

WHAT'S FLOWERING THIS MONTH



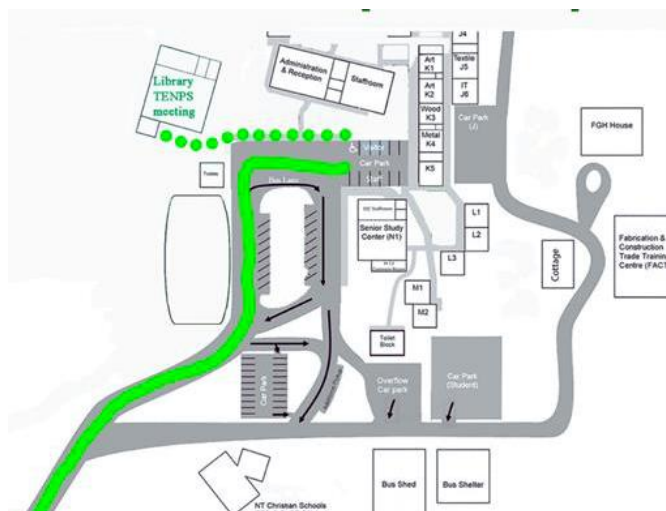
Phaleria macrocarpa by Russell Dempster

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Top End Native Plant Society (TENPS) general meetings are held at 7:00pm on the third Thursday of the month at Marrara Christian College library on the corner of Amy Johnson Ave & McMillans Rd. Bring your plants to swap, sell or have identified over a cuppa. The guest speaker presents at 8pm.

This month's talk will be about bushfoods by Goyma Gondarra and Ian Morris. All are welcome.

NEXT MEETING: MAR 20TH 2025



TENPS (TOP END NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY) COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Russell Dempster
0459440665

Vice President: Sean Stieber

Secretary: Johanna Stieber

Treasurer: Graham Zemunik

Publications & Librarian: Richard Boyne

General Committee Member: Ian Morris

General Committee Member: Clair Hewitt

Publicity: Vacant please inquire

Webmaster: Vacant please inquire

Public Officer: Dave Liddle

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www.topendnativeplants.org.au

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VISIT OUR FACEBOOK FOR INFO ON OUR NEXT EVENTS AND SALES!

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FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP - ACACIA HILLS

The February Field Trip was held on Sunday 23 February at 3:00 pm visiting Alison and Adrian's block off Northstar Road, Acacia Hills. The 32 acre property backs onto Koolpinyah Station and features a range of habitats with a rocky ridge and some seasonally wet lowland areas. About a dozen of us met near the house and Ali and Adrian guided us around.

Close to the house a young *Canarium australium* was budding. There are male and female flowers on separate plants and the trees can grow into beautiful large specimens.



Canarium australium

A couple of yellow flowering plants were observed along a fire break.



A *Crotalaria* sp. less than 40 cm high was flowering and fruiting, and a larger *Cajanus* sp. was near the main dwelling.



Cajanus sp.



Cajanus sp.



