

Plants that Stir the Mind

Victoria

“The Giant Water-Platters”





2015

55th Anniversary of the creation of *Victoria* 'Longwood Hybrid'

The Victoria water-platters are native to South America. *Victoria amazonica* is found in the Amazon River and *Victoria cruziana* grows in the Parana River and other cooler rivers further south.

In 1960, Patrick Nutt (right), in charge of Longwood's aquatic display at that time, made crosses between the two water-platter species.

The final selection showed extreme hybrid vigor, with leaves growing to 5' or 6' in diameter. Darker green leaves, higher leaf margins, larger and more numerous flowers, and hardiness like that of *V. cruziana* all led to its selection.

This cultivar is not available commercially, but can be found on display at botanical gardens around the world, including in England, Japan, and the United States.



Early February - seeds are started

Mid to late
February

Small plants begin
to grow
behind the scenes
in a small tank





Mid to late
March

Spring cleaning



May



Plants waiting
for warm
temperatures
behind the
scenes in the
waterlily
growing house





Waterplatters in pots are carefully transported out to the Display Pools in late May. Each leaf is covered to prevent desiccation.



They are carefully placed into a larger planter in the heated pools. Leaves have cheesecloth covers for sun protection for a day or two until they are acclimated to the brighter outdoor light



Each leaf has its own roots but all share the same meristem tissue

Victoria amazonica

- Native to Brazil
- Red pigmentation
- Narrow lip
- Seeds oval
- Sepals have thorns
- Pollen parent of the Longwood hybrid





V. cruziana

- Native to Bolivia/Paraguay
- Light green
- Large upturned leaf margins
- Seeds round
- Sepals nearly thornless
- Female parent of the Longwood hybrid

Victoria cruziana

Victoria amazonica





Victoria x 'Longwood Hybrid'

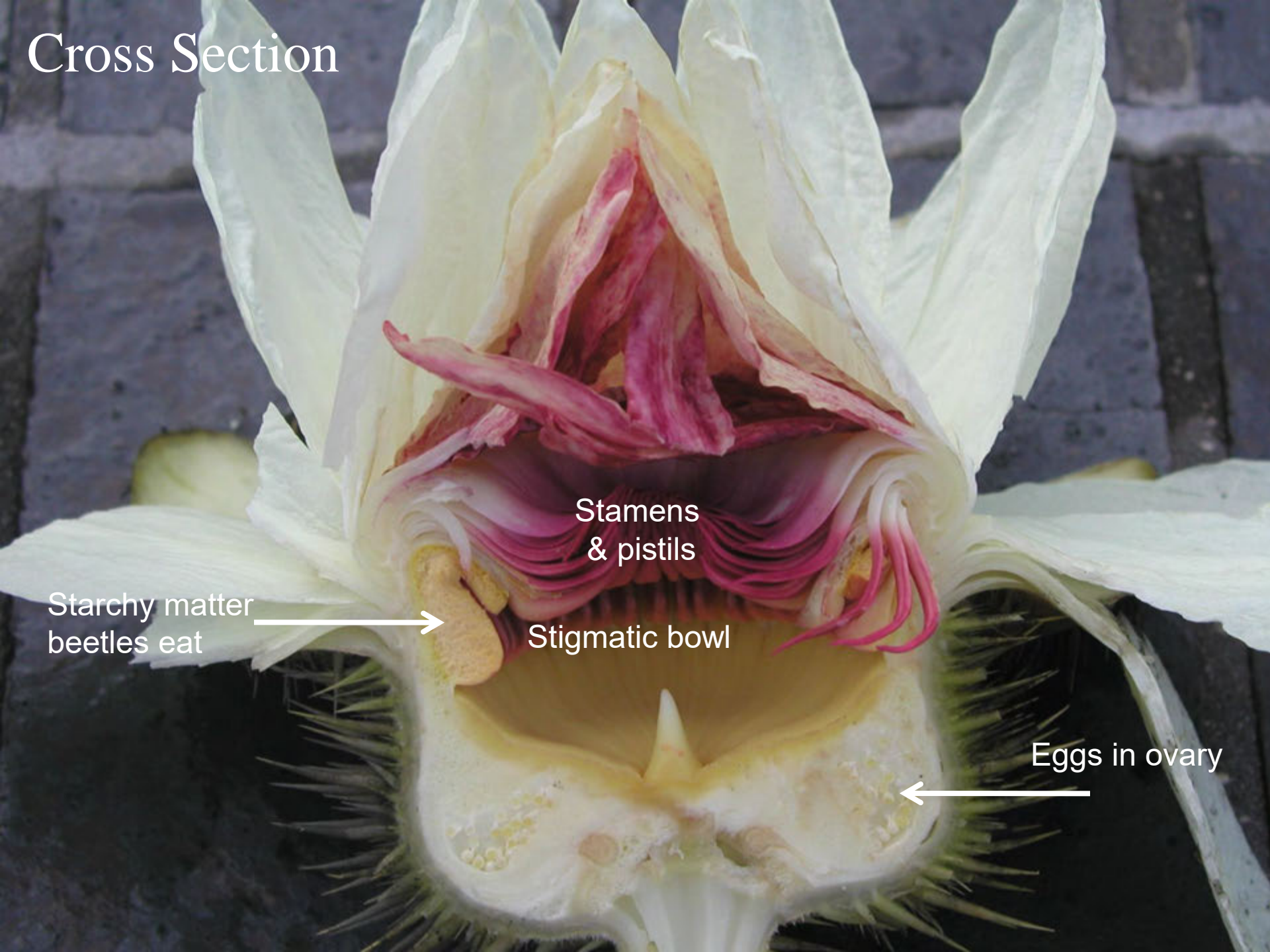


The first night of bloom the flower opens and blooms at night. Its fragrant, white large flower attracts beetle pollinators in its native habitat.

The second night the same flower reopens pink in color



Cross Section



Stamens
& pistils

Starchy matter
beetles eat

Stigmatic bowl

Eggs in ovary

All of our waterplatters are pollinated by hand starting in late August so they remain true to their cultivar or species.





First night
flowers are
covered with
cheesecloth
to prevent
natural
pollination.



Second night flower – anthers cut to use pollen for pollination

The top of the flower is cut off to expose the stigmatic surface.



Anthers lay
on the
stigmatic
surface



Paintbrush imitation of beetle action with bristles
“walking” on anthers and flower to pollinate flower.





Flowers are covered again after pollination



Pools in late summer



Lush pools in September

