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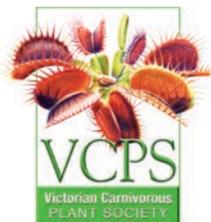
Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

SEPTEMBER 2021

VCPS Newsletter No. 13



Drosera arcturi



Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY^{INC.}

Newsletter No. 13

September 2021

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MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2022

VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

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

- (All attendees must be double vaccinated against Covid19, wear a face mask where and when required and check in upon entry).

January	(30th)	New Year BBQ (Contact for details)
February	(23rd)	<i>Sarracenia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> (VFT), beginners info
March	(19-20)	VCPS Annual show at Collectors Corner (Postponed 2020 show).
April	(27th)	<i>Nepenthes</i> , <i>Heliamphora</i> , <i>Drosera</i> and information night.
May	(25th)	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy <i>Drosera</i> gemmae swap
June	(22nd)	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July	(27th)	Rosetted tuberous <i>Drosera</i> judging, Propagation – seed growing, tissue culture, division and cuttings. Potting demonstration.
August	(24th)	Upright tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
September	(28th)	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
October	(26th)	<i>Byblis</i> , pygmy <i>Drosera</i> , <i>Drosera binata</i> , <i>Drosophyllum</i> , <i>Genlisea</i> , <i>Pinguicula</i> , <i>Roridula</i> , <i>Utricularia</i> .
November	(TBA)	Triffid Park Open Day
December	(TBA)	VCPS 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.

Contents



***Darlingtonia californica* growing in their highest reported elevation at 2,250m in the Klamath Mountains in Northern California.** Photo: Robert Childs/Facebook

VCPS Growers photos

If you'd like to publish a photo that you took of your plant in the VCPS journal. Please email it to Stephen Fretwell the VCPS designer at: stevefretwell24@gmail.com

VCPS News

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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.org

For inquiries or to order seeds, please contact the VCPS 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:

Drosera arcturi, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.

Photos: Stephen Fretwell

BACK COVER:

Clockwise from top left:

- *Drosera arcturi* plant with pollinated seed capsules, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria. .
- *Drosera arcturi* with prey trapped by its tentacles, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.
- *Drosera arcturi* leaf curling over its prey, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.
- A large clump of *Drosera arcturi*, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.
- *Drosera arcturi*, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.
- *Drosera arcturi*, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.
- *Drosera arcturi* plants growing in sphagnum moss, Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.
- Swamp Sun orchid *Thelymitra cyanea* (centre), Mt Baw Baw, Victoria.

Design: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS News

Covid strikes again

Free VCPS memberships from July 2021 to June 2022

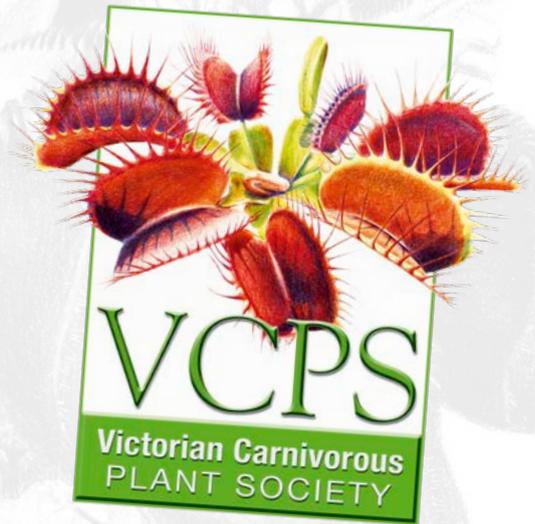
After so many promising signs early last year, the new COVID-19 variants have again hit Victoria hard. On the back of 2020, 2021 has also been an extremely disappointing year with many states borders closed for many months.

Again this has impacted the VCPs in so many ways. Including the VCPS not being allowed to hold any meetings or events in 2021 until November, due to the gathering limitations and the temporary closing of the meeting venue.

Again the VCPS would like to help its members to improve their year by giving all of its current members a free subscription year so that their fees won't be due until **June 2022!**

For those members who have paid their subscription fees in 2021, an extra year will be added onto their current membership subscription.

For any queries please contact the VCPS Membership secretary Peter Bloem at: pbloem@bigpond.net.au



Articles needed for VCPS journal

Have you ever wanted to contribute and publish an article about cultivating, propagating or seeing carnivorous plants in the wild. Do you experience any issues growing particular species?

The VCPS is looking for articles, whether they're short ones or long ones to add more diversity and to help share information to its members and readers.

