A new Drosera record for New England

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In August, 1978 my family and I visited the northwest portion of Newfoundland. This is a very interesting area with extensive limestone barrens lining the seashore in many areas. The whole penninsula has an arctic to boreal climate with many plants at sea level which are usually found in higher mountains or much further north in Labrador and Greenland. The barrens are covered with Rhododendron lapponicum, Tofieldia pusilla and Salix vestita. Pinguicula vulgaris is extremely abundant, being found in small crevices in open, almost dry-appearing areas. These plants tend to be slightly dwarfed, while those found growing in slightly more sheltered areas are much larger. These areas are often subject to high winds and late spring snowstorms. At Port au Choix there are many small ponds scattered throughout the barrens. Surrounding many of these there are shallow zones of water, containing sedges and grasses which are usually found in alkaline soils. Scattered among these there are large colonies of Drosera anglica. In some places they are common enough to color the water red. Drosera was always in shallow, rather mucky water growing with moss species, but almost never in sphagnum. The drier areas at the edge contained large number of Drosera rotundifolia and Sarracenia purpurea. Drosera linearis was located earlier in the century in the same area; however, I was not able to find it. I have transplanted several clumps of Drosera anglica to my bog garden in New Hampshire; it has done well in a mixture of sand and sphagnum peat, with a small amount of limestone added.

Last year, Sally Rooney rediscovered Drosera linearis at Crystal Bog in Southern Aroostook County, Maine (see CPN 8: 68, 1979), growing in an alkaline open area. This July, Sally Rooney, Candy McKellar and Les Eastman found another larger stand about one mile distant, growing in shallow

water, often at the edge of moose runs. Les Eastman found a Drosera new to New England growing in the same place. This proved to be Drosera anglica! This August I visited the larger station with Les and we found many plants of Drosera linearis. Scattered throughout an open area of shallow water there were many small clumps of Drosera anglica. in slightly dryer areas there were large numbers of Drosera rotundifolia, Drosera intermedia and Sarracenia purpurea. Adjacent areas contained Utricularia intermedia and Utricularia cornuta. The D. anglica was growing in shallow, rather mucky water, occasionally in sphagnum. Most of the surrounding plants were acid lovers as the usual calcifiles were absent. The Droseras were identified by leaf shape, position of the stipules and morphology of the seeds. Fortunately the bog is owned by The Nature Conservancy.



D. intermedia with captured craneflies. Photo by B. Hanrahan.