



Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc.

Cairns Branch
PO Box 199
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Newsletter No. 102
AUGUST 2010

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Membership Subscriptions- Qld Region- Renewal \$30.00, New Members \$35, each additional member of household \$2.00

Cairns Branch Fees -\$10.00 Full Year

Dates to Remember

Cairns Branch Meetings and Excursion – third Saturday of each month.

- 21 August **Redden Island.** An opportunity to see Cairns coastal vegetation as it once was. Located right at the mouth of the Barron River, Redden Island contains remnant coastal woodland with elements of littoral rainforest. The walking's easy, but you might want to bring some sunscreen! Meet at 10 am at the far southern end of Cinderella Street, Machans Beach
- 18 September **Upper Harvey Creek.** Flowing off the eastern slopes of Mt Bellenden Ker, Harvey Creek harbours a plethora of endemic rainforest species that only survive in the ever-wet refuge at the foot of the rainiest mountain in Australia. See these forests in the dry season, when the leeches are hibernating!

Tablelands Branch – Sunday following the meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

- 29 August **Stockwellia walk.** See some of the largest and rarest trees in the Wet Tropics in this rainforest walk on the western side of Mt Bartle Frere. Meet at the corner of Topaz Road (between Malanda and Lake Barrine at 9.30 am. Bring a pair of tough walking boots.
- 26 September **Mt Lewis.** A beautiful four-wheel drive outing through stunning highland rainforest. Famous for its diversity of delicate ferns and numerous endemic species, the Carbine Tableland (of which Mt Lewis is just one peak) is one of the richest and most accessible highland rainforest areas in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Meet at 9.30 am at the corner of the Mt Lewis Road, Julatten.
- 31 October **Native gardens prizewinners.** October's outing provides members with an opportunity to visit prize winning native plant gardens on the Atherton Tablelands.

Any queries please contact Chris Jaminon 4095 2882 or hjaminon@bigpond.com

Townsville Branch - General meetings and excursions. Please contact John Elliot: jw-elliott@aapt.net.au for more information

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Syzygium boonjee B. Hyland

Common Name: Boonjee Satinash

Etymology: The species epithet is derived from Boonjee on the eastern edge of the Atherton Tableland, the type locality for the species.



Syzygium boonjee flowers

Syzygium boonjee is a small tree to 8 m tall with a stem to 15 cm diameter at breast height; rarely larger but occasionally to 25 m tall with a stem of 30 cm diameter. Its leaves are simple, 50-120 mm. long by 17-45 mm. wide, oil dots visible with a hand lens. The flowers are in an axillary or terminal panicle; petals 4, orange – brown; stamens numerous orange-brown (see photo), 15-30 mm long. The fruit is a sour berry, pink-red, 20-40 mm. diameter on a long thin stem. The calyx lobes are persistent, and protrude from the apex of the fruit (see photo) which is usually one seeded.



Syzygium boonjee

Distribution: Endemic to rainforests between Cape Tribulation and Innisfail from near sea level to 770 metres altitude on soils derived from meta-sediments, granites and basalts. Common along rainforest creeks in the foothills of Mt. Bellenden Ker and Mt. Bartle Frere.

Notes: A very attractive small tree suitable for cultivation in local gardens, flowers and fruits as a shrub, needs protection from sun when young but hardy once established. Fruit edible but of indifferent taste.

References:

Cooper, W. & W.T; *Fruits of the Tropical Rainforest*; (2004) 359-360

Hyland, B.P.M.; A Revision of *Syzygium* & Allied Genera (Myrtaceae) in Australia; Australian Journal of Botany, Supplementary Series No. 9;(1983) 59-61.

R.L. Jago

TRIP REPORT, JULY 2010

I celebrated American Independence Day in style this year with a trip to the White Mountains with SGAP Townsville. The White Mountains, of which the better known Burra Range is a southern outlier, straddles the Flinders Highway about 200 km inland from Townsville. A vast region of white sandstone, its infertile rocky expanses are steeply incised by a network of ephemeral streams. As with many other harsh infertile landscapes in Australia, it supports a diversity of stunning flora, which reaches its peak flowering season in late winter. The purpose of our trip was to see the wildflowers at their peak.

