Carnivorous Plants in Ireland. III: David Moore and *Sarracenia* x *moorei* at Glasnevin .

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Sarracenia x *moorei*, the first artificial hybrid pitcher plant, was raised in the early 1870s at the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. This garden situated a few kilometres north of the centre of Dublin still flourishes and today is known as the National Botanic Gardens; for many years - from about 1870 until 1922 when the Irish Free State was established—it bore the name Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.[1]

Almost as multifarious are the names applied to the hybrid which resulted from the deliberate cross-pollination of *Sarracenia flava* and *S. leucophylla*. All plants arising from that cross, whether naturally occurring or artificially created, and all backcrosses have only one correct name *Sarracenia x moorei* [Anonymous ex] Masters. *S. x mooreana* Veitch is a superfluous synonym which *must* be abandoned; its continued use is contrary to the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*.[2]

The hybrid was named for Dr David Moore[3], Director of Glasnevin Botanic Gardens from 1838 to 1879. David was a Scot, a native of Dundee. His father and his grandfather were gardeners and David (and his younger brother Charles) evidently absorbed their love of plants. It must also be said that Scotland's unique system of education in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was conducive to the 'production' of gardener-botanists of outstanding calibre with a depth of knowledge equalled by few modern horticulturists or botanists.[4] While still in his 'teens, David moved from Scotland to Dublin, as an assistant gardener in the city's other botanical garden, that attached to the University of Dublin (Trinity College). At the College Botanic Garden, situated in Ballsbridge, one of Dublin's southern suburbs, David's botanical education and horticultural training continued under the guidance of James Townsend Mackay —he was also Scottish and also imbued with that distinctive Scottish passion both for wild plants and cultivated ones.

After four years in the College Botanic Gardens, growing orchids and Cape heaths, among many other things, David Moore became a field botanist working for the Irish Ordnance Survey, collecting indigenous species in the north of Ireland. His contribution to Irish botany was to continue for many years. But in 1838 he returned to gardening, as curator of the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin.

David Moore took over a garden of about 30 acres which was in its fifth decade. It had been formed as a patriotic gesture in March, 1795, had risen to be a fine garden and then declined into the doldrums. Ninian Niven—yet another Scot—was appointed to resuscitate it in 1834 and he succeeded wonderfully, and was able to bequeath to David Moore a vigorous and expanding collection. By the late 1830s plants were flooding in from collectors in the Himalayas and the Pampas of the Argentine, from Australia and the Cape of Good Hope. Glasnevin was already leading many of its 'sister' gardens in the challenging work of plant introduction.

David Moore built on Niven's programme of replanting and acquisition. He began to form the orchid collection that was to sparkle brilliantly by the end of the century, and it was at Glasnevin, under David Moore's direction, that for the first time an orchid was raised from seed and brought into flower. He had an equal interest in trees and shrubs, raising and flowering such wonders as *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, that sumptuous lily from the Himalaya with a flower spike that can rise four metres in height.



Fig. 1. David Moore: photograph c. 1865

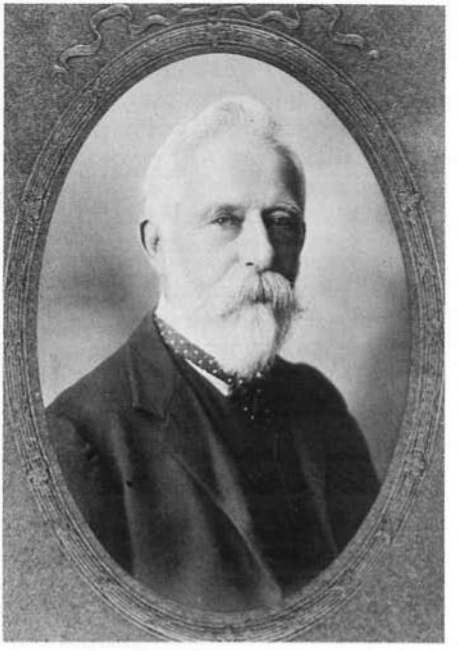

Fig. 3. Wilhelm Keit, who as propagator at the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, assisted David Moore in raising the first *Sarracenia* hybrids: photograph c. 1900 (by courtesy of Dr. L. E. Codd and 0. Keit).



Fig. 2. One of the gold medals awarded to David Moore at the International Botanical and Horticultural Congress, 1874, in Firenze by Royal Horticultural Society of Tuscany (by courtesy of Major-General F. D. Moore).

Insectivorous plants were among David Moore's particular favourites and he evidently assembled a good collection of species. But he was not content just to grow species; Moore and his gardeners, especially the young German-born propagator, Wilhelm Keit[5], realized that by artificially cross-pollinating *Sarracenia* species, hybrids might be produced. This they did, raising a batch of seedlings from *S. drummondii* (correctly *S. leucophylla)*, and from *S. rubra* both of which had been pollinated with *S. flava*. The exact date of this work is not known but one document suggests the *S. leucophylla* x *S. flava* hybrid was created in 1870 and the other in 1872. The first hybrid acquired the name *Sarracenia x moorei* as a compliment to Dr Moore, and the second was named *Sarracenia x popei* after William Pope, a foreman in Glasnevin Botanic Gardens. Dr David Moore brought the Glasnevin hybrids, and foliage of that wonderful aquatic lace-leaf, *Aponogeton madagascariensis* (formerly *Ouvirandra fenestralis)*, to the International Botanical and Horticultural Congress, Firenze (Italy), in June 1874. For his achievements in raising the hybrids and growing the lace-leaf, Moore was awarded two gold medals, both of which survive, one in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin, and the other in the family. Which medal was for which achievement is not known - they are identical. By the late 1870s Glasnevin was a thriving garden, a veritable mecca for plant enthusiasts - many Irish gardens benefited from the largesse of Glasnevin in distributing new and rare plants, and gardens, both public and private, in other countries were not omitted when new glories could be spared.

David Moore married three times. His first wife died of typhoid in 1836 leaving two young children who, it seems, went to foster-parents. David's second wife died in 1847, again leaving two children who were cared for by others. Margaret, his third wife survived him, and they had five children, the eldest boy being Frederick who also became a brilliant horticulturist. When David Moore died in June 1879, Frederick was quickly appointed to succeed him as curator in Glasnevin. Following his father's successful early crosses, Frederick Moore continued to raise *Sarracenia* hybrids, including back-crosses (see Table l) during the 1880s and 1890s. Dr David Moore[6] - born on 23 April 1808 at Dundee. Scotland: died on 9 June 1879 in Dublin - is commemorated in many plants: *Sarracenia x moorei, Apium x moorei* (a natural hybrid found in Ireland), *Crinum moorei* (a lily from Natal, South Africa), *Passiflora mooreana* (a passion flower from Argentina). *Moorea* was proposed as the generic name for the pampas grass but was never taken up and *Cortaderia* is now conserved against it.

Notes

1. For a comprehensive history, see E. C. Nelson & E. M. McCracken. 1987. *'The Brightest Jewel': a history of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.* Boethius Press, Killkenny.
2. This nomenclatural quagmire is discussed fully in E. C. Nelson. 1986. *Sarracenia* hybrids raised at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, Ireland: nomenclature and typification. *Taxon* 35: 574-578.
3. Not for Thomas Moore of Chelsea Physic Garden, as was stated by J. A. Mazrimas & L. C. Song, Jr. 1984. *Sarracenia* hybrids—the F_1 generation. Part I. *S. flava* hybrids. *Carnivorous Plant Newsletter* 13 (2): 41-44.
4. E. C. Nelson. 1987. The Scottish connexion in Irish botany and horticulture. *The Scottish Naturalist* 1987:3-31.
5. E. M. McCracken & E. C. Nelson. 1990. Julius Wilhelm Keit, a German horticulturist at the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. *Moorea* 8: 34-40.
6. Various sources state that his surname was originally Muir; his baptismal register gives it as Moir which is another variant of Moore. For date of birth see E. C. Nelson. 1983. David Moore's date of birth—a correction. *Glasra* 7: 24

Table 1: Hybrids created in Glasnevin 1870-1885: this is an exact transcription of a list made c. 1900 by Frederick Moore (nomenclature has not been updated. nor has the orthography of the names been altered although neither accords with present-day rules of nomenclature.)

1870 *S. Moorei* (*S. Drummondi* x *S. flava* F)
{ed. note: F=female}
1872 *S. Popei* (S. *rubra* x *S. flava* F)
1878 *S. Drummondi* x *S. flava* F 3 pots
1879 *S. flava* x *S. purpurea* F

1880 *S. Popei* with sps ? [i.e. sp. ined.]
S. Popei x *S. purpurea* F
S. Moorei x *S. purpurea* F
S. Drummondi alba x *S. Moorei* F
S. flava x *S. Drummondi* F
S. flava x *S. purpurea* F
S. Drummondi x *S. purpurea* F

1881 [second parent is **male** in all subsequent crosses]
S. *Drummondi* x *S. Chelsoni*
S. Drummondi alba x *S. Chelsoni*
S. flava x *S. Drummondi*
S. rubra x *S. Chelsoni*
S. flava x *S. Chelsoni*
S. Chelsoni x *S. Drummondi*
S. Moorei x *S. purpurea*
S. flava x *S. purpurea*
S. Popei x *S. Chelsoni*
S. Drummondi x *S. Chelsoni*
S. flava x male parent uncertain (self?)
S. purpurea x *S. Chelsoni*
S. rubra x *S. purpurea*
S. flava x *S. Chelsoni*

1882 *S. Popei* x *S. purpurea*
[ditto]
S. flava x *S. purpurea*
S. Moorei x *S.* purpurea

1883 *S. flava* x *S. Stevensii*
[ditto]
S. Popei plant with flowers and pitchers closely approaching *S. flava* x *S. Stevensii*
S. Stevensii x *S. flava*
S. .Moorei x *S. Stevensii*
S. Moorei x *S. purpurea*
[ditto]
S. Drummondi x *S. Chelsoni*
S. Popei x *S. Chelsoni*
S. Popei x *S. Chelsoni*
S. Popei x *S. purpurea*
S. rubra x *S. purpurea*
S. flava x *S. purpurea*
S. purpurea x *S. flava*
S. purpurea x *S. .Moorei*
S. Chelsoni x *S. Popei*

1884 *S. Chelsoni* x *S. Patersoni*
S. Williamsii x *S. Moorei*
S. Stevensi x *S. Moorei*
S. flava maxima x *S. Moorei*
S. purpurea x *S. flava maxima*
S. Chelsoni x *S. flava maxima*
S. Moorei x *S. Chelsoni*
S. Popei x *S. Williamsii*
S. flava maxima x *S. purpurea*
S. Stevensii x *S. purpurea*
S. rubra acuminata x *S. purpurea*

1885 *S. Chelsoni* x *S. rubra acuminata*
S. purpurea x [*S. rubra acuminata*]
S. Moorei x *S. Patersoni*
S. rubra acuminata x *S. Patersoni*
S. Patersoni x *S. Chelsoni*
S. rubra acuminata x *S. Madissoniana*
S. Drummondii x [*S. madissoniana*]

Want Ads

David Parker (523 Cascade Circle; Bennettsville SC 29512; USA. Tel. 803/479-4257): B *Dionaea muscipula* from anyone whom would have any for sale.

Randy Zerr (1509 Pennsboro Circle; Bossier City LA 71112-3717; USA; Tel. 318/742-0237): TS: *Cephalotus*, droseras, other CPs. Would like to correspond & trade with other CP enthusiasts.