

Sun Dew (or Sun Dew Environments) (P.O. Box 111, Denver, NY 12421). This company is also very good, and they *do* grow their own plants. As with WIP, the quality, price and shipping are very good. The only disadvantage is that the plants are often younger and smaller, but don't let this stop you from buying from them, because they are a good company. About four times a year this company sends updates, increasing the number of available species. They are now limited to *Drosera*, *Byblis* and *Utricularia*, but soon hope to get other genera.

Peter Pauls Nurseries (Darcey Road, Canandaigua, NY 14424). This company offers a wide variety of plants. They are also the only company I know that sells CP seeds. The plants are in good condition, but they are rather expensive.

Edelweiss Gardens (54 Robbinsville-Allentown Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691). This company carries only about 10 species, all of which are expensive.

Arthur E. Algrove (North Wilmington, MA 01887). Again there are only a few species sold by this company. They do not carry *Darlingtonia* or *Drosera*, as CPN VI(1):20 says. The plants they do have, though, are very inexpensive.

Harold Welsh (Black Copper Kits, 266 Kipp St., Hackensack, NJ 07601). This company has some of the American CP, especially *Sarracenia*. The plants are in very good condition and are rather inexpensive.

Carolina Exotic Gardens (Box 1492, Greenville, NC 27834). This company sells a wide variety of plants. Aside from the genera listed in this year's CPN, they also sell *Nepenthes khasiana*, many *Drosera*, some *Pinguicula*, and *Utricularia*. The prices range from very expensive to very cheap.

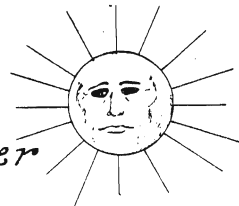
#### Conclusion

All of these companies have advantages (some more than others). When looking for a plant, I suggest going to World Insectivorous Plants or Sun Dew. All of the other companies sell plants taken from the wild, and are generally not as good. There are enough greenhouse grown plants available or soon to be available to satisfy most CP collectors.

(Received for publication August 10, 1977)

BUILDING YOUR OWN  
*Solar Water Distiller*

by Scott A. Richardson  
(333 N. Bender Ave., Covina, CA 91724)



When I moved my carnivorous plants out of the sealed aquaria and into a small greenhouse, I knew there would be both advantages and disadvantages.

On the bright side, I could give them more sun because the greenhouse was ventilated; they would also be able to catch more insects by themselves. I found, however, the major disadvantage was that they needed much more water than before because of the added ventilation.

Unfortunately, the water here in Southern California is very hard and mineral-laden, so I was forced to buy distilled water which becomes slightly expensive at 10¢ a half gallon, not to mention the inconvenience of constantly getting it. Distilling my own water seemed to be the answer, but the question was how.

One possibility was to boil tap water on the stove and condense it, but, being somewhat energy conscious, I knew there must be a better way. That's when I decided to invent a solar water distiller that would be simple to build and maintain.

The idea I hit upon utilized the old aquaria I had left over. I remembered how the moisture inside the aquaria would condense on the sides and drip down when the sun hit them. That is the basis for my design.

The distiller consists of a 10-gallon aquarium propped up about 10° on one end. This will let the condensed water fall down to the lower end of the aquarium. A black 8" x 10" photographic developing tray full of tap water is put inside the aquarium and leveled. A piece of glass is then put over the top to seal the aquarium. The sealed aquarium is then positioned so that it will receive as much direct sun as possible.

The principle on which it works is that the black photo tray absorbs the sun's rays and converts them to heat thus heating the water to between 135° and 150°F. The water begins evaporating and, eventually, the air inside the sealed aquarium becomes saturated with water vapor. The water begins to condense around the sides and forms droplets which fall to the shaded bottom of the aquarium under the photo tray. This is distilled water, made using only the sun's rays. I collect this water by squeezing it up with a baster or an auto battery bulb and then store it in jugs.

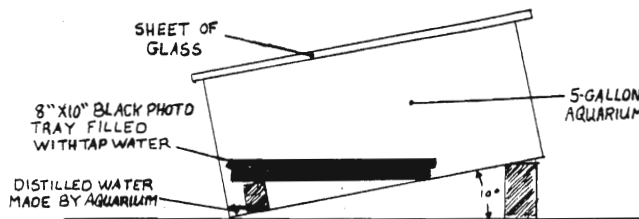
By using this method, I can distill between 10 and 16 oz. of water per aquarium each day. Presently, I have three solar distillers operating, and they give me nearly all the water I need.

The mineral crust that develops in the photo trays attests to the fact that the minerals have been left behind. This crust, incidentally, should be cleaned out periodically.

I used 10-gallon, "bargain" aquaria 10-1/2" wide, 12-1/2" deep, and 20" long. The photo trays are standard 8" x 10" black plastic and are available at photo stores. Be sure to use black trays as they will get the water hottest. The tray is placed about 1/4" away from the walls of the aquarium in order to let the condensed water fall to the bottom.

Efficiency of the solar water distiller will depend upon the time of the year and the amount of sunlight it receives. I will be happy to receive any comments or questions about the solar distiller.

(Received for publication July 20, 1977)



CPN--WHERE WE CAME FROM AND WHERE WE HOPE TO GO

by Joe Mazrimas and Don Schnell

Many newer subscribers have wondered and asked what CPN is and how it came about, so we thought it worthwhile recounting CPN's history briefly along with a few ideas on the present and future. You old-timers just reminisce along awhile.

Back in 1970, the two of us were independently studying and growing carnivorous plants when we were introduced into correspondence by a mutual friend--to this day we have never laid eyes on each other. We both carried on a wide-ranging correspondence with others, often the same people, and, of course, these letters were often packed with an interchange of useful bits or masses of information regarding the cultivation of CP, their response in culture, transplanting and, of course, much on natural history. Our letters and interests knew no national boundaries and often each of us handled dozens of letters each week, many of these covering similar ground.

In August of 1971, we began asking each other, why not some other system of exchange to avoid repetitions and reach correspondents better, something more efficient than a round-robin, perhaps a sort of *small* newsletter? We took our cue from some zoologists (well, they're not too far from CP) and their *Bat Research News*, a mimeographed quarterly of 6-8 pages, \$1.00 annually, and featuring news, short notes and current literature reviews.

Next, we needed a name, a bannerhead to distinguish this little newsletter to be dashed off quarterly. AMPHORA, which means "pitcher," was one suggestion,