

A History of the Introduction of Vireya Rhododendron Species into Cultivation in Australia

Dr. R. M. Withers

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In "The Rhododendron" of September 1973 there was an article by Lyn Craven entitled "Vireya Rhododendrons, A history of their introduction into cultivation". The article was prepared in 1972 as part of Lyn Craven's A. J. Cronin Scholarship at Burnley Horticultural College and was published in "The Rhododendron" with some additions. Appendix I of that article provided an accession list of the Vireya species cultivated in Australia in 1973 in alphabetical order.

In "The Rhododendron" of June 1975 there was a further article entitled "Distribution of plants to members" by R. M. Withers. That article contained a list of Rhododendron plants which had been successfully imported into Australia from overseas by the Australian Rhododendron Society since quarantine facilities were first arranged by the Society in 1966 until the article was written in 1975.

In this article I propose to address the subject in a different way and describe the introduction of Vireya Rhododendron species into cultivation in chronological order from the initial introduction of *R. lochia* into cultivation until the present day.

Brian Clancy wrote in his article "Inventory of Malesian Rhododendrons in Australia" of December 1976 that in September 1973 the Society had established 48 named Vireya species, but by December 1976 it had almost doubled to 81 species. Today we have close to 120 species in cultivation.

R. lochia was the first Vireya Rhododendron species to be introduced into cultivation in Australia, but it is unfortunate that details of its introduction have always been somewhat vague. It was discovered by Messrs. Sayer and Davidson in 1887 on Mt. Bellenden-Ker in North Queensland and named and described by Baron von Mueller in the same year. It was later collected on Mt. Bartle Frere by Kajewski in 1929, on Thornton Peak by Dr. L. Brass in 1932, on Mt. Finnegan by Dr. Brass in 1948 and on Mt. Spurgeon. It appears that on those occasions it was only collected as herbarium material and not introduced into cultivation.

My first record of *R. lochia* being introduced into cultivation was when Mr. Herbert Solomon of Sydney sent seed to the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew in England in 1936 where it flowered for the first time in 1939. I have no information on where the seed was collected or whether Mr. Solomon was the actual collector. In 1941 I joined the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria and recall seeing a truss of *R. lochia* which Ivo Hammet brought along to a meeting. In "Your Garden" magazine of May 1951, Ivo Hammet wrote an article describing his experiences with this species.

Dr. Peter Valder commenced to grow *R. lochia* in 1948-50 when he was given seed by Tom Raine of Raine Ridge, Kurrajong. Tom Raine had collected the seed in North Queensland.

R. lochia first appeared in a Nursery Catalogue in 1953 at the Nursery of Basil Hodgins in Essendon, Victoria. It had been displayed in flower at Garden Week in 1952 and was given an Award of Merit by the Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association. I spoke to Bob Hodgins, son of Basil Hodgins, and he recalled seeing a large plant of *R. lochia* in the garden at the family home in Essendon as a schoolboy in the 1930's but had no idea of the origin of the plant.

R. lochia has since been introduced into cultivation by Ben Menelaus as seed from plants on Mt. Bartle Frere in the middle 1960's.

Donald Teese collected seed on Mt. Finnegan in 1978 and in 1979 members of the Australian Rhododendron Society visited Thornton Peak, Mt. Spurgeon and Devil's Thumb and collected cuttings. It has also been collected on Mt. Windsor, and several years ago by Dr. Geoff Atherton of Brisbane on Mt. Lewis. Collections from the different mountains all show variation in type of growth of the plants, size of leaves, and size and colour of the flowers.

It was not until the middle 1950's that other species of Vireya Rhododendrons began to be introduced into cultivation in large numbers.

R. javanicum var. *javanicum* was obtained as seed from the Botanic Gardens in Bogor, Java in 1956 by Harry Van de Ven.

In 1957-58 Harry Van de Ven obtained seed of a number of species from two members of a religious order and from officers of the New Guinea Forests, collected on Mt. Wilhelm and Mt. Hagen, P.N.G. The seedlings were later grown in about 1962 by Don Stanton in Wollongong, as Harry Van de Ven had trouble with frosts at his nursery at Olinda, Victoria. In 1965 Dr. Michael Black identified *R. aurigeranum*, *R. macgregoriae*, *R. dielsianum*, *R. zoelleri* and *R. commonae* among these seedlings.

