



BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA INC.

NEWSLETTER

No. 27: July, 2007.

INVITATION TO ALL BCSA MEMBERS
to the launch of the
**BRING THE BUTTERFLIES BACK
CAMPAIGN**
the
WITTUNGA BUTTERFLY GARDEN
and the
BUTTERFLY GARDENING WEBSITE

on
Thursday 16th August, 2007
at

**Wittunga Botanic Gardens, Shepherds Hill Road,
Blackwood at 10.30am**
enter via Shepherds Hill Road

RSVP: Secretary, BCSA by 12th August, 2007. 08 8297 8230

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Know your Snotty-gobbles - See article page 3 by D.Keane



Photos: Left to right from top
Cassytha pubescens
R.Grund; *Cassytha glabella* form
dispar fruit R.Sandicock;
Cassytha melantha D.S.Overton;
Cassytha melantha fruit and *Cassytha*
pubescens R.Sandicock

In the wild *Cassytha glabella* is finely twined, growing near the ground whereas *C. melantha* and *C. pubescens* are coarsely twined. The former has smooth tendrils and fruit, and normally grows on mallee eucalyptus. *C. pubescens* has pubescent tendrils and fruit and normally grows on non-eucalypts.

NOTE by R.Grund.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA. INC. for membership enquiries and annual membership payments (\$10):
Treasurer, 9 Parkers Road, TORRENS PARK 5062

REMINDER: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday 13th August at 7.30pm

Proposed change to the constitution: 5. MEMBERSHIP

The constitution currently provides for two types of members; an individual member and a member body as noted below.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership shall be open to individuals and bodies who are actively interested and willing to support BCSA in pursuit of its aim and objects, and who have no demonstrated history of actions contrary to the aim and objects of BCSA.
- d. Member bodies
 - i. Member bodies are defined as being any trust, association, institution, organization, department or instrumentality of government, local government authority, educational organization or other body which in the opinion of the committee of BCSA will support the aims and objects of BCSA. Applications for membership of BCSA for any such body will be considered in the same way as applications from individuals.
 - ii. A member body shall have voting rights equivalent to these of an individual member. Hereinafter the word member applies equally to member bodies.

At a recent BCSA committee meeting it was agreed to propose that changes to the constitution are made to cater for Family Membership as follows:

5. a **Add the word ‘families’** after the words ‘individuals 5. a. to read “Membership shall be open to individuals, families and bodies who.....”

Add a new 5. e.

- 5. e. i. Family Membership shall be available for two adults and their dependant children.
- ii. Adults included in family membership shall have voting rights equivalent to those of an individual member and may hold office on the committee simultaneously. Hereinafter the word member applies equally to family membership.

At the same meeting the committee agreed to a ‘rule’ to provide for ‘Honorary Life Membership’. If members at the AGM considers this should also be a change to the constitution a new 5.f. could be added at the meeting, which states:

5.f. The BCSA committee may invite any existing member who has contributed significantly to the running of the society to become an Honorary Life Member without payment of subscription fee. An Honorary Life Member may be a member of the Management Committee.



**BUTTERFLY SITE
REGISTRATION**

A new initiative in our campaign has now been introduced via the campaign flyer.

Individuals, businesses, schools and clubs are now invited to register their ‘butterfly garden’, ‘butterfly revegetation project’ or ‘butterfly habitat restoration area’ as a BUTTERFLY SITE.

As soon as a site is registered and the conditions of use of the official logo have been agreed, groups and individuals may use the official ‘Butterfly Site’ sign to promote their project on official signage, at the site itself and on publicity material.

Further information on the flyer and Butterfly Gardening website www.butterflygardening.net.au.