In total, there were 16 persons on the trip, a great turnout, including a couple of well known plant identities: Keith Townsend and Greg Calvert.



Townsville SGAP on the July White Mountains excursion. From L to R: Janice Lough, Tony Swan, Greg Calvert, Sarah Swan, Keith Townsend, Don Glasgow, Bruce Carvolth, Robyn Dyer, Ian Dyer. In front: John Elliott.

Our first stop was the White Mountains lookout, located on the Great Divide at an altitude of 550 m. A brisk cool wind was blowing, reminding me I was a long way from the tropical coastal climate of Cairns. It also reminded me I'd forgotten my jumper. I warmed up by jumping around the rocks below the lookout, discovering *Bossiaea carinalis*, *Homoranthus thomasi*, *Labichea rupestris* and low aromatic *Prostanthera parvifolia*, all with attractive, colourful flowers.



Clockwise from top left: *Bossiaea carinalis*, *Prostanthera parviflora*, *Homoranthus thomasi*, *Labichea rupestris*.

From here, our group moved on to another lookout, passing thickets of yellow *Acacia*

leptostachya (Townsville Wattle), deep gold *Jacksonia ramossissima* and crimson *Grevillea decora*. A walk through a thicket of sinister *Acacia shirleyi* (lancewood) failed to find much in the way of flora, but lead us to spectacular laterite formations, almost like a miniature Bungle Bungles hidden amongst the lancewood thicket.



Laterite pinnacles, White Mountains National Park

Our final stop for the day involved a short walk down to the old National Park campsite. Although not quite as colourful as previous stops, we were still able to spot a few different acacias, and the delicate *Dodonaea filiformis*. But our destination was something a little more special. At the bottom of the hill, growing close to a seasonal stream where it was protected from fire, was *Grevillea* Burra Hybrid, a very rare natural cross between the creamy white *Grevillea sessilis* and the vivid orange *Grevillea pteridifolia*.

The trip back to Townsville was quick – I slept for most of it. Then it was straight back to Cairns for work the next day. I managed to travel 1200 km on the 4th July weekend. Although not something I'd want to do every year, it was well worth the effort to remind myself that extremes of floral colour and beauty are not restricted to the humid tropics.

Thanks to John Elliott and Keith Townsend for their hospitality and sharing their knowledge of the region. A species list for the Burra Range can be found online at <http://www.sgaptownsville.org.au/Burra-Range.html>

Stuart Worboys



Left to right: *Grevillea sessilis*, *Grevillea* 'Burra Hybrid', *Grevillea pteridifolia*

MORE NEWS FROM TOWNSVILLE

Although ostensibly just a wildflower-spotting trip, the White Mountains excursion had a hidden agenda: Betsy Jackes, retired (but still active) James Cook University botanist entrusted John Elliott with the task of hunting down *Hibbertia exuciaties*.

Apparently the location of the population was reasonably well known, and a number of plants were tracked down without too much trouble. And what a horrid little spiky thing it turned out to be! The leaves of this wiry little shrub are sharp enough to draw blood – no wonder Betsy calls it *Hibbertia excruciatia*!



Hibbertia exuciaties

Botanists are currently trying to sort out the genus *Hibbertia* – a large and complex genus which is widespread in Australia. Collections of *H. exuciaties* are recorded across the drier regions of southern Australia, from Western Australia all the way across to central Queensland. However, it seems that on closer examination these specimens may belong to two or more species. Our collections and photos from the 4th July weekend will help fill in these knowledge gaps.

YET MORE NEWS FROM TOWNSVILLE

Just a couple of months ago, whilst exploring the rugged gullies on the south-eastern side of Mt Stuart, John Elliott of SGAP's Townsville branch came across a cluster of *Gossia* (commonly called Python Trees or Refrigerator Trees) that were a little out of the ordinary. Looking closely at the profusion of fallen flowers, he realised that the receptacle (the swollen cup enclosing the ovaries) bore four narrow wings, a feature definitely NOT characteristic of *Gossia*. Specimens soon found their way into the hand of Betsy Jackes: utterly perplexed, she forwarded them to the Queensland Herbarium in Brisbane and the Australian Tropical Herbarium here in Cairns.

