

DROSERA REGIA

by Bob Ziemer, P.O. Box 4562, Arcata, CA 95521.

When I first received my plant of *Drosera regia* from a friend, it was a small specimen and I grew the plant in a 4-inch pot under grow-lux bulbs in my house. During the first summer, it grew reasonably well but put out only a maximum of 3-inch leaves. Last fall a large amount of salt (probably 10 grams) fell from a skunk skin I was curing into the pot of *D. regia*. By the time I observed this disaster, the plant had completely wilted and the leaves turned black. I leached the plant and sphagnum for 3 days in fresh water. Within two weeks, there was a new leaf emerging but it only was 1-inch long. Later, the plant went dormant and the leaves were only ¼-inch long with no tentacles. I did not realize that these plants had a dormant phase but it lasted from November to February. In mid-February, larger tentacled leaves began to appear. I then transferred the plant to a 10-inch plastic pot filled with live sphagnum moss. The plant is now growing and routinely putting out 16 inch (40 cm long) leaves.

I have been spraying and watering the pot about every 2 weeks with 1/10 strength Hoaglands solution (a complete fertilizer) and occasionally spraying the leaves with fish emulsion. About ⅓ of the leaf surface of each leaf is covered with spiders, mosquitoes, and flies which have been trapped naturally.

The plant is growing in an unshaded greenhouse which is surrounded by redwood trees and at this time of year (May) receives about 3 hours of direct sunlight. However, many of our days are overcast and the light intensity is often low. Lighting is supplemented with Vita-gro fluorescent lamps on a 12-hour photoperiod. The greenhouse heater is set to go on at 45°F (70°C) and the vent fans go on at 85°F (29°C). Thus the plant receives cool nights and warm days. The night temperature at this time of year will be about 50°F (10°C). Apparently, *D. regia* enjoys these conditions because it grows vigorous and healthy.

(Plates C & D).

Pinguiculas gotta swim, Sarracenias gotta fly.

by D.C. Speirs

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In the netherworld of taxonomy, the botanist and zoologist seldom cross each other's path. Their Latin nomenclatural systems are independent and a commonly shared name is not particularly upsetting. Thus it is that *Byblis* is a crustacean and *Cephalotus* is a mammal. *Darlingtonia* is not only the cobra plant but also a reptile. And how appropriate that *Dionaea* is both a fly and a fly-trap! With reference to the title, *Pinguicula* must swim because it is a mollusc, and *Sarracenia* flaps its wings because that is what butterflies do.

One of the more interesting nomenclatural cross-connections is that of *Aldrovanda*. There is no animal with that exact name, as far as I can determine, but there are three runners-up in the close-but-not-quite category. *Aldrobandia* is a fish, *Aldrobandiella* is a fly, and *Aldrobandium* is a mollusc. What really makes this interesting is the fact that the original name for the plant was *Aldrobandia*, but the name was misspelled and the error perpetuated by Linnaeus; thus the incorrect version is the one that now stands.



D. gigantea Plate A.
Photo by Warren Stoutamire



D. stolonifera Plate B.
Photo by Warren Stoutamire



D. regia Plate C.
Photo by Jim Miller



D. regia. Plate D.
Photo by Jim Miller