

ften you will find young ones growing on a sand that has been washed down from above. The seed germinate quickly on this sand. Seed do not seem to have a set season for germinating as I found seedlings at all times of the year, summer and winter, but only after much rain. It would seem they require much moisture to aid germination.

I also found them at their best at Mooroochydore, about 65 miles north up the coast from Brisbane. Here, I have found them growing on the side of the road very prolifically where they are often mowed over. They reach two inches in diameter and are yellowish-green often with the tips of the leaves a bright orange or red. When you get one of our real dry spells which occur from time to time, they will then flower profusely and set seed followed by the plants shrivelling up and disappearing only to reappear with the first good rain. They also can grow within a few feet of high tide near the beach.

I also found the species growing at Stanthorpe which is 140 miles south of Brisbane at 2000 feet altitude. This is one area in Queensland that really gets cold, even down to zero degrees Centigrade. It often snows here in winter and the plant grows in places where there is constant seepage.

A few general ecological points about Drosera burmanni: it grows at temperatures from below freezing to over 100°F. and at altitudes from sea level to 2000 feet. Soil is peaty sand at the coast, black loam near home with a small amount of sand and decomposed granite at Stanthorpe. It needs constant moisture, not stagnant water as found in a swamp condition but water must be in motion. I also found it growing on rather dry ground; during wet weather it drains readily.

#### THE SEARCH FOR THE 27 POINT DROSERA BINATA

by George Ashley

My wife and I started off on our trip early to get the 8:30 bus to Stradbroke Island. The journey to Stradbroke takes two hours--about one hour ten minutes by bus and fifty minutes on the barge which carries the bus. The bus stops off by some shops and a cafe where we got off and bought a few things for lunch. We continued on foot for another half mile, and under a shady tree and nice soft grass, we unpacked and had a snack and a cup of tea. I then changed into waders and made for the swamp across the road.

The swamp is quite large--only the road and about twenty yards of grassy ground separate it from the beach. This is the swamp where I collected sphagnum moss along the margin. For about twenty to fifty yards grow many swamp trees. However, I decided to go into the swamp itself and finally reached the middle where it was mainly deep holes about waist deep and small hummocks of ground and thick with reeds and sedges. It was amongst these I found a few Drosera binata, not 16 points, but 18, 20, and 21 and, believe it or not, I saw what I took to be two leaves but it turned out to be one with 27 points. Around the base of these plants were growing thousands of seedling Utricularia species. I collected specimens of all plants and then returned to my wife and we had lunch and a rest.

Next, we walked up to the swamp I visited a while ago at Eastertime which was about 1/4 mile farther up the road. This swamp is between the road and the beach. D. binata grows almost to the edge where the salt water comes at high tide. Since the area had a fire through it a few months previous, all the long grass and reeds were burnt out, but the Drosera have regrown and are more robust. They are much shorter, compact plants now and have many thick short leaves, but I never found one with more than 18 points. To reach these, you climb down a ten-foot bank right off the roadside. This area would be about 120 yards from the beach to the road. Looking down from the road, the Drosera with their dewy leaves give the appearance of mist that is quite attractive. The leaves are deep red in color and are all much branched, quite different from the southern form. I might add that when collected amongst the long grass, the leaves tend to grow very long and very floppy being supported by the grass and reeds reaching nearly three feet and often have a green color due to being shaded from the sun. The dewy appearance first thing in the morning sunlight is a very attractive sight indeed before they dry up during the day.

Unfortunately, due to mining for mineral sands, this island is fast becoming spoiled and one large swamp right near where the barge lands has already been filled in and covered over with the waste sand after the minerals have been extracted.

I found several Utricularias about six inches tall with bright blue flowers as well as some D. spathulata. These are the only two Drosera that I have ever seen on the island.