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# Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY<sup>INC.</sup>

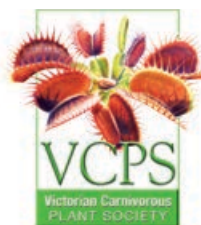
SEPTEMBER 2020

VCPS Newsletter No. 11



*Nepenthes diabolica* on





# Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

Newsletter No. 11

September 2020

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## MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2020 VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

This year we have scheduled the following discussion topics, and events:

<b>January</b>	<b>(25th)</b>	New Year BBQ at Ron Abernethy's House 12.30pm <i>Dionaea muscipula</i> (VFT). (Contact for details)
<b>February</b>	<b>(27th)</b>	<i>Darlingtonia</i> , <i>Nepenthes</i> and <i>Heliamphora</i> .
<b>March</b>	<b>(27th)</b>	<i>Sarracenia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> (VFT), beginners info
<b>April</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	<i>Drosera</i> , video and information night.
<b>May</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy <i>Drosera gemmae</i> swap
<b>June</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
<b>July</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	Rosetted tuberous <i>Drosera</i> judging, Propagation – seed growing, tissue culture, division and cuttings. Potting demonstration.
<b>August</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	Upright tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
<b>September</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
<b>October</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	<i>Byblis</i> , pygmy <i>Drosera</i> , <i>Drosera binata</i> , <i>Drosophyllum</i> , <i>Genlisea</i> , <i>Pinguicula</i> , <i>Roridula</i> , <i>Utricularia</i> .
<b>November</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	<b>Triffid Park Open Day (10am-4pm)</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>(TBA)</b>	<b>VCPS Annual show</b> at Collectors Corner.

**Please note: All meetings, other than those where a specific venue is given, will be on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the month in the hall of the Pilgrim Uniting Church in Yarraville – corner Bayview Road and Montague Street, Melway Map Reference 41K7.**



# Contents



Dark purple and pink variant flowers of *U. beagleholei* ssp. *orientalis* found on Mount Buffalo, Victoria in 2016. Photographed by Stephen Fretwell

## VCPS Growers photos

If you'd like to publish a photo that you took of your plant in the VCPS journal. Please email it to Stephen Fretwell the VCPS editor at: [stevfretwell24@gmail.com](mailto:stevfretwell24@gmail.com)

## VCPS News

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## Seed Bank

We now have a huge collection of NEW fresh CP seed available, and our seed list has become quite extensive.

With over 250 varieties of CP's, we are now providing the list in PDF format on our website, [www.vcps.org](http://www.vcps.org)

For inquiries or to order seeds, please contact the VCPS Seedbank Officer.

The articles that are found within are copyright but can be copied freely if the author and source are acknowledged. The views are of the authors and are open to review and debate. Please send all material to the editor for consideration to be included in our quarterly journal.



### FRONT COVER:

*Nepenthes diabolica*, Sulawesi. Photo: Andrea Bianchi

### BACK COVER:

#### Clockwise from top left:

- *Nepenthes diabolica*, Sulawesi. Photo: Andrea Bianchi
- *Nepenthes diabolica*, Sulawesi. Photo: Andrea Bianchi
- *Nepenthes diabolica*, Sulawesi. Photo: Andrea Bianchi
- *Drosera gracilis*, Mt Buffalo, Victoria. Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red", Mt Buffalo, Victoria. Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red", Mt Buffalo, Victoria. Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *U. beagleholei* ssp. *orientalis*, Mt Buffalo, Victoria. Photo: Stephen Fretwell
- *U. beagleholei* ssp. *orientalis*, Mt Buffalo, Victoria. (centre) Photo: Stephen Fretwell

Design: Stephen Fretwell

# VCPS News

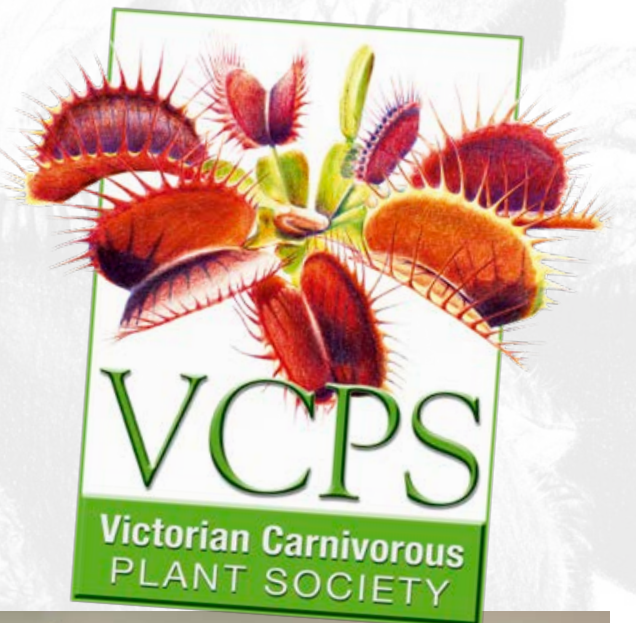
## Free VCPS memberships for 2020

Thanks to the COVID-19 virus, this year has been extremely disappointing in so many ways. Including the VCPS not being allowed to hold any meetings or events in 2020 after February, due to the gathering limitations and the temporary closing of the meeting venue.

