

DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

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DODONAEA
VISCOSA SSP. ANGUSTISSIMA

Dear Members,

What a wonderful time spring is - the garden is so colourful with drifts of mauve/purple/pink and white Prostantheras, Melaleucas of all shades, Acacias from cream to gold and of course the fruits of our Dodonaeas range from greens to very dark wine reds; Along with all the other lovely plants presenting their spring attire. D. larreoides in fruit for the first time is a joy - deep red fruits set off with the long pinnate leaves. Also fruiting for the first time is D. serratifolia, this^{is} also a gem with large fruits with wings - a bluish-wine in colour. These fruits are so big compared to the plant, which is only about 20 cm. tall but will grow to 1.5m in time.

I have just checked on the Dods in our garden and I ~~have~~^{am} growing 37 species and subspecies. There^{are} 71 species and subspecies, so I'm more than halfway there. Besides these I have D. viscosa x procumbens and D. viscosa ssp. spatulata, the variegated form. This form has recently produced a branch of yellow leaves with no green colouring. I have taken a few cuttings to see what they will produce. Yesterday I potted up the prostrate form of D. humilis which Ida Jackson very kindly sent to me.

I gather that it was Yve Wignall who put the request in the Western Australian Wildflower Society newsletter, not Dorothy Perret. Many thanks to Yve and to Dorothy who is also seeking out W.A. Dods for us. Don Wignall, Bateman W.A. wrote sending seed of D. physocarpa, D. petiolaris and D. platyptera, as well as sketches drawn by his wife Yve. These Dods were found in the Kimberleys on a 25day tour. Honor Venning of W.A. and Sue and Phyl Collier of Tasmania were also on this tour. Many thanks for remembering our Study Group.

Honor Venning also enjoyed this trip and sent seeds and specimens. She was impressed with D. physocarpa, which she describes as looking very attractive with it's fruits hanging from thread-like stems. She also reports that: 'I had a few seeds of D. viscosa ssp. angustifolia which I had sent you a couple of years ago, I put them in situ in the front garden last September, to my surprise they came up in October, the tallest one is now nearly a metre high. The plants I collected the seed from, were growing around granite rocks in heavy wheatbelt soil, here the soil is sandy on a limestone ridge with limestone on the surface in one area of the garden.

Betty Ball of Boya W.A. wrote saying that she was going on a Kevin Coates Wildflower tour and offered to collect for us. I sent her some information and in return got specimens of D. inaequifolia, D. rigida, D. viscosa ssp. mucronata, D. petiolaris and D. adenophora, the real one, as so often other species are labelled D. adenophora. There was another specimen which was similar in appearance to a Dod, but Betty now thinks it may be Distichostemon hispidula. Last month Betty sent me slides of many of the Dods and also the locations in which they were collected, also a copy of a map and detailed descriptions of where to find these species. What a bonus!! We will have great pleasure in following her 'guide' when we are in W.A. next year.

Barbara Payne of Merridan W.A. wrote that she and her husband were going north to Exmouth for a month or more and could perhaps collect there and in the Merridan area, where they live. I look forward to hearing more from Barbara.

I have written to the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, requesting cuttings and herbarium specimens of some of the elusive Dodonaeas. They were kind enough to send material two years ago, which is now thriving. I also offered to send material, which they may not have, especially D. tepperi.

Recently, I gave a talk on Dodonaeas at our Northern Group - Tasmania Region and the following day they took me to an area where D. filiformis, our Tasmanian endemic Dod grows on Haselmere Road, many miles east of Launceston. We noted that there were no seedlings, only mature plants in this area - could this be fire or browsing animals? Some plants were 3 - 4m high. Marion Simmons noted the 'cat-scratch' bark on these trees, a characteristic which I had not previously noted.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Jan Sked writes 'I was delighted to find D. rupicola featured in your last Newsletter. Last Sunday some of our SGAP Groups - Pine Rivers, Samford, Redcliffe and Sunshine Coast - had a joint excursion to Saddleback Mountain, one of the lesser outcrops of the Glasshouse Mountains. It is here, of course, that D. rupicola is most conspicuous. That was one of the main reasons for our visit. I was able to collect seed, and cuttings from plants I was sure were female. All the D. rupicola plants on Saddleback were looking lush, obviously a reflection of all the rain we have been receiving the past few months. Also present at the base of the mountain was D. triquetra, which is fairly common in this area. Young fruits were a lovely lime green and most attractive.

Now, for some further information on the Dod seed I planted in January this year. The only one that has done very well is D. filifolia which is 15cm high and looking good. Most of the others have damped off except D. multijuga, D. triangularis, D. truncatiales and D. viscosa ssp. cuneata, and they are all still very tiny (about 2cm). I think all the wet weather we have experienced this year has not been good for them.