About the same time Arthur Howells of Olinda, Victoria obtained seed of *R. retusum*, *R. longiflorum* and other species from Malaya.

R. aurigeranum and *R. gracilentum* were obtained by Arnold Teese of Monbulk, Victoria from Mrs. Holnen, wife of the Chief Engineer of Wau Goldfields in P.N.G. in 1955 following a visit she made to the Boulter's Nursery in 1954.

R. macgregoriae was also obtained about 1958 or 1959 by Tom Lelliott from

Felix Jury in New Zealand. It was a very good orange coloured form, and probably the best form of *R.macgregoriae* that has been introduced into cultivation.

In 1959 the Australian Rhododendron Society imported its first Vireya Rhododendron species from P.N.G. when on 5th September seed of *R.christianae* was received from Canon Cruttwell, collected in the Daga area of south-east Papua, alt. ca 610m. Seedlings of *R.christianae* were later distributed to members in May 1961.

In February 1962 seed of a number of species was received from Dr. H. Sleumer in response to a letter sent to him from Brian Clancy. It was collected in the Arfak Mountains, Vogelkop Peninsula, West Irian, and those successfully established were *R.laetum* collected on 8th January, 1962 at Anggi Gita Lake, alt. ca 1840m, *R.arfakianum* collected on 21st January on Mt. Gwamongga near Surerei, alt ca 2250m, *R.inconspicuum* collected in January near Anggi Lakes, alt. between 1850 and 2600m, *R.phaeocephalum* and *R.zoelleri* collected on 7th February at the Wardori River alt. 1350m. He also sent *R.culminicolum* var. *angiense* collected in 1961 at Mt. Nettoti, alt. ca 1830m. A natural hybrid between *R.phaeocephalum* and *R.zoelleri* appeared among the seedlings of *R.phaeocephalum* and was named R.'Dr. Hermann Sleumer'.

R.javanicum was introduced again in the late 1960's as *R.javanicum* var. *brookeanum gracile*, and in 196 from E. F. Allen, Suffolk, England as forms of *R.javanicum* var. *brookeanum* 'Titan' and 'Mandarin' collected by him in Borneo. *R.javanicum* var. *teysmannii* was also received from an unknown collector in the 1970's, and from Professor Arisumi in January 1980.

R.macgregoriae was recollected by Lyn Craven at Edie Creek, Morobe District, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 1540m, by Dr. Michael Black near Wabag in 1965, by E. Wadell at Sirunke, Central Highlands, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 3550m. It was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew,

England in 1966, collected by the expedition to Kasonombe, Mt. Salawaket in 1973 in two forms, received from Lou Searle in various forms in 1974, and collected on the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 at Edie Creek, Daulo Pass, and on the Hagen Range. It was also received from Professor Arisumi in 1979.

R.dielsianum var. *dielsianum* was recollected by E. Wadell at Sirunke, Central Highlands, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 3550m, by Don Stanton in the Chimbu District, P.N.G. in 1971, by the expedition to Kasonombe in 1973, received from Lou Searle in 1974 as L.S.24 and L.S.59, collected on the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 on Mt. Gahavisuka and at Daulo Pass.



R.zoelleri 'Island Sunset'

R.zoelleri was recollected by an unknown person on Goodenough Island, East New Guinea, in the early 1960's, by R. Hoogland in East New Guinea in the early 1960's, by an unknown person at Baiyer River, East New Guinea in 1967, by Dr. Michael Black near Wabag in 1965 and near Areganan, near Mindik, East New Guinea in 1968 and by Canon Cruttwell in south-east Papua in 1970-71, by Dr. Creech of the U.S.A. in 1974, and by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974. It was received from Lou Searle as L.S.2 and as other forms in 1974. A selected form of *R.zoelleri* from Goodenough Island was named *R.zoelleri* var. 'Island Sunset' by Don Stanton.

R.commonae was recollected by J. H. Willis of Brighton, Victoria on Mt.

