



D. muscipula 'T-Rex', a new vigorous cultivar with giant traps and thick, chunky teeth. Photos: Stephen Fretwell

Dionaea muscipula 'T-Rex'

BY STEPHEN FRETWELL

Dionaea muscipula 'T-Rex' was a stand out robust plant with large traps and thick teeth discovered among a batch of VFT seedlings sown in 2016.

After reaching maturity this plant has continued to stay a large and robust vigorous plant with big rhizomes, thick, chunky teeth and forms giant curved, aerial traps in summer which have been recorded up to 4.5cm in size.

In early spring this clone first forms a basal rosette of short leaves with large traps which are then followed by aerial leaves and traps that develop in late spring to early summer. This is when some of the largest traps can form.

The traps are bright green on the outside with a solid medium to dark red

interior and are regularly 3-4.5cm in size on mature plants. Aerial traps can have a tendency to curve at the base of the trap, sometimes even forming a half circle. While rosette traps only have slightly curved bases.

The teeth are generally green, but can turn red under strong light and high temperature conditions. They are widely spaced and substantially thicker and shorter than typical VFT teeth, with some teeth occasionally being fused together.

The name of this cultivar has been selected due to its thick and chunky medium length teeth, which are reminiscent to Tyrannosaurus Rex's teeth and its giant traps that pay homage to the huge prehistoric carnivores size.

The cultivation of *D. muscipula* 'T-Rex' is as easy as all other typical forms of *D. muscipula*, and should be grown in



A huge 4.5cm *D. muscipula* 'T-Rex' trap.



D. muscipula 'T-Rex' thick and chunky teeth.



D. muscipula T-Rex spring rosette.



D. muscipula 'T-Rex' summer leaves and traps.



Two *D. muscipula* 'T-Rex' plants from different growing areas displaying slightly different colours.



D. muscipula 'T-Rex' plants propagated by rhizome cuttings.

the same conditions. In very bright to strong light with some shading over the summer period to help restrict high temperatures. And should be kept damp to wet for the duration of its growing season with good ventilation.

During its winter dormancy, cool conditions are required and it only needs to be kept damp while still kept in bright conditions with good ventilation.

A substrate consisting of 2 part sphagnum

peat moss to 1 part perlite or coarse river sand is ideal and repotting is best to be done during its dormancy period over winter.

Propagation of *D. muscipula* 'T-Rex' can only be done by leaf, flower stem or rhizome tissue cuttings to ensure that its distinct traits remain.

Overall this is an attractive vigorous plant with thick, chunky teeth and giant traps, is heat tolerant and a very easy to grow cultivar.