

A 'Forma Crestata' of *Drosera*.  
 Andreas Wistuba, Mudauer-Ring 227, D-6800  
 Mannheim 52, West Germany

In the spring of 1982, a South African *Drosera* I was growing (perhaps a new species) showed a strange change at the growth point. The growth area broadened into a line. At first, I thought it was dichotomous branching, but after a short time I became certain that it was a crestate change as is sometimes seen in cacti. This occurred after having the plant about half a year. I had not yet brought the plants to flowering, either the normal or crestate forms.

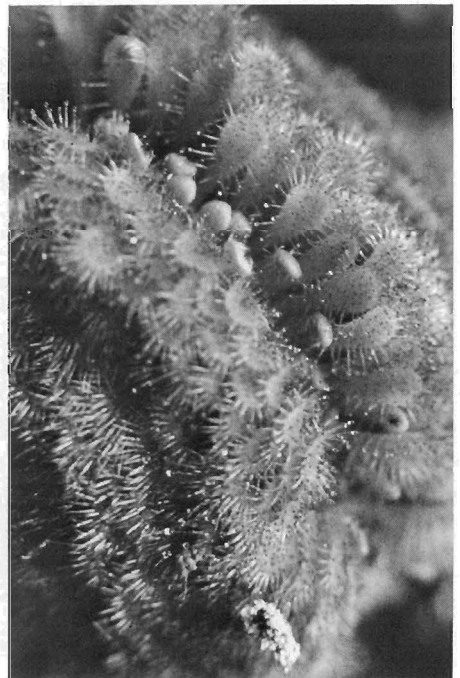
The growing line got longer and leaves became smaller. After a time, the growing line became somewhat serpiginous. A longitudinal section showed a semicircle and the stem was fan-shaped (see figure). Leaf cuttings from the crestate form budded into normal plants.

I thought of a root illness as a cause of this change and therefore decided to experiment with propagating the plant in crestate form. I made cuttings of the growing line at right angles, the cuttings being wedge-shaped (see figure). The cuttings were planted upright in a pot filled with very moist peat. The pots were placed in clear plastic bags under fluorescent lights.

After about two weeks, the cuttings were rooted and new leaves were growing. The cuttings themselves rapidly developed a

crestate growing line similar to the parent plant. As soon as these cutting plants are large enough, I plan to propagate them in a similar manner to keep the crestate form going.

In conclusion, the crestate form cannot be propagated from leaf cuttings, but can from growth line cuttings.



LEFT: Normal *Drosera* plant.

Photos by Andreas Wistuba.

Crestate form of *Drosera*.



Crestate form of *Drosera*.

Photo by Andreas Wistuba.

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## CP PEOPLE DEPARTMENT: STEVE SMITH

My interest in CP began back in my high school Biology class. The first plant to catch my attention was the Venus flytrap, and shortly behind was *Sarracenia*, *Drosera*, and *Pinguicula*. My first plants were purchased from Carolina Biological Supply that same year. Unfortunately, they all died when they were placed in direct sun in a sealed container. It was not until the summer of 1973 that I again attempted to grow CP again. While on vacation in North Carolina with my wife, we decided to drive into the Holly Shelter swamp to see what we could locate. We found VFT's, *S. flava*, *D. capillaris*, *D. brevifolia*, and *P. lutea*. These plants survived and needless to say, I had been bitten by the bug. I have no formal training in

horticulture or botany, and have learned from reading and experimenting. The early issues of CPN were the most helpful, as they contained a wealth of information. Other information came from correspondence with growers around the globe. Since these early days my collection has grown to over 175 species and hybrids. This spring I designed and built a 12' x 20' greenhouse, and now have more room to expand. My pride and joy is my *Nepenthes* collection (over 40 species and hybrids), my Mexican *Pinguicula* collection (over 28 species and hybrids), and my *Heliamphora* collection (three species). I enjoy attempting to make hybrids. It is exciting to produce a new plant for the first time.