



Drosera madagascariensis



Darlingtonia californica



Heliamphora macdonaldae



Dionaea muscipula



Nepenthes hurrelliana



S. purpurea ssp venosa



Nepenthes villosa



Heliamphora minor x heterodoxa

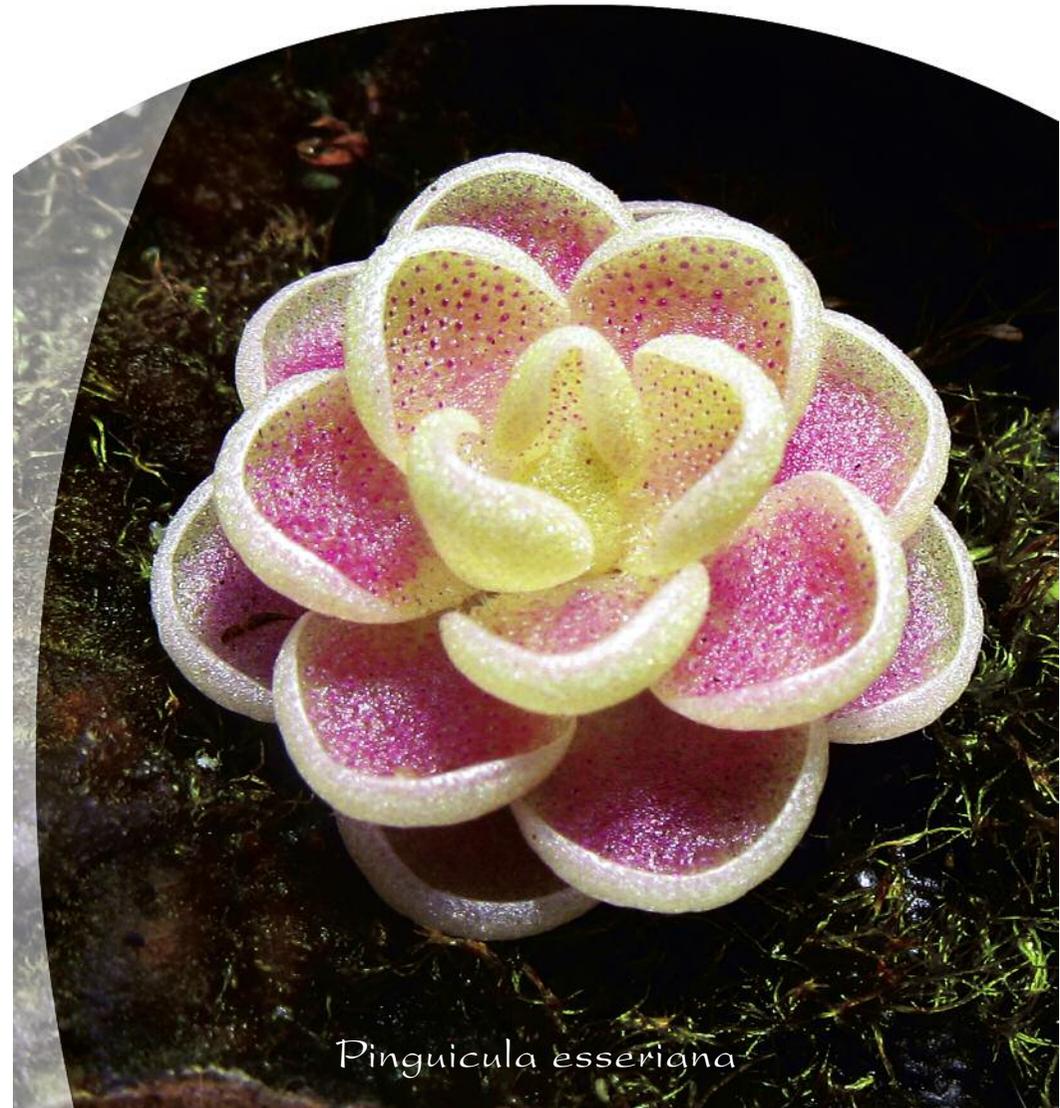


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Pinguicula esseriana

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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. 83

March 2007

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Contents



***Utricularia petertaylorii* grown by Sean Spence.**

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Seed Bank

We now have a huge collection of NEW fresh CP seed available, and our seed list has become quite extensive.

