

Hybridization--Where to Now?

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Recent decades have seen the introduction of many and varied C.P. hybrids notably amongst *Nepenthes* and *Sarracenia* by many growers. However, while this certainly gives rise to many wonderful and new interesting plants, it is most important that certain standards be met by all hybridists whether it be just one cross or a hundred. Certainly, only vigorous strains should be kept growing from the seedlings and at a later stage, then, the most colorful and pigmented forms of pitcher plant should be retained for propagation. And also, all hybrids should be made with one thought in mind and that is that they remain "true C.P." as much as possible.

For example, some *Sarracenia* species such as *S. psittacina* and *S. purpurea* are not good at catching insects (see S. Clemesha's article in CPN II, No. 4, 57, 1973) and it follows that other species crossed with these could lead to poor insect-trapping plants. However, one hybrid, *S. x areolata*, could certainly be interesting to note if particular strains between various forms proved more successful at catching insects than the parents.

Many *Sarracenia*s are now reaching the F-3 stage of hybridization. According to Mendelian laws (1867), the seedlings give rise to 25% the habit of each parent and 50% mixed. Before sowing the seed from such a source, one should take great care that no poor or unsuitable seedlings should survive. Any growers, whether he be amateur, professional, or commercial, should be prepared to destroy any hybrid that does not come up to scratch. Any hybrid which is of doubtful origin should not be used for later crosses.

Much confusion is arising in the *Drosera binata* complex with some plants labeled as *D. x binata* or *D. x binata* hybrid. Such hybrids could be made between any of the numerous variants and could eventually affect these as distinct botanical forms (although not officially recognized as such). Therefore, any hybridists have a moral duty to keep strict records and advise those to whom they send plants of the correct hybrid name. This is partly what lead to comments in previous CPN issues about the mislabelling of *Nepenthes* hybrids.

Certainly, such hybrids as *D. x binata* should be boycotted by true C.P. growers and not recognized amongst them. Such hybrids in the past have caused trouble between Fuchsia and Dahlia growers and much confusion of labeling is not fully sorted out even today.

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