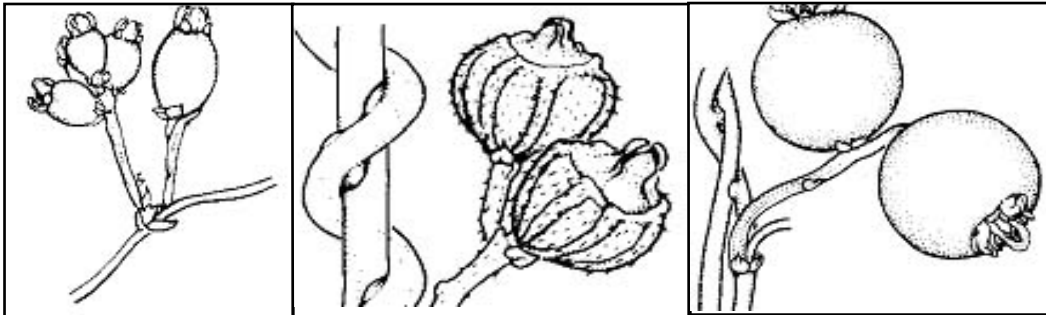


Butterfly Site

KNOW YOUR SNOTTYGOBBLES
‘Friend or Foe’ - The Devil’s twine

The plants known as “snottygobbles” and “dodders” are applied to two genera in South Australia, the *Cassytha* and *Cuscuta*. They are plants that twine through other plants and are leaf and root parasites with thread-like herbaceous stems and small flowers.

Cassytha: *Cassytha* is a Greek name for ‘dodder’ which resembles those plants of the genus *Cuscuta*. *Cassytha* is represented in the families Lauraceae (the Laural family) in Australia and Cassythaceae in other parts of the world. There are about 20 species and 14 are endemic to Australia. There are 4 native species in South Australia, (there are no exotic species), 3 occur in the Southern Lofty region, which are 1. *Cassytha glabella*, 2. *Cassytha pubescens* and 3. *Cassytha melantha* and are illustrated below. They are the sole food source for caterpillars of certain “blue butterflies” of the genus *Candalides*. The cassythas can be referenced in ‘Plants of the Adelaide Plains and Hills’ by Dashorst & Jessop. Fruits of the dispar form of *C. glabella* are narrower and slightly longer than the typical form.



1. *Cassytha glabella*

2. *Cassytha pubescens*

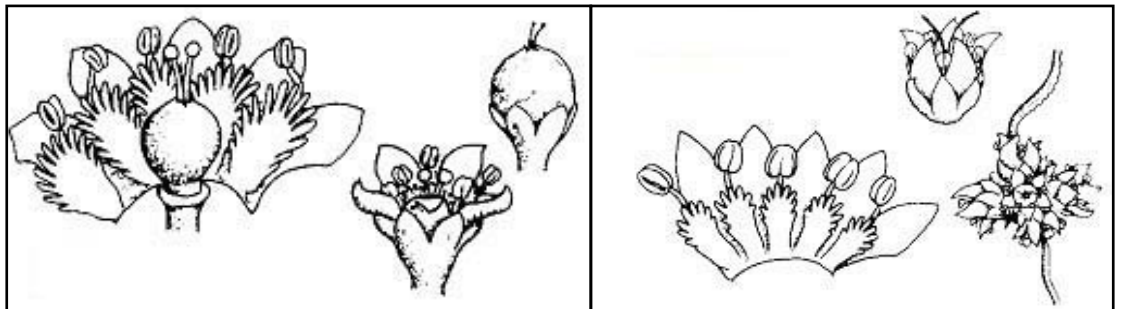
3. *Cassytha melantha*

Illustrations from ‘Flora of NSW’ (Vol.1 page 146) by G.Harden

Cuscuta: The genus *Cuscuta* is the medieval name for ‘dodder’ which perhaps refers to the ‘yellowness’ of certain species. Another derivation is of a Hebrew word meaning “to bend”. The cuscutas are contained in the families Convolvulaceae (the Bindweed family) in South Australia and Cuscutaceae in the rest of Australia and the world. There are about 170 species throughout the world and 5 species native to and 7 naturalised in Australia. In South Australia there are 6 species and 2 in the Southern Lofty region, both exotic. **C. campestris* “Golden dodder” which is native of South America. **C. epithymum* “Lesser dodder” is a native to Europe. These species are described in pages 1138 in part 3 of the ‘Flora of South Australia’ (not in ‘Plants of the Adelaide Plains and Hills’)

Produced by D. Keane for BCSA June 2007

Left:
Cuscuta campestris
 Right:
Cuscuta epithymum
 Ref: Flora of NSW.
 Below:
Cuscuta campestris
 Ref: Flora of South
 Australia.