Wilhelm, East New Guinea on 30th June, 1970, and received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England in 1966, from Lou Searle who collected it at Tomba in 1974, and it was collected by Paul Kores in the Finisterre Mts. in 1976, and collected by the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 in three colours, red, pink and yellow in the Kain swamp near Taluma Potato Research Station P.N.G. It was also collected by Professor Arisumi in 1979.

R.longiflorum was recollected by an unknown person at Kedah Peak, Malaya in 1967, alt. ca 1220m, and by Dr. Peter Valder in Malaya in January 1975.

R.retusum was received from Dr. Michael Black in Malaya in 1965, from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England in 1968, and it was collected by Dr. Peter Valder in Sumatra in 1975.

R.aurigeranum has been received many times since its initial importation. It was received from Dr. Michael Black from the Wabeg area in 1965, and in 1968 under the collection numbers Black and Woods 1120 and 1121. These were quarantined at Adelaide Botanic Gardens. In 1974 selected forms of *R.aurigeranum* were sent by Lou Searle from the Wau Ecological Institute P.N.G., and the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 collected more material from the Wau Ecological Institute and collected type specimens of the species at Zenag near Lae.

R.gracilentum was recollected by Lyn Craven near Aseki, Morobe District, East New Guinea in 1966 alt. ca 1830m. We received plants in 1974 from Lou Searle, and it was collected on the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 at Mt. Kaindi and Edie Creek.

R.christianae was recollected by Canon Cruttwell in the Daga area of south-east Papua in 1967. In 1971 Canon Cruttwell collected a form of *R.christianae* at Kanasuria which he called *R.christianae* var. *grandiflora*. In 1972 he forwarded seedlings of a selected form of *R.christianae* to the Society which he called *R.christianae* var. 'Sunset'.

R.inconspicuum was recollected by Canon Cruttwell in the Daga area of south-east Papua in the late 1960's, by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974 and on the Society's expedition of 1983 on the Hagen Range. It was collected by Professor Arisumi in 1979.

R.konori was recollected by Dr. Michael Black near Wabag in 1965, by Lyn Craven near Aseki, Morobe District, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 1770m, by Canon Cruttwell in south-east Papua in the late 1960's, in 1968 by Lou Searle when he sent a number of selected forms to be quarantined in Adelaide and later shared with the Society. It was collected by Don Stanton at Edie Creek in 1971, in 1973 from the expedition to Kasonombe, Mt. Salawaket under the number 37954, in 1974 from Dr. Creech in the U.S.A. and also in 1974 from Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks when they collected it on Mt. Dayman, P.N.G.

R.pachycarpon was collected by R. Pullen in the Finisterre Ranges, East New Guinea, in 1964, alt. ca 3650m, but has not been established in cultivation.

R.warianum was collected by Dr. Michael Black in the Lagaip Valley near Wabag in 1965 and received by Don Stanton.

R.hellwigii was collected in the Finisterre Ranges in 1964 by R. Pullen, but does not appear to have been introduced into cultivation at that time. It was later recollected in the Finisterre Ranges by Paul Kores in 1976. Seed from plants considered by Paul Kores to be midway between *R.hellwigii* and *R.superbum* was sent to us as *R.superbum*, but when the seedlings flowered they appeared to be *R.hellwigii*. Cuttings from plants which Paul Kores considered to be true *R.hellwigii* were successfully established in the United States.

R.loranthiflorum was collected by Lyn Craven at Lake Loloru, Bougainville Island in 1964, alt. ca 1520m.

R.luraluense was collected by Lyn Craven at Lake Loloru, Bougainville Island in 1964, alt.ca 1520m, and by John Womersley in 1981.

R.blackii was collected by Dr. Michael Black and John Womersley in 1965 and sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, under the number Vink 17041. It was recollected on the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 on the Tambitanis grassland near Sirunke, and in 1983 in the Kandep Divide.

R.jasminiflorum var. *jasminiflorum* was sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne in 1965. The Society imported it from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew in 1966. *R.jasminiflorum* var. *punctatum* was collected by Dr. Michael Black in Malaya in 1968 in Cameron Highlands. A superior form of *R.jasminiflorum* var. *punctatum* was later collected by professor Arisumi on Mt. Perdah, Malaya in 1979.

