

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CARNIVOROUS PLANT
CONFERENCE
Tokyo, Japan, June 21 - June 23, 2002

Jan Schlauer • Zwischenstr. 11 • 60594 Frankfurt, Germany

Keywords: outreach.

Held at the National Science Museum and organized by Prof. Katsuhiko Kondo with cooperation of the Insectivorous Plant Society, Japan, this fourth ICPS conference was the first in the Asian region, and it attracted an impressive audience of 132 registered members from 16 countries, the Japanese fraction (84) obviously being the largest, followed by the United States (13), German (7), Indian and Australian (4 each) delegations. As far as I know this was the first ICPS conference with Korean (3), Mongolian (3), Sri Lankan (2), and Bangladeshi (1) participation, which clearly demonstrates the beneficial effect of changing venues across the globe.

The program was as diverse as the participants, including lectures on systematics/taxonomy of *Drosera* (M. Hasebe, Okazaki City, Japan; Y. Hoshi, Omuta City, Japan), Lentibulariaceae (L. Legendre, Sydney, Australia), *Heliamphora* (A. Wistuba, Mannheim, Germany), and *Nepenthes* (S. Kurata, Tokyo, Japan), field studies on *Nepenthes* (C. Clarke, Hong Kong, China; J.H. Adam, Sabah, Malaysia; M. Hotta, Kagoshima, Japan; C. Lee, Sarawak, Malaysia), *Pinguicula* (C. Shibata, Tokyo, Japan), and *Drosera* (S. Hartmeyer, Weil/Rhein, Germany), physiology of *Nepenthes* (T.P. Owen, New London, USA; K. Takahashi, Tokyo, Japan), a comparison between carnivorous and parasitic plants (D.M. Joel, Ramat-Yishay, Israel), cultivation and plant-animal interactions of *Aldrovanda* (D.W. Darnowski, Chestertown, USA), the carnivorous plant collection at Fullerton (L. Song, Fullerton, USA), and carnivorous plant biogeography (J. Schlauer, Frankfurt, Germany). A special symposium was devoted to the leaf blade movements of Droseraceae (S.E. Williams, Annville, USA; W.R. Fagerberg, Durham, USA; K. Kondo, Hiroshima, Japan; M. Ueda, Keio, Japan).

Two workshops on commercial carnivorous plant cultivation and on carnivorous plant conservation, and a poster session with 22 presentations completed the official schedule. As usual, the many discussions both after lectures, in the breaks between them, and during the banquet added most interesting aspects to the already impressive event. A display of collections of carnivorous plants (needless to say that plants on display are always in the best of all possible conditions in Japan) and several sales booths on different floors of the National Science Museum yielded welcome illustrative material and new contributions to quite a number of collections.

Proceedings (222 pages) of the conference have been issued by Prof. Kondo, Hiroshima University, Japan (ISBN 4-9901285-7-5).

Optional post-conference field trips visited Japan's carnivorous plant treasures, viz. the endemic species *Pinguicula ramosa* in its habitat, Mt. Koshin, the absolutely phenomenal *Byblis* greenhouse of Isao Takai's nursery, and the last remaining Japanese locality of *Aldrovanda vesiculosa* (where also the second Japanese endemic, *Utricularia dimorphantha* is cultivated successfully). Another trip was offered to the Nansou Carnivorous Plant Garden.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all persons who made this breathtaking series of events possible, in the first line Prof. Kondo and the organizing committee, the Insectivorous Plant Society, Japan (Prof. Komiya, Dr. Shibata), the National Science Museum (Prof. Konishi), and Isao Takai.