



SGAP Cairns

May 2011
Newsletter 110

Society for Growing Australian Plants (Queensland Region) Inc., Cairns Branch
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We're online!

Stuart Worboys

Through the considerable efforts of Tony Roberts, SGAP Cairns Branch now has an online present. Our website can now be viewed at www.sgapcairns.org.au.

The website is simply constructed, easy to navigate, and although still a work in progress, contains a vast array of photographs (many with names attached), information on the history of our organization, species lists from around the region, and newsletters dating back to 2007.

The Cape Grafton Collections Part 2

By R.L. Jago

In last month's newsletter, Bob introduced the story of Cook's journey up the eastern coast of Australia in 1770, and the botanical side-story of the collections of Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander. I continue the story with Bob's listing of type specimens known to have been collected by these great early botanists at Cape Grafton. In this month's newsletter Bob describes the familiar waxflower, *Hoya australis*.

Send articles, book reviews, events or promotions to the editor: worboys1968@yahoo.com.au

ORDER:

FAMILY:

NAME:

TYPE:

SYNONYMS:

COMMON NAME:

HABITAT:

Gentianales

Apocynaceae

Hoya australis subsp. australis R.Br. ex Traill

Cape Grafton, J. Banks & D. Solander 9th June 1770.

Hoya; Waxflower

Wide variety of habitats from rocky outcrops along coastal shorelines to rainforests to 630 metres altitude; also common in vine thickets etc on a wide variety of substrates including beach sands and mangrove margins.

Cape Grafton Collections continued on page 2

Cape Grafton Collections from page 1

- PRONOUNCED:** HOY-a oss-TRAR-liss
- ETYMOLOGY:** The genus is named in honour of Thomas Hoy (1750-1822), who among other things was gardener to the Duke of Northumberland at Syon House, Isleworth in Middlesex for 40 years. He was also a highly respected botanist, member of the Linnean Society of London and member of the first Council of the Horticultural Society of London. The species epithet is derived from the Latin *australis* south or southern.
- CONSERVATION STATUS:** A common (or 'least concern') native species.
- DESCRIPTION:** A succulent vine to sub-shrub, stems and leaves bleeding a thick milky sap when cut or broken. Leaves succulent, fleshy or leathery (coriaceous); petiole to 20 mm. long; leaf blade (lamina) 50-100 mm. long x 40-70 mm. wide, glabrous or with scattered to dense hairs, venation pinnate but usually difficult to see; 2 small finger-like glands (colleters) usually present at the base of the leaf blade on the upper surface. Inflorescence an umbel of 10-20 strongly fragrant flowers. Flowers star-shaped, 3-5 mm. long x 10-25 mm. diameter with 5 cream-white petals with a red base, covered in part by the staminal corona. Fruit a slender follicle.
- DISTRIBUTION:** Northern Australia, WA, NT, Qld. to northern NSW. Also in New Guinea and Melanesia.
- NOTES:** One of several species of local plants collected at Cape Grafton by Banks & Solander in 1770 illustrated in *Banks Florilegium* from material collected at the Endeavour River in 1770 by Banks & Solander. This species is locally common in the Cairns Region in a wide variety of habitats.
- REFERENCES:** Bailey, F.M. (1909) *Comprehensive Catalogue of Queensland Plants*. 334.
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 Cooper, W. & Cooper, W.T. (2004) *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*. 41-42.
 Diment, J.A., Humphries, C.J., Newington & Shaughnessy, E. (1984) *Catalogue of the Natural History Drawings commissioned by Sir Joseph Banks on the Endeavour Voyage 1768-177. Part 1: Botany of Australia*. 119
 Forster, P.I. & Liddle, D.J; (1996) *Hoya*. *Flora of Australia*, 28: 233.
 Stanley, T.D. & Ross, E.M. (1986) *Flora of south-eastern Queensland*. 2: 311.
 Traill (1827) *Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London*. 7: 28.



Hoya australis. Image by Tau'olunga (Creative Commons Image, some rights reserved).

Online resources for plant identification

By Stuart Worboys

"[a] vast array of free plant identification materials... are available to those with access to the internet"

This article is a summary of a presentation I gave to the Society for Growing Australian Plants Cairns Branch and the Friends of the Flecker Botanic Gardens last month. The aim of the presentation was to raise awareness of the vast array of free plant identification materials that are available to those with access to the internet.