Note: There is confusion between the floras of SA, NSW and Vic., as drawings are not consistent. Weeds of Queensland 1977 by H.E. Kleinschmidt & R.W.Johnson have the drawing on the left as *Cuscuta australis*, the native species. Now *Cuscuta victoriana* - SA Census 2005. Before removal seek expert advice from your State Herbarium.

Photos: Western Dusky Blue
 (*Candalides hyacinthinus simplex*) L.F.Hunt

BUTTERFLY EXHIBITION at the SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM 22nd September to mid November, 2007

The exhibition will promote the “Bring the butterflies back to Adelaide” campaign by encouraging members of the general public to plant butterfly host and nectar plants in their garden. It will also contain up to 80 drawers of South Australian and exotic butterflies from the SAMuseum collection.

To add more depth to the exhibition and to make it more interesting, some other themes are presently being explored by the design team and this is where members of BCSA may be able to assist.

In particular, to introduce a theme of Butterflies and People with some sub themes of :

- **‘Butterflies and Science’** - to show how early and present Lepidopterists studied our local butterflies. To include notebooks and drawings from the SAMuseum archives.
- **‘Butterflies and Conservation’** - to show how man has changed the environment, drained swamps, cleared grasslands and the effect this has had on habitat and butterfly populations and what we can do about it.
- **‘Butterflies and Culture’** - how butterflies and butterfly designs have been used on cultural objects and ceremonies, possibly to include **‘butterfly memorabilia’** to show how butterflies have been used as decoration and design. Even a display of books may be useful, both scientific and popular.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you are happy to loan to the Museum any scientific notes, artwork, cultural objects (or know of these) or objects which depict butterflies, we are keen to know about them.

Please contact Jan Forrest at the SAMuseum with your contact details, information about your object including a description of the object and it’s size.

If you can email a digital image that would be appreciated. forrest.jan@saugov.sa.gov.au.

If the Museum design team decides to use your object, artwork or scientific papers they will contact you.

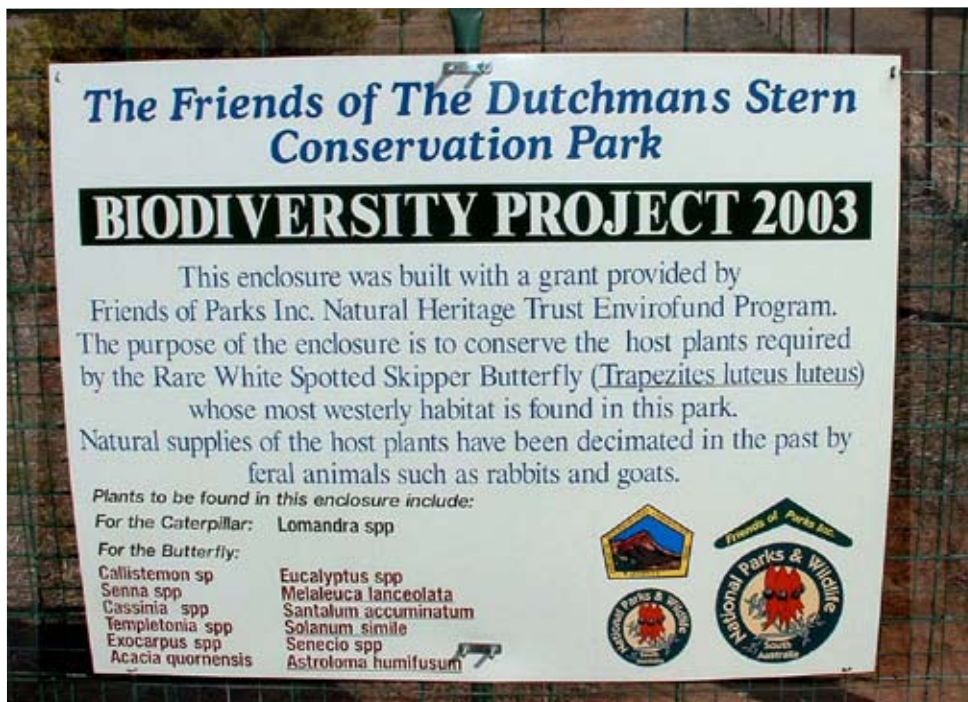
COLLECTING BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES: GUIDELINES TO CURRENT LEGISLATION AND PERMITS

The following Northern Territory Government web site document (<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/permits/pdf/invertebrates.pdf>) provides an overview of current legislation and permits regarding the collection of biological material, particularly terrestrial invertebrates, in the Northern Territory under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act). The document defines several terms under the Northern Territory Government Act, types of permits issued by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service, and outlines various land management systems in the Northern Territory.

