

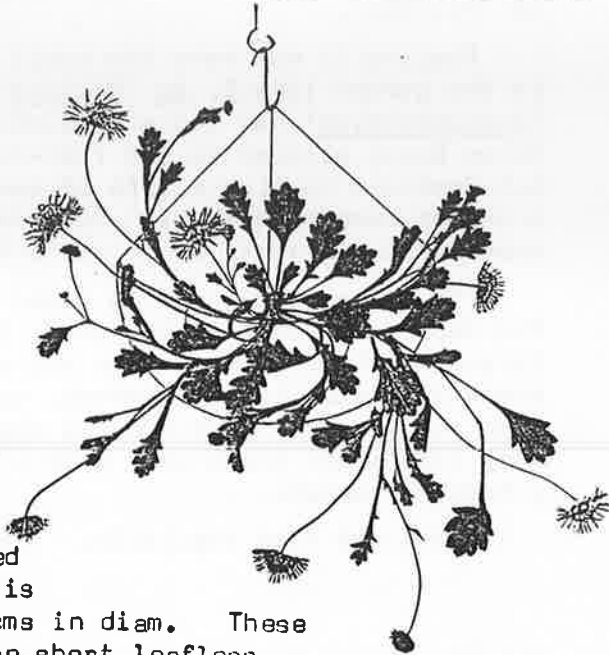
ASSOCIATION OF SOCIETIES FOR GROWING AUSTRALIAN PLANTS
THE AUSTRALIAN DAISY STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER NO. 17

Dear Members,

Growing daisies in containers and hanging baskets is one group activity I really enjoy. The rewards are great as many bloom continuously throughout most of the year. This pleasure has also led me on to another hobby - collecting pots, and now much time is spent choosing the right daisy for each container. Results aren't always pleasing, but the following three have more than come up to my expectations as hanging basket plants:-

BRACHYSCOME ANGSTIFOLIA VAR HETEROPHYLLA (MT. DRUMMER FORM)

There are several varieties of Brachyscome angustifolia, but the above form is the one I am particularly impressed with at the moment. My plant is about three years old and is at its best around Xmas, when I am about to leave on holidays. Usually on returning home I find it half-dead and much effort is required to bring it back to its old self before I go away again. Last Xmas, Judy, bless her heart, offered to 'baby sit' all my special pots, so I had a worry free holiday, plant wise. On my return, it was very gratifying to find all my plants really flourishing, in fact, one might even say, this brachyscome was literally leaping out of its pot with so much growth and vigour.



B. angustifolia var heterophylla is a perennial. In a large hanging basket it has reached a height of 25 cms x 1 metre wide. At present, it is a mass of purplish buds and dainty mauve blooms, 2 cms in diam. These blooms are held above the lush dark green foliage, on short leafless scapes, 6-8 cms long. Branching stems to 30 cms long are spreading well over the sides of the container. Lobed, spoon shaped leaves are 1-1½ cms wide x 2½-6 cms long. Growing in full sun, this brachyscome will droop unless sufficient water is provided and plenty of peat moss (up to 50%) is added to the potting mix. With the recent success of moisture retentive crystals in a basket of H. ambiquum, these will be tried in all my brachyscome containers when repotting, in the hope that they will prevent them from wilting in sunny positions.

Propagate from cuttings, division or seed, if available. Responds well to a feeding of IBDU and Osmocote.

HELICHRYSUM AMBIGUUM

Over the past twelve months, H. ambiquum has been brightening a semi-shaded spot in my garden with its long flowering golden buttons, so I couldn't wait to try it in a hanging basket. After acquiring an attractively shaped pottery container, I dug up a sucker for trial. In no time at all this sucker has grown well, producing many branching stems and arranging itself very nicely in the container.

The showy golden discs 1-1½ cms in diam. appear brightly at the ends of short stalks, 5-12 cms long. Leaves with acute tips are light green, linear, 1-6 cms long 0.5 cm wide and very strongly perfumed. The upright stems are branching and when reaching a height of about 45 cms fall over and trail below the basket, adding to its charm as a container plant. The longest trailing stem, so far, is 60 cms.

As H. ambiquum usually prefers part shade and as most of my baskets hang in full sun, I followed John Colwill's advice and included moisture retentive crystals in my potting mix. To date, no sign of wilting has occurred, even on the hottest of days. Propagate from division or cuttings. I have had no success germinating seed. Prune well after flowering ceases.



HANGING BASKET PLANTS CONT'D. Maureen

BRACHYSCOME SP 'WARRUMBUNGLES' N.S.W.

