

# DODONAEA STUDY GROUP

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DODONAEA  
VISCOSA SSP ANGUSTISSIMA

Dear Members,

You'll see by the above address that we have moved from our lovely home on a steep hill at Austins Ferry and into another lovely home at Kingston on a very gently sloping double block. We still have a lovely view of nearby hills and the Derwent River but this time we are south of Hobart (10 minutes drive) instead of north as we were at Austins Ferry. It is sad leaving our well established garden but it's a challenge to develop a new one and I have hundreds of plants in pots ready to be planted.

Moving into our new home has influenced us to postpone our planned extended trip to Perth via the Gunbarrel Highway. I will still fly to Perth for the Conference and I do look forward to this but I will be unable to drive around looking for Dods as we had planned.

The only Dod I have with me here at present is D. megazyga in a pot. I'm trying it as an indoor plant and it is very attractive, but growing a bit too fast. It is 145 cm high in a few months. My other plants are all being cared for by kind friends and I look forward to having them here.

This newsletter will be the last that I will prepare. I asked in the last newsletter for assistance or someone to take over the Study Group. No one was forthcoming, so I propose to put the Study Group on hold until someone else is inspired to take on the study. I think as a group we have achieved a great deal. We know a lot more about propagating and growing these fascinating plants. Many of us have learnt to identify them with much accuracy; thanks to Judy West's work on revising the genus. Many S.G.A.P. members and other interested people are growing Dods and recognising them in gardens and in the wild. I will continue to grow Dods and share them around and I hope our members will do likewise. I will also reply to any letters with queries, or requests for seed.

Many thanks to those few members who have contributed so willingly to this study. Thanks also to the other Study Groups who have exchanged newsletters with me - these have been instructive and have provided enjoyable reading. I also appreciate the contributions made by Regions and Branch groups with subscriptions, donations and their newsletters, which are so informative.

Thanks to Betty Ball from W.A. who sent more specimens of Western Australian Dodonaeas. These were collected by Kevin Coate, who will be taking the Pre and Post-Conference tours in Perth in September. I'm so sad that I will miss them.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Fred Rogers from Horsham, Vic. has been very ill from what I hear. We are very sad to hear this news and pass on to him the very best wishes from members of the Study Group for a speedy recovery.

Judy West wrote in reply to my query about a 'prostrate D. bursariifolia in my garden. She is pleased that the specimen I sent her differs from her description of D. bursariifolia because it isn't D. bursariifolia, but D. aptera from W.A. Judy thought my specimen looked so good that she asked for cutting material. I'm still a bit confused as Judy's description of D. aptera notes it as an erect shrub 1 - 3.5m high and mine is prostrate. Also plants of D. aptera grown from seed, that I have planted out have been poor miserable plants in my acid soil. D. aptera grows on limestone but the prostrate form is very happy in my heavy acidic soil.

Elizabeth George from W.A., who is a member of our Study Group has been chosen by the ASGAP committee as a recipient of the Australian Plants Award which is/are presented biennially to amateur and professional people who have made an outstanding contribution to the knowledge of Australian plants. Elizabeth's comprehensive work on the Verticordia Collection has been a great contribution. We extend to her our congratulations. The Awards will be made at the ASGAP Conference in Perth in September. The other recipient is Enid Robertson of South Australia.

Irene Champion of Slade Point Qld. sent specimens of D. physocarpa, D. stenophylla and D. viscosa ssp. spatula, also Distichostemon hispidulus of the Sapindaceae family. Irene sent a report of a Queensland Region trip to Salvator Rosa National Park where they saw D. peduncularis, D. vestita, D. boroniifolia, D. filifolia and D. stenophylla. I note that Irene has trouble keeping plants of D. lanceolata as do I, but I blame the cold for my lack of success.

Shona Sadlier of Epping NSW writes that she had marvellous success with seed I sent last August, i.e. D. filifolia, D. megazyga, D. sinuolata and D. truncatiales. Seeds pre-treated with hot water and soaked overnight were individually sown in tubes in 3:1 sand/peat on 3rd August, 1990 and germinated from 2 weeks onwards. D. filifolia appearing first and D. truncatiales last.

Shona further writes 'Germination % was high (17 germinating out of 18 seeds sown) for D. filifolia, D. megazyga and D. sinuolata, dropping to 60% for D. truncatiales and 44% for D. microzyga. There has been no mortality from damping off. Only one seedling was set back rather hard by a random grasshopper. I also sowed 20 seeds of D. triquetra on 15th October 90 (they just "fell" into my palm whilst I admired some last seasons fruits amongst current green fruits) during a walk through Katandra nature reserve, Ingleside, Sydney. These also took two weeks to germinate. I've enjoyed watching the 6 species grow from very similar small seedlings into distinctively different foliage plants.' It is good to hear of a thorough report on germination.

Helen Bizzai, Gawler S.A. should be in her new home by now and like me she is eager to establish her new garden. She has been living in her sons house, which has a good garden and she has also spent 6 months at the Giles Weather Station on the Gunbarrel Highway as a cook, where, she writes, the vegetation is fantastic. Helen has found 6 or 7 different forms of D. procumbens x viscosa from almost prostrate to quite tall and upright. She says that they are all beautiful plants as is D. tepperi along with her other Dods. Helen has been consistently supportive as a member of our Study Group.

As has Ida Jackson who writes that she has been collecting D. viscosa ssp. angustissima seed for a regeneration program at Kelly Hill C.P. Ida sent pressed specimens of D. baueri with both male and female flowers. All the specimens were taken from different bushes in the same area and there is much variance.

