



Drosera huegelii



Nepenthes gracilis



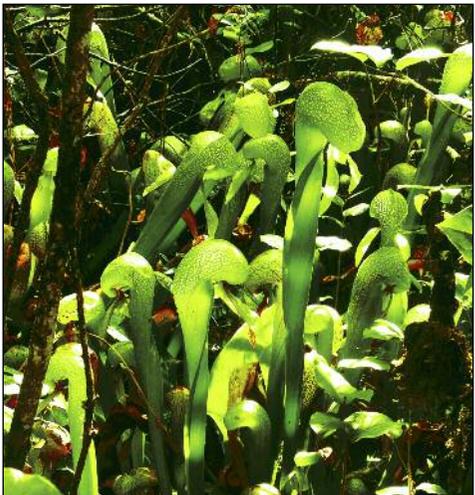
Nepenthes burbidgeae



D. erythrorhiza ssp. *collina*



P. moranensis var. *neovolcanica*



Darlingtonia californica
"Pitcher Plants of the Americas"



Heliamphora ionasii
"Pitcher Plants of the Americas"



VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS
PLANT SOCIETY Inc.

ISSN 1033-6966

September 2006

No. 81



Sarracenia flava var. *rugelii*

Annual Subscriptions

Australian membership \$25.00
Overseas membership \$25.00

Payment from overseas must be in Australian dollars.
All cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society Inc (VCPS).
Payment by credit card is NOT available at the time of this journal issue.

Correspondence

Please forward all correspondence regarding subscription, change of address, articles for the journal and back issues to:

The Secretary VCPS
P.O. Box 201
SOUTH YARRA 3141.
AUSTRALIA

Journal articles, in MS-Word, ready for publication, may be Emailed to the Editor or Secretary.

Meetings

Most VCPS meetings are held in the hall at the rear of the Pilgrim Uniting Church on the corner of Bayview Road and Montague Street, Yarraville – Melway map reference 41K7. These meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM.

However, some meetings may be at the home of members during a weekend. Details of meeting dates and topics are listed in each journal.

If unsure of the location or date of any meeting, please ring a committee person for details.

The VCPS Annual General Meeting, usually held at Yarraville in June, provides substantial benefits for each and every member able to attend.

Issue No. 81

September 2006

Office Bearers: July 2006 – June 2007

President	Stephen Fretwell
Vice President	Sean Spence
General Secretary	Peter Bloem
Minutes Secretary	Sean Spence
Other Publications	Gordon Ohlenrott
Journal Editor	Stephen Fretwell
Assistant Journal Editor	George Caspar
Internet Co-ordinator	Paul Edwards
Treasurer	Ken Neal
Librarian	Andrew Gibbons
Seedbank Administrator	Ron Abernethy
Hardware Co-ordinator	Andre Cleghorn
Show Co-ordinator	Peter Anderson
Field Trips Organiser	George Caspar
Public Officer	Alexander Whitehouse
Sales Administrator	Ron Abernethy

Contents



***Heliamphora pulchella* “Pitcher Plants of the Americas”**
Photo: Stewart McPherson

New carnivorous plant publication and conservation project	6
Field Trip to Donnybrook in W.A.	9
Travels around North Borneo – Part 1	12
Growing CPs from the novice perspective	18

The articles that are found within are copyright but can be copied freely if the author and source are acknowledged. The views are of the authors and are open to review and debate. Please send all material to the editor for consideration to be included in our quarterly journal.



FRONT COVER:
S. flava var. *rugelii*, from Appalachian National Forest. “Pitcher Plants of the Americas”.
Photo: Stewart McPherson.

BACK COVER:
Clockwise from top left:

- *Drosera huegelii*, W.A. Photo: David Banks.
- *Nepenthes gracilis*, Borneo Photo: Justin Thong.
- *Nepenthes burbidgeae*, Borneo Photo: Justin Thong.
- *Pinguicula moranensis* var *neovolcanica* Photo: Kim Thorogood.
- *Heliamphora ionasii* “Pitcher Plants of the Americas” Photo: Stewart McPherson.
- *Darlingtonia californica* “Pitcher Plants of the Americas” Photo: Stewart McPherson.
- *D. erythrorhiza* ssp *collina* Photo: David Banks.

