Nepenthes of Gunung Ulu Kali

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The Genting Highlands are situated about 40 km northeast of Kuala Lumpur in tropical Malaysia. The highest mountain in this part of the range is Gunung Ulu Kali (1800 m). Presently the area is being developed as a tourist resort and boasts four hotels, a golf course, and a casino.

Gunung Ulu Kali is often shrouded in cloud and rainfall in the area is high. The temperature ranges between the extremes of hot days (30° C) and cool nights (10° C).

The vegetation on the ridges and crests is upper montane moss forest characterized by stunted trees of *Dacrydium* and *Leptospermum,* several species of *Rhododendron* and other ericaceous shrubs and many epiphytic orchids. The top soil is peat, which is often covered in dense mats of sphagnum moss.

Three species of *Nepenthes* have been recorded from Gunung Ulu Kali, *Nepenthes macfarlanei, Nepenthes gracillima* var *major* and *Nepenthes sanguinea* (Stone, 1981). During 1982 and 1983, I made several trips to Gunung Ulu Kali to observe and collect Nepenthes.

Nepenthes macfarlanei is a robust plant with waxy leaves and was the most abundant plant species in the moss forest. This species was readily distinguished by its cream-coloured, crimson-spotted upper pitchers and large, ovate (10 to 15 cm high and 5 to 8 cm wide), mottled red lower pitchers. Plants often reached lengths greater than 4 m.

Nepenthes gracillima, although not as plentiful as *Nepenthes macfarlanei,* was easily identified by its dark purplish-black, cylindrical pitchers (10 to 20 cm high and 1 to 3 cm wide). Mature plants were vines greater than 5 m in length. The form of this species found on Gunung Ulu Kali most closely fits *Nepenthes gracillima* var *major* (Ridley, 1924).

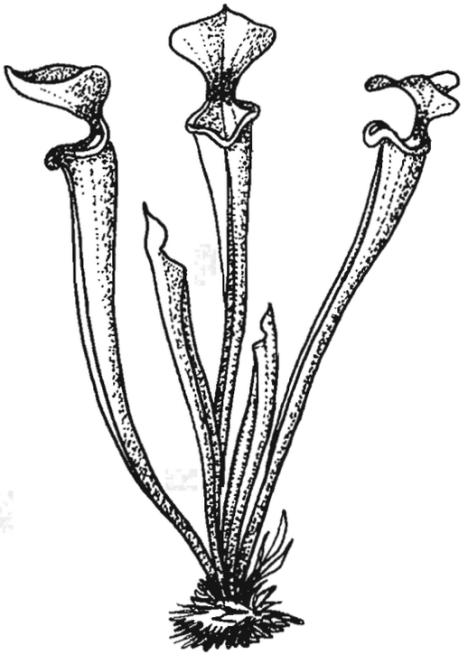
Nepenthes sanguinea was rarely found on the ridges and crests of Gunung Ulu Kali. However, this species was found along roadside embankments at an altitude 300 m lower than the summit. *Nepenthes sanguinea* was conspicuous with its wide peristome (1 to 2 cm) and cylindrical pitchers (10 to 20 cm high and 3 to 6 cm wide). The colour of the pitchers varied from pale red and green to a dark, uniform blood red.

Literature Cited

Ridley, H.N. (1924) *The Flora of the Malay Peninsula, III.* London, L. Reeve & Co., p. 22.

Stone, B.C. (1981) The summit flora of Gunung Ulu Kali (Pahang, Malaysia). *Federation Museums Journal,* Kuala Lumpur, Volume 26 (Part I), N.S.

(See front and back covers as well as photos, pages 66-7).



Sarracenia flava
Drawing by Ron Fleming



Upper pitcher of Nepenthes macfarlanei.

Photo by Roger Shivas



Lower pitcher of *Nepenthes macfarlanei.*

Photo by Roger Shivas

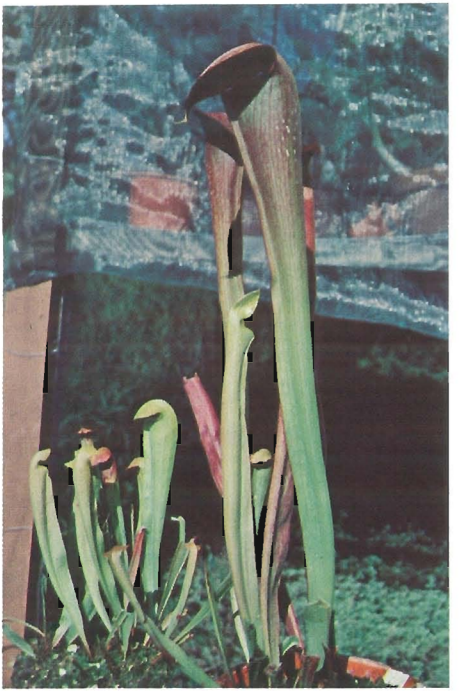


Figure 1—The smaller plants are green *S. alata* × *minor* (North Carolina), and the larger plants are the red-throated *S. alata* × *S. minor* (Okefenokee).



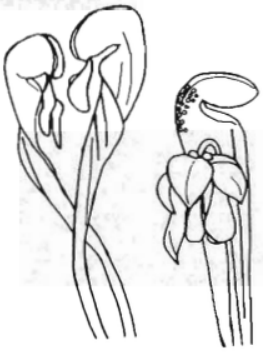
Figure 2—*S. alata* red-throated × *S. flava* heavy-veined.

Photos above by Steve Clemesha.



Distinctive purplish-black pitchers of *Nepenthes gracillima.*

Photo by Roger Shivas



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COVER PHOTOS

Front: Rosette plant and lower pitcher of *Nepenthes sanguinea.*

Back: Lower pitchers of *Nepenthes sanguinea.*

See story, page 65. Photos by Roger Shivas

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