I first came across this brachyscome whilst staying at the Warrumbungles National Park. I found it growing on a very dry embankment beside the road in soil as hard as concrete. I collected a few small cuttings and was very pleased when they survived and rooted. It is very similar in appearance to its neighbour, Brachyscome sp 'Pilliga', the exception being smaller leaves and flowers, a lighter pink in colour. Achenes are identical to the sp 'Pilliga'.

Fearing it may have the habit of disappearing in the garden like B. sp 'Pilliga', B. sp 'Warrumbungles' has led a sheltered life in Mulgrave, never being allowed to run foot-loose and fancy-free, but destined to live a life of ease in the confinement of a pot or hanging basket. Judging by its present appearance, it seems to be quite happy in this situation.

Flower-heads 2.5 cms in diam. look very appealing with their soft, pretty pink bracts. The dark green leaves are lobed, 2-5 cms long x 2.5 cms at the broadest part. As this is another brachyscome which wilts very quickly in hot sun, it has been hanging under the shade of a virgilia all summer, so flowering has been spasmodic, nevertheless, during spring when it was given more sun, it really was a picture. The branched stems to 60 cms bear many leaves and trail well over the sides of the container, making it an ideal choice for a hanging basket.

Prune and feed regularly. Propagate by cuttings or division.

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GROWING ALPINE DAISIES

JOY GREIG

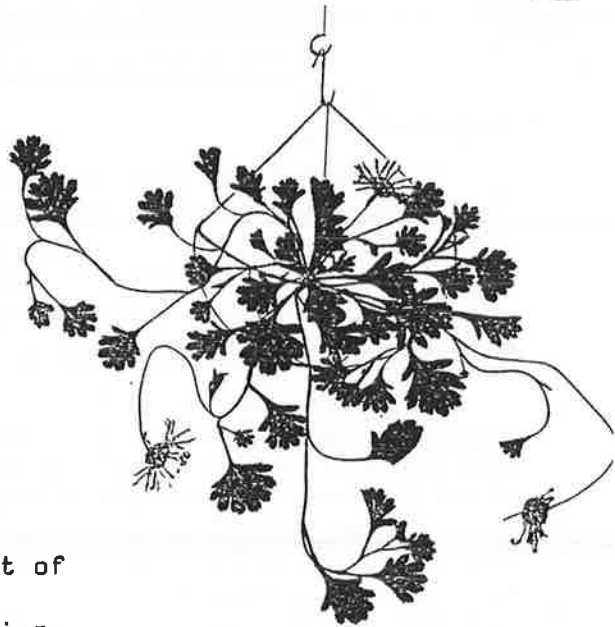
In early 1986 I decided to try the method for growing cushion plants described in the Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants Vol 1 (Elliot and Jones) with my alpine daisies.

I dug out an area of lawn about 1 m by 2 m and about 80 cm deep. As the subsoil was heavy clay and it was adjacent to a rockery, I used rocks to border the area, so that the hole was in effect about 1 m deep. Heavy black plastic was used to line the hole, as described, with drainage holes cut about 30 cm above the bottom. I was a little worried that the heavy clay would completely prevent water from getting away and cause the whole area to become waterlogged and stagnant, so I used a liberal sprinkling of horticultural charcoal at the bottom before adding peat moss to the drainage level and then a mixture of potting mix, peat moss, and a few more handfuls of charcoal.

Into the boggy mixture went some very small plants of B. nivalis var alpina, B. nivalis var nivalis, B. scapiqera, B. spathulata, B. decipiens, Calotis scapiqera, Celmisia asteliifolia, Craspedia sp., Helichrysum rutidolepis and the area was mulched to a depth of about 5 cms with more peat moss. I was amazed at how they all flourished and how well they flowered in just one year (except for B. nivalis var nivalis which fell victim to blackbirds).

All the brachyscomes had very tall flowering stems and large heads. The craspedias had bright yellow-heads about 5 cms across, but did not set seed and C. asteliifolia did not flower this year, but looks remarkably healthy. Calotis scapiqera is still to flower too, but is spreading everywhere. During the year B. graminea was included and is flowering now.

I can recommend this method of growing daisies which prefer moist soils.



SPECIES NEW TO THE GROUP

DRAWINGS - BETTY CAMPBELL

Ixiolaena sp. (Queensland)

by Judy Barker

Bob Mylius collected seed of this species between Dalby and Brookvale Park for the Group. Maureen found it germinated well and gave some pots to me. It has been a delight ever since I planted it out last September.