With over 250 varieties of CP's, we are now providing the list in PDF format on our website, www.vcps.au.com.

The new seed consists of over 200 types of *Sarracenia* species and hybrids, *Darlingtonia* seed obtained from the US and *Drosophyllum*.

Seed was collected from plants late 2006, so be quick, while stocks last. For inquiries or to order seeds, please contact our Seedbank Officer.

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:

Pinguicula esseriana
grown by Sean Spence.

Photo: Stephen Fretwell

BACK COVER:

Clockwise from top left:

■ *Drosera madagascariensis*
grown by Sean Spence.

■ *Darlingtonia californica*
grown by Ron Abernethy.

■ *Heliamphora macdonaldae*
Photo: Stewart McPherson.

■ *S. purpurea* ssp *venosa*
“Grand Champion” grown
by Ron Abernethy.

■ *H. minor x heterodoxa*
“Reserve Champion” grown
by Jenny Brownfield.

■ *Nepenthes villosa* grown by
Peter Anderson.

■ *Dionaea muscipula* grown by
Sean Spence. Photo: Peter Wolf

■ *Nepenthes hurrelliana*
(Centre) Photo: Greg Bourke

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MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2007

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	(28th)	<i>Sarracenia</i> species and hybrids, beginners night.
March	(28th)	<i>Nepenthes</i> and <i>Heliamphora</i> .
April	(25th)	<i>Drosera</i> , video and information night.
May	(23rd)	Growing conditions, pygmy <i>Drosera</i> gemmae collection, 'best' and 'worst' plants.
June	(27th)	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July	(25th)	Seed growing and tissue culture, potting demonstration, any CPs.
August	(25th)	Meeting at President Stephen Fretwell's House 12pm. Tuberos/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
September	(26th)	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
October	(28th)	Field trip to Triffid Park, any CP's.
November	(28th)	<i>Byblis</i> , pygmy <i>Drosera</i> , <i>Drosophyllum</i> , <i>Genlisea</i> , <i>Pinguicula</i> , <i>Roridula</i> , <i>Utricularia</i> .
December	(TBA)	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.

Heliamphora macdonaldae – The Forgotten Marsh Pitcher Plant

STEWART MCPHERSON

The beginning of the twentieth century represents an age of discovery and exploration – a time when our picture of the Earth remained incomplete and still filled with the unknown. The Guiana Highlands of Venezuela, northern Brazil and Guyana lay at the forefront of the minds of explorers – a remote land dominated by immense sandstone plateaus, very few of which had been climbed, explored or even named.

Indeed even as World War Two raged in Europe, the gigantic mountain range of Neblina which stands over three kilometres tall, had not even been discovered. The Guiana Highlands remained a blank on the map.

In 1928, American botanists Henry Gleason and his colleagues began an epic journey into this remote province to explore a little known peak called Cerro Duida that lies in the heart of the Venezuelan Amazon, hundreds of kilometres from Caracas and well beyond all hope of rescue. Previously, the mountain had been visited only on a handful of occasions and its summit remained unexplored and unknown.

The challenges of visiting this isolated corner of South America were formidable indeed, as they still are today – the watercourse of the Orinoco River and its tributaries were obstructed by rapids, abrupt waterfalls, violent currents and rocky shallows and the land lacked roads of any kind – steep ridges, deep valleys and crevasses made travelling extremely difficult. In such a remote place, all supplies and equipment



**The little known, but very beautiful
Heliamphora macdonaldae.**

Photos: Stewart McPherson

had to be carried in – mostly by men – namely Amerindian porters.