R.saxifragoides was received by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, from Dr. Michael Black and John Womersley in 1965. It was later collected by L. K. Wade on Mt. Giluwe, East New Guinea in 1967, alt. ca 3660m under the collection number A.N.U. 7741. It was collected by J. H. Wills of Brighton, Victoria in 1970, by Paul Kores in 1976, and from Mt. Giluwe on the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983.

R.aequabile was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England, in 1966 and following its collection in Sumatra by Dr. Peter Valder in 1975.

R.multicolor was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England, in 1966 and following its collection in Sumatra by Dr. Peter Valder in 1975.

R.rugosum var. *rugosum* was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew,

England, in 1966, from the American Rhododendron Society under the number M.G.M.5 in 1980, and from Pukeiti, New Zealand in 1983 under the collection number B.T. 108.

R.wrightianum var. *wrightianum* was collected by Lyn Craven on Mt. Hunstein, Sepik District, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 1220m.

R.yelliotii was collected by L. K. Wade at Lake Aunde, Mt. Wilhelm, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 3695m, under the collection number A.N.U. 7186, and by Lyn Craven on his expedition to Mt. Victoria and Mt. Albert Edward in 1976 under the collection number 2777.

R.atropurpureum was collected by L. K. Wade on a ridge north of Lake Aunde, Mt. Wilhelm, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 3810m under the collection number A.N.U. 7256.

R.womersleyi was collected by L. K. Wade on slopes east of Lake Aunde, Mt. Wilhelm, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 3500m under the collection number A.N.U. 7049. It was collected by J. Vandenberg on a slope above Lake Aunde, Mt. Wilhelm, East New Guinea in 1968, alt. ca 3530m under the collection number N.G.F. 35021. It was sent to the Society in 1974 by Lou Searle, and collected in 1981 during the Society's expedition to P.N.G.

R.leptanthum was collected by Lyn Craven near Aseki, Morobe District, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 1830m, by Dr. Michael Black at Mairi Creek, East New Guinea in 1968, by Canon Cruttwell in 1967 on Mt. Garatun, south-east Papua alt. ca 1550m, by Don Stanton at Edie Creek in 1971, and by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in P.N.G. in 1974.

R.leucogigas was collected on Mt. Hunstein by Lyn Craven in 1966. At first it was unidentified but later thought to be close to *R.gardenia* and labelled *R.gardenia* *affin*. Later it was identified as a form of *R.leucogigas* and given the name 'Hunstein's Secret'. In 1961 Dr. Sleumer had collected *R.leucogigas*

in the Cycloop Mts., West Irian, and this form was received from Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A. in 1973 and also from Boskoop, Holland. A pink form of *R.leucogigas* was received by Bill Mearns from Welensky, a forester in West Irian in 1973. Seed of *R.leucogigas* number 682431 was received from Dr. Argent in 1990.

R.culminicolum var. *culminicolum* was collected by L. K. Wade on Mt. Wilhelm, East New Guinea in April 1967. It was later introduced under the number N.G.F. 35053, was collected by Canon Cruttwell on Mt. Suckling in 1972 as Suckling Number 4, by Lou Searle under the numbers L.S. 49, L.S. 82 and L.S. 101. It was later collected on the Society expeditions of 1981 on Mt. Gahavisuka and in 1983 on Mt. Gahavisuka and Mt. Giluwe.

R.superbum was collected by Lyn Craven near Aseki, Morobe District, East New Guinea in 1966, alt. ca 2250m and by Dr. Michael Black in East New Guinea in 1968. It was collected by Don Stanton in Chimbu District, P.N.G. in 1971. It was received from Lou Searle in 1974 and from Y. Sakata who collected it on the Bulldog Road near Edie Creek in 1979. It was collected on the Society expeditions on Mt. Gahavisuka in 1981, and on the Hagen Range, Kandep Divide and Mt. Miap in 1983.

R.robinsonii was received from Dr. Michael Black in 1968, having been collected on the Cameron Highlands in Malaya.

R.luteosquamatum was received from Dr. Michael Black in 1968 after being collected at Edie Creek, P.N.G.