It is a perennial, growing about 40 cm high and 1 m across, with soft, hairy, grey-green leaves, 10 - 35 mm by 2 - 3 mm. Its appeal lies in the large, yellow buttons which have appeared at the tips of the stems in abundance since last October. These heads, 18 - 22 mm in diameter, are bright golden-yellow hemispheres, and there are many narrow, pale green involucre bracts surrounding each head.

There are a number of stages in the development of each head; at first the outer rings of florets look fluffy and the central florets are tight and darker in colour, later the whole head appears soft and fluffy because all the florets have developed.

This species has excellent keeping qualities and may be picked at almost any stage for use as a cut flower. When heads are wired or dried they shrink to 12 - 14 mm in diameter and darken to orange-gold. In this case the heads should be almost fully developed for the best size and appearance. Wiring is easy because the stems are hollow.

It is a good garden subject although its vigour makes it somewhat untidy. Pruning back at any time makes it bush out freshly again, and it can be kept in order by picking the flower-heads. It seems pretty tough because I actually pulled one plant out by mistake on a very hot day. Without much hope I cut it back, planted it and gave it a bit of water. It has not been deterred even though it has been asked to grow in a most inhospitable hot, dry situation. My other plants are also in hot, open positions in the garden and are coping admirably. I have kept them watered during the summer. I have one as a container plant in a saucer of water which looks attractive and has flowered constantly.



Head half developed



Head fully developed

We tentatively identified this species as Ixiolaena brevicompta, but we always like to have the confirmation of an expert, so we sent a specimen to Laurie Haegi at the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and State Herbarium. The following is part of his reply: "You have determined this correctly as I. brevicompta in terms of current knowledge. However, I believe it may well represent a new, undescribed species. I have seen only two other specimens of it, from near Roma and the other near Toowoomba, in the Queensland Herbarium. It is very close to I. brevicompta but has larger, brighter yellow heads and distinctive long golden brown tips to the involucre bracts. Your specimen is therefore of great interest and the first of our collections here. It is interesting to know it also has garden potential. The usual forms of I. brevicompta generally behave as annuals."

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Members please note that when collecting seed, specimens for identification or for the herbarium, please give precise details of the locality where collected, together with some notes on soil-type, vegetation type etc.

The following extract from a letter received from Dr. Laurie Haegi states:-

"I'm not sure whether I have mentioned it before, but precise field localities are important to us in taxonomic botany, and many botanic gardens now have policies of obtaining material of known wild origin for their living collections wherever possible. If you can re-inforce the importance of this with your fellow SGAP members, you will be doing a great service. The value lies not only in being able to fully document any new cultivars or particularly desirable forms introduced into cultivation, but also in making the resulting garden plants scientifically useful".



Erodiophyllum elderi

Koonamore Daisy, Hard-heads

(W.A., S.A., N.S.W.)

Erodiophyllum is derived from the Greek 'erodios', a heron, and 'phyllon', a leaf, and means having leaves like some members of the genus Erodium. The specific name commemorates Sir Thomas Elder, 1818 - 1897.

Erodiophyllum elderi occurs in semi-arid and arid areas in open, flat places which may be subject to flooding. The soil type is often sand containing lime. In this habitat it grows as a compact, branching perennial, 15 - 30 cm high, with single flower-heads, 5 - 7 cm across, held terminally on thick, hairy scapes, about 12 cm long. The head has an outer row of 15 to 25 handsome ray florets, purple above and paler beneath. Since they are 20 mm long and 6 or 7 mm wide they make quite an impact on the eye. The ray florets

are female, the next five rows consist of very small female flowers hidden by scales (which become hard and woody in the fruit) and the central florets, which do not have scales, are male and tubular. What complication! The disc is flat and green when the head first opens. As it matures it turns yellow and elongates. There are eight or more fringed green involucre bracts covered with long, white hairs surrounding the head. In the fruiting head these bracts reflex and become hard and woody. The achene is brown, obconical, almost four-sided, with a toothed rim at the apex. It is about 3 mm long and 1.2 mm wide.

All the stems are hairy and thick. The alternate leaves are bright green, 5 - 11 cm long, with deep lobes, each lobe being again broadly lobed. Although the upper surface of each leaf is smooth, white hairs fringe each lobe and are scattered on the lower surface, especially along the mid-rib.

We are indebted to Pat Shaw, one of our generous Queensland members, for this interesting seed. She suggested we attack it with force, so I hacked at the woody fruiting head with my magic knife - generally used for cutting bread, bones, boots and plastic boxes. It must have worked because I sowed the remains on the surface on 16/8/86 and transplanted seven seedlings on 16/11/86. The Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants by W.R.Elliott and D.L.Jones tells us that cuttings root readily.