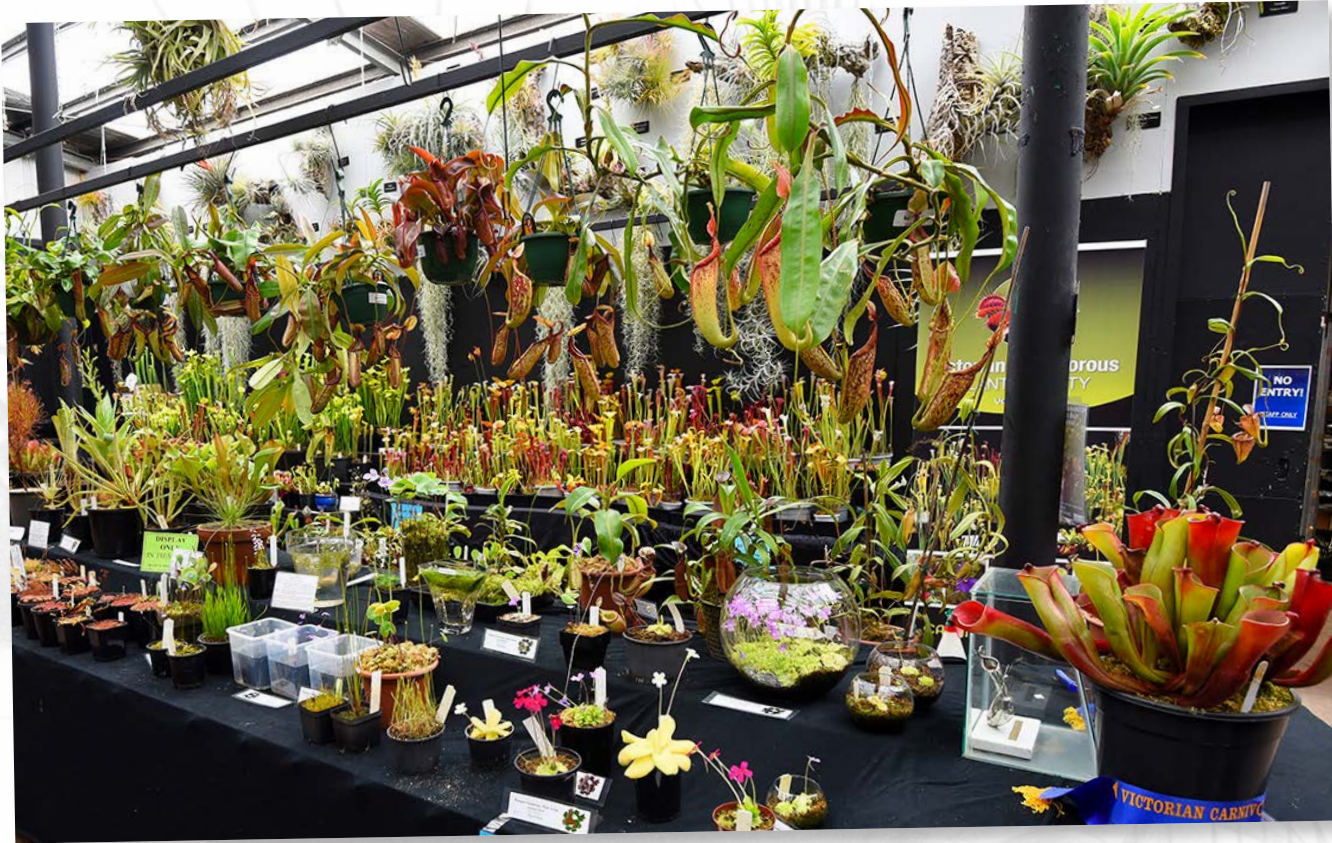
However, the VCPS would like to help its members to improve their year by giving all of its current members a free subscription year so that their fees won't be due until June 2021!

For those members who have paid their subscription fees in 2020, an extra year will be added onto their current membership subscription.

