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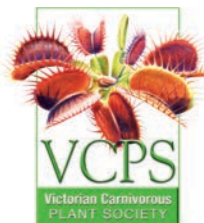
Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

SEPTEMBER 2017

VCPS Newsletter No. 5



Drosera condor



Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

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September 2017

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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	(26th)	Triffid Park Open Day , 10am - 4pm.
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.



VCPS Growers photos

Genlisea hispidula 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 condor, a newly described sundew endemic to Ecuador and Peru **6**

Meetings highlights & Plants of the night! **12**

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 condor found growing at Cordillera del Condor on the Ecuador/Peru border at 2400m altitude.

Photo: Fernando Rivadavia

BACK COVER:

Clockwise from top left:

- *Utricularia dichotoma* from, NSW" at the VCPS August 2017 meeting.
- *Drosera granitcola* at the VCPS August 2017 meeting.
- *Pinguicula caerulea* at the VCPS August 2017 meeting.
- *Cephalotus follicularis* at the VCPS September 2017 meeting. Photo: Andrew Gibbons
- *Drosera condor*, Cordillera del Condor on the Ecuador/Peru border, -2400m alt Photo: Fernando Rivadavia
- *Drosera condor*, Cordillera del Condor on the Ecuador/Peru border, -2400m alt Photo: Fernando Rivadavia
- *Heliamphora heterodoxa* at the VCPS August 2017 meeting.
- *Drosera squamosa* (centre) at the VCPS July 2017 meeting.

Design: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS News

THREE OF THE VERY BEST

BOOK REVIEW

Drosera of the world

Redfern Natural History Production has just released a new series of 3 books that unbelievable covers all of the *Drosera* species found around the world. This is a massive undertaking that hasn't been attempted since Dr Friedrich Ludwig Diels monograph of 84 *Drosera* species back in 1906.

The 3 new books look absolutely spectacular, and are filled with stunning photos of over 240 recognised species that occur across Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, South America and Oceania.

Each book covers a particular part of the world. Volume 1 covers the oceania region which includes Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands. Volume 2 finishes off the oceania region and also contains species from Asia, Europe and North America, while Volume 3 covers the Latin America region.

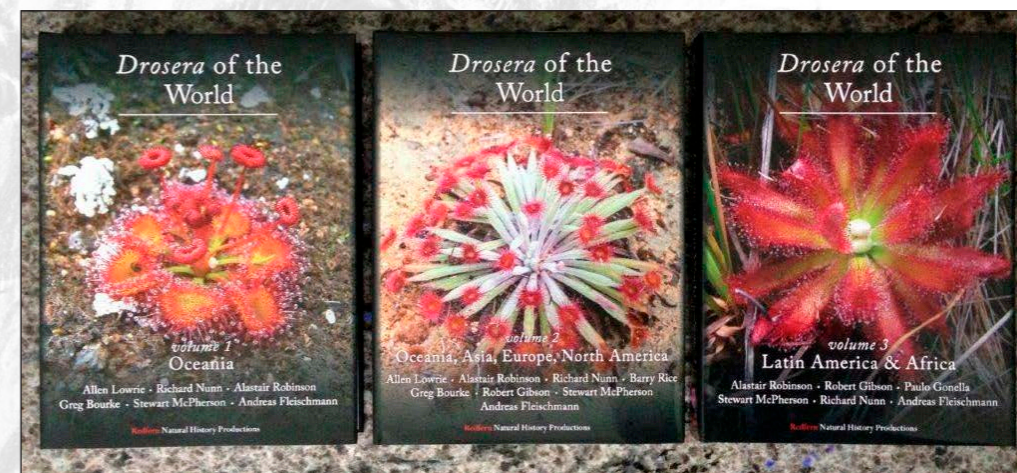
Australia alone is home to over 150 species and these books really do show off the diversity of amazing *Drosera* from it ranging from pygmy, tuberous, upright, climbing, scrambling, rosetted, woolly, forked, tropical, temperate and alpine species.

The 3 books go into detail about each species, giving an informative description about them and also covers their distribution, background and affinities. Each written by a handful of world renowned experts such as Stewart McPherson, Alastair Robinson, Allen Lowrie, Andreas Fleischmann, Greg Bourke, Robert Gibson, Barry Rice, Richard Nunn and Paulo Gonella.