If you need any ideas or you're not sure what to write about, please contact David Petch or Stephen Fretwell.

Please email it to the editor David Petch at: davidpetch@optusnet.com.au And also to Stephen Fretwell at: stevefretwell24@gmail.com



VCPS News



Postponed VCPS 2021 annual Show now moved to March 2022

Due to new COVID-19 Omicron strain hitting, the VCPS annual show is postponed from its usual December schedule by the VCPS and Collectors Corner to ensure the safety of all visitors.

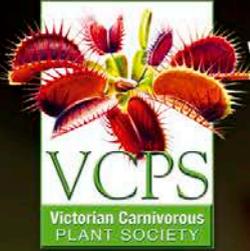
The VCPS annual show now has a date set for the weekend of **March 19th-20th in 2022**. And will be held at the same location, Collectors Corner, Gardenworld.

Entry is free for all and it's surely going to be another brilliant show full of rare and spectacular species to see and buy.

When: Starts **Saturday, March 19th at 9am** and ends on **Sunday, March 20th at 5pm**.

It's one of the biggest events on the calendar for the society and is a great opportunity for members to meet and greet other collectors, and see and purchase some amazing plants.





Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY

2022 Annual Show

FREE ENTRY

Saturday March 19th – March 20th

9AM TO 5PM AT COLLECTORS CORNER,
GARDENWORLD CENTRE, SPRINGVALE ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH

www.vcps.org



Drosera arcturi growing one the edge of a seep
on Mt Baw Baw. Photos: Stephen Fretwell



Drosera arcturi growing out in the full sunlight in a highly exposed swampy area in sphagnum moss.

A day trip to Mt Baw Baw

BY STEPHEN FRETWELL

Earlier this year, Sean, Kyrill and I decided to head out on a day trip up to Mt Baw Baw in search of *Drosera arcturi* and some other alpine native orchids that grow there.

Mt Baw Baw is a mountain in the Great Dividing Range and is 1567m high in altitude and covered in snow during the winter period, so many plants are only accessible in late spring to autumn like *Drosera arcturi* and *Utricularia monanthos*.

After a few hours drive we finally reached the carpark at Mt Baw Baw and immediately proceeded to walk to a hiking track past the Chalet's where a hiking track takes you up to the top of the ski slopes through stunning natural bushland. At the bottom of one of the ski slopes where a seep feeds into, there's a wet swampy area where *D. arcturi* can be found, but it was still extremely wet at the time and without gumboots the water was too deep to get through, so we had a quick look



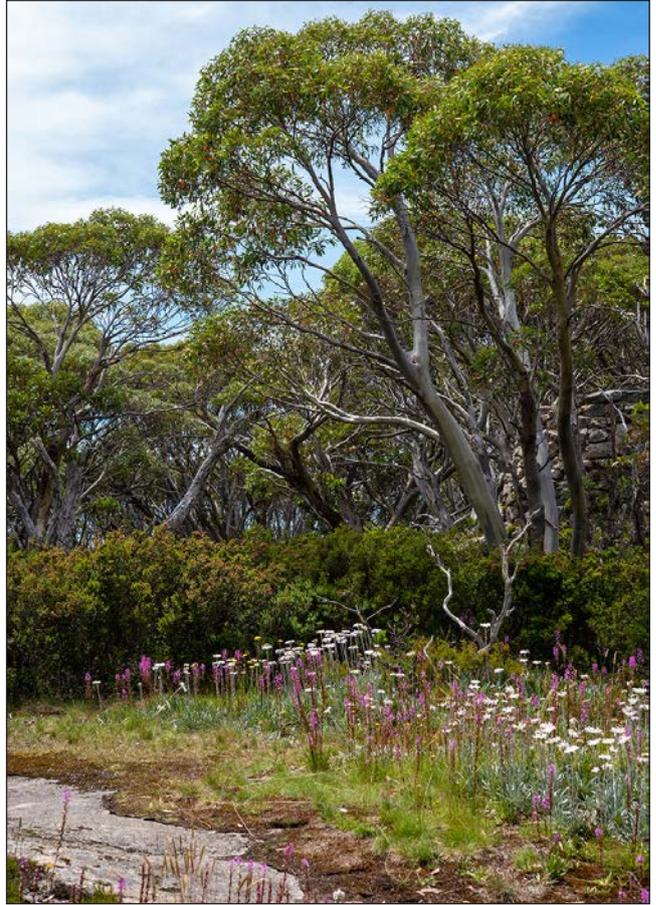
The cafe and ski hire store on Mt Baw Baw.

around the edges and managed to find a few *D. arcturi* plants and some Mauve Leek orchids *Prasophyllum suttonii* in flower. So we took a few photos then moved on as we knew that there are a few other spots with lots of these plants from a previous visit in 2011.