For any queries please contact the VCPS Membership secretary Peter Bloem at: [pbloem@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pbloem@bigpond.net.au)







## Postponed VCPS annual Show Moved to February 2021

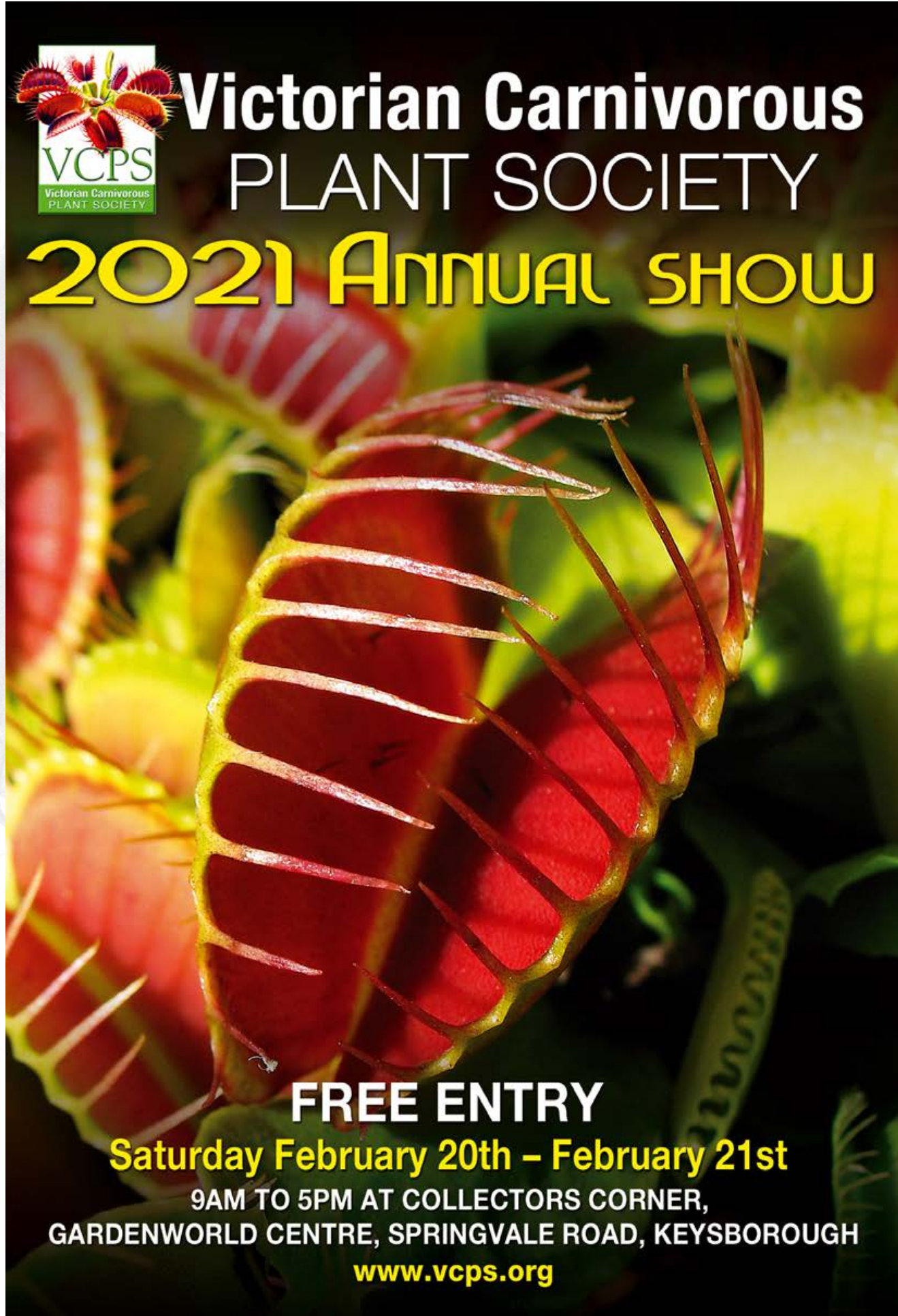
Due to COVID-19 the VCPS annual show was postponed from its usual December schedule by the VCPS and Collectors Corner to ensure the safety of all visitors. The good news is that a new date has been set for the **20th-21st** of February in 2021.

As the show is coming up soon if you plan on showing and/or selling plants, it would be best to start preparing now.

The Feb 2021 VCPS show will be held at the location, Collectors Corner, Gardenworld which is always fantastic to visit. Entry is free for all and it's surely going to be another brilliant show full of rare and spectacular species to see and buy.

**When:** Starts **Saturday, February 20th at 9am** and ends on **Sunday, February 21st at 5pm**.

It's one of the biggest events on the calendar for the society and is a great opportunity for members to meet and greet other collectors, and see and purchase some amazing plants.