All together the books contain over 1900 photographs and have helpful information about identifying each species, plus have an exhaustive index of all *Drosera* names and synonyms. All beautifully illustrated in a large format and quality gloss stock.

If *Drosera* is your passion then these books are a definite must for the collection. And if they're not, the amazing diversity in *Drosera* that these books demonstrate will surely convert you.

Congratulations Redfern, these new books are really an astonishing achievement.



VCPS ANNUAL SHOW

The VCPS annual is on again this year and is being held at Collectors Corner in Gardenworld which is a sensational venue. Entry is free for all and it's surely going to be another great show containing a huge range of rare and amazing species on show and for sale.

This year it starts on Saturday December 3rd at 10am and ends on Sunday December 4th 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 fantastic plants.





View to the East from the second plateau of the Cordillera del Condor, standing at the large *Drosera condor* population.

Drosera condor, a newly described sundew endemic to Ecuador and Peru

FERNANDO RIVADAVIA

Last week I was in Cuenca and Loja (southern Ecuador) for work, so I decided to spend the Labor Day extended weekend exploring that part of the country for carnivorous plants. My holy grail was the Cordillera del Condor on the Ecuador/Peru border, a series of tepui-like sandstone escarpments extending 150km along a north-south axis, rising up to 2900m in altitude. Geologically and floristically, the Cordillera del Condor is very different from the Andes.

I'd been dreaming of exploring the Cordillera del Condor for over 20 years, ever since the mid 1990's when I saw a herbarium specimen of an odd sundew collected there. It was identified as *D. chrysolepis*, but to me it looked more like a yet undescribed taxon from Brazil that I called *D. sp. "stemless chrysolepis"*, which I published as *D. camporupestris* in 2003. In that article, I wrote:

"An incomplete specimen identified as

D. chrysolepis collected on the Cordillera del Condor in southern Ecuador ... is apparently conspecific with *D. camporupestris*. Yet I hesitate to include it under *D. camporupestris* since it was collected over 4000km from any of the known sites in Brazil. Further and more complete specimens from Ecuador would need to be examined first."

More herbarium specimens from these remote highlands, on both sides of the Ecuador/Peru border, were indeed uncovered over the years and studied in more detail. Eventually I and 4 co-authors published this plant as *D. condor* in 2016, a new species more closely related to two other Andean sundews, the equally mysterious *D. cendeensis* and *D. peruensis*.

No matter how much I yearned to see live *D. condor* in situ, I was under no illusion that a 3-day trip would be enough to figure out a path to the top of those remote escarpments – for which I imagined a longer expedition would be necessary, something more along the lines of

the hunt for *D. meristocaulis* on Mt Neblina in 2006. My modest goal for this trip was one of reconnaissance, to scope out the region, talk to locals, gather intel, try to contact potential guides, investigate which of the tepui-like plateaus of the Cordillera del Condor would be more feasible to reach on a future expedition, scope out potential best paths to the top, and maybe even explore some dirt roads with my stick shift 1.0 tiny 2-wheel-drive rental car.

I've spent countless hours over the years exploring the Cordillera del Condor on Google Earth and I'd placed several markers on interesting roads, promising clearings on top of multiple escarpments, and other points of interest. However, last minute I realized I'd neglected to add the actual known locations of *D. condor*! Thanks to modern technology, from S Ecuador I reached out to friend and *D. condor* co-author Paulo Gonella who quickly sent me the GPS locations and saved my ass. To my delight, I realized that one of the locations was on top of an escarpment located a mere 400 vertical meters above the end of the most promising of all roads, only 2km in a straight line from road to plateau! But the question was: would there be a trail to the top? The thick cloud forest of the region could make even 100m an impossible trek.

On Saturday morning I left the city of Loja and briefly explored the Podocarpus National Park for epiphytic Utrics (no luck) before heading down the eastern Andean slopes into the steamy Amazonian lowlands. On a whim, seeing that it was only 3pm, I decided to explore that dirt road, never thinking I'd get very far. I was pretty sure I'd have to pay somebody the following morning to drive me up that road with a 4x4. But to my amazement, the dirt road was surprisingly good, so I kept driving higher and higher, navigating past several forks I'd previously marked on Google Maps.

