Keywords: cultivar, *Cephalotus follicularis* 'Thumbelina', *Drosera* 'Red Starburst', *Nepenthes* 'Chonk'
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Abstract: Three new carnivorous plant cultivars are named and described: *Cephalotus follicularis* 'Thumbelina', *Drosera* 'Red Starburst', and *Nepenthes* 'Chonk'.

Cephalotus follicularis 'Thumbelina'

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During the winter of 2019, I purchased with great anticipation several location *Cephalotus follicularis* plants from the late CP Australian nurseryman, Allen Lowrie. Though he normally sold *Cephalotus* in sets of four plants per location, he'd kindly agreed to send a plant from four different locations for the same price. Topping this generosity, he included an unusual bonus clone from Northcliffe, WA that produced tiny adult pitchers the likes of which I'd never seen in my 25+ years growing *Cephalotus*.

The most striking features of this clone are its tiny pitchers and small overall size. Individual plants can average up to 3.5 cm in diameter (Fig. 1A) with pitchers 2.0 cm in height and 1.0 cm wide (Fig. 1B). Non-carnivorous leaves are also proportionally tiny. In addition, plants develop a darker coloration than most of my other *Cephalotus* clones under led lamps, particularly the interior lid and peristome, which can turn completely black. Having cultivated this clone for over 5 years, I have observed that these features are stable and uniform at all stages of growth. Mature plants derived from leaf pullings or rhizome divisions have also retained these unique features. Pitchers and the overall size of *C*. 'Thumbelina' are consistently much smaller than other small-pitchering clones in my collection, such as *C*. 'Squat' (Fig. 2). To my knowledge, it is the smallest *Cephalotus* clone in cultivation. Its diminutive stature and intense coloration may have developed as an adaptive response to the harsh, open, pure sand growing conditions of its native Northcliffe habitat (Nunn 2014).

Cephalotus 'Thumbelina' was coined from the Hans Christian Andersen fairytale about a tiny, beautiful maiden and her improbable journey of courage and survival through nature. As she was barely half as long as a thumb and slept in a walnut-shell cradle, they called her "Thumbelina". It is a fitting name for this diminutive yet colorful *Cephalotus* with the evolutionary spunk to survive in the harsh, nutrient poor sands of its native Western Australian wetlands.

To keep the cultivar's characteristics, *Cephalotus* 'Thumbelina' must be propagated by vegetative means only.

Reference

Nunn, R. 2014. *Cephalotus follicularis* cultivars and forms in cultivation – is there a basis for the current naming protocols? Carniv. Pl. Newslett. 43(1): 14-18. https://doi.org/10.55360/cpn431.rn450

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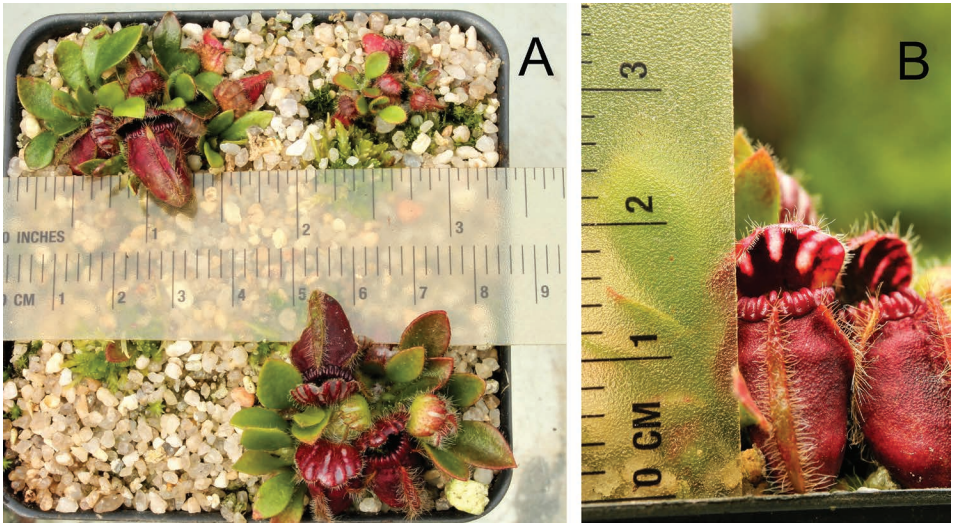

Figure 1: *Cephalotus follicularis* 'Thumbelina' (A) overall size and appearance; (B) pitcher size.

