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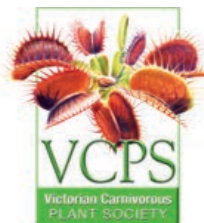
Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

MARCH 2020

VCPS Newsletter No. 10



Drosera pauciflora



Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

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MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2020 VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

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

January	(25th)	New Year BBQ at Ron Abernethy's House 12.30pm <i>Dionaea muscipula</i> (VFT). (Contact for details)
February	(27th)	<i>Darlingtonia</i> , <i>Nepenthes</i> and <i>Heliophora</i> .
March	(27th)	<i>Sarracenia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> (VFT), beginners info
April	(TBA)	<i>Drosera</i> , video and information night.
May	(TBA)	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy <i>Drosera gemmae</i> swap
June	(TBA)	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July	(TBA)	Rosetted tuberous <i>Drosera</i> judging, Propagation – seed growing, tissue culture, division and cuttings. Potting demonstration.
August	(TBA)	Upright tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
September	(TBA)	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
October	(TBA)	<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 (10am-4pm)
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.

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Drosera pauciflora.

Photographed by Stephen Fretwell

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 editor at: stevfretwell24@gmail.com

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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 pauciflora has huge flowers up to 5cm in diameter.

Photos: Stephen Fretwell

BACK COVER:

Clockwise from top left:

- *Drosera oreopodion* flowers.
- *Drosera curviscapa* flower.
- *Drosera menziesii* "Orange flower form".
- *Drosera madagascariensis*
- *Drosera rosulata* "Giant form"
- *Drosera slackii*
- *Drosera lowriei* "Giant form"
- *Drosera sargentii* (centre)

Design: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS News

A NEW SISTER!

Earlier this year Michael T. Mathieson and Simon L. Thompson published a paper describing a new and exciting *Drosera* from the far north Queensland region. *Drosera buubugujin* was discovered during surveys of the south-eastern areas of the Cape York Peninsula area where initial collections of this *Drosera* were made by Muundhi and Juunju People in conjunction with CYPTRP botanist Simon Thompson and consultant botanist David Fell.

The 3 sisters, *D. adelae*, *D. prolifera* and *D. schizandra* are also found in far north Queensland between Ingham and Cooktown, however *D. buubugujin* is found even further north.

D. buubugujin is part of the *Prolifera* setion of *Drosera* and most closely resembles *D. schizandra*. However the leaf shape is predominantly oblanceolate versus *D. schizandra*'s obovate leaves. *D. buubugujin* can have large 30cm rosettes made up of 4-12 fleshy leaves.



Drosera buubugujin growing on a stream bank, Muundhi National Park. Photo: M.T. Mathieson



From left: *Drosera buubugujin* flowers in comparison to *D. schizandra* flowers. Photos: M.T. Mathieson

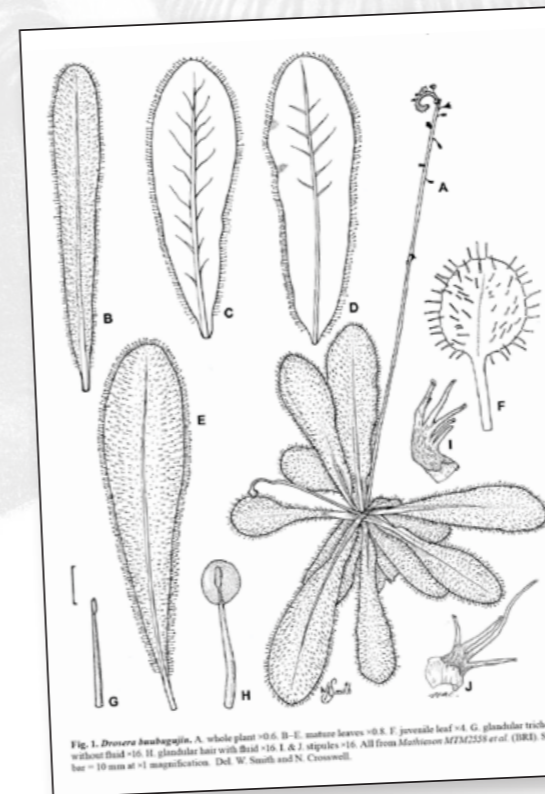
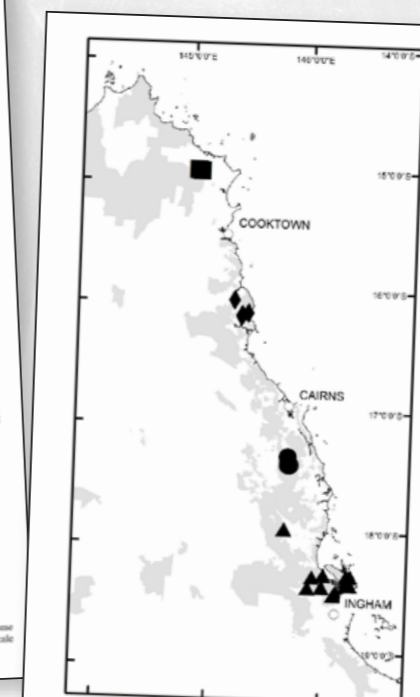