I kept four plants. Three were planted in the garden in sandy loam in hot, sunny spots in mid-December, which was asking a bit much of them. One died; it just frizzled up in the sun. The other two have kept going, one has even flowered. The fourth is in a terracotta pot far too small for it and it has had two flower-heads and now three buds. It looks twice the size of the specimens in the garden. My plants seem to have longer, weaker stems and will probably be less compact than the naturally occurring ones, perhaps because they are receiving daily water and more fertilizer. Mine started to flower in early January and promise to keep at it to the end of March at least.

We thank Pat for introducing us to such a handsome beast. It looks full of horticultural potential.

Judy Barker.

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Many thanks to Betty Campbell for her drawings which are a great help to members who have never seen these species before.

A WEEK IN THE WILD

JOY COOK

Walk, work and wash. These words were often uttered during the week I spent with fellow study group members at Kosciusko in January, 1987. The walking never worried me, but I resented the need to work, cooking meals and washing dishes. Next year, it is definitely Baked Beans from the can. There will be more walking and less working.

Day one, a short jaunt around Blue Cow and Guthega nearly deprived the study group of several eminent members. A lack of warning signs allowed us to casually meander into an area where blasting was in progress preparing a new ski-run. A man frantically waving his arms and informing one that blasting is about to take place has a positive effect on the speed at which one can climb a ridge. In fact, I still think I grew wings and flew to safety. I don't really recollect seeing any daisies underfoot that day. This first day's outing proved one thing, that several members would make excellent cross country runners, but lousy orientators.

On day two, we decided to play safe and stay on a clearly defined track and walk to the summit of Mt. Kosciusko. The walking was easy, but where in previous years our eyes had encountered alpine meadows, clad in muted tones of pinks, whites and mauves, interspersed with vibrant splashes of golden yellows, this year spring was late and we had to be content with the magnificent landscape and distant views of rugged mountain peaks.

On reaching the summit, I felt disillusioned looking out towards Blue Cow and Guthega to have my eyes fall upon the roof of the ski terminal at Guthega. How sad that such a beautiful natural landscape should be marred by the development of mankind. In an area where so much care has been taken to protect the vegetation, it seems that the overall landscape was forgotten. On the return trip, we found Helipterum albicans ssp. alpinum flourishing in harsh conditions above Lake Cootapatamba. In a boggy area above the snowgums chair lift, Brachyscome obovata and spathulata turned their dainty heads towards the sun and captured our attention.

Day three we travelled to the Nimmo and Eucumbene area with Alf and Esma joining the party. We were all greatly surprised to find acres of Helichrysum semipapposum, in full bloom, glowing brilliantly in an otherwise dull and uninteresting area. Travelling towards Eucumbene, we found on a roadside verge, Helipterum albicans ssp. albicans var incanum, Helichrysum apiculatum and a species of leporhynchos growing happily amongst dried grasses. It was gratifying to see the daisies recolonizing in a cultivated area.

On day four the Lakes Walk, via the Blue Lake was 22 kms of superb scenery and at times gale force winds. Some members departed incognito, my own family chose not to recognise me. Others experienced a complete transformation, starting out lithe and enthusiastic hikers only to finish red faced, lethargic and unwilling to ever embark on such a long walk again. Hundreds of metres of ice and snow encouraged the children to be the most enthusiastic walkers of all. Each stop allowed them the opportunity to make snowmen and skid on their bottoms down the snow drifts, while we adults admired the ranunculus in the melting snow.

A gale force wind had me clutching tenaciously to the children as we crossed from Carruthers Peak to Mt. Northcote. I had never experienced winds so fierce or biting and my ears ached with the cold. I now understand why walkers are warned to be prepared for all weather conditions. Yet in spite of warnings, we still encountered people out walking more suitably attired for a Sunday stroll down Lygon Street, Carlton, than a walk across the roof top of Australia.

Several species of brachyscome were prevalent in the boggy areas. B. nivalis var alpina, obovata, stolonifera, scapiqera and tenuiscapa var tenuiscapa, but the bravest little daisy of them all was a solitary plant of B. nivalis var nivalis precariously clutching to life on a very exposed rocky ledge above Lake Albina. It's fragile beauty drew my eyes away from the magnificent view of Lake Albina and surrounding mountain peaks.