Figure 2: Size comparison between *Cephalotus* 'Squat' (left) and *C.* 'Thumbelina' (right).

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Drosera 'Red Starburst' is a horticulturally produced cultivar germinated in November of 2022 between *Drosera* aff. *lanata* (Flying Fox Creek) × *petiolaris*. Out of 46 plants produced from the cross, this phenotype carries the characteristics of both parent plants in equal proportion while growing more vigorously and larger than the parents. At maturity the rosette is around 12 cm across. Notably, it has much less dense dendritic hairs than *Drosera* aff. *lanata* while retaining the deep red pad coloration that has a lime green interior near the rosette at maturity. The pads are larger than both the parent plants and hold more mucilage than either parent.

This phenotype also grows more similar to *Drosera petiolaris* as it holds foliage upright above the ground instead of lying flat like *Drosera* aff. *lanata*. After 3 months of propagation via leaf pullings the resulting clones darken from light green to a deep red, similar to the wrappers of red Starburst candy which is the namesake. At maturity this phenotype retains the neon green coloration near the rosette seen in *Drosera* aff. *lanata* that shifts to the dark red towards the pads. This is in steep contrast to all the other plants I've observed in my conditions that either retain the green leaves of *Drosera petiolaris* or the dense dendritic hairs of *Drosera* aff. *lanata*.

This particular cultivar is also notable for being the fastest cloning woolly sundews (*Drosera* section *Lasiocephala*) from leaf pullings in my conditions, often striking within 3-4 weeks of pulling as opposed to the 10-18 weeks I've observed in other woolly sundew species and hybrids. Clones of this plant take around 8-12 months to reach maturity and continue to grow in size. Figure 3 shows the plant at maturity, clones at 3 months of age, and clones at 6 months of age demonstrate the rapid shifts in coloration as the plant ages. Notably the clones start with a coloration similar to *Drosera petiolaris* of a dark green, shifting over a few months to the red of *Drosera* aff. *lanata*, then finally at maturity a gradient of lime green to red from the rosette towards the pads.

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Figure 3: *Drosera* 'Red Starburst': (A) mature sized, (B) clones at 3 months of age, (C) clones at 6 months of age.

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Nepenthes ‘Chonk’ is a hybrid of *Nepenthes* (*ventricosa* × *sibuyanensis*) × *Nepenthes sanguinea* that was bred by Exotica Plants in Queensland, Australia, and acquired as a seed grown individual in November 2020. *Nepenthes* ‘Chonk’ is particularly distinctive by the large overall size of the traps, distinctive narrowing in the center of the wings, and compression of the pitcher body expressed in upper pitchers.

The traps of *Nepenthes* ‘Chonk’ maintain consistent coloration between upper and lower pitchers and the shade does not significantly shift throughout the life of the trap. The body of the pitcher has muted greens and yellows so pale as to appear almost white. The peristome is a vivid red with a moderate degree of scalloping on the outer perimeter. The traps have distinctive wings that are narrowest at the midpoint and wider at the operculum and base of the trap. The shape of the body of the traps and the change in shape between lower and upper pitchers are additional distinctive features. Lower traps (Fig. 4) possess a cylindrical shape in cross section when compared to the upper traps. Upper traps exhibit a distinct flattening (Fig. 5) resulting in a reduced depth to the body of the trap. This feature produces upper traps that appear almost rectangular which served as the inspiration for the name Chonk. Lower traps rarely exceed 10.2 cm in height before transitioning to upper pitchers. Upper traps regularly attain heights of 26.7 cm with a peristome opening of 11.5 cm although larger sizes are expected as this plant matures.

The name “Chonk” was selected for its slang meaning of a large or solid object often used to refer to abnormally large or fat animals

To maintain its unique features, *Nepenthes* ‘Chonk’ must be reproduced vegetatively only.

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Figure 4: *Nepenthes* ‘Chonk’ lower pitchers.

Figure 5: *Nepenthes* 'Chonk' upper pitchers.