

CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

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ing the 17th Century English Civil Wars) led to talks of re-enacted battles where, characteristically, Adrian remembered finding time to sip wine while others fought! (England's history might have been so different had Adrian been a real Roundhead or Cavalier!). Indeed, Adrian could rarely be seen without his trademark glass of red wine, which he would readily share from his handy stock of bottles that would last the show (maybe!). But to see Adrian at his happiest was best done by watching him in the company of women. Adrian received frequent invitations to speak at Ladies Meetings and delighted in letting these ladies know, in deliberately shocking form, all the gory detail of a fly's death in the arms of a Venus Flytrap or sundew. He loved to shock them, and took a childlike delight in it. And who can blame him?

It is a great shame that Adrian is not able to be the public figure he once was. I miss his individuality and his eccentricity. As to carnivorous plants, Adrian had a knack of being informative whilst remaining secretive. Yet he shared enough to teach many of us how to begin and I happily admit to being one of his students. And I treasure my graduation day when he finally approached me at one Chelsea Flower Show to ask if he could photograph one of my plants!

NEW CULTIVARS

Keywords: cultivar: *Sarracenia* 'Adrian Slack', *Sarracenia* 'Vintage Slack', *Cephalotus* 'Hummer's Giant', *Pinguicula* 'Aphrodite'.

Sarracenia 'Adrian Slack'

Received: 10 May 2000.

When the idea for an issue of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter commemorating Adrian Slack was developed, it was obvious that it would be an ideal time to christen a cultivar *Sarracenia* 'Adrian Slack'. To live up to its namesake this cultivar would have to be something special, so I (BMR) looked for candidates. During my search, I contacted Peter D'Amato (California Carnivores). Peter said that while he had some lovely plants worth cultivar status (see *Sarracenia* 'Vintage Slack', below), he had another idea. Long ago, Peter had visited Bob Hanrahan's property in Alabama and saw a hybrid so beautiful that it brought him to his knees in rapture. This sounded good! I called Bob, and even though Bob has grown a vast number of *Sarracenia* over the years on his property and in his greenhouses, he knew exactly which clone I was inquiring about. He said that the plant was still alive, and that he would send a photograph.

I have seen many *Sarracenia* plants, but when the photo from Bob arrived, my jaw dropped. Clearly, this extraordinarily colorful and well-shaped clone was the long sought candidate for *Sarracenia* 'Adrian Slack' (see Front Cover and Figure 1). We nominated and submitted this cultivar name for registration on 28 March 2000.

While the exact parentage of *Sarracenia* 'Adrian Slack' is unknown, it is almost certainly a mix of *S. flava* and *S. leucophylla*. It is unclear if back-crossing is involved. In general form, the plant produces large pitchers much like those of *S. flava*. The influence of *S. leucophylla* is expressed, at most, as a slight undulation in the pitcher lid. While *S. flava* controls the pitcher form, *S. leucophylla* influences much of the pitcher coloration. The pitcher lid is arrestingly white, shot through with deep red veins (from *S. flava*). The upper pitcher tube is also heavily veined and lightly fenestrated. These pitcher characters define this exquisite cultivar. The flowers are not as spectacular as the pitchers, but are still intriguing. The petals are light pink, almost white, but may show occasional yellow highlights.

Bob found this plant in the 1980s, growing in the Milton area of western Florida. It has grown well since then, and when left undisturbed produces the astonishing coloration documented in the photograph. This is a superior plant, and honors a superior man.

Sarracenia 'Adrian Slack' is very rare in cultivation, but is being propagated under



Figure 1: *Sarracenia* 'Adrian Slack', photo Bob Hanrahan.



Figure 2: *Sarracenia* 'Vintage Slack', photo Barry Meyers-Rice.

guard for future distribution. Specimens are not yet available, but news on how to obtain it will be made public when the plants are ready.

—BOB HANRAHAN, BARRY MEYERS-RICE • 2336 Cross Creek Drive • Powder Springs GA 30127 • USA

Sarracenia 'Vintage Slack'

Received: 10 May 2000.

This plant is a *S.* × *mitchelliana* cross. This cultivar is similar to typical *S.* × *mitchelliana* crosses, but has a particularly noteworthy feature: the collar and lid has a distinguishing white-edging rarely seen in similar hybrids (see Figure 2). The pitcher tube is primarily green with whitish-pink fenestrations in the front upper part. The reduced ala is edged in red. The collar and lid are held upright, extremely frilly, and bear abundant bristly hairs on the lower inner surface. The collar's yellow-green background is overwhelmed by burgundy veins and carmine-pink blotches that extend to the upper back of the pitcher tube. The pitchers are never more than 30 cm (12 inches) tall. The flower petals are red.

This plant was sent to me long ago from Bob Hanrahan. I recognized the quality of the plant shortly after it reached maturity. I coined the name 'Vintage Slack' on 31 January 2000, and submitted it for registration on the same day. The name, of course, honors Adrian Slack, who among other things is a noted wine-enthusiast. It is appropriate that this multicolored plant, which appears stained by many different wines, was selected for cultivar status on our property, as we are located at a winery. This cultivar should only be reproduced by vegetative means.

—PETER D'AMATO • California Carnivores • 7020 Trenton-Healdsburg Road • Forestville CA 95436 • USA • califcarn.com