**Victorian Carnivorous  
PLANT SOCIETY  
2021 Annual Show**

**FREE ENTRY**  
**Saturday February 20th – February 21st**  
9AM TO 5PM AT COLLECTORS CORNER,  
GARDENWORLD CENTRE, SPRINGVALE ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH  
[www.vcps.org](http://www.vcps.org)



## “Red Hairy Hamata” named at last

Recently described *Nepenthes diabolica* or commonly known as “Red Hairy Hamata” has finally been official named after 16 years! Photographer and explorer Chien Lee discovered this species back in 2004 on a remote mountain in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. Similar to its sister species *Nepenthes hamata*, *Nepenthes diabolica* is a summit-growing species, favouring mossy montane forest at elevations above 2200m in shaded positions. It has mainly been found as a low growing epiphyte, though terrestrial and truly epiphytic plants have been sighted.

The name of *Nepenthes diabolica* refers to its devilish and remarkable looking toothed peristome, as well as its red hairy pitchers.

As *Nepenthes diabolica* is still only known from the one peak, it has been placed on the Critically Endangered list. While habitat loss is unlikely to occur, its small population is seriously threatened by local poachers. It has been estimated that their illegal poaching activities have taken half of the plants original population to supply domestic and foreign horticultural demand.

And while this plant still remains quite rare in cultivation, thankfully it is being propagated by tissue culture in the UK by specialist nurseries.



