spathulata, and Utricularia lateriflora.

Drosera peltata has red, fairly hard tubers which are renewed annually. Some plants inspected had a small thick "root" extending below the tuber, and I can only assume that, as with some terrestrial orchids, young Drosera peltata plants produce a deeper tuber each season for one or more seasons until a suitable depth is reached. What determines a suitable depth is difficult to determine.

As for cultivation of the species, my best but very limited success has been with the plants growing in sphagnum moss, pots stood in shallow water. Self-sown plants appear to be more reliable, and for this reason it might be better to start this species off from seed, either in fairly well-packed sphagnum or sandy soil.

OBSERVATIONS ON TUBEROUS DROSERAS
by Richard Sivertsen

I've had dropper root formation with Drosera peltata in pure sphagnum moss, sand-peat mixtures and sand-loam. The important factor is not necessarily the medium, as long as it is slightly acid, but kept just moist to damp, and as cool as possible--preferably 40° F. at night to 65-70° F. in the day. Humidity doesn't seem to be too critical as there were weeks when it varied between 25-35% and sometimes lower. The most critical stage in its growth is during the first four to six weeks of new seasonal growth from the tuber. It should be kept only damp, and drying it out will not harm it at this time because the plant is being fed from the tuber, both water and nutrients.

In nature, the Australian winters begin with light rains so that it takes time for the hard and crusty-dry baked sandy soil to become moist again. When the tubers are just starting new seasonal growth and they are exposed to overwetness, the tuber can't shrink down, as it is supposed to for a brief period, and it can't cope with this premature excess moisture so that it eventually rots. So as the young growth continues, the tuber is the only source of water and nutrients for the first four weeks. As the plant matures, the original tuber shrinks slowly and then forms thick dropper roots along with thinner roots used to absorb water. I usually peek to check on its progress, carefully. The original tuber may or may not disappear altogether, sometimes reduced to a swollen portion of the stem underground. Then more moisture can be applied and as the plant ends its growing cycle after flowering, the original tuber will start to swell up again. This is followed by formation of the dropper roots with thickened knobs at their tips which will ripen into tubers within another four to six weeks depending on the species. The soil is gradually drying until the surface growth has withered. Then it is safe to poke around to see if the tuber is fully swollen again and has shed its roots. It can be dug up and stored in a warm place wrapped in cheese cloth without any soil.