Fig. 1. *Drosera buubugujin*. A. whole plant +0.6. B-E. mature leaves +0.6. F. juvenile leaf +4. G. glandular trichome without head +16. H. glandular hair with head +16. I & J. stigmas +16. All from Mathieson MTM238 et al. (BRJ). Scale bar = 10 mm at +1 magnification. Det. W. South and N. Crosswell.



Map 1. Distribution of the four species of *Drosera* section *Prolifera*. *D. adelae* ▲, *D. buubugujin* ■, *D. prolifera* ◆, *D. schizandra* ●. Protected areas are shaded.

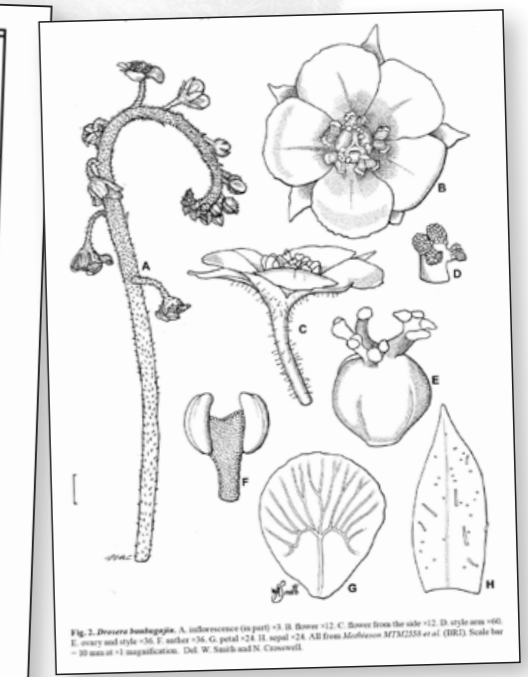


Fig. 2. *Drosera buubugujin*. A. inflorescence (in part) +3. B. flower +12. C. flower from the side +12. D. style with +60. E. ovary and style +36. F. anther +36. G. petal +24. H. sepal +24. All from Mathieson MTM238 et al. (BRJ). Scale bar = 10 mm at +1 magnification. Det. W. South and N. Crosswell.



Drosera admirabilis.
Photos: Stephen Fretwell



Drosera lasiantha.

A brief guide to sundews

JASON PAK

I have had a fascination with carnivorous plants for as long as I can remember. Growing up, the first plant I had was a Venus Flytrap, bought at a school fair. I remember that the plant I chose was strategically selected, as it had a small sundew growing in the pot (two plants for the price of one!).

Over the next few years, the Venus Flytraps sometimes flourished, sometimes withered. But the sundew grew and grew, and multiplied and multiplied, no matter what I did, until I eventually started feeding them as vegetable fodder to a pet duck! This shows how easy sundews can be to grow, and how easily they can co-exist with other carnivorous plants.

For a long time, the Cape Sundew, the sundew growing with the Venus Flytrap, was the only sundew species I knew about. But there are over a hundred different sundew species in existence, varying in size, appearance and natural habitat. One of the more useful ways to make sense of this diversity is by their growth requirements. Because as plant lovers, ultimately what we want to know is how to grow a plant successfully.

