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Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

March 2017

VCPS Newsletter No. 4



Drosera magnifica



Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

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MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2017 VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

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

January	(28th)	New Year BBQ at Ron Abernethy's House 12.30pm <i>Dionaea muscipula</i> (VFT). (Contact for details)
February	(22nd)	<i>Darlingtonia</i> , <i>Nepenthes</i> and <i>Heliophora</i> .
March	(22nd)	<i>Sarracenia</i> , <i>Dionaea</i> (VFT), beginners info
April	(26th)	<i>Drosera</i> , video and information night.
May	(24th)	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy <i>Drosera gemmae</i> swap
June	(28th)	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July	(26th)	Rosetted tuberous <i>Drosera</i> judging, Propagation – seed growing, tissue culture, division and cuttings. Potting demonstration.
August	(23rd)	Upright tuberous/Winter growing <i>Drosera</i> , show preparation, displays, and companion planting.
September	(27th)	<i>Cephalotus</i> , <i>Brocchinia</i> , <i>Catopsis</i> and swap night.
October	(25th)	<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> .
November	(TBA)	Triffid Park Open Day , any CP's.
December	(2-3rd)	VCPS Annual show 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



VCPS Growers photos

***Drosera praefolia* in flower. photographed by Stephen Fretwell.**

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

VCPS News

Drosera magnifica, In search of the largest new world sundew

Meetings highlights & Plants of the night!

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

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:

Drosera magnifica found growing on a hillside in Brazil.

Photo: Richard Whittering

BACK COVER:

Clockwise from top left:

- *Sarracenia leucophylla* "Red Form" at the VCPS 2017 January BBQ meeting.
- *Sarracenia flava* var. *rubricorpora* at the VCPS 2017 January BBQ meeting.
- *Sarracenia alata* var. *rubrioperculata* at the VCPS 2017 January BBQ meeting.
- *S. purpurea* ssp *venosa* var. *montana* at the March VCPS 2017 meeting.
- *Nepenthes aristolochioides* at the February VCPS 2017 meeting.
- *Drosera magnifica*
Photo: Richard Whittering
- *Darlingtonia californica* at the February VCPS 2017 meeting.
- *Heliophora ionasii* at the February VCPS 2017 meeting.

Design: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS News

3 NEW DROSERA OF THE WORLD BOOKS

After four years of intense research and development, the latest Redfern book titles are finally printed!

Drosera of the World is a 3-volume work that consists of 1,544 pages and features over 2,000 images.

For the very first time ever, these books cover all known taxa of the beautiful carnivorous plant genus *Drosera*.

Drosera include some of the most fascinating and beautiful of all plants. Such is their beauty, that Charles Darwin became obsessed with *Drosera*, and during a 15-year study, he wrote "I care more about *Drosera* than the origin of all the species in the world".

Of the 30 or more books that Redfern has published, these apparently were the most complex to complete. The Redfern team brought together nine leading authors from all corners of the planet, to make a combined effort to complete this uniquely detailed study. Many dozens of contributors also very kindly added text, images and data to make this work complete.

The printed books are on their way to the UK. Shipping from the printers will take about 4-6 weeks, so all pre-orders will be shipped out in June.

If you would like to pre-order copies, and be among the first people in the world to receive these books as soon as they arrive for distribution, please visit www.redfernnaturalhistory.com/books where you can pre-order them with a 15% discount!



VCPS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear VCPS members

You may be aware that memberships are now due on 1st July of each year.

To renew your membership to 1st July 2018, simply complete the form emailed, and return it with your cheque or money order made out to VCPS.

Or you can pay directly into our bank account.

Commonwealth Bank Account name VCPS. BSB 063583. Acc. 10038676.

Please include your name in the transaction details.

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Regards,
Peter Bloem, VCPS membership Secretary.
Email pbloem@bigpond.net.au
Ph. 03 9744 2265



The long stems of the *Drosera magnifica* species can form large mats of dried leaves.

Drosera magnifica,

In search of the largest new world sundew

RICHARD WHITTERING

The discovery of the largest New World sundew and publication of its finding in 2015 caught the attention of all carnivorous plant enthusiasts everywhere, myself included. With my recent work relocation to Santiago Chile in October 2015, I was anticipating to make the expedition in December that year during a long holiday weekend. Unfortunately, this didn't eventuate with my passport being stolen shortly after moving to Santiago preventing my travels at this time.

