Review of Recent Literature

Beaver, R.A., Geographical variation in food web structure in *Nepenthes* pitcher plants. Ecol. Entomol 10(3): 241-248 1985.

Nepenthes species that grow in areas outside of the evolutionary center of the genus in West Malaysia are found to have fewer species of both prey and predator living in them. Also, there are fewer species with more empty niche space to grow in. The Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Madagascar are three countries that show these differences which vary in relation to the size and spatial and temporal isolation of the country.

Murphy, J.D. Bjerklie, The living library of plants. Time Magazine, Nov. 4, 1985.

Botanist's estimate that some 3,000 of the 22,000 species of flowering plants in the United States may be facing extinction. On the world scale, about 40,000 plant species are in serious trouble. To help this situation, the Center for Plant Conservation with its center at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University received money to preserve every kind of threatened plant in the U.S. It hopes to secure in 10 years all the threatened specimens and grow them in their greenhouses. Seeds will be stored at the Dept. of Agriculture's Fort Collins, Colorado seed-storage facility. Eventually, they hope to reintroduce some plants into their natural habitats. It will eventually cost $5,000 to save each species. The Arboretum will accept this donation to save an endangered plant in your name.

Naeem, S. & J. Dushek, Plumbing the deathly depths of the California Pitcher plant. Pacific Discovery, April-June: 26-31 1985.

The authors conducted experiments on *Darlingtonia californica* in the field to study its carnivorous nature. For example, if they removed the fishtail appendage, the pitcher captures only 1/10 as many insects showing that secretions which bait the appendage attract insects. The pitchers contain naturally two specific species of arthropods—the water mite and the midge fly larva which live only in these pitchers. These inhabitants are chiefl responsible for the decomposition of prey! A single pitcher can contain up to 3,000 mites and several hundred midge fly larva to carry out this important job.

Studnicka, Miloslav. 1985. *Pinguicula rotundifolia*—A new species from Mexico. Fol. Geobot. Phytotax. 20:201-204, plts 15,16.

A new species of Mexican Pinguicula—*P. rotundifolia* is herein described from the southern part of Mexico. It is in cultivation in several botanical gardens (from which two good black and white photo plates are included). The species is closely related to and appears much like *P. parvifolia* but differs in the form of leaves, corolla lobes, color of the mouth of the corolla tube, dissimilarity of pilosity of the calyx, bare pedicels and several other lesser characters. The plant grows in calcareous soils under partial cover of semi-deciduous trees. DES

CP Articles Solicited

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