Nepenthes ventricosa  Brocchinia reducta  Utricularia uniflora

Drosera petiolaris  Drosera cuneifolia

Drosera falconeri  Drosera binata var. dichotoma “f. large”

VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY Inc.

December 2007  No. 86
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Please forward all correspondence regarding subscription, change of address, articles for the journal and back issues to:

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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.
Experiences I have gathered cultivating the Petiolaris group of Drosera
Global warming and C.P.’s in southeast Australia
VCPS 2007 Annual show
ICPS Conference Sydney

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.

Journal Design: Stephen Fretwell
Printed by: Snap Printing (Box Hill)

MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2008
VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY
This year we have scheduled the following discussion topics, and events:

January (20th) New Year BBQ at President Stephen Fretwell’s House
12pm Sunday, Darlingtonia, Dionaea. (Contact for details)
February (27th) Sarracenia species and hybrids, beginners night.
March (26th) Nepenthes and Heliamphora.
April (23th) Drosera, video and information night.
May (28rd) Growing conditions, pygmy Drosera gemmae collection, 'best' and 'worst' plants.
June (25th) AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July (23th) Seed growing and tissue culture, potting demonstration, any CPs.
August (27th) Tuberous/Winter growing Drosera, show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
September (24th) Cephalotus, Brocchinia, Catopsis and swap night.
October (26th) Triffid Park Open Day, any CP’s.
November (26th) Byblis, pygmy Drosera, Drosophyllum, Genlisea, Pingiucula, Roridula, Utricularia.
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.

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.
Experiences I have gathered cultivating the Petiolaris group of Drosera

MARKUS BERG
Translated by Hilde Cleghorn

Since I have been cultivating this fascinating group of Drosera for a few years with quite a bit of success, I would like to introduce my readers to my own experiences and, maybe inspire them to try to grow some themselves.

The Petiolaris group consists, at this time, of 12 species. Within the genus of Drosera they belong to the group Lasiocephala (the word lasio is Latin and means hairy, cephala means head and refers to the flower base). Consequently lasiocephala means “with hairy flower base or flower heads”.

You find them in Australasia, mainly in Australia in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Queensland. Drosera petiolaris is the only species found growing outside Australia where it can also be found growing in Papua New Guinea. Drosera neocaledonica, synonym Drosera caledonica, is often wrongly listed in the section lasiocephala. This New Caledonian species is actually more closely related to Drosera spatulata and Drosera oblanceolata (this species displays certain obvious similarities) that are related to each other.

The following species have so far been described as at 2nd June 2006.

- D. brevicornis Lowrie (1996)
- D. broomensis Lowrie (1996)
- D. caduca Lowrie (1996)
- D. darwinensis Lowrie (1996)
- D. derbyensis Lowrie (1996)
- D. dilatato-petiolaris Kondo (1984)
- D. falconeri Kondo & Tsang (1984)
- D. fulva Planchnon (1848)
- D. kenneallyi Lowrie (1996)
- D. lanata Kondo (1984)
- D. ordensis Lowrie (1994)
- D. paradoxa Lowrie (1997)
- D. petiolaris R. Brown ex DC. (1824)

WHERE THESE PLANTS GROW

These plants are found in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea, mainly in seasonally dry, sandy loamy ground. Some varieties grow all year or seasonally in lightly flooded areas (for instance D. kenneally & D. paradoxa) others are only found in lightly damp mountainous areas (for instance in the Kimberleys in Western Australia, D. caduca & D. lanata).

In general you can say that the species with leaves that are less hairy grow mostly in damper areas and that with the help of their thickened leaf bases are able to survive the dry times. Those with smaller and more hairy rosettes tend to grow in dryer areas.

The plants grow in very sunny areas and only very rarely are shaded by tall grasses or trees such as Eucalypts. The temperature is normally very high throughout the year and temperatures of 45°C are not unusual in the North of Australia. During most nights the temperature drops by only a few degrees however there can be some very cold nights, especially in the mountains. In Allen Lawrie’s fascinating book “Carnivorous Plants of Australia, volume 3” he describes on page 20 the forming of ice on the Mitchell Plateau in
form bulbs (D. falconeri, D. kenneallyi, D. caduca). The leaves begin to become brown and die off. Then for the winter period, the plants should be kept only a little damp, but as bright as possible.

