

help of enthusiasts would be appreciated. Plants must be labelled as to species and/or subspecies (if applicable) as well as much detail as possible regarding origin of the material in the wild. Collection date and collector identity are optional but preferred.

All species of native CP are welcome. However, the following are considered priority: *Byblis gigantea*, *B. liniflora*, *Cephalotus follicularis*, *D. adela*, *D. menziesii* (all forms), *D. heterophylla*, *D. indica*, *D. macrophylla*, *D. orbiculata*, *D. sp. 'hammerleg'*, *D. platypoda*, *D. erythrorhiza*, *D. zonaria*, any pygmy drosera, *U. multifida*, *U. westonii*, *U. volubilis*, *U. menziesii*, *U. hookerii*, *U. simplex*, *U. fulva*, *U. flava*.

All plants received will be entered into the Garden computer making later identification easier. This is an opportunity to contribute to a unique project involving CP, the success of which will largely be determined by plant contributions by us, the CP enthusiasts. Your help would be most appreciated. Naturally, considering import and export regulations of plant material and any plant parts of some restricted species, we would expect the most help from fellow Australians.

Please forward any plant material or queries to me at the above address, or telephone (home (03) 763-9148, (work) (03) 725-9011.

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## Carnivorous Plants of the Bogong High Plains

By Robert Gassin (43 Frudal Cress., Knoxfield, Australia 3180)

In the first week of March, 1990, A fellow CP grower from Melbourne and myself ventured to the Bogong High Plains for two days of bush walking.

The Bogong High Plains is part of the Bogong National Park, an alpine reserve 350 km north of Melbourne. It is well known for its magnificent natural display of native alpine flowers in summer, and cross country skiing in winter. The High Plains are about 1600 m to 1800 m above sea level and are covered in snow from June through September or October. In spring, the snow melts to reveal typical Australian alpine plant communities including open and closed heathlands, tussock grassland, large strands of the beautiful snowgums, and of particular interest to CP enthusiasts, alpine bogs bordering natural springs and pretty winding fast flowing streams teeming with trout.

The main aim of our trip was to photograph and film the CP's native to this area. There have been three species found on the High Plains: The common alpine sundew *Drosera arcturi*, the very rare and attractive Tasmanian bladderwort *Utricularia monanthos*, and an even rarer summer growing tuberous sundew of uncertain taxonomy, which to the best of our knowledge and been discovered two years earlier by Nick Collins, another member of our local CP society.

Our search started out on a high note as we found both *D. arcturi* and *U. monanthos* in the first bog we explored. (There are hundreds of alpine bogs in this park). Both these species were found within 50 m of the roadside at an altitude of 1080 m. Thousands of *D. arcturi* plants were found in deep sphagnum beds and wet sandy clay soil along the banks of small streams. Each plant had 3-4 leaves up to 7.5 cm long. They had flowered 2-3 months previously and their dried, blackened seedpods were full of seed. *U. monanthos* occurred along the banks of the same stream but only over an area of 10 m by 20 m. It grew in both shallow sphagnum beds and wet sandy clay soil. This species was in flower bearing very pretty deep purple flowers with two yellow stripes on the palate, on a peduncle up to 3 cm tall. Over the next two days we explored several other bogs; large colonies of *D. arcturi* were found in each of these but we did not locate another colony of *U. monanthos*.

The tuberous *drosera* we were hoping to find occurs at about 1800 m altitude in a remote part of the park 10 km from the nearest road. We set out early the second morning of our visit and after a brisk two hour walk which included escalating two mountains, we finally reached our destination. After exploring for about 15-20 minutes, we eventually found the plant we had been looking for. Much to our surprise, it occurred in very boggy ground and in shallow, wet sphagnum beds (Tuberous *droseras* usually grow in relatively dry soil). The plants were in flower and looked like small *D. peltata*. They were bright red in colour, each had a basal rosette about 2 cm in diameter and an erect stem (rarely two) up to 20 cm tall. Leaves were shield shaped and borne singly and alternately along the stem. The sepals were dark green and pubescent and this petals were white. Due to the overcast conditions the flowers were not open. Most tubers were within 3 cm of the soil surface and were up to .25 cm in diameter. An interesting feature of this plant is the presence of what appears to be adventitious roots arising from the vertical stolon. A few specimens were collected for taxonomic study.

After two days of fruitful exploration, we headed back to Melbourne with a few questions to ponder: Would this alpine tuberous *drosera* revert to a summer dormancy/winter growth pattern in the Melbourne climate? Would refrigeration of tubers of other *droseras* during dormancy be a viable way to protect them from complete desiccation, rot and/or disease? And finally, would not some tuberous *droseras* grow better in summer in the colder climates of Canada and northern Europe?

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## "New" Potting Medium

Alexander Mrkvicka (Hopfnergasse 6/16/1/4 1230 Vienna) sent in the following information about a "new" potting medium that he has been using for CP. "New" is in quotes because the material has been used by European orchid growers for some years. It is called **rockwool** and is manufactured from volcanic rock. Instead of being "puffed" like perlite, it is melted and spun into a material much like glasswool as used for insulation.

The advantages he has found in the medium are several. The material is stable and open and plants may be kept in it for years, resulting in less root disturbance from frequent repotting as required in some other media. The medium is chemically inert and nutrient-free, and the horticultural variety has a pH of 5.5 Salt accumulations are easily removed with a pure water rinse. Water is held to Rockwool in large amounts, but there are ample humid air spaces for healthy roots. The material does not support pests (crawling or moss), and does not compete with the potted plant as live sphagnum can. Due to the white surface and porous spaces, soil temps can be kept low (e.g. for *Darlingtonia*).

A few disadvantages are present. One must specify horticultural grade as mentioned above. The medium requires more fertilizer applications where these are used since it drains so well. The color (light grey to white) does not look like soil.

He has been growing *Sarracenia* spp., *Darlingtonia*, European *Pinguicula*, *Nepenthes*, some "easy" *droseras* and terrestrial utricularias with good success. *Pinguiculas* and *nepenthes* benefit especially from fewer repottings and foot disturbance. Seedlings and mature plants sensitive to salts accumulation are easily managed by the relatively fewer rinses of pure water required to clear the medium. He feels that the marl fen plants he grows such as *Drosera linearis* and *Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *purpurea* do especially well with fewer phenotypic changes than when grown in peat or sphagnum.