Although clearly belonging to the *Gossia* family (Myrtaceae), the collections didn't match anything ever collected before. It didn't take long to realise that a new species had been discovered, just a few kilometres from the Townsville city centre. DNA analysis reveals the tree is more closely related to *Backhousia* than *Gossia*, and work is underway to develop a formal description.

The "Mystery Tree" can be seen on SGAP Townsville's website:
<http://www.sgaptownsville.org.au/Mystery-Tree.html>.

REDDEN ISLAND CHECKLIST OF PLANTS

Provided by R.L Jago. Generated 17 May 2008.

FERNS & ALLIES

Adiantaceae

Cheilanthes tenuifolia Rock Fern

Polypodiaceae

Drynaria rigidula Basket Fern

Drynaria sparsisora

Platynerium hillii Northern Elkhorn Fern

GYMNOSPERMS

Cycadaceae

Cycas media subsp. banksii Cycad Palm

FLOWERING PLANTS- DICOTYLEDONS

Aizoaceae

Sesuvium portulacastrum Sea Purslane

Anacardiaceae

Euroschinus falcatus var. falcatus Blush Cudgerie or Pink Poplar

Pleiogynium timorense Burdekin Plum

Annonaceae

Polyalthia nitidissima Canary Beech

Apocynaceae

Alyxia spicata Chain Fruit

*Catharanthus roseus Periwinkle

Cynanchum carnosum

Dischidia nummularia Button Orchid

Gymnanthera oblonga Harpoon Bud

Ichnocarpus frutescens

Secamone elliptica Corky Milk Vine

Tabernaemontana orientalis Eastern Gondola Bush

Araliaceae

Polyscias elegans Celerywood

Asteraceae

*Emilia sonchifolia Emilia

Epaltes australis

*Praxelis clematidea Praxelis

Pterocaulon sphacelatum

*Sphagneticola trilobata Singapore Daisy

*Tridax procumbens Tridax Daisy

Burseraceae

Canarium australianum var. australianum

Scrub
Turpentine

Caesalpiaceae

Caesalpinia bonduc Nicker Nut

Cynometra iripa Wrinkle Pod Mangrove

Capparaceae

Capparis lucida Coastal Caper

Celastraceae

Elaeodendron melanocarpum Black Olive Plum

Maytenus fasciculiflora

Chenopodiaceae

Suaeda australis

Combretaceae

Lumnitzera racemosa White Flowered Black Mangrove

Terminalia arenicola Beach Almond

Terminalia muelleri Little Sea Almond

Convolvulaceae

Evolvulus alsinoides Tropical Speedwell

Ipomoea pes-caprae Goat's Foot Morning Glory

*Merremia quinquefolia

Cucurbitaceae

Diplocyclos palmatus

Ebenaceae

Diospyros compacta Australian Ebony

Euphorbiaceae

Mallotus philippensis Red Kamala

Microstachys chamaela

Fabaceae

Dalbergia candenatensis Dalbergia

Derris trifoliata Coastal Derris

Millettia pinnata Pongamia

Vigna marina Dune Bean

Zornia dyctiocarpa var. filifolia

Flacourtiaceae

Scolopia braunii Flintwood

Lamiaceae		*Passiflora foetida	Stinking Passion Fruit
*Hyptis suaveolens	Hyptis		
Lecythidaceae		Phyllanthaceae	
Planchonia careya	Cocky Apple	Breynia cernua	Fart Tree
Lythraceae		Flueggea virosa subsp. melanthesoides	
Sonneratia alba	Pornupan Mangrove		White Currant
Malvaceae		Glochidion benthamianum	Bentham's Buttonwood
Hibiscus tiliaceus	Cottonwood	Glochidion harveyanum var. harveyanum	
Thespesia populnea	Pacific Rosewood		Harvey's Buttonwood
Meliaceae		Phyllanthus virgatus	
Aglaia elaeagnoidea	Coastal Boodyarra	Polygalaceae	
Melia azedarach	White Cedar	*Polygala paniculata	