R.gaultheriifolium var. *gaultheriifolium* was collected by J. Vandenberg on a slope above Lake Aunde, Mt. Wilhelm, East New Guinea in 1968, alt. ca 3550m, under the collection number N.G.F. 35083.

R.orbiculatum was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England in 1968, and the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1986.

R.invasorium was collected at Mairi Creek, and received from Dr. Michael Black in 1968, and later received from the Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A., in 1973.

R.stenophyllum was collected on Mt. Kinabalu by Bill Beard, Moorabbin, Victoria in 1967, and later received from E. F. Allen, Suffolk, England in 1968 having been previously collected on Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo. It was collected again and received from Frank Doleshy in 1976. Seed was later received from the American Rhododendron Society in 1980.

R.phaeochitum was received in the 1960's as Pitt Number 1. It was collected by Don Stanton, Chimbu District, P.N.G. in 1971. It was received from Lou Searle in 1974 as L.S. 25 and L.S. 38 and as *R.phaeochitum* from the Ming River. It was collected by Professor Arisumi in 1979, and on the Society expedition of 1983 on the Tambitanis grassland near Sirunke.

R.versteegii was received by Ben Menelaus in the late 1960's from an unknown collector.

R.herzogii was collected by Dr. Michael Black in East New Guinea in 1968, most probably at Edie Creek, and by Don Stanton at Edie Creek in 1971. It was received from Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A. in 1973, and from Dr. Creech in the U.S.A. in 1974. It was forwarded to the Society in 1974 by Lou Searle under the numbers L.S. 4, L.S. 58 and L.S. 68 and it was collected during the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 on the Hagen Range, Mt. Yakopimanda near Laigam, and Mur Mur Pass.

R.pleianthum was received under the collection number N.G.F. 33000 having been collected on Mt. Giluwe, and from Lou Searle in 1974 as L.S. 22. It was collected by Don Stanton in the Chimbu District, P.N.G. in 1971 and on the Society expedition of 1983 on Mt. Yakopimanda near Laigam.

R.hyacinthosmum was received from Canon Cruttwell in 1969, collected on Mt. Wayat, and again in 1973. It was later collected by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on their expedition to Mt. Dayman in 1974.

R.intranervatum was received from the U.K. probably the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, as seed, by Tom Lelliott in 1969.

R.retivenium was received from an unknown source in the late 1960's. It was later received from Pukeiti, New Zealand, in 1983 under the collection numbers B.T. 101 and B.T. 102.

R.santapau was collected by Cox and Hutchinson in north-east India in 1965 under the collection number Cox and Hutchinson 459. Seed was sent to the Society by Peter Cox on 18th April 1970.

R.kawakamii var. *flaviflorum* was collected by John Patrick on 11th November 1969 at Rrwanping below Alishan, Taiwan, alt. ca 2000m, and received by the Society in 1970.

R.rarum was received from Lou Searle in 1974 and collected on Mur Mur Pass on the Society expedition of 1981, and on the Hagen Range and Mt. Yakopimanda near Laigam on the Society expedition of 1983.

R.malayanum var. *malayanum* was received from Dr. Peter Valder in 1972 having been collected on Mt. Perdah, Malaya. It was later collected by Professor Arisumi and Y. Sakata in 1979-80, and received by the Society in January 1980.

R.carringtoniae was collected on Mt. Suckling in 1972 by Canon Cruttwell as Suckling Number 1, and by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974.



R.truncicolum

R.truncicolum was collected on Mt. Suckling in 1972 by Canon Cruttwell as Suckling Number 2.

R.beyerinckianum was collected on Mt. Suckling in 1972 by Canon Cruttwell as Suckling Number 3, by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974 in both typical and atypical forms, and on the Society expedition of 1983 on Mt. Yakopimanda near Laigam.

R.nummatum was collected on Mt. Suckling by Canon Cruttwell in 1972 and by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974.

R.rhodoleucum was collected on Mt. Suckling by Canon Cruttwell in 1972 and by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974.

R.dianthosmum was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1973, and from Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A. in 1973. It was originally collected by Dr. Sleumer in West Irian in 1961-62.

R.gardenia was received by Bill Mearns from Welensky, a forester in West Irian in 1973. It is considered to be a true species by Bill Mearns, although some growers of vireyas consider that it is a natural hybrid.

