

# FLYTRAP

# NEWS

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ISSUE NO. 6/1986

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY OF N S W

## The Description.

**S** Vn-Dew is a little herb, and groweth very low, it hath a few leaues standing vpon slender hollow, and like an eare picker, hairy and red-  
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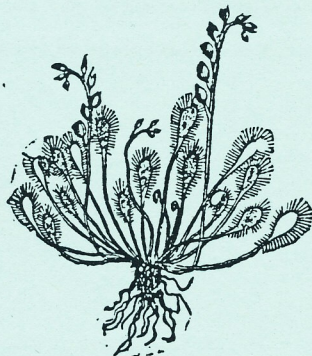
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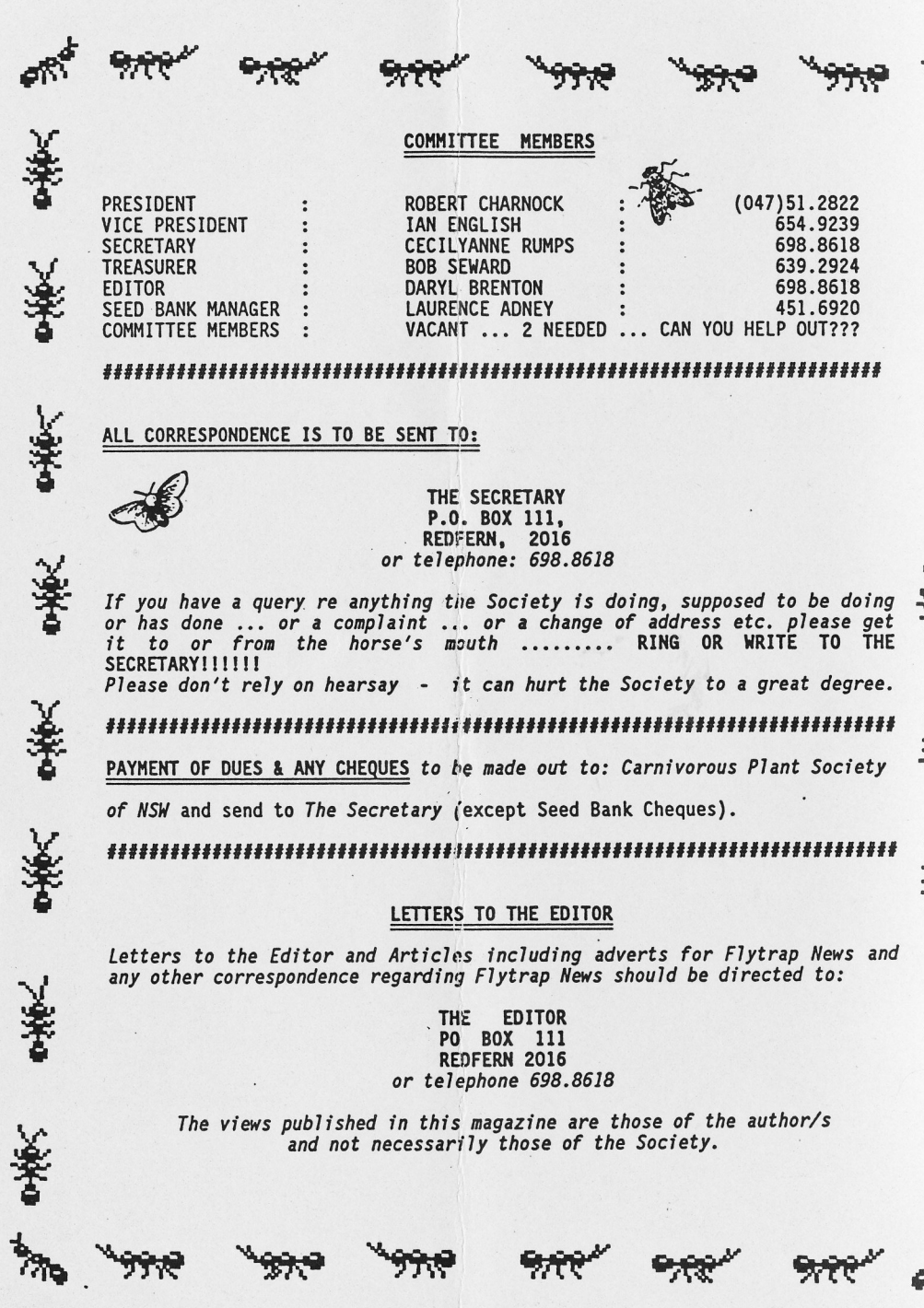
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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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SEED BANK MANAGER	:	LAURENCE ADNEY	:	451.6920
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	:	VACANT ... 2 NEEDED ... CAN YOU HELP OUT???	:	

### ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS TO BE SENT TO:



THE SECRETARY  
P.O. BOX 111,  
REDFERN, 2016  
or telephone: 698.8618

*If you have a query re anything the Society is doing, supposed to be doing or has done ... or a complaint ... or a change of address etc. please get it to or from the horse's mouth ..... RING OR WRITE TO THE SECRETARY!!!!!!*

*Please don't rely on hearsay - it can hurt the Society to a great degree.*

PAYMENT OF DUES & ANY CHEQUES to be made out to: *Carnivorous Plant Society of NSW* and send to *The Secretary* (except Seed Bank Cheques).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Letters to the Editor and Articles including adverts for Flytrap News and any other correspondence regarding Flytrap News should be directed to:*

THE EDITOR  
PO BOX 111  
REDFERN 2016  
or telephone 698.8618

*The views published in this magazine are those of the author/s and not necessarily those of the Society.*

## PLANTS FOR SALE



There is a plants for sale table at ALL MEETINGS. If you have plants you wish to sell then bring them along to the meeting. This is how it works:

- a. You can sell them and give the Society 15% of the sale price or
- b. donate the plant for the Society to sell. Either way the Society raises a little money towards its running costs!!!

Please make sure plants are clearly labeled with the following:

NAME OF PLANT (on a tag)

YOUR NAME & YOUR SALE PRICE (on another tag)

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## MEETINGS FOR 1987

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY  
FRIDAY 10TH APRIL  
FRIDAY 12TH JUNE (AGM)  
FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER  
FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER  
SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER (Party)

*Meetings are held at the RYDE CATERING COLLEGE (enter via carpark in Parks Road) in Classroom 7, Level 5A (follow driveway right up to building at end, ignore all parking signs and drive up ramp to building proper - undercover parking at this top level then take lift to Level 5, turn left out of lift well and walk around till you come to the stairs, go up 1/2 a flight of stairs to the left and there is the classroom!). Meetings commence at 7.30pm and must end no later than 9.30pm as we must vacate college by 10pm sharp! Hope to see you at our next meeting.*

#####

## SEED BANK NEWS

If you want to purchase seed at meetings please let Laurence Adney know BEFORE HAND by telephoning (02)451.6920. Seed costs \$1.00 pkt. Put your name, address, list of seeds and payment in an envelope and Post to:

Carnivorous Plant Society of NSW  
c/- Laurence Adney  
8 Kerry Close  
BEACON HILL, 2100

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# SEED BANK ::: PACKETS OF SEED IN BANK

DIONEA MUSCIPALA	10	D. FILIFORMIS SSP	7
DROSER_A BINATA	9	D. PETTATA	5
D. BINATA EXTREMA	7	D. REGIA	3
D. BINATA 'T' FORM	18	D. SPATHULATA	22
D. BURMANII	13	D. X WATERII	5
D. CAPENSIS		NEPENTHES KHASIANA	7
D. CAPENSIS WIDE LEAF	3	SARRACENIA ALATA	5
D. COLLINSIA	6	SARRACENIA LEUCOPHYLLA	50

Thanks to F. Howell for the *N. khasiana* and to P. Archer, I. English and R. Gibson for other seed.

Please note the following people have as credit the following seed bonus:

Robert Gibson x 1  
Fred Howel x 3

Ian English x 6  
Rob Charnock x 2

DEADLINE FOR NEXT FLYTRAP NEWS

2ND FEBRUARY 1987





HALLELUJAH!!!!

WE'VE GONE AND DONE IT!!!

