

Snow plant

by [Paul Willis](#) in the [February 12, 2020](#) issue

*(Sarcodes sanguinea)*

O snow plant, growing right and sudden  
in the middle of the trail,

O pulp-red flowers, bright as Christmas,  
O saprophytic explosion,

botanical grenade at my feet,  
is this what you do to gain our attention?

I see you near and far in the forest,  
shy to the ground but wanting everyone

to know that winter is leaving  
this bare stage, your pop-up art.

—*Sequoia National Park*