Particularly in winter, during the resting period of the Petiolaris Drosera, you may notice that the leaves and the whole rosette become increasingly smaller. It is important that the medium is not allowed to dry out completely (as for instance is the case with the Australian tuberous Drosera). During the winter resting period, problems often arise if the plant dries out completely or is kept too wet, resulting in rot. Therefore I can only recommend that all varieties are kept as warm as possible, bright and damp. This way one can cultivate the plants for the whole year without a dormancy. D. petiolaris and D. paradoxa are the only species which even when cultivated in a greenhouse very often don’t form winter rosettes. For this reason, these species can be grown very easily and are the ones in the Lasiocephala section recommended for beginners and are most popular in cultivation.

MY CULTURAL CONDITIONS

I have decided to use plastic pots, 9 - 10 cm diameter, placed into an aquarium that is 50 x 30 cm. For growing medium I use a mixture of 1:1 perlite and white peat. Please note that only a peat to which no fertilizer has been added is suitable. Alternatively you can use coarse quartz sand which of course is a lot heavier. Besides that I use the following additives at approximately 1 teaspoon per litre of mix: clay (both finely ground as well as coarser), vermiculite and laterite. In their natural environment some varieties grow in laterite soil that contains iron, therefore I would like to have a greater iron content in my mix. Recently I have been experimenting a bit and arrived at the conclusion that clean coarse pieces of brown coal as well as small quantities of fine coconut fibre without added fertilizer are also suitable additions to the mix. I grow seedlings and small plants in a finer mixture of the above.

In winter, you may notice that the leaves and the whole rosette become smaller and smaller, especially with the species which the Kimberleys. Otherwise the temperature only rarely drops below 17˚C.

DRY TIME

In their natural growing environment the ground dries out in the Australian winter from about May to November. However, there are years when the ground remains damp all year. Therefore it is not necessary to provide a dry time when growing the plants in cultivation. In a glasshouse the duration of sunshine and light intensity decreases in winter which often leads to the forming of winter rosettes.

In winter, you may notice that the leaves and the whole rosette become smaller and smaller, especially with the species which

Carnivorous Plants

Allen Lowrie

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

*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.
that some types need this treatment that imitates the natural change between rainy and dry periods. The seedlings grow quite fast under good conditions and it is possible to prick them out into fresh potting mix.

As simple as the sowing is, unfortunately it is very difficult to obtain seed. All varieties of Lasioccephala are self-sterile which means that they must be pollinated with an unrelated plant to produce viable seed. Another problem is that some types have long or short pollen tubes (styles). The pollen of a long pollen tube plant can pollinate a short pollen tube type without any problems however the other way around usually does not work. In this case it is possible to shorten the tubes with a pair of nail scissors and then put the pollen onto the cut surface. Unfortunately this method has only resulted in a rather small number of seeds being produced. If two plants flower at the same time it is possible to carefully remove the anther with a pair of tweezers and carefully wipe it over the cut surface of the pollen tube.

Unfortunately this method has also only resulted in a rather low number of seeds being produced. If the procedure was successful the seed capsule will swell and after several weeks the capsule will become black, will slowly open and seed can be harvested.

VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION

Luckily the number of plants can be increased vegetatively. The easiest way to do this is to divide a larger plant that has several growing points with a sharp knife. Be careful to damage the tissue as little as possible and disinfect the cut edges with charcoal powder and maybe a fungicide to prevent rot occurring.

Another method is to propagate by leaf cuttings. Normally one tears a fleshy leaf with some basal tissue from a plant and either put it into a small glass with distilled water or puts it into a pot with dead sphagnum moss. This method works especially well with Drosera paradoxa as well as all the types with a very pronounced leaf base eg. D. falconeri and caduca. For the hairy leaf types such as the D. ordensis group or D. lanata this technique has not been successful. It appears to be important that the place is warm and bright. Another method is to pull off several leaves together with as much leaf base material as possible. This method of course is almost a division. This method has a great danger of creating wounds that can result in infections, therefore all wounds should be disinfected.

