New cultivars

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Sarracenia 'Monks Head Hammerhead'

Submitted: 4 June 2017

Sarracenia 'Monks Head Hammerhead' is apparently the 3rd or 4th generational offspring of *Sarracenia* 'Hummer's Hammerhead'. The plants and leaves of *S.* 'Monks Head Hammerhead' are larger in stature compared to the original parent. Leaves are 5-8 cm taller in height, hoods are 2-5 cm wider and are deeply approximated over the entire orifice or pitcher opening at top (Fig. 1). Coloration is very similar if not identical to the parent(s) *S.* 'Hummer's Hammerhead'. Early Spring leaves hold true throughout the entire growing season. Flowers have deep maroon red petals, again, very similar to the parent(s). In brief, *Sarracenia* 'Monks Head Hammerhead' is a form of the Hammerhead that has a general resemblance, though strikingly different in aspects.

The name is based on the long and wide hood overlapping the orifice of the pitcher, and its morphologic connection (parentage) to *S.* 'Hummer's Hammerhead'.

The plant has a vigorous growth habit, and is also a good "divider". It can only be replicated through plant division.

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Figure 1: *Sarracenia* 'Monks Head Hammerhead' growing in standing water Summer 2015.

Sarracenia 'Mega Mouth'

Submitted: 8 December 2016

Sarracenia 'Mega Mouth' is a hybrid of (*S. leucophylla* × *mitchelliana*) which I made in the spring of 2010 and selected in 2014.

Let us just start by saying that this incredible pitcher plant borders on the ridiculous. It is not only huge in proportions, but beautiful as well. Picture if you will the most colorful and vibrant *S. mitchelliana* on super steroids and you have *S.* 'Mega Mouth'. Mature spring pitchers average 60 cm tall with a mouth opening around 7.5 cm. Colors are green overlaid with the biggest and brightest white areolae from the tip of the lid (operculum) extending to every part of the pitcher inside and out for the top 1/3 of the trap with brilliant pink and red, thick, non-bleeding veins (Fig. 2). The hood is large and ruffled, approximately 10-12.5 cm wide from side to side and front to back. The peristome is rich pink and red.

Pitchers are formed during the entire season, but come to fruition in late summer. It is at this time that the spectacle begins. What is to follow is nothing short of amazing. Like its parent *S. leucophylla*, the best, biggest, and most colorful traps are made during the months of late August through September. These new pitchers, under my desert-like growing conditions, reach 50 cm tall with a mouth opening ranging from 7.5 to 12.5 cm across. Yes folks, that is 5 inches! The biggest of these are so big that they have been tested in person by several of my closest colleagues to swallow a 16 × 8 cm cell phone in its entirety. Flying insects have no problem flying in and out with ease. Due to the lack of prey capture in these extra-large traps, I do supplement with liquid fertilizer in the pitchers. The flowers are very large and a beautiful dark red. Phyllodia are produced year-round along with the functional traps. They too are very large, averaging 30-40 cm long by 5-7.5 cm wide.

Propagation must be done via division and cuttings in order to maintain this plant's unique features. This cultivar's epithet was coined in the summer of 2014 and refers entirely to its giant, gaping mouth.

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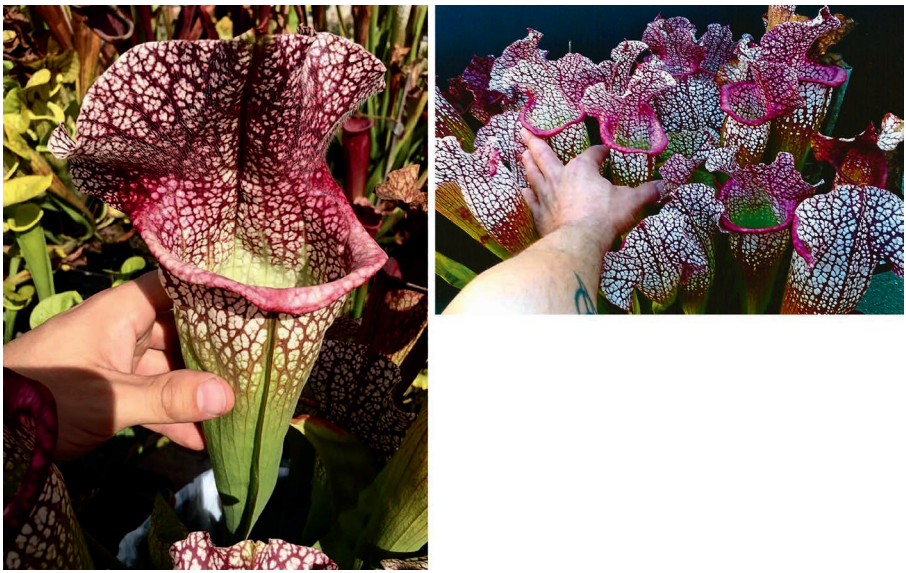

Figure 2: *Sarracenia* 'Mega Mouth' summer traps pitchers.

Submitted: 8 December 2016

Sarracenia 'Tower of Terror' is a hybrid cross between two cultivars, *S.* 'Leah Wilkerson' × *S.* 'Royal Ruby', which I made in the spring of 2008 and selected in 2014.

This incredibly beautiful pitcher plant is a mighty grower with adult pitchers standing at 75-85 cm or larger if grown in high humidity and intense sunlight. Pitchers start out green flushed with red, then mature into a deep red with faint greenish yellow areolae extending from the outer base of the peristome downward some 5 cm (Fig. 3). The beautifully fluted mouth is somewhat teardrop shaped giving it a yawning appearance and is just slightly smaller than the lid (operculum).