On reaching Rawsons Pass it was an easy walk back to the carpark at Charlottes Pass. At the lower altitude the craspedias were in flower along with the olearias and celmisias. Once again, we found Helipterum albicans ssp. alpinum growing in very harsh conditions near Seamans Hut. On reaching the car park the children had the energy to run up to the lookout to see where they had been, but most adults struggled down to the cars with thoughts of nursing aching limbs and reviving with a hot coffee or stiff whisky.

Day five was a rest day. A gale force wind at Spencers Creek made daisy spotting uncomfortable; I elected to stay in the car and read my book 'Les Miserables'. Was this indicative of the way we were all feeling after the previous day's walk.

Day six, my last day out in the field, and I longed once again to visit East Tate Ridge, an area I personally felt floristically beautiful. Helichrysum secundiflorum grows profusely on the lower slopes together with H. rutidolepis, Olearia phlogopappa and many others, all carpeting the ground amongst the distorted shadows cast from the gnarled snow gums. Maureen declined to join us on this walk, she remembered only too well the horrendous bush bashing we had to do the last time we ventured into this area. I know exactly where we went wrong this year, but the other half assured me there was more than one way out. They may have been right, but I had no intention of walking home via Mt. Twynam. Oh dear! Just as one swallow does not a summer make, a worn track does not the way home lead.

When the forward party disappeared over the ridge to the right, I knew they were heading in the wrong direction. I might be vague about daisies, but I certainly know East Tate Ridge. We had to keep to the left, cross a wide saddle and head for Gills Knob. My frantic and grossly exaggerated hand signals did nothing to halt these ardent walkers who were rapidly disappearing from view. It was when Esma started lagging behind that I seized upon the opportunity to drop my pack and call a STOP WALK MEETING! Should we strike and refuse to walk another step? The children, like their mother, were starting to get agitated. They too had passed this way before, remembering only too vividly the hair raising experience of negotiating waist high scrub and knee deep bogs in the descent. It was suggested we all stay together. As the forward party didn't appear inclined to turn back, we donned our packs and ever so reluctantly followed them. The further we went the more convinced I became that we were heading in the wrong direction. They sensed my reluctance to follow and waited for us in a magnificent colony of Helipterum albicans ssp. alpinum. So confident were they of their directions that one member gallantly offered to carry me all the way home if he was proven wrong.

I never did take him up on that offer, but eventually we all returned from where we came and with my guidance, descended the ridge.

All's forgiven, after all, had we arrived home any earlier, I would have been obliged to make afternoon tea. I'd rather walk than work. East Tate Ridge once again proved to be a moving experience in one way or another. Till next year.

To be continued next Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN DAISY BOOK

The latest news is that we are two weeks ahead of schedule and early June is the month now given for launching. Because of your considerable help when the book was being written, we will be making available to Study Group Members only, one book each at the wholesale price, plus postage. Further copies may be obtainable at a 'less than retail' price. Prices will be available in the next Newsletter, which I anticipate being out in May.

NEW MEMBERS:

The Study Group welcomes the following new members:-

Marilyn Connell, West Cherside, Qld.
Marilyn Sprague, Mandurang
Val Crowley, Darkan, W.A.
Colin Jones, Ringwood

Tim Hayes, Goulburn N.S.W.
SGAP S.A. Region Inc.
SGAP Tasmanian Region
Norm Bone

NOTE: Calotis found on the roadside on way back from Mt. Selwyn has been identified as Calotis glandulosa.

IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES:

DIFFICULT SPECIES

by Judy Barker

In dealing with species usually difficult to grow I have noted that the seedlings usually perform reasonably well in my potting-on mix (3 parts commercial potting mix to 2 parts perlite), but go to pieces when I transfer them from tubes to larger pots of straight commercial mix or to the garden. Last December I potted tubes of three notorious species (Helichrysum blandowskianum, H. lanuginosum and H. newcastlianum) into 25 or 30 cm pots containing 1 part commercial potting mix to 1 part perlite. The pots were topped with coarse sand and a teaspoon of IBDU and Osmocote was sprinkled on the surface after ten days. H. lanuginosum sulked for about three weeks, but is now putting out new leaves. The other two have grown apace and now are adorned with buds or flowers or both.

H. newcastlianum has very attractive foliage, large and silvery woolly. The big bud is white tinged with pink, encased in wool. The flower-head should be a joy to behold.

Perhaps these difficult species only require excellent drainage. If we can grow them under such conditions and collect the seed we may be able to select them for their ability to withstand heavier soils over a period of time. Apart from the pleasure of actually growing such species, the medium is so light that it is easy to lug quite large pots around. This would be useful for displays and talks. Perhaps this is the type of medium Helichrysum obcordatum and H. obtusifolium will enjoy.

