



DODONAEA
VISCOSA
SSP. ANGUSTISSIMA

Seed is collected by securing white MARIX weed mat fabric around flowering branches with staples and ties. The weed mat allows light and air through to the leaves, yet collects seed following dehiscence.

A variety of techniques have been used to germinate *D. subglandulifera* seeds. The best results to date have been by either: a) pouring just-boiled water over seeds and soaking for 30 seconds
or b) soaking seeds in concentrated sodium hypochlorite for 30 minutes. Pour just-boiled water over seeds and soak for 30 seconds

These are not final results as experiments are continuing. Later this year, cutting experiments will commence using various growth hormones to stimulate root development.

If anyone has any queries or any information about *D. subglandulifera* I would be pleased to hear from them.

Birgitte Sorensen
Black Hill Flora Centre
115 Maryvale Road
Athelstone SA 5076

ph: 08 336 3755
fax: 08 336 1827

(This article was sent to me just after the completion of the last newsletter and possibly Birgitte will have some further information for our next newsletter which I hope to prepare by March, 1993..)

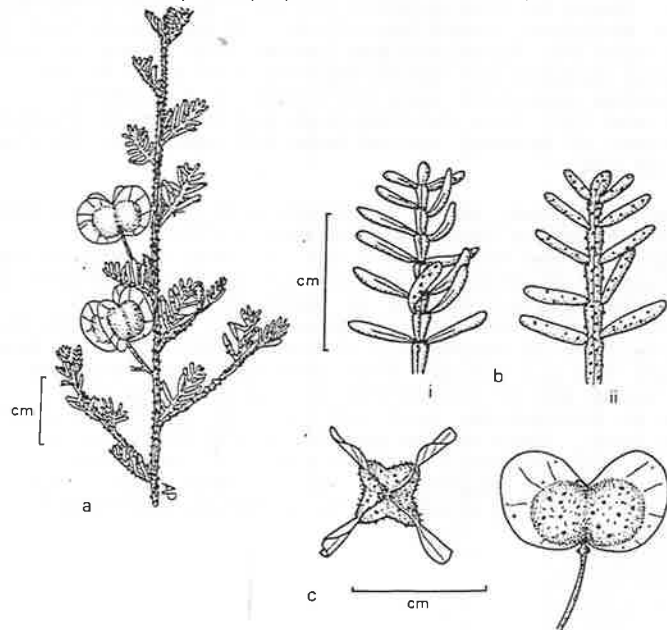


Fig. 64. *D. subglandulifera*. (a) Fruiting branchlet. (b) Leaf: (i) upper surface; (ii) lower surface. (c) Capsule. (a, b—West 1620; c—Roehm AD9622221)

Dear Members,

Spring is a lovely time in the the garden and like most of you I expect, I have a number of Dodonaeas flowering and some are in fruit. *D. mecazyga* looks great with clusters of pink winged fruit as well as this year's flower buds. *D. multijuga* has it's unusual blackish-red fruits and *D. prccumbens* is showing its golden male flowers. I am just preparing the ground to plant many more Dods, so next year should produce an even better display.

Best wishes to you all for a great and happy Christmas season and may next year be a good one for growers and gardeners.

A.S.G.A.P. WORKSHOP FOR STUDY GROUP LEADERS

This workshop was held in Canberra at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on 24th and 25th October, 1992. The Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants in conjunction with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation presented this workshop to assist Study Group Leaders with information from people with experience in a range of items such as questionnaires, seed banks, recording and many other items; as well as giving leaders the opportunity to discuss their successes and failures.

Geoff Butler, who is involved with ANPC, is President of the Canberra Region of SGAP and also is on the staff of the Australian National Botanic Gardens chaired all the sessions over this busy weekend.

The activities commenced at 9 am on the Saturday, with Geoff welcoming the 14 Study Group Leaders and a few other interested people. Geoff had asked me to be the first speaker and my topic was 'The Origin of ASGAP Study Groups and an Overview of Study Group Guidelines' - I will include some excerpts of this talk later in the newsletter. Following this was a group discussion 'What is a Study Group' - this was a 'brainstorming' session on all current and potential functions of a Study Group, and elicited much discussion.

Later in the morning Peter Olde, Leader of the Grevillea Study Group, spoke on 'The Administration of a Study Group' and presented many positive ideas for other leaders. Further discussion followed and the leaders pooled their good ideas as well as their problems.