Photo: Andrea Bianchi



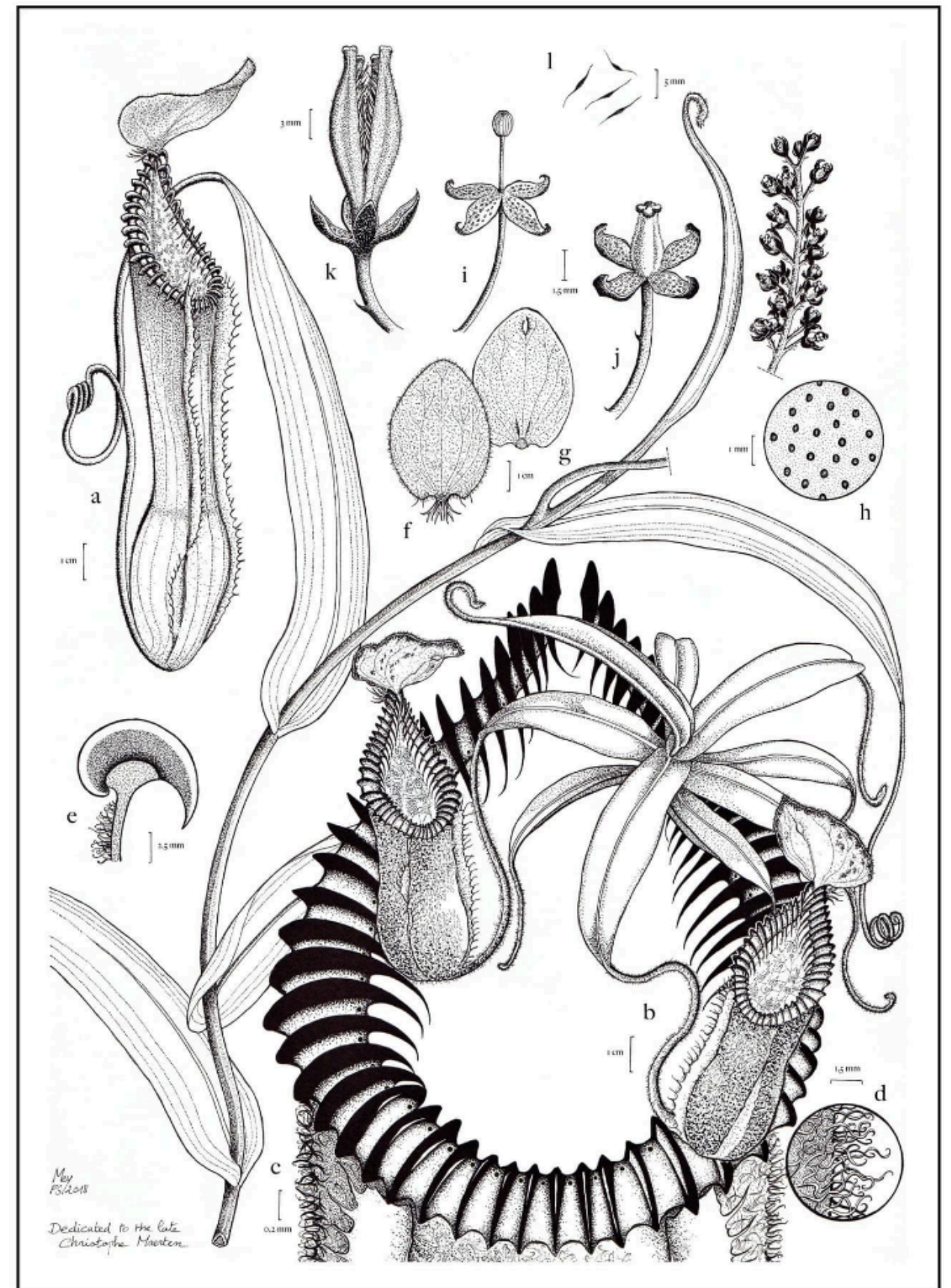
Photo: Andrea Bianchi



Photo: Andrea Bianchi



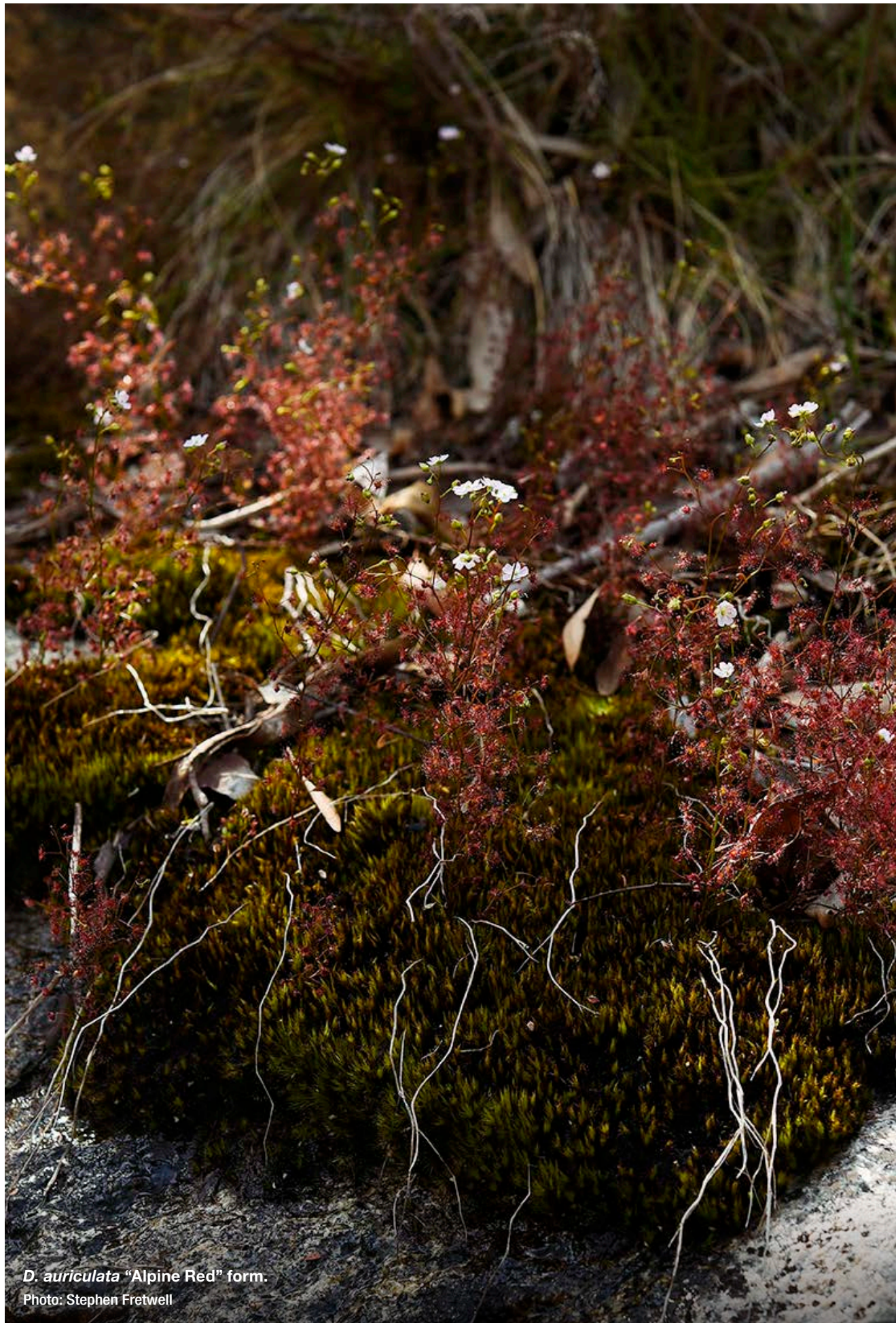
Photo: Andrea Bianchi



***Nepenthes diabolica*** A.Bianchi, Chi.C.Lee, Golos, Mey, M.Mansur & A.S.Rob.

a) climbing stem with upper pitcher and female inflorescence; b) offshoot with lower pitchers; c) pitcher mouth of lower pitcher; d) detail of indumentum of lower pitcher; e) section of peristome of lower pitcher; f) upper surface of lower pitcher lid; g) lower surface of lower pitcher lid; h) detail of lower pitcher lid glands; i) male flower; j) female flower; k) dehiscent seed capsule; l) seeds. Illustration by F.S.Mey.