SUBTROPICAL SUNDEWS

Most sundews are subtropical sundews from South America and South Africa. Most are very easy to grow. A suitable growing media is 1 part peat, 1 part sand. The media should be permanently wet, and humidity requirement is low to medium (the tray method is suitable to achieve both requirements). Their ideal temperature range is 18 to 30°C, but they are not fussy; however, they require as much light as possible. They have no dormancy period. They co-exist very well with most other carnivorous plants. If possible, keep them protected from wind to optimize dew production.

• Cape sundew (*Drosera capensis*)

This very common and popular plant was the indestructible plant I had as a beginner. It will readily multiply from seed. In addition to the typical form, other forms include *Drosera capensis* "narrow" (more compact, leaves narrow), *Drosera capensis* "alba" (tentacles transparent, flowers white), *Drosera capensis* "red" (entirely red in colour).

• King sundew (*Drosera regia*)

Native to South Africa, where it is rare, it has large upright sword shaped leaves that are up to



Drosera capensis "Red Form".



Drosera regia.



D. filiformis ssp tracyii, Franklin Co.



Drosera spatulata.



Drosera hilaris.

60cm long. It prefers more open soil (e.g. one part long fibered sphagnum, one part perlite).

• **Other erect sundews**

Drosera nidiformis and *Drosera affinis* are both easy to grow. *D. nidiformis* should be grown in a taller pot with well draining mix as it can be susceptible to root rot and fungus attacks if the roots are waterlogged, especially when grown in cooler (10-20°C) and shorter photoperiod (8-11hrs) conditions. *D. affinis* appears similar to *D. nidiformis* until it matures, when it forms a slender stem.

Other sundews that are erect in form include *D. indica* and *D. oblanceolata*. *D. oblanceolata* prefers higher humidity levels (50-60%) to thrive.

• **Rosetted sundews**

Most subtropical sundews are rosetted in form. Almost all share very similar growing conditions and are easy to grow.

Varieties include: *D. admirabilis*, *D. aliciae*, *D. collinsiae*, *D. madagascariensis*, *D. natalensis*, *D. slackii*, *D. brevifolia*, *D. burmannii*, *D. capillaris*, *D. hamiltonii*, *D. spatulata*, *D. tokaiensis*.

• **South American subtropical sundews**

Harder to grow, with extra requirements of a nighttime temperature drop of at least 10°C, and higher humidity (at least 75%).

Erect plant varieties include *D. camporupestris*, *D. graomogolensis*, *D. magnifica* and *D. villosa*. Rosette plant varieties include *D. ascendens*, *D. communis*, *D. esmereldae*, *D. felix*, *D. roraimae*, *D. montana*, *D. tomentosa var. tomentosa*, *D. tomentosa var. glabrata*.

TEMPERATE SUNDEWS

After having my Cape sundew for a number of years, I considered myself a sundew 'expert'. A few years ago, after not keeping sundews for a long time, I decided I needed one in my collection again. The only sundew in the nursery was one that I hadn't seen before, with tentacles down the length of the long thin leaf. I planted it with my Venous Flytraps and it did well for a time. But at the first sign of autumn, it promptly died down to a bud! This disappointment was followed by surprise when the plant quickly regenerated from said bud in spring. This sundew (*Drosera filiformis*, as I later discovered) was my first introduction to the temperate sundews.

The temperate sundews have a common feature in that they die down in winter to a bud called a hibernacula from which it will regrow in spring. They need this period of dormancy. Apart from this feature, their soil, moisture, humidity, light and temperature requirements are very similar to the subtropical sundews.

• **Forked-leaf sundews**

(*Drosera binata* varieties)

Easy to grow, this sundew will form a large, dense insect catching bush. Varieties include *D. binata* var. "T-form" (up to 20cm in height), *D. binata* var. *dichomata* typical (up to 30cm in height) "Giant" (up to 60cm in height) and *D. binata* var. *multifida* (up to 40cm in height).

• **Erect forms**

D. anglica, *D. arcturi*, *D. filiformis ssp filiformis*, *D. filiformis ssp tracyii*, *D. intermedia* and *D. murfetii*. *D. anglica* prefers waterlogged conditions.

• **Rosette forms**

D. rotundifolia, *D. spatulata*

TROPICAL SUNDEWS

As the tropical label suggests, these sundews require high humidity (around 80%) and consistently warm temperatures (around 25°C, keep above 15°C) to thrive. They have no dormancy. They can be successfully grown in a terrarium or heated greenhouse.