My Dodonaea species from Proston is still surviving well. It is now 40cm high, very upright and slender. Has not flowered again, but will keep watching it. I compared it with a plant my cousin bought as D. viscosa ssp. cuneata and it certainly seems different to that one. Using the limited key in our Flora of S.E. Qld, it keyed out to be D. biloba, but it is not prostrate or spreading. I'm including another tiny piece for you. You will notice some of the leaves are now developing more than three lobes' (I still think that it is D. biloba Ed.)

On behalf of all our members I'd like to congratulate Jan on being awarded the 'Pine Rivers Shire Australia Day Citizens Award' for her many contributions to the environment and to the community in general - mainly through her voluntary work with such organizations as SGAP and other local environmental, conservation and community groups. The amount of work that she does through SGAP alone would more than qualify her for this award.

Fred Rogers wrote asking for some seed and cuttings. Fred is growing D. sinuolata, D. bursariifolia and D. lobulata and would like to try more. Fred has a huge garden - several acres and has a number of differing soil types and microclimates, so should succeed with many Dods. Then he writes - 'In your newsletter you mention Dodonaea "Giant Lanterns" whether it is the same or not I don't know. Last year June and I went out from Kunnamulla Q past Eulo and just before a creek, or river we came across several plants growing on the river flat near the bank. The fruit was very inflated. I wondered what I had found when I saw it first from the car. I tried to photograph it but can't find the slide. We did see what I took to be the same species growing in much drier and rockier situations, but the fruit was much smaller. I took the plant to be D. petiolaris.

Randy Linke, California U.S.A. writes ' Work on the Australian Garden at the Botanical Gardens is on hold. The California Coastal Conservancy just approved a grant to purchase 35 additional acres for the gardens. We will be moving the collection to a much better site that offers the opportunity to create various habitats. One idea I am pushing right now is the creation of a riparian habitat zone featuring some of the river gums, she oaks, etc. along a stream bed.' Members travelling to U.S.A. could perhaps visit this area.

Shona Sadlier, the leader of the Eucalyptus Study Group has joined our group and requested seed, so we look forward to hearing of her success. I'm sad to say that she only has the red New Zealand form of D. viscosa ssp. spatulata in her garden, but this situation should improve soon.

Ida Jackson, Kangaroo Island S.A. sent specimens of D. baueri in fruit for me to send on to Judy West. There has been a query as to whether this species sometimes has male and female flowers on the one plant. Ida is at present engaged in conducting a TAFE class in wildflower recognition - 8 Sunday afternoons in the field. On one of these trips they found D. hexandra growing in a disused rubble pit on the American River Road.

I thoroughly enjoyed browsing through the Volume no. 5 of 'Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants' by Elliot and Jones. A chapter entitled 'Hedge Plants' includes a large list of plants suitable for hedging. D. microzyga, D. sinuolata and D. viscosa are listed. The latter two, in my opinion make good hedge plants, but D. microzyga as it grows in my garden, wouldn't be suitable, it is small, sparse and twiggy. A better choice from my experience would be D. ptarmicifolia, this species is fast growing and has a soft, but very dense foliage. Have any members tried Dods for hedges?

'Grow What Where' First Edition Lists:

Frost-resistant plants

D. bursariifolia
D. hexandra
D. humifusa
D. microzyga
D. procumbens
D. adenophora
D. boroniifolia
D. triangularis
D. viscosa

Plants usually frost-resistant

none listed

Frost tender plants

none listed

Is this list complete and accurate. From comments and reports sent in by members of our study group and other SEAP members, we can add these species to our list, but is there more information that members can add?

Frost resistant plants

D. baueri
D. ptarmicifolia
D. subglanulifera
D. viscosa ssp. cuneata

Frost tender plants

D. biloba
D. humifusa
D. humilis
D. sinuolata ssp. acrodentata

This proves nothing as it is only from a few isolated reports. I would like to hear more from members. How else can we collect information about these fascinating plants.

SEED LIST

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| D. aptera | D. microzyga ssp. microzyga |
| D. baueri | D. multijuga |
| D. bursariifolia | D. procumbens x viscosa |
| D. concinna | D. ptarmicaefolia |
| D. filifolia | D. rupicola |
| D. filiformis | D. sinuolata ssp. acrodentata |
| D. heteromorpha | D. sinuolata ssp. sinuolata |
| D. hexandra | D. stenophylla |
| D. humilis | D. subglandulifera |
| D. inaequifolia | D. triquetra |
| D. lobulata | D. viscosa ssp. angustissima |
| D. macrossani | D. viscosa ssp. spatulata |

More seed is needed for the Seed Bank. Members requiring seed should send a stamp self-addressed envelope. I have sent out seed to many members over the past few years and I rarely hear results. I usually put the date on each seed packet, but I have no idea how long the seed is viable. In my experience the seeds that don't germinate are from the far north of Australia and I put this down to the colder climate down here,; seeds held for many years seem to germinate quite well - what experience do others have?