Contrary to popular belief that all insects and invertebrates in the Northern Territory (estimated to range from 24,900 to 63,500 species for insects) are protected, only 48 species, from the Phyla Mollusca (31), Chelicerata (13) and Insecta (4), are currently listed as Protected Wildlife. Of the protected species, 35 are designated as Threatened Wildlife, of which five are also listed nationally under the EPBC Act. However, all native invertebrates that occur within the boundaries of national parks and other conservation areas managed by the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service or Parks Australia are protected under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act or EPBC Act, respectively. Relative merits of the current legislation and permit system are also discussed.

Michael Braby

CONSERVATION WORK AT THE DUTCHMANS STERN



The list of plants on the sign reads:

Plants to be found in this enclosure include:

For the caterpillar:
Lomandra spp.

For the butterfly:
Callistemon sp.
Eucalyptus spp.
Senna spp.
Melaleuca lanceolata
Cassinia spp
Santalum accuminatum
Templetonia spp.
Solanum simile
Exocarpus spp.
Senecio spp.
Acacia quornensis
Astroloma humifusum

Thanks to Egon Shore for sending the above photo to us.

The Sign reads: this enclosure was built with a grant provided by Friends of Parks Inc., Natural Heritage Trust Envirofund Program. The purpose of the enclosure is to conserve the host plants required by the Rare White Spotted Skipper butterfly (*Trapezites luteus luteus*) whose most westerly habitat is found in this park. Natural supplies of the host plants have been decimated in the past by feral animals such as rabbits and goats.

Andy's Butterfly Observations

Butterfly Conservation members may have heard talk about the rare *Lithochroa* Blue butterfly, an endemic South Australian species, since a proposal to contemplate a re-introduction strategy was put at the A.G.M last August. This butterfly has disappeared from its former haunts near Adelaide and has become increasingly rare in its strongholds in the mid-north of the state. During a butterfly survey of the Southern Flinders Ranges in 1998, Roger Grund reported that he had found the butterfly to be increasing in rarity.

While on a field trip in November 2006, I visited Wilmington district with Steven Brown and Grant Miller of New South Wales and Richard Weir from the Northern Territory. Grant kindly showed us a colony of *Lithochroa* Blues he was aware of on the eastern outskirts of Wilmington. I was staggered by the abundance of the butterflies, with almost every *Acacia victoriae* in the area swarming with larvae, pupae and the attendant *Iridomyrmex* meat ants.

The area checked in this ad hoc survey was a stretch of road side approximately 350 meters long, and when my companions returned the next day to do some photography of the site, they reported that the area of colonized trees was in fact much greater than our initial observations suggested. These observations, when combined with a second known colony in the general Wilmington district would indicate that perhaps the status of this butterfly is not quite as precarious as we may have believed it may have been.

A second optimistic set of observations was obtained when my friend Richard Glatz and I visited the Hallett Cove Conservation Park in mid May. I needed to get some samples of the *Beyeria* food-plant of an un-named species of the Geometrid genus *Terpna* that I have been breeding through. While at the park, Richard and I decided to check the *Gahnia lanigera* stands in the park's coastal heath-land areas for signs of the early stages of the Black and White Skipper butterfly. While unfamiliar with the small park, I had heard reports that the butterfly was under pressure there and in fact had formed the opinion that it may well have already become extinct in the area.

We were very pleased to note numerous shelters of the species on the *Gahnia*, yielding relatively fresh pupal exuvia, obviously from last autumn's hatching, and after ten minutes of searching, we turned up a mature larva. As the food-plant was widespread in the area, I think it would be safe to assume that with further searching more examples of the early stages of this species would have been uncovered and it appears that this colony is in fact stable and the chances of its future survival appear to be good in the medium term.

