A Noteworthy Florida Find: *Drosera filiformis* var. *tracyi* (Droseraceae)

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General

While on a springtime expedition through the Gulf Coast during April 1994 I came upon four white-flowering specimens of *Drosera filiformis* var. *tracyi* in Franklin County, Florida. This is a rarity. The species' pink-flowering form is very abundant in that region, found commonly in roadside swales and depressions as well as in bogs and savannahs throughout. I believe this encounter with a white-flowering albino form is a first (The author is using the term albino to indicate an absence of red pigment only, not all pigmentation—ed.)

Discussion

The two forms of *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* mentioned above seem to be identical except for their flower colors. Through close observation and analysis I have discovered several critical morphological differences that would indicate this newly discovered form is truly an albino.

The pink-flowering form is entirely green except for the color of the flower petals. However, close examinations of the tentacle heads on the leaves show that they have a distinct pale pinkish-red hue. In some plants of the pink-flowering form it is quite pale, but nonetheless it is there! I made this observation long before I discovered the white-flowering form, and have observed enough field growing specimens of the pink-flowering form to conclude that general information and literature on the species should include this finding. Clearly, when placed alongside its genetic counterpart *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis*, it has no red coloration to speak of. However pale the hue, *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* (pink flower) cannot be designated entirely green!

In addition, older leaf stems and winter buds of the pink-flowering form of *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* quite often exhibit a dark maroon coloration on the leaf petiole surfaces. Often said to be a sign of stress, it occurs specifically with leaves that are older and have lost their tentacles. None of the aforementioned observations of red pigmentation have been seen or observed in the white-flowering form of *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi*. Older leaves of the white-flowering form remain green until aging dries them. I have not been able to detect red pigment in any part of the white-flowering form of *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi*.

Conclusion

The likely discovery of an albino form of *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* may support the reclassification of two distinct forms of the thread leaf sundew, that is, *D. filiformis* and *D. tracyi*.

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Figure 1: Flowers and stems of the albino *Drosera filiformis* var. *tracyi*. Note absence of any red pigment throughout.



Figure 2: Flowers and stem of the pink-flower form of *Drosera filiformis* var. *tracyi*. Note the red pigment on the flower stem, raceme and flower pedicel.

References:
Clewell, A. F. 1985, Guide to the Vascular Plants of the Florida Panhandle, University Presses of Florida, Tallahassee.

Observations on a Selection of Tasmanian Carnivorous Plants

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In January 1997 I returned to Tasmania to conduct fieldwork on a selection of carnivorous plants in Tasmania. The following is an account of the more unusual observations and supplement those made during fieldwork in 1991.

The island state of Tasmania has fifteen native species of carnivorous plants: *Drosera arcturi, D. auriculata, D. binata, D. glanduligera, D. macrantha* subsp. *planchonii, D. peltata, D. pygmaea, D. spatulata, Utricularia australis, U. dichotoma, U. lateriflora, U. monanthos, U. tenella, U. uniflora* and *U. violacea* (Erickson, 1968; Taylor, 1989). These occur throughout the state, with a general trend of winter-growing perennial and annual species growing on the eastern and northern coasts, and perennial evergreen and summer growing species growing in the central and southern parts of the island. Whilst none of the carnivorous plants in Tasmania are confined to the state there