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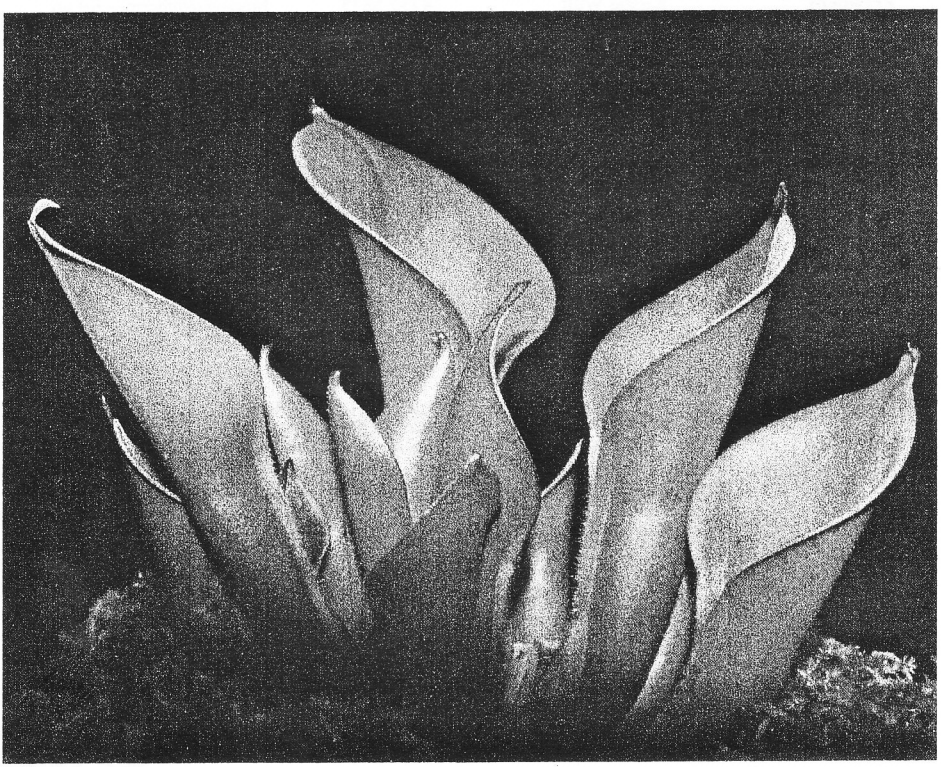

Newsletter of the Carnivorous Plant Society of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia)

CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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2000-2001 (Financial Year) Subscription

All members, single, family and overseas AU $20.00
Please make cheques or money orders payable to the Carnivorous Plant Society of New South Wales.
Membership and correspondence should be forwarded to the Secretary at the above address.

COVER PHOTO: Heliamphora N. J. Clemens

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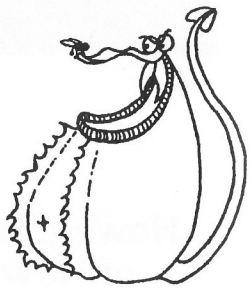

CONTENTS

MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month .
Time: 7:30pm – 10.00pm
Venue: Woodstock Community Centre, Church Street Burwood

Date	**Speaker**	**Plant of the Month**
May 11th	Nancy Bainsbridge (Australian Garden Club)	Gemmae swap
June 8th	A.G.M. And ICPS video (S. Hartmyre)	Heliamphora
July 13th	C.P. Trivia night	Cephalotus
July 29th (Sunday)	Winter Swap Meet	All Species
August 10th	Philippe Reyter	Tuberous Drosera
September 14th	Richard Sullivan, Darlingtonia californica	Darlingtonia
October 12th		V.F.T.
November 9th		Sarracenia
December 9th (Sunday)	Christmas Swap Meet	All Species
January 11th, 02		Drosera, Utricularia, Genlisea,
February 8th, 02		Nepenthes

Chat Corner — Jessica Bibblecombe

Hi Fellow Cpers,

The weather has been tropical of late and your plants should be thriving. My Sarra's have been putting up flowers and seem to have a new lease of life. The Nepenthes are growing fast but remember your highland species do need cooler nights so keep an eye on them.