One year later, I was reminded of my failed attempt with the same long weekend when I wanted to visit the *Drosera magnifica* location and thought to myself, I could try and organise the same trip, only this time I had three weeks to coordinate everything. Fernando Rivadavia, a well-known carnivorous plant enthusiast and discoverer of many species in Brazil, including *D. magnifica*, made contact on my behalf with

Reginaldo Vasconcelos, the original person who posted the species on Facebook.

Reginaldo was excited that someone in the international community wanted to see his discovery in the wild and willingly coordinated my itinerary in the eastern Minas Gerais state, Southeast Brazil. Only Fernando and Paulo Gonella (the co-author of the *D. magnifica* species) had been to the *D. magnifica* site previously.

I contacted a local Chilean grower, Francisca Grainger Hurtado, who was excited to join me in search of the largest New World *Drosera* in its natural habitat.

I left the Santiago airport mid-morning on the Thursday 8th December and flew to San Paulo and from there into Bole Horizonte. In the rush to leave Chile, I left my hiking shoes at home, the taxi broke down on our way to the airport, and lost my phone in the airport but thankfully had it returned. So the adventure did not start as one would have hoped.

I spent the night in Bole Horizonte before we departed the airport in the afternoon for a planned short one hour flight to Governador Valadares; however, a large storm at the airport caused the plane to circle for 40 minutes before finally forcing the plane to land in Ipinga airport. We boarded a bus and drove the remaining 1.5 hours to Governador Valadares airport.

Reginaldo was waiting at the airport with his friend who drove us 1.5 hours to a little town called Conselheiro Pena. It was here that we met Ednilson, a local resident who lives at the base of the mountain. Another hour was spent on the back of motorbikes to reach Ednilson's house located near the base of Pico do Padre Ângelo. It was a long seven hours journey to reach our accommodation!

The tiresome long journey to reach the base of the mountain ended with dinner, a much needed shower, and a good night sleep.

Awaking early the next day keen to start our discovery, the three hour hike up the mountain with Reginaldo, was accompanied by Ednilson and Julio Cesar, Ednilson's son. The day was cloudy, with strong cold winds making the climb comfortable.

The trail to the summit was not apparent from the little cottage where we had spent the night. What we could see was ridge on the left side of the mountain and then sandstone rocks towards the middle of the mountain. But how would we make the final steep climb to the summit? I soon realized the how difficult the ascent would be to reach the summit.

Along the trail our group met with different terrain. Walking through undulating hills covered in invasive species of grasses, then past a eucalypt plantation on more level ground and dense fern forest that Ednilson had to machete a trail, before walking through shrubby vegetation which covered the base of the mountain.

Along the hike to the summit the view was totally breathtaking, overlooking the valley below and other nearby mountain peaks. Small shrubs, orchids and bromeliads were along the trail, with increasing sandstone rocks protruding from the earth as we neared the summit.

The group trekked up and down the side of the mountain for around two hours until we came to a stream running down the steep slope of the summit. To reach the summit, a man-made steel ladder was used to climb up to the last ledge, before reaching the flat summit covered with shrubby vegetation. Reginaldo lead the group through the center of the summit before he stopped to show us a small group of 10 individual *D. magnifica* plants which were in full flower. These plants were supported by the surrounding vegetation reaching a height of 30 to 40 centimetres.

Reginaldo quickly moved the group on ensuring we did not spend too much time in that particular location as the larger population of *D. magnifica* was only another 200 meters further. We continued walking across the summit to its south side where hundreds of plants were growing on a slope, amongst sandstone outcrops. The soil they were growing in was very dark in colour and appeared rich and compacted.



Drosera magnifica habitat consists of shrubby trees and sandstone outcrops. The storm is seen moving towards us in the background.



Single *Drosera magnifica* plants forming large clumps.



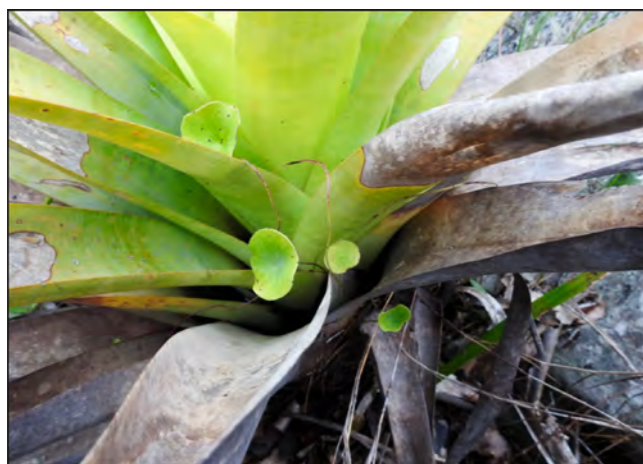
Drosera magnifica with its prey stuck in its stinky glands



The habitat of *Drosera magnifica* at 1500m.



