

He cautions that one be careful when handling dry rockwool since the dust is irritating and the fibers can penetrate skin—use gloves when handling.

(Editorial Note: The following does not constitute an endorsement or implication that it is the only source, but in the United States we have found that OFE International Inc., P.O. Box 164402, Miami, FL 33116, a dealer in orchid growing supplies, does supply horticultural rockwool. They have a water absorbent and a water repellent form, the latter for particularly fast drainage. They also supply mixes of these two forms in various proportions. We assume that Alex was discussing the absorbent form).

See other references to the use of rockwool on page 75 (Nepenthes & Rockwool by Freddy De Coninck.

*Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *venosa* growing in rockwool (left). Photo by A. Mrkvicka.



## Drosera sp. "Hammersley" Another New Drosera Species from Western Australia

By Phill Mann, 16 Osborne Rd., Mt. Barker 6324, West Australia

The search for new Carnivorous plants from little known territory of our vast state is always quite exciting because the possibility of locating another new species is quite possible.

Such was one trip in July 1989 to the south coastal region where while checking a damp creek bed I located what looked at first to be a *Drosera macrophylla* type, but this species occurs some 360 miles (600 kilometres) farther to the northwest.

Closer inspection revealed that this plant had finished flowering and did not fully compare with any of the other known species. The plant had almost completed its winter growth so another would be necessary earlier in the season of the next year.

In May 1990 I revisited the area with Alan Lowrie. We were greeted by one of the most exciting sights I have seen. The area where I had located this plant last year was of semi-thick bush type with *Eucalyptus*, *Dryandra*, *Banksia* and *Hakea*. This growth had made it impossible to see more than a few meters into the area. Now it was bare except for the few remaining trees after having suffered a very severe bushfire that had burned everything on ground level but a small amount of leaf litter.

Scattered everywhere were clumps of bright white flowers and the more I looked the more plants I saw. *D. sp* "Hammersley" was flowering in the thousands.

*Drosera sp* "Hammersley" roughly resembles a cross of *Drosera bulbosa* and *Drosera macrophylla*, but unlike *D. bulbosa* this plant is multi-flowered. One (photo 1) had 108 flowers and buds. Mass flowering in such proportions would be attributed to the bushfire the previous summer and typical of tuberous drosera in this situation.

*Drosera* sp "Hammersley" first appears as a bud followed by flowering scapes, unlike *D. macrophylla* which presents leaves first followed by flowers. These flowering scapes are several and multi-branches. The flowers are heavily perfumed and last several days, closing each night. The scapes can reach a height of 6-10 cm and as the first flowers finish, it then becomes prostrate but has the ability to raise the remaining flowers above the ground as they open, (see Photo 2).

The leaves appear when flowering is nearly completed; the plants then seem to put all their effort into producing a beautiful rosette of long, slightly obovate leaves, up to 7 cm long. Meanwhile, the fruiting scapes have been covered by this rosette of leaves and it appears that the fresh seed germinates readily from beneath the leaves. The leaves have a raised mid rib similar to *D. bulbosa* and they have a coppery orange to red colour.

Another obvious difference with *D. sp* "Hammersley" is that the bulbs of this plant are a distinct sphere in shape, whereas *D. bulbosa* is a tear drop shape and *D. macrophylla* is oval.

Altogether, with the massed flowering of the multi-branched scapes, vivid white flowers that are highly perfumed and open for several days, red tinged leaves of the medium to large rosette—this plant would have to be considered as the best of the rosetted tuberous drosera.

The name *Drosera* sp "Hammersley" relates (as with other field named species), roughly to the area where these plants are found. These names are used mainly to enable us to relate to these different unnamed species. Care should be used when using these names as they do not apply to type locations. On some occasions names such as this have been deleted and substituted with numbers by some collectors. This only creates some false species and considerable confusion.



Photo 1. *D. 'Hammersley'* in full flower.



Photo 2. See text for details.



Photo 3. *D. 'Hammersley'* in full flower.  
Photographed in habitat by author.

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## Carnivorous Plants of Australia: Volume Two

By Allen Lowrie, XXXVII, 202 pp, 170 colour plates and 56 full-page drawings. University of Western Australia Press, Nedlans, W. Australia, 1989. ISBN 0 85564 300 5

Prices from local agents: International Specialized Book Services Inc., P.O. Box 1632, Beaverton, Oregon 97075 (U.S.A.); Peter Moore, P.O. Box 66, 200a Perne Rd., Cambridge CB1 3PD (Europe); Melbourne Univ. Press, Carlton south, Vic. 3053

### Review by Martin Cheek

The second of three volumes, this follows very closely the format of the first volume devoted to tuberous sundews (1987- for review see C.P.N. 17:27). This book contains the rest of the Western Australian sundews—mostly pygmies, but also *D. glanduligera*, *D. hamiltonii* and three additional sorts of tuberous sundew, which presumably have only recently come to light. Northern Territory and Queensland sundews e.g. *D. adalae* have been omitted and we must await them, with *Utricularia*, *Nepenthes*, *Cephalotus* and *Byblis* in the final volume.

The Pygmy Sundew Manual would be a good sub-title for this book. It certainly puts every other work on the subject into the shade. Each species and sub-species is usually treated to 4 pages: the first a full-page description, the second of detailed line drawings, the third a distribution map, the fourth of 2-6 color plates. The introductory pages give a three page glossary of the botanical words used and an illustration of the basic parts of a pygmy sundew, then a list of the species arranged by the pygmy species. Gemmae are then treated to 16 pages, largely of very clear pencil drawings which illustrate each species and with a separate key to the species based on gemmae characteristics. There follow pages entitled 'how to identify a pygmy sundew', 'the life cycle of a pygmy sundew' and 'habitats'. While first does not address the subject and contains information repeated elsewhere, the information on 'life-cycle' and 'habitat' make excellent reading and will be very useful to those who wish to know more about the