

## NEW CULTIVARS

Keywords: cultivar, *Nepenthes* 'Red Velvet Aurea', *Nepenthes* 'Khi Seechumpu', *Sarracenia* 'Bled Velvet', *Sarracenia* 'Pink Eye', *Utricularia* 'Devil Spawn', *Utricularia* 'King Ghidorah'.

Abstract: Six new carnivorous plant cultivars are named and described: *Nepenthes* 'Red Velvet Aurea', *Nepenthes* 'Khi Seechumpu', *Sarracenia* 'Bled Velvet', *Sarracenia* 'Pink Eye', *Utricularia* 'Devil Spawn', *Utricularia* 'King Ghidorah'.

*Nepenthes* 'Red Velvet Aurea'

Submitted: 20 April 2021

The seed parent of *Nepenthes* 'Red Velvet Aurea' is from a green clone of *Nepenthes ampullaria* originally from Thailand (Fig. 1). The pitcher of *Nepenthes* 'Red Velvet Aurea' is red with a velvet-like texture and a perfect roundish-oval shape about 55 × 55 mm. The spur and wing are red and feather-like with 2 to 3 lobes. The peristome is initially white and becomes bright yellow and eventually a light yellowish green with pink stripes. The pitcher mouth is oval about 35-40 mm. The neck and lid are red and shaped like an olive leaf. The stem and leaf are initially bright green, but patches of maroon appear when older. The tendril is compact.

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Figure 1: Seed parent is a green Thai clone of *Nepenthes ampullaria* (left); *Nepenthes* 'Red Velvet Aurea' pitcher (center) and plant (right).

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Quite some time ago I kindly received a plant of *Nepenthes orbiculata*? × *ampullaria* 'Black Miracle' from Mr. Alejandro Faus Payá (Bellreguard, Spain), who grew a big number of stunning hybrids of lowland tropical pitcher plants from a batch of seeds he got from Thailand. The specimen I received showed immediately some very interesting characteristics that drove me to the decision of describing the plant as a new cultivar.

The whole plant of *Nepenthes* 'Khi Seechumpu' is covered in a fine, velvet-like indumentum, whereas the leaves have an attractive deep red colouration abundantly blotched with maroon spots (Fig. 2). The tendril is long and thin, ending in an extremely rounded, egg-shaped pitcher from orbicular (lowers) to slightly ovate (uppers), rarely exceeding 8 cm in length. The whole trap is delightfully coloured in a deep maroon, consistent even on the wings, while the peristome is variably striped with shades of an intense burgundy. The lid is small, vertical; and is covered with faint blotches of green in a specular fashion to that found of the lamina. It appears to be a very fast and easy grower, provided that bright light, high humidity, and temperatures above 20°C are maintained.

It should be noted that while we can be sure about the male parent (*N. ampullaria* 'Black Miracle'), the female parent's real identity remains unknown. "Viking" is an unestablished name profusely given in Thailand to both *N. mirabilis* var. *globosa* and *N. orbiculata* and to their hybrids. I do suspect though that the latter is involved, considering the homogeneous roundness of the traps.

The name refers to a kind of Thai food called "ไข่ส้มพู" (usually transliterated as "khì sīchmphū") literally "red (or pink) eggs", referring to the colour and shape of the pitchers. In order to make it easier to read, I adapted it as *N. 'Khi Seechumpu'*, which should be pronounced in English (using IPA phonetic notation) as /karˌsiːtʃəmˈpuː/.

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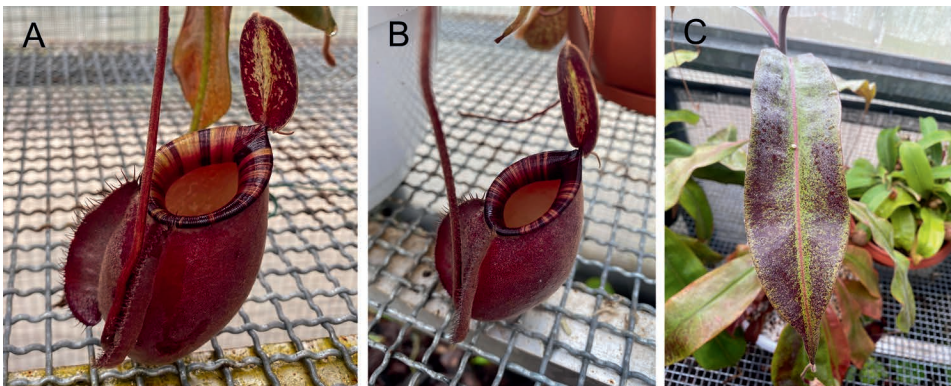


Figure 2: *Nepenthes* 'Khi Seechumpu' (A) lower pitcher, (B) upper pitcher, (C) leaf.

