

Top End

Native Plant Society

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Top End Native Plant Society June-August 2018 Newsletter

General Meeting Times

The next TENPS meeting is the AGM which will be held on *Thursday 16th of August 2018* commencing at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at Marrara Christian College, on the corner of Amy Johnson Avenue and McMillans Road. The meeting is followed by a chance to chat with other members and access the TENPS reference Library over a cuppa. Bring your plants along to swap, sell or have identified. The guest speaker presentation commences around 8pm. All are welcome. Field trips are usually on the weekend following the meeting. Details of upcoming events are provided in the newsletter, or check the TENPS website.

What's in flower?



Triggerplant *Stylidium cordifolium* photographed by Zig Madycki.

Natives mean more!

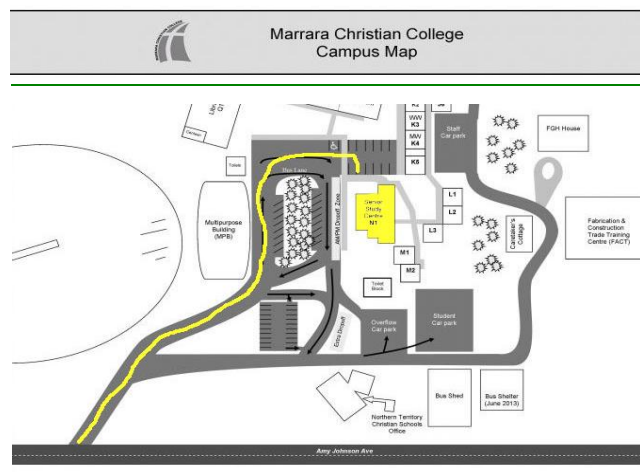
www.topendnativeplants.org.au

Upcoming TENPS guest speakers

August 16th: Michael Ferrero – Australian plants?

September 20th: Emma Lupin will talk about local bush tucker plants.

October 18th: Andy Peart – Andy will be sharing bush tucker knowledge based on the new book "The Food We Eat" and will be joined one of the book's authors, Gary Fox and Del Hunter for a question and answer session.



TENPS Field Trips & other events

August: Saturday 18th: Sharon Wilson will lead a tour of George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens accompanied by Michael Ferrero. Meet at 9.00am at main carpark.

September 16nd Sunday: Sustainable House Day

September 22nd Saturday: TBC - Leanyer Rainforest 20 years on, a tour of the revegetation project with some of the volunteers involved in the project.

September 29th Saturday: Threatened Species Day

October 20th Saturday: A trip to Dundee to explore Tim Moore's property where Territory Native Plants collect much of the seed for their nursery.

November: date TBA – Trip to Murrumbidgee to Gunn Point to look for threatened species.

December: date TBA - TENPS Xmas get together

January: date TBA - Tour of Territory Native Plant Nursery at Berry Springs

NT Field Naturalist Club Events

Meetings are held at 7.45pm on the second Wednesday of each month except January at Charles Darwin University, in Blue Building 2 (see map below)

Wednesday 15 August: Dr Anna Richards from CSIRO - "Could fire management deplete an important food resource for savanna animals?" A talk of particular relevance to those who have an interest in the Top End's bird and mammal populations.



Field Trips are a great way to explore the best of Darwin area's nature spots in the company of like-minded people. These are usually held on the Sunday following the monthly meeting and often related to the topic of this meeting. Additional outings are held from time to time, and everyone is welcome.

Sunday 12 August: Explore Girraween Lagoon, looking for birds, insects, plants and more...

TENPS joins the TNRM community



Top End Native Plant Society recently became a Member of Territory Natural Resource Management, meaning TENPS is now promoted on the TNRM website and we have the opportunity to promote events and share information about our activities through our monthly newsletter TNRM Network Notes, Facebook and twitter.

TENPS also has voting rights at the TNRM Annual General Meeting and is able to participate in the selection process for the Board Directors.

TENPS members are also eligible to share in the TNRM membership benefits including:

- Discounted attendance fees for the conference, training and workshops hosted by TNRM.
- Networking opportunities & connections across the NT and wider natural resource management community.