• **Three sisters from Queensland**

(*Drosera schizandra*, *Drosera prolifera*, *Drosera adaelae*)

These three sundews all originate from Queensland, so their growing requirements is that of a tropical rainforest, with high humidity, shade and warm stable temperature. 100% long fibered sphagnum moss seems to be the best media. Despite being 'sisters', they are very different in appearance.

Drosera adaelae

With distinctive lanced-leaves, this sundew is easier to grow than the other sisters, being able to tolerate brighter light and less humidity. I planted my *D. adaelae* (before I learnt that it was a tropical plant) with my Cape Sundews, Venous Flytraps and *Sarracenia's* outdoors in full sun and it seems to be fine so far, although the leaves are smaller than they should be.

Drosera prolifera

This sundew has oval/kidney shaped leaves held upright on long thin petioles. Its flowers behave like strawberry runners, with the flower scapes running along the ground and producing a new plant where the tip contacts the ground. Apparently similar to *D. adaelae*, it is forgiving of brighter light and lower humidity.

Drosera schizandra

Different again in appearance, with broad oval leaves in a flat rosette. It is more challenging to grow than the other sisters and prefers to grow in shady conditions with a fairly high humidity.

• **Petiolaris complex sundews**

Mostly originating in Northern Australia, they grow in sandy soil that is wet in the rainy season and dry in summer, at which time they die back and become dormant. They can be grown in an open mix of two parts sand, one part peat. They can be watered with the tray system, and will not become dormant if kept wet.



D. binata var. *T-form*, Cabbage Tree Creek, Victoria.



D. binata var. *multifida* 'Extrema' Noosa, QLD.



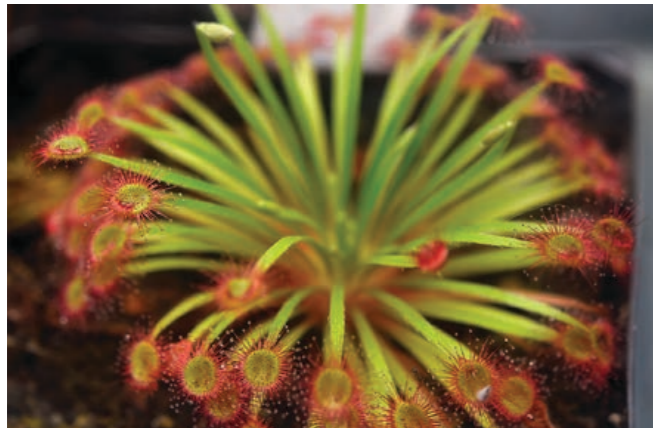
Drosera prolifera.



Drosera adaelae.



Drosera falconeri.



Drosera dilatato-petiolaris.



Drosera oreopodion.



Drosera pulchella.

Drosera petiolaris

The first species in this group to be discovered. It has the typical small round traps on long narrow petioles of this group. It prefers waterlogged conditions.

Drosera falconeri

Although it has the typical shape of this group, it has an unusual appearance of large oblong traps on short petioles, in a rosette that is pressed to the ground.

Other plants in this group include *D. brevicornis*, *D. broomensis*, *D. caduca*, *D. darwinensis*, *D. derbyensis*, *D. dilatatopetiolaris*, *D. fulva*, *D. kenneally*, *D. lanata*, *D. ordensis*, *D. paradoxa*.

Other tropical sundews

Drosera anglica originates from Hawaii. It prefers to be kept very moist to waterlogged, and prefers a soil that will retain moisture (such as 2 parts peat, 2 parts sphagnum, 1 part sand). It must be fed, otherwise growth will be extremely slow.

Drosera binata var. *multifida extrema*, *D. binata* x 'Marston Dragon'

D. intermedia Cuba, *D. intermedia* Mt Roraima.

WINTER GROWING SUNDEWS

• Pygmy sundews

These tiny rosetted sundews almost all originate from Western Australia where they grow during winter and spring, becoming dormant during the dry season in summer. A unique feature is asexual reproduction by gemmae, which form as a crown in the centre of the plant in winter. Easy to grow, pygmy sundews can be grown like subtropical sundews as they will not require a summer dormancy when kept moist.