Our President, Kirsty Wulf found a CD ROM for us to look at and comment on. At the February meeting Chris and Kim McClellan bought in their computer for us to view the CD. They had spent many hours viewing it and were able to give us an overall idea of the full contents. This was most helpful for the Society and we wish to thank them.

While there were many pictures and text and we found it interesting, it was related to European conditions. If it was seen by the public or novice CP growers they would be confused as to whether they had to buy special machinery for the water system or buy certain bottles of water. I have enough with the public now thinking cp's are hard to grow and need special housing and water, but as we all know they are hardy plants and have no trouble growing them. On this CD ROM, a vote was taken and we had a 100% NO. As this was meant for European conditions why doesn't some enterprising person do one on Australian conditions!!! Thank you everyone for your input.

I have spoken a few times on CP's at different plant Society's and have always been made to feel most welcome. There has always been someone to help me with my plants and signs. I have been well fed on their supper and the people have always been receptive to the talk. This has given me confidence and also makes me realise how interesting our plants really are.

I hope visitors to our society get the same reception and feel they must come back because they felt so welcome. We must make sure there is always a good turnout at the meetings and if there is someone there you have not seen before don't hesitate to talk to them.

I did a talk at the Turramurra Geranium Society in February and as I arrived near the venue my car broke down. I called the N.R.M. A. then while I was waiting I carted boxes of plants over to the hall. It was a very hot day and by the time the N.R.M.A. came my face was red, my hair stuck out on end, I had grease on my hands and blouse and I was late for the talk. Those wonderful people ignored all that and made me welcome and listened to the talk. I thank them as I was a mess and unprepared.

What a surprise to meet Joan Fairhallat this meeting. She has not been well and had to have a serious operation. But all is well. Joan looked wonderful and years younger. We hope to see Joan back at our meetings.

The one thing I did find at these other society's was there were NO PLANTS FOR SALE. I would liked to have bought a plant there but there was not one in sight so remember when you come to our meetings bring PLANTS FOR SALE. This will help others to complete there collections.

Owen Oneil came to visit me late February. It was good to see him but I always feel guilty if my plants are not looking there best [they never are]. I know how Owen loves his Sarras and I'm sure he goes home crying when he sees the condition of my plants. At least I know that any he takes away are going to a good home. Andrew Hanlon came by also. He knows if they can last at my place anyone can grow them.

Check the information on the " mid year meet " at Greg Bourkes and the times for the Koi Show. Have your plants ready. We want to show the other Society's we are people to be reckoned with. SEE YOU ALL AT THE MEETING.

Your Friendly Cper

Jessica

Heliamphora Cultivation

Nathan J. Clemens

Heliamphora is a genus of primitive, yet exquisite looking, pitcher plants, hailing from the South American table-top mountains, known as Tepuis. They have been in cultivation in Australia for a number of years, and now more than ever, enthusiastic carnivorous plant growers are adding them to their ever expanding collections. At the time of writing there are a total of nine species, with subspecies intertwined within this group as well.

Following are growing conditions for these beautiful plants in the state of New south Wales.

Light

These plants are appreciative of moderate amounts of sunshine in the lower parts of New South Wales, allowing them to colour-up well, and develop ideal pitcher formation. The best advice is to allow these pitcher plants morning sunshine in the warmer months, and almost full sun exposure in the Winter months. These plants have no dormancy, so they will appreciate ample light all year 'round. The best indication of too much sun will be overly red and drying pitchers, especially at the margins. One wants to aim for bright red markings about the nectar cap region, as well as the pitcher edges. This is best appreciated in a well grown *H. heterodoxa*, as it has lime-green pitchers with maroon-red edging. Other species do tend to colour up in inner pitcher regions, so the key here is to keep a watchful eye on pitcher condition, and simply adjusting sun exposure times.