TENPS May Field Trip Report: Threatened Plants in the Darwin Rural Area

On a Sunday morning a small group of intrepid souls met in the Darwin Rural Area with a view to visiting sub-populations of two threatened plant species. The carnivorous herb *Utricularia singeriana* and the subshrub *Atalaya brevialata*.

Recent local knowledge suggested we had missed our chance to observe *Utricularia singeriana* for this year, as the moist seasonal conditions had dried rapidly. The view from Finn Road reinforced this opinion so we proceeded to the *Atalaya*. Interesting as in previous years I have found the *Utricularia* flourishing in May at this location.

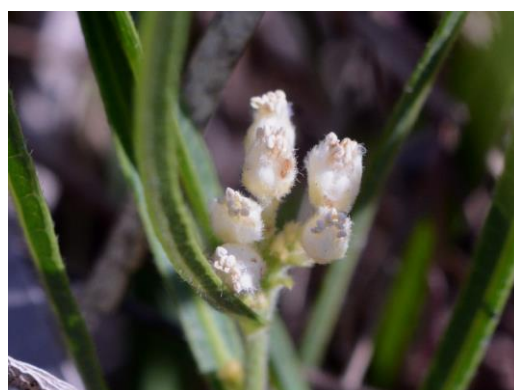
The perennial subshrub, *Atalaya brevialata*, was more forthcoming and a search beside Jenkins Road in the vicinity of the Emkaytee Airfield (MKT) soon revealed plants. The species is well camouflaged amidst the perennial and annual grasses on the site (*below*).



Leaves bear a superficial resemblance to juvenile *Grevillea pteridifolia* (*below*).



Plants were found on both a firebreak which was still to be slashed for the year and in nearby uncleared bush. Once we had our eye for the species we found a smattering of plants, a couple of dozen in total. The most exciting aspect of our find was the occurrence of small white flowers on two plants. The threatened species information sheet prepared by the Northern Territory Herbarium reports flowering on October and November with fruiting in November. The occurrence of flowers at the other end of the wet season was a notable find. No fruit were observed.



An enjoyable morning in the field and a flag that in future years a trip earlier in the year may be required to see *Utricularia singeriana*, no doubt dependent upon how quickly the wet season tapers to the dry.

Article by Dave Liddle, photos by Zig Madycki.



Styliidium capillare photographed by Zig Madycki

“Carnivores in the Backyard - Rural life” with Zig Madycki

There are 67 carnivorous plant species listed for the NT:

<i>Drosera</i>	20
<i>Utricularia</i>	42
<i>Aldrovanda</i>	1
<i>Byblis</i>	4

The wet season brings out lots of these carnivores on my place, it's a natural habitat for them. At last count I have 14 of them growing naturally on my 20 acre rural block, about 21% of the total.

These plants normally grow in very nutrient poor soils that are waterlogged or quite wet. They make up for their nutrient deficient environment by trapping and consuming animal life. Some are quite small so would only trap microscopic life.

With their small size getting photos of carnivorous plants can be a daunting task, often on knees and elbows in water and/or mud. Where there's no surface water it's generally with belly on wet ground. This is what I've managed to find here this past wet season 2017/18.

Byblis aquatica (below) is fairly common. Despite its epithet suggesting it's a water dweller, it does also occupy well drained although still damp situations near water. They look similar to the indica complex *Drosera* but there are significant differences to allow ready identification. This species has been found from the north western

Top End across into western Arnhem Land. It has also been reported at the top of Cape York Peninsula.



The first carnivores to appear early in the wet season are *Drosera fulva* (below). It's very common on lateritic soil and gravel, and quite easily seen because of the tall flowering stems. It's distributed from the north western Top End to western Arnhem Land and Cobourg Peninsula.



I'm still find it a bit difficult pinpointing the difference between *Drosera dilitatopetiolaris* and *D. petiolaris*, but fairly sure mine are *D. dilitatopetiolaris* (below). It's found in most of the Top End across to the Kimberley Region in WA, down to around Broome.



Drosera burmannii (below) is probably the least wide spread *Drosera* on my place. Being so small leaves tend to get sand particles splashed onto

them. They tend to flower late in the season. A very widespread plant, across much of northern Australia, even down into arid areas. Also much of eastern NSW and northwards, as well as parts of Asia.