The species in this group include: *D. allantostigma*, *D. androsacea*, *D. australis*, *D. barbiger*, *D. bindoon*, *D. calistos*, *D. citrina*, *D. closterostigma*, *D. coalara*, *D. coomallo*, *D. depauperata*, *D. dichrosepala*, *D. echinoblastus*, *D. eneabba*, *D. enodes*, *D. gibsonii*, *D. greivei*, *D. helodes*, *D. hyperostigma*, *D. lasiantha*, *D. leioblastus*, *D. leucoblasta*, *D. manni*, *D. micra*, *D. micrantha*, *D. microscapa*, *D. miniata*, *D. minutiflora*, *D. nitidula*, *D. nivea*, *D. occidentalis*, *D. omissa*, *D. oreopodion*, *D. paleacea*, *D. patens*, *D. pedicellaris*, *D. platystigma*, *D. pulchella*, *D. pycnoblata*, *D. pygmaea*, *D. rechingeri*, *D. roseana*, *D. sargentii*, *D. scorpioides*, *D. sewelliae*, *D. silvicola*, *D. spilos*, *D. stelliflora*, *D. trichocaulis*, *D. verrucata*, *D. walyunga*.

• Tuberos sundews

One of my best holidays was a family trip to the Grampians. It was winter. The air was crisp, the light clear, and the mountains were spectacular. Most memorable of all were the carpets of small, round sundews everywhere on the ground. My first thought was "wow, carnivorous plants in the wild!". Followed quickly by "wow, free carnivorous plants!". The plants survived at home for a few months before dying down to nothing. Thinking that it must be a difference in climate or something, I threw the remains onto the compost and forgot all about it. Only now, with

increased knowledge, did I realise that this was most likely a tuberos sundew.

Originating in Australia, tuberos sundews have adapted to our climate by growing during autumn and winter, then dying back and receding into an underground tuber from which it will regrow the next autumn. Cultivation is more challenging and requires reproducing their natural growing conditions. They do well in a loose soil of one part peat, two parts sand. Moisture, temperature and light will trigger dormancy or growth. During the growing season, keep them moist with the tray method, keep the temperature 15-20°C during the day and above 10°C at night, with a photoperiod of 6-8hrs. When leaves start turning brown, the plant is showing signs that it wants to retreat. When this occurs, gradually reduce watering until the pot is almost completely dry. During their dormancy, temperature should be above 25°C during the day. To meet all these growing requirements, an artificial cultivation setup is usually needed.

• Rosetted tuberos *Drosera*

D. aberrans, *D. browniana*, *D. bulbosa*, *D. bulbosa* spp *coronata*, *D. collina*, *D. erythrorhiza*, *D. lowriei*, *D. macrophylla*, *D. magna*, *D. major*, *D. monantha*, *D. orbiculata*, *D. praefolia*, *D. prostratascaposa*, *D. rosulata*, *D. schmutzii*, *D. squamosa*, *D. tubaestylus*, *D. whittakeri*, *D. zonaria*.

• Climbing tuberos *Drosera*

D. drummondii, *D. eremaea*, *D. erythrogyne*, *D. hirsuta*, *D. indumenta*, *D. intricata*, *D. macrantha*, *D. modesta*, *D. moorei*, *D. pallida*, *D. planchonii*, *D. subhirtella*, *D. thysanosepala*.

• Fan-leafed tuberos *Drosera*

D. fimbriata, *D. humilis*, *D. monticola*, *D. platypoda*, *D. porrecta*, *D. prostrata*, *D. purpurescens*, *D. ramellosa*, *D. rupicola*, *D. stolonifera*.

• Erect tuberos *Drosera*

D. andersoniana, *D. auriculata*, *D. basifolia*, *D. bicolor*, *D. bulbigena*, *D. calycina*, *D. esperensis*, *D. geniculata*, *D. gigantea*, *D. gracilis*, *D. granitica*, *D. gunniana*, *D. heterophylla*, *D. huegelli*, *D. hookeri*, *D. lunata*, *D. marchantii*, *D. menziesii*, *D. microphylla*, *D. myriantha*, *D. neesii*, *D. peltata*, *D. prophylla*, *D. radicans*, *D. salina*, *D. stricticaulis*, *D. sulphurea*, *D. yilgarnensis*, *D. zigzagia*.

• South African winter growing sundews

Similar to tuberos sundews, these sundews die back and become dormant (retreating to their roots, instead of tubers) in the dry conditions of summer. They can be grown in a soil of one part peat, one part sand. Cultivation conditions are similar to tuberos *Drosera*.