*(or a report on Winning 1st Prize  
in the Spring in the Gardens Competition)*

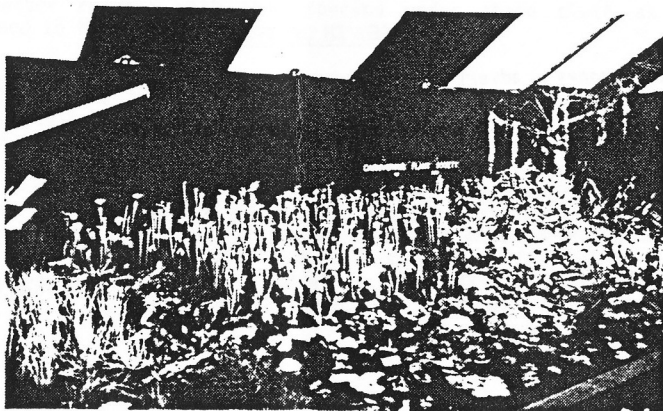
Society members should rightly feel very pleased with themselves this year for the achievements of the Society as a whole over the past 12 months. It is now 17 months since the inception of our Society and with 30 members (September), many of whom live outside the Sydney area, in fact many live interstate, we have entered or displayed our plants at 2 major shows during 1986.

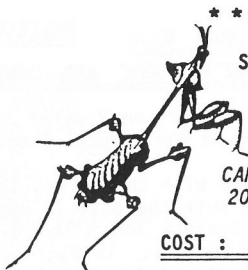
Spring in the Gardens held by the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney was held last month (October) and having entered our first competition last year (same show-same time), we decided to 'have another go' and adopting a 'never-say-die' attitude, the Show Committee set out to make a display that everyone would remember - for it's beauty not its lack of it!!! They worked very hard, meeting often, drawing up plans, finding suitable rocks, tree stumps, environmentally suitable plants (other than CPs) and worked enthusiastically right up to the set up time. Other members then helped to man the plant sales table and watch over the display.

It was very thrilling to be there at the actual presentation of 1st Prize (\$500 for the Society), but even more thrilling was both the Botanical Garden's reaction to our display and the public's reactions to our display. So many photographers (mainly Japanese and American), were taking photos, asking questions and just commenting on the beauty of our display. Others came along 'just to look' and were amazed that everything was still in pots because it looked as if it was a planted garden.

The only hassle we had were the kids!! Little kids and the bigger kids variety!! We spent many hours pulling them off the display, stopping them from shutting the flytraps!! Some adults were worse than the little ones but that is something we have to contend with so next year's display, whilst having to be different and even more brilliant (come on bright sparks - give the Show Committee your ideas of a different display) will have to consider keeping the Venus Flytraps away from reaching distance - including twigs and sticks in this 'reaching' distance!!

If you missed this year's display the Society has photographs of it if you can come along to a meeting. If not, then **PLAN NOW** to come along to the Show in 1987 - same time - 2nd weekend in October.





\*\*\* OPEN DAY \*\*\*  
ON  
SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER  
AND  
SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER  
AT  
POTTED ELEGANCE  
CARNIVOROUS PLANT NURSERY  
20 Orana Road, Kenthurst  
Phone: (02) 654.9239  
COST : \$6:00 / SESSION / PER PERSON

SATURDAY's Sessions:

9.30am Basic Session  
2.30pm Advanced Session

SUNDAY's Sessions:

Advanced Session 9.30am  
Basic Session 2.30pm

**BASIC SESSION:**

- \* A comprehensive tour of the Nursery
- \* A "National Geographic" Video on CARNIVOROUS PLANTS
- \* Discussions and demonstrations covering:  
Soil mixtures ... Growing conditions ... Fertilisation ...  
water quality ... propagation ... etc.

**ADVANCED SESSION:**

- \* Tour of the Nursery
- \* Discussions and demonstrations covering:  
Growing cps under lights ... pests and diseases ...  
special conditions for uncommon plants ...  
nepenthes culture and propagation ... fertilisation

Each session takes approximately 2 hours!

PHOTOGRAPHERS ... DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CAMERAS!!!

Potted Elegance is Australia's largest commercial CP nursery ...  
a 10% discount on plant purchases (except on Nepenthes/Darlingtonia)  
will apply for these two days

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ADVERTISE IN FLYTRAP NEWS

Help raise money - advertise in Flytrap News. We will to advertise anything

Want to sell your house?

Your dog??

Your Kids???

(what a great idea!!)

How about some spare plants for sale???

Having a GARAGE SALE ... then tell us so we can come!!!

COSTS ARE ... 5c PER WORD ... PAYMENT MUST BE IN ADVANCE DUE TO NON  
PAYMENT BY SOME MEMBERS! Thank you.