COMPANION PLANTS

Naturally, suitable plants to consider as carnivorous companion plants are those that are found in nature with the Petiolaris complex Drosera. Examples of these are the following: Byblis aquatica, B. filifolia, B. liniflora, B. ronita, Drosera indica and D. burmanii. Besides these there are various tropical Genlisea such as the Madagascarien G. margarethaie, and various Australian Utricularia such as U. chrysantha, U. fulva and U. odorata, furthermore the Caribbean Pinguicula such as P. albida and P. filifolia. Please note that you must consider the potting mix, moisture and light requirements of the other plants.

DISEASES

Leaves can become burnt under certain conditions i.e. when the plants are too suddenly removed from bright artificial light and put in bright sunlight. The best is to cut off the burnt parts and shade them. Commonly in the summer, carnivorous plants can be attacked by various pests such as aphids, white flies or mealy bugs. In most circumstances the well known systemic insecticide Lizetan Plus from Bayer will help. Particularly in winter most plants are susceptible to fungi. Apart from the use of fungicides, plants should not be kept too wet and humidity should not be too high.

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Drosera, Pinguicula and Cephalotus also available.
Global warming and C.P.'s in South Eastern Australia

PETER WOLF

The effect of global warming on the south eastern Australian C.P. populations has been significant and is plainly evident to any C.P. observer that lives here. To provide a reason requires a scientific study that to my knowledge is not being undertaken. I can however offer a few observations that I have made over the last 20 years or so which may illustrate how bleak the current situation is.

The situation is that conditions have become much drier and as a result there are fewer C.P.'s growing in the wild. Some species have been affected more than others. The species that seem to have been affected the most are those from drier habitats such as the tuberous Drosera species D. auriculata. I have noticed that D. auriculata in particular seems to have declined dramatically and the plants that remain are smaller and flowering much earlier than once was the case. Swamp growing species such as D. binata & spatulata have coped better as they have been able to move closer to the water in the swamps.

An example of the diminishing populations is evident at the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve in outer Melbourne. Approximately 10-15 years ago there were thousands of plants of D. spatulata and millions of D. pygmaea growing in many of the moist areas. These moist areas were common and persisted well into summer.

Over the last few years it has been incredibly difficult to find any D. spatulata plants in the reserve. The wetter areas have considerably less water and this water disappears not long after the warmer weather in spring arrives. An estimate of the D. pygmaea numbers would have them at less than 5% of what they once were. On the other hand species such as D. whittakeri ssp. aberrans and D. peltata appear to be still growing strong.

Twenty years ago on a country property in western Victoria near Ballarat, D. auriculata was abundant. Many plants were well over 50cm tall. In the years since, there has been a steady decline in numbers. Today there is only a fraction of the original population remaining. The plants are rarely over 15 cm tall and often go dormant before flowering. To a C.P. lover such as myself, this situation is quite upsetting.

Like the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve, the D. whittakeri ssp. aberrans colonies have been relatively unaffected on this property. It is possible that if conditions were to change for the better it may take only a few seasons for the plants to regain their former glory. This is not likely to happen though as a C.S.I.R.O. report released today stated that conditions in Australia will get hotter and drier in future years. C.P.s in south eastern Australia are still very common and this shows how amazingly adaptable and drought tolerant the plants are. They have evolved to cope with drought conditions but not the persistent droughts that now occur year after year. Global warming is certainly pushing some of the Australian C.P. populations to their limits.

In 2005, (pictured left) the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens swamp was at its prime and full of flourishing U. dichotoma and U. australis. In 2007 (right) the swamp has almost completely dried out and probably will in the coming years. Photos: Stephen Fretwell
The December 2007 VCPS show again was a fantastic event. The members put on a vibrant display with some truly stunning plants. Congratulations to Stuart Mc Ilroy for winning the Grand Champion prize for his superb and massive example of Drosera binata var. dichotoma “f. large” which is grown in a 60cm wide pot. Congratulations also to Stephen Fretwell for winning Reserve Champion, with his Drosera regia that had nice, large 30cm leaves on it.

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. Congratulations to all of the other members that won awards and thankyou to all of the members that contributed to the 2007 VCPS annual show.