In the afternoon 'Communications and Media Skills' was the topic. Astrida Uptis, who is Director of Public Relations for the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service spoke on 'Newsletters' and Ian Warden, a journalist with the 'Canberra Times' spoke on the 'Wider Media'. After tea break, Keith McIntyre of the Technical Services unit for the ACT Government, spoke on 'the Preparation of Questionnaires'. Keith is the co-author of 'Guidelines for Study Groups' which has been available for some years now

but often not used to good effect. Keith also dealt with recording and using information, but it seems that it is very difficult to frame a questionnaire that will effectively produce valuable information that can be recorded and utilized.

On the Sunday Bob Mackinson and Ian Telford - staff members of the ANBG Herbarium, spoke on 'Collections - policy techniques, record keeping and data storage'. Barry Ladlow, who is in charge of propagation at the ANBG informed us of the procedures for handling seed in seed banks. Another staff member, Stewart Donaldson who is grounds supervisor at the Gardens spoke on 'Plant Recording and monitoring'. Geoff Butler rounded off all these informative talks and encouraged the Leaders to register any good forms of plants within their study with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority.

The SGAP Canberra members provided all the lunches, morning and afternoon tea and then to finish off a great weekend a delicious barbeque at the 'Banksia Centre'. Most participants were billeted by the Canberra members and to them we owe a debt of gratitude.

=====

THE ORIGIN OF THE ASGAP STUDY GROUPS AND AN OVERVIEW OF STUDY GROUP GUIDELINES

some extracts from a talk by Jeanette Closs at the Canberra workshop.

We are hearing these days that the Study Groups are the 'lifeblood' of ASGAP. Perhaps they are, but I believe that the 'heart' is pumping very slowly and that a great deal of stimulation is needed. This seminar/workshop hopefully will provide this much needed stimulation.

Our Society was formed by the inspiration of Mr. A.J. Swaby in Victoria in 1958. The following year, the first issue of 'Australian Plants' was published. Bill Payne, who is so well known to us all, has been Editor of 'Australian Plants' since its inception. A role he has played with much dedication. This Journal has provided a great contribution to the knowledge of all aspects of Australian plants and their environments.

Not so well known is the fact that Bill Payne started the Study Group concept (originally called Study Sections) in December 1959 with an announcement in Volume 1 No. 1 of the 'Australian Plants' journal, that Mr. H.G. Bleakley of Kallista, Victoria was leading a Study Section on Waratahs. I remember visiting Mr. Bleakley's beautiful garden in the Dandenongs many years ago and the Telopeas were a feature.

In the first issue of Volume 2 of 'Australian Plants', in September, 1963 under the heading 'Study Sections', Bill Payne wrote: 'For those who wish to learn more about growing wildflowers but do not have any experience, there are a number of special study sections. Each section is confined to a particular genus of wildflowers with competent leaders and with expert advice available. Your only contribution is the growing of these plants in your garden as directed, and reporting results'. Many potential sections (Study Groups) were listed.

When I took over as Co-ordinator of Study Groups in January, 1975, a copy of 'Guidelines for Study Groups' by D.K. McKenzie and J. Wrigley was passed on to me then, and copies were sent to all Study group leaders and this are today, I believe. I framed basic guidelines to assist leaders in how to administer and manage a Study Group and this has been further developed by subsequent Co-ordinators.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ENDEMIC TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA

As I am a new member, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Birgitte Sorensen and I am a Scientific Officer at Black Hill Flora Centre, Athelstone, South Australia. The centre is part of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, where its main role is research in endangered plants of South Australia as well as propagating native and exotic species for the Botanic Gardens and the new Conservatory.

I am currently working on a project with Dr. Manfred Jusaitis, who is the Senior Scientific Officer at Black Hill. The project is titled "Conservation of endangered plant species endemic to South Australian agricultural regions". The project is funded by World Wide Fund for Nature for a period of 3 years; the project is due to finish towards the end of 1993. The project focuses on 5 endangered species: *Acacia cretacea* (chalky wattle), *A. pinguifolia* (fat-leaved wattle), *Dodonaea subglandulifera* (hop-bush), *Pterostylis arenicola* (Sandhill greenhood) and *Pultenaea trichophylla* (tufted bush-pea). Populations of these 5 species are generally restricted to remnant roadside vegetation and privately owned patches of scrub in the agricultural regions of South Australia.