R.tuba was collected by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974.

R. cruttwellii was collected by Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks on Mt. Dayman in 1974. Seed of *R. cruttwellii* was received from Canon Cruttwell in January 1989 and on other occasions.

R. pauciflorum was received from Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A. in 1973.

R. quadrasianum var. *rosmarinifolium* was received from Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A. in 1973.

R. wrightianum var. *cyclopense* was received from Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A. in 1973. It was originally collected by Dr. Sleumer in the Cycloop Mts., West Irian in 1961-62.



R. scabridibracteum

R. scabridibracteum was received from Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A. in 1973, and from Lou Searle in 1974 as L.S. 67. It was collected on the Society expedition of 1983 on Mt. Gahavisuka. Seed was later received from Canon Cruttwell in January 1989.

R. spondylophyllum was collected by Lyn Craven on his expedition to Mts. Victoria and Albert Edward in 1974 under the number 2990.

R. giulianetti was collected by Lyn Craven on his expedition to Mts. Victoria and Albert Edward in 1974 under the number 3041.

R.comptum var. *comptum* was collected by Lyn Craven on his expedition to Mts. Victoria and Albert Edward in 1974 under the number 3044.

R.alticolum was collected by Lyn Craven on his expedition to Mts. Victoria and Albert Edward in 1974 under the number 2778. It was later collected by Paul Kores in 1976.

R.schoddei was collected by Don Stanton at Gumnie in 1971, and was received from Lou Searle in 1974.

R.searleanum was received from Lou Searle in 1974 under the number L.S. 39. It was later received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1982.

R.vandeursenii was received from Lou Searle in 1974 under the number L.S. 41.

R.stevensianum was received from Lou Searle in 1974 under the number L.S. 27, and it was collected on the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 on the Tambitanis grassland near Sirunke.

R.christii was received from Lou Searle in 1974 under the number L.S. 11 and from Paul Kores in 1976. The low altitude form was also received from Lou Searle in 1974. It was different from *R.christii* L.S.11 and may be a natural hybrid or even a new species. *R.christii* was later collected on Mt. Miap during the Society expedition of 1983. Seed was later received from Dr. George Argent in 1986.

R.multinervium was collected by Don Stanton in the Chimbu District, P.N.G. in 1971 and also on the Wagi-Jimi Divide, P.N.G., and received from Lou Searle in 1974 under the numbers L.S. 64 and L.S. 69. It was also collected on Mt. Gahavisuka during the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983.

R.anagalliflorum was collected in 1971 by Lou Searle and Don Stanton under the number L.S. 66. It was introduced by Don Stanton in 1971 and Lou Searle in 1974.

R.maius was collected by Don Stanton in the Chimbu District, P.N.G. in 1971 and was received from Lou Searle in 1974, and was collected by Paul Kores in 1976, and on the Society expeditions of 1981 and 1983 on Mt. Gahavisuka.

R.sumatranum was collected by Dr. Peter Valder in Sumatra in January 1975.

R.caliginis was collected by Paul Kores in 1976 and on the Society expedition in 1981 at Laigam.

R.purpureiflorum was collected by Paul Kores in 1976.

R.buxifolium var. *robustum* was collected on Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo and received from Frank Doleshy in 1976. It was received again in 1980 from Pukeiti, New Zealand, having been collected on Mt. Kinabalu by Keith Adams under the number A184. It was received again from Pukeiti in 1983 collected under the numbers B.T. 103 and B.T. 104. In 1990, Andrew Rouse collected a very vigorous form of *R.buxifolium* on Mt. Kinabalu, alt. ca 3584m.

R.ericoides var. *ericoides* was collected on Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo, and received from Frank Doleshy in 1976.



R.fallacinum

R.fallacinum was collected on Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo and received from Frank Doleshy in 1976. It was received again in 1980 from Pukeiti, New Zealand, having been collected by Keith Adams under the number A195, and also in 1980 from the American Rhododendron Society under the number M.G.M.3.

R.quadrasianum var. *cuneifolium* was collected on Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo and received from Frank Doleshy in 1976.



R.goodenoughii

R.goodenoughii was received from Peter Schick in the U.S.A. in September 1980, having been collected in 1976 by Paul Kores.