VCPS 2007 Annual show

The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion plants at the 2007 VCPS annual show.


Reserve Champion plant of 2007, Drosera regia grown by Stephen Fretwell.

SHOW JUDGING RESULTS 1/12/2007

SECTION A Grand champion
Stuart Mc Ilroy – D. binata var. dichotoma “f. large”

SECTION B Reserve champion
Steve Fretwell – D. regia

SECTION C Memorial trophies
Best novice grower
(Howard Smallwood memorial trophy)
No entry

Best Sarracenia
(Mike McCarthy memorial trophy)
Peter Bloem – S. alata x minor

SECTION D INDIVIDUAL DISPLAY OR TERRARIUM
1 Steve Fretwell – Photo display of Borneo expedition
2 Peter Bloem – bowl of mixed pygmy Drosera
3 No other entries

SECTION E CARNIVOROUS PLANT SPECIES
Class 1 Prostrate Sarracenia
1 Peter Bloem – S. purpurea ssp. Venosa “var Chipola”
2 Ron Abernethy – S. purpurea ssp purpurea
3 Steve Fretwell – S. purpurea ssp venosa

Class 2 Upright Sarracenia
1 Ron Abernethy – S. flava var. (red tube/green lid)
2 Stuart Mc Ilroy – S. flava var. (red tube/green lid)
3 Ron Abernethy – S. minor

Class 3 Nepenthes
1 Gordon Ohlenrott – N. thorelii
2 Steve Fretwell – N. Sanguinea
3 Andre Cleghorn – N. maxima

Class 4 Dionaea
1 Peter Anderson – cv. ‘Akai Ryu’
2 Sean Spence – cross from seed G16 x G14
3 Sean Spence – cross from seed G 4 x G 37
Class 5  Cephalotus
1 Peter Bloem
2 Steve Fretwell
3 Sean Spence

Class 6  Pygmy Drosera (species only)
1 Julian Weston – D. paleacea ssp roseana
2 Julian Weston – D. lasiantha
3 Julian Weston – D. dichrosepala ssp. enodes

Class 7a  Tuberous & winter growing Drosera
(as per judging at August 2007 monthly meeting)
1 Sean Spence – D. erythrorhiza ssp. squamosa (sand form)
2 Steve Fretwell – D. rupicola (red form)
3

Class 7b  Tuberous Drosera
(at this show) (individual species)
1 Ron Abernethy – D. gigantea ssp. gigantea
2 David Bond – D. peltata ssp. auriculata
3 No other entries

Class 8a  Other temperate climate Drosera
1 Steve Fretwell – D. regia
2 Sean Spence – D. cuneifolia
3 Steve Fretwell – D. slackii

Class 8b  Tropical Drosera
1 Sean Spence – D. paradoxa “swamp form”
2 Stuart Mc Ilroy – D. petiolaris “Kakadu, N.T.”
3 Sean Spence – D. adelae

Class 8c  Drosera binata
1 Stuart Mc Ilroy – D. binata var. dichotoma f. large
2 Stuart McIlroy – D. binata var. multifida f. extrema (Stradbroke Island, Qld)
3 D. binata var.”T form” (Grampians, Vic)

Class 9  Pinguicula
1 Steve Fretwell – P. mesophytica
2 Sean Spence – P. emarginata
3 Sean Spence – P. rectifolia

Class 10  Utricularia or Genlisea
1 Sean Spence – Utricularia uniflora (Lismore, N.S.W.)
2 Steve Fretwell – Utricularia longifolia var. forgetiana
3 Steve Fretwell – U. gibba

Class 11  Byblis or Drosophyllum
1 Peter Bloem – Drosophyllum lusitanicum
2 Sean Spence – Byblis gigantea “Cranbrook, W.A.”
3 No other entries

Class 12  Darlingtonia
1 Ron Abernethy (Lake Wohink, Oregon)
2 Gordon Ohlenrott
3 Sean Spence

Class 13  Heliamphora
1 Stuart Mc Ilroy – Heliamphora nutans
2 Steve Fretwell – Heliamphora minor
3 No other entries