Growing Media

These plants are not too fussy about what they are grown in, with the media ranging from orchid compost to straight live *Sphagnum* moss. The best media that I have found to give robust growth is that of live *Sphagnum* moss, with approximately 20% of vermiculite mixed-in. The vermiculite allows the diluted dosed of fertiliser to be retained

within it and slowly released over time.

Potting

The best pots to use for this Genus is that of a half-length, or squat-pot. This allows for adequate pitcher spread, as well as plenty of room for the average sized root run. The best time is the start of the growing season, early Spring. One has to be gentle with the potting-up process, as these plants do have brittle roots, so gently washing of the roots is all that can be done when re-potting, removing as much as possible old media. If you are not confident with doing this a gentle dunking in tepid water is sufficient. Avoid excessive breaking up of clumps with this plant, as it tends to grow best in clusters, and some divisions if young, may not survive. Be sure to keep the growing point above the media level, and to gently firm the soil surface. Water-in well as these plants appreciate plenty of over head watering, allowing it to drain-off. Place them in a well-lit area (but not direct sun), & keep up watering and misting until the plant has settled, usually in a week or two. Some growers indicate the use of a dome or plastic cover while settling-in, so keep an eye on then pitchers for any wilting or dryness if you have not used this. Be sure to keep out of all sunshine when using the dome or plastic cover, as the plants will be roasted to death.

Watering and Fertilising

These plants grow where daily rain and mists constantly shroud them, so they do best if these conditions are mimicked to a certain degree. A once daily misting of water, preferably rain water, is the optimum growing conditions for great looking plants. I tend to water overhead daily in Summer, as this keeps ample water in the pitchers, needed for bacterial break-down of prey. They are not keen on water-logged conditions, so it is best to allow the water mistings and overhead waterings to drain off. I allow my plants to sit in a tiny amount of run-off, only in the Spring and Summer months, as this is quickly sucked-up by the days end. The key to the growing media is that it must be free draining and able to maintain a little residual moisture,

hence the *Sphagnum* being ideal. If in doubt of media saturation, a little dryer is always better than saturating. Fertilising is required for these plants to flourish, as with all of the run-off from the Tepuis' rainfall, they do collect tiny amounts of minerals and Nitrogen in the natural conditions. It is not recommended to feed your plants with insect prey, as it can easily be overdone, resulting in rotting pitchers from the base upward, eventually wilting healthy top parts. One tenth-strength liquid fertiliser is the best to work with, making sure the ratios are on the lowest side for Phosphorus, otherwise you would be encouraging algal growth. The most common one is Thrive, due to the ease of mixing and calculations, and good NPK ratios. This is best applied over head, and mainly in the traditional growing seasons. At the height of Summer, a once weekly application is best. Otherwise, a fortnightly is ample. This will encourage robust growth and eventual flowering upon maturity.

Temperature

These plants do best in an approximate range of 4 degrees to 35 degrees, these obviously being the extremes. My plants do not appreciate frost, a test already accidentally undertaken. In the Summer months one wants to protect their plants from hot sunshine, so the hotter the climate, the less sun exposure. In heat waves these plants should be in full shade, until conditions return to normal. Their native climate is best described as mild to chilly in the evenings, so they do not adore extreme heat. In hot weather be sure to over-head water and mist twice daily, doing so in the early morning and late afternoon, so as to cool them down a little.

With all of these points followed and considered within your own growing conditions, you will have healthy and easy to care for plants. The only real challenge is obtaining the plants in the first instance! Tissue culture has made their availability increase, along with a better understanding of their growing requirements.

Observation No.3

Jessica Biddlecombe

While reading the Victorian Society Journal No.39, June 96, Chris Kidd wrote on plants that are sold in nurseries. "These plants are nearly always sold in pots that are too small, so the first job is to pot them on, usually two sizes bigger." (Chris Kidd 96) Margaret Frey has also stated that Sarracenia will grow bigger in bigger pots.