There are multiple hiking trails on Mt Baw Baw and there was a couple that we wanted



Pink and a rare white flowered plant of the Thrift-leaved Trigger plants *Stylidium armeria*.



Stylidium armeria growing in a thin layer of soil amongst the granite boulders on top of Mt Baw Baw.



The view of the surrounding hills and mountains from a lookout on top of Mt Baw Baw.



**Alpine Leek Orchid,
Prasophyllum tadgellianum.**



**Mauve Leek Orchid,
Prasophyllum suttonii.**



**The strange and alien looking
Stinkhorn fungus, *Aseroe rubra*.**



***Graphium macleayanus*, Macleay's swallowtail butterfly.**



Sean (left) and Kyrill hiking up one of the trails.

to follow to hopefully find what we were looking for. Unfortunately one trails that we wanted to follow is now closed to help preserve the habitat of the rare and critically endangered Baw Baw Frog, *Philoria frosti*. This frog is endemic only to Mt Baw Baw and its numbers have plummeted due to the disease Chytridiomycosis which is caused by an infection of the Amphibian Chytrid Fungus.

So we decided to make our way along the main trail that leads up to the summit where there's a couple of lookouts and from there we can then easily head back down the grassy ski slopes to some of the other seeps, then back to the chalets at the beginning. As we followed the summit trail, growing just off the trail we managed to see another species of Leek orchids in flower *Prasophyllum tadgellianum*, commonly known as the Alpine Leek orchid, along with a Mountain Bird orchid *Chiloglottis jeanesii* that was developing its flower.

Further up the trail we then came across hundreds of Thrift-leaved Trigger plants *Stylidium armeria*

growing under the snow gums on both sides of the trail, all out in flower and looking absolutely stunning. To our delight we also managed to find an albino, white flowered individual growing amongst all of the vibrant pink ones which was a very nice surprise to come across, and was the only one that we found.

It was a warm sunny day around 27 degrees celcius and there was also a lot of other daisy's including the large flowers open including the Ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* which definitely brightened up the trail. And there were also many other natives out in flower, which gave us a lot of hope in finding the Alpine Sun orchid out in flower later on.

As we approached the summit we then came across an interesting fungus *Aseroe rubra* called the Anemone stinkhorn, which was dark red in colour and had 9 arms coming out from the central mouth which was quite a bizarre find. And as we photographed it we watched flys land and crawl around tasting it, which reminded me of the *Rafflesia*



Baron von Mueller's "The Cairn" at the summit of Mt Baw Baw.



Stunning views down to the surrounding plains from the top of one of the ski runs.



The Swamp Sun orchid *Thelymitra cyanea* and Thrif-leaved Trigger plant *Stylidium armeria* growing together.



Sean (left) and Kyrill walking down on of the ski runs that leads to a swampy plateau at the bottom.



Drosera arcturi growing amongst died out grass.

species that I've seen in Borneo and Sumatra that look like rotting flesh and emit foul smells in order to attract flies.

Once at the top of the mountain there was a small picnic area with wooded tables and seats and the Baron von Mueller's "The Cairn" which is a pile of rocks erected in 1870 to be used as a reference point during a Geodetic Coastal survey of Victoria. It's named after Baron von Mueller as he was the first person to ascend Mt Baw Baw to study the flora and fauna of its plateau.

Nearby there was also a nice lookout with views of the Mt Baw Baw plateau area and nearby tree covered peaks, where if you wanted to you could follow this trail and head towards if you wanted to do a 10-15km return hike.

After enjoying the summit we then headed back down along on of the grassy ski slopes until we reached a flat section half way down where lots of seeps fed into and it was quite wet. There we finally found lots of sphagnum moss with hundreds of plants of *D. arcturi* growing amongst it. Some of the sphagnum was green and alive, while some had turned white and was crispy, but the



Fireweed Groundsel, *Senecio linearifolius*.



Ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*.



