

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 bholua*) 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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