BEAUFORTIA (AND ALLIED GENERA) STUDY GROUP - - - - - - - NEWSLETTER

NUMBER II - MARCH 1982....ISSN0728 - 1471

INTRODUCTION

A happy 1982 to all members. I anticipate more regular contact this year as I have given away the NSW region Seed Bank.

It is now over two years since I moved to Castlereagh and it is now possible to examine closely the success or otherwise of species that have been planted. Without doubt the most successful species here (to date) are Beaufortias orbifolia and schaueri and Regelias megacephala and ciliata. The first and third mentioned have flowered and all are quite vigorous and healthy. Others showing encouraging signs include B. purpurea, sparsa, anisandra and squarrosa; Eremaeas ebracteata and purpurea and Phymatocarpus porphrycephalus.

If nothing else, the plants will provide material for grafting experiments.

EREMAEA REVISION

Dr. Roger Hnatiuk is currently revising the genus Eremaea. Dr. Hnatiuk has advised that publication of the revision is some months away but one factor of interest to the study group isthat the number of species will probably be increased from the present 8 to about 14 or 15.

Dr. Hnatiuk has indicated that he will provide further information to the group when his studies are more advanced.

BEAUFORTIA REVISION

Dr. Andrew Burbidge is revising the genus Beaufortia. Because the work is being undertaken on a , more or less, part time basis it will be some years before the revision is ready for publication.

GRAFTING.....SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS

As mentioned before there has been some success at the National Botanic Gardens in grafting E. beaufortioides and B. micrantha onto a Callistemon stock. I can now report that Peter Olde (of the Grevillea Study Group) has repeated this sussess, for Eremaea beaufortioides, using the approach graft method.

In addition, I obtained some temporary success with a graft of B. incana onto Regelia ciliata using the top wedge cutting graft technique. Although the cutting graft was hardened off, the scion withered after about six weeks in the open. The reason is not clear but rotting at the point of union issuspected.

For those who like to tinker about with unusual plant propagation methods, the following is worth a try. It is a variation of the cutting graft technigue and is being used commercially in the propagation of Camellias. The method described has been extracted from an article by Don Burke in the Grevillea Study Group Newsletter. I have used the method and have found it quick and easy, although it is too early to quote any successes (or failures).

A cutting is taken of the plant to be the stock and a 1-2 cm. cut is made downwards into the stem (see diagram). The cut should not be more than half - way through the stem. A piece of the plant to be the scion (of the same diameter as the stock) is trimmed to a wedge shape and inserted into the cut; the union is then secured with tape.

The Y - shaped graft is then placed in a cutting mix with the fork of the Y submerged in the mix. This is then placed in a humid environment. When the plant has rooted it is potted on at which time the undesired top is cut off and the graft union is now exposed to the air (i.e. the plant is potted about 1cm. higher than before). If roots have emerged from the top plant, these can be rubbed off. From this point the composite plant is treated like any ordinary cutting grown plant.

CUTTING EXCHANGE

We operated a cutting exchange some years ago but few people seemed in a position to take advantage of the offers of the few who could supply material.

It seems appropiate to start again so if anyone can offer even

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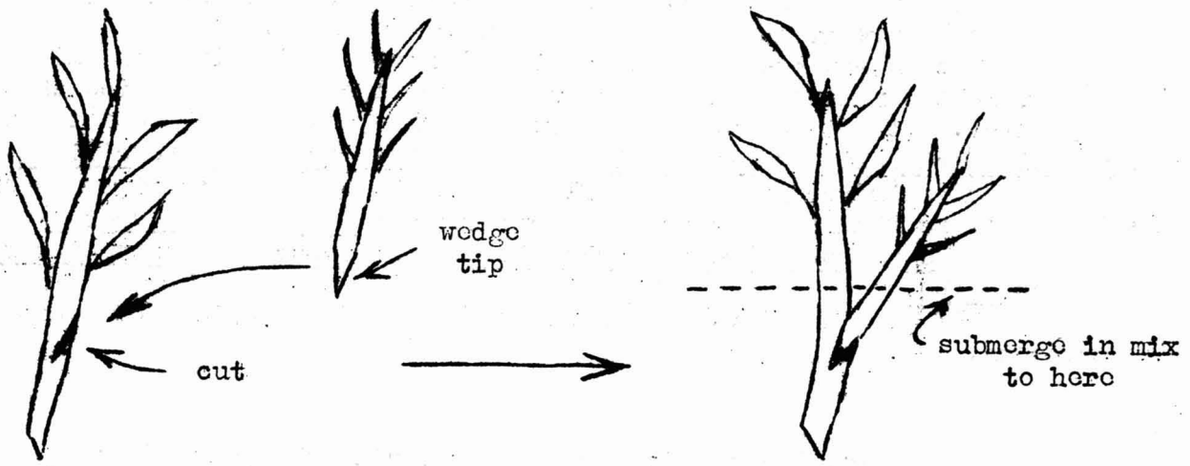
a small amount of cutting material, please let me know. As before, postage costs would be met by the recipient of the material.

To start the 'ball rolling' I can supply small quantities of B. orbifolia, R. megacephala and R. ciliata and perhaps one or two others



SIDE CUTTING - GRAFT DIAGRAM

(See Page I)

SEED BANK

The following species are available at 20 cents per packet.

Beaufortia anisandra (capsules), dampieri, decussata (capsules), elegans, heterophylla, heterophylla (capsules), macrostemon, micrantha (capsules), orbifolia, puppurea, schaueri (capsules). sparsa, squarrosa.

Eremaea beaufortioides, ebracteata, pauciflora, purpurea, violacea.

Regelia ciliata, inops, megacephala, velutina.