The experiences related in the preceding paragraphs reinforce my belief that in the case of many butterfly and other insect species, despite the doom and gloom stories we so often hear of their chances for continued survival, when one gets out and does the observational field science, the evidence out there paints a different picture. I would qualify this by stating that this is conditional on adequate reserves and roadside vegetation being maintained.

Andy Young



Photos above and right: LFFHunt

Photo below: RHFisher



Photos: larva and adult of the Black and white skipper (top) *Antipoda atralba* and *Lithochroa* blue *Jalmenus lithochroa* (above).

EXCURSION

To **Aldinga Scrub** Sunday 21st October with members from the Willunga Resource Centre. Meet 10.30am at the corner of Dover and Frazer Street carpark (Adelaide side of Aldinga scrub) and bring a picnic lunch. Contact Jan Forrest 82978230 if you are coming, also if you would like transport.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13th August, 2007 at 7.30pm at Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads URRBRAE.
Guest Speaker: David Keane who will speak on "Quarry design, rehabilitation and revegetation"
The committee is presently quite small and new members are urgently needed.

Please consider accepting a position on the committee; we meet bi-monthly so it is not an arduous task.

Hope to see many members as possible on the 13th August.

WEBSITES WORTH LOOKING AT

North American Butterfly Association— www.naba.org
Butterflies at Kew Gardens—

<http://www.kew.org/ksheets/butts.html>

Caterpillars of Australia—


<http://www-staff.it.uts.edu.au/~don/larvae/larvae.html>

The Butterfly website— <http://butterflywebsite.com/>

Perth Zoo— <http://www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au/Animals--Plants/Fauna-friendly-Gardens/Insect-friendly-Garden/>

BUTTERFLY GARDENING SUPPORTER


Worldwide online printing are supporters of the **Bring the Butterflies back campaign**. Located in Flinders Street they provide a large range of printing requirements. Talk to Managing Director Chris and his wife Jan about your next large or small printing job.



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E c.donovan@worldwide.com.au
I www.worldwide.com.au



BUTTERFLY WATCH WEBSITE

change of location

This website is still found at the SAMuseum website www.samuseum.sa.gov.au however it is now found under 'What's On' then 'On-line exhibitions' then 'Butterfly Watch'.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SA Inc.

Chairman: Roger Grund

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Jan Forrest OAM C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE, 5000 ph (08) 8207 7503.

email <forrest.jan@saugov.sa.gov.au> or <forrestjan@adam.com.au>

Treasurer : 9 Parkers Road, TORRENS PARK. 5062

OUTREACH PROGRAM

The full exhibition and AO size panels from the Exhibition "Where have all the Butterflies gone?" are available from Jan Forrest at the South Australian Museum for use by Landcare and other Conservation groups at seminars, conferences and workshops or just for display. Included are five introductory panels, and seventeen panels from seven habitat areas: Coastal, Grasses, Mallee, Urban, Migration/Vagrant, Eucalyptus Forrest/Woodland, Arid, Wetland and Lower South East.

DIARY DATES

MEETINGS - Committee meetings are held bi-monthly (usually the second Monday of the month) at 6.00pm in the Urrbrae Wetlands Resource Centre, Cross Roads, Urrbrae. All members are welcome to attend. If you would like further information or receive an agenda please contact Secretary Jan Forrest.

Next Committee Meeting: Monday 10th Sept at 6.00pm.

Annual General Meeting: Monday 13th August, 2007 at 7.30pm.

WEB SITES

'Butterfly Conservation SA Inc.' <http://www.chariot.net.au/~bcsa/index.htm>

'South Australian Butterflies' (Roger Grund) - <http://www.chariot.net.au/~rgrund/index.htm>

'Butterfly Watch' - SAMuseum website www.samuseum.sa.gov.au then click on 'What's On' then 'online exhibitions'.

'Butterfly Gardening' (still under construction) - www.butterflygardening.net.au
Teacher Resources (Jackie Miers) - http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/butadelaide/Butterflies_of_Adelaide.html

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Victoria Pollifrone
Jen Light