D. cistiflora, *D. cocipetala*, *D. cuneifolia*, *D. pauciflora*, *D. trinervia*, *D. zeyheri*.



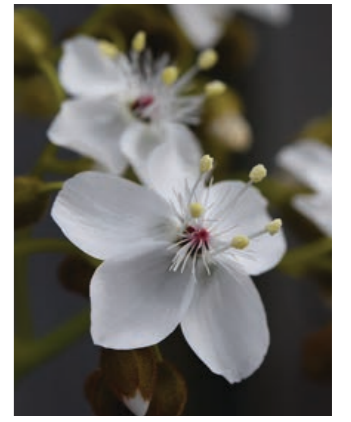
Drosera purpurescens.



Drosera squamosa.



Drosera granitica.



Drosera erythrogyne.



Drosera cuneifolia.

Meetings highlights & Plants of the night!

BY ANDREW GIBBONS



Justin (left) and Ben admiring Ron's *Sarracenia*.



Ron (right) showing Sean his *Sarracenia* seedlings.



An all red plant of *S. flava* var. *rubricorpora* x *S. flava* var. *cuprea*.



A nice red lid and lip of a *Sarracenia* x *moorei* hybrid.



Sarracenia alata var. *nigropurpurea*

VCPS 2020 new year BBQ

The VCPS started the year off with its new year BBQ at Ron Abernethy house. It's always fantastic to see Ron's huge collection that he grows in 4 different greenhouses so that he can provide better environments for his plants to grow in. And it's also a great chance to talk to other members and catch up after the Christmas break.

Ron grows a wide range of carnivorous plants, but mainly concentrates on *Sarracenia*, VFT's and *Heliamphora*. Many of his plants are unique clones grown from Seed imported through overseas

sources to help expand on what has been available in Australia in the last 30 years. *Sarracenia flava* is one of his favourite species and he has concentrated on growing lots of the different varieties and forms that display spectacular veining and colouration.

The *Dionaea* were also fascinating to see in Ron's collection as many of the different and varieties have been grown from seed that many look quite unique.

Ron's *Heliamphora* were also looking spectacular in January, some of the plants he's been growing for many years and they're getting absolutely huge.



Ron's four greenhouses.



S. purpurea varieties and hybrids growing outside in trays.



Dionaea muscipula 'Patches'.



Drosera rotundifolia.



Drosera regia flowers.



Ron's *Dionaea muscipula*.



Some of Ron's VFT seed grown plants and divisions.



Heliamphora nutans.



Nepenthes ventricosa x *sibuyanensis* x *carunculata*.



A huge 10" pot of *Heliamphora heterodoxa* x *nutans*.

February 27th VCPS meeting

DARLINGTONIA, NEPENTHES & HELIAMPHORA

The February meeting was focused on *Darlingtonia*, *Nepenthes* and *Heliamphora* and voting for Plant of the Night was done separately for each genus. Several well grown *Darlingtonia* were benched at the meeting. Jason from Triffid Park brought in a *Darlingtonia* that was grown from seed sown in mid-2018 and voted best *Darlingtonia* at the meeting. It was growing quickly and was already producing 3" tall pitchers. *Darlingtonia* are intolerant of hot conditions and many of the techniques we use to keep them cool have the adverse effect of slowing down growth. Presumably the large, temperature-controlled greenhouse at Triffid Park overcomes a lot of the overheating issues the hobbyists face allowing them to get phenomenal growth from their plants. Plants brought in by Andrew and by Peter received equal votes for second place.

Nepenthes of the night went to Steve's *Nepenthes hamata*. This ferocious looking species from Sulawesi produces hooks around its peristome. Steve's plant was producing lots of dark-coloured pitchers. Second place went to Justin's *Nepenthes spectabilis* which was producing lots of spotty pitchers. This species is endemic to Sumatra and Steve mentioned that it grows in very shaded area in the wild. Steve's *Nepenthes veitchii* from Bau, Sarawak received third place. The peristomes of this form of *Nepenthes veitchii* were brassy - yellow in colour.

Justin's very large *Heliamphora folliculata* won *Heliamphora* of the night. Justin said he has been growing this plant for several years and that the pitchers stay green for about a month after opening before turning bright red. Second place went to Andrew's *Heliamphora tatei* which was producing several growing points. Steve's *Heliamphora sarracenioides*, which was grown from seed sown 10 years ago, received third place.

