

*DROSERA FILIFORMIS* RAF. VAR. *FLORIDANA* RICE  
FORMA *ALBIFLORA* J.KSEPKA F. NOV

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Abstract: *Drosera filiformis* Raf. var. *floridana* Rice f. *albiflora* J.Ksepka, a white-flowered variant of *Drosera filiformis* with increased anthocyanin from Florida, USA, is described.

DIAGNOSIS: All parts of the plant except the corolla, stamens and pistil are red with more red coloration than the typical form. The corolla is pure white. Stamens and pistil are not different from typical form. Dormant hibernacula are also much redder than in the typical form.

TYPE: Washington County, Florida USA, 21 July 2012, J. Ksepka, Catalog #: PH00767928 deposited in Academy of Natural Sciences Herbarium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (PH, holotype).

On 21 July 2012, I discovered a different form of *Drosera* in Washington County, Florida. This area has been widely known as the home of the “all-red” or “Florida red” form of *Drosera filiformis*. This is now known as *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* (Rice *et al.* 2017). These plants are noted for their generally smaller, finer characteristics, combined with the much greater amount of anthocyanin pigments in all vegetative parts as well as growing in a very specific habitat in an extremely small range. Often growing out of pure white quartz sand, they really stand out in a crowd.

While meeting Jim Bockowski in the field on that day, I discovered a single plant growing among many that appeared typical for *D. filiformis* var. *floridana*, except that it had pure white flowers (Fig. 1). Upon closer inspection it also appeared to have more red coloration than the typical form already known to be very red. Now that I have been growing *Drosera* for a while, I have gotten into the habit of carrying glass vials to collect leaf samples for propagation. I picked a few leaves, packed them up in clean water and into my camera bag they went.

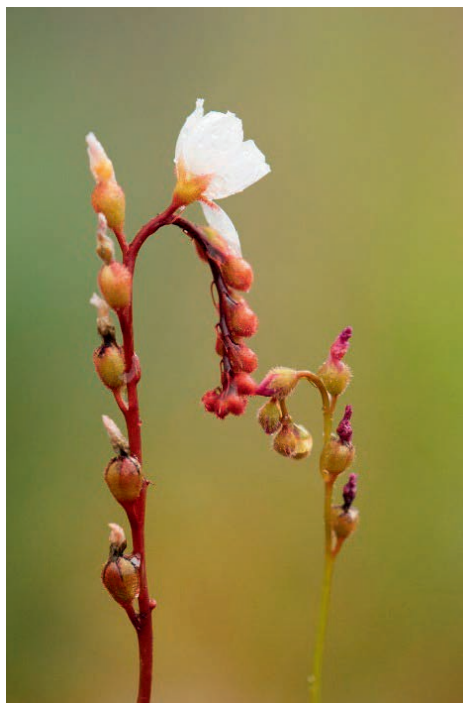


Figure 1: Comparison of flowering scapes of *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* f. *albiflora* (left) and *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* typical (right) grown in cultivation. Size is not relevant here. Note the much darker red coloration of the stem and sepals of the inflorescence of the plant on the left.



Figure 2: (A) *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* f. *albiflora* as found in the wild on 21 July 2012 in Washington County, Florida. (B) *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* typical as found growing adjacent to *D. filiformis* var. *floridana* f. *albiflora* at time of discovery.



Figure 3: (A) *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* f. *albiflora* emerging from dormancy in cultivation. Note the much higher levels of anthocyanins in the young foliage. (B) *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* typical form emerging from dormancy in cultivation. This plant is from wild material growing in the same substrate in a pot adjacent to the cultivated *D. filiformis* var. *floridana* f. *albiflora*. Note the much lower anthocyanin content of the young foliage compared to (A). This is typical of the *D. filiformis* var. *floridana* that I have observed in cultivation, and at multiple locations in the wild.

Upon growing them for several years, I was able to look more closely at this plant throughout the seasons. I was also able to reproduce this form from seed and the white flower color is stable, as is the extra red coloration. Figure 2 compares the original *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* f. *albiflora* with its typical neighbors in the wild. Figure 3 compares one of the cuttings from the wild plant, grown in a 10 cm pot adjacent to a cutting from a typical plant. Figure 3 was taken in the early spring as dormancy was breaking. These plants were both clones of wild plants, taken at the same time and place. They were grown in cultivation under the same soil, light, and moisture conditions.

I have named this form *Drosera filiformis* var. *floridana* f. *albiflora* to describe the most significant trait, the pure white flower. So far, these plants have reliably exhibited the extra anthocyanin as well, but I do not fully understand this trait and how/if it is related to the white flower. Further study will be needed under more carefully controlled conditions to understand what if any relationship these two traits may have.

### Reference

Rice, B., Robinson, A., and Fleischmann, A. 2017. *Drosera* of North America. Page 998, in: Lowrie, A., Robinson, A., Nunn, R., Rice, B., Bourke, G., McPherson, S., Gibson, R., and Fleischmann, A. *Drosera* of the World. Vol. 2: Oceania, Asia, Europe, North America. Redfern Natural History Productions, Poole.

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