Journal Design:
Stephen Fretwell

Printed by:
Snap Printing (Box Hill)



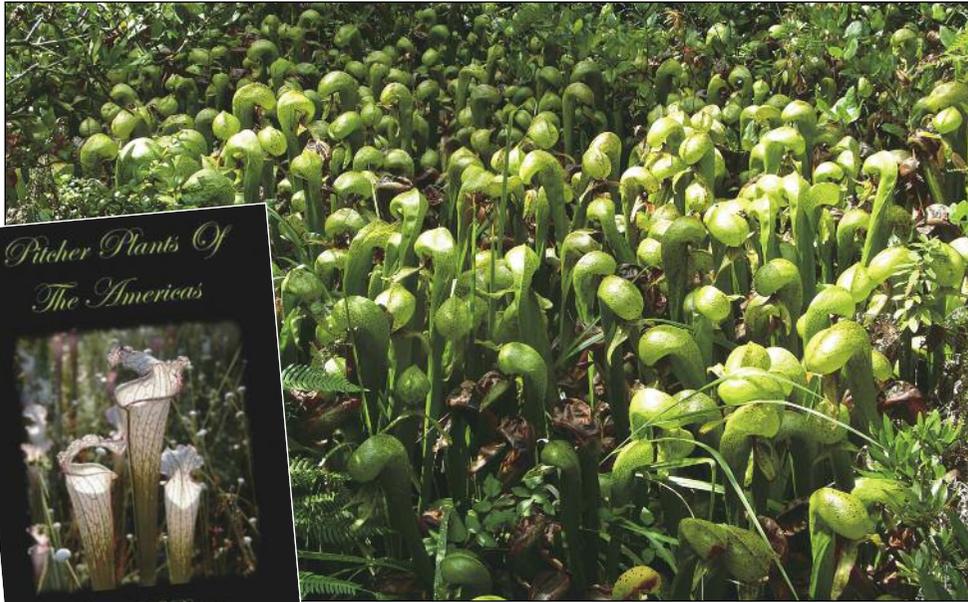
MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2006

VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

This year we have scheduled the following discussion topics, and events:

January	(14th)	New Year BBQ, <i>Darlingtonia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> .
February	(22nd)	<i>Sarracenia</i> species and hybrids, beginners night.
March	(22nd)	<i>Nepenthes</i> and <i>Heliamphora</i> .
April	(26th)	<i>Drosera</i> , video and information night.
May	(24th)	Growing conditions, pygmy <i>Drosera</i> gemmae collection, 'best' and 'worst' plants.
June	(28th)	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July	(26th)	Seed growing and tissue culture, potting demonstration, any CPs.
August	(23rd)	Tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
September	(27th)	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
October	(29th)	Field trip to Triffid Park (Sunday afternoon, commencing with barbecue lunch). <i>Pinguicula</i> and pygmy <i>Drosera</i> .
November	(22nd)	<i>Byblis</i> , <i>Drosophyllum</i> , <i>Genlisea</i> , <i>Roridula</i> , <i>Utricularia</i> .
December	(2nd & 3rd)	Annual show at Collectors Corner.

Please note: All meetings, other than those where a specific venue is given, will be on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the month in the hall of the Pilgrim Uniting Church in Yarraville – corner Bayview Road and Montague Street, Melway Map Reference 41K7.



Left: Stewart McPherson's new book *Pitcher Plants of the Americas* and one of his pictures of *D. californica* in the wild.

New carnivorous plant publication and conservation project

STEWART MCPHERSON

As hobbyists we are all aware of the imminent threats facing the majority of carnivorous plants distributed across our world. Several genera are listed in CITES Appendix II and thereby considered potentially threatened with extinction. More worryingly at least a dozen species are individually included under CITES Appendix I and therefore imminently imperiled.

Perhaps the most disturbing example is that of *Sarracenia*, in the Southeastern United States, where at least 98% of the original wetland habitat has already

been destroyed and alarmingly even the last, remnant patches continue to be under siege.

It is clear that the current rate of environmental destruction and loss of biodiversity is unsustainable. The risk of extinction of dozens of carnivorous plant species in the wild will loom ever greater in the coming decades. The disappearance of these extraordinary and spectacular plants from natural areas is a tragedy that we cannot allow to take place.

Over the course of the past six years, I have undertaken the task of observing and documenting the diversity and ecology of all known carnivorous plant

genera in their wild habitats. During 2006 and 2007, five new books will be released that document the remarkable multiplicity and beauty of carnivorous plants focusing in particular on lesser known and imperiled species. Each book is designed to provide a useful account of ecology and diversity as a conservation resource and also as a valuable and visually spectacular introduction that will interest and benefit horticulturalists.

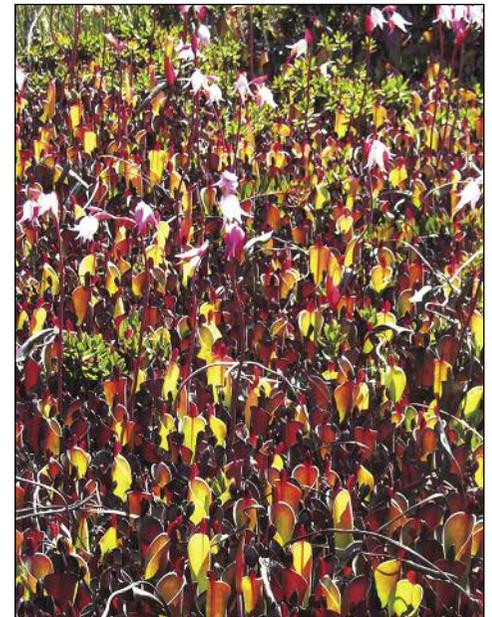
I will sell copies of each title personally through my online company Redfern Natural History Productions and donate profits to purchase carnivorous plant habitat that will be donated for sustainable management and permanent protection. My goal is to set up a substantial multi-acre carnivorous plant preserve in the south east of the United States of America within two years – to provide a future for some of the most imperiled species of *Sarracenia*, *Drosera*, *Utricularia* and *Pinguicula*.

