

Nepenthes clipeata

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Abstract. *Nepenthes clipeata* is, according to [1], one of the most endangered species in the world. Few articles were written about it, and we here want to give a summary about its current situation. We finally give some growing tips which allowed the present author to make it grow.

Keywords: *Nepenthes clipeata*, *Nepenthes*, endangered species.

1 Introduction

The genus *Nepenthes* includes a number of species which are highly endangered because of habitat destruction, fire and collection pressures. Probably no other *Nepenthes* species is as endangered as *Nepenthes clipeata*. We here give some complementary pieces of information about this plant. [1]

2 Background

Nepenthes clipeata has a rich background. We here cite [1]. Prior to 1980, population stresses due to field collection were not significant because few people visited the remote cliff faces of Gunung Kelam. Subsequently, collectors began to visit the mountain frequently and collect large numbers of plants through the 1980's. Local guides, enlisted by tourists, became impressed by the plants and harvested specimens for their villages near the foot of the mountain. Such plants rapidly perished and were replaced by new, freshly gathered specimens. Despite these significant pressures, populations of this plant were small but stable as recently as 1990. [1] No plants were observed during a search for the species in 1993. As few as 15 plants may have remained in the wild by that date. [1]

Conditions have changed since the last decade. Drought conditions in 1997–1998 resulted in significant plant mortality. A new season of drought began early in 2000. Interest in this plant by collectors has increased. [1]

As a result, *Nepenthes clipeata* is classified as “critically endangered (CR)” by the IUCN. It was assessed in 2000 by Clarke, C., Cantley, R., Nerz, J., Rischer, H. and Witsuba, A. Evaluators were Von Arx, B. and Groves, M. (Carnivorous Plants Red List Authority). [2]

Nepenthes clipeata occurs in eastern Borneo on Mt. Kelam. Its native country is Indonesia (Kalimantan). It grows on sheer granite walls. [2]

3 *In-Situ* Conservation

We here cite [1].

The combination of threats from drought, fire, and collection by visitors and native people is so severe that the plant is likely to be extinct in 10–20 years. *In-situ* conservation, always the preferred option, appears to be unrealistic and unworkable because the single known location for this plant is not likely to be a viable habitat in the long term, as repeated burning has caused major community changes to the mountain flora, and these burns are likely to continue.

In-situ conservation would only be viable if these anthropogenic changes were to stop and the native mountain community was to be restored. There is no governmental interest or financial mechanism for this to happen, so it is likely the mountain sites for *Nepenthes clipeata* will continue to degrade. [1]

4 Actions

Ex-situ conservation has an important role to play in *Nepenthes clipeata*'s conservation, for the reasons given above: it appears that long-term viability of wild populations of *Nepenthes clipeata* is low. [1]

Thus, actions have to be taken, and firstly proposed. They are given in [1] and classified as follows:

1. Short-term actions:

- (a) mainly developing a database about *Nepenthes clipeata* strains;
- (b) publicizing issues about *Nepenthes clipeata*'s issues;
- (c) making in-vitro *Nepenthes clipeata* plants by publicizing source of legal, ethically obtained and propagated material;
- (d) developing and widely publishing articles on the main propagation's aspects of *Nepenthes clipeata*.

2. Medium-term actions:

- (a) avoiding future collections from the wild, or only seeds;
- (b) investigating for other endangered species in the area of Kalimantan Barat;
- (c) placing tissue samples from identified pure or hybrid strains of *Nepenthes clipeata*.

3. Long-term actions: principally making reintroducing plans.

This list is a summary of the items which were given in [1].

5 Personal Growing

Nepenthes clipeata's extinction seems to be related to its slow growth, even when it is submitted to favorable conditions.

5.1 Acquisition

I acquired *Nepenthes clipeata* (from from Gunung Kelam, Kalimantan) in August 2008, at Andreas' (Wis-tuba) shop.

5.2 State

From August 2008 to September 2009, the plant seemed to stop growing, and produced no (new) leaf. In October 2009, a new leaf started to grow. This new leaf did not change until May 2010. At this period, it started to enlarge progressively, but extremely slowly. Progressively, it started to grow at a correct rate.

5.3 Conditions

My growing conditions are the following:

- **Substratum:** adequate (lightened: perlite, peat moss, wood chips, vermiculite),
- **Light:** 54W Sylvania GRO-LUX tubes,
- **Hygrometry:** near 95%,
- **Temperature:** between 75 and 95 Fahrenheit degrees (lowland),
- **Moisture:** wet (the soil never dries out).

The reader might notice that I inspired from [3] (and other various sources) to find the most interesting growing conditions for *Nepenthes clipeata*.

5.4 Conclusion

Despite being difficult to grow, it is not impossible to grow *Nepenthes clipeata*, at least if utmost growing conditions are applied. In this case, plant grows normally.



(a) August 2008.

(b) May 2010.



(c) January 2012.

Fig. 1. *Nepenthes clipeata* in my personal collection.

References

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