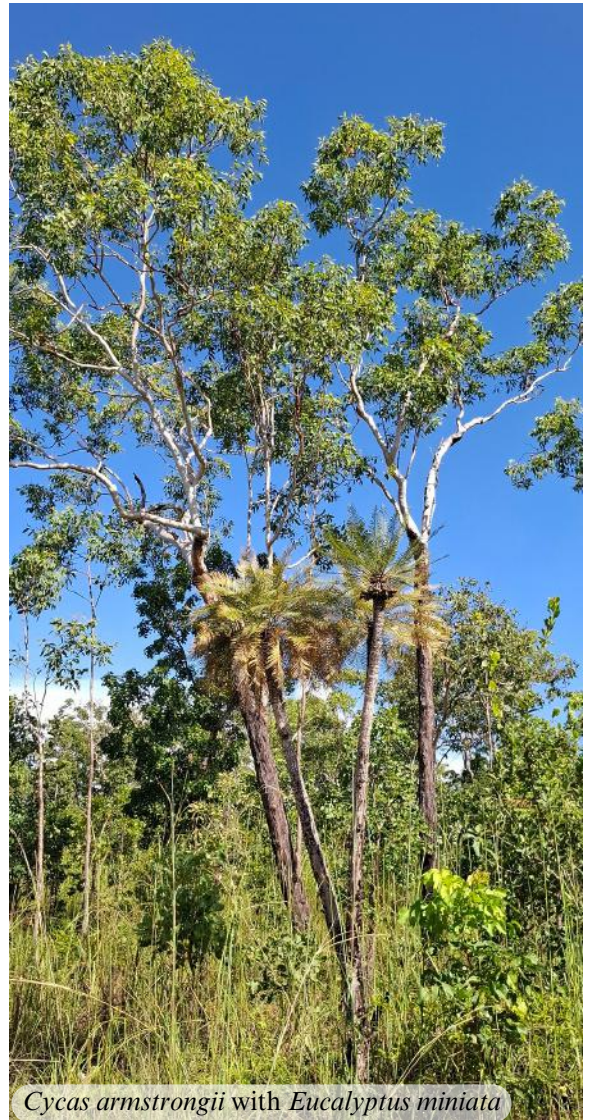
Crotalaria sp.

An interesting observation was a collection of Green Ant reproductive alates (these are edible) in a curled leaf of *Antidesma ghaesembilla*. *A. ghaesembilla* are shrubs which produce plentiful edible black currant-like fruits.

Cycads, *Cycas armstrongii*, and Darwin Woollybutts, *Eucalyptus miniata*, were a common sight on the open woodland sections of the block.

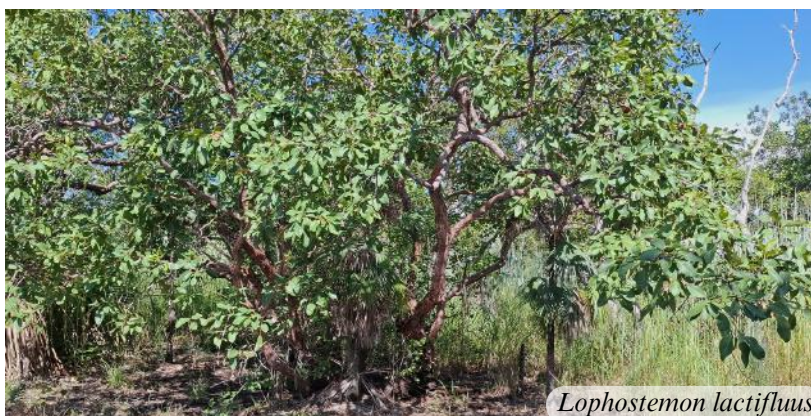
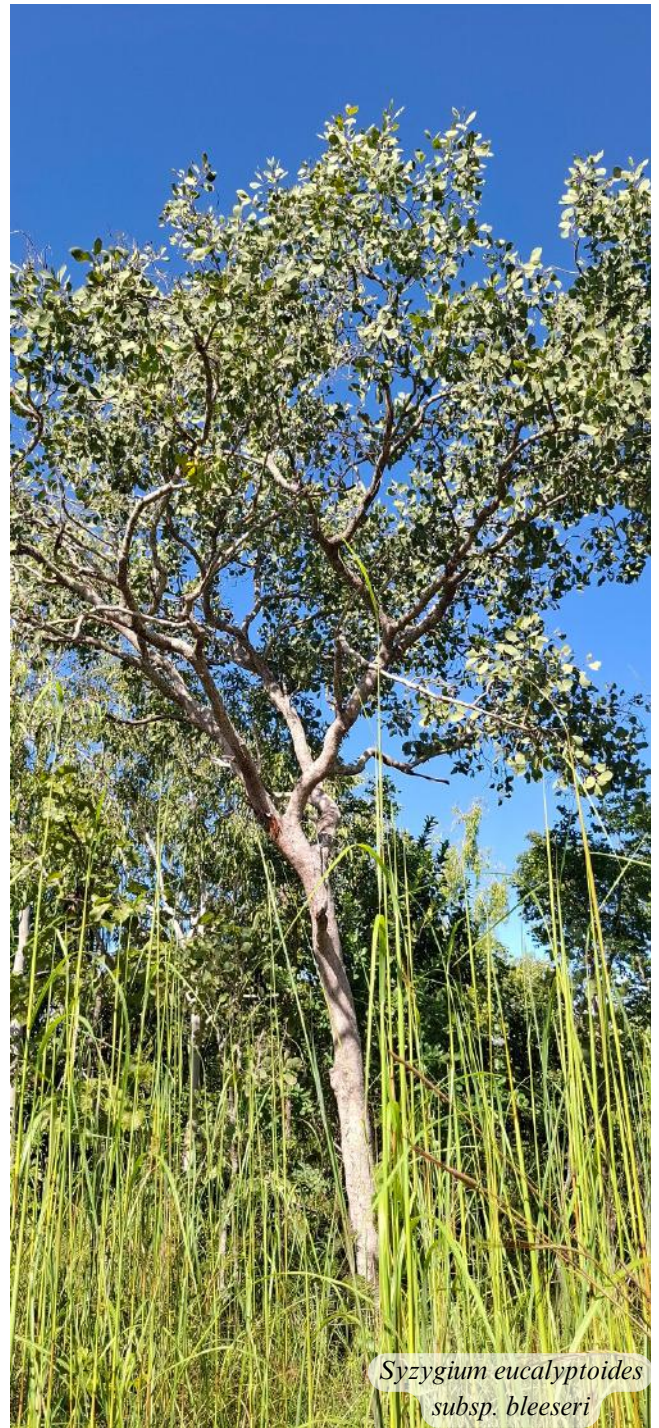