The lids, the crowning glory of this gem, are approximately 10-12.5 cm wide from side to side and from the front to back. Ruffled and flat; they do not curve upwards. The colors are astounding. There is a brilliant green strip that runs down the center of the lid from the base to the tip, flanked on both sides with strips of intensely brilliant golden yellow. Veins are deep maroon and form an elegant picotee around the outer edge of the lid. When viewed in direct sunlight the lids sparkle as if they are made out of gold. The color and effect is surreal. Pitchers are produced all season, but are at their largest early. Flowers are large and yellow.

Overall, the color combinations and elegant growth habit of this plant are so striking to the eye that one can see them gleaming in the sunlight from a distance.

Propagation must be done via division and cuttings in order to maintain this plant's unique features. This cultivar's epithet was coined during the summer of 2015 in reference to the amusement park ride – tall with a sheer drop. Only in this case, there is no stopping before hitting bottom.

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Figure 3: *Sarracenia* 'Tower of Terror' pitchers and top of lid.

Submitted: 13 April 2017

In the summer of 2015, I received a batch seedlings from a supposedly open-pollinated *Sarracenia oreophila* × *flava* from a fellow Colorado grower. Among these, one particular specimen took off, reaching maturity within a couple of months and sending off several side shoots without slowing down. This plant showed clear signs of the red-lidded *S. alata* var. *rubrioperculata* in its parentage through growth pattern, color, and later flowers. Consequently, my best guess is that the parents are *Sarracenia* (*oreophila* × *flava*) × *alata* var. *rubrioperculata*.

Sarracenia 'Red Beret' is a vigorous, stout plant, pitchers reaching 60 cm tall and tapered from top to bottom in a gradual narrowing to produce a solid trumpet shape, sometimes bolstered by a thick wing on the front (Fig. 4). The slightest hint of a bulging top comes through from the *S. alata* parent, and the lid is broad and spade shaped, held out over the mouth with the sides curving back down the neck of the pitcher. The color is striking, pure lime to yellow-green on the outside with the dense reticulation of the veins from the pitcher interior just barely showing through, set off by the distinct deep red shade of the underside of the lid. This coloration halts in a near-perfect line at the junction between lid and neck, only extending downward in a narrow stripe through the center of the throat, and it never bleeds out, producing a crisp, clean-cut appearance. Flowers are large, up to 8 cm across with pale cream-yellow teardrop petals that splay outward at maturity.

In 2016, the name 'Red Beret' was suggested by another grower (Angie Hall) and fit perfectly. 'Red Beret' is a name reminiscent of military standing, calling attention to the crisp, precise coloration and rigid standing of this cultivar when in full growth; all pitchers at attention with their lids tilted ever so slightly up in salutation. Even the flowers are obedient with petals pointed rigidly down and at an angle once unfurled. This cultivar is suitable only for vegetative reproduction, either via division of growth crowns or by rhizome cuttings.

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Figure 4: *Sarracenia* 'Red Beret', front and rear views showing the pure green outer color of the pitchers and crisp red, non-bleeding color of the lid.

Submitted: 14 July 2017

Drosera belezeana 'Dr. Frankensnyder's Monster' is a fertile tetraploid of the hybrid between *D. intermedia* and *D. rotundifolia*. The plant is named after Ivan Snyder and this is his story (pers. comm. 2017):

> The origin of our cultivar is quite an epic. It begins with an intriguing tale of possible natural amphiploid genesis. Jason [Ksepka] told me of his finding a great swarm of hybrids in [Burlington Co.,] New Jersey. He was trying to explain the concentration of hybrids found at one spot without the parent species presence. Might some of the plants at the swarm's center be reproducing from seed, or were they all just clones of a few extraordinarily vigorous sterile plants multiplying vegetatively. Jason actually found seed! He sent me some of this seed along with a clone of the plant which had produced them. The seed did indeed look intermediate between the parents; but refused to germinate. Jason felt he may have picked them prematurely. [He has not found any seeds since.]
>
> I continued to study the plant Jason sent me. Judging cell size, I determined the plant was diploid and thus the common sterile hybrid. It proved to be a good grower, although did not look at all special. This one individual natural hybrid Jason sent me received a boost in evolution. It responded very well to colchicine treatment. Leaf size increased beyond normal and it retained the great vigor it showed in nature. Unfortunately, I was unable to ever get the plant to flower for me indoors in Southern California. I gave the plant to Warren [Auyong] who then passed it on to John [Brittnacher]. Under John's care the plant flowered for the first time since becoming tetraploid.

Drosera belezeana 'Dr. Frankensnyder's Monster' more closely resembles its *D. rotundifolia* parent while the popular sterile cultivar *D.* 'Nightmare' (D'Amato 2013, p. 171) with the same parentage and from the same general location, resembles a very robust *D. intermedia* with more upright

Figure 5: Comparison of *Drosera belezeana* 'Dr. Frankensnyder's Monster' plants (left) and *D.* 'Nightmare' (right). The images are approximately at the same scale.

Figure 6: Comparison of *Drosera belezeana* 'Dr. Frankensnyder's Monster' flowers (center) with the parents, *D. intermedia* (left) and *D. rotundifolia* (right). The images are not to scale.

leaves and longer petioles (Figs. 5 & 6). *Drosera belezeana* 'Dr. Frankensnyder's Monster' may be propagated by leaf cuttings and seeds.

Some of the information about *D.* 'Nightmare' in D'Amato (2013) is incorrect. Jim Bockowski named and distributed *D.* 'Nightmare'. The original plant was from Burlington County, New Jersey, not Toms River (Bockowski, pers. comm. 2017).

Reference

D'Amato, P. 2013. The Savage Garden. Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, California, USA.

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