The first book to be released is *Pitcher Plants of the Americas* – a uniquely detailed study of the natural diversity and wild ecology of the American pitcher plants (*Broccinia*, *Catopsis*, *Darlingtonia*, *Heliophora*, and *Sarracenia*).

This work is intended to be the most substantive and up to date overview of the world's largest and most spectacular group of carnivorous plants which occur across the most barren and least explored areas of the American continents. Enhanced through the use of over 200 spectacular colour images, *Pitcher Plants of the Americas* represents the first complete overview of the systematics, biology, ecology, biogeography, conservation, and horticulture of the five genera of American pitcher plants as well as the most extensive photographic record of this remarkable and very beautiful group of



Catopsis berteroniana Photos: Stewart McPherson



Heliophora chimantensis



Sarracenia leucophylla



Sarracenia leucophylla

plants. All currently known forms and varieties of each species are described and examined in detail, in many cases for the very first time.

The introductory chapters of this work outline the taxonomic content and groupings (by trapping methods) of carnivorous plants and briefly review the taxonomy, biology, evolutionary history, and biogeography of the American pitcher plants. The following five chapters are devoted to individual genera of the American pitcher plants and examine in detail the anatomy, habitat, ecology, trapping process, and distribution of each genus and each member species as well as many naturally occurring hybrids and selected cultivars. The concluding chapters summarise the current conservational status of each family of American pitcher plants in terms of the nature and extent of habitat loss and the resulting threat of extinction

and the study closes by considering the various successful conservation approaches and initiatives which are helping to secure a bright future for these rare plants.

If you would like to obtain a copy of this book and would like to actively support the conservation of carnivorous plants and their habitats, I warmly invite you to visit www.redfernnaturalhistory.com or email me personally at stewart.mcpherson@redfernnaturalhistory.com

As this project generates profit, I will prepare more information and updates and eventually create a report of the Preserve that will be established.

Absolutely no carnivorous plants at all or any other wildlife were deliberately harmed during the production of these books.

www.redfernnaturalhistory.com
stewart.mcpherson@redfernnaturalhistory.com



D. erythrorhiza ssp. collina growing amongst *Eucalyptus* leaf litter at Donnybrook.

Photos: David Banks

Field Trip to Donnybrook in W.A.

DAVID BANKS

Who needs an excuse to go look at CP's in the wild? I certainly don't! So when Stephen Fretwell asked me if I would write about some of the local species of CP that grow here in WA I was more than happy to revisit a place I knew I had seen several types of *Drosera* growing. The only apprehension I had was the timing. This year Perth has experienced it's driest autumn on record and winter was shaping up to do the same. My concern was that the place I know about was the best part of two hours south of my place and if the weather had delayed the new growth of these plants my chances of finding anything to write about would be slim at best.

As it happens I have a mate, Gideon, who lives down that way and we organised the trip about two weeks in advance. I asked Gideon if it had rained at his place over the last few months and his reply wasn't all that encouraging. Well the day finally arrived and Gideon and I both jumped in the car and headed off to the spot where we had previously seen *Drosera* growing in profusion.

The local area is hilly and those areas that aren't being used for grazing or vineyards are covered in woodlands of eucalypt, grass trees and bottle brush. The soil is a combination of clay and pea gravel covered by a thin layer of leaf litter and organic matter.

We began our search at the start of one of the many tracks that weave their



A close-up of *D. huegelii*'s bell shaped leaf.



D. huegelii also found at Donnybrook.



D. erythrorhiza ssp collina

way through the reserve. These tracks are commonly used by trail bikes, horse riders and bushwalkers. As we made our way further into the reserve my apprehension began to grow as we were not seeing any of the tell tale signs of the sundews that we had seen on our last trip. Even the local native orchids, trigger plants and other flowering plants were proving to be developing late. Usually on the first part of the track we would be seeing many good examples but this time the ground was looking very dry with little green.

About half way along the track Gideon and I were starting to come to the conclusion that we were not going to have much luck. We stopped to have a look at an ants nest and I was just about to say "Let's go back" when I turned around, and there to my delight was a glistening specimen of *Drosera erythrorhiza ssp collina*. I excitedly exclaimed to Gideon "Hey look I found one!" and as I did I saw another, and another. They were everywhere and not only that, Gideon had just found the first *Drosera huegelii*. It was only small but no sooner than taking my first photo Gideon began to find more and more on the opposite side of the track to the *D. erythrorhiza*. At one stage I lost sight of Gideon as he excitedly wandered off finding more and more plants, yelling out to me as he found bigger and bigger plants.