Of the Indica Complex *Drosera nana* (below) is the most common and earliest to appear. This flower has what looks like a Setocoris insect on it. They manage to rob food from the plants without getting caught themselves. It's only found in the far north west of the Top End across to Kakadu National Park.



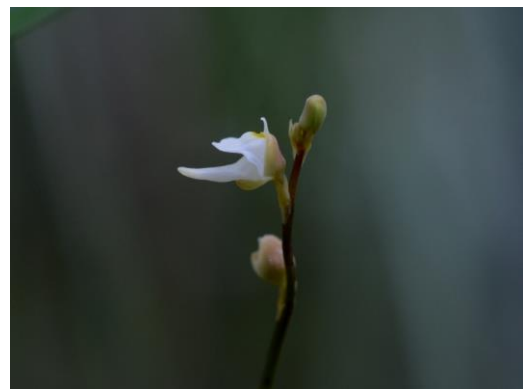
Drosera aquatica, (below) also very widespread on my place, even coming up in lawns in some parts. They tend to be lanky and rely on surrounding vegetation for support. The general distribution is north western Top End to the Cobourg Peninsula, and the Keep River area and adjacent areas in WA.



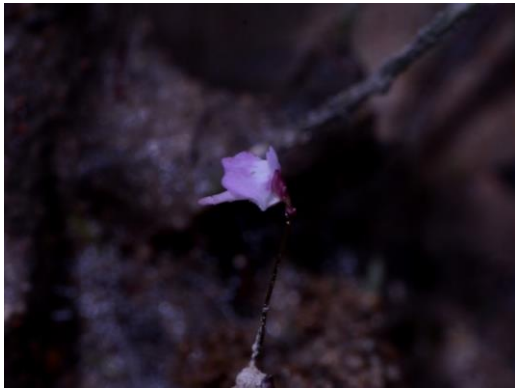
Drosera fragrans, (below) the last species of *Drosera* to get going in the wet season. Widespread, but not as common as the other two Indica Complex. It's the tallest growing of the group and seems to flower more prolifically once it gets going. The epithet "fragrans" refers to the sweet fragrance given off by glands in the leaf axils which attracts insects into the traps. It's broadly distributed from Broome throughout the Kimberley Region across to Darwin and the western Top end.



There's more *Utricularia* species on the block than other carnivorous plant genera. Most widespread (and less conspicuous because of their size) is *Utricularia nivea* (below). They seem to come up everywhere except in standing water. A widespread species found in the eastern Kimberley WA and adjacent part of the NT, north western and central Top End, north eastern Qld with a disjunct area in the south east of Qld. Overseas it's found from Sri Lanka to the Philippines.



Far less common, but about the same size, are *Utricularia minutissima* (below). On the ground before the flowers open they look like a sparse mat of hair. Another widespread species, found from the western Kimberley WA across to the eastern Top End, Cape York Peninsula and coastal central Qld. Overseas it found across southern Asia from India to the Philippines, north to Japan, and also to PNG.



Utricularia leptoplectra (below) is very common but only in wet swampy areas. Mostly standing in shallow water, although it seems to persist for a little while when the surface water finally disappears. It's found in the north western Kimberley WA and across the Top End.



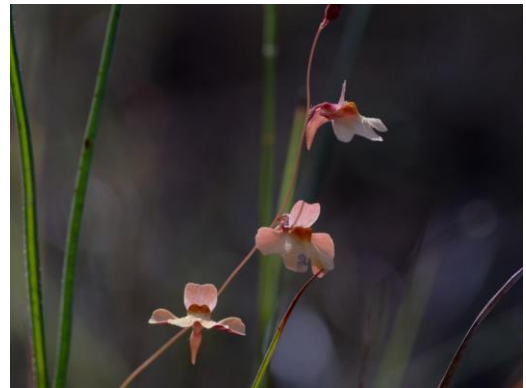
Utricularia leptorhyncha (below) occupies less wet areas than *U. leptoplectra* but still seems to need at least sub-surface seepage. It occurs in three disjunct populations: northern Kimberley WA, south and west of Darwin, and in Kakadu and Nitmiluk National Parks.