An hour and a half later, having driven nearly 50km and climbed over 1000 vertical meters, I reached the end of the road. I found a military outpost with two soldiers who were there on a 1-month rotation to guard the Ecuadorian border. Bored out of their minds, the topic quickly changed from "only military are allowed up on the escarpment" to an eager "we'd love to climb up there with you", as I explained that I was a biologist craving to see native carnivorous plants. To my delight, they told me that there was indeed a trail to the top and that during their month long rotation (which had just started the day before, on Sept 1st), it would be their job to hike up there to check on a mark placed on the Peru/Ecuador border. Did I want to start now or early tomorrow morning?

Ecstatic, I drove back down the 50km of windy mountain road, found a little hotel in the closest town, bought food and drink, and went to bed early. I woke up at 5:30am on Sunday and was back at the military outpost a bit past 7am, bringing my two new best friends some fresh produce and other food items as gifts. I was told there was no dry season here, that it was only wet and wetter season. The day before I had barely glimpsed the Cordillera del Condor through the clouds and occasional rains.



Starting the trek up the Cordillera del Condor from the Ecuadorian military outpost.



Trekking up the Cordillera del Condor with my military guides and new best friends.



Arriving at the first plateau of the Cordillera del Condor at ~2300m, a stark reminder of the Peru-Ecuador border war in 1995.



Trekking up the Cordillera del Condor past beautiful cloud forests.



Arriving at the first plateau of the Cordillera del Condor at roughly 2300m.



Reaching the summit! Peru/Ecuador border mark on the second plateau of the Cordillera del Condor at ~2400m.



The habitat of *Drosera condor* on the Peruvian side at 2400m altitude.

But Sunday morning was almost as good as I could wish for: sunny and only partially cloudy, which is how it stayed most of the day, with only occasional drizzle. It was truly my lucky day.

We started hiking at 8am and after a mere 1.5h trek along a muddy but very broad trail climbing past mossy cloud forests (where I observed the epiphytic *U. jamesoniana* and maybe *U. unifolia*), we arrived at a secondary plateau at ~2300m altitude, below what I would soon learn was the main plateau at ~2400m. I was in tepui heaven, it was exactly what I'd dreamed: low vegetation on wet sandy soil. It didn't take me long and I soon found the first *D. condor*. I never imagined it would've been this easy!

This first *D. condor* population was small, growing in a sandy/rocky island in the middle of a swampy area – where surprisingly I didn't find a single *Utricularia* or *Genlisea*. Further promising habitats extended to the East, but I was intimidated from hiking in that direction due to signs warning of mine fields left over from the Cenepa War, a border conflict between Ecuador and Peru in 1995, stemming from previous border disagreements and actual clashes in 1981 and 1941.

Therefore, I kept hiking with my two armed guides for another 15-20min up to the main plateau, so they could "inspect" their border mark. At that point we were caught up by a group of 8 men wearing fluorescent

orange or yellow vests like they were traffic cops. They claimed to be employed by a local gold mining company (I'd seen nearby signs of mining on Google Earth, as well as having driven past dozens of large trucks on the dirt road up and down those highlands) and had climbed the mountains for research purposes. One of them told me they were "biologists" – but when I said I was also a biologist and tried asking what they were studying, I only got vague answers.

I'm not sure whether I should be worried, but we were sort of in the middle of huffing and puffing our way up the last 100m to the top, thus not the best time for a chat. And once I reached the top, I only took a few quick pictures at the border mark while catching my breath before heading into the Peruvian side to explore further. And by the time I returned, they were all gone, including my two military guides. You see, I sort of got myself into a bit of a pickle.

It started with a fantastic *D. condor* population just below the border mark, growing at a seepage over a rocky area, as well as on sandy and peaty soil along the edges (more on this later). Looking further north and north-east, I could see a vast plateau. Immediately in front of me was an east to west valley polka-dotted with numerous open rocky areas that seemed to be calling to me, begging to be explored. In my mind, I saw rocky fields full of *D. condor*, and (considering my great luck

that day) maybe I'd even be fortunate enough to also find the elusive *D. peruensis* which is known from highlands a mere 80km south!

