Pale-flowered varieties of *Pinguicula grandiflora*

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Referring to E.C. Nelson's paper "CP in Ireland," CPN 15 (2): 41-47, I can add the following information concerning pale-flowered forms of *P. grandiflora:* On May 29, 1956, Prof. D.A. Webb (University of Dublin School of Botany) sent me a normal and an almost white specimen of *P. grandiflora* from the Burrens near Ballyvaghan in Clare County. He wrote to me: "There is also a variety (of *P. grandiflora)* that I have never seen elsewhere, with very pale, almost white flowers." The interesting tendency to form pale-flowered varieties is also observed in other *Pinguicula* species and is not restricted to Ireland.

In *continental* Europe *P. grandiflora* exists in one dark and *two pale* forms:

In the Jura valleys, north of Geneva, near the French- Swiss border (e.g. between the Col de la Faucille and Mijoux) the pale-blue *forma pallida* (Gaudin) Casper is quite abundant. At some habitats it grows in dozens of specimen, but always associated with the prevailing normal dark-flowered form. The *f. pallida* is never totally white but very pale blue with a dark blue spot at the basis of the central lower corolla lobe. Even at sunny places neither calyx, seed capsule and stem nor the hibernaculum (winter bud) displays any reddish or purple pigment (in the dark-flowered form they do). Phenotypical intermediates between the pale and the dark form are not found.

The mountains near Grenoble are the habitats of the pink-flowered *ssp. rosea* (Mutel) Casper. Neither the normal dark-flowered *P. grandiflora* nor the *f. pallida* are present there. The *ssp. rosea* is geographically and genetically isolated. It differs from the *f. pallida* by somewhat smaller blossoms, a shorter and slimmer purple spur, the purple calyx and the pink-white colour of the blossom with reddish stripes in the corolla throat but lacking the darker spot at the basis of the lower lip. Calyx, seed capsule and stem are purple, the winter buds often show a slightly reddish pigmentation.

The chromosome numbers of *P. grandiflora* and all its varieties are identical (2n + 32). Pursuant to the Hagerup-Tischler evolution rule *P. grandiflora* is therefore an older species than *P. vulgaris* (2n + 64)

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Color types of *P. grandiflora*

The three color types of *grandiflora* in continental Europe: The dark-flowered *P. grandiflora*, the *forma pallida* (middle) and the *ssp. rosea*.

***P. kondoi*. Photo by Richard Tilbrooke of South Australia**