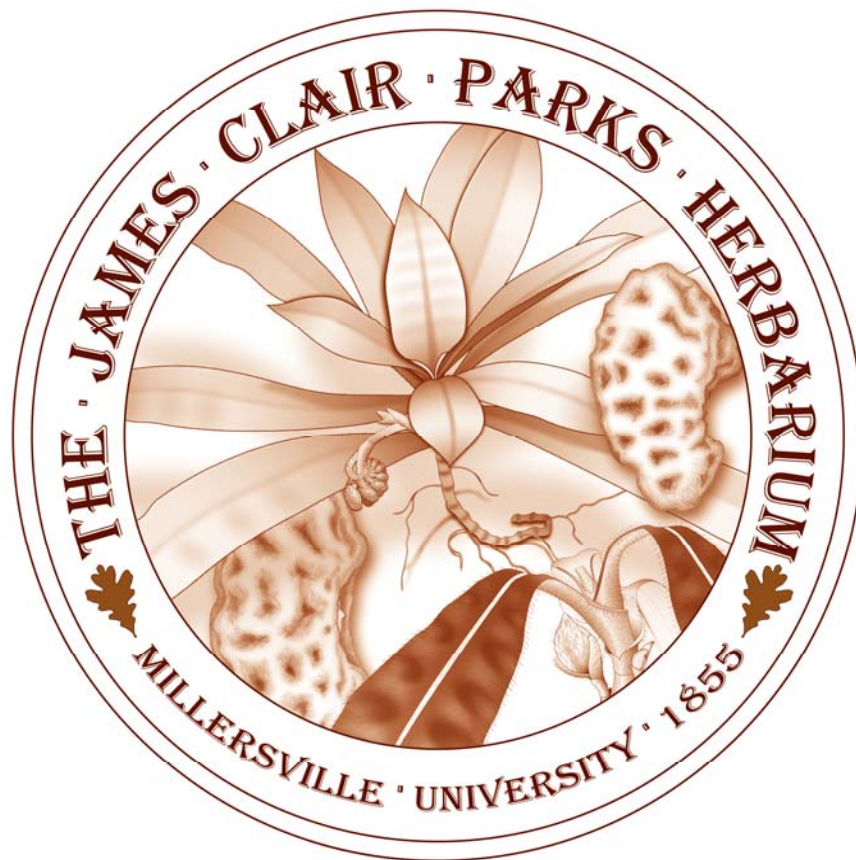


PARKSIA

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A journal dedicated to the dissemination of
useful information regarding plants.

PARKSIA

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About Parksia

Parksia is published periodically by the James C. Parks Herbarium of The Department of Biology, Millersville University of Pennsylvania. It is dedicated to publishing short encyclopedic articles and essays containing useful information about plants in our world. *Parksia* is available for free, on the Web at <http://herbarium.millersville.edu>. The street mailing address for the Herbarium is James C. Parks Herbarium, Department of Biology, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, 288 Roddy Science Building, 50 E Frederick St, Millersville, Pennsylvania, 17551, United States of America.

Contributions

If you are interesting in contributing to *Parksia*, please send correspondence to the *Editor* at the address above.

HOW DO I CARE FOR MY VENUS FLYTRAP?

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Venus flytraps are notoriously problematic as houseplants. Typically the house is too dry and too dark for them to thrive. These plants grow best in direct sunlight, burning would only be associated with a secondary stress or by transitioning the plant from a low light environment to a high light environment too quickly (the photosystems cannot acclimate fast enough and are damaged). Humidity is quite important but one very important consideration needs to be made. The plants like their roots in water but they do not tolerate their short stems (crowns) being wet. I once heard it described like this: they like their feet wet but their ankles dry. So I would recommend having two pots, the pot that the plant is growing in and a larger pot (with no drainage holes) that can be filled with water. The top of the water in the second pot should be 1-2 inches below the soil line of the smaller pot with the plant. This arrangement will mimic a bog which is the typical habitat of the plants. Depending on where your plant came from, it probably arrived highly stressed due to prolonged low-light environments (during transport). It also probably came in a plastic container that kept high humidity. If so, immediate removal is highly stressful on the plant and it should be allowed to "harden" by exposing it gradually to the dryer atmosphere that it will be kept in.

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