Some of the bigger specimens of *D. huegelii* were sending up black coloured flower buds but sadly we were too early to find any in flower. As it happens, the area that we finally found our elusive *Drosera* growing in was a patch that was more exposed to sunlight and the plants were growing in quite large numbers. Some areas would have contained anywhere up to 15 to 20 plants in a square metre and it proved difficult not to step on them.

The *D. erythrorhiza* varied in colour from

all green in the shade, to green with a reddish tinge on the edges of the leaves. Those plants growing in almost full sun had a deeper reddish colouration in from the edge, towards the middle of the leaves. Some of the larger specimens had reached approximately 10 to 12 cm across.

Of the *D. huegelii*, the plants we found were all green with some reddish colouration to the tentacles and were growing up to 20cm in height and contained 15 to 20 traps on a single stalk. Only the bigger, more mature plants had started to send out flower buds at the top of their stalks.

To think of how close we were to giving up on our search, if it hadn't been for that final stop to inspect the ants nest we would have missed the whole lot. Well now I know to go looking a little later in the season, and hopefully next time we will be able to report on the trigger plants and the native orchids that grow in the area.



D. erythrorhiza ssp collina

PitcherPlantFever.com

Importing rare pitcher plants for Australians.

Distributor for Borneo Exotics and Malesiana Tropicals.

Enquiries to agustinfranco@excite.com

SOUTHERN CARNIVORES

<http://www.scarnivores.com>

philmann@geo.net.au

P.O.Box 193 Harvey, W.A. 6220

Contact Phil for a wide range of exotic and rare

Nepenthes species and hybrids.

Drosera, Pinguicula and Cephalotus also available.



St Johns peak, Mt Kinabalu.

Photos: Justin Thong

Travels around North Borneo – Part 1

JUSTIN THONG

It all started with a fly trap. Over 21 years ago I came across this innocent looking plant at a market stall one Sunday afternoon, and so it began, a fantastic journey that still continues today, an obsession that we can all relate to. Being born in Sabah, Malaysia, it was fortunate that my interest in carnivorous plants eventually centred on *Nepenthes*.

This passion for *Nepenthes* has resulted in many hours driving, hiking, climbing and searching for them in their natural habitat. Most of this time has been concentrated on Mt Kinabalu and its surrounding slopes, and this is the journal article that I have thought about,

but never quite got around to. I intend to share my experiences, a few secrets along the way, and have some of you highlighting, underlining and planning your trip to Sabah.

I have been climbing Mt Kinabalu for the last 21 years, every time I returned to my home town of Kota Kinabalu, a trip to “the mountain” was always on my list of things to do, which has culminated in more than ten climbs to the summit of Mt Kinabalu, and many more trips to explore the Kinabalu National Park. This article is broken into the different locations that I have visited and describes how to get there, what you can find there, and finishes with some other attractions of Sabah.

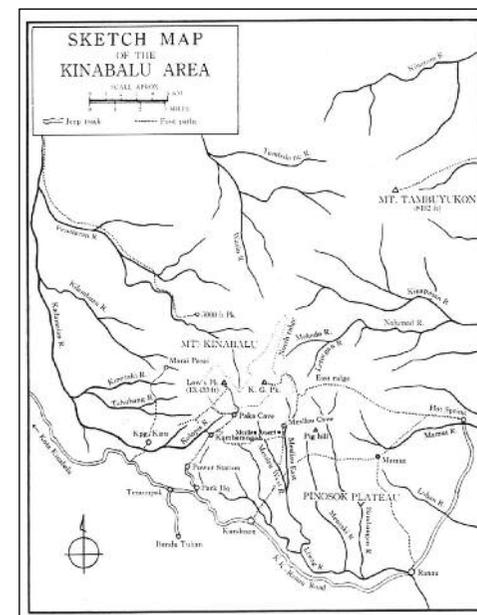
Mesilau Summit Trail

(5o59’N, 116o36’E Mesilau River)

THE Mesilau Nature Resort is at the foot of Mount Kinabalu at 2, 000 meters above sea level on the Pinosok Plateau. It is approximately 2 hours drive (120km) from Kota Kinabalu, and 35 – 45 minutes drive from the main Park Headquarters. Shuttle buses (Toyota 4wds) are available between the two locations. The turn off to Mesilau is at Kundasan on the left when coming from Kota Kinabalu, just after the Shell petrol station which is on the right. The road passes through the spectacular Mount Kinabalu Golf Course, with one particular hole that includes the Mesilau river as an obstacle.

