Another less common form of variety *multifida* produces attractive pink flowers, a very sought after plant by C.P. growers. Leaves of var. *multifida* are zygomorphic, the right side being a mirror image of the left. The latter two described varieties of *D. binata* retain the typical wishbone leaf form until the plant has reached maturity.

One of the easiest of *Drosera* to cultivate, *D. binata* makes a lovely multi-planting or basket specimen. Plant in broad shallow pots, to accommodate the large root system. A peat and sand medium is recommended. Position pots in strong light or growth will become weak and mucous won't be produced. Keep the medium wet to sodden during growth periods, and maintain some moisture during dormancy. Feeding with a weak organic fertilizer will help produce strong, healthy growths, but take care not to overdo it. A single plant of *D. binata* can catch and digest hundreds of moths, mosquitoes and other small insects, each growth season.

To propagate, take leaf cuttings or root divisions during the period from mid spring to early summer. Seed of *D. binata* should germinate easily without stratification, but if you're not succeeding, try placing seed in the fridge for two weeks before sowing. Sow seed from early to late spring.

References:

"Plants of Prey" by Rica Erickson
"Carnivorous Plants" by Adrain Slack

Drosera indica

by Bruce Pierson

Drosera indica is an annual species which is fairly easy to grow from seed. I sow the seed on a mixture of three parts peat, one part sand. The seed should be planted in early spring, to ensure the longest possible growing season for the plants. Germination can be slow, particularly if the weather is cool. It can be 4 to 8 weeks before the seed germinates, sometimes longer.

Seedlings seem prone to damping off, particularly if there is insufficient air circulation, so have good air circulation and a not too high humidity. A sunny position seems to suit this plant, with possibly 25% shading in the hotter months. My watering is by the tray method, with 10-20 mm of water in the tray being ideal. I grow 4-6 plants in a 100 mm pot.

Through the growing season, the plant will develop quite a long stem, which is very thin and offers no support to the plant, which will trail along anything in its path. The stem will reach 4.5 cm or longer in the growing season with leaves 1.5 cm long. The flowers are borne on a separate stem to 2.5 cm long, bearing as many as 12 flowers. After setting, the seed will ripen slowly, starting with the pod nearest the stem.

The growing season for this plant is from mid-late spring, until late autumn-early winter. Propagation is by seed only, which must be collected as it ripens, and stored in the fridge until next season (seed falling into the pot will generally remain dormant). At the end of the growing season, the plant will decline and die, dependent on its seed to carry the species on.

LAST CHANCE!

Anyone wishing to be *excluded* from the ICPS directory should notify Pat Hansen *immediately:* 3321 Hamell Road, Fullerton, CA 92635.