

The label, however, seems to show *D. spathulata*. A collaborator of that firm has told me that this picture originates from an earlier date and has only indirectly to do with the contents.

I don't know if the syrup is to be sold in other countries.

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CARNIVOROUS PLANT TISSUE CULTURE— PRESERVING OUR INTERESTS

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Over the past couple of years, I have become very involved with plant tissue culture, both of CP and many other plants. Last year, as a freshman at North Carolina State University, I studied growth regulators in carrot cell tissue cultures and their effects on protoplast fusion. Needless to say, this made my first year of college most interesting. I have been working with many different CP in vitro in a home laboratory and with Dr. Bill Carroll of Chatham Botanical have been successful in cloning most genera of CP.

Tissue culture seems rare to me to be the superior method of propagating many rare plants in general, not only CP. However, I am most concerned with carnivores. I have started many cultures with seed, leaf cuttings and apical meristems. It is important to keep rare species such as *Sarracenia oreophila*, *s. rubra* ssp. *alabamensis*, *Heliophora*, and *Darlingtonia*.

With regard to *sarracenia*, I can attest to fast multiplication and overall vigor when grown in vitro. By initiating a culture with an apical meristem (growing tip) of an older *sarracenia*, it is possible to obtain flowering size in half the time normally required for plants grown from seed. Thus, many mature plants can be obtained quickly for possible reestablishment in depleted natural populations or sites. Tissue culture is also a good means of distributing CP to countries that have strict import requirements.

I am very interested in obtaining rare CP (in the form of seed, cutting or plants) for establishment in vitro. I have been concentrating on *Nepenthes* for a time. From what I can gather, the *Nepenthes* of Kinabalu, Sabah and other areas are falling fast in numbers. I am most interested in obtaining material of any rare species of these areas for tissue culture. I have been thinking of making some kind of proposal to the officials of Sabah National Parks as follows:

- 1) Produce in vitro any number of *Nepenthes* endemic to the area in order to re-stock the park.
- 2) Distribute selected plants to CP enthusiasts *only* after completion of the above.
- 3) Offer to pay an acceptable royalty to the Park on sales of selected excess stock after completion of above.

I have corresponded with a few of the most noted CP enthusiasts and growers from whom I have received general support for such a project. I would be very interested in the opinions of other ICPS members and anyone else interested in such a project. I am interested only in helping to preserve some of these rare species of CP. If there are better or more feasible methods or means of accomplishing this, then let's go with it. The most important thing now is to find the most viable solution for preserving our quickly disappearing carnivorous plants.