

Since the real trick is getting them started, it is here that I will continue to work to improve the success rates.

Finally, a disclaimer, you will most probably lose a number of germinating seeds even with this method. I lost about 50% of mine, but compared to a 0% success rate over the last 16 years it is a definite improvement. Also, a lot of the germinating seeds will simply refuse to root and will expire on the moss. Do not worry. The healthy ones will almost always make it!

So crack open a Fosters if you get a *Byblis gigantea* going. You deserve it.

(2nd year update: I had a 90% success rate moving them to soil. So I had a second Fosters!)

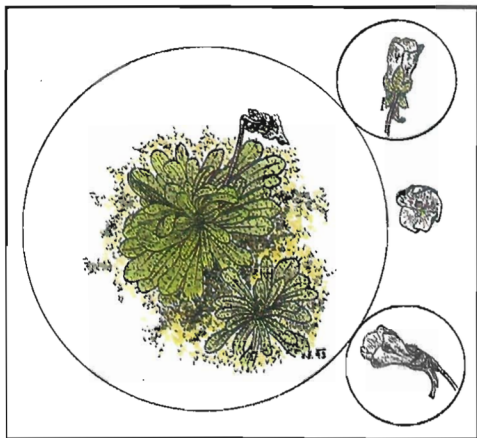


Figure 1. *Pinguicula rotundifolia* in flower, and vegetatively budded secondary plant. Drawings by author.

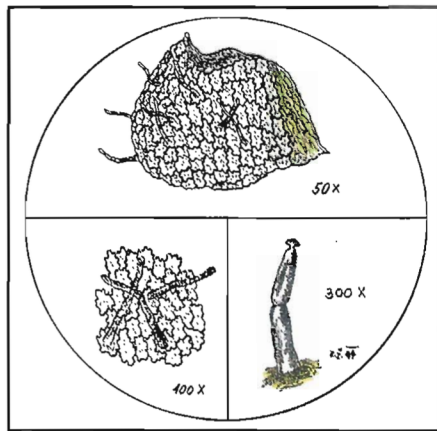


Figure 2. Leaf surface studies of *P. rotundifolia*.

## GROWING CP IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC III: *Pinguicula rotundifolia*

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This instalment, I would like to discuss another Mexican pinguicula, *P. rotundifolia*.

I have been growing this plant for about two years in a glass case in my study and I can say it has responded nicely. The species is cultivated in a 1:1 mix of perlite and peat. The pot is placed in a saucer but water is not allowed to stand in the saucer especially in winter. It seems much better to spray the winter leaves during the winter with pure water.

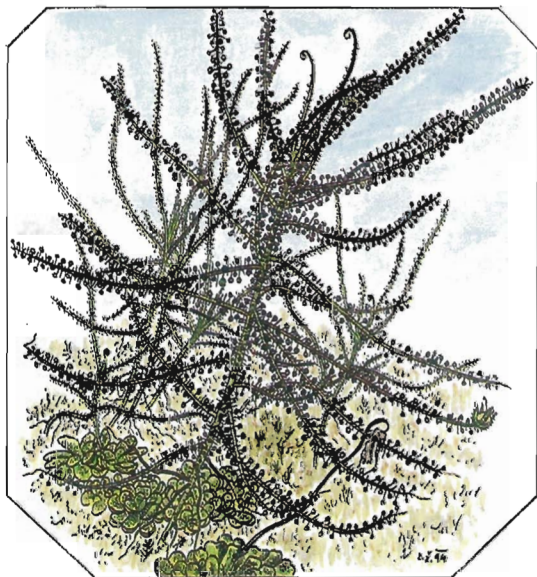


Figure 3. A "stray" *Byblis liniflora* in the pot with *P. rotundifolia*.

Figure 1 shows the plant in flower (10 Oct 1993), and you can also see clear evidence of vegetative reproduction. This occurs spontaneously and often.

I have never observed more than one flower per plant at any one time. My plants flower in all seasons except winter. As is the case with many *Pinguicula* spp. the corolla persists for a few days only while the remainder of the flower, including the glabrous or almost glabrous peduncle, persists for several weeks.

The leaves exhibit no movement since trapping is passive. Glands seem fewer on the leaf surfaces compared to other pinguiculas. Also, fewer prey seem to be trapped compared to other pinguiculas in my collection. Figure 2 shows three leaf studies using my field microscope.

Early in the spring of 1994 I noticed an unexpected germination of *Byblis liniflora* in a pot with *P. rotundifolia*. I decided to leave it there to see if the two species could co-exist, and as Figure 3 indicates, they certainly seem able to do so.

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## ***DROSERA FILIFORMIS* Raf.: ONE SPECIES OR TWO?**

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### **INTRODUCTION: THE PROBLEM --**

We are all quite familiar with the two expressions of *Drosera filiformis* Raf. The familiar northern plant has leaves 8-25 cm long with prominent red glands and occasional red leaf pigment, is known from coastal plain sandy wet areas with its main distribution running from Long Island through New Jersey, although the plant is found as far north as Maine and Massachusetts, and as far south as a few locations I know of in Columbus and Brunswick Counties, North Carolina, and disjunct populations on the shores of some lime sinkhole lakes in Bay County, Florida. There have been reports of the plant in South Carolina, but there are no supporting herbarium sheets and it has not been seen in more recent surveys. The interesting disjunct populations in Bay County, Florida are a separate problem to be tackled in a later article.

The well-known southern expression of thread-leaf sundew has leaves about 25-35 cm long and these are entirely green. The plant seems restricted to the Gulf coastal regions. I am not aware of any northern colonies, although I suppose one day someone will come across an anthocyanin-free form of the northern plant!

The problem seems to be what to call these things. The northern thread-leaf sundews are variously called *D. filiformis*, *D. filiformis* var. *typica* and *D. filiformis* var. *filiformis*. The southern Gulf coastal green plants are either *D. filiformis* var. *tracyi* or *D. tracyi*. The confusion boils down to two main factors: 1) Whether the northern and southern thread-leaf sundews are separate species or sub specific variations of one species, and 2) Changes in the ICBN while this problem has been argued.

It is worthwhile looking at some of the history of the thread- leaf sundew(s) in North America, but I am afraid that will not provide all the answers and one or two aspects are a mystery.

*Drosera filiformis* was described botanically by the colorful field botanist Constantine Samuel Rafinesque (1783-1840) in 1808 (Med. Repos. NY. 5:360) and he listed the plant as a North American boreal, and it had red glands, so it is clearly the northern expression. Nearly a century later, we come to questionable aspect number one.