Gleason's expedition began by boat, however as the watercourse diminished to shallow streams and finally became impassable, the expedition set out on foot and began weeks of difficult trekking through the dense, dark jungle of Guiana. After weeks of painstaking travel, Cerro Duida lay in view, but since unlike a normal mountain it is encircled on all sides by near vertical cliffs, Gleason was forced to find a break in the cliff sides and eventually reached the summit of the mysterious plateau.

On reaching the goal of his quest,

Gleason collected and preserved specimens of the multitude of new plant and animal species that surrounded him on the mountaintop – species which no one had previously seen. Among the multitude of amazing discoveries were three interesting carnivorous pitcher plants that were eventually named *Heliamphora tatei*, *Heliamphora tyleri* and *Heliamphora macdonaldae*.

Heliamphora tatei is perhaps the most extraordinary – it is unique and habitually grows on a tall woody stem up to two metres in length. The plant's carnivorous water filled leaves form a compact rosette atop the tall vertical stem and so stand conspicuously above the surrounding scrubland vegetation. The leaves of *H. tatei* are large, (up to 25 – 35 cm in length), infundibular and brightly coloured (predominantly yellowish green with variable red coloration). The interior of the foliage is lined with short downwards pointing hairs, although in some strains, a glabrous stripe extends down the back side on the interior of the leaf.

Heliamphora tyleri is now thought to be a variant of *H. tatei* and today is not regarded as a valid, independent species. Its leaves are largely the same as those of *H. tatei* – the only appreciable difference being the shape of the 'nectar spoon' – the nectar containing structure at the apex of the leaf. Although the plant Gleason named *H. tyleri* seems to differ from *H. tatei* in that it does not habitually grow on an erect stem, variants of *H. tatei* have been discovered on surrounding mountains (notably Cerro Avispa and Cerro Aracamuni) which bridge the differences and suggest the plants once named *H. tyleri* are part of the natural diversity of *H. tatei*.

The situation of Gleason's third pitcher plant – *H. macdonaldae* – is however more complicated. The type form of *H. macdonaldae* found on Cerro Duida is distinct from



The immense cliffs of Mount Roraima.

the pitcher plants Gleason named *H. tatei* and *H. tyleri*. *H. macdonaldae* grows as a compact rosette on the ground much like all other species of *Heliamphora* except *H. tatei*. Occasionally old, established specimens of *H. macdonaldae* form a short, decumbent stem, similar to that of *H. neblinae* but very different from that erect, woody growing habit of *H. tatei*.

Furthermore the leaves of *H. macdonaldae* are unique in terms of morphology and colouration. The interior of the foliage is glabrous except for a narrow line of spine like hairs that line the perimeter of the opening of the leaf. The nectar spoon is conical, but the back of the leaf is not elongated as in *H. tatei* and perhaps most remarkably of all, the interior of the leaf is lined with variable red or purple veins that suffuses pure crimson in some strains – colouration that is unique in the genus. The exterior of the leaf is consistently yellowish green and the nectar spoon is pure red.

In 1978, Maguire decided to reduce *H. macdonaldae* to a variety of *H. tatei* (*H. tatei* var. *macdonaldae*) and six years later, Steyermark renamed it as a form of the same species (*H. tatei* fm. *macdonaldae*). Since these taxonomic changes were made,

the plant passes out of the literature and few sources even mention it.

It appears no one returned to Cerro Duida and observed *H. macdonaldae* in the wild and so the taxonomic relegation was accepted and it was assumed the plant was synonymous with *H. tatei*. Despite Gleason's discoveries, this remarkable pitcher plant remained obscure and largely unknown.

Yet *H. macdonaldae* is unique and does deserve the separate status as a species that Gleason originally gave it. The ecology, morphology and colouration of this remarkable plant are unlike that of any other *Heliamphora* sp.. Although *H. macdonaldae* is not in cultivation, one day I hope it will be, so that it can be enjoyed and appreciated by horticulturalists and carnivorous plant enthusiasts around the world!