R.sessilifolium was received from Dr. Peter Valder on 23rd May 1980. Collection details are not known.

R.perakense was received from Professor Arisumi and Y. Sakata in January 1980, having been collected in Malaya.

R.vitis-idaea or *R.sayeri* was received in 1980 collected by Y. Sakata. *R.vitis-idaea* was later collected on the Tambitanis grassland near Sirunke on the Society expedition of 1983.

R.acuminatum was received from Pukeiti, New Zealand in 1980, collected by Keith Adams in Borneo on Mt. Kinabalu under the collection numbers A183 and A188. It was collected again on Mt. Kinabalu by Dr. George Argent, alt. ca 2700m in October 1989.

R.yongii was received from Pukeiti, New Zealand in 1980, collected by Keith Adams in Borneo on Gunong Mulu under the collection number A192. It was later received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1982 and again in 1986.

R.lowii was received from the American Rhododendron Society in 1980 under the collection number M.G.M.2, and from Pukeiti, New Zealand in 1983 under the number B.T. 107.

R.baenitzianum was collected at Goroka from Canon Cruttwell on the Society expedition of 1981. It had earlier been collected by Paul Kores in 1976. Seed was later also received from Canon Cruttwell in December 1989.

R.rubineiflorum was received during the Society expedition of 1981, having been collected on Mt. Michael by Canon Cruttwell.

R.bryophilum was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1981 under the number 672277, and again in 1982.

R.nervulosum was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1981 under the number 801179, and again in 1986, but it has since been identified as a *R.stenophyllum* hybrid.

R.micromalayanum was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1981 and 1982 under the numbers 672554, and B&M5396.

R.burtii was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1981 and 1982 under the numbers 672565, and B&M5549.

R.bagobonum was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1982.



R.crassifolium

R.crassifolium was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1982, and from Pukeiti, New Zealand in 1983 having been collected on Mt. Kinabalu under the number B.T. 106.

R.williamsii was received from Frank Doleshy, U.S.A. in 1983. It was previously received from an unknown source in the late 1960's or early 1970's.

R.vaccinioides was received from Frank Doleshy, U.S.A. in 1983.

R.suaveolens was received from Pukeiti, New Zealand in 1983, having been collected in Borneo under the number B.T. 105.

R.polyanthemum was received from Dr. George Argent in 1983 under the

number 791882, and again in 1986. It was also received from Os Blumhardt, New Zealand in 1986.

R.himantodes was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1986, and seed was also received from Dr. George Argent under the number 781723 in 1986 and again in 1988.

R.x sheilae which is a natural hybrid between *R.abietifolium* and *R.buxifolium* was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1986.

R.x planecostatum, a natural hybrid between *R.bagobonum* and *R.crassifolium* was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1986.

R.salicifolium was received from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh in 1986.

R.variolosum was received from Dr. George Argent in 1986.

R.ruttenii collected in Borneo on Gunong Binaia was received from Dr. George Argent in 1986.

R.lineare was received from Dr. George Argent in 1988 under the number 820847.

R.rarilepidotum was received from Dr. George Argent in 1988.

In Appendix 1 there is a list of the Vireya Rhododendron species known to be in cultivation in Australia. There could be several other species of which I have no record.

In Appendix 2 there is a list of the major collectors who have supplied either cuttings or seeds to growers of *Vireya Rhododendron* species in Australia. We are deeply indebted to all of these collectors, and to them we offer our thanks.

Finally I would like to thank Dr. John Rouse, Graham Snell, Harry Van de Ven, Arnold Teese and Bill Mearns for their help in supplying information regarding the dates of introduction of a number of species used in the preparation of this paper. I would also like to thank Mrs. Julie-Ann Webster for her help in typing the manuscript for this article.

Appendix 1.