## SEED GERMINATION - PART 2

by Philip Archer - Goulburn

In Part 1 of this article I discussed some of the conditions required for germination of plants in general. In this article specific hints for some CP species will be given. In some cases these instructions have come from other articles from other CP newsletters. It is not my intention to appear an expert, rather to have in one place a collection of hints specific to seed germination of CP's. I will indicate the source in brackets at the end of each section.

### Byblis gigantea:

Recommended to pour boiling water over seeds to stimulate germination, will germinate slowly without this treatment. Sow seeds in autumn on 1:6 peat/sand mix, cover seeds with a thin layer of finely ground granite. Leave pot in full sun and water from top. Germination rate is low (10%) but if not treated with boiling water will remain variable for at least three years. Transfer seedlings to full length pot (Dixon).

If you prefer the boiling water system place seeds in a jar in the 2nd week of May and pour boiling water over the seeds, replace the cap and keep seeds in the water for 48 hours or more. During this time shake the jar several times to ensure that the seeds are wet (this is necessary as the seeds have an oily coat). After this treatment the seeds should have sunk to the bottom. Soak container in water filled with 2:1 sand/peat mix. Sow seeds 2cm apart. Place a sheet of glass over the pot leaving 1cm for ventilation and place in a bright corner of the greenhouse (Pamment).

### Biblis liniflora

Seeds require to be rested between harvest and sowing, store in fridge between autumn and spring. Seeds also require warm temperatures to germinate. Sow on mix of 2:1 peat and sand (Pierson).

### Sarracenia

This species requires stratification, cold treatment for at least 4 weeks. I always give it at least six weeks. My method is to sow onto sphagnum in a seed tray, seal whole pot in freezer bag and place in the normal compartment of refrigerator. I have also had success in placing seeds in a small plastic bag with a few strands of sphagnum and then transferring the contents onto either sphagnum or a 2:1 peat sand mix in early spring. I have had better results with this species under shade cloth as young seedlings tend to burn easily. Water by tray.

### Cobra Lily

This species is best sown in late winter or early spring as it seems to require lengthening daylight hours, decreasing hours of night. Soak seeds for three or four days in clean water, shaking the container at least twice a day, more often if possible. Add fungicide on the last day at half strength to minimise fungal attack. Sow on either pure sphagnum or on a 1:5 sand sphagnum mix in a pot of at least 4cm depth and keep in an area of medium light. Place a sheet of glass 1cm above the container thus ensuring high humidity. Water from above and keep roots cool (Brownfield).



D. aliciae

Germinates well on 1:2 peat sand mix in seed trays watered by tray.

D. binata

A weed - comes up anywhere on anything!!



D. burmanii

Can also become a weed. Will germinate anywhere at anytime. Seems to prefer Sphagnum. Water by tray.

D. capensis

Does anyone know how to kill this species!! Sow in spring on anything. High to medium light. Water by tray.

D. capillaris

Sow on 1:2 peat sand mix in early spring in seed tray, water by tray in medium light.

D. filiformis

Stratify as for sarracenia. Use 2:1 peat sand mix in seed tray. Water by tray. Grow in medium light. Sow early spring.

D. indica

Treat this species as an annual. Sow seeds on 3:1 peat sand mix in early spring. Germination can be slow in low temperatures (from 4 - 8 weeks) (Pierson). Water by tray in medium to full light.

D. intermedia

Stratify as for sarracenas. I use the black bottom of a soft drink bottle with 2:1 peat sand mix, but pure sphagnum can be tried. Place pot in deep water, about 1cm from the top of the container, the pot can be kept in this condition after germination which may be slow.

D. montana

Best treated as annual. Sow seeds 20mm deep in 2:1 peat sand, water by tray in full or medium light (Pierson).

D. planchonii

I have not had this species for very long having germinated it during winter in low temperatures, down to 3 deg C in low light. I suspect it may become a weed!

D. rotundifolia

Treat as for D. rotundifolia.

D. spathulata

Can become a weed as it germinates anywhere at any time. Prefers 1:2 peat sand mix. Water by tray.

D. trinervia

I mentioned this species in Part 1 as may require lengthening nights. I have sown it on dead sphagnum, germination good but many seedlings die while very small. Water by tray, seems not to like freezing conditions. good luck!!