*D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" form.  
Photo: Stephen Fretwell



*D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" growing in thick moss on large boulders.

Photos: Stephen Fretwell

## Alpine red *Drosera auriculata*

STEPHEN FRETWELL

Last summer my friend Sean and I decided to try and track down and photograph a red alpine form of *Drosera auriculata* (*D. auriculata* "Alpine Red") that grows on Mount Buffalo. We'd received some rough information that the plants grow near Lake Catani on the mountain about 10 years ago, and had checked this out in early February 2016. But the moss and the ground was already bone dry and all that was left of the plants were black dried out stems as they'd started dying back to their tubers for their late summer/autumn/winter dormancy.

It is unusual for tuberous *Drosera* to be dormant in winter, as that's normally when they grow through to spring. But as this red form grows on a mountain at 1,300m altitude they're normally covered in snow in winter and can't start growing until it's melted in spring.

This time however, we decided to go in late December which would still hopefully coincide with the recently described *Utricularia*

*beaugleholei* ssp. *orientalis* (previously thought to be *Utricularia dichotoma*) starting to flower. Last time in February 2016 we saw *U. beaugleholei* ssp. *orientalis* at their prime flowering en masse, which was a stunning site.

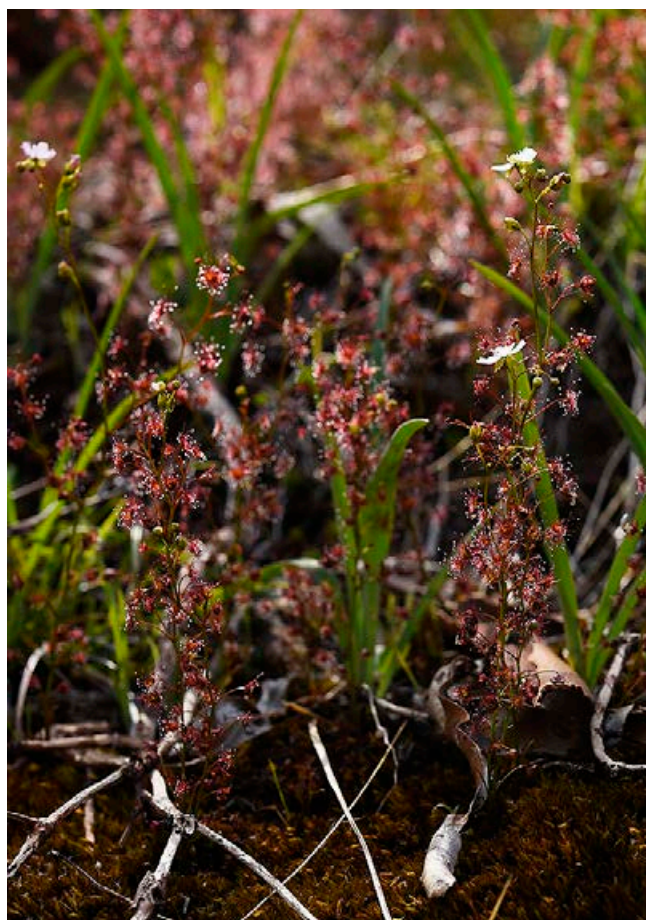
For this trip we started the day quite early at around 5.30am to make the 4.5 hour drive to the top of Mount Buffalo. Thankfully there was little traffic on the way and after making a couple of food stops, we arrived at Lake Catani in pretty good time. From the car park we walked along a walking trail until we reached the location where we'd seen the *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" last time. Thankfully the majority of plants were fully mature and were looking at their best, with a large number of them also in flower.

We then decided to keep following the trail until the numbers thinned out of the *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red", so that we could roughly see how big the area was where they grew and also to get an indication of how many plants there were at this location. Unsurprisingly when we reached an area along the trail where the bush became





The rocky habitat where the *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" were found growing.



*D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" sparkling in the sunlight.



Multiple plants of *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" in flower.



A *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" plant living in thick moss and growing out from the side of a boulder.

a lot thicker and there was more filtered light from the overhead trees, we found that no *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" plants grew there and that they favoured full sunlight to brightly lit positions, especially on the embankments where thick moss pads grew on rocks and ledges where water seeped over and also any damp areas up high or on the ground.

The *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" plants on Mount Buffalo were 20-25cm tall, had red tentacles with red glands, red to slightly green leaves, red stems on the lower section and sometimes green on the upper half which most likely would turn red as those parts of the plant age and pale pink flowers. This form also closely resembles the red form of *D. auriculata* that grows at high altitudes at the Grampians, which possibly indicates that they both have evolved to survive cold harsh conditions with high UV/bright light that they experience during their growing period. The red colouration is possibly caused from the stress of these environmental conditions on the plant which is trying to protect itself from the intense light.