Antidesma ghaesembilla with ants



Cycas armstrongii with *Eucalyptus miniata*

As we walked down toward the wetter regions, the tree species observed included *Terminalia grandiflora*, *Syzygium eucalyptoides* subsp. *bleeseri*, *Lophostemon lactifluus*, *Vitex glabrata*, *Pandanus spiralis* and *Terminalia ferdinandiana* (Billy Goat Plum), which was in fruit.



Some beautiful herbs and carnivorous plants included *Lindernia lobelioides*, *Drosera* sp. and *Mitrasacme connata*.

Ground orchid species seen included *Geodorum neocaledonicum* (Pink Nodding Orchid) and *Empusa habernarina* (Liparis), which was a first sighting on the block for Ali and Adrian.

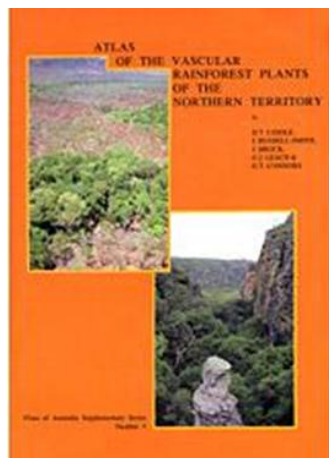
*Mitrasacme connata**Empusa habernarina**Lindernia lobelioides**Empusa habernarina*

We retired to the decking of the house for some refreshments after our walk. We were able to see a colourful approaching storm from there as we yarned. Thanks to Ali and Adrian for hosting us. It was lovely to see your amazing place.



From the TENPS Archives ~ collated by Lon Wallis

30 years ago ~ March 1995 ~ Atlas of the Vascular Rainforest Plants of the NT



Considerable research effort has been undertaken since the mid-1980's to map and inventory the rainforest estate of the Northern Territory.

Comprehensive computerised databases have been assembled for use in land management planning, conservation and biogeographical analyses.

One of the outcomes is this Atlas, in which species distribution data from a survey of 1245 rainforest sites, and specimen collections lodged in the Northern Territory Herbarium, are combined to produce distribution maps for 585 native and 19 naturalised taxa rainforest taxa in the northern part of the Northern Territory.