### Tuberous Drosera

I have had good success with *D. bulbosa*, *D. peltata* and *D. auriculata* and fair results with *D. bulbosa* ssp *major*, *D. macrophylla*. I sow seeds onto 1:2 peat sand mix in 15cm full length pots and stand in water. With no tuber to rot pots can stand throughout winter in water trays, but care must be taken in spring as seedlings for tubers. Sow and start watering in March.

### Pinguicula

Sow seeds on sand:peat mix which should be kept moist not wet. Keep light requirements as for adult plants (Johnson).

### Venus Fly Traps

Sow seeds directly on a medium of 80% peat and 20% sand in seed trays in early spring. Stand in water in full light. My experience that germination is good. A higher proportion of sand can be used if required. Do not use Sphagnum for this species. It also does not like being too wet.

I hope that this has been helpful to those growers attempting to germinate. My best advice is to obtain far more seed than you think you may require and use various mixes and try different positions in the greenhouse. If all germinate then sell the extra plants at meetings or use them to experiment further with. Start by experimenting with easy species and gradually build up to difficult species, even if you do not want to add these species to your collection, they are always handy to have around to experiment on later and also gain credits with the seed bank so that you can add to your collection as seeds become available. My own opinion is that the seed bank should be a major source of seeds for all growers but this can only occur if seeds are donated!!

All the best in your attempts.

### REFERENCES:

1. Brownfield, Jenny: Sundew Nov-Dec, Vol. 5, No. 3, pgs 5 & 6
2. Howell, Fred: Basic Growing Instructions
3. Dixon, Rob: 1986. Rainbow Plant, Carnivorous Plant Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 1, pg 19
4. Pamment, Bill: 1986. Byblis Gigantea. V.C.P.S., Vol. 2, No. 1.
5. Pierson, Bruce: 1985. *Drosera liniflora*. Sundew Nov-Dec, Vol. 4, No. 3, pg 3.
6. Pierson, Bruce: 1985. *Drosera indica*. V.C.P.S. Vol. 2, No. 2, pg 24.
7. Pierson, Bruce: 1984. *Drosera montana*. Sundew, Nov-Dec, Vol. 4, No. 3, pg 4.
8. Johnson, Brian: 1986. Growing and Propagating *Pinguicula* in the East of England. Sundew, Jan-Feb., Vol. 5, No. 4, pgs 6-9.



## DIONAEA MUSCIPULA - THE VENUS FLYTRAP

by Colin D. Philp

### Dionaea Muscipula, family Droseraceae



This species is probably the most well known of all CP's. *Dionaea* is native to the bogs of south-eastern North Carolina, and neighbouring eastern South Carolina.

There is only one species in the genus, and its lifespan is about twenty five years. The plant is a rosette of leaves that grows out of a long white fleshy rhizome, just below the surface. Often miscalled a bulb, this becomes longer and larger each growing season (spring to late autumn). In winter the leaves die back & the rhizome remains dormant till the following spring. The roots are fibrous, and may descend 10-15cm. *Dionaea* grows two different ways - either with tall slim leaves growing erect - or with short fat leaves growing flat on the ground. The leaves grow from a fraction of an inch to eight inches long. The latter has larger traps which can grow slightly larger than a twenty cent piece.

The traps vary in colour from plant to plant, some may be green others can be pink, light or dark red. They consist of two clam-shell like halves, joined together in the centre. Connected to the spine of the leaf, outside on the edges of the traps, are numerous stout guard hairs, which gives the trap a vicious appearance. Inside these are numerous nectar glands which form a collar-like border around the edge of the trap. When open, the traps are normally 45-60 degrees apart. In the interior of each half there are microscopic digestive glands, giving the surface a fine granular appearance. Each half has three small trigger-hairs, arranged in a triangular pattern, although some plants may have four to six trigger-hairs per half, but these are a rarity.

*Dionaea* uses both the coloration of the trap, and sweet smelling nectar to lure prey. The insects land on the leaf and walk into the trap and begin to drink up the nectar. As it does it brushes against one or more of the fine trigger-hairs, stimulating the trap to shut. The trap shuts quickly, sometimes as fast as 1/25th of a second! The stout guard hairs on the edges slide down the sides of each other to prevent the insect escaping. The trap then flattens, crushing the insect inside which is then digested over a period of ten days. The trap then opens and the dry insect husk is blown away, at which time the trap is ready to catch more prey. Each trap is capable of catching several insects, after this the leaf dies and is replaced by a new and larger one.