List of *Vireya Rhododendron* species in cultivation in Australia.

acuminatum	macgregoriae var. macgregoriae
aequabile	maius
alticolum	malayanum var. malayanum
anagalliflorum	micromalayanum
arfakianum	multicolor
atropurpureum	multinervium
aurigeranum	nervulosum
baenitzianum	nummatum
bagobonum	orbiculatum
beyerinckianum	pachycarpon
blackii	pauciflorum
bryophilum	perakense
burtii	phaeochitum
buxifolium var. robustum	phaeopeplum
caliginis	x planecostatum
carringtoniae	pleianthum
christianae	polyanthemum
christianae var. 'Sunset'	purpureiflorum
christii	quadrasianum var. rosmarinifolium
commonae	quadrasianum var. cuneifolium
comptum var. comptum	rarilepidotum
crassifolium	rarum
cruttwellii	retivenium

culminicolum var. angiense	retusum var. retusum
culminicolum var. culminicolum	rhodoleucum
dianthosmum	robinsonii
dielsianum var. dielsianum	rubineiflorum
R. x 'Dr. Hermann Sleumer'	rugosum var. rugosum
ericoides var. ericoides	ruttenii
fallacinum	salicifolium
gardenia	santapau
gaultheriifolium var gaultheriifolium	saxifragoides
giulianetti	scabridibracteum
goodenoughii	schoddei
gracilentum	searleanum
hellwigii	sessilifolium
herzogii	x sheilae
hyacinthosmum	spondylophyllum
himantodes	stenophyllum
inconspicuum	stevensianum
intranervatum	suaveolens
invasorium	sumatranum
jasminiflorum var. jasminiflorum	superbum
jasminiflorum var. punctatum	truncicolum
javanicum var. brookeanum	tuba
javanicum var. brookeanum gracile	vaccinioides
javanicum var. brookeanum 'Mandarin'	vandeursenii
javanicum var. brookeanum 'Titan'	variolosum
javanicum var. javanicum	versteegii
javanicum var. teysmannii	vitis-idaea
kawakamii var. flaviflorum	warianum
konori	williamsii
laetum	womersleyi
leptanthum	wrightianum var. cyclopense
leucogigas	wrightianum var. wrightianum
lineare	yelliotii
lochiae	yongii
longiflorum var. longiflorum	zoelleri

loranthiflorum zoelleri var. 'Island Sunset'
lowii
luraluense

luteosquamatum

Appendix 2.

Major collectors and sources of supply of Vireya Rhododendron species
introduced into cultivation in Australia.

1957-1981 New Guinea Forests, Lae, P.N.G.
1957-1958 Unknown collectors from Mt. Hagen and Mt.
 Wilhelm, P.N.G.
1959 Canon Cruttwell from Daga area P.N.G.
1959-1991 Canon Cruttwell. Seed of P.N.G. species.
1962 Dr. H. Sleumer from West Irian
1964 Lyn Craven from Lake Loloru, Bougainville
 Island.
1965 & 1968 Dr. Michael Black from Malaya and P.N.G.
1966 Lyn Craven from Aseki and Mt. Hunstein in
 P.N.G.
1966 & 1968 The Royal Botanic Garden, Kew.
1969 Lou Searle from Kundiawa, P.N.G.
1971 Don Stanton from P.N.G.
1972 Canon Cruttwell from Mt. Suckling, P.N.G.
1973 Strybing Arboretum, U.S.A.
1973 Co-sponsored Society expedition to Kasonombe,
 Mt. Salawaket, P.N.G.
1974 Canon Cruttwell and Ray Weeks from Mt.
 Dayman, P.N.G.
1974 Lou Searle from Kundiawa, P.N.G.
1974 Lyn Craven from Mt. Victoria and Mt. Albert
 Edward, P.N.G.
1975 Dr. Peter Valder from Sumatra and Malaya.
1976 Paul Kores from P.N.G.
1976 Frank Doleshy from Borneo.
1979-1980 Professor Arisumi and Y. Sakata from Malaya
 and P.N.G.
1979-1980 John Swisher, Homestead, Florida, U.S.A.
1980 Peter Schick, U.S.A.
1980 Pukeiti, New Zealand from collections on Mt.

- Kinabalu in Borneo.
- 1981 Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.
- 1981 The Australian Rhododendron Society expedition to P.N.G.
- 1982 Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.
- 1982-1991 Dr. George Argent, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Seed of Sabah species.
- 1983 Pukeiti, New Zealand from collections on Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo.
- 1983 The Australian Rhododendron Society expedition to P.N.G.
- 1986 Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

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