Pico do Padre Ângelo, Brazil, the only known mountain where *Drosera magnifica* grows.



Utricularia were seen growing in large *Bromeliads*.



Richard (second in from the left) and his guides.

The plants themselves were large and round like a soccer ball! And the mucous on the sessile glands was very viscous. So viscous that upon touching the droplets, you were able to move your finger almost 10 centimetres away from the plant before the string-like mucous broke.

Searching the plants across the summit, Francisca noted that there was no pollen on the flowers, which could have been due to the heavy rains (per com Fernando). The clumps of plants were found to originate from a single growth point, sometimes over a metre away from crown of the plant. And a single seedling with leaves around 8 centimetres tall was also found in the area that we searched.

The group stayed on the south slope of the summit no more than 20 minutes, before Reginaldo announced that the group needed to return to the base of the mountain as a large storm was fast approaching. Watching in awe as a wall of cloud moved over the valley floor and up the south side of the summit towards our location, which reminded of a movie entitled "the mist", which is a horror movie about an unnatural mist which envelops the town and conceals vicious, otherworldly monsters.

The return trip down the mountain was a lot faster than our ascent. We made it back to the lodging before noon, had lunch and rested until the motorbikes arrived to start the return journey back to Governador

Valadares. After spending the night in Governador Valadares, we flew back to Santiago the next day.

From start to finish, the four day expedition consisted of six flights, a bus trip and two motorcycle rides, all of this to see the largest New World *Drosera* species! It was a worthwhile and amazing adventure to say the least.

Upon reflection, the *D. magnifica* is a critically endangered species as listed (Gonella & Rivadavia 2015). It is a micro endemic species only found on a single mountain within a fragile environment. The absence of seedlings also begs to question the longevity of this species and the mechanism for germination.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Reginaldo Vasconcelos and Fernando Rivadavia for helping me visit the *D. magnifica* location.

I would especially like to thank the Ednilson family for their kind hospitality and lodging. Julio Cesar, Ednilson's son for his excitement and assistance during the mountain climb.

My wife, who always supports my spontaneous adventures.

REFERENCES

- Gonella, P.M., Rivadavia, F., and Fleischmann, A. 2015. *D. magnifica* (Droseraceae): the largest New Works Sundew, discovered on Facebook. *Phytotaxa* 220(3): 257-267.
- Gonella, P.M. Deep in the Web, Up in the Hills: The Discovery of *D. magnifica*, The "Facebook Sundew". *Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society* Volume 45, No. 3. 2016.

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Meetings highlights & Plants of the night!

BY ANDREW GIBBONS



Heliamphora minor x heterodoxa



Hundreds of *Sarracenia* seedlings.



Sarracenia flava var. *rubricorpora*



Sarracenia x moorei



Sarracenia alata var. *nigropurpurea*

VCPS 2017 new year BBQ

The start of year BBQ is a great chance to catch up with other members and see how people are growing their plants.

Our seed bank and show sales coordinator, Ron Abernethy, hosted this year's BBQ. Ron grows a wide range of carnivorous plants, particularly both New and Old World pitcher plants and VFTs and has a keen interest in growing plants from seed.

Wandering through Ron's greenhouses, we were

able to see some of his VFTs grown from imported seed. Interestingly, several of the seedlings, such as the seedlings of 'Mirror' which has trap-like outgrowths and 'Spider' which has long thin petioles (shown below) were displaying the traits of the parent plants.

Ron's *Heliamphora* were also looking spectacular as were his *Sarracenia*, with a lot of promising seedlings putting up some very colourful pitchers.