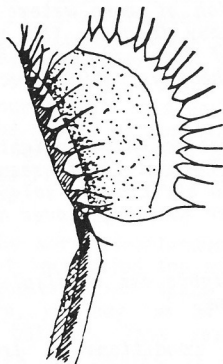
The flowers appear in spring and from one to fifteen flowers are borne in a cluster on a single scape or flower stalk, 6" (15cm) to 18" (45cm) high. Even though each plant usually has one scape, some plants may have up to four, each bearing a flower clust. Each flower consists of five green elliptical sepals alternating with five white wedge-shaped petals with semi-transparent veins running through them, with usually fifteen stamens and a compound pistil. The larger flowers, when open, may have a diameter of up to 1.5" (3.8cm). The terminal flowers always open first, followed by



the opening of the others with as many as four flowers being open at the one time.

*Seeds may be obtained two different ways; the first and easiest is to simply brush the stamens of one flower against the stigma of another. The second is by using a fine artist's brush to collect pollen from the stamens of one flower and place this on the stigma of another - use a second brush to pollinate the other flower. Seeds mature in 6 to 8 weeks. The seeds are black, pear-shaped and 1/16" long.*

I have been growing this species for six years, using 130mm full length plastic pots, with a compost of 50% peat moss and 50% propagator's sand, though straight peat moss can be used. I've found the best temperature range is between 18/25°C. Normally they need 50% plus humidity in order to grow properly. I've found the best amount of humidity is 70%/80% and 50% sunlight. To keep the humidity high, apart from being grown in glasshouses, greenhouses etc; they can be grown in glass fish tanks. The tank is placed in a sunny position and covered with 50% shade cloth. The plants are best watered using the tray system, then placed in the tank, rather than filling the tank with water, as this can cause the plants to rot. *A hole should be in the glass top so hot air can escape.* The seeds are sown on straight peat moss, in a seed tray or pot, first spraying the surface with Benlate. The seeds are sown scattered over the surface. A second spray of Benlate is applied, to prevent fungus spores from attacking the seed. Then the seeds are covered with a minute later of fine dry peat moss, 1/32 inch deep. Gently spray the surface with water till moist! Place the seed tray or pot in a water tray and keep moist in a cool position. In a warm position the seed may not germinate. Germination takes four to six weeks. When seedlings are 3/4" across, they can be potted up. The plant matures from seedling to flowering age in three to four years.



The easiest way to look after your plant in winter is to remove it from its pot, then wash it in cool water to remove compost, dry it with a cloth, cutting off the leaves and dead roots. It is then placed in a plastic or glass container, which is placed in a refrigerator (not freezer), till spring when it can be potted up. If your plant is deprived of its dormancy period year after year it will eventually die. If the pot accidentally dries out and your plant should die off, simply put water in the tray (should be .50 to .75 inch deep). Your plant should reappear in one or two months - also the compost should be replaced each Spring.

Dionaea should never be fed insects, dear or alive, and the traps should never be sprung by fingers, sticks etc. If this is done enough, the whole plant will eventually die.

For further information:

"Carnivorous Plants" ... Gordon Cheers

"Carnivorous Plants of the United States and Canada" ... Donald E. Schnell

"Carnivorous Plants" ... Adrian Slack

LEARNING TO GROW  
CARNIVOROUS PLANTS  
UNDER LIGHTS

by Rhonda Strickland

Part 1:

*Artificial light gardening offers many opportunities to the carnivorous plant grower. In this first installment of an encyclopedic article, the author introduces the fundamentals of this specialized art!*

*Carnivorous plants have a special need for high humidity which sets them apart from the many household plants that will adjust to dry indoor conditions. CP growing in transparent enclosures is almost a must if you do not have a greenhouse, but these plants also need high light levels and this often results in a problem: the more sunlight you provide, the higher the temperature climbs in the enclosed terrarium, damaging or killing the plants. While moving the terrarium away from the sun will result in lowered temperatures, the reduced light will produce leggy plants with little or no coloration. In addition, the combination of reduced light with humid moist conditions can lead to mould and rot.*

*Some people attempt to solve the problem of heat buildup by removing the cover either partially or totally for short periods, but this leads to a new problem: evaporation upsets the original moisture balance they had worked so hard to achieve. After replacing the cover they may find the soil medium has dried too much, requiring the addition of more water and if they're using tap rather than distilled water they increase the risk of salt and mineral buildup every time they water. If they add too much water the top has to be removed again and so begins the frustrating process of trying to achieve the proper moisture balance.*

