

Association of Societies for Growing Australian Plants

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**Goodeniaceae Study Group Newsletter No. 8
Dec/1991**

Leader:

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Hello everyone,

First off I would like to wish everybody in the study group an enjoyable Xmas and a tremendous New Year. Owing to circumstances beyond my control this is the first newsletter for the new financial year so I guess I should exhort all members of the group who haven't paid their subs for this year to do so as soon as possible. Remember the fee this year is \$5. If there is a little sticker on the front of your newsletter then I haven't as yet received your sub for this year. The balance in our account at the moment is \$ 184.50.

There hasn't been a lot of correspondence since the last newsletter so I will be concentrating on specific plant-related subjects in this current newsletter.

The really good news is that finally we are going to get the new keys for all the genera in the group we are studying. Roger Carolin informs me that they are all safely on the computer at the National Botanic Gardens pending publication in the Flora, probably about June next year. About the same time the appropriate Flora of New South Wales (Volume 3) will also be published and the keys in these texts have to date been excellent. Hopefully I will be able to distribute Roger's keys to active members very soon and a lot of our identification problems will be eliminated.

Lechenaultia obviously still have great appeal for gardeners in general and particularly with study group members. On the next page I have listed a couple of technical references by Dave Morrison which may be of interest to members. Dave did the review of the group for the Flora and the references should be read in conjunction with his article (and key) in Australian Plants vol 14, no 111.

Morrison, D.A. (1986). Taxonomic and nomenclatural notes on *Lechenaultia* R. Br. (Goodeniaceae). *Brunonia* 9, 1-28.

Morrison, D.A. (1986). Notes on the fruits of *Lechenaultia* R. Br. (Goodeniaceae), with a new species from Northern Territory. (possibly in *Brunonia* about the same time, the reference fails to show more clearly where it has been published).

Membership

Firstly I would like to farewell a couple of old members who have decided regrettably to resign from the study group. Both Barbara Tillotson and Joan Carr can be considered foundation members and will be a loss to the group.

Members will also note the appearance of Jeanette Closs in the active members list. Jeanette retired as Leader of the Dodonaea Study Group recently but has decided to continue her interest in the Goodeniaceae. There are a significant number of species in Tasmania so it will be a great boon to the group to have a member in that area.

Current active members in the group are

Canberra

Geoff Clarke, 26 Henry St, Cook, ACT, 2614

New South Wales

Jonathan Lidbetter, 29 George St, Pennant Hills, 2120

Philip Strong, 6 Jetty Ave, Charmhaven, 2263

Queensland

Klaus Querengasser, P.O. Box 73, St Lucia, 4067

Jan Sked, P.O. Box 41, Lawton, 4501

Leon Steinhardt, Lot 56, Leurette Rd, M/S 231, Laidley, 4341

South Australia

Ida Jackson, 7 Centenary Ave, Kingscote, Kangaroo Is, 5223

Gary Leske, 18 Leonard Ave, Port Pirie, 5540

Tasmania

Jeanette Closs, 176 Summerleas Road, Kingston, 7050.

Victoria

Peter Aldridge, 66 Ogilvie St, Essendon, 3040

Joan Hales, M^CDonalds Rd, Glen Alvie, 3979

Rita Luff, 95 Seebeck Rd, Rowville, 3178

Dr M. McDowall, 10 Russell St, Bulleen, 3105

Randall, Margaret, R.M.B. Tocumwal, 2714

Bruce Schroder, 17 Jubilee Rd, Montrose, 3765

Western Australia

Hazel Dempster, GPO Box W2040, Perth 6001 (this address no longer functiona)

Mary Squire, Box 23, Mukinbudie, W.A. 6479

I have received a letter from Ida Jackson on Kangaroo Is offering cutting material from that area to the membership at large. Kangaroo Is forms (and some species) tend to be unique to the area so I would encourage all active members with any pretensions to propagation to take up this generous offer (with appropriate feedback to the Group, of course!).

I have had no feedback in relation to the Scaevola key I distributed to active members early in the year. It cant be that good surely!

Recently I gave a couple of talks to the Blue Mountains Group in NSW and to the NSW Region meeting in November. I attempted a somewhat different approach in the latter meeting (it didnt help that my slides got mixed up so that I had to ad lib for part of the talk - very embarrassing). Anyway back to my different approach. I selected just a few species from each of the major genera, species that appeared to have excellent potential in Sydney gardens, and tried to gauge the extent to which the somewhat formidable talent assembled had tried those species and with what success. I was somewhat surprised to find that not many of the species had even been tried, even though most had been in the nursery trade for some years. To date this study group has not really focussed on any particular research programme. I would like to try and change that by suggesting that all active members attempt to buy, collect and grow the species listed below over the next 12 months, including variants. At the end of that time I will collate all the reports (and I do expect comprehensive reports!) and publish our accumulated knowledge in the newsletter. The species I have listed should not be difficult to obtain although wild-sourced material is preferable if we are to avoid garden hybrids. I can also provide propagation material for most if not all of the species although there are a number of forms I do not have access to (Victorian and WA members should be able to help there).

My list is:

- Goodenia ovata
- G. varia
- G. pterygosperma (blue flowers)
- G. viscida
- G. glomerata

- Dampiera linearis (many forms)
- D. trigona (at least 3 forms)
- D. purpurea (many colour variants)
- D. rosmarinifolia

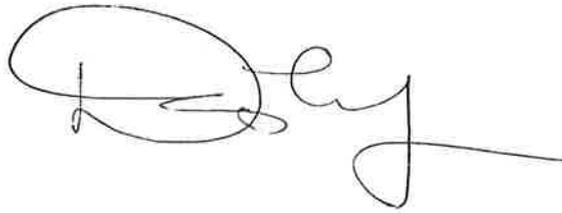
(continued on the next page)

Scaevola aemula (much variety in leaf forms and flower size)
S. albida (at least 3 colour forms)
S. ramossissima (at least 2 variants)
S. crassifolia

Lechenaultia formosa
L. laricina
L. biloba

I think there is enough there to start with. It will be interesting to see the results. Hopefully we will make some large steps towards understanding (at least in general terms) the appropriate growing conditions for these species at least. And remember I want your experience in propagating these plants and some thoughts on how best to grow them in containers. The Lechenaultia, in particular, are difficult to grow in Sydney and I daresay it is a thankless task to grow any of these species in most parts of Queensland however we could be pleasantly surprised. Some species seem to thrive in the most unlikely places. I would be interested in any thoughts on grafting as well.

Happy gardening

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Margan'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'D' and a long, horizontal tail stroke.

Dennis Margan