

one of the most avid collectors for the Veitch Nurseries (see CPN Vol. 8, p. 32), rediscovered *Heliamphora nutans* at Mount Roraima, and successfully introduced living specimens to England. It flowered for the first time in cultivation in June 1889 (Hortus Veitchii, 1906; p. 299). The other 5 species of *Heliamphora* have been discovered on numerous expeditions from the 1930's to the 1960's, many of which involved botanists from the New York Botanical Garden (Maguire, 1953, 1978). Perhaps there are other strange plants to be found in this enticing botanical wonderland.

References:

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- Schomburgk, R. H. 1841. Travels in Guiana and on the Orinoco. Leipzig. English translation by Walter E. Roth, Georgetown, British Guiana, 1931.
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The Correct Common Name for *Heliamphora*

by Larry Mellichamp

Occasionally the question arises as to the correct common name for plants of the genus *Heliamphora* (Sarraceniaceae). The possibilities are Sun Pitchers or Marsh Pitchers. They have been referred to as the South American Pitcher Plant, which is less colorful but at least unambiguous.

The tendency to refer to them as Sun Pitchers comes from the observation that the generic name seems to be made up of the combination of the Greek word *helios*, meaning "the sun", and the Latin word *amphora*, meaning "a wine jar, or pitcher". Similarly, *Helianthus* is the generic name of Sunflowers, with the Greek word *anthos* meaning "a flower".

On the other hand, the Greek word *belos* means "a marsh"; and in making the generic name, the genitive case *beleos* would have been used. In forming the compound generic name, the masculine -os ending would have been dropped in both cases above, leaving the root to be joined with *amphora*. Thus, *Heleamphora* would have been the "Marsh Pitcher." Either common name is appropriate because the first discovered plants grew

in an open, sunny, marshy savannah (see Botanist's Corner). Upon first encountering the name, I would have preferred to translate it "Sun Pitcher" because it is spelled *Heliamphora* instead of *Heleamphora*.

However, the correct common name is Marsh Pitcher, and we would certainly be confused if it weren't for the fact that George Bentham, the English botanist who named *Heliamphora* in 1840, meant to call it Marsh Pitcher, and says so in the description: "I now proceed to give the technical character of the *Heliamphora nutans*, of which I have derived the name from $\epsilon\lambda\omicron\varsigma$, a marsh, and $\acute{\alpha}\mu\phi\omicron\rho\epsilon\tilde{\nu}\alpha$, a pitcher". He may have changed the spelling to make it easier to pronounce, otherwise the reason is unclear.

The translation of the generic name is unfortunately misleading and could be interpreted correctly in either context (sun or marsh). The fact, however, that Bentham explained the name "Marsh Pitcher" is proof enough for its correctness.