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DAISIES FROM LEAF CUTTINGS - JOY GREIG

Having accidentally removed part of my plant of Brachyscome nivalis var alpina from my bog garden, I decided to put in some leaf cuttings rather than waste the material. Using sand and vermiculite medium, hormone liquid and a misting system, the leaves had produced roots within 7 days after setting them in November.

They were potted up into little tubes and left in the greenhouse with misting over the holidays. Unfortunately, all had dampened off when I returned.

Next time with a fungicide, and a little more attention, I am hoping for better results, because I am interested to see how the single leaf will develop into a mature plant.

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HELICHRYSUM VISCOSUM - 'BROWN' FORM

Ian Evans, who has been growing the 'brown' flowered form of H. viscosum for the past two years, has discovered it sets very little seed. Out of approx. 50 flower-heads, only $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of seed was produced. Would other members who are growing this form care to comment on their experiences with seed collection, and if their yields are greater, the study group would appreciate any you have to spare.

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SHRUBBY HELICHRYSUMS

A request has been received for articles on shrubby helichrysums. Will members who are growing these, please write and tell us all about them.

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In the Spring of '85 I sowed seed of Brachyscome heterodonta, a form from Menindee Lakes, NSW. I planted two seedlings in a terracotta pot along with a rooted cutting of B. multifida. All plants grew well and the combination of mauve and white daisies looked very attractive.

I collected plenty of seed from B. heterodonta and when the two plants grew tall and leggy, I cut them back. Unfortunately they didn't take too kindly to this and eventually both died. B. multifida flourished and completely covered the pot.

The following winter, I noticed a few white daisies poking up through the foliage of a prostrate grevillea which had spread over the corner of the patio on which the pot of daisies had been standing. Clever little B. heterodonta, I thought. Some seeds must have fallen onto the patio and had germinated in a tiny gap between the paving slabs.

However, closer inspection showed that this plant was nothing like the original B. heterodonta. The leaves resembled B. multifida and the habit, instead of being tall and leggy, was open, but more compact, with more branching from the base.

I collected achenes, but could make nothing of them. They were straw-coloured like those of B. heterodonta, and had a margin of some sort but without the large characteristic wings. The pappus seemed to be too large also. They were obviously immature, because they shrivelled into unrecognisable shapes within a day of collecting.

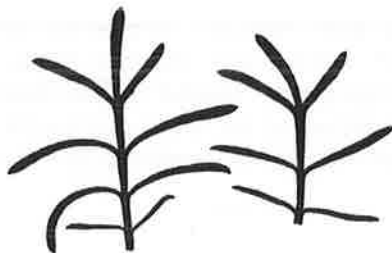
Luckily, I had one plant of the original B. heterodonta in a small pot and I placed this beside the unknown in the hope that with two plants I might get some mature achenes. For a few weeks nothing happened. Both plants produced the same miserable-looking, shrivelled achenes. Then the known B. heterodonta produced some obviously mature achenes. Success at last! A few days later, to my surprise, the unknown plant produced mature achenes - black ones like B. multifida! I rushed for the hand lens and there were the unmistakable winged margins of B. heterodonta. I rang Maureen to ask if B. heterodonta achenes were ever black. No, she hadn't come across it, she said. So what have I got? A cross between B. multifida and B. heterodonta? I don't know. Whatever the unknown is, it's very pretty and I have struck several cuttings from it.

Daisyng is certainly a lot of fun!

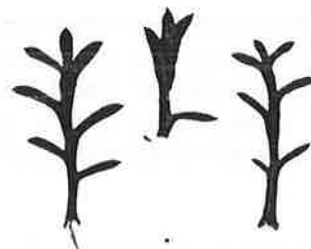
B. heterodonta
Menindee Lakes



B. multifida



Unknown B. species



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MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MEMBERS

On the first Tuesday of each month, there is a meeting for members to talk over any problems they may have, or just to have a chat. Bring your own lunch, tea and coffee are provided. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, 7th April from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 88 Albany Drive, Mulgrave. Joy Cook, 2 Lotus Crescent, Mulgrave, has offered her home for the following meeting - 5th May.

All members are welcome.

HARDY HELICHRYSUM FORMS: Esmá Salkin

Two plants I place in the 'never fail' category are my plants of Helichrysum apiculatum (Mt. William form) and H. bracteatum (Grampians form). I treat both with little respect, pop them in anywhere and they put on a bright display.