Permanent photopoints have been established in native habitats of these species to monitor long-term growth rates and population changes. Plant dimensions and shoot lengths are recorded regularly to monitor seasonal growth rates. Seeds and cuttings collected on field trips are used in propagation studies and to build up stock plants for further experimentation.

Most of the populations of *D. subglandulifera* occur on roadsides and private properties near Eudunda and Sedan in the Murray Male. There is also a small population on the roadside just north of Wallaroo, Yorke Peninsula. We have searched for this species near Pt. Wakefield and Neales Flat where it had been previously sighted but there were no specimens to be found. Herbarium specimens were collected by E.H. Ising between 1925 and 1937 from Peterborough and Canegrass Station (north-northeast of Morgan) but we have not been able to visit these sites as yet.

During winter last year, young seedlings were introduced into Brookfield Conservation Park and Yookamurra Wildlife Sanctuary, both in the Murray Male and in close proximity to wild populations. Planting sites in each park were chosen to closely resemble native habitats in terms of associated vegetation and soils. Rabbits are present at Brookfield, but the Yookamurra site is completely enclosed with a rabbit proof electric fence and all rabbits have been excluded from the sanctuary. While 60% of introduced plants survived their first summer at Yookamurra, only 27% survived at Brookfield Conservation Park. This may be partially attributable to differences in soil moisture between the two sites, but herbivore browsing was responsible for at least some plant losses at Brookfield, as evidenced by uprooted plants and grazed stems.

THE MEDIA

One Sunday morning in August, we were listening to 'Australia All Over', some of you may have heard the programme, when we heard Dodonaeas mentioned. My husband was quick off the mark and put in a tape, so we were able to hear the discussion again. Ian Macnamara had a letter or two mentioning Dodonaeas and they were being confused with the invasive Rumex an introduced weed found in parts of Central Australia. Dods were described as from New Zealand and a problem to the grazing fraternity. A fellow who was in the studio was called in to comment - his name was Roger Oxley and his information was incorrect, so I wrote the following letter, but as far as I know my letter was not ~~used~~, but one in similar vein was read from Bill Mollison, who is the author of the Permaculture books, and his information was correct. It is a pity that the common name of both plants is Hops, for that is where the confusion arises.

Dear Macka,
I listened with interest to the letters and comments on 'Australia All Over' this morning on Dodonaeas, and I would like to add some information and make some corrections.

I am Leader of the Dodonaea Study Group which is one of approximately 30 Study Groups active within the Society for Growing Australian Plants. For the past nine years I have been leading the study of this interesting group of plants, and we have learnt a great deal in that time.

Dodonaeas are often called 'Hop Plants' as are an introduced weed Rumex vesicarius, which is spreading alarmingly in the Flinders Ranges and parts of Central Australia. It is a small herbaceous plant with a spike of red hop-like fruit and is startling in its bright splash of colour at certain times of the year. Many people erroneously think it is an Australian native plant. Another 'Hop' plant is Humulus lupulus, the deciduous vine from whose hops beer is made. The name 'hop' refers in each case to the papery fruit capsule.

Dodonaeas, which we of the study group affectionately call 'Dods' not 'Hops', are mostly found in Australia. There are 69 (not 30 as mentioned in your programme) species, 59 of which are found only in Australia. The more common Dodonaea viscosa is found in China, Africa, South America, New Zealand and other countries. I know of nowhere in Australia that this species has become a problem. The red-leaved form of this species grows naturally only in New Zealand and not in Australia. A rare form with variegated leaves has recently been found in Tasmania

(I then added some information about the Society - but it was not used)

=====

FINANCE	Receipts	Expenditure
	Subscriptions \$124.00	Postage \$37.75
	Donations 67.00	Copying 33.00
	Interest 49	Stationery 13.60
		FID 7 SID Tax 69
	-----	-----
	191.49	85.04
	Balance \$106.45	

Many thanks to those members and Regions that have made donations to our Study Group, this will enable me to upgrade our herbarium to a standard that will be acceptable to professional herbaria when the Study Group is no longer active.

I acted in this role for 8 years then followed Jo Walker of Canberra, my hostess for this weekend; then Barbara Daly, also of Canberra took over from Jo; followed by Jan Sked of Queensland, who is carrying on the tradition with much dedication.

