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fully open flowers of Ansinckia vernicosa, showing the reduced flower size typical of highly self-fertilizing species. Self-fertilization has evolved many times in plants. Extreme rates of self-fertilization provide an opportunity for estimating mutation rates to mildly deleterious alleles and the average dominance level of such mutations. These quantities and information on the reduced fitness of progeny from self-fertilization are important in genetic models of the evolution of sex, recombination, and self-fertilization rates. See page 226. [Photo: G. L'Heureux, McGill Biology Image Centre]