Over the years I have been given many Sarras in very small pots and have found the plants continue to grow quite tall and strong. Peter was given a Nepenthes ventricosa in a 140mm pot. It had six growing points, the largest being over 1m in length. I have seen Richard Sullivan's Sarras, some of which are in such small pots that the pots have become distorted and split yet he still has wonderful plants.

Asthetically plants look better in pots relative to plant size but I don't agree they will grow faster because of the larger pots.

I look forward to hearing other opinions.

My Opinion

Greg Bourke

Since there has been no response to Jessica's Observation articles No. 1 and No. 2, in FTN No. 13.3, 14.1 respectively, I thought when I saw the latest one (No. 3) above that I'd better respond. I'll start with a brief overview of Observations 1 and 2 so you don't need to chase up the previous issues.

In the first Observation Jessica's main point was that Nepenthes grow bigger leaves, look more healthy, and grow faster under more than 50% shade cloth.

In Observation No. 2 Jessica was onto Hot Houses. She said that plants grown in a Hot House are weaker then those grown outside. She also stated that "Plants (*Nepenthes*) grown in a hot house condition grow quicker with larger pitchers than those in a shade house." (Biddlecombe, J. 2000)

It is impossible to sum up the best growing conditions for Nepenthes without writing about almost every species. Generally they require

high humidity (70% +) to pitcher well. Jessica's idea of a good looking Nepenthes is large green leaves with short nodal spacing. It is indeed true that plants will grow larger, greener leaves in dark conditions. When you place a plant in shade, the node length increases in an attempt to reach more light which is not something most people wish to achieve. There are of course several *Nepenthes* species which tend to grow better in shaded conditions like *N. truncata, N. ampullaria,* and *N. vietchii* but even these can grow in bright open conditions.

Plants grown under higher light levels seem to develop greater colouration in all parts which I think looks great. Reddish colouration on a *N. mirabilis* leaf is natural and that's how I like the look of my plants. Species like *N. rajah, N. mirabilis, N. burbidgeae,* and *N. clipeata* live in very exposed locations in their natural habitats.

I don't believe though that light level or temperature has much of an effect on pitcher size. Humidity and support definitely effect pitcher size though. In times of low humidity, my plants rarely pitcher. When the humidity is high, a *Nepenthes* will almost always pitcher but as the stem grows longer and the plant begins to form upper pitchers, it needs to support the weight of those pitchers. I've had *N. alata* growing under good conditions but not forming pitchers but when a tendril high on the plant is able to gain support via a tree branch or something, the dormant pitchers below that leaf can develop so all of a sudden you can have several pitchers open at the one time.

Temperature is more important when plants are in low humidity. I've seen lowland *Nepenthes* burn and die when temperatures fall below 10°C and highland species wither when temperatures rise above 40°C. I keep both lowland and highland Nepenthes in the same glass house with little temperature control. Temperatures vary between 10°C and 54°C but with humidity kept above 90%. I even manage to keep a *Heliamphora minor* alive in this heat.

Does a controlled environment breed frail plants? Yes, to an extent it does. You can't expect to move a plant from one condition to a completely different one and expect it to adapt immediately.

Hybrid *Nepenthes* tend to be tollerant of harsher conditions than the parents are able to cope with and are therefore more viable to a

commercial market than the species themselves. I have a N. alata x ventricosa growing on my veranda which cops all the elements. It does burn a little with light frosts, howling westerlies and scorching summer sun but it pitchers well when the humidity is high and the leaves are a beautiful lime green with a contrasting reddish stem. I also have other hybrids scattered through the garden which receive all the elements yet grow well. I would be very selective in placing a species in one of these locations though. *N. ventricosa, N. khasiana*, and *N. maxima* are very hardy and will grow well outdoors receiving several hours of direct sun with no damage. Frost is not appreciated though.

Sure it would be great to be able to grow all your Nepenthes under a tree or in the house but it's not possible if you wish to grow species from various altitudes. Some of the most beautiful Nepenthes are the least tolerant of condition changes. Peter Biddlecombe grows some of these in unheated conditions in small covered houses. They survive due to high humidity and I'm sure that he would not take them out on a dry day for anyone!