Stewart McPherson's new book *Pitcher Plants of the Americas* examines the wild

ecology and remarkable diversity of all of the known American pitcher plants including *H. macdonaldae*. Stewart is selling copies personally through his online company www.redfernnaturalhistory.com to raise money for the Meadowview Biological Station – with the goal of donating 5 to 10 acres of *Sarracenia* habitat for permanent protection – please see www.redfernnaturalhistory.com/conservation.htm.

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Gleason, H. A. 1931. "Botanical results of the Tyler-Duida Expedition." *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 58 (6): 367–368.

Maguire, B. 1978. "Sarraceniaceae." *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* 29: 36–62.

Steyermark, J. A., 1984. "Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana" *Annual of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 71: 297–340.

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Nepenthes tentaculata

Trekking to Gunung Mulu

GREG BOURKE

Gunung Mulu is the largest peak in the World Heritage listed Mulu National Park, situated in the central North/East region of the Malaysian state of Sarawak. At 2376m above sea level, G. Mulu is not one of the largest mountains in Borneo but it is a challenging climb for those of average fitness levels like me! Unlike many of the larger mountains, you must begin your trek at less than 100m asl. For the first 5km you are walking in various depths of mud with the odd hammerhead leach waiting to latch on. Once you reach camp 1, you have climbed to 150m asl

and travelled about 10km! From there, it's only another 15km to the summit!

Although Mulu National Park is famous for its limestone caves G. Mulu is comprised primarily of sandstone and shale. It therefore lacks the limestone specialists of *Nepenthes campanulata* and *N. faizaliana*.

For me G. Mulu was not very high on my list of mountains to climb. It's expensive and it's a long trek. According to the Guide to Gunung Mulu National Park by Hans P. Hazebroek, "the return trip from Park Headquarters can be comfortably done in five days, assuming good physical fitness." (H. Hazebroek). As I was short on time, I took a guide

and a porter and had this great idea, “Let’s do it in three!” So we did the 50km round trip in three days in the pouring rain.

As we climbed above 1200m asl, the dipterocarp forest began to give way to the smaller trees of the montane forest. It was around this altitude that I saw my first pitcher of *N. vogelii*. This epiphytic species is rarely seen as it commonly grows high in the canopy. It had been long overlooked in the Mulu N.P. due to its close resemblance to *N. fusca*.

Completely soaked by the heavy rain, Camp 3 (1270m asl) was a welcome shelter for the night, a good place to scrape off the leaches and to get warm. We were lucky to see the beautiful and endangered Rhinoceros Hornbill fly over the camp as the clouds cleared and the sun set.

We left Camp 3 at 7am for the summit. From Camp 3 to Camp 4 (1800m asl) the trail undulates through mossy forest where *N. hurrelliana* can be found, another epiphytic species that had eluded visitors until recent times. For many years after its collection it was thought to be a hybrid between *N. fusca* and *N. veitchii*. This species was first collected in the neighbouring state of Sabah and was studied closely by Andrew Hurrell for whom the plant was named after in 2003. It has a distinct peristome with an elongated neck and colourful peristome. The pitchers of *N. hurrelliana* are not as spectacular as those found in the Kelabit Highlands but as I had not yet seen the species in the wild I was quite relieved to locate it.

N. tentaculata is a common species above 1600m asl on many mountains in Borneo and G. Mulu is no exception. Plants found here were variable in colour with large black lower pitchers being commonly



Nepenthes muluensis

encountered. The paper thin pitchers of this species contain a refreshing liquid that is best consumed from unopened pitchers.

Above Camp 4 the ridge became narrower and steeper. Ropes have been installed to help with the treacherous and vertical sections near the summit. *N. lowii* is above 1800m climbing through and over the *Rhododendrons* and *Leptospermums*. The amazing upper pitchers are designed to capture rain with the lid held near vertical. The pitcher body is heavily constricted in the middle that prevents the captured fluid from evaporating. Many of the pitchers contain animal scat as they are frequented by birds and mammals in search of a drink.