Also found growing on the ground amongst the *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" in a few spots to our surprise were some *Drosera gracilis* plants.

On our trip back in 2016, we managed to find them at another location on Mount Buffalo, but as it was already dry at Lake Catani they'd already gone dormant and couldn't be seen.

At a first glance the *D. gracilis* plants looked quite similar to the *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" plants, as they too had red tentacles with red glands on red leaves, but the main growing stem was slightly thinner and greener. And the plants were also smaller in size averaging 15-20cm.

We also managed to find quite a few mature plants which they had developed flower buds that have furry/hairy sepals, which is the easiest way to distinguish this species from any *D. auriculata* which have smooth sepals. As it was a warm sunny day we also saw some *D. gracilis* plants in flower. Their flowers however are white and only 7-8mm in diameter, which is smaller than the *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" flowers which were 10-11mm.

After photographing the 2 *Drosera* species we then got back into the car and drove to the location where the *Utricularia beaugleholei* ssp. *orientalis* grows. The first spot that we stopped at we'd never seen them there before, but the habitat looked suitable so we decided to check it out. Before too long we found several flower scapes emerging out of the ground where the water had receded. Unfortunately we couldn't find any open flowers, just developing buds so we got back into the car and drove around to the main location where we'd seen them previously and hoped that we'd have more luck. The water line was still quite high at the main location, so we started our search in the areas where the water had receded and soon found more developing *U. beaugleholei* ssp. *orientalis* flower buds. Then to our delight Sean



*D. gracilis* plants starting to grow upright.



Close up of a *D. auriculata* "Alpine Red" flower.



Close up of a *D. gracilis* flower.



*D. gracilis* growing alongside the trail.





The man made Lake Catani on top of Mt Buffalo.



Some of the vegetative habitat on top of Mt Buffalo.



A typical wide palette flower of *U. beaugleholei ssp. orientalis*.



A narrow palette form of *U. beaugleholei ssp. orientalis*.



A side view of the flower of *U. beaugleholei ssp. orientalis*.

spotted an open flower, then another, and before we knew it, we'd found over a dozen open flowers.

The flowers of *U. beaugleholei ssp. orientalis* at Mount Buffalo are quite distinct from the type form of *U. dichtoma* and usually have a very broad dark purple palette. In 2016 when we saw hundreds of flowers at this same location, with quite a bit of variation in colour, which ranged from dark purple, pink-purple, and pale purple. And we also saw some variation in the palette shape too. This time however as there was only a small amount of open flowers, we only saw dark purple flowers and no colour variants. But we did find some variation in the shape of the palettes, with some flowers quite narrow at around 10mm wide, compared to normal flowers which have palettes that were 18-20mm wide and look quite striking.

After successfully seeing our 3rd carnivorous plant we then headed off to explore another small lake on the other side of the plateau of Mt Buffalo. We'd never explored around that area before and were hopeful that we'd find more carnivorous plants around it, and with some luck hopefully some *Drosera arcturi* which we hadn't been able to located on Mount Buffalo before.

Driving towards the small lake we passed several ponds and quite a few seeps which looked very suitable for *D. arcturi*, but decided to have a look on the way back if we had time. Once we'd reached the small

lake, there was a short walk to the dam wall which we followed, but no easy way to walk along the edges the water without getting wet feet. There was a hiking track that goes up and around the dam, but as it was getting pretty hot and the habitat didn't quite look right we decided to head back and check out the ponds and seeps that we saw on the way there. Once we'd reached the area with the ponds and seeps we jumped out to have a look, but to our disappointment even though it looked like a suitable habitat for *D. arcturi* and possibly *Utricularia*, we didn't find anything.

After a good few hours on Mount Buffalo we then decided to head back home as there was a couple of other new locations where *Utricularia* had been recorded from that we wanted to check out. But unfortunately even though the areas we visited were still damp in a few spots, they were too overgrown with weeds and again we were left disappointed.

The trickiest aspect when searching for CP's in the wild is, if you don't explore new sites you'll possibly never see any thing new or experience the satisfaction of finding some amazing plants. And an important point to remember is that even though we didn't find anything at a few different locations, we were still extremely happy to have found the 3 species that we were aiming to see that day and anything else was always going to be a bonus.



*U. beaugleholei ssp. orientalis* growing in receding waters of a shallow swamp on Mount Buffalo.



