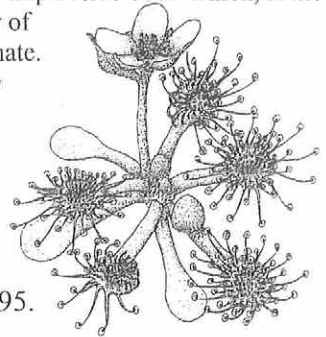


Some mistakes or at least disagreements are virtually inevitable in a work of such magnitude but they appear to be surprisingly few. Among the native beeches though, most readers would, I hope, dispute that either red beech (*Nothofagus fusca*) or hard beech (*N. truncata*) are deciduous, as claimed (both usually retain their leaves for 13-14 months), or that they have the same low-temperature tolerance ("hardiness class"), based either on their natural or "managed" distributions. Neither could "*Nothofagus truncata* in the wild" be photographed in the "Paringa district" of the South Island, as claimed, nor *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* ever reach 1.2 m tall even in the most favourable of garden sites. These are but slight blemishes in a really impressive book which, at the price I and some others paid for it, must rank as "the buy of the century." I hope many other plant fans were as fortunate.

Alan Mark, Botany Department, Otago University

Fig. *Drosera spatulata*



Salmon, B. 2001.

Carnivorous plants of New Zealand. 303 pp.

P/back. Ecosphere Publications, Auckland. \$67.95.

Mention carnivorous plants and I think most people will let their minds wander into the jungles of the Amazon, Triffids or the realms of science fiction. So I was somewhat surprised to find a book of this size devoted to the carnivorous plants of quiet, little New Zealand. There are only twelve species here, seven in *Drosera* and five in *Utricularia*, of which only two, one from each genus, are endemic.

According to the cover, Salmon has been fascinated by these plants since childhood and this fascination is evident in his book. All aspects of the plants' ecology are covered; habitat, dispersal, distribution, etc., together with descriptions of their intriguing trapping mechanisms. These are followed by detailed descriptions and drawings of each species together with distribution maps. After each genus is a photographic essay, one hundred and twenty-one excellent photographs in total, depicting the plants in detail and in habitat. The final chapters consider their cultivation and where to find them in the wild.

Utricularia dichotoma is the only bladderwort down this way and can be found in the peat bogs on the Central Otago ranges. Its small size possibly means that it is often overlooked. Three sundews are found around Dunedin. *Drosera arcturi* is also found in the mountains of Central Otago and around Waipori, as is *D. binata*, which I have found on Swampy. The small *D. spatulata* reaches its eastern limits also in the hill bogs around Dunedin.

Carnivorous plants have long fascinated the curious and this book will go a long way towards satisfying that curiosity for our New Zealand carnivorous flora. One small question goes unanswered. *D. spatulata* is here referred to as *D. spatulata*. This is Labillardière's original name but *spathulata* has since taken over. However, *spatulata* should have precedence. I have not found it so named anywhere else so an explanation would have been helpful. At \$67.95 this book is expensive but of good quality and I

imagine will have a small print run and be difficult to obtain in the future. It is written with both the lay person and the scientist in mind and filled with all sorts of titbits to satisfy the curious. – by John Steel, Botany Department, University of Otago



Fig. *Drosera spatulata* flower

The Trade Plant Finder 2001: Where to buy 35,000 plants (an industry only publication). Compiled by **Meg Gaddum, 2001**. NZ Plant Finder, Box 2237, Gisborne, New Zealand. \$85 including GST and postage.

This useful reference book can be ordered from the address above, or online through the plant finder website: www.plantfinder.co.nz. It has recently been acquired by the Botany Department at Otago University and can be found on the shelves in the Herbarium. If you are keen on growing obscure plants it would be a useful companion to the two books reviewed above.

If, for instance, the carnivorous plants, as reviewed by John Steel, took your fancy, you could look them up and find that there is a carnivorous plant nursery in Christchurch, with phone number, email address and website given. It lists fourteen varieties of sundews, among other curiosities, including the *Drosera spatulata* that John Steel commented on, plus three species of hungry bladderwort (*Utricularia*).

Or you may have fallen in love, like me, with the fragrant Himalayan daphne (*Daphne bholu*) flowering in the Botanic Garden now. First I checked in Botanica's Trees and Shrubs (also available in the Herbarium) to see what growing conditions it required, then I looked in the Trade Plant Finder and found contact details for nurseries in Invercargill, Tapanui and Timaru that have stocked it.

There are separate new sections for topiary, standards and bonsai. Of course there is no guarantee that plants listed will always be available, and a subscription to the website (currently listing 40,000 plants) will give more up-to-date information on unavailable and on newly available species. If, after searching, you still cannot find a plant, Meg also offers a plant request service. Send the name(s) and \$5 for each plant requested to the address above and she will inform you as soon as a nursery notifies its availability.

Allison Knight

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