frac{1}{2}$ years and we hope that it still survives. It probably has grown in grey sandy clay overlaying limestone.

THE GREENING OF GONDWANA

by Mary E. White

This is an excellent book and I would highly recommend it to all members. The final paragraphs are worth quoting:

'The Future'

When Modern Man came to Australia only 200 years ago, his impact was immediately felt. With him came his animals in their ever increasing hordes, his foreign crops and weeds, his insatiable appetite for arable land and timber and as he cleared the forests and altered the landscape he knew little of what he was destroying, and thought little of the ultimate consequences of his action.

What is left unspoilt is our heritage and our responsibility. How dare we destroy overnight the miraculous end products of processes which were set in motion so many millions of years ago that we are unable to visualize time on such a scale. The theme throughout the ages has been co-operation and co-existence, the balance of give and take, the ability to adapt. Those that have been unable to adapt have become extinct.

Will man, like Dinosaurs, be added to this list?