D. anglica in a sphagnum bog in Sweden.

Photos by Mark Ainley

S. purpurea in habitat at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park, Canada.

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS IN CANADA AND SWEDEN

by Mark Ainley, 4828 Wilson Ave., Montreal, Quebec, H3X 3P2, Canada

During the past few years, I have had the pleasure, and good fortune, to have spent my summer vacations where several forms of carnivorous plants were found. This includes Canada and Sweden.

My "treasure islands" in Canada were Provincial Parks in Ontario. In 1980, during the first year of my interest in CP, I was thrilled when a guide at Neys Provincial Park, just off Lake Superior, showed me my first CP in the wild: *Pinguicula vulgaris* and *Drosera rotundifolia!* I had never seen these species before, and I knew not what to expect. There was an interesting point concerning the location of the plants, however; they were growing in rocks, just off the lake. The *Pinguicula* caught my attention right away; the green rosettes of sticky leaves were easily recognised. The *Drosera* were not as easily located, however. It turned out that they were right under my feet, hidden by their numerous flower stalks. Although they were infinitely smaller than I had hoped, I was still satisfied.

I landed my next Canadian "treasure island" in the summer of 1984: Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park, also in Ontario, along the Mattawa River. I was told about a sphagnum bog near a boardwalk, so I decided to investigate.

Near the exit of the boardwalk (I was told I'd arrive at the bog sooner that way), I was greeted by some *D. rotundifolia* growing on a log in a lake! Hopefully, there would be more CP inside! After walking for a little while on the boardwalk, and seeing more *D. rotundifolia,* this time in sphagnum, I decided to get off the boardwalk, and investigate the sphagnum more carefully. After coming in close contact with a stagnant pond, I decided to walk around it to see what I could find. After almost completing a circle around the pond, voila! Hundreds of *Sarracenia purpurea* greeted my CP-hungry eyes! The specimens, growing in deep sphagnum right next to the pond, ranged in size from 3 to 12 inches and in colour from deep purple to bright green. I wanted to take some samples, but it being a Provincial park, I had to restrain myself.

However, one year earlier, I found my true CP paradise: Sweden! I spent two weeks in the Swedish countryside, and found tons of pleasure! While travelling across the region of Dalarna, after a lengthy drive, our hosts decided to pull off the road for a break, so I decided to look around a bit. My eyes caught the sight of green and red sphagnum off the path, so I ran down to see what I could find in the moss that I soon discovered to be dripping wet. Loads of *D. anglica* and *intermedia?* the first non-rotundifolia sundews that I had ever seen! They were beautiful specimens, in full sunshine, so there were large globs of dew on the leaves. I quickly took some habitat pictures, put a sample in a cup, and it was time to leave.

We stayed in a cottage between Salen and the Norwegian border, and CP were in store for me every day. The first day, I discovered some *D. rotundifolia* near the base of a nearby mountain. Although there were several sphagnum bogs at a higher altitude, there were no more CP to be found.

A day or so later, after our hosts paid a brief visit to Norway, they brought back, to my delight and surprise, a shopping bag filled to the rim with *D. anglica* and *intermedia!* I planted them in plastic cups, and kept them in the cottage on the window-sill. The next day, I was taken to the bog where these plants were found. They were in a giant sphagnum bog, just off the road, near a beaver pond. The place was certainly littered with CP, and one had to be careful not to step on them, or sink into the numerous ponds in

the bog.

Towards the last days I spent in the Swedish countryside, I had my best find. Our hosts showed us some *P. vulgaris,* my first in Europe, growing in a rock/sand mixture, near a mountain stream. I looked around, and nearby, I discovered *P. vulgaris* and *D. rotundifolia* growing together in moss (not sphagnum). I walked around some more, and then found the largest *Pinguicula* I had ever seen! They were buried very deep in sphagnum between some bushes. Each leaf was at least 6 inches long and 1 inch wide. They were beautiful, but unfortunately, impossible to photograph.

The interesting common factor in all of my sightings is that no matter where the plants were to be found, the habitat was amazingly similar in both countries. The sphagnum bogs were alike, and the beaver pond made me feel like I was at home in Canada!

But no matter where I found my CP, each discovery was as exciting as the last.

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Drosera capensis (Crestate) An Historical Account

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If my memory serves me right, it was back in '75 that there was an outbreak of Cyclamen Mite among *Drosera* collections in Southern California. The little pests were eventually eliminated but the deformed leaves reminded all of us of their destructive powers. At about this same time, I first noticed an unusual occurrence on one of my *D. capensis* narrow-leaf flowers (Photo #1). At first, it was suspected that the mites were still present or some residual effects lingered on from the mitecide that was used (Kelthane-WP). But being an avid propagator and always looking for intriguing varieties, I cut up the one leaf that had become bifid (forked at the tip) and hoped for budding (Photo #2).

As usual with this easy-to-propagate variety, budding took place and the plantlets were transplanted and grown on to maturity. One of the progeny developed into a plant characterized by the crestate growth form or an elongation of crown. (Photo #3). This most desirable feature was selected for mass propagation and the plant was put into a modified high volume production to see if the crestate feature would hold true. Subsequent propagations and the resultant plants conformed to the hoped-for crestate form. Plants were distributed to local collectors

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Photo #2
Photo by Bob Hanrahan