

News and views: Field trip to see *Drosophyllum lusitanicum* and *Pinguicula* species in Andalusia.

The title was changed for the electronic version 5 January 2025. The original is below.

Maurizio Saroldi writes: March 15, 2008: Three friends of mine, Chiara di Biase, Gabriele Basso and Federico Caporlingua, and I left from Italy to Spain with two priorities: finding in Andalusia, in their habitats, *Drosophyllum lusitanicum* and *Pinguicula lusitanica*! We had no GPS data, just some information found on the web about *Drosophyllum* sites and nothing about the small *Pinguicula*; anyway our trip was a complete success!

We were lucky enough to find, near Facinas, a site where hundreds of *P. lusitanica* grew larger, (up to 5 cm (2 in), than those we can find in cultivation! They were half-hidden among the grasses of a wet meadow, in acidic soil composed of peat and sandstone sand. Just a few had their small flowers open. On the last day, on the road from Alcalà de los Gazules to Puerto de Galis, we came upon another small population. There, close to a little spring, in just one square meter (11 sq ft), we found no more than 10 little plants hidden among the grasses. We had more success with *Drosophyllum*. In fact we found 5 sites: Near Los Barrios – a large population with several huge plants, erect as little trees, with wooden stems as large as a finger, and could be 10 years old or more (see Figure 1); Puerto de Galis - smaller plants grew among dwarf-oaks; near Cortes de la Frontera – a large population (see Front Cover). At this site many plants also grew in the shade of the cork-oaks, and some had stems up to 50 cm (19.7 in) long to overcome the surrounding vegetation; near Puerto de las Asomadillas – a few plants; on the road from Alcalá to Puerto de Galis - many very large plants.

We always found *Drosophyllum* in acidic, red sandy-clay soil on sandstone, and in association with *erica*, *cistus*, *polygala*, *lithospermum*, often near cork-oaks. The soil was ever dry. The plants benefit from the morning dew and the long roots reach enough moisture down in the soil during the long dry season. Unfortunately, none were in bloom.

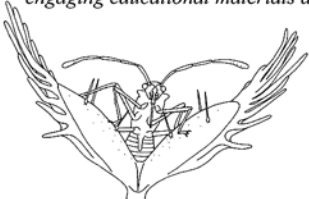
April 25, 2009: Giulio Pandeli and Lucio Semboloni replace Gabriele and Federico and we leave again to Andalusia. In Facinas we once again found *P. lusitanica*, now with many flowers and mature seed capsules. We found *Drosophyllum* in Puerto de Galis, Los Barrios, and Alcalà, and this time it was finally flowering!! We also found *P. vallisnerifolia* and *P. mundii*.

We saw a large population of *P. vallisnerifolia* at the well-known site along Rio Borosa, on the wet and vertical walls of a canyon (see Figure 2). The plants were large, and green, and some were just coming out from dormancy. Just a couple were flowering, but on the other side of the canyon, on a sunny wall, many pale lilac flowers were opened and many plants already had the long leaves typical for this species. We found another population near La Iruela, in a site more difficult to find, where they grew on wet and vertical walls next to a beautiful waterfall. There was a single plant in flower that was of a darker purple colour than in Rio Borosa. Along the walkway that leads to the Rio Mundo source, we found *P. mundii* also growing on dripping, vertical walls, sometimes very close to the waterfall, and seems to withstand surprisingly windy weather. A single plant was in bloom.

We took many pictures and have put many online. Giulio Pandeli also did a great slide show video. The video and images can be found at: <http://www.mondocarnivoro.it/andalusia.html>

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Figure 1: Thick stems of *Drosophyllum lusitanicum*. Photo by Maurizio Saroldi



Figure 2: *Pinguicula vallisnerifolia* on a wall in Rio Borosa canyon. Photo by Maurizio Saroldi

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Front Cover: Grasshopper caught in *Drosophyllum lusitanicum*. Photo by Chiara di Biase. Article on page 88.

Back Cover: Massive stands of *Sarracenia leucophylla* at Splinter Hill Reserve. Note variation amongst pitchers. Photo by Brian Barnes. Article on page 68.

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