

British Carnivorous Plant Society

Word has reached us that our British CP enthusiasts have formed THE CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY as of May, 1978. Membership is open to anyone, including overseas. The group will have meetings and outings with lectures and demonstrations among public and private collections. There will be a journal published at least twice yearly with the first issue this fall (only 1978 issue). The journal will feature Society news, lists of new members, and descriptions of plants along with current cultural and other information. There will be a sales/exchange plant table at each meeting and other arrangements will eventually be made to encourage plant exchange among members. The Chairman and Editor is John Watkins (98 Earls Court Road, London W.8. 6EG, England) and the Secretary is Alistair Mackie (Arne-cote Park, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX6

ONT, England). Initial dues for UK are £2.50 and £3.50 overseas. Send dues and membership applications to Alistair Mackie at above address, or send for prospectus from Mr. Mackie also. (Note: overseas applicants should send checks or money orders in their currency for equivalent of above pound sterling rates).

Coming in the March issue:

- Beginner's Corner: *Nepenthes*
 - Botanical History of CP III: *Nepenthes*
 - A Brief History of *Nepenthes* at Longwood Gardens
 - Japanese *Nepenthes* Hybrids
 - Thrips and *Nepenthes*
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Field Trips for *Pinguicula lusitanicum*

by John Watkins

(98 Earls Court Road, London W.8.6EG, England)

The English county of Devon, well-known for its 18th century smugglers and delicious fresh cream teas, also has *Drosera*, *Pinguicula* and the odd *Utricularia* growing in its bogs.

Woodbury Common, which is situated between Sidmouth and Exeter, has many bogs and wet heathlands within its boundaries. One bog I have visited a number of times is in a small valley, which is near a quarry and even closer to a disused gravel pit, which, now half full of water, supplies the bog with extra water.

Two years ago this Easter, I visited the bog and found that the water table was

seriously down and the bog was drying up! This was because we had had little rain that year. In the sphagnum lined ditch which was at the edge of the bog, I found three fairly large specimens of *Pinguicula lusitanicum* but could not find any more specimens in the surrounding area, which either meant there was a limited distribution or that the majority of plants had been killed off by drought.

This is one of the most beautiful *Pinguiculas*. It grows to a maximum (in England) of 1 inch in diameter; its grey-green leaves are patterned with thin red veins. The small pink flowers are borne on 1¼ inch stems.

This Easter I visited the same bog and the water level had risen by more than a foot. This meant that the ditch was transformed; nice green sphagnum lined the ditch, and there was a four inch layer of water at the bottom. The flush of extra water had an astonishing effect on the population of *Pinguicula lusitanicum*. They had increased from three plants to about a hundred, which shows that the seed will survive quite long periods of drought.

The seed of this annual *Pinguicula* is easily germinated in a mixture of 2 parts peat, 2 parts small sphagnum, 1 part sand and 1 part loam. I have recently used loam in many of my CP composts with

good results. I think it helps to bind the rest of the compost together. The seed should be sown on the compost in a pot of an appropriate size and then put in the deepfreeze for stratification for a couple of weeks, then stand in a tray of water in semi-shade. If the seed is sown in early spring it should germinate in a few weeks and produce its first flower spikes by late May—early June. I have found that this plant usually dies after it has produced about 4-5 flower spikes, leaving plenty of seed for the next season. Although my instructions sound quite simple, this plant is difficult to grow; true success can only be accomplished by experiment.

(Received August 25, 1978)

An Indiana Bog

by James T. Robinson

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On June 10, 1978 a group of us from the Horticulture Department, Purdue University, visited a bog which is unique in Indiana. The bog is located in the northwestern part of the state, a few miles from Lake Michigan. It occupies a deep ice-block depression surrounded by low morainal ridges, so one must walk downhill through the oak-hickory woods some distance to get to the bog. The bog contains a good sampling of northern flora, including pitcher plants and sundews.

A rough board-walk forms a trail through part of the bog, so access is not difficult. Before entering the bog proper, one crosses a "moat" of open water containing cat-tails and buttonbush. Once in the bog, plenty of live Sphagnum is evident. In some areas, especially along the trail, the moss has decayed to form peat. It is in such areas that *Drosera intermedia* grows in large mats. In the live Sphagnum, there are clumps of *Sarracenia purpurea*, which were blooming nicely while we were there. Also, individual plants of

Drosera rotundifolia are scattered about.

The bog is quite woody with many tamarack, red maple, and some white pine trees. High-bush blueberry, leatherleaf, black chokeberry, poison sumac, and other shrubs form thickets which are almost impenetrable in some spots. While we were at the bog many pink lady's slippers were in bloom. Much like the bogs of farther north, this Indiana bog has open areas where woody species have hardly invaded. There are even some small ponds in the bog.

The bog has been registered as a National Scientific Landmark and will eventually be included as part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. It is presently owned by an elderly gentleman whose permission must be obtained before entering the bog (he has been known to approach people with a shotgun). The man had originally purchased the land to harvest blueberries, of which there are plenty.

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