The New Mesilau route is approximately 1.7 km longer than the old trail from the Mt Kinabalu Park Headquarters. It is however a little more difficult as it involves climbing several large ridges to reach the point where it joins the old summit trail just above Layang-Layang at 2700m (8600 ft). It’s more painful on the way down if you choose to return via the Mesilau route. You have the option of climbing and returning via the two different trails, which is a good way to see more of the mountain.

From Pondok *Nepenthes* (see summit trail map) onwards, there are plenty of *Nepenthes tentaculata* (900 – 2400m) to be seen. It grows in both heavily shaded and full sunlight positions, producing pitchers ranging from apple green to dark burgundy. Along the ridge tops it is commonly found growing in beds of sphagnum moss. The trail winds along some very scenic ridge tops as you slowly gain altitude. *Nepenthes villosa* is most abundant between Pondok Magnolia and the old summit trail. There are some large specimens overhanging the trail and many more growing in the forest along the edge of the trail.



Updated map of Kinabalu area showing Mesilau Resort and Summit trail.

At the junction of the Mesilau and old summit trail there is new accommodation being constructed, which will be an ideal base to explore the mountain looking for *Nepenthes*.

Nepenthes villosa (2400 – 3200m) can be found virtually all the way along the summit trail to the 11000 ft Laban Rata rest house.

N. xkinabaluensis (*N. rajah* x *N. villosa*) can be seen in a well known area (to guides) in the 9000 – 10500 ft (around 2900m) range. If you are climbing, it is on the right side of the main summit trail. This area is characterised by bright orange rocks and soil, and stunted tree cover of approximately 10 – 20 ft in height. A small overgrown path leads down a steep slope, just metres from the main trail to the *N. xkinabaluensis*. It is important to be extremely careful not to damage any vegetation when leaving the main summit trail, as it may still be visible



N. villosa

many years later. There are around 10 – 15 plants of varying size present along with *N. villosa*.

The status of *Nepenthes lowii* is uncertain as the vast majority of this species along the summit trail reportedly perished during a long drought period during the late 1990's. *Nepenthes edwardsiana* is reported to be still present below the Kamarangoh Telekom station (below Pondok Lowii – 7500 ft).

The shelters along the Mesilau trail listed below provide a place to rest and take in spectacular views, as all but the first two are situated along high ridge tops. At various points the television transmission towers on the old trail are visible, giving an indication of the direction you are heading.

Shelters: Pondok (New construction), Pondok Bambu, Pondok *Nepenthes*, Pondok

Chempaka, Pondok Lompoyou, Pondok Magnolia (last before joining old Summit trail), Pondok Layang-Layang 2, 700m (8600 ft, you don't actually pass this shelter, it is just below the junction of the two trails), Pondok Villosa 2,942m (9600ft), Pondok Paka 3052m (10000 ft), Laban Rata 3,300m (11000ft, overnight rest accommodation), Sayat Sayat 3800 m (12500 ft), Low's Peak 4101 m (13455 ft).

It can take approximately 1 – 3 hours to walk from Mesilau to the old summit trail depending on your speed. From there to Laban Rata (3,300m) will take an additional 2 – 4 hours, again depending on your pace, level of fitness or how many times you stop to look at *Nepenthes*.

The next morning, usually around 2 – 3 am you will begin your ascent to the summit. Make sure you are wearing your climbing permit, as you will not be allowed to proceed without it. Your goal is to reach the summit for the sunrise at around 6am. These days real estate on the summit is limited given the number of people climbing. It's best not to get there too early or you will be sitting around in the cold (especially if it's windy) waiting for the sun to come up. On clear mornings you will be able to see the lights of Kota Kinabalu in the distance on the coast. As the sun rises a huge triangular shadow of the mountain is projected to the coastline in the distance. Once the sun is up, you will have a good view of most of the peaks of Kinabalu and Low's Gully which falls away from one side of Low's peak.

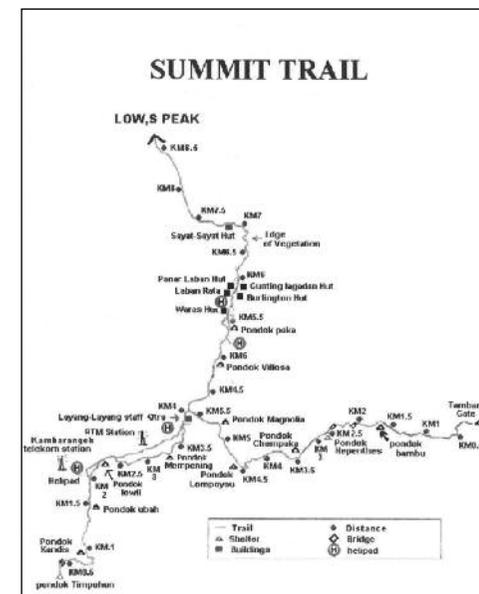
On your descent you will be able to see the old summit trail, Park Headquarters and the Mt Kinabalu Golf Course clearly. It takes approximately 2 – 4 hours to descend all the way down via the Mesilau or Old Summit trail from Laban Rata.