Another difficult topic to comment on is pot size. Again it is impossible to generalise and say that one pot fits one genera. I believe that you shouldn't stick a little *Sarracenia* in a big pot though. The pot should suit the plant. Some *Sarracenia* species grow quite large though and the best plants I've seen are in fairly large pots. Jessica, why do you think that the *Sarracenia* in those small pots which are distorted are on the table Richard calls the "Shame Table". Richard has some of the best *Sarracenia* I've ever seen. The best ones are not in small over crowded pots.

Nepenthes can be grown in relatively small pots especially the epiphytic species. *N. merrialana* and *N. viellardii* grow tap roots though and would surely perish in a 140mm pot.

The main disadvantages of small pots are greater fluctuation of soil temperature and moisture retention. On the other hand, a Nepenthes in a pot which is too large, without an open potting mix can suffer from root rot. Experimentation is the best way to pick the right pot, and seeing how others grow their plants can help with the correct decision.

Barren Grounds

Greg Bourke

Barren Grounds is a 2024 hectare Nature reserve located just 24km west of Kiama on the New South Wales south coast. This is where the land juts up from the coastal plain to form the Southern Tablelands. At 600m above sea level the plateau is quite cool and often shrouded in fog.

The reserve was established in 1956 in order to protect the rare Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicius.* This rarely seen Parrot is found in coastal heathlands and swamps an all Australian states but is under threat due mainly to habitat destruction and the introduction of feral animals (mainly cats).

The vegetation in the park ranges from dense heathland and *Eucalypt* woodland on the plateau and temperate rainforest at the base of the escarpment. The diverse range of Orchids, Carnivorous plants, and *Proteacea* make this park essential for any plant enthusiast. There are also some great views of the coast and surrounding areas.

I was lucky to be in the area in mid November 2000 for a wedding. I arrived (with the other grooms men) the night before to practice for the big day and to help the groom (Anthony) destroy any remaining memories of his single life. Unfortunately when we woke in the Jamberoo Pub the next morning, with little memory of why we were there at all! So we decided the best way to discard the hangover and regain a little sanity was to go for a bush walk.

We arrived at the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve at about 9am under a dense fog and headed for the nearest cliff. No sooner had we passed the bird watchers hut (50m from the car park) when we were overcome by the sweet scent of nectar. *Hakia teretifolia* is a common species here and when it is in full bloom, the smell is fantastic, even with a hangover! A little further along the track we found *stylidium lineare*, a common species in New South Wales often found growing with *Drosera.* Sure enough, growing amongst the *stylidiums* was the small erect *D. peltata* common to the area. These were at the end of there season, shedding seed and turning black as the last of the nutrients was sucked out of the stem. I was a little disappointed not to see these in flower.

We struggled on (despite the track being completely flat) and our perseverance soon payed off with a white flowered *D. spatulata* in full bloom. The rosettes were not large though deeply coloured red contrasting against the black peaty soil. By this time the fog had begun to lift and the sun was beginning to shine through. This made the spotting of *Drosera* much easier.

A sedge peat filled depression farther along the trail was the perfect location for *D. binata* forms, and they were everywhere. Large gold/green plants which had lamina twice branched up to 30cm across. These were on petioles which grew to suit the immediate surroundings, short in open areas and as long as 40cm amongst the Coral ferns (*Gleichenia* sp.) and sedges. These would probably be *D. binata* f. *dichotoma* 'Giant' though I can't be sure.

There were smaller deep red plants which were branching up to 8 times. The lamina on these were typically only 15cm across though petiole length was similar to that of the giant form. These are commonly known as *D. binata* f. *multifida.*

Amongst these two very distinctive forms was what appeared to be a hybrid of the two. These had leaves in between both parents in size, shape, and colouration. There is a great deal of confusion between growers as to the naming of the D. binata complex. This variable complex needs more study to clarify names and descriptions. Although many populations are as variable as the one at Barren Grounds, they do not necessarily have enough variation to divide them into varieties or even forms. I'm not certain that the one at Barren Grounds should be divided as I was unable to study all plant parts but I am confident that when the study of them is carried out, there will be adequate differences between the above described plants.