I had no second thoughts and soon headed downhill through what was initially dense but low vegetation. But the further down I trekked, the denser the vegetation became. Soon I was bogged down to a snail's pace, using my arms more than my legs to wade my way pasta dense web of vines hanging from short moss-covered trees. The floor became a tangle of roots and branches through which my feet would frequently slip through, dangling above the true floor somewhere below. What a nightmare!

The further I trudged, the more difficult it became to turn back, psychologically speaking. I had to be close! A drone would've come in very handy, allowing me to see how close (or far) I was from the closest rocky area. A machete would've been better – but I have a bad history with those things. At last I had to come to terms that I'd best turn back. Although it was still early in the day (noon-ish), I was physically exhausted (and soon-to-be mentally exhausted too). My arms and legs ached terribly from the difficulty of wading through that thick vegetation. My sense of direction, usually spot-on, was thrown off by my physical botanical immersion that only allowed a narrow view of the sky above my head. I was on a remote mountain, separated from my guides who could scream my name at the top of their lungs without me ever hearing them – which I later learned is exactly what they did before heading back down the mountain, wondering if I'd ever return.

Fortunately for me though, I wasn't completely alone. Two local dogs had followed us all the way up from the military outpost and one of them had stuck by my side the whole time, stepping on every *D. condor* I tried to photograph, thinking I was about to feed or pet it. Surprisingly, it stuck by me even in the thickest vegetation, clambering skillfully over roots, between vines, and around large stemmed bromeliads. It started as a difficult relationship, with me having to physically lift the dog multiple times to get him out of my pictures and off my plants, or holding him with one hand while clicking pictures with my other hand. But when I gave up and started heading back up the valley, having to stop and lay down multiple times to catch my breath, completely exhausted after taking only few steps (or sometimes a short crawl) through the green mesh that surrounded me, it morphed into psychologically comforting (for me) friendship as I warmly petted my only companion in that vast and remote corner of the world, even sharing my food with him, while my weary mind considered whether he would eventually feed on my dead body. I've never been so close to a dog, LOL.

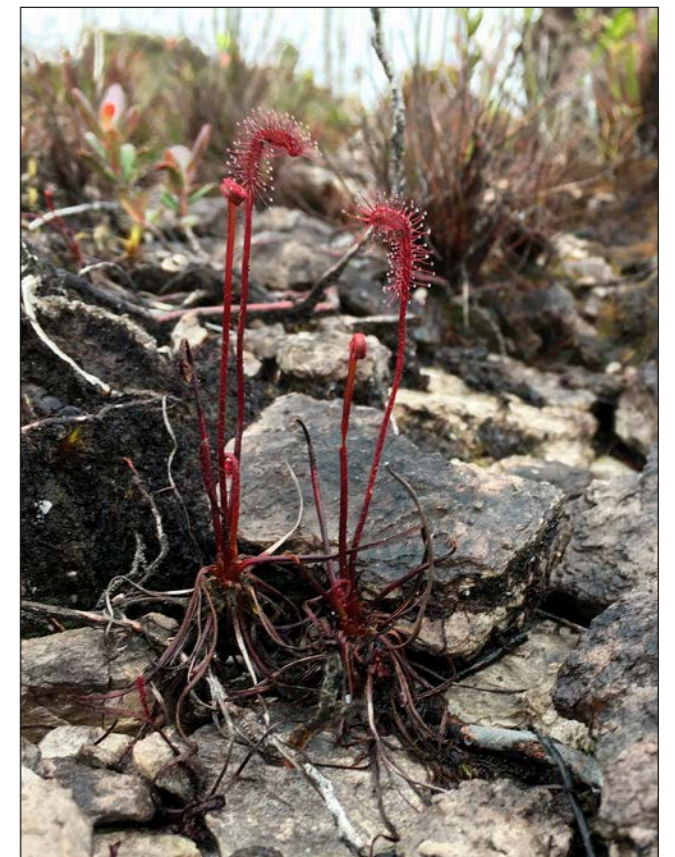
Anyway, I finally made it back to the top of the valley, having wasted two valuable hours of botanical explorations. Nobody was there. I spent some more time photographing and studying that large *D. condor* population near the border mark at ~2400m altitude, once again irritated with that damn dog who kept stepping on my still life photographic sundew models, catching my breath before heading back down.



Drosera condor plants at ~2400m altitude.



Drosera condor in flower showing its pale pink petals.