Cephalotus follicularis



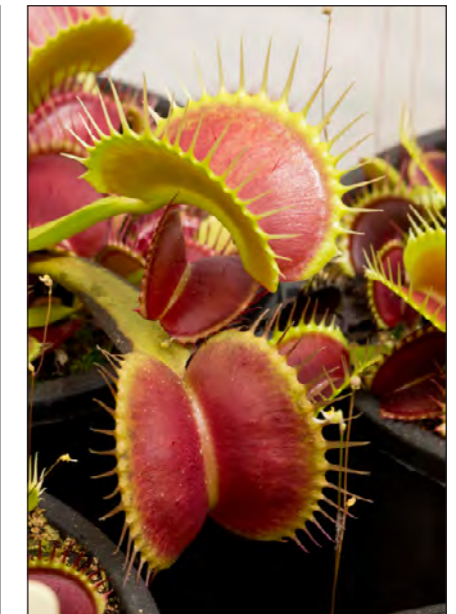
Drosera regia flower.



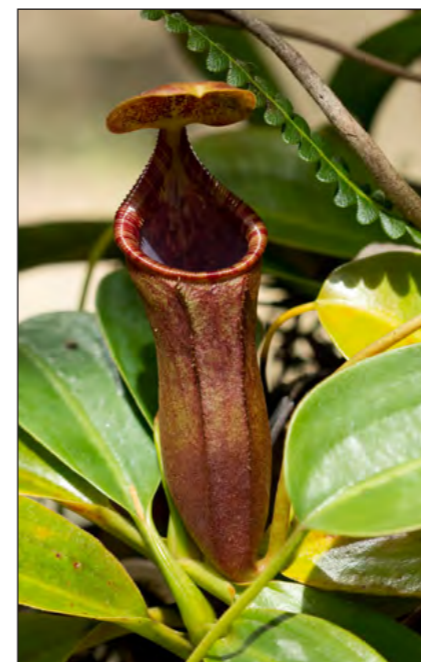
Dionaea muscipula 'Spider' x Self



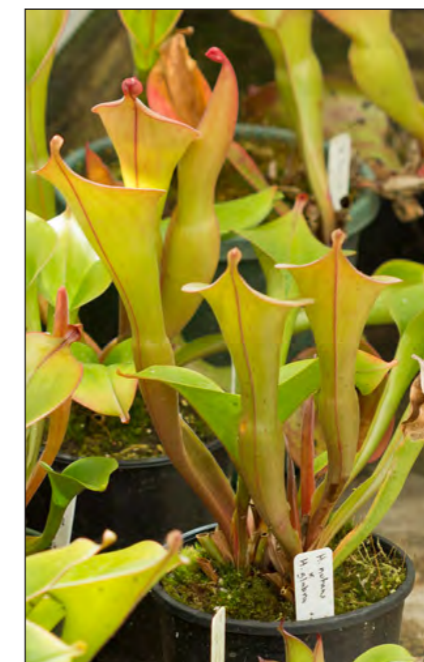
Dionaea muscipula 'Mirror' x Self



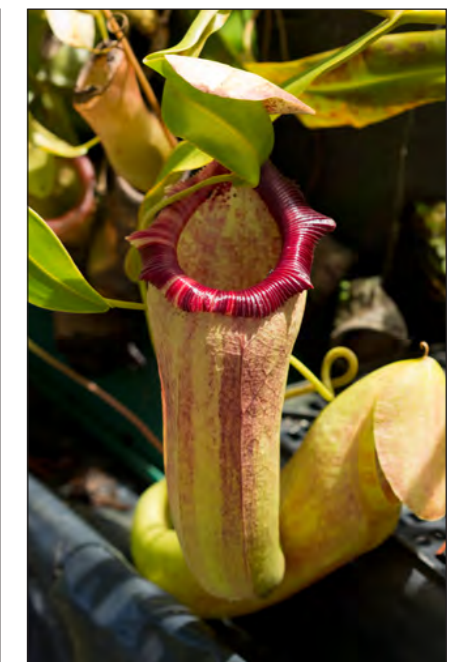
Dionaea muscipula "Big Tomato"



Nepenthes lowii x campanulata



Heliamphora nutans x glabra



Nepenthes ventricosa x sibuyanensis x carunculata



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, 1st place:
Heliamphora ionasii



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, 2nd place:
Nepenthes aristolochioides



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, 3rd place:
Nepenthes leonardoii



S. flava var. atropurpurea



Drosophyllum luscitanicum



S. leucophylla var. alba

February 22nd VCPS meeting

HELIAMPHORA, NEPENTHES & DARLINGTONIA

The topic plants for the February meeting were *Darlingtonia*, *Nepenthes* and *Heliamphora*. Steve brought in two pots of *Darlingtonia* including a pot of seedlings sown in 2015. *Darlingtonia* seedlings produce thin, tubular juvenile pitchers that end in a filament-like hood. These juvenile pitchers are produced for several years before the plant starts to produce the distinctive cobra-like pitchers that this species is known for.

