

## GERMINATION OF 22-YEAR-OLD *DROSOPHYLLUM LUSITANICUM* AND *BYBLIS GIGANTEA* SEEDS

BOB ZIEMER • 2220 Elizabeth Rd. • McKinleyville, CA 95519 • USA • bob@carnivorousplants.org

While cleaning out an old refrigerator in the lunchroom at my office, I discovered a paper bag containing packets of seeds of *Drosophyllum lusitanicum*, *Byblis gigantea*, and several *Drosera* species from the ICPS Seed Bank that had been there for 22 years! As you can imagine, the seed storage conditions in an office lunchroom refrigerator are less than ideal. The paper bag and seed packets were stained with all sorts of unknown spilled food stuff.

In late March, I scratched the seed coat of 100 of the 22-year-old *Drosophyllum* seeds on fine sandpaper until I saw the white endosperm. These scarified seeds were then soaked in tap water for 24 hours. I put the 100 seeds on the surface of moist vermiculite to see if they would germinate. To my great surprise, the first seeds began to germinate in 13 days. At the end of two months, 76 of the 100 seeds had germinated (Fig. 1).

I sprinkled the old *Byblis gigantea* seeds on the surface of a wet mixture of equal parts Canadian milled sphagnum peat and silica sand in a glazed ceramic pot. Two days later, I put a handful of dry grass on top and burned it. The seeds began to germinate within 35 days. I did not count the number of small seeds or estimate germinate rate. I was just surprised that the 22-year-old seeds germinated. None of the old *Drosera* seeds germinated.

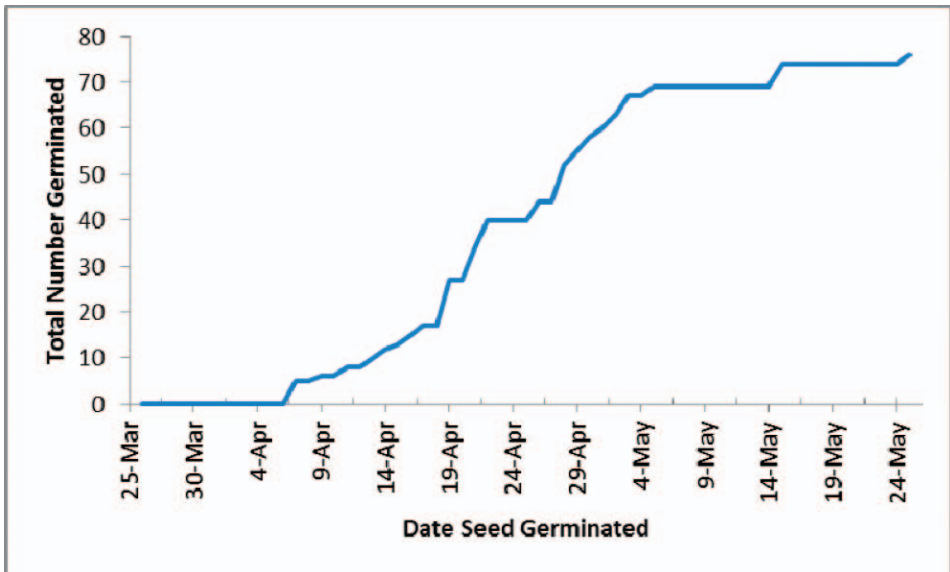


Figure 1: Germination of 22-year-old *Drosophyllum lusitanicum* seeds.