*Incandescent lamps create the same overheating problem that sunlight does, but without many of the benefits of sunlight. Fluorescent lights seem to be a made-to-order solution to this problem of CP. In addition to solving the overheating problem, fluorescent lights offer other advantages over natural sunlight:*

*a terrarium illuminated by fluorescent lights can be displayed in a room as a 'spotlighted' decorative piece,*

*you have more control over growing conditions - tropical carnivores can be made to thrive in the grey days of winter,*

*with a timer, temperate CPs can be given the dormancy period they need by exercising exact control of daylength,*

*flat, rosetted CPs will retain their naturally symmetrical shapes under direct overhead light rather than leaning one way or another toward the light source (and just how do you rotate a 40 gallon aquarium to counteract this phototropism??)*

### Choosing fixtures:

The most important consideration when planning an artificial light garden is HOW TO ACHIEVE THE RIGHT INTENSITY OF LIGHT FOR THE KIND OF GROWING YOU ARE GOING TO DO. This affects your choice of fixture, lamp, spacing, staging and so on. Fluorescent lights are far less apt to injure any light-sensitive plant than natural sunlight, so for a CP garden you ought to provide as much light as possible, or at least as much as is practical. Fluorescent light fixtures are readily available in hardware stores and plant shops and range from simple utility or "shop-light" fixtures to decorative furniture pieces. Some fixtures are designed to hold a single tube; others hold two or even four tubes. They come in standard lengths that correspond to the wattage of standard tubes.

Before choosing a fixture, you must determine how many tubes you need and of what length. There are three important points to keep in mind.

*Firstly one long tube is more efficient than two short tubes since there is much loss of light at the ends of fluorescent tubes. Secondly the more tubes placed side by side the greater the light intensity. Thirdly the longer the tube the greater the wattage.* A convenient formula for figuring how much wattage you need for your own particular growing space is given in the LEARN TO GROW UNDER FLUORESCENT LIGHTS booklet published by the Indoor Light Gardening Society of America, Inc. (ILGSA):

20 watts per square foot of growing space. For example:

*if your aquarium or whatever you are using to house your plants in is 24" long by 12" wide (a total of 2 square feet) you should use 40 watts of light.*

Now you must decide whether to purchase one single strip fixture that holds a 40 watt tube or a double fixture holding two 20 watt tubes. Considering that one long tube is more efficient than two smaller tubes the obvious choice may be one single 40 watt tube. However, the 40 watt tube only comes in a 48" length and you may not want such a long fixture hanging over your 12" x 24" growing space, since it would extend a foot beyond either side. A double fixture, holding two 20 watt tubes, would be the better choice! Much research by growers has shown that the most efficient light is produced by a 48" fixture that holds two 40 watt tubes. If you have four feet of space for your plants this would probably be your best place to start, avoiding all the hassle of formulas and calculations. Later you can experiment with other arrangements and determine for yourself which seem to give off the optimum light for your plants by comparing growth and health under various set-ups.

For the more adventurous, there is a way to increase your growing area without increasing the number and length of tubes. Say you have determined that you only have space for 2 x 24" tubes - instead of using a double 24" fixture, you buy two 24" single strip fixtures and mount them with a 6" space between. This space is referred to as a "center". In standard fixtures the centre is usually 3". By increasing the centre to 6" you increase "stray" light emitting from the sides of the tubes and can add on 3 extra inches to the width of your growing space. This would be helpful for CP growers since aquariums are usually wider than standard fixtures and light is lost in the front of the tank as well as the back with a standard fixture placed over the centre.

The very adventurous,  
using single strip fixtures and placing them 6" apart  
could get carried away and create a virtual  
CP JUNGLE in the living room!!

Part II in next issue of Flytrap News!!



MEDICINAL USES  
OF  
CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

A 2-PART ARTICLE BY DARYL BRENTON



certain carnivorous plants have been used as HERBAL REMEDIES since the Middle Ages (at least) and some have been used by native people within their natural habitats for even longer. The four genres that I have been able to research are DROSERA, PINGUICULA, SARRACENIA and NEPENTHES.

By far the best covered plants are the Drosera and Pinguicula, as many species of these are found in Europe and have been known even in Medieval times.

