

LITERATURE REVIEWS

Fischer, E., Porembski, S. & Barthlott, W. 2000. Revision of the Genus *Genlisea* (Lentibulariaceae) in Africa and Madagascar with Notes on Ecology and Phytogeography. *Nordic Journal of Botany* 20: 291-318.

The present publication is an up-to-date overview of the Old World representatives of the most thoroughly neglected major carnivorous plant genus, *Genlisea*. It contains a key, descriptions of all species, accurate line drawings, accounts on representative herbarium specimens, synonyms, and the relevant literature (even our journal is cited on p. 317!). Thus, it is a legitimate sequel to the monumental work by Peter Taylor, whose first grand publication on Lentibulariaceae featured the *Utricularia* species of the very same geographical range. Together with the extensive treatment of New World *Genlisea* by Elsa Fromm-Trinta, the genus is now covered in its entirety by a limited number of scientific publications (just clip them together and you have a monograph).

As a special goodie, the paper includes distribution (dot!) maps of all treated species. Furthermore, four photographs of living plants and organs are included. Section *Tayloria*, comprising the violet-flowered species of southeastern Brazil with laterally bivalvate (rather than poricidous) capsules, is elevated to subgeneric rank, "as there are no intermediate forms and both groups seem well defined" (p.302). To complete the joy, *G. taylorii* (the original spelling "*taylori*", contrary to ICBN Rec. 60C.1., is an orthographical error to be corrected according to ICBN Art.60.11.), named in honour of Peter Taylor, is described as a new species (p.311). It is similar to *G. angolensis* but differs by glabrous (not glandular) pedicels, the glabrous or basally glandular (not hispid) sepals, sparsely (not densely) glandular ovaries, narrower corolla upper lips, and longer corolla lower lips.

This paper is simply a must. (JS)

Furuta, T. & Kondo, K. 1999, Sites of 18S-5.8S-26S rDNA Sequences in Diffused-Centromeric Chromosomes of *Drosera falconeri*, *Chromosome Science* 3: 69-73.

Like the paper by Kondo & Furuta (see review below), this is a rather technical paper dealing with details of *Drosera* chromosome structure. In brief, rDNA sequences have been detected in or near the so-called satellite region of some (2 to 5) chromosomes in *D. falconeri*. In contrast to the unusual diffused-centromeric organization and the not always terminal position of telomere sequences in these chromosomes (v.s.), the present observation appears rather normal. In *D. petiolaris*, the relationship between rDNA sequences and satellite regions appears, however, less clear. (JS)

Kondo, K. & Furuta, T. 1999, Region *in situ* Hybridized by the *Arabidopsis*-Type Telomere Sequence Repeats in *Drosera* Chromosomes, *Chromosome Science* 3:63-67.

While previous papers dealt with the structure of centromeres in *Drosera*, this one focuses on telomeres, the "ends" of chromosomes in this genus. By hybridization with a DNA probe of the sequence characteristically found in telomeres of *Arabidopsis* (the traditional model plant of geneticists, with normal, localized centromeres), it is shown that the "standard" telomere sequence motif can be found also in the chromosomes of the investigated sundew species (*D. falconeri*, *D. roseana*, and *D. petiolaris*), which display an unusual, diffused centromeric condition. The

position of the telomere sequence is, however, not always restricted to the ends of chromosomes, and it is speculated that some chromosomes of e.g. *D. falconeri* originated by tandem fusion at the telomere regions of previously separated progenitor chromosomes. (JS)

Todorov, D.K., Ilarionova, M.V. & Pajeva, I.K. 2000, Effectiveness of a *Dionaea muscipula* E. Preparation Carnivora on Antitumour Drug-Resistant Tumour Cells, Dokladi na B'lgarskata Akademija na Naukite 53: 129-132.

This pharmacological study sheds some light on the activity of an commercially available extract ("Carnivora") from Venus' Flytrap. It is shown to have a "moderate antiproliferative effectiveness on sensitive and resistant tumour cells", "at relatively high concentrations and after a long time of exposure". This "might be explained by the relatively low concentration of active naphthoquinone derivatives". Further studies and especially clinical trials must be performed previous to a reliable assessment of Carnivora as a drug. (JS)

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D. californica—Tillamook Co., Oregon, USA

Drosera aliciae

D. anglica—Oregon, USA

D. anglica—California × Hawaii, USA

D. auriculata

D. binata—Coromandel, NZ

D. burmannii

D. capensis—narrow leaf

D. capensis—purple flower, narrow leaf

D. capensis 'Albino'—white flower

D. capensis—wide leaf

D. capensis—red

D. capillaris

D. collinsiae

D. communis

D. dielsiana

D. intermedia

D. intermedia—Rhode Island, USA

D. macrantha subsp. *macrantha*—pink flower

D. rotundifolia—California, USA

D. rotundifolia—Rhode Island, USA

D. dielsiana × *nidiformis*

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N. gymnamphora × ?

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