The Atlas is expected to provide a useful working tool for taxonomists, ecologists and land managers, all of whom need a ready reference to the distribution of these taxa, a reference absent until now. The reliability of the Atlas is enhanced by the fact that the records are clearly identified as either specimen-based or survey-based. All taxa are referenced to representative specimens held in the Northern Territory Herbarium, along with literature references for all formally described species.

Ancillary information provided with each map includes lifeform, the recorded frequency of occurrence, endemism status, reservation status and, where relevant, conservation status. These data are summarised also in tables and accompanying text.

The book also puts the Northern Territory rainforest taxa into a regional and world context. Extra-regional distribution data are summarised for 519 native taxa for which adequate information was available at the time of compilation.

These data indicate that 78% of species are shared with Queensland and 51% with Western Australia. The extra-Australian distributions of Northern Territory rainforest species exhibit strong floristic connections with a region extending from Africa to the Pacific, but particularly with Indo-Malesia: for example, 57% of species are shared with New Guinea, 38% with continental SE Asia, and 32% with India.

Biogeographical implications arising from these distribution data are discussed. It is concluded that many Northern Territory rainforest taxa are readily dispersed, as demonstrated by their occurrence on geologically young landmasses over a broad and diverse geographic region. A second element comprises taxa whose distributions and ecology express more ancient Gondwanic links. This atlas was launched at the Duke Street Rainforest on 20th Dec 1994

D. T. Liddle, J. Russell-Smith, J. Brock, G. J. Leach, G. T. Connors

20 years ago ~ March 2005 ~ My Native garden ~ Geoff Gaskell

We bought our elevated C19 house in Tiwi in 1998; it was a Commonwealth Government house and the garden had been neglected for some time. The front yard had lots of *Carpentaria* palms and a few large Black Wattles, plus various others. We decided to remove all the trees except for a few of the Carps and one *Livistona benthamii*; and got in a tree-feller to do the job.



Around this time, I joined TENPS and decided that the front yard at least would just have Top End native plants.

The other side of the drive has a mixed bag; a couple of *Asteromyrtus symphocarpa*, a *Polyalthia australis* that is only growing slowly but has pretty brownish new growth, a *Leea indica* and a *Clerodendrum floribundum* (haven't had much success with these in the past for some reason – maybe not enough water or the dreaded termites). I have also put in a *Mimusops elengi* near the front fence, but I suspect it may get too big eventually. An *Ixora tomentosa*, another *Aidia* and a *Schefflera actinophylla* make up the rest.

At one of the plant sales at the Garden Spectacular I was lucky to pick up a couple of *Calytrix exstipulata* (Turkey Bush) and a *Calytrix browni*, so together with a *Eucalyptus ptychocarpa* (Swamp Bloodwood), and several *Acacias* (*A. simsii*, *dimidiata*, *dunnii*), the woodland started to take shape. Later other *Acacias* (*A. latescens*, *nuperimma*, *gonocarpa* and *linarioides*) were added, plus *Xanthostemon paradoxus* and *Planchonia careya*.

A rockery seemed a good idea to provide a bit of topography for the otherwise flat garden. A few large rocks and some Mary River sand did the trick; I thought this would be a great site for some *Grevilleas* to attract the honeyeaters, and they did, but the termites thought they had been planted for them, and proceeded to attack them so that most died within a year.

However, the *Grevillea dryandri* seemed to cope better than all the others, and a *G. pteridifolia* has survived a couple of years, with some help. A feature was supposed to be an Arnhem Land *Cycas* sp., but it is only now starting to produce a few more leaves and poke its head up above its surroundings. An *Alyxia rusifolia* and a *Jacksonia dilatata* make up the remaining rock-loving species.

My main problem is watering, as I haven't put in an automatic watering system yet; the rainforest plants (especially the *Mellicope elleryana*) need plenty, so the dry season involves lots of moving the hose around.

Overall, though, I am very pleased with my garden and all the birds and other creatures it brings, and I have yet to see another one like it (with the exception of those of some TENPS members of course) which I think makes my place distinctive. There's nothing like a native plant garden.