H. apiculatum 0.5 m high and almost 1 metre across produces large yellow-gold clusters about 7 cm x 7 cm at the ends of long leafy stems. The leaves are attractive, grey, felted and hairy, 4 cm x 0.5 cm wide, with a distinctive mucro at the tip. Thus, the plant is attractive over the whole year.

I have two plants in a southerly aspect, one more open to sun throughout the year, but in a drier situation having to compete for moisture. This plant blooms from early summer many weeks ahead of my other plant, which only receives winter sun for a couple of hours in the late afternoon, but is exposed to full westerly sun in summer. Its roots are, however, protected and they are able to get beneath a paved patio. Prune after flowering. It grows easily from cuttings, so keep new plants coming along.

A form growing on the cliffs at Wilsons Promontory appears almost vegetatively identical, but leaves are narrower and more spatulate. I cannot with accuracy define differences as I haven't enough herbarium material, nor do I know how it performs under cultivation, but it could show promise for it certainly thrives in a very harsh environment.

H. bracteatum rivals the display of H. apiculatum. I have plants situated in three different areas in the garden. One in full sun is 1 metre tall and covered with flowers, another which has sun for half the day is bushier and leans towards the sun and is about 0.5 metres tall, and the third group are planted beneath Acacia pravissima and Melaleuca diosmifolia. They thrive less well, but put on a gay show.

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FORMS OF HELICHRYSUM BRACTEATUM: JOY GREIG

Two forms of H. bracteatum I have found worth growing are from Cobar in NSW and Bryces Gorge, Vic.

The Cobar form was sent by Bill Mulham from seed collected in 1985. It germinated in about seven days, when sown in autumn and was ready for planting out in about eight weeks. Plants in several locations in the garden grew to about 1 m tall, but were lanky and tended to lean over. Nevertheless, many flower-heads were produced in the summer, and as these were removed for wiring, more developed. The plants are still flowering as autumn progresses, but are looking as though they will soon be exhausted.

The flower-heads are a clear yellow colour, up to 3 cm across, with the outer bracts tending to curl upwards in a similar manner to the form from Kenilworth, Qld.

The Bryces Gorge form was grown from seed, originally thought to be of H. acuminatum because the outer bracts of the flower-heads are extremely acute. However, in my garden, the plants have several branched stems, to about 60 cms, which tend to be weak and straggly, and the outer bracts are shiny underneath. The stems and leaves have short hairs and are slightly rough to the touch.

The flower-heads are about 4 cms across, bright yellow, with the deeper yellow-brown of the outer bracts adding a highlight. They wire very well, and have an unusual star-like appearance due to the pointed tips of the comparatively narrow outer bracts.

I am hoping that this will be a perennial form, as it is not showing any signs of dying back in mid-March, nor is it quite as floriferous as the annual forms.

HELICHRYSUM BICOLOR: JUDY BARKER

H. bicolor, 30-40 cm x 40-50 cm, orange-brown buds, yellow heads about 3.5 cm across. Pointed yellow bracts, tipped brown below and often above. Thinly textured, lanceolate leaves, 2.5-10.5 cm long by 3-14 mm wide. Compact, branching habit, with many heads produced at the tips of short stems.

It will be a useful subject for summer colour in the garden and the heads wire well.

H. bicolor is a Tasmanian endemic, usually found in wet places near the coast. If a revision is undertaken, it may become a variety of *H. bracteatum*.

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DONATIONS:

Many thanks once again for your donations. They are most acceptable.

Hilda Crouch	\$7	Colin Jones	\$3	Beth Armstrong	\$2
Sharon Howard	\$5	Beryl Birch	\$3	Maroondah Group	\$2
Pat Treacy	\$2				

Max McDowall - 2 excellent slides of *Schoenia cassiniana* and a *Microceris* from Mt. Selwyn. Thank you Max, just what we wanted.



Helichrysum bicolor

photocopied from post card
'William Buelow Gould
1804-53 Australian'.

SEED DONORS:

Thank you to the following seed donors for their donations of seed. I am very happy to see the seed list expanding at a great rate but disappointed that most members are growing only a very small proportion of what is listed. What about more members offering to study a particular genus?

Joy Greig, Beryl Birch, Pat Shaw, Louise Gilfedder, Jeff Irons, Ian Evans, Hilda Crouch, Judy Barker, Barbara Buchanan, Betty Campbell, Sharon Howard, Lyn Millington, Esma & Alf Salkin, Bev. Courtney, Jenny Rejske.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Would members please note that subscriptions have been INCREASED TO \$5.00 PER YEAR (\$10.00 OVERSEAS) and are due for payment in June of each year. This does not apply to those who have joined since the beginning of the year.

