EDITORAL

It is now well over a year since the last issue of the IPSG Newsletter. As editor, I must apologise for allowing other priorities to contribute on my part to the delay in the appearance of this issue. In common with others in similar positions, I sometimes have to ask myself why I do this job. There can be only one answer, because I enjoy it!

I have channelled my enthusiasm for *Pinguiculas* into the cultivation of plants and the study of literature as well as by participating in field trips. Each of these activities have greatly enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the plants and have enabled me to experience them in full splendour, both in cultivation & in their natural habitat. Most importantly, these activities have been greatly enhanced by being shared with other people, whom I now consider to be good friends.

IPSG is a logical extension of the desire amongst us all to communicate these experiences. It is not always so easy to put pen to paper and I must thank regular contributors, especially Hans Luhrs and Loyd Wix, for always helping to fill these pages. However, had not Oliver Gluch presented a re-examination of P. sp. 'Sierra Tamaulipas' this edition would not be with you now. Needless to say, it never rains but it pours. Paul Temple's article arrived shortly after. It spans two expeditions to Cuba and would fill a whole issue on it's own, so I have decided to split his contribution into two episodes. You will have "Cuba revisited" to look forward to in issue 10, plus some field notes on South American Butterworts by David Roberts, and hopefully others?

The formation of IPSG as a specialist group has certainly proved for me to be an effective stimulus to find out more about all aspects of *Pinguiculas*. I hope that you have all enjoyed belonging too, even though the end result in the form of this Newsletter appears so sporadically. I hope that you decide to stay with us and take this opportunity to remind you to pay your subscription for the next two issues. STAN LAMPARD

Pinguicula longifolia ssp. longifolia RAM. ex DC., an endemic of the Central Pyrenees

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Pinguicula longifolia ssp. *longifolia* occupies merely a small mountainous area in the heart of the Spanish and French Pyrenees, a much smaller geographic range compared to both the other sub species namely *caussensis & reichenbachiana* . Here, at an elevation of 700-1200 m. (2200 m.?, Quézel 1956), this species will only thrive in gorges on vertical cliffs of limestone and eroded tufa that are constantly wet, or at least damp throughout the year, by water seeping through the rock surface as well as high humidity during the night.

During a fieldtrip in late June last year, *P. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia* was found in large numbers at several localities in or near the Ordesa Nat. Park in the Spanish Pyrenees. Of the largest colonies I have seen, those be found in the Añisclo Cañon (700-800 m. alt.) are most spectacular. The countless individuals often appear as green mats on the vertical or slightly overhanging walls, with their leaves hanging down in such a way not to compare with any other *Pinguicula* except for *P. vallisneriifolia*. The large rosettes, very often divided in huge clumps, consist of 5-9 leaves, these being 160-200 mm. (sometimes up to 280 mm.) long and 14-22 mm. wide. Although Casper (1966) stated that even in August flowering plants have been found, only few faded flowers were seen but there were many seedpods. An interesting feature that had been observed was the fact that a lot of the dried flowerstalks bearing seedpods were folded backwards against the rock, presumably in order to release the seed straight on to the rock surface rather than being blown away by the wind. This would also explain the way new plants appear, spreading themselves not just below but also above the parent plants. The plants

grow in holes, cracks, and occasionally between grass in soft tufa at the base of a cliff. They sometimes grow together with the beautiful *Ramonda pyrenaica* and *Saxifraga* species.

Plants found in the Bujaruelo Cañon (1160 m. alt.) are generally somewhat smaller in size (aver. size 120-160 mm. long), and colonies are not as large as those found in the Añisclo Cañon. One colony inhabits a small cave and four plants were found still in flower, while on an earlier visit (late April '95) all colonies here were in full bloom.

On two locations in this canyon hybrids with *P. grandiflora* were found growing in open swampy places with water running through. They grow in very small groups or scattered around on low waterlogged ridges and grassy hummocks together with the tall *Dactylorhiza elata*, whereas *P. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia* inhabits the cliffs alongside. Although the hybrids outnumber *P. grandiflora*, only few were clearly of interspecific cross and many others have been backcrossed mainly with *P. grandiflora*. Some of them were vigorous and look like the latter in the shape of rosette, but with leaves op to 150 mm. long, and 45 mm. wide. The flowers generally are of *P. grandiflora* size with a somewhat paler colour, but lack the dark veining in the throat. Instead they have a light coloured brown-reddish mark in the centre of the throat.

Exploration of the published localities of *P. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia* between Gédre and Gavarnie, and towards the Spanish border in the French Pyrenees (Casper 1966) was without result. Instead, long and narrow-leaved *P. grandiflora* were found amongst normal sized plants on two locations at the base of a steep slope near Gavarnie. No flowers were seen so we could not confirm suspicions that these too were hybrids. Since the only suitable gorge where *P. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia* may, or perhaps did occur, lies between the two villages, there might be a

possibility. A similar case occurs in the Spanish Pyrenees near Torla, *P. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia* was not found anywhere in the vicinity. In two directions from Gavarnie towards the Spanish border, at altitudes of 1400 m. and higher, only *P. grandiflora* had been found (some of them with extreme dark brown-reddish leaves). Due to the absence of suitable gorges at this altitude, which seem to be the only niche in which *P. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia* thrives, I wonder if the latter still exist in the French Pyrenees or indeed ever did.

I hope to hear from any of the I.P.S.G. members who have had the opportunity in finding *P. longifolia* ssp. *longifolia* at or near the mentioned localities in the French Pyrenees.

Literature cited:

Casper, S.J. 1966. Monogr. Gatt. *Pinguicula* L. Bibl. Bot. 127/128: 153-155.

Some Comments On Recently Described New Species from the Iberian Peninsula.

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The main purpose of this article is to correct an error which appeared in an editorial note in IPSG Newsletter No.8 as well as attempting to clear up some of the current confusion surrounding the taxonomy of some of the Spanish Pinguicula mentioned in recent IPSG articles (Refs. 1, 2).

Zamora et al (Ref. 3) published two new species of Pinguicula in 1996. The species named *P.mundi* is the plant from the Sierra del Calar del Mundo also referred to as P.'Rio Mundo'. This plant is now widely accepted as a valid new species and appears to be confined to the River Mundo area where it is locally abundant. However the proposed *P.submediterranea* is a more