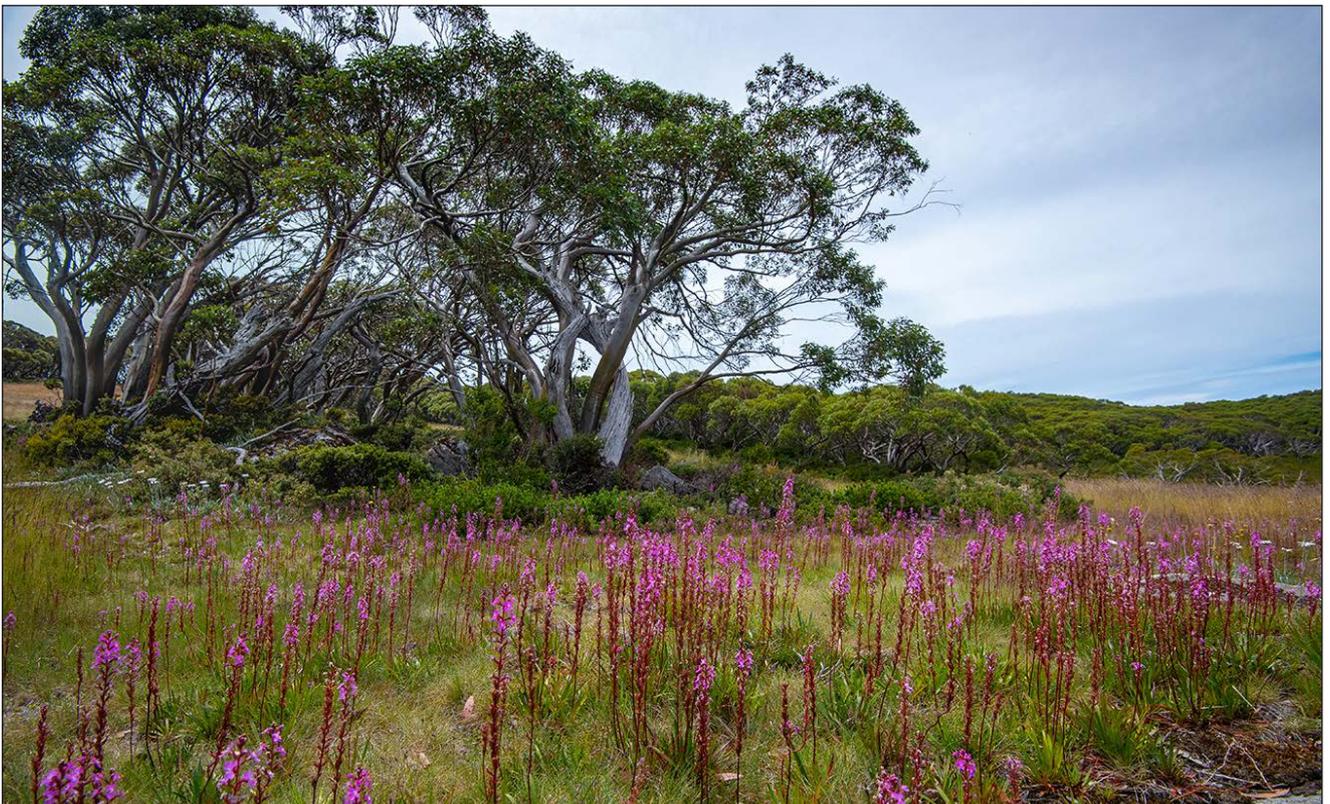
Thelymitra cyanea with bright blue flowers with dark veins.



A bright mauve/purple flowered form of *Thelymitra cyanea*.



A pale blue flowered form with white patches of *Thelymitra cyanea*.



Hundreds of *Styliidium armeria* plants flowering on a flat plateau on Mt Baw Baw.



***D. arcturi* growing in a live sphagnum next to a small pond.**



***D. arcturi* growing amongst dry sphagnum moss.**



***D. arcturi* habitat by the edge of a seep.**

D. arcturi seemed happy, so it must have still be wet underneath.

Most of the plants that we found had at least four leaves that roughly 4cm long and were yellow-green coloured at the base which turned into a bronze-reddish colour which wasn't surprising as they were growing out in the open in full sunlight. We also had a good look to see if we could find any plants were in flower, but most of the flowers were already black and probably would have been open at least 4 weeks beforehand.

Also growing in the area we found more of the attractive Mauve Leek orchids *Prasophyllum suttonii* like we'd seen at the start growing out in the open