Receipt is acknowledged of the following subscriptions:-

SGAP Geelong '86	Jeff Irons '87	Sharon Howard '87
Bill Owen '86 & '87	John Llewellyn '86, '87	SGAP Maroondah '86
Esma & Alf Salkin '86	Hilda Crouch '86	Colin Jones '87
Dot Rock '86	Marilyn Connell '87	Val Crowley '87
Pat Treacy '86, '87	Tim Hayes '87	J. Gay '87
Beth Armstrong '86	Marilyn Sprague '87	Beryl Birch '86, '87
Lynne & Ian Evans '86, '87	SGAP (SA Region) '87	SGAP Tas. Region '87
	Norm Bone	

WANTED - A PHOTOCOPIER:

Due to Vic's retirement at the end of this month, the study group has no longer a photocopier at their disposal. Please contact me if you know of one that is available for use at a reasonable price.

All correspondence and requests for seed, enclosing stamped self-addressed envelope to Leader:-

Maureen
Mrs. M. Schaumann
88 Albany Drive,
MULGRAVE. 3170

SEED LIST:

Hereunder is a list of seed at present in our seed bank. Please keep this list as only additions and deletions will be included in future newsletters. A full list is published in each March newsletter.

Ammobium	elatum
Angianthus	tomentosus
Brachyscome	aculeata, basaltica var gracilis, campylocarpa, cardiocarpa, ciliaris, ciliaris var lanuginosa, sub-integrifolia, cilioarpa, decipiens, diversifolia var diversifolia (King Island), (Mt. Samaria), (Tolmie), (Urquharts Bluff), diversifolia var maritima (Deal Island), exilis, graminea, heterodonta var heterodonta, heterodonta var A, iberidifolia, lineariloba, melanocarpa, microcarpa, multifida var dilatata, multifida var multifida, nivalis var nivalis, obovata, parvula, readeri, scapigera, segmentosa, spathulata var glabra, stuartii, tenuiscapa var pubescens, trachycarpa
Calocephalus	brownii, citreus
Calotis	cuneifolia, inermis, multicaulis, scabiosifolia, scapigera
Cassinia	aureonitens
Celmisia	asteliifolia
Cephalopterum	drummondii
Craspedia	chrysantha, glauca, glauca var alpina (Tas), globosa, sp (Cream Mt. Kosciusko)
Erigeron	pappocroma
Erodiophyllum	elderi
Helichrysum	acuminatum, adenophorum var waddelliae, ambiguum, apiculatum, argophyllum, backhousii, baxteri, bracteatum (Cobar), (Gilgandra), (Grampians), 'Dargan Hill Monarch', 'Hastings Gold', hybrids - gold, large & small flowers, orange, pink, white, bicolor (Tas), cassinianum, collinum, cuneifolium, diosmifolium, diotophyllum, elatum, ericetum, glutinosum, hookeri, ledifolium, leucopsidium, lindleyi, obcordatum, paralium, rogersianum, rosmarinifolium, rutidolepis, scorpioides, semipapposum (Anglesea), (Wyangala Dam), (Walhalla), subulifolium, thyrsoideum, viscosum
Helipterum	albicans ssp albicans var albicans, var incanum, var buffaloensis, anthemoides (wine budded form), (Qld. form), chlorocephalum, corymbiflorum, cotula, humboldtianum, jessenii, manglesii, molle, moschatum, polygalifolium, praecox, pygmaeum, roseum, splendidum, stipitatum, strictum, uniflorum
Ixodia	achillaeoides
Ixiolaena	leptolepis, sp. Qld.
Leptorhynchos	elongatus, sp. Jindabyne, squamatus, tenuifolius
Minuria	cunninghamii, denticulata, integerrima, leptophylla
Myriocephalus	stuartii
Olearia	algida, alpina?, axillaris, ciliata, decurrens, elliptica, erubescens, frostii, glandulosa, glutinosa, grandiflora, gravis, lirata, microphylla, phlogopappa, pinifolia, ramulosa, sp. Mt. Selwyn, sp Qld, tomentosa
podolepis	canescens, jaceoides, neglecta
Rutidosia	helichrysoides, leptorhynchoides, murchisonii, sp. (Qld.)
Senecio	gregorii
Vittadinia	bicolor, muelleri, sp. Nathalia, Wanilla (S.A.)
Waitzia	acuminata, aurea, citrina

A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE must accompany each request for seed.