If we add up the number of Study Group leaders (and I'm sure that this is unknown) and the hours that they have spent in the pursuit of knowledge about Australian plants and the many newsletters that have been produced; plus the hours of effort put in by the 5 Co-ordinators - what have we to show for this incredible amount of enthusiasm and dedication? More recently the book "Australian Daisies for Gardens and Floral art" by the Australian Daisy Study Group was published - and I believe that this is the greatest single group achievement so far. A book on Grevilleas by Peter Olde and the Grevillea Study Group is in the pipeline - another commendable effort. The Eremophila Study Group has reprinted and bound some of their early newsletters - this is great but should we have more to show for our 30 years of endeavour?

(the whole text was too lengthy to include in this newsletter, however I feel that all participants in the workshop benefitted from the weekend except that the problem of how to stimulate members of Study Groups to be more active and involved with the study was not really solved - perhaps our members would like to think on this problem and make some comment. Ed.)

SEED LIST

When requesting seed please send a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Donations of seed would be welcomed but please note if it is collected in the bush or in the garden, as many of the Dodonaeas hybridise and so garden seed is unreliable. Covering the seed with boiling water and leaving overnight is the best way to ensure germination.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| D. aptera | D. hexandra | D. peduncularis |
| D. baueri * | D. humilis | D. petiolaris |
| D. bursariifolia | D. inaequifolia | D. physocarpa |
| D. ceratocarpa | D. lanceolata var. lanceolata | |
| D. corcinna | D. lanceolata var. subsessilifolia | |
| D. filifolia | D. lobulata | D. platyptera |
| D. filiformis | D. macrossani | D. polyandra |
| D. hackettiana | D. microzyga ssp. microzyga | D. procumbens |
| D. heteromorpha | D. multijuga | D. ptarmicifolia |
| | | |
| D. rupicola | D. procumbens x viscosa | |
| D. sinuolata ssp. sinuolata | D. sinuolata ssp. acrodentata | |
| D. stenophylla | D. stenozyga | D. subglandulifera * |
| D. triangularis | D. triquetra | D. truncatiales |
| D. viscosa ssp. burmanniana | D. viscosa ssp. cuneata | |
| D. viscosa ssp. spatulata * | D. viscosa ssp. angustissima * | |

Those marked with a star we have in fairly large quantities. I spoke with Judy West when in Canberra and we felt that it would be a good project to test the viability of some species. Any member who would undertake to test these seeds should contact me if seed is required. I will test out a couple of species in the near future. I understand that a test in Petrie dishes is the best way, so I am putting out feelers for a loan of same as our budget would not stretch to buying same. I may also try some in seed mix of 3 parts coarse sand and one part peat.

IN THE GARDEN

SHONA SADLIER writes that she has planted out 15 D. megazyga and 13 D. triquetra plants on their Ellenborough property after the devastating 14 month drought finally broke in Jan/Feb, hopefully they will have established before any frosts. The D. megazyga were 19 months old in 150mm pots; and the D. triquetra were 17 months old in 50mm tubes. They have been planted in an arc around the sunny (northern aspect) downhill edge of her 'rainforest patch' - a remnant in the cleared pastures of rainforest trees and shrubs that they are hoping to expand.

Two Tasmanian members report that some Dodonaeas tend to get scale attack if planted in too much shade and another Tasmanian has D. rhombifolia looking great. Her plant is 1m x 1m and makes a great garden specimen.

Like me, IDA JACKSON has at last managed to strike the prostrate form of D. humilis. Ida's three plants of D. subglandulifera are all flourishing, but growing very slowly. In a later letter Ida mentioned that seed from S.A. Region seed bank of D. concinna, D. triquetra, D. boroniifolia and D. truncatiales were germinating in July. A plant of D. baueri flowered for the first time this year - all male flowers. Ida is still certain that the Kingscote population of this species has male and female flowers on the same plant. Her D. humilis has been planted out and was still looking good. And she concludes her letter with the comment "so I hope I am providing my male D. humilis with a wife!"

KERRIE RATHIE writes that D. filifolia and D. ceratocarpa have been raised from seed and are just starting to flower in a large raised bed of sandy loam.