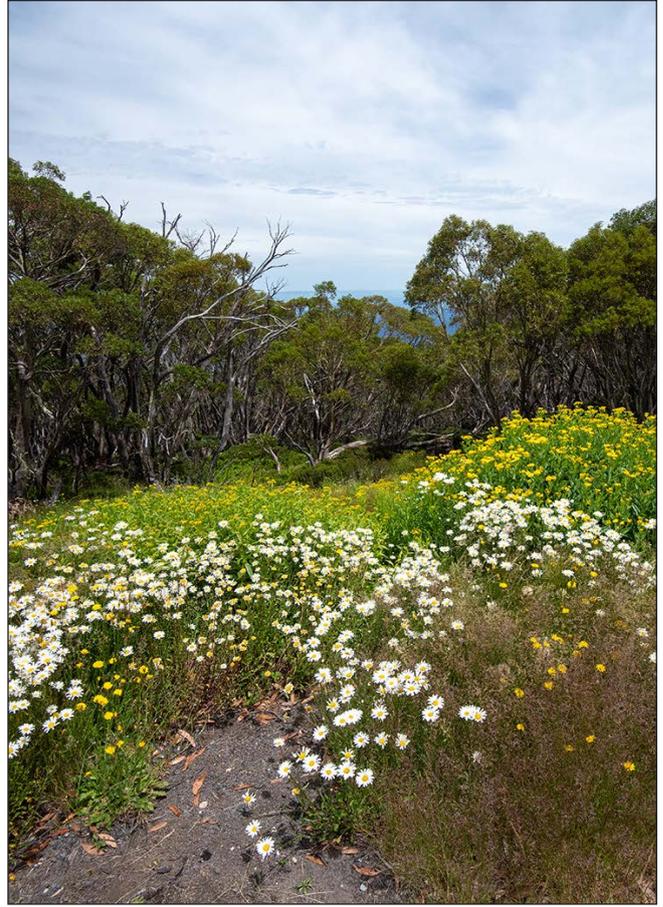
and dozens of the stunning bright blue flowers of the *Thelymitra cyanea*, the Swamp Sun orchid which was one of the orchids that we were hoping to see in flower.

This sun orchid has vibrant mid blue flowers with some dark veins on their petals, especially the top 3 petals as is definitely a highlight to see. We also manage to find a bit of variation with the population with some flowers being more of a mauve colour with strong veining on all petals and one unique variant that had white blotches in the middle of its petals.

After spending a good amount of time we then headed back to the car after a very enjoyable hike.



Snow Gums trunks showing off the stunning colouration of their bark.



Stunning Ox-eye daisy's and Fireweed Groundsel, growing next to the car park on Mt Baw Baw.



Stunning Snow Gums growing next to the road to the ski slopes.



Pinguicula emarginata x 'Weser', an easy and stunning plant to grow.

Selling plants in Covid-19 lockdown

BY PETER BLOEM.

I have been growing some species of *Pinguicula* for a number of years now. One of the easiest ones to grow is *Pinguicula emarginata* x 'Weser', they readily divide into multiple plants and leaf pulls have an excellent strike rate.

I had a lot of *Pinguicula emarginata* x 'Weser' growing in my green house and during the 2020 Covid19 lock down, I was not able to sell all of these plants at meetings or our annual show, so I thought I would try to sell them through ebay.

Every Sunday afternoon for many months I would get the ordered plants ready for posting out for Monday morning. The bare rooted pings were wrapped in damp sphagnum moss and placed inside a flattened black polypipe.

All customers paid via PayPal and their address would come up automatically.

The postal service was slower than usual because of the high demand during the Covid19 pandemic. Most customers would receive their plants in 5-10 days.

One customer that I posted out to, had their shop address, but unfortunately the shop was closed because of the lock down restrictions. The plants that I had sent him had been in the postal service for 32 days before it had come back to me.

When I had opened the parcel I was surprised to see



P. emarginata x 'Weser' plants after they'd be in the mail for 32 days.



The same plants after they'd recovered several months after.

the pings had been growing in total darkness. The new growth was completely white with long spindly roots searching for water. The sphagnum moss that I used for packing was bone dry.

I decided to pot up the pings to see if they would stay alive. I placed the pot in a shady spot and gradually exposed it to more light over a couple of weeks.

In a number of months the pings had fully recovered and are now happily growing with the other Pings that I have in my collection.

So now I feel confident that the plants will survive from a long spell in the Australian postal service.



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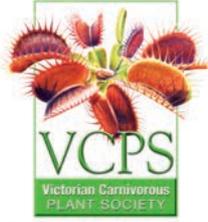
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All cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society Inc (VCPS). Payment can be made by Cheque, Money Orders, Direct deposit and Paypal. Payment from overseas must be in Australian dollars. (Payment by Credit card is also available for international members only.) Please visit vcps.org for further details

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1 Pollard Place,
Sunbury, Victoria 3429.
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.



Drosera arcturi



Drosera arcturi



Drosera arcturi



Drosera arcturi



Thelymitra cyanea



Drosera arcturi



Drosera arcturi



Drosera arcturi