10 years ago ~ March 2015 ~ Atlas Moth Forum trip to Dundee Beach



Cycas maconochie



Habernaria orchid

Our field trip in February was to Dundee Beach to look at Atlas Moth sites with Geoff Martin leading the trip. Don Sands and Michael Braby were also in attendance, and there were about 20 of us in all.

We visited a monsoon forest patch where Yuli and Geoff found eggs of the Atlas Moth the year before on *Litsea glutinosa*. The other known food plant for Atlas Moth larvae, *Croton habrophyllus*, was well populated on the margins of the forest along with *Litsea glutinosa*. The monsoon forest was quite dense, probably too dense for the large wing span of the Atlas Moths to negotiate. A feature of the forest that I enjoyed seeing was the spikey-trunked *Zanthoxylon parviflorum* trees, some of which were fruiting.

Cycas maconochie was common. Some were adorned with moss and *Dendrobium* affine orchids. A Bower Bird nest was well protected by a stand of Turkey Bush, *Calytrix exstipulata*. A soft hairy fronded *Cheilanthes* fern was growing amongst laterite next to Don's vehicle track in an exposed area.

Midway through the walk over Don's block Geoff received a call from ABC radio's Lisa Pellegrino. Geoff, Michael and Russell went live on air via telephone promoting conservation, the Atlas Moth and activities of the Top End Native Plant Society.

The hardy monsoon forest trees *Canarium australianum* were fruiting in the open woodland. Another hardy monsoon forest species, *Carallia brachiata*, had a carpet of seedlings under the parent tree, so Don said we could rescue a few of the seedlings from the pathway to save them from being mown down later. A few of us conservationally minded people obliged. Other species of interest that were flowering included *Thysanotus*, *Ipomoea*, *Grevillea pluricaulis* and a *Habernaria* orchid.

Article and photos by Russell Dempster.



MARCH FIELD TRIP

Our March field trip will be to the site of the basin proposed to be inundated by the AROWS project on Saturday the 22nd, led by Bryn Pickering. We will meet at 8:00 am at the Coolalinga Bendigo Bank, and head down the Stuart Highway, turning off onto Marrakai Road.

Bring a hat, water bottle and some nibbles.



MARCH MEETING ~ BUSHFOODS OF THE COASTAL NORTH BY GOYMA GONDARRA & IAN MORRIS

The next meeting will be on March 20th. This will be a cross-cultural look at the traditional uses for many of our tropical native plants. It incorporates a lot of information & images from the end of the 65-thousand-year dynasty. During our lifetimes, the traditional diet has been replaced with a modern range of food with a very different emphasis. Today we know from research that many of these traditional products were reason that that our First Peoples were in such good health at the point of British colonisation.



BECOME A MEMBER!
Member discounts for plant sales.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Due annually on 1st July each year)

The Top End Native Plant Society is a community group aimed at **PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING THE APPRECIATION, CONSERVATION AND STUDY OF FLORA NATIVE TO THE TOP END AND THE DIVERSE HABITATS OF THIS FLORA**. The Society is active in the propagation and cultivation of Top End native flora.

Visitors are welcome to meetings held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.00 pm with a speaker starting soon after. The venue is Marrara Christian College, on the corner of Amy Johnson Avenue and McMillans Road. Guest speakers are a feature of meetings and field trips are undertaken each month to a diverse array of habitats.

New Membership ☐ Renewal ☐
Membership fees are:

Individual Waged:	\$35.00
Family Waged:	\$45.00
Individual Unwaged:	\$15.00
Family Unwaged:	\$20.00

Payment: \$ _____

Family name: _____

Name/s: _____

Email address: _____

Postal address: _____

To pay online:

Bank : Bendigo Bank

Account Name: Top End Native Plant Society

BSB: 633 000

Account: 207 974 247

Note: Please include your name in the transfer reference and email the information in this form to topendnativeplantsociety@hotmail.com

Or pay in person at meetings or events where cash or card will be accepted.

Follow 'Top End Native Plant Society' on Facebook for information on current activities and events.

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topendnativeplantsociety@hotmail.com
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