FINANCE

	<u>Received</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>
Brought forward	43.20	Postage	34.18
Subscriptions	24.00	Slides	18.00
Donations	19.00	Bank charges	63
	86.20		52.81

Broughtforward \$33.39 This amount will barely cover the copying and postage for this newsletter. I will await instructions from Jan Sked the Study Group Co-ordinator as to what I should do with the slide collection most of which are mine, but many were also given to the Study group and the Display Kit etc.

SEED BANK

There is a quantity of seeds of the following species. Please let me know if you require any and please remember to send a stamped and addressed envelope.

D. aptera	D. lanceolata var subsessilifolia
D. baueri	D. microzyga ssp. microzyga
D. bursariifolia	D. multijuga
D. concinna	D. peduncularis
D. filifolia	D. petiolaris
D. filiformis	D. physocarpa
D. hackettiana	D. platyptera
D. heteromorpha	D. polyandra
D. hexandra	D. procumbens x viscosa
D. humilis	D. ptarmicifolia
D. inaequifolia	D. rupicola
D. lanceolata var. lanceolata	D. sinuolata ssp. acrodentata
	D. sinuolata ssp. sinuolata
	D. stenophylla
	D. stenozyga
	D. subglandulifera
	D. triangularis
	D. triquetra
	D. truncatiales
	D. viscosa ssp. burmanniana
	D. viscosa ssp. cuneata
	D. viscosa ssp. spatula

DODONAEA ADENOPHORA Mic.

I will do my best to describe this plant from Judy West's botanical text in 'A Revision of Dodonaea Miller (Sapindaceae) in Australia', and a few pressed specimens. I haven't seen this species in the wild nor have I had it growing. As this name is so often wrongly given to other Dodonaeas, this description may be helpful to some of you.

This species is widespread in southern Western Australia and is found in semi-arid and arid mallee scrub and open woodlands. It usually flowers in winter and the capsules appear in the spring.

D. adenophora shrubs are spreading or erect as low as 0.3m and up to 2m, occasionally reaching 2.5m. It has one of the smallest of all the compound leaves of the Dodonaea genus being 0.35 - 0.55 cm long (excluding the petiole). There are usually 4 - 6 lateral leaflets with a terminal leaflet. Their shape varies from narrow-obovate to obovate with occasional lobes at the tip. They are thickish and warty.

The capsules are 4 winged and crowded up the stems. They are larger than the leaves at maturity and can be red to purple-brown. D. adenophora is similar to D. microzyga in leaf but the flowers and fruit are different.

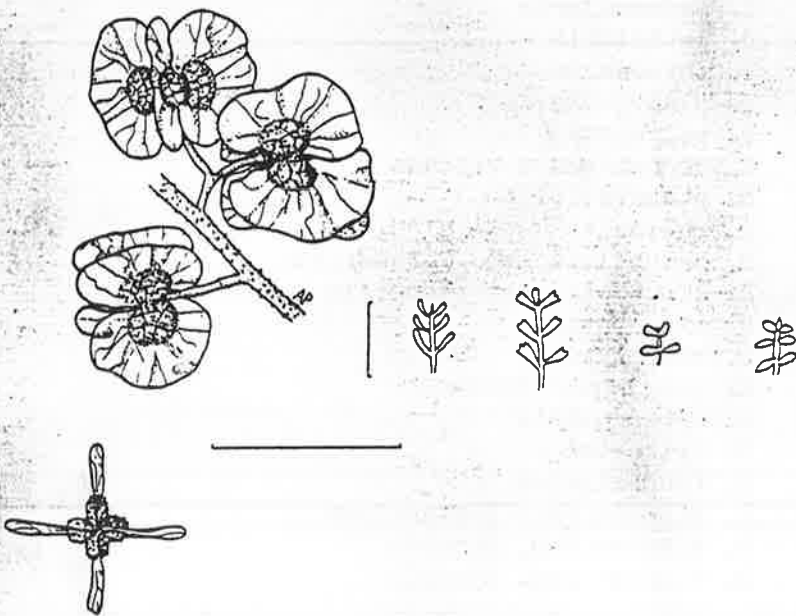


Fig. 53. *D. adenophora* (West 3358).

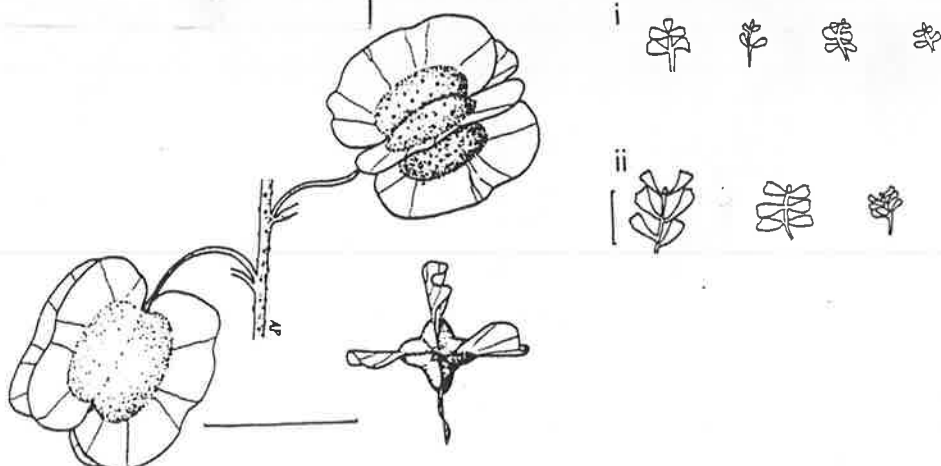


Fig. 52. *D. microzyga* (West 1792); (i) var. *microzyga*; (ii) var. *acrolobata*.