Amongst the non-topic plants at the meeting, Andrew brought along some different venus flytraps. His *Dionaea muscipula* 'Bimbo' x self was voted plant of the night. 'Bimbo' is "giant form" of VFT and this seedling was also producing large traps. Andrew also brought in a *Dionaea muscipula* 'Sawtooth' from Collectors Corner and a seedling produced by selfing this plant. The seedling was producing cilia that were much more strongly serrated than the parent plant. VFTs generally don't breed true and most named cultivars can only be propagated vegetatively, however, raising can be rewarding and can produce some very desirable seedlings.

The species benched at the February meeting included:

- Darlingtonia californica*
- Dionaea muscipula*
- Heliamphora folliculata*
- Heliamphora hispida*
- Heliamphora sarracenioides*
- Heliamphora tatei*
- Nepenthes attenboroughii*
- Nepenthes hamata*
- Nepenthes jamban* x *dubia*
- Nepenthes* sp.
- Nepenthes spectabilis*
- Nepenthes talangensis*
- Nepenthes truncata* x *hamata*
- Nepenthes veitchii*
- Nepenthes eustachya*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
HELIAMPHORA:
1st place: *H. folliculata*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
HELIAMPHORA:
2nd place: *H. tatei*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
HELIAMPHORA:
3rd place: *H. sarracenioides*

PLANT OF THE NIGHT **DARLINGTONIA:**

(From left) 1st place,
2nd place & 3rd place



PLANT OF THE NIGHT **NEPENTHES:**

1st: *N. hamata* (left)
2nd: *N. spectabilis* (right)
3rd: *N. veitchii* – Bau,
Sarawak (centre)



PLANT OF THE NIGHT **DIONAEA MUSCIPULA:**

(From left)
1st: 'Bimbo' x self
2nd: 'Sawtooth' x self
3rd: 'Sawtooth'





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Correspondence

Please forward all correspondence regarding subscription, change of address, articles for the journal and back issues to:

**The Secretary VCPS
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 oreopodion



Drosera curviscapa



Drosera menziesii



Drosera lowriei



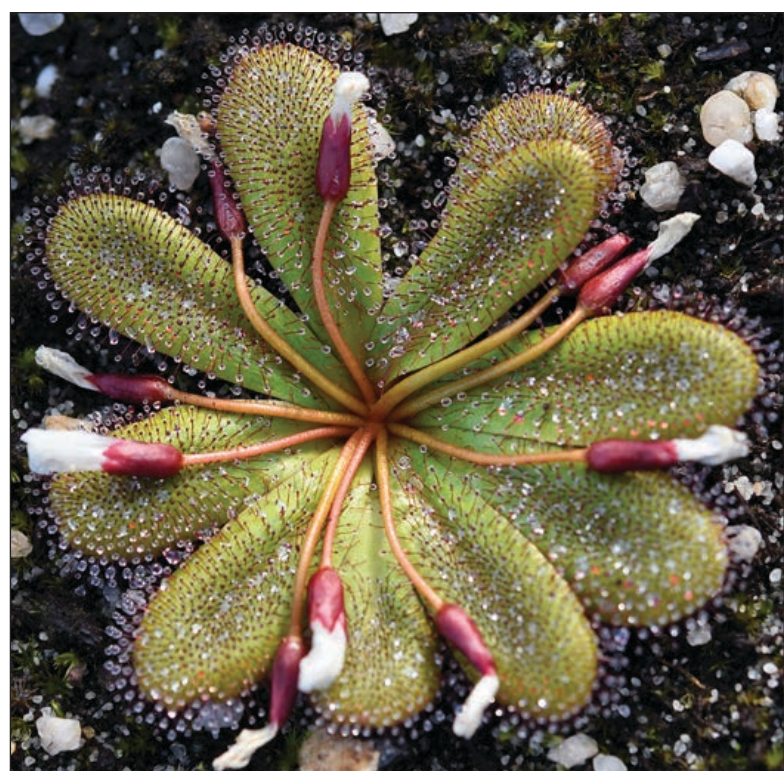
Drosera sargentii



Drosera madagascariensis



Drosera slackii



Drosera rosulata