FINANCE

	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>
Brought forward	53.44	Postage	45.90
Subscriptions	56.00	Copying	30.20
Donations	13.00	Stationery	3.83
Interest	1.29	Bank charges	63
	<u>123.73</u>		<u>80.56</u>

Balance in hand \$43.17

Thanks to all Study Groups, Branches and Regions who send on their newsletters, they make very good reading and much information is passed on to people who may be interested.

We have put our house on the market and plan to start again on a flat site - the thought of developing a new garden is exciting although I'll be sad to leave this lovely site. Fortunately most of the Dods are in 'My Garden' in Poimena Reserve, a council reserve adjoining our place, so I will be able to watch the 'Dod Garden' develop. I have also struck cuttings of nearly all of my Dods, so they will feature in our new garden.

I have been leader of the Dodonaea Study Group for over 7 years and I'd like to see someone else take it over now. It's been a great experience and I have learnt so much about the genus Dodonaea and I have been in contact with so many interesting people. I feel that a new leader with fresh ideas could put new life into the group, and anyone taking it on would gain a wealth of experience. Please consider volunteering or even offering to take over the production of the newsletter.

I no longer have the use of the electric typewriter or photocopier, hence my typing is definitely below standard - for this I apologise. I hope to hear from many of you with offers to take over as leader or editor, or failing that, a contribution for the next newsletter which should be produced about February. Best wishes for a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

DODONAEA BURSARIIFOLIA

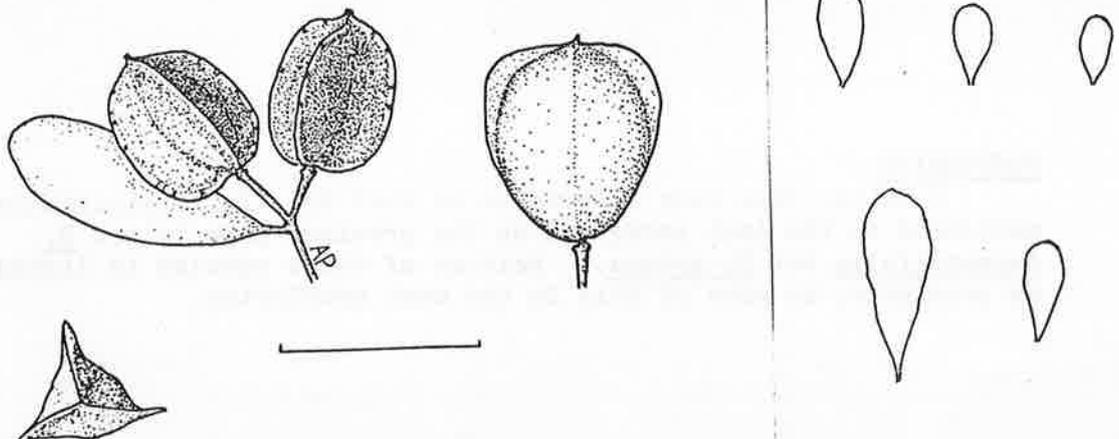
I have only once seen this plant in the wild. June and Fred Rogers took us to see a plant on the Cooack Road some way out of Horsham in Victoria. I am featuring this plant in this newsletter, as it is the last of the lovely drawings that Karen Stewart (daughter of Lyn Stewart of South Australia) did for me some years ago. The others have been featured in previous newsletters.

It is a spreading shrub 0.5-1.5m high, and the branchlets are angular. The leaves are simple, sessile (without stems), obovate and 1-2cm x 0.45 - 0.7cm. They are leathery but not sticky with a rounded apex. The flowers appear in September to December and are in twos or threes. The capsules are 3 and sometimes 4 angled with a very narrow wing - these are more globose than winged. They are brown to yellow at maturity - this takes nearly a year and they fall soon after maturing.

It extends through many areas in southern Australia from Sharks Bay in Western Australia and into south western New South Wales in semi arid mallee scrub areas and sandy loam soils.

The form I have in my garden differs from this in a number of ways. It is totally prostrate with the tips of the branches ascending a little. The base of the leaves is much more tapered and the tip instead of being rounded are very slightly lobed. The capsules have up to seven in the cluster and the fruits are green, at present, and globose, but the wing is more like a lobe extending beyond the top of the capsule - instead of three and sometimes four lobes, there are four and sometimes five. I will send a specimen to Judy West, because it is only now that I have looked closely at this specimen/plant. I obtained the cuttings from Marion Simmons in 1987, so I must ask her if she knows the origin.

Below is Judy West's diagram of *D. bursariifolia*





DODONAEA
BURSARIIFOLIA

POSTSCRIPT

A letter from Judy West tells me that the 'D. bursariifolia' mentioned in the last paragraph on the previous page is not D. bursariifolia but D. aptera. Neither of these species is listed as prostrate, so more of this in the next newsletter.