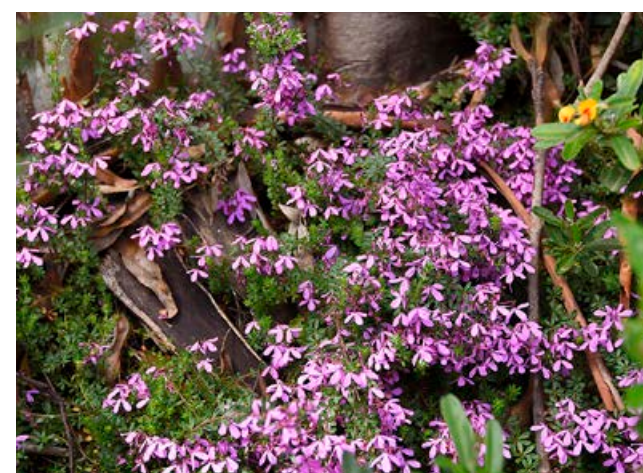
*U. beaugleholei ssp. orientalis*.



The 2nd small dam site.



A small pond near the 2nd dam.



Heath pink-bells (*Tetratheca bauerifolia*).



Slender rice-flower (*Pimelea linifolia*).



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\*Tuberous *Drosera* sold when dormant Nov-late March.

\*Pygmy *Drosera* sold as gemmae (vegetive buds) over 3 months. May-June.

**Allen Lowrie, 6 Glenn Place Duncraig, 6023. Western Australia**

Phone: 08 9447 7426 + 61 8 9447 7426 (Overseas) + 61 8 9447 7426 (Overseas)

**Email: [allen.lowrie@bigpond.com](mailto:allen.lowrie@bigpond.com)**

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- Overseas membership \$28.00**
- Electronic membership \$18.00**
- Mail & Electronic Membership \$30.00**

All cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society Inc (VCPS). Payment can be made by Cheque, Money Orders, Direct deposit and Paypal. Payment from overseas must be in Australian dollars. (Payment by Credit card is also available for international members only.) Please visit [vcps.org](http://vcps.org) for further details

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Please forward all correspondence regarding subscription, change of address, articles for the journal and back issues to:

**The Secretary VCPS**  
**1 Pollard Place,**  
**Sunbury, Victoria 3429.**  
**AUSTRALIA**

Journal articles, in MS-Word, ready for publication, may be Emailed to the Editor or Secretary.

## Meetings

Most VCPS meetings are held in the hall at the rear of the Pilgrim Uniting Church on the corner of Bayview Road and Montague Street, Yarraville – Melway map reference 41K7. These meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM.

However, some meetings may be at the home of members during a weekend. Details of meeting dates and topics are listed in each journal.

If unsure of the location or date of any meeting, please ring a committee person for details.

The VCPS Annual General Meeting, usually held at Yarraville in June, provides substantial benefits for each and every member able to attend.





*Nepenthes diabolica*



*Nepenthes diabolica*



*Nepenthes diabolica*



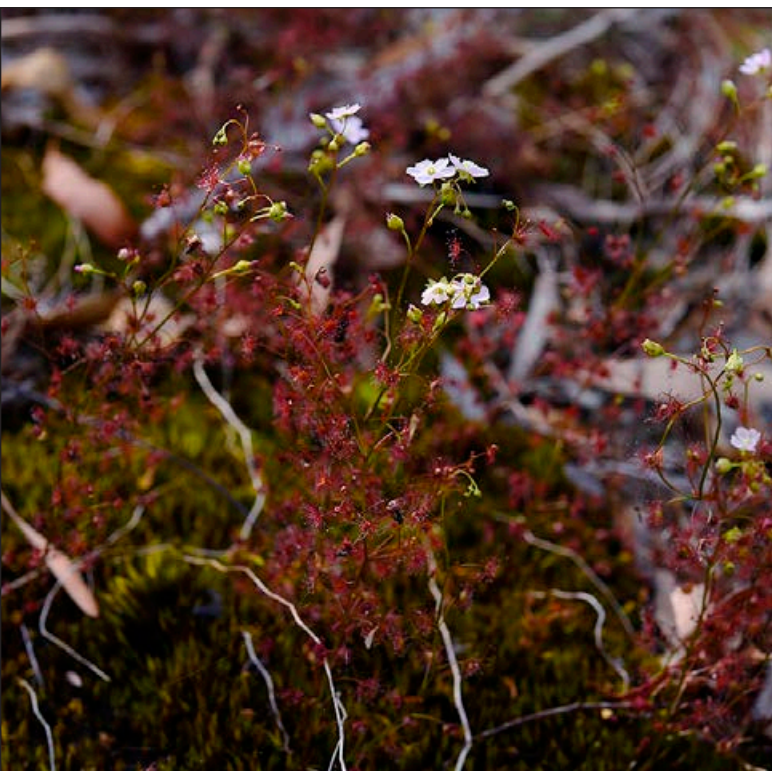
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*U. beagleholei ssp. orientalis*



*Drosera gracilis*



*D. auriculata* "Alpine Red"



*D. auriculata* "Alpine Red"