Xylocarpus granatum	Cannonball Mangrove	Portulacaceae	
Xylocarpus moluccensis	Cedar Mangrove	*Portulaca pilosa subsp pilosa	Coastal Pigweed
Mimosaceae		Proteaceae	
Acacia crassicarpa	Brown Wattle	Persoonia falcata	Northern Geebung
Acacia flavescens	Red Wattle	Putranjivaceae	
Acacia leptocarpa	Swamp Wattle	Drypetes deplanchei	Grey Boxwood
Acacia oraria	Coastal Wattle	Rhamnaceae	
Acacia polystachya	Ellis Beach Wattle	Alphitonia excelsa	Red Ash
Moraceae		Colubrina asiatica var. asiatica	Serpent Vine
Ficus opposita	Sandpaper Fig	Rhamnella vitiensis	
Myrsinaceae		Rhizophoraceae	
Aegiceris corniculatum	River Mangrove	Bruguiera gymnorhiza	Orange Mangrove
Myrtaceae		Rhizophora stylosa	Stilt Mangrove
Corymbia clarksoniana	Clarkson's Bloodwood	Rubiaceae	
Corymbia tessellaris	Moreton Bay Ash	Aidia racemosa	Archer Cherry
Lithomyrtus obtusa	Beach Myrtle	Atractocarpus fitzalanii subsp fitzalanii	
Melaleuca dealbata	Red Tea Tree		Brown Gardenia
Melaleuca leucadendra	Tea Tree	Cyclophyllum multiflorum	Marko
Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa	Finger Cherry	V Myrmecodia beccarii	Ant Plant
Oleaceae		Tarenna dallachiana subsp. dallachiana	
Jasminum elongatum	Native jasmine		Tree Ixora
Jasminum simplicifolium subsp australiense	Native jasmine	Santalaceae	
		Exocarpos latifolius	Native Cherry
Opiliaceae		Sapindaceae	
Cansjera leptostachya		Allophylus cobbe	
Passifloraceae		Cupaniopsis anacardioides	Tuckeroo
		Dodonaea lanceolata var. subsessilifolia	
		Guioa acutifolia	Glossy Tamarind

Jagera pseudorhus var. pseudorhus Foambark

Sapotaceae

Mimusops elengi Red Coondoo
Pouteria obovata Yellow Boxwood

Sparrmanniaceae

Grewia retusifolia
*Triumfetta rhomboidea Chinese Burr

Sterculiaceae

Heritiera littoralis Looking Glass Mangrove
Sterculia quadrifida Peanut tree

Ulmaceae

Celtis paniculata Silky Celtis

Verbenaceae

*Stachytarpheta cayennensis Snakeweed

Violaceae

Hybanthus enneaspermus

Vitaceae

Ampelocissus acetosa Native Grape

FLOWERING PLANTS- MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae

Crinum angustifolium
Crinum pedunculatum Swamp Lily
Proiphys amboinensis Cardwell Lily

Commelinaceae

Commelina ensifolia Sailor's Purse

Cyperaceae

Cyperus bulbosus
Cyperus javanicus
Cyperus pedunculatus Pineapple Sedge
Cyperus scaber
Fimbristylis ferruginea

Dioscoreaceae

Dioscorea bulbifera Cheeky Yam

Dracaenaceae

*Sansevieria trifasciata Mother-in-laws Tongue

Flagellariaceae

Flagellaria indica Supplejack

Hemerocallidaceae

Dianella caerulea var. vannata Blue Flax Lily

Orchidaceae

Chiloschista phyllorhiza
Dendrobium discolor Golden Orchid
Dockrillia teretifolia Pencil Orchid
Geodorum densiflorum Pink Shepherd's Crook

Pandanaceae

Pandanus cookii Cook's Pandan

Poaceae

Allopteroopsis semialata Cockatoo Grass
Capillipedium spicigerum Scented Top Grass
*Cenchrus echinatus Mossman Grass
Cynodon dactylon Mangrove Couch
Eragrostis spartinoides
Heteropogon triticeus
Imperata cylindrica Blady Grass
*Melinis repens Red Natal Grass
*Sporobolus jacquemontii
Sporobolus virginicus Saltwater Couch
Whiteochloa airoides
Taccaceae
Tacca leontopetaloides Native Arrowroot