GERARD's herbal of 1633 gives many names for *Drosera Rotundifolia* and *D. anglica* (which he considers to be the same in nature). These Drosera were known as Ros Salis (which is Latin for "dew of the sun"), Lustwort (as it supposedly incited female cattle and sheep to lust!), Youthwort (believed to be a cure for old age) and Red Rot (blamed for rotting sheep's livers which we now know to be caused by liver fluke which live in similar conditions).

These Drosera are traditionally prescribed for the treatment of respiratory problems or as counter irritants and also for removing corns and warts.



Gerard informs us that physicians of his time believed that the ability of the sundew to retain drops of moisture even during the hottest part of the day, made it an ideal herb for consumption of the lungs, but that in practise the distillation of the leaves tended to finish the patients off a little quicker due to its searing and caustic qualities. A tonic was made by the peasants of this time by laying the leaves in spirit of wine, adding Cinnamon, Cloves, Macs, Ginger, Nutmeg, Sugar and a few grains of Musk and closely stoppering it in a jar till airtight and then leaving it in the sun for ten days. This was then strained and was ready for use.(1)

From THOMSON we learn that the leaves are picked during flowering and are dried in the shade. They are used to soothe irritative coughs and as an antispasmodic (ie: to prevent spasms), probably as an infusion (ie: dry leaves soaked in hot water) or as a tincture (extract in alcohol).(2)

According to MRS. GRIEVE, *D. rotundifolia* was used with advantage in whooping cough, insipient phthisis, chronic bronchitis and asthma. It was advocated in America as a cure for old age and a vegetable extract was combined with colloidal silicates to treat arteriosclerosis. The juice can be used to curdle milk or to remove corns and warts.(3)

For those that are interested, analysis of *rotundifolia* yields malic and citric acid, a resin, tannin and droserone.(4) It is probably these organic acids which cause the blistering and removal of warts. SLACK tells us that in 1797, it was known that some women prepared the juice with milk to make it safe enough to remove freckles and sunburn.(5)

Amongst Australian Drosera, D. pettata and D. whittakeri have proven to be effective against those bacteria causing typhoid fever in laboratory tests (one of the few Australian plants to affect Gram-negative bacteria). D. whittakeri yields lovely tints for dyeing, the colour depending on the mordant and D. pettata yields a yellowish-brown tint that can produce a rich, light fast brown on silk. These dye materials are extracted from the bulbs. (6)

ERICKSON tells us that early colonists were sometimes obliged to produce ink from the bulbs, a practice that is still in use by some country children. (7)

Pinguicula have two main uses one medicinal and the other domestic.

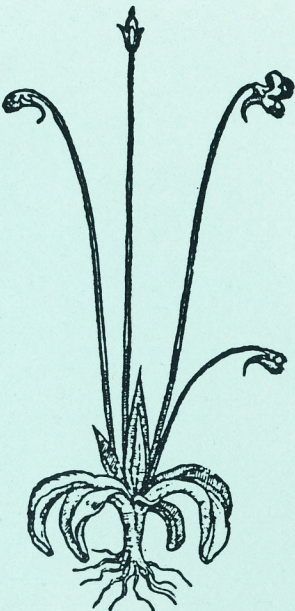
In Scandinavian countries Pinguicula were used to curdle milk so that a ropey substance formed which did not separate from the whey - this was called Tatmiolk. The leaves were smeared onto sieves or buckets before pouring the milk or the milk was poured over the leaves (it is possible that Laplanders still make Tatmiolk). This is where the common name of Butterwort arises.

Till recently, the juice of the leaves was used by husbandmen's wives for treating chaffing, rifting and snakebite on cow's udders in Europe. (8) That the leaves of P. vulgaris were used on chaffed hands and sores is related by MRS. GRIEVE. (9) In the late Eighteenth Century the leaves were recommended for killing human lice.

Some more esoteric uses were devised for this herb however, as it was supposed to protect cattle from elf arrows and humans from the influence of fairies and witches. (10)

From REIDL we learn that peasants in Alpine areas of Europe believed that it stopped snakes from stealing the milk if Butterwort leaves were rubbed over them and that this practise is apparently still in use in Siberia. (11)

Pinguicula were also blamed for liver rot in cattle although it is the 3rd stage of liver fluke looking for a host. In England it was often called Yorkshire Sanicle (confusing it with another plant) and Marsh Violet.



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