After leaving the *D. binata* stand we struggled on to see more *D. spatulata* as well as a few *D. peltata* still bedewed. The deep red *D. peltatas* were typically 15-20cm tall and self supporting. They were growing in shallow peaty soil over sandstone. This is typical of this form which is relatively widespread in both the Woronora plateau, the

Southern highlands and surrounding areas. These areas can be baked bone dry during the summer sun but break dormancy rather early for tuberous *Drosera*. I have seen specimens in flower as early as March in the Royal N.P.

As we got closer to the cliff face the heath gave way to Eucalypt forest for a short while ending at the cliff face. The view from the east, down to the south and west gave us a spectacular view of the coast, the mountains, western rangers, and of the valley below. There were three species of Orchids growing on the rock around us, *Dendrobium speciosum, Dendrobium striolatum,* and *Bulbiphyllum exiguum* the latter two in flower. These species are very common in the Southern Highlands but unfortunately not so common around the trails due to plunderers.

We sat and pondered life for a while in the cool air before the cloud cover engulfed the mountain once more. It was then time to dash back to the car before the rains came.

The following morning after checking out of my Motel I headed back up to the park to check out another trail and to take some photos. There had been quite a bit of rain overnight and in places the track was submerged. I decided to leave my shoes behind and headed for a natural stone bridge. The water was freezing under my bare feet but at least there weren't any leaches. I was soon cursing myself though as the track became rocky slowing my progress. Unfortunately there was too much fog for good photo opportunities so by the time I eventually arrived at the stone bridge, all I wanted to do was head home for a warm shower.

The unpredictable conditions of the park leave it relatively untouched and therefore well worth visiting. Be prepared for wet/cold weather though as it can change from warm and sunny to cold and wet in a matter of minutes. Don't let this put you off though as all the trails along the plateau are covered in C.P.s. I'm sure that a winter visit would be very rewarding.

When I began growing Carnivorous Plants seriously, people told me never to use Sedge peat for my plants. For many species, using Sedge peat is a definate no. It seems as though a few species thrive in it though. The *D. binata* plants at Barren Grounds were growing in al-

most straight Sedge peat. I have also witnessed this at several other locations including Kurnell and Fraser Island.

After pondering over the use of Sedge peat for some time, I decided to give it a try with several *D. binata*. I planted a few *D. binata* plants in pure Sedge peat and also constructed a small bog garden at the side of one of my ponds. I mixed about 30% sand in for the bog and planted it up with *D. binata* and several other species of *Drosera*. Four months have passed and the *D. binata* are huge! I've got one 'T' form which has lamina almost 30cm across! The other *Drosera* species in the bog don't appear to be doing as well but none have died. I recall seeing *D. spatulata* growing well in sedge peat in several areas so I will try this as well as some other species over the coming months. It is possible that *D. hamiltonii* will respond as it grows amongst grasses in

Albany and has similar fleshy roots to *D. binata.*

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The following is reprinted from:

BLUMEA

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Nepenthes aristolochioides Jebb & Cheek, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 2

A *N. bongso* Danser et ceteris speciebus Malesiae occidentalis in ascidiis inferioribus utri-
culariformiblis ore non apicali distat. — Typus: *Meijer 6542* (holo L; iso BO), Sumatra,
Mt. Kerinci, Gunung Tudjuh, 2000 m, 5 Aug 1956.

