

## LITERATURE REVIEWS

By Doug Darnowski

Gibson, T.C., and Waller, D.M. 2009. Evolving Darwin's 'most wonderful' plant: ecological steps to a snap-trap. *New Phytologist* 183: 575-587.

In this review, the authors present a comprehensive picture of the probable steps in the evolution of the snap traps of *Dionaea* and *Aldrovanda* from the sticky traps of *Drosera*, with an emphasis on *D. regia*, the most primitive of the sundews and the closest living relative of the two genera which have snap traps. An impressive range of ideas are presented, from Darwin's musings through the most recent data on the ecological costs of carnivory from Ellison's lab. The paper includes extensive review of both molecular and morphological data, but the style is simple and lucid, so the text should be accessible for any ICPS member. While a fair amount of speculation still lies in the proposed evolutionary path, many ICPS members will find this a fascinating paper. (DWD)

Rivadavia, F., Vincentini, A., and Fleischmann, A. 2009. A new species of sundew (*Drosera*, Droseraceae), with water-dispersed seed, from the floodplains of the Northern Amazon Basin, Brazil. *Ecotropica* 15: 13-21.

Yet another fascinating species of South American carnivore comes from the work of Fernando Rivadavia and Andreas Fleischmann, an unusual lowland sundew, *Drosera amazonica*. It falls into section *Drosera*, and its closest relative is *D. felix*. It grows on seasonally-flooded white quartz sand, reminiscent of many carnivores, and, interestingly, its flowers have a sweet scent. Perhaps the most fascinating feature of *D. amazonica* is found in its seed, which have bumpy coats that catch air bubbles. These buoy the seeds and probably lead to dispersal of the seeds by water. (DWD)

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