As we climbed above 1900m asl *N. muluensis* gradually replaced *N. tentaculata*. Peaty depressions are common along the trail at this altitude and there were a few occasions where I found myself knee deep in mud. It

was at this stage that I decided I had gone far enough. I told my guide that I wanted to stop and photograph some plants before heading down. His response to this was “I haven’t climbed this mountain in 10 years. You wait here and I’ll go to the top.” He explained that “we just have to climb this next little peak and we’re at the top.” When I reached the top of that little peak I realised that we still had about 1km to go and it was 12pm. The *N. muluensis* was very common at this level and the trees were rarely above 3m in height.

My guide continued to push me to the summit telling me how great it would be. We were to be the first to climb the mountain in 6 months! He also told me that he had left something on the summit and he had to find it. So we pushed and pushed until we finally got to the tree covered summit. The trees were rarely over 2m in height and *N. muluensis* was everywhere! I began taking photos while my guide searched the summit for better photographic opportunities and his hidden treasures. It wasn’t long before he came running out of the bushes saying “I found it!” He had hidden a bottle of scotch in the moss 10 years prior. Nothing could have been better to relax the muscles. We then

made offerings of food and money and toasted the mountain gods before sitting down to a lunch of plain boiled rice and chicken curry. I had also brought up 3 Mars Bars which I shared with the guys. The skies cleared as we ate to reveal the forest below. We paused for a few moments to pay our respects to the mountain before realising that it had just gone 2pm. If we were to make it back to Camp 3 by dark, we really had to get moving. I snapped a few more shots of the spectacular *N. muluensis* before heading for camp.

As we descended from the mountain, the clouds closed in and the rain began to fall. We arrived at Camp 3 at 7pm and after a freezing wet night with little sleep we headed back to park headquarters and you guessed it, it rained the whole way!

In hindsight I should have taken 4 days to climb the mountain and to allow more time to observe the plants. *N. muluensis* is one of the most stunning plants I have seen. Although its pitchers are small, the almost pure white lids and peristomes contrasting with the purple/black mottled pitcher bodies covering the summit of G. Mulu are incredible. I thoroughly recommend the climb if you have the opportunity.

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.



The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion plants at the 2006 VCPS annual show.



The Grand Champion plant of 2006.
Sarracenia purpurea ssp. *venosa* grown by
Ron Abernethy.



Reserve Champion plant of 2006
Heliamphora minor x *heterodoxa*
grown by Jenny Brownfield.

VCPS 2006 Annual show

STEPHEN FRETWELL

The 2006 VCPS show was a fantastic weekend. The members put on a brilliant display with some truly stunning plants. Congratulations to Ron Abernethy for winning the Grand Champion prize for his superb and massive example of *Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *venosa* grown in a 14" pot. Congratulations must also go to Jenny Brownfield for her very impressive *Heliamphora minor* x *heterodoxa*, it made judging the Grand Champion plant an extremely difficult decision.

The winners in all other classes also set new standards with some great plants on show. The display categories were full of many rare and beautiful plants.

Overall the show was a great success that attracted many new visitors and members that I hope left inspired to grow some of these amazing plants. Thankyou to all of the members that contributed to our show.



Best Sarracenia, a new category dedicated to the late Mike McCarthy won by Peter Bloem for his *S. X courtii* x *leucophylla*

SHOW JUDGING RESULTS

2/12/2006

SECTION A Grand champion

Ron Abernethy – *Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *venosa*

SECTION B Reserve champion

Jenny Brownfield – *Heliamphora minor* x *heterodoxa* – in large glass terrarium

SECTION C Memorial trophies

Best novice grower

(Howard Smallwood memorial trophy)

Kim Thorogood – *P emarginata* x 'Weser'

Best Sarracenia

(Mike McCarthy memorial trophy)

