

The described results are all obtained growing *Nepenthes* in terraria of varying sizes with artificial lights (cool white fluorescent lamps or high pressure mercury lamps). Modifications of the methods described may be necessary to adapt them to greenhouse conditions. Nevertheless, hopefully many other growers are encouraged to experiment and report on their results in the future.

References

Feßler, A. 1982, *Nepenthes* in Lava-Schlacke, Dt. Gartenbau, 36, 1643-1644.

Feßler, A. 1986, *Nepenthes* in Lava-Schlacke, Das Taublatt, 3 (6), 6-8.

Literature Reviews

Cheek, M. & Jebb, M. 1999, *Nepenthes* (Nepenthaceae) in Palawan, Philippines, Kew Bull., 54: 887-895.

In this paper, the two taxa recently described (under the names *N. wilkiei* and *N. mira*) by the same authors are illustrated and discussed in more detail. Fortunately, original herbarium material of *N. philippinensis*, the type specimen of which was assumed destroyed at Manila during the Second World War, has been discovered at Kew. Unfortunately, the plant represented by this material is conspecific with the recently described *N. wilkiei*, making this name a later synonym. *N. philippinensis* is thus reinstated as a species distinct from *N. alata*, and the authors advocate the intriguing theory that it is more closely related to Bornean species, viz. *N. hirsuta*, *N. hispida*, and *N. macrovulgaris*. This is supported by a number of morphological and ecological similarities (e.g. like *N. macrovulgaris*, *N. philippinensis* grows on ultramafic soil). *N. mira* is maintained to be related to the likewise Bornean alliance containing *N. villosa*, *N. edwardsiana* and *N. macrophylla*. Recently discovered specimens (from further localities on Palawan island) that may represent unusual growth forms of the insufficiently known *N. deaniana* are considered in an additional note. The Philippines may thus yield further insights into long lasting *Nepenthes* secrets.(JS)

Clarke, C. 1999, *Nepenthes benstonei* (Nepenthaceae) a New Pitcher Plant from Peninsular Malaysia, Sandakania, 13: 79-87.

A new species of *Nepenthes* from Bukit Bakar, Kelantan, Malaysia, is described. Its most prominent features are a thick, glaucous cuticle, terete stems, and decurrent leaves. The rosette leaves bear brown hairs along their margins. The affinities of this rather distinct taxon are not entirely clear, and it is compared with *N. sanguinea* and *N. macrovulgaris*. Colour and black & white photographs complete the description.(JS)

Godt, M.J.W & Hamrick, J.L. 1999, Genetic Divergence Among Intraspecific Taxa of *Sarracenia purpurea*, Sast. Bot., 23: 427-438.

With allozyme analysis (comparison of numbers and sizes of different genes that code for proteins catalyzing a common biochemical reaction), the morphologically defined intraspecific entities recognized within *Sarracenia purpurea* have been established as genetically distinct entities. A grouping like (*burkii* (*purpurea* (*venosa*, *montana*))) was established, suggesting that a taxonomic reevaluation (especially of the status of var. *burkii*, which should perhaps better be excluded from subsp. *venosa*) may be warranted. Cultivated material of var. *montana* displayed a very low genetic diversity (the plants being practically clones of a single genetical individual), and it is recommended to supplement the cultivated population with propagules from further populations.(JS)

Naczi, R.F.C., Soper, E.M., Case, F.W., & Case, R.B. 1999, *Sarracenia rosea* (Sarraceniaceae), A New Species of Pitcher Plant From The Southeastern United States, *Sida*, 18(4): 1183-1206.

The attractive plant *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii* is well known to the readers of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter. (Before being described as a new variety, this plant was called the "Louis Burk" form by horticulturists.) This variety differs from other *S. purpurea* subsp. *venosa* plants because it has pink petals (instead of red), shorter flower peduncles, and slightly different pitcher characters. The authors of this new paper have decided that, based on these features, *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii* should be elevated to the status of a new species, *Sarracenia rosea*. As a result of this new species description, you may also see the anthocyanin-free plant *S. purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii* f. *luteola* referred to as *S. rosea* f. *luteola* (a new combination made in this paper).

The authors present an interesting set of measurements, and demonstrate that there are consistent differences between *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii* and *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *venosa*. However, it is not convincing these characters merit a new, separate species status for *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii*. Clearly, *S. purpurea* and *S. rosea* together form a pair of taxa that are extremely closely related, much more so than they are related to any of the other species in the genus *Sarracenia*. This argues for the relegation of *S. rosea* to an infraspecific status, as it occupies under the name *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii*.

While the new name *Sarracenia rosea* has been formally established according to the rules of the ICBN, it is not at all clear if this status is appropriate. It will be the choice of the botanical community to adopt it or to continue to use the name *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii*. Readers are encouraged to seek out the original publication and reach their own conclusions. (BAMR)

News & Views

Jedediah Brodie and Ch'ien Lee (Malesiana Tropicals, 1st Floor, Lot 4909, Sect. 64 KTLD, Uplands Shop House, Jalan Uplands, 93310 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, jedediah_brodie@yahoo.com) reported interesting *Nepenthes* news: On 12 September 1999 we were examining several *Nepenthes* species on a roadcut near Kuching, Sarawak, and found the remains of a small rodent in a lower pitcher of a *N. rafflesiana*. The pitcher was 32.5 cm high. The mammal remains consisted of grey fur, two femurs, portions of a skull (including eight teeth and a jaw), and other bones. They were identified by Dr. Charles Leh, curator of mammals at the Sarawak Museum, as a *Mus* sp. The Asian house mouse (*M. castaneus*) is the only *Mus* species confirmed in Borneo, but it is usually only found near human structures. The rodent might also be a species of *Chiropodomys* (pencil-tailed tree mouse) which tend to live in tall or secondary jungle.

This find is notable because the only species of *Nepenthes* that has been recorded catching mammals is *N. rajah*, from Sabah. Anthony Lamb (*pers. comm.*) states that the rodents captured by *N. rajah* plants were found after periods of drought; the animals may have been attempting to drink out of the pitchers and slipped in. Similarly, we made our find following a two-week long dry spell in the region. *Nepenthes rafflesiana* has been recorded catching vertebrates such as geckos in Brunei (C. Clarke 1999, *pers. comm.*), but this is the first record of a captured mammal.

The roadcut site was relatively exposed, with secondary jungle and logging roads around its edges. Other species present were *N. gracilis*, *N. ampullaria*, *N. albomarginata*, *N. mirabilis*, *N. reinwardtiana*, *N. hirsuta*, and several natural hybrids.