Climber, height unknown. Stem terete 0.2-0.4 cm thick, internodes

5.5-13 cm long; axillary buds conspicuous, 0.15-0.7 cm above axil. Leaves sessile; lower leaf-blade narrowly lanceolate to lanceolate-spathulate, to 15x2.5 cm; apex acute, rarely sub-peltate; base more or less parallel-sided, ultimately with rounded auricles; upper leaf-blade 7.5-15 x 1-3 cm, as the lowers, but lacking auricles, the base clasping the stem for 1/3-1/2 its circumference, rarely decurrent. Longitudinal veins indistinct in dried leaves, 2 or 3, in outer 1/3 of blade, arising from base, and sometimes along the midrib. Pennate nerves few, indistinct, arising obliquely and curving towards the apex. Upper pitchers utriculate, basally infundibuliform, obovoid above; to 9 x 3.5 cm; wings lacking; mouth almost vertical, lateral, not apical, ovate, to 2 cm across; peristome externally rounded, to 1.5 mm across, internally flattened, to 8 mm, broadening within, ribs 0.5-0.8 mm apart, inner margin entire, with large glands between ribs; spur simple, to 9 mm, apically with 2-4 minute acute points; lid rounded, to 2.7x2.1 cm, apex rounded to emarginate, base slightly cordate, with evenly scattered rimmed glands, somewhat larger and denser on mid-line, the rims distinctly asymmetric, being highest toward lid apex. Inflorescence unknown. Indumentum inconspicuous, of short, irregularly branching or simple, appressed white hairs to 0.2 mm long. in leaf axils, on midrib and on pitcher particularly around the peristome, and on the lid; the lower leaf-blade with sessile glands. Colour of pitchers green with brown-red flecks, becoming denser towards mouth, conspicuous in dried specimens; peristome dark red-brown.

Distribution — Sumatra (Mt. Kerinci).

Ecology — Mossy forest, 2000-2200 m altitude.

Notes — 1. The lower pitchers of this species are remarkable, an unique, in their bladder-shaped structure and lateral mouth. Resembling *N. bongso* in leaf shape, the pitchers *of N. aristolochioides* however, are unmistakable, and the hooded nature of the lid glands is also characteristic.

2. The specific epithet signifies the resemblance of the pitchers, in their shape and coloration, to the flowers *ofAristolochia. Collections* — SUMATRA. Gunung Tudjuh, Mt. Kerinci, *Meijer 6542* (Type), *7426* (L); Mt. Kerinci, *Robinson & Kloss s.n.* (K).

