

## SOME NAMES OF HYBRIDS BETWEEN COMPLEX HYBRIDS

Primary hybrid	Parent cross	Synonyms
<i>S. x laschkei</i> (or <i>luschkei</i> ?)	<i>S. x courtii</i> x <i>S. x moorei</i>	
<i>S. x schoenbrunnensis</i>	<i>S. x courtii</i> x <i>S. x exulta</i>	<i>S. x ?exculpa</i>
<i>S. x umlaufstiana</i>	<i>S. x courtii</i> x <i>S. x wrigleyana</i>	
<i>S. x vetteriana</i>	( <i>S. alata</i> x <i>S. x catesbaei</i> ) x <i>S. x catesbaei</i>	
<i>S. x vogeliana</i>	<i>S. x courtii</i> x <i>S. x catesbaei</i>	
<i>S. x westphalii</i>	( <i>S. x mitchelliana</i> x <i>S. x moorei</i> ) x <i>S. leucophylla</i>	

it is hard to decide whether *S. x exulta* or *S. x exsculpta* is the 'correct' name for *S. purpurea* x *S. x harperi*. None of these crosses appears to be dated — an essential part of formal botanical naming — though it is not clear whether any would have formal status even if they *were* to be properly described and dated.

Some names for still more complex hybrids are shown in table above.

Somewhere along the way, these contrived names have lost any meaning they had in the first place. The more complex the mix of ancestors in a hybrid, the less predictable the appearance of the offspring will be. For example, the complex hybrid *S. x willisii* has been said to be bred from *S. x courtii* against *S. x melanorboda*. Breaking this down to make sense of what we have here, this is equivalent to (*S. purpurea* x *S. psittacina*) crossed with ([*S. flava* x *S. purpurea*] x *S. purpurea*). In fractions, any plant called *S. x willisii* should be one quarter *S. psittacina*, one eighth *S. flava*, and five eighths *S. purpurea*.

Several writers have pointed out that with this mix of genes, plants called *S. x willisii* shouldn't look as upright and slender as they do. However, there are a number of independently bred clones of this hybrid which are markedly similar. As any complex hybrid may throw back to any of its parents or grandparents in unexpected ways, *S. x willisii* may just be a particularly good example of how unpredictable the appearance of complex hybrids can be.

Whatever future generations may decide to think of the names for complex hybrids, there is certainly no reason to add to them. In future, *Sarracenia* hybrids should be registered by cultivar names, just as for most other groups of cultivated hybrid plants. There is no reason why the ancestry of such cultivars can't be included in their original description as well, but otherwise this sort of information should be shared only between consenting collectors.

## NAMING &amp; REGISTERING CULTIVARS

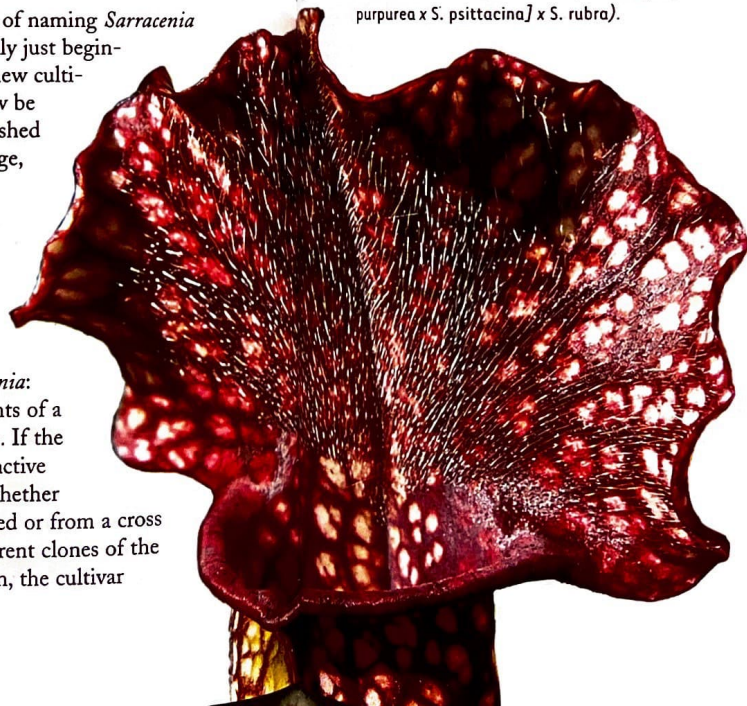
The formal process of naming *Sarracenia* cultivars is really only just beginning. Basically, all new cultivar names must now be described and published in a modern language, with a high quality colour photo of the plant described, or they will have no official status.

There are two main groups of cultivars for *Sarracenia*: those that are variants of a species, and hybrids. If the new plant is a distinctive form of a species, whether grown from wild seed or from a cross made between different clones of the species in cultivation, the cultivar



name must include the species name. For example *S. leucophylla* 'Schnell's Ghost' has long been known in cultivation, while *S. leucophylla* 'Crimson Snow' is a recently named seedling which first appeared in an earlier book of mine.

Variants of *S. x willisii* 'Pink Windows', (above left) with no white showing and (below) the white-marbled 'Broad Lid'. *S. x 'Turtle Mouth'* (above right), ([*S. purpurea* x *S. psittacina*] x *S. rubra*).



The same naming procedure can also apply to primary hybrid crosses with Latinised names which have long been in use, for example the many forms of *S. x excellens* or *S. x catesbaei* (though few of these have been given individual cultivar names to date). However, cultivar names for hybrid crosses could also be published more simply — for example *S. x 'Night Sky'*. These more compact names are particularly appropriate for complex hybrids, although the ancestry of such plants should be included with the description if it is known.

Cultivar names can only be applied to the specific plant first described under a name, or to divisions or tissue-cultured plants taken from that plant. They cannot be applied to *any* other plant, no matter how similar it may look.

Descriptions of new cultivars may be published in any appropriate journal or book, although the International Carnivorous Plant Society encourages publication in the *Carnivorous Plant Newsletter*. Whether this will continue to be feasible in this relatively small, quarterly journal (also publishing scientific papers, grower's accounts and descriptions for all other carnivorous plant groups, not just *Sarracenia*) remains to be seen, although at present only commercial growers seem eager to register their better new varieties.