

Byblis gigantea

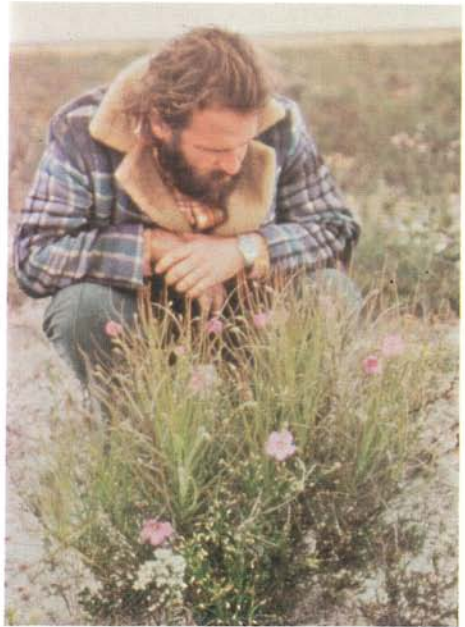
by Allen Lowrie, 6 Glenn Pl.,
Duncraig, 6023.
Western Australia.

Byblis gigantea grows only in South West Western Australia. It grows best in white silica sand areas. *Byblis gigantea* can be found from south of Geraldton to just south of Perth. In the South, it grows in swamps that dry out in the late summer. In the North, it grows on silica sand heaths.

I read with amusement a paperback book on CP when I was in America in June, 1980. The author stated that *Byblis gigantea* in Australia catch rabbits and squirrels as their everyday prey. I can assure your readers this is not so. For a start, we don't have squirrels and secondly, the biggest prey *Byblis gigantea* can catch is small insects—generally mosquitos.

The southern form of *Byblis gigantea* is generally smaller in size compared to the northern form. The flowers of the southern form are generally smaller than the northern form also.

(Please see BYBLIS p. 19)



Steve Rose checking out a giant clump of *Byblis gigantea*.



Byblis gigantea northern form in habitat
Photos by author

stamp issued in 1966 by Romania, part of a series on aquatic plants. (Fig. 12)

For those wishing to buy these aforementioned stamps, I list below the catalog numbers. When contacting a stamp dealer, give him the country, year of issue, and catalog number. Be prepared to contact quite a few dealers, as the stamps, while inexpensive, are not easy to locate, most having been absorbed into collections and no longer readily available. You may also have to buy them as part of a set. Scott's catalog is used in Canada and United States, Stanley Gibbon's in the British Isles and pound sterling area.

Before closing out this article, mention should be made of one country which has not yet issued any carnivorophyte stamps, namely the United States. There are any number of species which might be considered for such honors, but one would think the Venus flytrap is the best choice. To the general public, it is *the* carnivorophyte, instantly recognizable. It is solely an American plant found nowhere else in the world, and suitable for the U.S.P.S. policy of honoring subjects related in some way to the U.S.

U.S. American CPN readers might wish to send a letter to the Stamp Advisory Com-

mittee (c/o Postmaster-General, Washington, D.C.) lobbying for a Venus flytrap stamp. The Stamp Advisory Committee considers thousands of design proposals every year, of which only 30 or 40 are accepted, so one should not be too hopeful, but there is no harm in trying. The stamp might be suitable as part of an Endangered Flora series.

Catalog numbers of carnivorophyte stamps

COUNTRY	YEAR	SCOTT'S	STANLEY GIBBON'S
Canada (Canadian postal stationery not cataloged, ask for by description)	1966	427	552
Eire (Ireland)	1978	430	423
Guyana	1972	133	542
Japan	1978	1320	?
Laos	1974	C116	394
Malagasy	1973	496	255
		497	256
Romania	1966	1867	3399
St. Pierre & Miquelon	1962	C24	419
Seychelles	1970	280	288

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The seeds of *Byblis gigantea* can be germinated by pouring boiling water over them. When the seeds are cool, they can be planted out onto 50/50 peat and silica sand. The main problem with *Byblis gigantea* seedlings is damping off.

The medium I have used with excellent results for growing mature *Byblis gigantea* plants is 50/50 perlite and peat.

In cultivation the plants do not go dormant and die back to a woody stump as they do in the wild. I have noticed that they slow down their growth in the cooler months, but move very fast when the warmer weather arrives in early summer. In the summer months, I stand my plants in water. When *Byblis gigantea* get older, they tend to get rather untidy. When this happens, it pays to cut back the plant com-

(Please see BYBLIS p. 20)



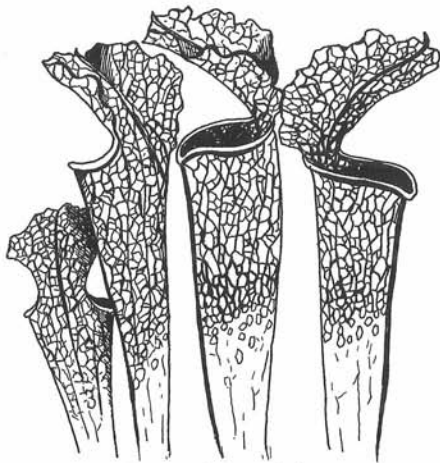
B. gigantea in A. Lowrie's greenhouse.
Photo by Author

pletely, leaving about 4 cm of woody stump in the pot. New eyes will develop, generally more than one. In a very short time, the plant grows again, but this time with better from. a good cut back every year produces better-looking plants with more flowers.

Byblis gigantea flowers are generally dark mauve through to light pink. Some blooms are completely circular and filled in. Others generally the northern form, are more open and star shaped.

Last year I found a rare *Byblis gigantea* that has produced a pure white flower. This plant, I'm happy to say, is growing very nicely for me, and with luck I may get seed from this plant this year. If luck goes my way I hope to get this *Byblis gigantea* var: *alba* to the point where it will be very common in cultivation. (Please see front cover.)

Byblis gigantea is fairly easy to grow and is well worth growing for the fantastic display of flowers it gives every year.



Sarracenia leucophylla
Drawing by Jim Miller

vacation to an island up in northern Michigan. We reached the 13 by 7 mile island by a 3 hour ferry ride from the mainland to the island port. While going down a trail looking for one of the island lakes, we came upon a sphagnum bog. Looking across the bog, you could see the ground covered with *Drosera rotundifolia*, and *D. anglica*. Also, we found *Sarracenia purpurea* in this bog.

While rowing along the bank of another island lake, we spotted large *S. purpurea* plants with dozens of tall flowers. These plants were large, gorgeous specimens—the largest I've ever seen!

While fishing in another inland lake, we spotted a stand of tiny yellow flowers. Looking closer, we found *Utricularia cornuta* and *U. vulgaris*. Walking along the sandy beach, we came across many patches of *Drosera linearis*, *D. rotundifolia*, and *Pinguicula vulgaris* growing in the sand.

We went to the Biological Station on the island and talked with a man there. A book was written on the bog plants found on the island and so we used a copy to help us identify some of the plants. We came upon a little stream of water, and what a neat place this was! In the stream, on the very shallow edges, we found *Utricularia intermedia* and in the middle of the stream were huge bunches of *U. gibba*, practically clogging the stream.

This was the first time we ever saw CP in the wild, and it was very exciting! It's a special feeling to see these groups of CP in their natural habitat.

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Lloyd, Francis Ernest, *The Carnivorous Plants*, New York, Dover Publications, Inc., 1976.

Otto, James H., and Towle, Albert, *Modern Biology*, New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Publishers, 1977.

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Byblis gigantea normal magenta flower form in habitat.

Photo by Allen Lowrie