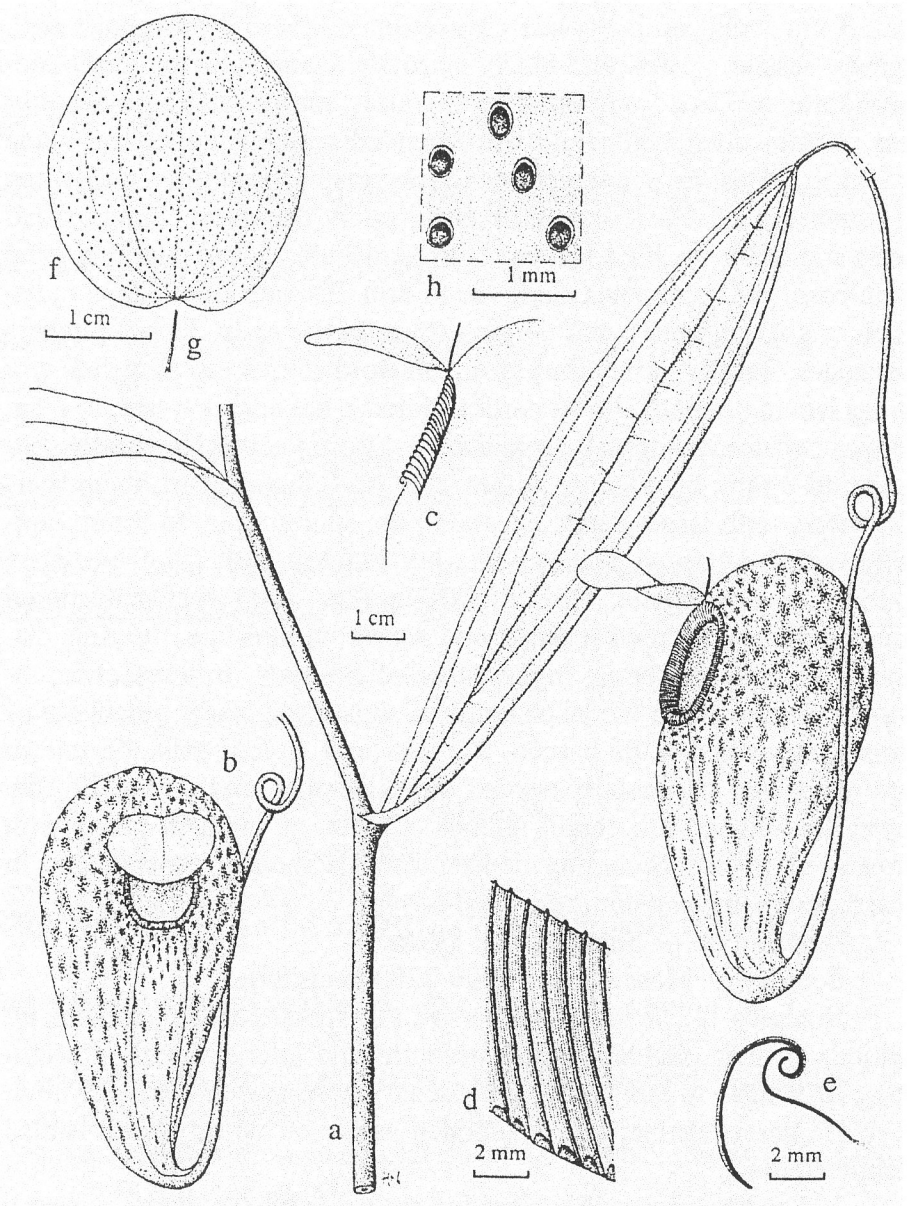


Fig. 2. *Nepenthes aristolochioides* Jebb & Cheek. a. Stem with upper pitcher; b. pitcher, frontal view; c. vertical section through mouth of pitcher; d. detail of peristome, internal view; e. section through peristome; f. underside of lid; g. spur; h. detail of glands on lower lid surface (*Meijer 6542*).

PROBLEM PAGE.

I have lied to the public. I tell them the Nephenthes will eradicate ANTS!!! Well I have them in the house, in the yard and nesting in the plant medium of my Nephenthes as well as my Sarras. I am over run with the beasts. I cannot spray. The cats and even the cockroaches do not have a chance over the pet food. I have put the cat dishes in trays of water to no avail. They are out of hand. They have been found in cupboards where there is nothing for them to eat. These ants seem to be meat eaters. They have not bothered with the sugar or honey. Is it true if you have ants you don't have termites? PLEASE HELP.

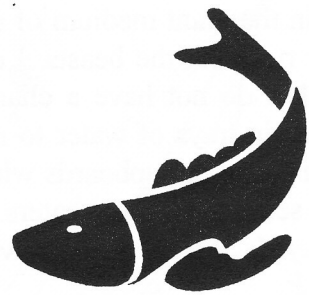
Jessica Biddlecombe

2001
WINTER SWAP MEET

The second largest event on the CP calendar.
The largest display of Tuberous Drosera (Sundews) you'll see in Sydney.
Bring your plants for sale, swap or show.
(All species welcome)
SUNDAY JULY 29th. 9am – 5pm
at Greg Bourke's Backyard
Engadine (South of Sydney)
BBQ will be provided, please bring your own lunch

Please call for further details

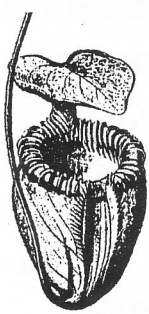
2001 KOI PET 'N' GARDEN SHOW



SUNDAY 20th, MAY
9am –4pm
Fairfield Show ground,
Smithfield rd, Fairfield
free admission.

Come and visit our CP display.

SOUTHERN CARNIVORES



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