

Droseraceae

sundew family

Like the pitcher-plants the 400 species comprising this family are carnivorous. The trapping mechanism is active, rather than the passive cups of *Sarracenia*. Reddish leaves are ornamented with glandular bristles topped by a drop of glistening glue. Unsuspecting invertebrates become ensnared by the shiny drops. Leaf blades curl about the prey, releasing enzymes that break down the food.

Plants produce gemmae, that detach and move away with spring freshets. Flowers are small and carried in a circinate inflorescence, opening sequentially. Fruit is a capsule.

Drosera L.

sundews

Genus description as above.

Key to species

A. Leaves with round blades; petioles pubescent.

Drosera rotundifolia

aa. Leaves with blades much longer than wide; petioles smooth.

B

B. Blades oblong or spatulate, to 2cm; petioles 2–5cm long.

D. intermedia

bb. Blades linear or filiform, to > 10cm long; petiole not distinct.

D. filiformis

Drosera filiformis Raf.

Thread-leaved Sundew; droséra filiforme



Photo by Martin Thomas

Long linear and erect leaves, from 10–20 cm separate this species from the following two. The mauve or pink flowers numbering up to 12 are borne on a nodding peduncle.

Flowers from mid- July, earlier than our common species.

Ombrotrophic peatlands, in depressions where there is little competition from shrubs.

The Nova Scotia population is the only one in Canada: several bogs in Shelburne County: Swaine's Road, Quinn's Meadow, Port LaTour, Villagedale and West Baccaro bogs.

Ranges from NS; MA south to MD; NC; FL.



Photo by Mark Elderkin



Drosera filiformis

***Drosera intermedia* Hayne**

Narrow-leaved Sundew; droséra intermédiaire



Photo by Sean Blaney

Leaves are clavate, longer than wide. Petioles are smooth. Flowers are generally smaller than in the previous species, white or cream.

Flowers from mid-July to mid-August.

Tolerant of waterlogged depressions in wetlands, where competition is absent from shrubs. Also on lakeshores on peat mats.

Common throughout the province. Present on Sable Island, although less frequent than the next species.

NF to NU, south to FL and TX; ID.

***Drosera rotundifolia* L.**

Round-leaved Sundew; droséra à feuilles rondes



Photo by Marian Munro

Small tidy plants, their petiolate leaves are nearly round. Petioles are densely pubescent; the leaves, as in all our species, are covered in glandular hairs tipped with glistening drops of mucilage. Pedicels are very short, attached to a long smooth scape. It is variable in form depending on habitat.

Flowers mid-July to mid-August.

Frequents the drier hummocks in bogs, swamps, lakeshores and ditches. Tolerates more shade and competition and is usually found in drier situations than the other species.

Common throughout including Sable Island.

NF to AK, south to CA, CO, MS and GA. Greenland.

There is a single collection of the hybrid *D. xbelezeana* from Lac d'Ecole, Yarmouth Co. (ACAD) (*D. intermedia* x *rotundifolia*).