Class 14  Any other carnivorous plant species
1 Stuart Mc Ilroy – Brocchinia reducta
2 Peter Anderson – Catopsis berteroniana
3 Peter Bloem – Catopsis sp. “Guatemala”

Class 15  Roridula
1 Sean Spence – Roridula gorgonias
2 No other entries
3 No other entries

SECTION F
Carnivorous Plant Hybrids

Class 1  Sarracenia hybrid
1 Stuart Mc Ilroy – S. leucophylla x flava
2 Peter Bloem – S. alata x minor
3 David Bond – Oreophila x purpurea

Nepenthes talengensis x mira

Nepenthes rafflesiana

Heliamphora nutans

A sensational display cabinet made by Stuart Mc Ilroy for his Heliamphora nutans.
**Class 2 Nepenthes hybrid**
1. Gordon Ohlenrott – N. maxima x trusmadiensis
2. Sean Spence – N. talangensis x mira
3. David Bond – N. spathulata x maxima

**Class 3 Pinguicula hybrids**
1. Steve Fretwell – P. Weser
2. No other entries
3. Steve Fretwell – moctezumae x agnata

**Class 4 Any other hybrids**
1. Peter Anderson – H. minor x nutans
2. No other entries
3. No other entries

**SECTION H**
**Triffid Park Award for Excellence**
Sean Spence – N. glabrata

**SECTION I**
**Carnivorous plant photographs**
1. Stuart McIlroy – small group of D. dilatato-petiolaris
2. Stuart McIlroy – habitat group of D. dilatato-petiolaris
3. Stuart McIlroy – D. falconeri

**SHOW SUMMARY**

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

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<td>Andre Cleghorn</td>
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It gives me great pleasure to announce that the 2008 International Carnivorous Plant Society Conference will be held in Sydney, Australia.

The theme for the conference is Conservation. The venue chosen is the Royal Botanic Gardens, in the heart of the city, close to many facilities. Since this is the first time this biennial conference has been held in the Southern Hemisphere it was deemed appropriate for it to be held at a time when the carnivorous plants across most of southern Australia would be at their best, and so the conference will be held from the 25th to the 28th of September.

The conference will include a number of lectures and demonstrations, and there will be some optional field trips to the Blue Mountains and Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, both within 3 hours drive from Sydney.

Provisions are also being made for a field trip to see Cephalotus, pygmy sundews and tuberous sundews in South Western Australia for conference attendees able to make it to this part of the country during their stay down under.

Stay tuned for further details, and please mark the dates in your diaries; we’d love to see you in Sydney in 2008.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at sydneycarnivorous@hotmail.com or visit sydneycarnivorous.com (coming soon)

Kindest Regards
Greg Bourke

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NEWS

TRIFFID PARK MOVING SALE.
WHEN: SUNDAY 20TH APRIL 2008
WHERE: TRIFFID PARK, 257 PERRY ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH, VICTORIA.
TIME: 11am–4pm (no early callers)

DON’T MISS OUT ON THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE FROM OUR TOP QUALITY RANGE OF PLANTS AND BOOKS AT 10% OFF OUR ALREADY LOW PRICES.
(Discount not available on gift vouchers, or plants and books already on Special in our catalogue.)

We would like to offer our valued customers the chance to purchase now in autumn while the plants are in full growth. Just to see the rainbow of colors in the sarracenia houses at this time of year is worth the trip alone.

This will be a day for sales ONLY. If you have any questions that you particularly want to ask, please put them in writing by either email, fax or letter so that we have time to answer them at a more convenient time.

The Nepenthes listed in our catalogue under “Nepenthes for the Connoisseurs” are not grown on site. These can be brought in for you for the sale day. We require a $15 deposit for each nepenthes (discount will be taken off final price on the day). Please have all orders and deposit to us by Friday 11th April.

WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR ANNUAL OPEN DAY AT OUR NEW NURSERY IN SOMERVILLE ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 26, 2008.

More information will be put on our web site and newsletter later in the year.

Works are progressing well with our new carnivorous plant nursery. At present we have had many truck loads of soil dumped on the new nursery site to raise the ground level 300mm. This has been leveled by a bulldozer and grader and is now waiting for gravel to be put down. Then the builder will start on the footings and building of the growing house.

New photos can be viewed on our web site at: