The Identity of Drosera 'Regan's Ford', the Yellow-flowered Pygmy Sundew.

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Unique amongst the many species of pygmy sundew endemic to SouthWestern Australia is one with bright yellow and white flowers. White, pink, black and orange-red are known in flowers among the pygmy species, but yellow is unusual indeed. Steve Rose (1977) first described the plant in this very journal, amongst a catalogue of twenty of his discoveries, many of which, as he believed then, have proved to be new species and forms although they were omitted from the Flora of Australia account (Marchant et al. 1982).

"Yellow-flowered Drosera from Regans Ford (Gingin). This plant was found four years ago and remains unnamed today, but it grows in deep yellow-white sand sometimes with *D. paleacea* but never together. It has an early dormancy and sports a nice pale-bright yellow flower" (Rose, 1977).

Rose's yellow-flowered pygmy became distributed under the cultivar name 'Regan's Ford', but in the twenty years since it was discovered, has had another five names given it!

1. *Drosera* 'Reagan's Ford' is simply an erroneous orthographic variant of 'Regan's Ford' that occurred in horticultural catalogues and was taken up by e.g. Slack (1986: 54,56).

2. *Drosera pycnoblasta* Diels was the name attributed to this plant by Kondo & Kondo (1983: 64). This identification is understandable given the close resemblance between the two species, but already, by 1986, Slack loc. cit. was arguing again for the

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distinctness of Drosera 'Reagan's Ford'(sic).

3. *Drosera rechingeri* Strid was the name attributed in error by Lowrie (1989: 154-157) to *Drosera* 'Regan's Ford'. *Drosera rechingeri* is a very different, unrelated species of pygmy which in that same work, Lowrie gives the name *D. coolamon* Marchant nom. nud.. The latter name has no legitimate standing according to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Greuter et al. 1988, hereinafter referred to as the Code) though has common horticultural usage.

4. *Drosera chrysochila* Schlauer was the new name given 'Regan's Ford' by Jan Schlauer in an excellent paper (Schlauer 1992) after realising Lowrie's error, although I (Cheek, 1990) remained ignorant. Schlauer only proceeded after publication early in 1992 (Marchant & Lowrie 1992) of a paper validating the many nomina nuda (naked or illegitimate names) that had appeared in Lowrie's books, when it was realised that there was no reference made to the *'D. rechingeri'* mistake.

5. Almost simultaneously with Schlauer, Lowrie (in Lowrie & Carlquist, 1992), who had evidently been apprised of his error, published another new name in a U.S. journal, renaming 'Regan's Ford' as *D. citrina* Lowrie & Carlquist.

A plant can have only one correct botanical name according to the Code, so which is correct for *Drosera* 'Regan's Ford'? Since both *D. chrysochila* and *D. citrina* are fully legitimate according to the Code, the correct name must be chosen from among them solely by priority. That is, which was published first?

At Kew, Der Palmengarten (*D. chrysochila*) was received on 19th October 1992, and Phytologia (*D. citrina*) on the 11th November the former seemed to be the winner as the correct name. Normally this would be the end of the matter, but the dates were close together. I decided to check further. In early December 1992, I faxed other botanical libraries. Missouri Botanical Garden does not date stamp its journals but thought it had received Der Palmengarten in mid-November 1992, and Phytologia in late October (Constance Wolff in litt.): reversing the priority! The Smithsonian (Ruth Shallert in litt.) had had a mix up with subscriptions and hadn't received either, neither had the library of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney in Australia. But Berlin (Prof. Dr. Lack in litt.) had received both journals on broadly similar dates to those of Kew: Phytologia on 23rd November; Der Palmengarten October 15th. Clearly the U.S. library was getting the U.S. journal first, the European libraries the European journal first and nothing had reached Australia. The matter was unresolved. The dates of publication were so close that it seemed wise to check further still. I contacted the publishers concerned to find out when they had posted off their journals. Dr. Zizka (in litt. 14th December) replied that this number of his journal, Der Palmengarten, was first sold on 12th October 1992. Michael Warnock (in litt. 16th December 1992) replied that his journal, Phytologia was sent out on 7th October 1992. So, after waiting nearly twenty years after its discovery by Rose in Western Australia in 1973, *Drosera* 'Regan's Ford' received two legitimate botanical names in Europe and North America within only five days of each other. Only by the slender margin of being published five days earlier does *D. citrina* have priority over *D. chrysochila* and become the correct name for *D.* 'Regan's Ford'.

The correct name, synonymy and a short description of the plant follow.

D. citrina Lowrie & Carlquist, Phytologia 73(2): 99 (7 October 1992). Type: Regan's Ford, S.W. Western Australia, *Lowrie* 83/011 (PERTH, holotype; RSA, isotype).

Drosera 'Regan's Ford' Hort., Rose in Carn. Pl. Newsl. 6(l): 11 (1977).

Drosera 'Reagan's Ford' Hort., Slack, Insect-eating Plants. (1986: 55 & 57).

D. pycnoblasta sensu Kondo & Kondo in Carniv. Pl. Wrld. Col. (1983: 64) non Diels in Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 35: 207 (1904). *D. rechingeri sensu* Lowrie in Carnivorous Plants of Australia volume 2 1989: 154) non Strid, PI. Syst. Evol. 155: 343-345 (1987).

D. chrysochila Schlauer, Der Palmengarten 3/92: 190 (12 October 1992). Type ex cult. Hennern, *Schlauer* 536, (FRP, holotype).

Short-lived perennial. Stem inconspicuous. Leaf-rosette to 1.5 cm across. Stipule bud almost spherical c. 5 x 5 mm, with a short apical tuft of hairs, c. 0.5 mm long, slightly shaggy. Leaf-blade shortly elliptic, c. 1.5 x 1.2 mm. Leaf-stalk c.5 x 0.3-1 mm, margin with stalked glandular hairs. Flowering stem solitary or 2, to 4 cm, minutely glandular-hairy, densely so amongst the flowers, with up to 12 flowers. Flower stalks to 3 mm, erect in fruit. Sepals with sparse long-stalked glands. Petals 4-5 mm long, bright lemon-yellow, basal half white. Styles 3, threadlike, white.

Western Australia, S.W., only known from vicinity of Regan's Ford, Gingin.

Drosera citrina is one of the many predominantly apomictic (Cheek, in press) pygmy sundews that seems highly localized in distribution and thus vulnerable to habitat destruction. Collection for horticultural purposes does not seem to be a threat since like all pygmies, it is so readily propagated by gemmae.

The numerous pygmy sundews of south-west Western Australia fall cleanly into two groups as far as flower colour is concerned: Group 1 species have orange-red petals usually with black markings or black stamens/styles such as in *D. miniata* Diels, *D. platystigma* Lehm. and *D. sewelliae* Diels. Group 2 species are those with white to pink flowers - sometimes with petals wholly white or wholly pink, but very often white with pink markings or both white and pink-petalled variants in the same species e.g. *D. dichrosepala* Turcz. White and pink do not occur in the Group 1 species and orange-red and black never in the flowers of Group 2 species. Presumably two different pollinators or groups of pollinators are involved. Perhaps *D. citrina* falls into a third group. Group 2 colouration is the norm throughout the genus, though the pink often deepens into purple. Group 1 flower colouration is otherwise unknown apart from the isolated *D. glanduligera* Lehm. also West Australian and probably the link between the pygmies and the rest of the genus. Yellow is very rarely seen in Drosera, but it is interesting to note that the monotypic, Mediterranean

Drosophyllum Link, undoubtedly the closest relative of Drosera, has bright yellow flowers.

Now that the world's *Drosera* species are largely delineated, it is time look more closely at the reproductive biology and find out what visits the often showy flowers of this fascinating group.

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