

CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International Carnivorous Plant Society

Volume 54, No. 1

March 2025



Submitted: 2 October 2024

Dionaea ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ (Fig. 3) is the product of a collaboration between Evan Wang (Palo Alto, California) and Craig Heath (Lorton, Virginia). Hand pollination in the summer of 2019 was performed by Evan Wang. After pollination, the flowers were isolated. The seed was the product of crossing *D.* ‘Jaws Smiley’ × *D.* ‘Alien’. Numerous seeds of this cross were grown by Evan Wang and Craig Heath. Of the over 60 seeds, only one developed the unique phenotype of *Dionaea* ‘EEC Chalupacabra’.

Dionaea ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ is characterized by extremely elongated traps, similar to *D.* ‘Alien’, but the cilia are longer. Full grown traps measure up to 4 cm in length. Petioles and traps are yellow on the exterior, distinguishing it from other elongated trap cultivars. Interior of the traps is a deep red in full sun. The petioles are short, measuring less than 2 cm and form a tight rosette pattern. *Dionaea* ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ has compact growth throughout the year. Traps are functional. While trap closing speed is slower than typical traps, ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ is able to catch and digest prey independently which, in our experience, distinguishes itself from its parent cultivars. Insects have routinely been found in its traps which were not artificially fed. The other distinguishing features of ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ are its vigor and ease of cultivation which are markedly improved compared to *D.* ‘Alien’ and *D.* ‘Jaws Smiley’.

The name ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ refers to the Mexican food ‘chalupa’ (made famous in mainstream America by Taco Bell) that resembles a concave boat, reflecting the elongated trap morphology. ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ also is a pun and reference to the Chupacabra—a legendary creature of the Americas known to attack and drink the blood of livestock, particularly goats and a suitable reference given the functional traps of ‘EEC Chalupacabra’.

‘EEC’ is an acronym for Ev & Em Carnivorium where the cultivar was initially created and propagated. *Dionaea* ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ can only be propagated vegetatively by rhizome or leaf/flower stalk cuttings to preserve its unique characteristics.

—EVAN WANG • Ev & Em Carnivorium • Palo Alto • California • USA • Basketballev08@gmail.com



Figure 3: *Dionaea* ‘EEC Chalupacabra’ (A) whole plant, (B) trap detail, (C) exterior trap.