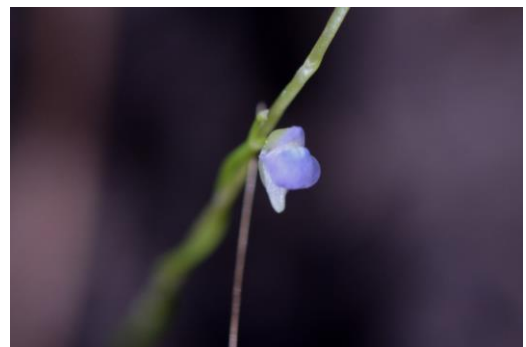
Utricularia odorata (below) used to be in my swamp but I suspect the extra heavy rains in January caused scouring that removed seed/seedlings. However, in other areas where there's only seepage these are quite common. While only found in the Top End in Australia, it also occurs overseas in Indochina.



Utricularia chrysantha (below) also seems to prefer wet soil but no surface water. It's a later starter and keeps going after most other *Utricularias* have disappeared. Widespread across northern Australia from the western Kimberley WA to the Gulf country in Qld, and Cape York Peninsula. It is also in southern PNG.



First time I found *Utricularia foveolata* (below) on my place was this past wet season. Initially didn't know which species it was, but when finally getting around to identifying it I realised it was rarely found in the Top End. Going back to try and get more photos I wasn't able to locate any more plants. But next wet season I'll be ready for it. The species is sparsely distributed in Australia: Mitchell Plateau WA, Litchfield and Kakadu National Parks NT, and in the vicinity of Cairns Qld. Overseas it's very widespread, from west Africa, Madagascar, and India across to the Philippines.



Article and photos by Zig Madycki

A New Native Plant Nursery

Tim Moore and Travis Messner have opened **Territory Native Plants** a great new supplier for local native species. They have the following tube stock and will also grow to order (contact them directly for more information) and will even dig plant holes and plant them for you.



Territory Native Plants

"Tube stock and grow to order specialists"

Cox Peninsula Rd, Berry Springs, NT 0838. ABN: 50571979460

Sales: Tim Moore 0429 095 733

timmoore@internode.on.net

Nursery: Travis Messner 0434 831 032

(Visitation by appointment only)

Tubes: 50 x 120 or 90 x 180

Prices: \$3.50-\$6.50

Species fact sheets:

<http://eflora.nt.gov.au/>



Plants in Stock	Quantity	Date Available	Description
<i>Adonsonia gregorii</i> (Boab)	90	Immediately	5-15m, broad bottle-shaped trunk, deciduous, large white flowers between December and May
<i>Maranthos corymbosa</i>	400	Immediately	10-25m, screening, bird & butterfly attractant, fragrant flowers, shade, termite & cyclone resistant
<i>Syzygium fibrosum</i> (Small Red Bush Apple)	64	Immediately	5-8m small tree, bird attractant, cream flowers, pink/red edible fruit
<i>Syzygium eucalyptoides</i> (Native Apple)	14	Immediately	5m medium size tree with spreading canopy and dense shade, dry sharp apple fruit
<i>Corypha elata</i> (Cabbage palm) 200mm pots	12	Immediately	Large 20-40m fan palm, leaves 2-5m in length. Rare species. Seed only collected from dying specimen.
<i>Terminalia catappa</i> (Indian Almond)	12	Immediately	30m large ornamental shade tree found across Africa, Australia and along beaches of Bali
<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i> (Yellow Flame/Poinciana)	200	2 months	Hardy, medium feature tree, showy yellow flowers
<i>Grevillea dryandri</i> (Pink Grevillia)	200	3 months	1-2m Low shrub, feature plant with showy flowers, bird attractant, needs sun
<i>Grevillea formosa</i> (Yellow Grevillia)	200	3 months	1-2m Low shrub, feature plant with showy flowers, bird attractant, needs sun
<i>Eucalyptus miniata</i> (Woollybutt)	200	4 months	15-25m, common Darwin bushland native, orange or scarlet flowers
<i>Eucalyptus ptychocarpa</i> (Bloodwood)	200	4 months	15m tree, white, pink or red flower buds, largest leaves of the Eucalypts
<i>Adenanthera pavonina</i> (Red Bead Tree)	100	4 months	medium ornamental feature tree featuring bright red beads, useful for making soap
<i>Acacia dunnii</i> (Elephant Ear Acacia)	200	4 months	4-7m, spectacular ornamental wattle in both flower and foliage
<i>Albizia lebbek</i> (Rain tree)	250	4 months	18-30m tall tree, white fragrant flowers
<i>Melaleuca argentea</i> (Silver-leaved Paperbark)	200	5 months	10-20m, bird & frog attractant, shade, cream-green fragrant flowers, many aboriginal uses.
<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i> (Broad-leaved Paperbark)	200	5 months	10m small tree, open canopy, papery bark, spikes of cream, yellow, green or red flowers
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i> (Weeping Paperbark)	100	5 months	Up to 20m. Thick, white, papery bark, weeping branches. Common in parks and on roadsides.
<i>Leptospermum madidum</i> (Weeping Tea Tree)	200	6 months	3-9m, Screening feature tree, frog attractant, cyclone resistant, attractive trunk, weeping foliage
<i>Calytrix exstipulata</i> (Pink Turkey Bush)	200	TBA	0.5 to 4.5m, small shrub, feature plant. Masses of showy pink-purple flowers.