Two stunning *Drosera condor* plants at 2400m altitude.



A large clump of *Drosera condor*.



Drosera condor preparing to flower.



Smelly frenemy dog companion.



Drosera condor growing in a shallow seep at ~2400m altitude.

D. condor is a relatively ugly scraggly sundew, I'm sorry to say, hahaha! Most plants had only 1-2 wine-red dewy leaves, sometimes none, surrounded by a rosette of black dead leaves. It was hard to find good ones to photograph! There were lots of scapes in fruit, some still in flower, and a few young ones still unfurling. Unfortunately no flowers were open that day, the closed petals a light pinkish in color.


I was hopeful that I would find some interesting terrestrial Utrics up on those remote tepuis, maybe a Genlisea, maybe even a new species of either genus. But alas, I only found a few darned *U. subulata* scapes – which was quite surprising considering all the open wet spaces! I did see some *U. unifolia*(?) that seemed to be growing terrestrially between the first and second plateaus, but on closer inspection they were growing on dead logs.

As soon as I started heading down from the border mark, my dog companion finally left me and dashed down the mountain. I was completely alone now, mentally and physically so worn out that I was barely paying attention to the cloud forests and epiphytic Utrics flashing by me as I stumbled my way back down the muddy trail. My body was numb from fatigue, but my mind was on a warm & fuzzy sundew high that I've been fortunate to have experienced several times in my life, the kind of high a botanical nerd gets when finally getting the chance to climb an amazing and faraway botanical paradise of a mountain that is home to a very, very, very rare species he had been chasing down for over 20 years, that he ultimately got to observe in the wild for the first time, and which only a few people had ever seen alive before – which describes my relationship with this scraggly ugly (but adorable) sundew that is *D. condor*!



Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY

2017 ANNUAL SHOW



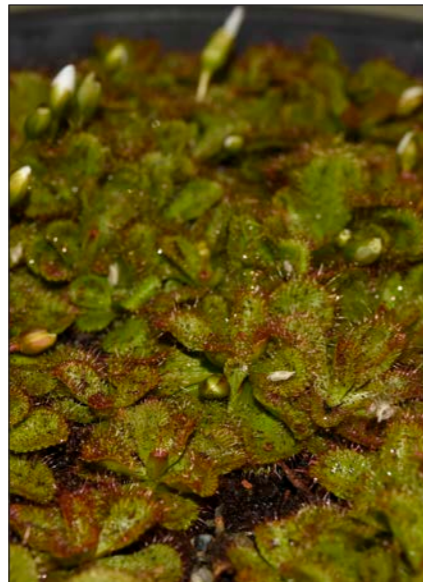
FREE ENTRY
Saturday December 2nd – 3rd
 9AM TO 5PM AT COLLECTORS CORNER,
 GARDENWORLD CENTRE, SPRINGVALE ROAD, KEYSBOROUGH
www.vcps.org

Meetings highlights & Plants of the night!

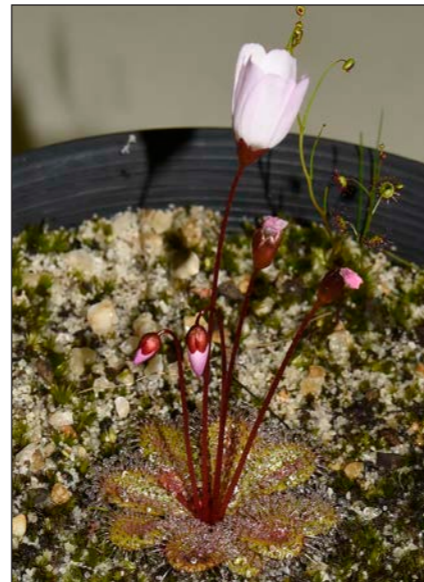
BY ANDREW GIBBONS



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, ROSETTED TUBEROUS *DROSERA*:
1st place: *Drosera squamosa*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, ROSETTED TUBEROUS *DROSERA*:
2nd place: *Drosera aberrans*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, ROSETTED TUBEROUS *DROSERA*:
3rd place: *Drosera browniana*

July 26th VCPS meeting

ROSETTED TUBEROUS *DROSERA* JUDGING

Judging for the Annual Show's Rosetted Tuberous *Drosera* category was held at the July meeting. These plants grow throughout the cooler months and most have species will be entering dormancy in December when our show is held.

