Literature Reviews

Cheek, M. 1998, Proposal to Reject the Name *Drosera longifolia* (Droseraceae), Taxon 47: 749-750.

This proposal is (if it is accepted at the Botanical Congress) to end the repeated attempts to revive the ambiguous name *Drosera longifolia* (for the unambiguous but later names *D. anglica* and *D. intermedia*). The name *D. longifolia* has been rejected repeatedly by knowledgeable *Drosera* taxonomists like DeCandolle (1823), Planchon (1848), Diels (1906), and Wynne (1944). Only recent modifications of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature have at all allowed doubts about the legitimacy of this sensible earlier decision. Therefore, the present formal proposal is very welcome, and it is hoped that reason will win over blind nomenclatural revisionism ("taxonomy drives nomenclature, not vice versa" is one of the principles behind the ICBN). (JS)

Schnell, D.E. 1998, A Pitcher Key to the Genus *Sarracenia* L. (Sarraceniaceae), Castanea 63(4): 489-492.

Schnell has published a nice, short set of keys that treat nearly all the accepted *Sarracenia* taxa (except hybrids). The first key treats the species, the second is for subspecies and varieties of *Sarracenia purpurea*, and the third is for *Sarracenia rubra* subspecies. The most notable feature of these keys is that they rely solely upon mature pitcher characters. Seasonal phenomena such as flower or phyllodia characters are not used. The keys are easy to use, and the only couplets I do not like are a few that depend upon dreaded relative features. One is in the first key, couplet 7, where *S. rubra* is separated in part from *S. alata* by relative venation features (e.g. abundant vs. few), the second is in the third key, couplet 4, again relying on venation features (e.g. strongly veined vs. weakly or not veined). Fortunately, these do not weaken the work as a whole. The only *Sarracenia* taxa not mentioned in this key are *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii* f. *luteola* and the seven varieties of *Sarracenia flava*. Descriptions of the pitchers for these plants can be found in previous issues of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter (1998, 27:4 for *S. flava*; 1998, 27:1 for *Sarracenia purpurea* subsp. *venosa* var. *burkii* f. *luteola*). (BAMR)

Sheridan, P.M., and Mills, R.R. 1998, Genetics of Anthocyanin Deficiency in *Sarracenia* L., HortScience 33: 1042-1045.

Classical genetic crossing experiments with green and wild type individuals of *S. rubra* subsp. *gulfensis*, *S. purpurea* (subsp. *purpurea*), *S. psittacina*, and *S. leucophylla* suggest that anthocyanin pigmentation (or rather the apparently monogenetic knock out mutation studied here; but cf. the article in CPN 27:3, 1998 that clearly shows the biosynthetic pathway to anthocyanins to involve several enzymes/genes, all of which could be affected by mutations) is controlled in all these taxa by two alleles (both copies in the diploid chromosome set) at a single locus, with red dominant to green. (JS)

Sheridan, P.M., Mills, R.R. 1998, Presence of Proanthocyanidins in Mutant Green *Sarracenia* Indicate Blockage in Late Anthocyanidin Biosynthesis Between Leucoanthocyanidin and Pseudobase, Plant Science 135: 11-16.

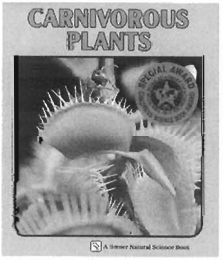
This paper offers the biochemical data missing in the previous one (a fine example how to publish one idea several times!), showing that the enzyme affected by the mutation responsible for lack of anthocyanins in several variants of *Sarracenia* (not necessarily in all known colour variants observed in the genus, see above) is catalyzing the conversion of colourless proanthocyanidins to red anthocyanidins. Proanthocyanidins were found even in green plants lacking anthocyanidins. Thus, anthocyanidin biosynthesis is blocked at a late stage in the route to these pigments. Although the analytical methods applied (acid hydrolysis, VIS specroscopy, solubility in amyl alcohol) are far from the state of the art and not suited to elucidate the chemical structures of the pigments found, circumstantial evidence indicates that the results and interpretations are correct. (JS)

Sorrie, B.A. 1998, Distribution of *Drosera filiformis* and *D. tracyi* (Droseraceae): Phytogeographic Implications, Rhodora 100: 239-260.

On the basis of different distribution patterns (augmented by morphological and ecological data), the author explains his opinion that the two taxa mentioned in the title should be separated as distinct species. This view has been held by several other authors. The other current interpretation is inclusion of both taxa as different varieties in *D. filiformis*. Perhaps it would be an acceptable compromise to classify them as (incompletely) geographically separated subspecies of *D. filiformis*. (JS)

Book Review

Overbeck, C. 1982, Carnivorous Plants, Lerner Publications Company, Minneapolis, ISBN 0-8225-1470-2, 48 p, 54 color photographs. Hard cover edition 19 × 23 cm (7.5 × 9 in), $22.60.



This book review is a little different because of two reasons. First, the book is a children's book, and we usually do not review the many such books published each year. Second, the book is very old. But let me tell you why this might be a nice addition to your library. The photographer, Kiyoshi Shimuzu, is an ingenious master of close-up photography, and the pictures make the book a bargain.

As you might expect, the book begins with a discussion of Venus Flytraps. Then it segues to, of all things, *Aldrovanda*! This baffled me until I learned about the Japanese origins of the work (It was first published under the title "Shokuchu shokubutsu.") The amazing photographs are the best I have ever seen of *Aldrovanda*, so I bought the book on the spot. There are also magnificent photographs showing insects being captured by *Drosera*, *Sarracenia*, *Nepenthes*, and *Utricularia*. In general the text is fine and does not oversimplify terminology or concepts. I would have loved this book as a child. (The New York Academy of Sciences also likes the book, because they gave it a "Children's Science Book Award.")

In summary, look for a copy and consider buying it for its great illustrations. If you know a child who is always asking about your plants, buy a copy for him or her, too. (BAMR)