In addition to supplying quality NT Native Tube Stock, TNP also offer residential revegetation services including

- Auger hole drilling
- Planting & slow release fertilising
- Tree guards and stakes
- First water

Please enquire for pricing & quotes. (Strictly for orders of one tray or more)

All plants grown in accordance with AS 4373, 2303 & 3743. Diploma of Conservation and Land Management (AHC51116)

Riyala Fundraising Dinner

Invitation to the Riyala Open Day and dinner on Sunday August 12th.

The dinner will showcase some of the improvements made at Riyala since receiving an Immediate Works Grant, including the newly refurbished kitchen and Bush Food walk. Ian Morris will lead a guided walk as well as some Nature based art and craft activities for primary aged children, led by talented artist Sal Moes.

During the dinner you will hear more about the Board and its role, how you might be able to contribute, and our future plans. A crowd funding campaign will also be launched in the next couple of weeks focusing on Stage 1 of our proposed new multipurpose classroom/chapel and training area.

Ticket prices are as follows:

- Three course Dinner: (6 pm) \$55
- Primary students: \$30
- Nature based art and craft session: (Strictly Limited numbers) 4 pm: \$5

Tickets must be prepaid and there is limited numbers so get in early!

To book tickets please contact: ianherrmann@riyala.org

NT Register of Significant Trees Online Register Launch

The NT Register of Significant Trees has been updated and upgraded to a digital format! Land for Wildlife are proud to announce that the Darwin and Katherine Daly Rivers registers are now live and ready for you to explore.

Take a virtual tour of the register via an interactive Google Map and download PDF fact sheets for trees of interest. Visit the website to find out more!



WILDLIFE.LOWECOL.COM.AU/PROJECTS/SIGNIFICANT-TREES

The NT Register of Significant Trees is managed by Land for Wildlife Central Australia, on behalf of the National Trust NT.

The register was initiated by the National Trust NT, with input from Greening Australia NT, and coordination by Land for Wildlife Central Australia since 2011.



SUBSCRIPTION FORM - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (DUE 1 JULY)

Please accept my subscription/renewal for membership of the Top End Native Plant Society

☐ New membership ☐ Renewal

Name/s.....

Email address

Please Note: The electronic edition of the newsletter will be uploaded to the member's page of the website each month and members will be notified by email (Acrobat Reader is required).

If you DO NOT have email access and would like to receive the newsletter (black & white available only) by post please tick the box. ☐

Postal Address

Post Code.....

Payment Due \$..... (\$20.00 per member/family, \$15.00 unwaged)

TO PAY ONLINE: Bank: People's Choice Credit Union BSB: 805050
Account Name: Top End Native Plant Society Account Number: 61225276
Please include your name in the transfer reference.

Or MAIL TO: TENPS Secretary, PO Box 135, Palmerston NT 0831

Signature Date/...../.....

TO:

Sender:



PO Box 135
Palmerston NT 0831