Nepenthes are tropical carnivorous plants, however, many montane species experience cool temperatures in their natural habitat and can be grown in unheated greenhouses in Melbourne. Several species and hybrids can even be grown in a protected spot outdoors such as under patios or in ferneries.

Steve brought in a plant of *Nepenthes aristolochioides* which was runner plant of the night. This species produces unusual bulbous pitchers that are bulbous with a small opening forward facing opening.

Third place went to Brendan's *Nepenthes leonardoii*, a species from Palawan, Philippines that is closely related to *Nepenthes mira*. *Heliamphora* are native South America where they grow on the tepui of the Guiana Highlands. Justin brought in a large *Heliamphora ionasii* in flower, which was awarded plant of the night.

Steve also brought in his *Heliamphora chimantensis* and *Heliamphora minor*. *Heliamphora chimantensis* comes from the Chimanta Massif and is not common in Australian collections. The *Heliamphora minor* was growing in a 6 inch pot and was producing lots of pitchers. Non-topic plant of the night went to Steve's *Sarracenia flava var. atropurpurea* from Cook's Bayou. This plant was producing dark red pitchers and Steve said it was more colourful than the Blackwater forms of *atropurpurea* that he is growing.

Plants benched at the February meeting included:

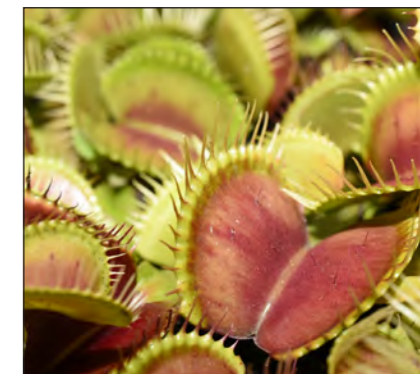
Darlingtonia californica
Drosophyllum luscitanicum
Heliamphora chimantensis
Heliamphora ionasii
Heliamphora minor
Nepenthes albomarginata
Nepenthes attenboroughii
Nepenthes burbidgeae
Nepenthes glandulifera x vogellii
Nepenthes leonardoii
Nepenthes sanguinea
Nepenthes veitchii
Sarracenia flava var. atropurpurea
Sarracenia flava var. flava



VFT PLANT OF THE NIGHT, 1st place:
G16 x G14 (SS10)



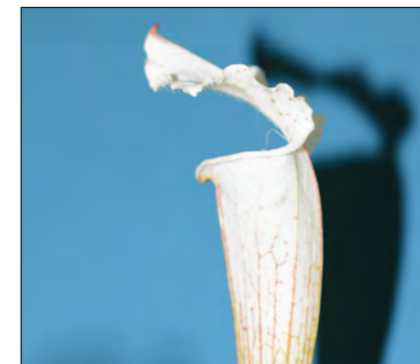
VFT PLANT OF THE NIGHT, 2nd place:
'Akai Ryu'



VFT PLANT OF THE NIGHT, 3rd place:
'Fang'



Sarracenia PLANT OF THE NIGHT,
1st place:
S. purpurea ssp. venosa var. montana



Sarracenia PLANT OF THE NIGHT,
2nd place:
S. leucophylla var. alba



Sarracenia PLANT OF THE NIGHT,
3rd place:
S. leucophylla (reddish alba)

March 22nd VCPS meeting

DIONAEA MUSCIPULA, SARRACENIA & BEGINNERS INFO NIGHT

The March meeting was devoted to *Sarracenia* and *Dionaea*. Both genera thrive under Melbourne conditions and are excellent beginner plants while still holding a lot of appeal for more experienced growers.

Steve brought in several pots of Venus fly traps. His *Dionaea muscipula* 'Clone SS10', a cross of *Dionaea muscipula* 'G16' x 'G14' that originally came from Sean, was producing large colourful traps and was voted best VFT of the night while his *Dionaea muscipula* 'Akai Ryu' was voted runner up. As well as some of the more common cultivars seen in Melbourne collections he also brought in some seedlings of 'Claytons Volcanic Red' x self which were colouring up well and 'Biohazard' x self with one of those seedlings showing the distorted traps of the parent cultivar.

Bryn brought along a flask of *Dionaea muscipula* 'Wacky Traps', which produces thick irregular serrations along the edges of its traps.

