

A NEW DROSERA FROM THE TOP END OF AUSTRALIA

by Peter Tsang

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Way up north where there is no snow and way up north where the big gums grow, comes this beautiful beautiful new sundew. It is always exciting to discover a new plant but it may not be necessary that the new found plant has the beauty or any interesting aspect, from the hobbyists' standpoint, to match the excitement of its discovery. Any scientific significance is another matter.

However, this sundew is unusual as well as beautiful and, above all, its new! Whether it has been come across by person or persons in the past, I do not know. But definitely new in the sense that it has never been listed or published before. The discoverer of this sundew is a good friend of mine of long standing and has been collecting various CPs and native tropical fishes for me from time to time as we do a lot of exchanges nationally and internationally. It was during one of these collecting trips that my friend stumbled upon this new sundew. I have given live materials to our Govern-

ment botanist and CPN member Dr. Laverack to study. Unfortunately, no classification can be made until they flower again next summer as at the time of discovery, the flowering period was just over. If possible, I would like this sundew be named *DROSERA FALCONERI* in honor of its discoverer. (Fig. 1)

My friend, Mr. Falconer described that this sundew is found in a very restricted area and the colony is extremely small. No photograph could be taken to show of its natural habitat due to very tall grass densely covering the area. A peculiarity was noted in this particular area in that the pH of the soil reads around 8 instead of the normal common characteristic in Northern Territory where soil is in general with low (acid) pH.

Upon close examination of this sundew, I am inclined to believe that it must belong to the same group as *D. petiolaris* (Fig. 2) because of their great similarity in their root (Please turn to p. 48)



Fig. 1. New species of *Drosera*
Photo by Peter Tsang



Fig. 2. *D. Petiolaris*
Photo by Peter Tsang

THE NEW FOREST BOGLANDS

by David W. Taylor

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The many levels of land and the different areas of changing vegetation that make up the vast expanse of the New Forest include the forest boglands. These wild and desolate places, some of which are almost impassable, are scattered all over this mighty region of land that lies in the south west corner of the county of Hampshire in southern England. They are extremely rich in flora both common and rare, and are the home of countless birds and insect life. A number of rivers flow into these lands thereby keeping them constantly wet. Two of the forest boglands that I have visited on a number of occasions are Bishops Dyke which is a sphagnum bog, and Hinchelsea bog. This is largely a peat bog, and it is here that all three of our native *Droseras* are to be found. It is a very wet area of land, and in

one particular part where the water level is eighteen inches deep, there is to be found *Drosera anglica* (Fig 1). As this land is so wet there is but a single footpath leading straight through the centre, and the only people that use it, are day-trippers and hikers. Compared with this bog, Bishops Dyke is more walkable. The first sign that you are near to this bog, is the many stands of cotton-grass that can be seen quite clearly some three hundred yards away. (Fig. 2) It is at this bog that *Drosera intermedia* and *rotundifolia* can be found. Also here is *Utricularia minor*.

Both these bogs and the many others in the New Forest are areas of land that have hardly altered over hundreds of years. The casual walker feels a sense of freedom as he or she walks in loneliness through these lands of floral and natural interest.



Fig. 1.
D. anglica
In Hinchels Bog

Photo by
David Taylor

... New *Drosera* — P. Tsang

structure and their tomentose crown when dormant. Yes, even in the far north of Australia where there is no winter and plants still go dormant because of the extreme high contrast of wet and dry seasons. *D. petiolaris* has long and slender petioles which when young, tends to be pubescent where as the new sundew has short, broad and glabrous .

petioles. The glands on the leaves of this new *Drosera* are extremely fine almost like those of the pygmy species.

After the initial shock, my plants are starting to put on new leaves but it is still too early to tell how well they will fare, long term wise, in Brisbane. A very limited plants will be available for exchange only.