

Open Cloze

Use one word to fill in the gaps of the text

Scientists discover new giant water lily species

A new species of giant water lily has discovered - and it's been hiding in plain sight 177 years. The huge plant had been in the archives of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and growing in a number of aquatic collections but it was mistakenly identified as another species. Now a detailed scientific study revealed that it is new to science. It also holds the record the world's largest water lily, with leaves growing than 3m (10ft) wide.

The plant has been called *Victoria boliviana* - named Bolivia, where it grows in a single water basin in part of the Amazon river system. Horticulturist Carlos Magdalena, of the world's leading water lily experts, long suspected that the plant was different from the other two known giant species, *Victoria amazonica* and *Victoria cruziana*.

So working with scientists from Bolivia - from the National Herbarium of Bolivia, Santa Cruz Botanic Gardens and Public Botanic Garden La Rinconada - he collected seeds and brought them back to Kew.

He BBC News: "It meant we could grow it side-by-side with the two other species exactly the same conditions. Once we did this we could very clearly see that every single part of the plant was totally different."

He described the find as the "highlight" of his career.