Peter Bloem – *S. X courtii* x *leucophylla*

SECTION D

INDIVIDUAL DISPLAY OR TERRARIUM

1 Not awarded

2 Not awarded

3 Peter Bloem – A large tub of *Sarracenia* plants and *Drosera binata* var. *dichotoma*

SECTION E

CARNIVOROUS PLANT SPECIES

Class 1 Prostrate Sarracenia

1 Ron Abernethy – *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa*

2 Ron Abernethy – *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa* "var. Chipola"

3 David Bond – *S. purpurea* ssp. *purpurea*

Class 2 Upright Sarracenia

1 Stephen Fretwell – *S. flava* var. *maxima*

2 Stephen Fretwell – *S. minor*

3 Stephen Fretwell – *S. flava* var. *cuprea*

Class 3 Nepenthes

1 Peter Anderson – *N. aristolochioides*

2 Peter Anderson – *N. villosa*

3 Peter Anderson – *N. burbridgeae*

Class 4 Dionaea

1 Sean Spence – *D. muscipula*

(grown from seed of G4 x G37 cross)

2 Peter Anderson – *D. muscipula* cv.

'Akai Ryu'

3 Stephen Fretwell – *D. muscipula* cv.

'Akai Ryu'



Nepenthes aristolochioides



Nepenthes burbidgeae

Class 5 Cephalotus

- 1 Peter Anderson
- 2 Peter Anderson
- 3 No other entries

Class 6 Pygmy Drosera (species only)

- 1 Stephen Fretwell – *D. ericksoniae*
- 2 Stephen Fretwell – *D. pygmaea*
- 3 Stephen Fretwell – *D. lasiantha*

Class 7a Tuberous & winter growing Drosera

(As per judging at August 2006 monthly meeting)

- 1 Ron Abernethy – *D. platypoda*
- 2 Sean Spence – *D. cuneifolia*
- 2 Stephen Fretwell – *D. graniticola*
- 3 Sean Spence – *D. sulphurea*

Class 7b Tuberous Drosera

(at this show) (individual species)

- 1 Not awarded
- 2 Sean Spence – *D. gigantea* ssp. *geniculata*
- 3 No other entries

Class 8a Other temperate climate Drosera

- 1 Stephen Fretwell – *D. regia*
- 2 Sean Spence – *D. madagascariensis*
- 3 David Bond – *D. coccicaulis*

Class 8b Tropical Drosera

No entries

Class 9 Pinguicula

- 1 Sean Spence – *P. laevis*
- 2 Sean Spence – *P. jaumavensis* “Cardonel”
- 3 Sean Spence – *P. agnata* “El Lobo”

Class 10 Utricularia or Genlisea

- 1 Sean Spence – *Utricularia petertaylorii*
- 2 Sean Spence – *Utricularia blanchetti* “f. white flower”
- 3 David Bond – *Utricularia lateriflora*

Class 11 Byblis or Drosophyllum

- 1 Sean Spence – *Drosophyllum lusitanicum*
- 2 Sean Spence – *Byblis gigantea*
- 3 No other entries

Class 12 Darlingtonia

- 1 Ron Abernethy
- 2 Ron Abernethy
- 3 Ron Abernethy

Class 13 Heliamphora

No species entries

Class 14 Any other carnivorous plant species

- 1 Jenny Brownfield – *Catopsis berteroniana* “Guatemala”
- 2 Peter Anderson – *Catopsis berteroniana* “Guatemala”
- 3 Peter Bloem – *Catopsis berteroniana* “Guatemala”

Class 15 Roridula

- 1 Sean Spence – *R. gorgonias*
- No other entries

SECTION F

Carnivorous Plant Hybrids

Class 1 Sarracenia hybrid

- 1 Peter Bloem – *S. X courtii x leucophylla*
- 2 Peter Bloem – *S. alata x minor*
- 3 David Bond – *S. flava x rubra*

Class 2 Nepenthes hybrid

- 1 Gordon Ohlenrott – *N. thorelii x densiflora*
- 2 Gordon Ohlenrott – *N. spathulata x alata*
- 3 David Bond – *N. spathulata x maxima*