MEMBERS NOTES

David Henderson (Legana, Tas.), reports on frost tolerance of certain species (to -5 C ground temp.). B. decussata & R. velutina seem very frost tender while B. sparsa & E. purpurea have been unaffected. David also mentioned a variation of the 'bog method' of seed germination. He places a layer of peat moss in the bottom of an ice-cream container and ¾ fills the container with soil mix. The seed is sown and covered with a thin layer of sifted peat. Watering is done via a hollow pipe into the lower layer of peat moss.

Lyndal Thorburn (Waramanga, ACT) has indicated that he will study the effects of Canberra's winter on various species. He also mentioned in passing that he had a plant of B.purpurea some years ago which produced white flowers. The plant has since died. Has anyone else had similar experiences with unusual colour forms?

Jack Clayson (Tantanoola, S.A.), has forwarded a detailed report on seed germination for three species of Regelia, four of Eremaea and five of Beaufortia. The results will be included in the group's records. Generally, in excess of 50% germination was achieved with an initial germination period of about three weeks. Germination with capsules of B. micrantha and B. decussata was poor for the former and nil for the latter. This coincides with the experience of others and confirms that capsules must be broken up in some way. Jack observed minimal damping off and used a mix of 3:1 coarse washed sand to peat. Seed was sown in mid to late September.

Geoff Sitch (Muckleford, Vic.),expressed agreement with the note in the last newsletter regarding the apparent greater success of seed germination from Autumn/Winter sowing. Geoff also noted that seedlings seem to tolerate transplanting and handling much more successfully in the cooler months (this comment being based on experience with five Beaufortia species.

Peter Fraaklin (Lenah Valley, Tas.), made the observation that most Beaufortias, etc. seem to dislike prolonged pot culture (an observation with which I am in agreement.....although I am carrying out some experiments using lime underlay). Peter also reported that B. sparsa, elegans, orbifolia and, possibly, B. schaueri and heterophylla seem to be successful in

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and, possibly, B. schaueri and heterophylla seem to be successful in Tasmania.

AUDIO VISUAL

It is proposed to prepare an audio visual programme on Beaufortia and its relatives covering botanical relationships, cultivation and propagation. One aim is to make the programme available to small groups, particularly those in country areas, where it is difficult to obtain speakers to address meetings.

I have prepared the basis of the programme, which includes about 40 slides at present. The slides describe an abbreviated botanical key and distribution maps of the genera in addition to pictures of individual species. There are still many gaps, however, so I'd like to hear from anyone who has(or can obtain) some good quality slides.

The existing 'rough draft' of the programme has been used by myself (in Sydney) and Alan Lacey (in Melbourne) to illustrate talks to local groups. If anyone else feels they could make use of the material in a similar way, please let me know.

EXPERIENCE AT WITTUNGA

Adelaide Botanic Gardens has supplied the following information on species of Beaufortia, etc. growing at the Wittunga garden at Blackwood, South Australia. Soil is neutral-acid sandy loam and average annual rainfall is 650mm.

Species	Growth	Propagation
Beaufortia decussata	Fair	Cuttings
orbifolia	Good	"
purpurea	"	"
sparsa	"	Cuttings & Seed
squarrosa	Fair	Cuttings
Eremaea beaufortioides	"	Seed
purpurea	"	Cuttings
violacea	"	Seed
Phymatocarpus porphyrycephalus	"	"
maxwellii	"	Cuttings & Seed
Regelia ciliata	Good	Seed
inops	"	"
velutina	"	"

BEAUFORTIA DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

I do not have sufficient information at present to prepare descriptions of the remaining 5 species. I will try to obtain details for the next newsletter. The remaining five species are B. anisandra, bracteosa, dampieri, eriocephala and interstans.

NEW MEMBERS

The following is a list of those who have joined the group since the issue of the membership list with Newsletter No. 8. They are most welcome.
Rodger Elliot, 'Stringybarks', Belfast Rd., Montrose, Vic.,3765.
Paul & Joan Brady, 21 Frank St., Rupertswood, N.S.W., 2770.
Pine Rivers Group, SGAP, c/- 36 Nuttall St., Lawnton, Qld., 4501.
Victorian Region, SGAP, c/- 4 Homebush Cres., Hawthorn East, Vic., 3123.
Allan Foster, 40 Fairfax Rd., Warners Bay, N.S.W., 2282.
Lyndal Thorburn, 5 Yanda St., Waramanga. A.C.T., 2611.
David Henderson, P.O. Box 29, Legana, Tas., 7251.

Two members have changed address as follows:-
Jack Clayson, P.O. Box 1, Tantanoola, S.A., 5280.
Mr. A. I. James, 94 Ferris St., Caboolture, Qld., 4510.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (1 July 1981 to 28 Feb. 1982)

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Brought forward	$ 5.56	Stationary	$ 5.52
Membership fees	$20.00	Seed purchases	$ 9.00
Seed sales	$12.40	Correspondence	$11.70
Donation	$ 3.00		
Totals	$40.96		$26.22
Balance	$14.74		

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

Although the above Financial Statement indicates a balance of $I4.74, most of this has been spent on replenishing the Seed Bank. By the time this newsletter is printed and posted, finances will be 'in the red'.

Your membership fee of $2.00 for I982 is/is not due.

FINALLY

Let me make one more request for members to try their hands at grafting. There is little doubt that this is the main hope for the future and it is not as difficult as most people believe.

It has already been established that grafting is the desirable method of growing Prostantheras and many Grevilleas are being successfully grown on roots other than their own. Banksias also have been grafted with some success.

The method described above, or the approach graft outlined previously, are both within the capabilities of amateurs such as ourselves

Best Wishes,
Brian Walters,
Study Group Leader,
R23 Wilchard Rd.,
Castlereagh, N.S.W.,
2750.