Congratulations to Steve Fretwell, whose pot of *Drosera squamosa* was awarded First Place. Second Place was awarded to Peter Bloem's large pot of *Drosera aberrans* from Kyneton. Third Place went to Steve Fretwell's *Drosera browniana*, a western Australian species from the eastern wheatbelt.

Propagation was the topic for the July meeting. Justin brought in some *Heliamphora* in flower and showed us how he pollinates these plants. *Helimphora* flowers release their pollen before the flowers become receptive. The flowers are also buzz pollinated, releasing the pollen in response to the buzzing vibrations of the pollinator against the anthers. Justin uses a tuning fork to release the pollen from newly opened flowers and brushes it on to older receptive flowers.

Andre runs Flora Laboratories, a tissue culture laboratory that propagates carnivorous plants, orchids and bromeliads and told us about the flasking process as well as how to harden off tissue cultured plants when taking them out of flask.

Several members brought in a range of other

seedlings they have been growing including *Drosera*, *Dionaea*, *Nepenthes* and *Utricularia*. An unusual plant was a pot of small *Drosera magnifica* seedlings. This is a recently described species from Brazil that is one of the largest species of *Drosera* in the world.

By all accounts seedlings of this species are slow growing so it may be a while before these seedlings reach their full potential. However, seed has been distributed to several people across Australia so hopefully it won't be long until this magnificent species is more readily available to enthusiasts.

The species benched at the July meeting included:

Brocchinia reducta, *Cephalotus follicularis*, *Dionaea muscipula*, *Drosera aberrans*, *D. auriculata*, *D. browniana*, *D. capensis*, *D. coccicaulis*, *D. collina*, *D. erythrorhiza*, *D. hirsuta*, *D. hookeri*, *D. indumentata*, *D. macrophylla ssp macrophylla*, *D. magnifica*, *D. pauciflora*, *D. peltata*, *D. prostratoscaposa*, *D. serpens*, *D. squamosa*, *D. tubaestylis*, *D. whittakeri*, *Heliamphora folliculata*, *H. folliculata x heterodoxa*, *H. nutans*, *H. purpurescens*, *Nepenthes albomarginata*, *N. ampullaria*, *N. glandulifera x vogellii*, *N. gracilis x rafflesiana*, *Utricularia cornigera x nelumbifolia*, *U. nelumbifolia x cornigera*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, CLIMBING TUBEROUS *DROSERA*:
1st: *D. macrantha* "Rock outcrop form"



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, CLIMBING TUBEROUS *DROSERA*:
2nd: *D. pallida*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, CLIMBING TUBEROUS *DROSERA*:
3rd: *D. indumentata*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, UPRIGHT TUBEROUS *DROSERA*: 1st: *D. gigantea*, 2nd: *D. menziesii*, 3rd: *D. basifolia*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT, UPRIGHT TUBEROUS *DROSERA*: 1st: *D. rupicola* "Red x Green", 2nd: *D. rupicola* red, 3rd: *D. platypoda*

August 23rd VCPS meeting

UPRIGHT TUBEROUS/WINTER GROWING *DROSERA* JUDGING

Following on from last month's rosetted *Drosera* judging, the show judging for the upright tuberous *Drosera* was held at the August meeting. This judging category covers a very diverse group of sundews including those with erect, self-supporting stems, those with a climbing or scrambling habit as well as the fan-leaved sundews and each of these three groups were judged separately.

Several examples of *Drosera* with erect, self-supporting habits were brought into the meeting. First place was awarded to Sean's *Drosera gigantea*. This is a large sundew producing branching stems to 1m in the wild. Sean had several plants growing in his pot including one very robust plant. Second and third place went to Sean's *Drosera menziesii* and *Drosera basifolia*, respectively. Tuberous *Drosera*, such as *Drosera macrantha* and related species, produce long wiry stems that can't support the weight of the plant. Instead, they use their traps to stick to surrounding vegetation to hold the plant up. Some species can reach lengths of 1 to 2m. First place for the climbing tuberous *Drosera* went to Sean's Rock Outcrop form of *Drosera macrantha*. Steve's *Drosera pallida* came second and Sean's *Drosera indumentata* came third in this category.