Sarracenia purpurea ssp. venosa var. montana is not common in Australian collections. Steve brought in a very colourful plant with bold red veins over yellow-green pitchers that won *Sarracenia* of the night.

Sarracenia leucophylla produces its showiest pitchers in autumn and Steve also brought in several examples of *S. leucophylla* showing the variation you get in this species including two plants, a *S. leucophylla var. alba* and a *S. leucophylla* that was producing red-tinged, "var alba" like pitchers, that came

second and third for *Sarracenia* of the night.

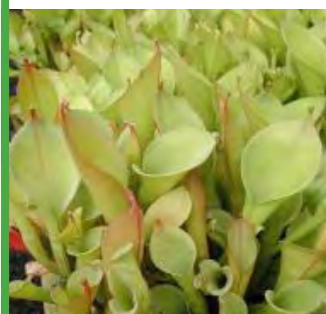
Non-topic plant of the night went to Sean's *Byblis gigantea*. This is a species that can be problematic to grow from seed. Seed can be reluctant to germinate and when they do the seedlings are often suffer from fungal problems. Sean germinated his seed in a terrarium and sprayed with Mancozeb and has had a good survival rate. Sean also brought in several examples of the *Drosera indica* complex. These tropical, annual species are not seen very often at our meetings. Sean is keeping them very wet and they were growing nicely and showing a lot of variation in colour.

Plants benched at the March meeting included:

Byblis gigantea, *Cephalotus follicularis*, *Dionaea muscipula* 'Akai Ryu', 'Biohazard' x self, 'Claytons Volcanic Red' x self, *Dionaea muscipula* 'Fang', 'G16' x 'G14', 'Wacky Traps', *D. callistos x pedicellaris*, *D. 'Dorks Pink'*, *D. enodes*, *D. finlaysonianae*, *D. hartmeyerorum*, *D. ramentacea*, *Nepenthes attenboroughii*, *Pinguicula laeana*, *Sarracenia alata var. atropurpurea*, *S. alata var. rubrioperculata*, *S. leucophylla*, *S. leucophylla var. alba*, *S. rubra ssp. jonesii*, *S. purpurea ssp. venosa*, *S. purpurea ssp. venosa var. montana*, *S. rubra ssp. alabamensis*, *S. psittacina var. psittacina f. viridescens*, *S. purpurea ssp. venosa var. burkii*, *S. purpurea ssp. purpurea*, *S. purpurea ssp. venosa var. montana* "Tom's Swamp", *S. rubra ssp. alabamensis*, *S. rubra ssp. gulfensis* – From Yellow River, Florida, *S. Moorei* "Giant George" (*leucophylla x flava*).



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

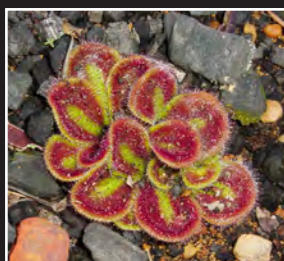
*Pygmy *Drosera* sold as gemmae (vegetive buds) over 3 months. May-June.

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

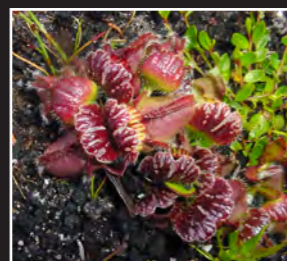
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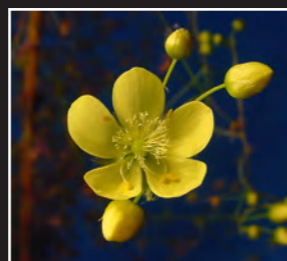
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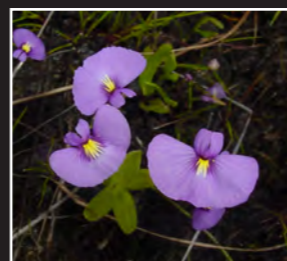
Drosera squamosa



Cephalotus follicularis



Drosera moorei



Utricularia petertaylori



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- Overseas membership \$28.00**
- Electronic membership \$18.00**
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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.



Sarracenia leucophylla



Sarracenia flava var. *rubricorpora*



Sarracenia alata var. *rubrioperculata*



Darlingtonia californica



Heliamphora ionasii



S. purpurea ssp *venosa* var. *montana*



Drosera magnifica



Nepenthes aristolochioides