Mesilau *Nepenthes rajah* area

(2000m) (Guided tours at 9.00am & 3.00pm, Monday – Friday) MYR\$10 per person (Non Malaysian)

ONCE a difficult place to reach in the days before the Mt Kinabalu golf course and the Mesilau Nature Resort, this magnificent area is within 10 minutes walk from the Mesilau Park office. Access is strictly controlled and always accompanied by a park ranger or botanist. The area is gated and has been made accessible via paths cut into the steep hill side on which *Nepenthes rajah* grows, above the East Mesilau River. Once there you are able to walk along the paths and view many *Nepenthes rajah* plants in all states of development from seedlings to mature plants in flower with leaves over 60cm long, and pitchers easily reaching 30cm from base to top of lid.

This area, maintained by Ansow Gunsalam of Bundu Tuhan, is being used as a safe location to transplant *Nepenthes burbidgeae* from the Pinosok Plateau, to prevent their destruction from farming and development. These plants have adapted exceptionally well and should continue to thrive in the conditions of the area. It may also lead to natural hybridisation resulting in *N. xalisaputrana* (*N. rajah* x *N. burbidgeae*) becoming established in this location. Other species such as *N. fusca* and *N. macrovularis* have also been transplanted to this area, creating a *Nepenthes* garden, reminiscent of the Mountain Garden at the main Park Headquarters. A single specimen of *N. rajah* x *N. lowii* is also within this area. Ansow is the senior botanist at Mesilau, and has a wealth of knowledge on the flora of Mt Kinabalu, and has even been to an ICPS conference.



***N. rajah* one of the largest *Nepenthes* species.**



***N. reinwardtiana* growing on the side of the road.**



N. fusca x N. stenophylla

Mamut Copper Mine 1300 – 1600 m (6o02'N, 116o39'E Mamut River)

THE Mamut Copper Mine which ceased operations in 1999, is about 160 km from Kota Kinabalu. A further ? hour by car along the same road that passes the Kinabalu National Park. The mine pit is 16.5km from the main road passing by Ranau. Since the mine's closure the state of the road has deteriorated to the point where it is only suitable for a four wheel drive. There is talk of constructing some sort of resort in the mine area, but unless that happens it is unlikely any major maintenance will be carried out on the access road.

The mine is at 1,300 m above sea level on the South Eastern approach of Mount Kinabalu. The pit is circular with a diameter of about 1,200m and a depth of 500m, now filled with water. The annual rainfall is 4,000 mm and the climate is sub-tropical with periods of heavy fog cover contrasting with hot sunny conditions.

Nepenthes macrovulgaris, *burbidgeae*, *reinwardtiana*, *fusca*, *stenophylla*, can all be found within the mine area. The first species *N. reinwardtiana* can be spotted from the vehicle as you drive towards the mine. It

grows on steep exposed slopes and flat grassy areas. There is a variety of colourations present ranging from bright green, speckled and orange.

When you reach the top of the road, the pit will be to your left. The road branches off in all directions from this point. Heading back and uphill, there is a large flat area with several large *N. reinwardtiana* specimens. You will be able to see a large disused greenhouse from this location, which is a failed hydroponic tomato venture. Continuing in the same direction on the main road, on the right *N. fusca*, *N. stenophylla*, *N. fusca x N. stenophylla*, and *N. macrovulgaris* can be found growing next to each other. *N. burbidgeae* is only a short distance from this point along the same road.

Ranau

A good location to see *Rafflesia*, and on the way to Poring Hot Springs (Kinabalu National Park). The locals cash in on the fact that foreign tourists pay money to see these in flowers. Look for small signs on the side of the road that say "*Rafflesia* in bloom". The going rate is about MYR \$5 – \$10 per person to see these. The last one I saw here

was *Rafflesia keithii*, approximately 45cm in diameter, and it was literally in someone's backyard.

Mt Kinabalu "Standard" South Ridge Route (6o49'59"N, 116o32'59" E)

THE Park Headquarters is about 1 ? hours drive from Kota Kinabalu and is at an altitude of 1,560m. the average temperature is approximately 20 °C, with daily fluctuations of 7–9 °C. Average annual rainfall at this location is 2,380mm. The park boundary is determined by the co-ordinates 6° 00' 25" – 6° 29'48"N and 116° 21'30" – 116° 45' 00"E

Shelters: Timpohon (Power Station) 1,830m (6000 ft), Pondok Kandis 1,979m (6500ft), Pondok Ubah 2,079m (6900ft), Pondok Lowii 2,286m (7500ft), Pondok Mempening 2,518m (8300ft), Pondok Layang-Layang 2,700m (8600ft), Pondok Villosa 2,942m (9600ft), Pondok Paka 3052m (10000 ft), Laban Rata 3,300m (11000ft),

Sayat Sayat 3800m (12500 ft), Low's Peak 4101m (13455 ft)

THE Standard Summit Trail will take approximately 1–2 hours less than the Mesilau route. It is slightly less demanding,



Rafflesia keithii

and less scenic than the Mesilau trail.