The fan-leaved species produce short erect to semi-erect stems with fleshy, fan-shaped leaves. In this category, Sean also won first place with his pot of *Drosera*

rupicola Red x Green form. These plants were raised from seed and were showing varying amounts of red in the leaves. Second place went to Steve's *Drosera rupicola* and Sean's *Drosera platypoda* came third.

Non-topic plant of the night went to Sean's *Pinguicula caerulea*, a south eastern US species with veiny purple/blue flowers. Justin's brought in a large pot of *Heliamphora heterodoxa* that was producing flowers, which was voted runner up while third place went to Sean's early flowering *Utricularia dichotoma* from Arrawarra Headland.

The species benched at the August meeting included:

Drosera aberrans, *D. afra*, *D. andersoniana*, *D. auriculata*, *D. basifolia*, *D. bicolor*, *D. browniana*, *D. calycina*, *D. cuneifolia*, *D. drummondii*, *D. erythrogyne*, *D. glanduligera*, *D. gigantea*, *D. gracilis*, *D. granticola*, *D. heterophylla*, *D. hookeri*, *D. humilis*, *D. indumentata*, *D. macrantha*, *D. eremaea*, *D. menziesii*, *D. modesta*, *D. moorei*, *D. pallida*, *D. pauciflora*, *D. pallida D. peltata*, *D. planchonii*, *D. platypoda*, *D. prophylla*, *D. ramelosa*, *D. rosulata*, *D. rupicola*, *D. salina*, *D. stolonifera*, *D. aff stolonifera*, *D. subhirtella*, *D. trinervia*, *D. whittakeri*, *D. zeyheri*, *D. yilgarnensis*, *Heliamphora heterodoxa*, *Pinguicula caerulea*, *Utricularia dichotoma*, *U. menziesii*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
CEPHALOTUS FOLLICULARIS:
1st place



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
CEPHALOTUS FOLLICULARIS:
2nd place: In a fish bowl



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
CEPHALOTUS FOLLICULARIS:
3rd place



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
BROCCHINIA/CATOPSIS
1st place: *Brocchinia reducta*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
BROCCHINIA/CATOPSIS
2nd place: *Brocchinia reducta*



PLANT OF THE NIGHT
BROCCHINIA/CATOPSIS
3rd place: *Catopsis berteroniana*

September 27th VCPS meeting

CEPHALOTUS, BROCCHINIA AND CATOPSIS

The September meeting was devoted to *Cephalotus* and the sub-carnivorous bromeliads. *Cephalotus follicularis* has a reputation for being finicky in cultivation.

One of our members, Bryn Jones, has had a lot of success growing his *Cephalotus* in a terrarium. Two members who were inspired by Bryn's success brought their terrarium-grown *Cephalotus* into the September meeting.

Andrew brought three pots of *Cephalotus* that have been growing in a 3 ft tank indoors under 4 x 24W T5 grow lights. The plants were all growing well and the largest of these plants was voted plant of the night. Second place went to Peter's *Cephalotus* which was growing in a fish bowl with a *Drosera capensis*. Peter keeps his plant in a shady spot in his greenhouse.

Two bromeliad genera contain species that are currently considered to be sub-carnivorous: *Brocchinia* and *Catopsis*. Peter's *Catopsis berteroniana* was voted

third place. This is an epiphytic species from that grows from Florida through to Brazil. Peter has owned this plant for around 20 years and pups from this plant have been spread around to many of our members over the years.

Two *Brocchinia reducta* were brought into the meeting. In good light the leaves of this species are held tightly together to form a tall, "pitcher"-like tank.

One non-topic plant was brought into the September meeting, Justin's *Nepenthes attenboroughii* with very dark red-purple pitchers. Justin said this is one of several seedlings he's growing and this plant was producing the darkest pitchers.

The species benched at the September meeting included:

Brocchinia reducta, *Catopsis berteroniana*, *Cephalotus follicularis*, *Drosera capensis*, *Nepenthes attenboroughii*

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NEWS

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Correspondence

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.



Utricularia dichotoma



Drosera granitcola



Pinguicula caerulea



Heliamphora heterodoxa



Drosera squamosa



Cephalotus follicularis



Drosera condor



Drosera condor