



Abelmoschus moschatus ssp tuberosus

The Native Gardener

Newsletter of the
Society for Growing Australian Plants
Townsville Branch Inc.
PO Box 363, Aitkenvale, Qld. 4814.

September 2010

General Meeting 8.00pm Wednesday 8th September
Community Centre– Annandale Shopping Centre
Committee Meeting 7.30pm Monday 27th September
[2 Hoya Court]

On Wednesday 8th September at 8pm

Keith Townsend will take us on a tour of
West Australian Flowers
following a recent trip

And an update on our Mystery Tree!

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Committee			

Plants on display at SGAP meeting 11 August 2010

Acacia mountfordiae
Grevillea venusta
Grevillea georgeana
Melaleuca 'Pink Alma'
Melaleuca 'Howie's Fire Glow'
Grevillea 'Honey Gem'
Grevillea 'Flamingo'
Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon' (or was it the natural *sessilis* x *pteridifolia* hybrid?)
Grevillea 'Flamingo'
Grevillea 'Strawberry Blonde'
Grevillea decora
Chamelaucium uncinatum
Cochlospermum gillivraei
Gardenia scabrella
Graptophyllum ilicifolium
Xanthostemon verticillatus (Bloomfield penda, white penda)
Lysiphyllum sp.

The specimen of *Lysiphyllum* brought to the August meeting by Peter appears to be ***Lysiphyllum gilvum***. It is a species widespread in the Channel Country of western Queensland, and is described as being 5-10 metres in height but sometimes found with a dwarfed appearance. The branches are often pendulous, hanging quite low to the ground. The flowers carry an indumentum of fine, matted hairs.

The following is an interesting quote from *Wild Food Plants of Australia*, by Tim Low -

Uses: Alice Duncan-Kemp, who settled at Mooraberrie Homestead west of Winton, recorded the aboriginal uses of this tree:

When rains drew near, the old gins about the homestead wander up and down the creeks scoring or cutting the bark with a tomahawk. After rain they visit the scored trees and gather



the *minni*, a thick sweet sap which exudes from the cuts like jellied honey-coloured gum; a great delicacy among the blacks, who eat it straight from the tree.

White children consider *minni* an excellent substitute for sweets, when cooked in a baking dish with a little sugar and water for a couple of hours, and sprinkled with roasted nuts or *mungaroo* from the roots of the nut grass (*Cyperus bulbosis*).

Alice also told of aborigines making semi-intoxicating drinks by mixing pounded bauhinia flowers with native honey or honeypot ants, the liquid being left to ferment for eight or ten days. In the Cloncurry area the nectar was sucked from the flowers or soaked in water to make drinks.

Keith Townsend

SGAP Queensland Region has forwarded to us a consignment of business cards to help us promote the activities of SGAP, and particularly to potential new members. If you would like to have some of these cards please make sure you are at our next meeting, when they will be available.

Visit our website



<http://www.sgaptownsville.org.au/>

At our last meeting it was decided to purchase a box of nine copies of the reference book, '**Mangroves to Mountains**', a product of Logan River SGAP. Purchased directly from them as a box of nine reduced the individual cost to only \$38.

This was duly ordered and arrived in only 4 days! It has proved a very popular book and all nine copies were immediately spoken for. Those who ordered a copy may collect them at our next meeting or directly from me.

If anyone else is interested in this book it may be possible to make a second order, so please register your interest.

Details here: <http://mangrovestomountains.com/>

John Elliott

Dinosperma erythroccum

Syn. Melicope erythroccum

Rutaceae

Tingletongue, Clubwood, Nutmeg.

This tree, which ranges from north-east NSW to the Torres Strait Islands, is a less than common species in the Townsville region. Occurring in dry rainforests and vine thickets, it can be seen flowering at the moment on Many Peaks Range walking track, well on the way to Mt Marlow.

In this environment the tree grows to perhaps, 10 metres, with a dense, dark green crown of attractive tri-foliolate leaves. These leaves give rise to the most popular common name, tingle tongue, as they will have precisely this effect when tasted. Flowers are very small but occur in large terminal panicles, having four sepals and petals, and the fruit is a red capsule, of two to four segments, each opening, as they dry, to reveal a black seed. Bark is described as greyish-white, with a thin brown papery layer.

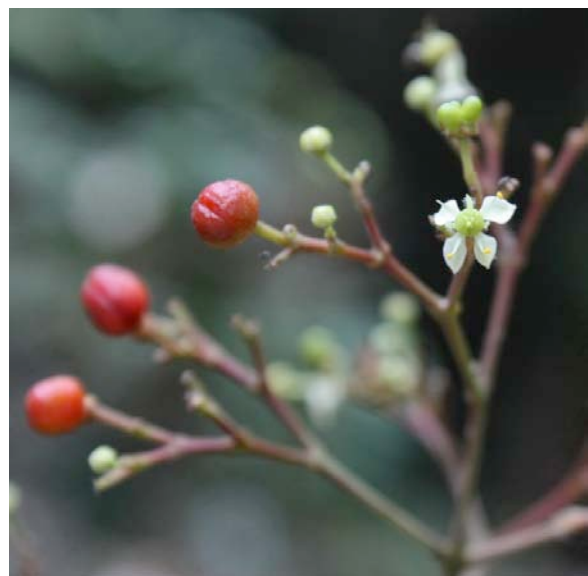
The scientific name is derived from:

Dinosperma = 'dinos' Greek for whirl, and 'sperma' for seed.

erythroccum = 'erythros' Greek for red, and 'coccus' for a berry.

The tree is listed as a timber producing species, having the trade name Tingletongue, and the wood is particularly dense at 975 kg/m³, being close grained and tough, and excellent for golf clubs!

Should do well as a garden specimen, and is quite successful from fresh seed.



**Society for Growing Australian Plants, Townsville Branch Inc.
P.O. Box 363 Aitkenvale, Qld. 4814**

Membership Application or Renewal Form

Membership Year is from 1st April to 31st March
(Initial half yearly membership is available for those joining around October)

Name:

Address:

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Email address:

Fee: \$.....

If claiming full time student fee please quote Student No.....

Additional household members may be registered for a nominal fee
of \$2.00 per person but they will not receive newsletters or magazines.

**Society for Growing Australian Plants Townsville Branch Inc ABN 32 302 397 597
Membership Fees:**

New Ordinary Member	\$40.00
New Student Member	\$30.00
Renewal Ordinary	\$35.00
Renewal Student	\$25.00
New Member (Half Year from Oct. 2010)	\$25.00
Additional Household Member	\$ 2.00
Queensland Bulletin subscription only	\$30.00

If paying electronically please quote 'Membership and your name'
Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 A/C 113462386

**The Society for Growing Australian Plants promotes
the conservation of Australian native flora
by encouraging its introduction into gardens.**