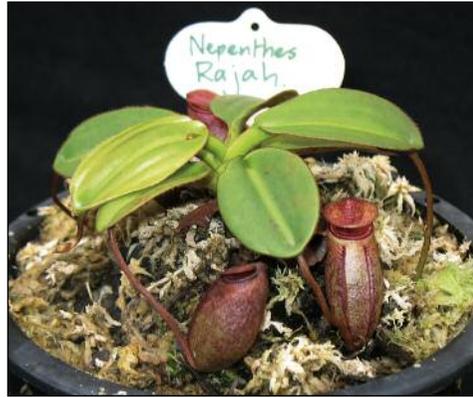
Drosera ericksoniae



Sarracenia flava var. *flava*



Pinguicula agnata – El Lobo Photo: Sean Spence



Nepenthes rajah



The VFT display.



Catopsis berteroniana display.



Best Novice Grower Kim Thorogood – P emarginata x 'Weser'.



Pinguicula laeana

Class 3 Pinguicula hybrids

- 1 David Bond – *P. 'Weser' x moranensis* var. *superba*
- 2 Kim Thorogood – *P. emarginata* x '*Weser*'
- 3 Stephen Fretwell – *P. moctezumae* x sp. '*Ayautla*'

Class 4 Any other hybrids

- 1 Jenny Brownfield – *Heliophora minor* x *heterodoxa* – in large glass terrarium
 - 2 Peter Anderson – *Heliophora* '*Tequila*'
- No other entries

SECTION H

Triffid Park Award for Excellence

- Peter Anderson – *Drosera binata* var. *multifida extrema*

SECTION I

Carnivorous plant photographs,

Postage stamps this time

- 1 David Bond – miniature sheet from Grenada Carriacou
- 2 David Bond – miniature sheet from St. Vincent
- 3 David Bond – sheetlet from U.S.A.



Drosera display.



The spectacular Sarracenia display.

SHOW SUMMARY

GORDON OHLENROTT

The following table summarises the VCPS 2006 show results in the same manner as for the Olympic Games medal tallies.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Sean Spence	5	6	2	13
Stephen Fretwell	3	3	4	10
Ron Abernethy	3	2	1	6
Peter Anderson	2	5	1	8
David Bond	2	1	6	9
Jenny Brownfield	2	0	0	2
Peter Bloem	1	1	2	4
Gordon Ohlenrott	1	1	0	2
Kim Thorogood	0	1	0	1



Drosera chrysolepis



Drosera auriculata growing on the side of a main road near Anglesea. Photos: David Bond

Carnivores and the Big Dry

DAVID BOND

Sadly we are hearing more and more about the effects of the lack of decent rains in many areas throughout Australia. In early October I decided to check out the carnivorous plants that grow near the town of Anglesea in Victoria. I wanted to see if the lack of rain had resulted in any significant effects on the plants. I hadn't been there for a few years so I thought that the effects might be a little more noticeable.

I headed out down the highway, through Geelong and then across the farming country to the coastal town of Anglesea. The farming land was reasonably green although we'd had a short

rainy period not long before and I think you could be fooled into thinking it was always like that.

As I got closer to the site I often visit which lies at the corner of the main road into town and Forest Road, I couldn't help but notice that the sides of the road were very dry and lacking the usual "grassy" look. When I stopped the car and got out the sandy soil appeared incredibly dry. In past years there have been a number of puddles and boggy areas that remain wet almost until Christmas, but this season there were none.

I locked the car and headed bush. The plants usually found in this area include *Drosera auriculata*, *D. peltata* var. *peltata*, *D. macrantha* ssp. *planchonii*, *D. glanduligera*, *D. pygmaea* & *D. whittakerii* ssp. *aberrans*, I've

even seen *D. binata* in the past and *Utricularia tenella* can be found in the wet roadside ditches. The area is also the known habitat of a wide variety of native terrestrial orchids.

During previous visits it had been very easy to find plants, but this time as I crunched my way through the dry growth, plants were not so easy to find. A few small patches of *D. whittakerii* ssp. *aberrans* on a small track where kids ride their motorbikes were all I could locate. The plants were small and approaching dormancy. I decided to go further into the bush, descending towards a distant swampy area. This hillside was previously home to many orchids and the scrambling *Drosera macrantha* ssp. *planchonii*, but after a search I had difficulty finding anything more than a few poor specimens of the *Drosera*.