JAN SKED reports that her mystery Dod. from Proston (which I identified as D. biloba) is looking very healthy. The top died off early in the year, so she cut it back and it is now spreading out and not growing upwards anymore. It has flowered, but never set any seed: so Jan supposes it is a male plant. (There is a way of telling Jan). Her D. rupicola has been producing seed non-stop for almost the whole year. It keeps blowing over in the soft sand where Jan planted it, so she props it up again and it is as healthy as ever. No seed has germinated in the garden where it falls but Jan has a few growing in pots. Jan also reports that she planted about 9 species of Dods. back at the beginning of 1990. Only one did not germinate - this was D. stenophylla. The others all germinated and she potted up specimens of D. filifolia and D. multijuga. Both died in their pots. The other ones she left in their seed boxes. D. filifolia, D. lanceolata, D. triangularis and D. macrossani have now died out in the seed boxes, but the remaining: D. peduncularis, D. truncatiales, D. viscosa ssp. cuneata and D. multijuga are still alive. They have progressed with varying success and Jan can't decide whether to leave all of them in the seed box or take the risk of potting them up. (As this was written in September I expect she has planted them out by now)

MAX HEWITT, Leader of the Verticordia Study Group, whom I met in Canberra, talked of a D. ceratocarpa growing in his garden, but his description didn't seem to fit, so he sent me a specimen; which I identified as the prostrate form of D. aptera. It is growing in heavy clay loam and he has never seen flower or fruit on it. (This fellow does hide the flowers and fruit.)

JO WALKER, with whom I stayed in Canberra has a lovely home on a large acreage with lots of birds and tame Kangaroos coming in for a feed. She is also growing some good Dods. The most spectacular is D. truncatiales a male plant just covered with dark red crown-like flowers. Jo wrote with a suggestion of something that our Study Group might do - that is, for every species (also subspecies and varieties) list a few of the known

populations with enough geographical detail to make it possible for interested people to find them. She has always found it very frustrating when someone says 'Oh, if you're going to Wagga, Bourke, Kosciusko or whatever' look out for Calytrix this, or Helichrysum that' and you spend hours searching 'north of town' or 'south of the river' without finding a single plant! We could list Dodonaeas by state and then give several examples of populations with enough information to pinpoint them. This would be of use to travelling Dod. people. Something like:

Dodonaea viscosa ssp. angustissima: North of Queanbeyan. Leave Queanbeyan by Yass Road, turn right Sutton Road. After 5km, farmhouse on left - opposite are 2 creeks, creek nearest Q'beyan, 50 metres in: several large old bushes. Between this point for 4 km towards Wamboin scattered Dods along right side of road.

What do other members think of this idea?

=====

IN THE BUSH

JO WALKER also mentions that while they were doing a survey of the vegetation between Queanbeyan and Wamboin, along the Sutton Road last summer, they found a D. viscosa (she thinks the local one is ssp. angustissima) with lime green to greyish fruits - very attractive. This species has a wide range of fruit colours here from purplish red to very dark purple to brownish and green. Along the Sutton Road it grows in shallow clay soils over shale and sandstone. Another population just south of Queanbeyan is scattered amongst limestone outcrops above the river. (I think that the varying colours may just be stages of maturity. Ed.)

ELIZABETH GEORGE has enlisted the assistance of Mary Squire, who with Audrey Soullivans and Trees and Flowers Nursery in the Goldfields area of Western Australia, she travels a lot in this area and will collect Dodonaeas for us when she sees them. Elizabeth recently went on a bus tour and south of the Kennedy Ranges found two Dodonaeas and sent specimens to me. One was D. pachyneura which was growing on red/brown laterite breakaway occurring with Verticordia interionis, Calytrix duergens, Stylidium longibracteatum, Eremophila densifolia and other species. Plants about 60cm high were growing in gravel with some sand on top of the low hill and up the slopes. The other specimen was D. inaequifolia and was also collected from breakaway country but higher than earlier and a few Kms east of Tallering Peak, north of Mullewa. It was growing in heavy gravel and sand on top of the breakaway and down the slopes. Associated plants were species of Senna (Cassia), Eriostemon, Hemiandra, Petalostylis cassioides, Cheiranthra filifolia etc.

Mary Squire sent specimens of two Dods. D. microzyga var. acrolobata collected near Marvell Loch in August and occurs at least as far as Kalgoorlie area and another is, a rounded shrub to 1.5m was collected between the Rabbit Proof Fence and Sandstone. A third specimen was evidently a real "car stopper" it was collected between Kalgoorlie and Menzies. It was reported to have been 'just gorgeous with brilliantly shining fruit varying from pink to almost burgundy!'. The specimen sent was beautiful and I have asked for cuttings when that is possible. I believe that it is D. rigida. Thanks to Elizabeth and Mary for these collections.