Nepenthes fusca can be seen around the park area, particularly near the power station, along the access road, and walking trails. *Nepenthes tentaculata* is commonly found along the lower sections of the summit trail. Once you spot the first one, it is much easier to find more. Between Pondok Lowii and Pondok Mempening a small number of *N. xharryana* (*N. edwardsiana x N. villosa*) can be found. Once you reach Pondok Layang-Layang 2,700m, the two trails converge (See "*Mesilau Summit Trail*" for further climbing details).

To be continued

Carnivorous Plants

Allen Lowrie

***Drosera*, *tuberous Drosera*, *tropical perennial Drosera*, *pygmy Drosera*, *Cephalotus*, *Utricularia*, *CP seed*, *Orchids* and *Trigger plants*.**

*Tuberous *Drosera* sold when dormant Nov-late March.

*Pygmy *Drosera* sold as gemmae (vegetative buds) over 3 months. May-June.

Allen Lowrie, 6 Glenn Place Duncraig, 6023. Western Australia

Phone: 08 9447 7426 + 61 8 9447 7426 (Overseas) Fax: 08 9246 9335 + 61 8 9246 9335 (Overseas)

Please inquire about Catalogue.



Pinguicula laeana

Photos: Kim Thorogood



Pinguicula emarginata x Weser



Pinguicula x Sethos

Growing CPs from the novice perspective

KIM THOROGOOD

For about the last 20 years or so I've been interested in Carnivorous Plants. I purchased Adrian Slack's book (back when it was readily available) and pored over the colour plates, wondering how I could possibly obtain any of the plants. On my windowsill at home I grew a few CPs; there was a Venus Fly Trap, a *Sarracenia purpurea* and a *Drosera*. For some time I lovingly tended the plants and, not really knowing what I was doing, kept them alive; the Sarra even produced a flower for me. Attention gave way to neglect

though and they all eventually died – RIP.

I have a vague recollection of visiting one of the Shows at Birdwood Avenue and collecting information about the VCPS, not that I did anything about it. During visits to the Collector's Corner nursery I would always stop by the CP section, see the flyer on the post and think to myself "I should join this club", but still did nothing about it.

Eventually, (a few years ago now) I saw an ad for the Open Day at Triffid Park, and paid particular attention to the bit about VCPS presence. Needless to say I joined the club on that day and started attending meetings the following

March, once I realised that Yarraville was actually a very easy place to get to straight after work!

During my first meeting I was really pleased to find how friendly and welcoming the other members were. For a long time I've been involved in another plant group and the laid back approach in the VCPS was quite a contrast to the other clubs' more formal meetings.

I don't remember which plants I bought when I first joined but I did attempt to grow them under fluorescent lights on my African violet light stand. A few plants grew successfully – *Darlingtonia californica*, *Cephalotus follicularis* and *Drosera capensis*. The *Sarracenia* really did struggle, as did the VFTs. About six months ago I decided that I needed more room for my African violets and booted most of the CPs outside, actually a win-win situation. I've recently repotted most of them and can finally say that they are looking promising. Repotting was a great opportunity to get a better understanding of the structure of each species.

The ones that were "allowed" to stay inside on the light stand were the *Pinguicula*, the *Heliophora* and the *Utricularia*, although the latter are moving out soon! I have a cou-

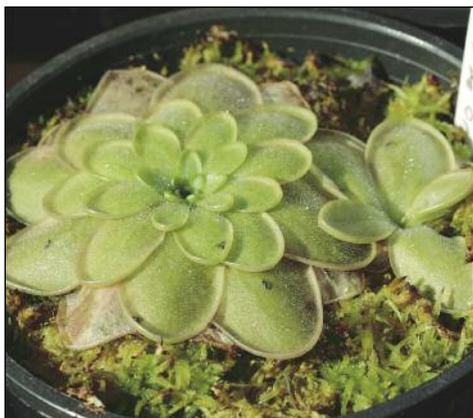
ple of very small *Nepenthes* that are doing OK in a fish-tank lined with sphagnum moss and they share that environment with *Drosera schizandra*.

My greatest success so far has been with the *Pinguicula*. They are growing on the end of one of the lowest shelves on my light stand; each shelf has two 40W Wide-spectrum fluorescent tubes that are timer-controlled to be on for eight hours per day. The average ambient temperature of the room is around 20 degrees Celcius although this sometimes drops to around 15C at night.