I decided to continue my search closer to the roadside where in years past you could always find a few *D. pygmaea* and *D. glanduligera*. As I walked the dry track I could find no sign of any CPs. I then came upon a fence line where there were signs of digging and clearing. Here in the short grasses I found nice clumps of *D. whittakerii* ssp. *aberrans*. These plants were in damper soil and tended to be amongst the greener patches of grasses. The plants were about 3-4cm across and ranged in colour from crimson to light green.

As I looked up I could see the shimmering of some small patches of the golden *D. auriculata* in the paddocks. These were nowhere near the size of the clumps we had seen years before. The plants were about 25cm tall and were still flowering. They looked terrific and are obviously ignored by the cattle when they graze.

I got back to the car with a few photos of my expedition but thought, "there must be more?" I walked a little way down Forest



Drosera whittakerii ssp. *aberrans*



Drosera glanduligera



Jackie lizard

Road to see if I could find any *U. tenella* but the roadside was bone dry. No chance plants were here this year!

I did manage to find two, yes only two, small *D. pygmaea* that were growing on a mound next to a signpost. They were the only ones I could find in the entire area. Getting back in the car I drove down the

road to where I knew of a track leading down to the swampy area. About a kilometre down Forest Road I turned at a large electric pylon. I stopped on the top of the hill and decided not to drive down as the track didn't look too safe for my newish small car. I got out and looked into the swampy area that backs on to the Aluminium works. The swamp looked very dry. I would guess that the plants would be quite difficult to find even there.

I had a hunt around and I was lucky enough to find a few patches of *D. glanduligera*. These plants were in very dry, yellowy/orange soil that had many bull ant nests and as I walked they came out to greet me. A few more photos and then back to the car and the drive home.

I would like to think that if I had longer I would have found more plants but in reality I feel that was as good as it was going to get. The area was very dry as the seasonal rains



Drosera auriculata

had only dampened the topsoil. The moisture had not penetrated deep enough to last the summer where normally the mulch forming leaves prevent the soil drying quickly. What have others found at their local sites? Is this the same all over Victoria and Australia? It would be interesting to hear what others have experienced. As for me I think this area will take a long while to get back to its former glory.

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

BREAKING NEWS THIS MONTH

Triffid Park is moving from Keysborough. From the 1st July 2007, Donna and Jason will become the new owners of Triffid Park. Colin and Tina are retiring, but will still keep an interest in the plant nursery, and continue their study of carnivorous plants, and travelling the world, as well as running their horse agistment business.

Until further notice, please continue to keep sending your letters, emails, orders etc. to our address in Keysborough. It will take many months to get building permit plans through council and then build our new modern growing houses.

Jason and Donna have purchased a 15 acre property in Somerville, Victoria, a south-eastern suburb of Melbourne on the Mornington Peninsula to build the new modern Triffid Park.

The property has a nice house on it, so they can live on site and attend to the daily running of the business. The Freeway from Melbourne will bring you straight to our gateway by car, or the Somerville train station is only 4 kilometres away.

We are going to build one large rain gutter connected growing house. This will enable us to be water conscious and environmentally friendly. We will also have our potting and packing shed under this one roofline, so that no plants have to leave their growing environment to be potted or packed. A conservatory type room will also be under the roof line of the growing house so that garden clubs, school groups and other groups have an area for talks and lectures before touring the growing rooms. Each different growing area i.e. *Sarracenias, Dionaeas, Nepenthes, Pinguiculas, Droseras* and the Propagating house will all be individually temperature controlled to re-create their required environments.

TRIFFID PARK OPEN DAY AT KEYSBOROUGH – SUNDAY OCTOBER 28TH 2007.

This will be the last Annual Open Day ever to be held at our Keysborough nursery.

More information will be given in the coming months, but in the mean time visit our web site for progress reports and photos of our new nursery.