## *Utricularia* ‘Devil Spawn’

Submitted: 11 May 2021

*Utricularia* ‘Devil Spawn’ (Fig. 3) is a small floriferous form of *U. bisquamata*. *Utricularia* ‘Devil Spawn’ is cultivated worldwide and is possibly the most frustrating plant in cultivation due to its ability to spread aggressively through a plant collection, hence the name coined in January 2019! It entered cultivation as *U. capensis* in the early to mid-1900s and was known as such until Taylor (1989) clarified the taxonomy on the species, including it as a synonym of the variable *U. bisquamata*. The plant spreads via threadlike subterranean rhizomes. Flower scapes are small, 1.5-2.5 cm with 1-5 small tricoloured flowers produced predominantly in late spring but flowers can often be seen year-round. The distinctive lilac, mauve, and yellow flowers create an impressive display despite their diminutive size. It is best cultivated in a peat-based mix that is kept damp to saturated year-round. *Utricularia* ‘Devil Spawn’ should be cultivated with caution and growers should consider proximity to natural wetland systems to avoid unwanted escape. Local biosecurity lists should be consulted prior to obtaining this cultivar.

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Figure 3: *Utricularia* ‘Devil Spawn’.

*Utricularia* 'King Ghidorah'

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*Utricularia* 'King Ghidorah' is the result of a F2 hybrid between *U. reniformis* and *U. nelumbifolia* and selected from a large number of seedlings. It is unique in that it consistently produces flowers with three purple-edged yellow and orange central stripes at the base of the swollen lower lip and a dark purple patch in the center of the upper lip (Fig. 4). Plant is typically 10-30 cm with large reniform leaves. Flower scapes to 50 cm tall are produced from late spring to autumn with 5-12 flowers to 4 cm across. Plants spread via advantageous stolons somewhat intermediate between the two parent species in that they are neither subterranean nor rise well above the plant. Instead, the stolons rise a little above the plant before descending into the media below. This trait makes *U.* 'King Ghidorah' amenable to cultivation in pot culture as well as low growing water filled bromeliads. The name *U.* 'King Ghidorah' coined in December 2018 honours the great mythical three-headed monster that first came to earth in 1964 and has been a popular rival of Godzilla ever since.

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Figure 4: *Utricularia* 'King Ghidorah'.

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*Sarracenia* 'Bled Velvet' is a selected seedling from the collection of Greg Bourke. It is a cross between *Sarracenia flava* from Wewahitchka area, Gulf County, Florida, USA and *S. leucophylla*. This plant exhibits fairly typical morphology for the hybrid, but it produces strikingly intense red colouration and prominent ruffling of the lid margin (Fig. 5). New pitchers are pink in colouration, transitioning to green about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the way down the pitcher tube. Pronounced green trending to burgundy venation is prominent in the upper parts. The pitcher tube and venation ages to a deep red to almost black but the upper surface of the lid tends to lighten over time.

The name *Sarracenia* 'Bled Velvet' reflects the plant's colouration and prominent venation and was coined in May 2020 by Jimmy Turner following a discussion on social media over the plant's cultivar potential. Plants must be propagated by division.

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Figure 5: *Sarracenia* 'Bled Velvet' pitchers.



*Sarracenia* 'Pink Eye'

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*Sarracenia* 'Pink Eye' (Fig. 6) is a select form of the natural hybrid *Sarracenia* × *excellens*. It was grown and sold by Australian carnivorous plant enthusiast, Phillipe Reyter throughout the late 1900's and is now relatively common in cultivation in Australia. The plant is a particularly striking clone of the hybrid in that it produces light pink pitchers with white to pale pink fenestrations on the upper rear of the pitcher body and lid. The pitchers age to dark pink/burgundy over time and the fenestrations age to dark pink, hence the name 'Pink Eye' was coined in February 2020. Plants must be propagated by division.

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Figure 6: *Sarracenia* 'Pink Eye' pitchers.



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