So far I have the following varieties:

- *Pinguicula laeana* SP1 x CP2 – Sean gave me some seedlings when I told him about my light stand setup. This was more an experiment to see how well they would grow in my conditions. Watering was a little haphazard for a while and I didn't repot them when I should have but I have three very healthy plants in the pot, two of which appear to be in their dormant phase.

- *Pinguicula x Sethos* – this was one of David's plants. The original plant has multiplied and now has two rosettes.



***Pinguicula moranensis* var. *neovolcanica*
“Pico de Orizaba”**

• *Pinguicula emarginata* x (*x* *Weser*) – this was also one of David’s plants. When I bought it there were three main rosettes in the pot. When I repotted I found a few extras and with a bit of multiplying there are now eight.

• *Pinguicula moranensis* var. *neovolcanica* “Pico de Orizaba” – this was one of Sean’s plants and I bought it at last year’s show. I am ashamed to say it was kicking around the kitchen floor for a while and slowly but surely dying without me realising. Once I repotted it into some fresh sphagnum and put it under lights it just took off. The main plant has almost filled the pot and it has produced another rosette.

This one is ear-marked for Sean because he has since lost the original plant. The plant is growing really well and is colouring up quite nicely. I’m a proud mama!

• *Pinguicula moctezumae* x “*ayautla*” – this was one of Steve’s plants. I’ve only had this plant for a month or so and it hasn’t yet made it to the light stand (it has been in isolation), but it is doing quite well, has a couple of new rows of leaves and has produced a flower bud that will be opening soon.

• *Pinguicula mesophytica* – this is one of Triffid Park’s plants and hasn’t made it to the light stand yet for the same reasons as above.

It has also formed a few rows of leaves and is looking good.

It’s quite possible that *Pinguicula* could become my speciality plant but I do enjoy growing a variety, and all of the species have something different to offer. I feel that I’ve learnt enough at the meetings so far to begin growing decent plants and once I have mastered that will be able to appreciate the much more advanced information that is also provided at these meetings.

I’m really glad I finally got off my butt and joined the club – even though it did take about 20 years!

Carnivorous and Unusual Seeds.

F.J. & E.M. Howell.

3 Normandy Ave, Parra Hills. S.A. 5096

Phone.: (08) 8264 2825

Fred offers a wide variety of plants and seeds.

Sarracenia, Drosera, Utricularia, Pinguicula, Nepenthes, Dionaea and more.

Contact him for his latest list of stock available.

TRIFFID PARK

257 PERRY ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH, VIC, 3173, AUSTRALIA

PHONE: 61 (0)3 9769 1663, 10am to 5pm Monday to Thursday ONLY

FAX: 61 (0)3 9701 5816, 24 hours, 7 days per week

EMAIL: triffids@triffidpark.com.au triffids@triffidpark.com.au

WEB: www.triffidpark.com.au

Owned and operated by Colin and Tina Clayton. Managed by Donna ClaytonSmith.

**FOR ALL YOUR CARNIVOROUS PLANT REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING:
PLANTS, POTS, LABELS, BOOKS, SEEDS,
SPHAGNUM MOSS AND PEAT MOSS**

WRITE, PHONE, FAX OR EMAIL TRIFFID PARK FOR A FREE COLOUR
MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE OR VIEW OUR COMPREHENSIVE WEB SITE.

You are most welcome to visit Triffid Park, but please organize this with us first,
as sales and inspection are by appointment ONLY.

NEWS

Triffid Park once again held a very successful **Open Day** on Sunday 29th November. We would like to thank all the members of the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society who attended. And a big “Thank you” to Peter Anderson who held a fantastic demonstration for us on taking *Nepenthes* cuttings, and David Bond who assisted him. And “Thank you” to Ken Neal for manning the V.C.P.S. display table for the day. Congratulations on obtaining 10 new members. We also gave away a \$25 gift voucher to be spent at Triffid Park in our raffle.

GIFT VOUCHERS are now available. With Christmas fast approaching, tell your friends and family, that they can purchase you a gift voucher to Triffid Park for use on plants, books or anything else in our large range that we sell.

We have a good stock of **Barry Rice’s new book “Growing Carnivorous Plants”** at \$55 posted to you in Australia + gst. Or \$45 picked up from Triffid Park or delivered to the monthly meetings (please phone first to organise this).

Barry is the editor of the International Carnivorous Plant Society newsletter, and has used his years of accumulated knowledge to produce this beautiful book, exploring new ground in many areas of the field.

We have also ordered the new book “**Pitcher Plants of the Americas**” by **Stewart McPherson**. It is ground breaking and a must have book in any carnivorous plant collectors library. They should arrive here late Jan/early Feb 2007. They will sell posted within Australia for \$80 soft cover and \$100 hard cover + gst. We will do a special for V.C.P.S. members for \$60 soft cover and \$80 hard cover either picked up at Triffid Park or we can deliver to the monthly meetings. Pre-orders taken as we have only ordered limited quantities.

From Colin, Tina, Donna and Jason, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.