The information I'm giving here is just the tip of the iceberg. For those with the time and inclination, there's a lot more. What I'm discussing here is probably more reliable than most, and is relevant to northern Queensland. I'll divide the discussion into three sections: online picture libraries, online books and online keys.

PICTURE LIBRARIES

DiscoverNATURE

Can be found at: www-public.jcu.edu.au/discovernature/index.htm

It contains lists of plants and animals found at JCU Cairns and JCU Townsville, including most of which are pictured.

It has been compiled through the energy of Betsy Jackes.

The Australian Plant Image Index

Can be found at : www.anbg.gov.au/photo/index.html

Managed by the Australian National Herbarium

Contains mostly southern species, but will soon include thousands of images from the new edition of the CSIRO Rainforest Key.

ONLINE BOOKS

Grasses of James Cook University Townsville

Presented in two parts. Can be found at : eprints.jcu.edu.au/2103/1/JCUGrasses_Part_A.pdf

eprints.jcu.edu.au/2104/2/JCUGrasses_Part_B.pdf

Compiled by Nanette Hooker. The written descriptions in this book are, of necessity, somewhat technical. However, every genus of grass is well illustrated with scanned specimens.

Plants of Magnetic Island

Can be found at: www-public.jcu.edu.au/discovernature/JCUPRD1_065131



These native peas can be identified using "The Pea Key"

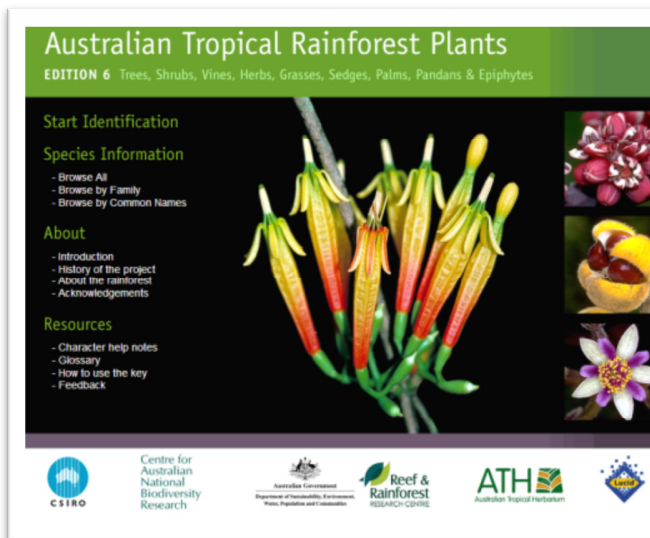
This easy-to-use reference guide has been prepared by Betsy Jackes.

3rd Edition is only available online.

ONLINE KEYS

Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants

Can be found at: www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/index.html



Long the standard reference for anyone interested in Australian tropical rainforest plants, this key covers over 2500 species found in the rainforests of northern Australia

It has been compiled over 40 years by Bernie Hyland, Trevor Whiffin, Frank Zich and others.

The Pea Key

Also called *An interactive key for Australian pea-flowered legumes*

Can be found at: www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/peakey/key/The%20Pea%20Key/Media/Html/index.html

Covers 1500 species of the Fabaceae (Faboideae) in Australia.

Australian Tropical Rainforest Orchids

Can be found at www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/orfk/index.html

Created by David Jones, T. Hopley and Siobhan Duffy
Covers 224 species from northern Australia. Despite the name, its coverage not just restricted to rainforest orchids

May Activities

Saturday 21 May

SGAP CAIRNS BRANCH OUTING

Meet midday at Wangetti Beach (turn right just north of the Hartleys Creek).

After lunch and a quick meeting we'll explore the nearby dry rainforest, probably the best of its kind in the Wet Tropics.

Wednesday 25 May

3.30 PM. ATFI SEMINAR AT JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY.

Dr Mark Harrington speaking on the topic of "Evolution of the Australian Flora." More information at www.jcu.edu.au/events/eventscns/JCUJCU1_071479.html, or call 4042 1808.

Sunday 29 May

SGAP TABLELANDS BRANCH OUTING.

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

TOWNVILLE SGAP

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, February to November, in Annandale Community Centre at 8pm, and holds excursions the following Sunday.

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