

# PROPOSED LISTING OF *SARRACENIA RUBRA* ssp. *ALABAMENSIS* AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES UNDER THE U.S. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

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On 13 May, 1988, I received a letter dated 27 April along with an outtake from the Federal Register dated 21 April, 1988 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service of the Dept. of the Interior.

This material detailed the proposed listing for the pitcher plant *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* under the Endangered Species Act. This official notification is intended to precede any responses from concerned individuals by either direct means or through local meetings. Unfortunately, all this must have been done in June, long before you read this. The process may be complete by then, in which case we will add a short notice to this issue. After the period for public response, the Congress will (on their own time schedule!) vote for final acceptance or not, and acceptance is most likely.

During the interim, the ESA rules state that no federal activity that endangers the proposed species can be undertaken without appropriate review. Following listing, all rules of the ESA apply, including shipment permits for material interstate. As a matter of ethics, we recommend that ICPS members treat the subspecies as though fully accepted during the interim period before final congressional vote.

The Federal Register goes into some detail concerning the history of the subspecies, a brief botanical description and location ecologic characteristics, and a rather complete bibliography. At one time, a total of 27 locations in the Elmore/Chilton/Autauga Counties area of central Alabama was documented but now only 11 are claimed to be known, three of these being of any significant size. As I have mentioned in a previous CPN article, I have managed to find several additional locations through various means. One of these has been timber harvested in the past three years after which the plants responded beautifully to increased light conditions in succeeding seasons. The location is rather high on a ridge but associated with a broad, slow seep slope at the edge and has over 100 genets with most of each of these having 25-50 ramets. The flowering was quite startling this past spring. Contrasting with the Federal Register statement of a typical habitat, the peat layer was no more than 3-5 cm on the surface immediately above solid or rarely sandy clay.

Contrary to the usual policy of listing plants for ESA acceptance, a site survey has not been done for this subspecies in order to protect location data, which certainly seems reasonable.

Since most of the locations are on private lands including those of a large timber company, little will probably be done to forestall fire prevention or encourage clearing and no other physical disturbance. As is the case so often, private intervention by an organization such as the Nature Conservancy to purchase or otherwise seek donation of good locations and then manage them appropriately may be the salvation of at least a few of the diminishing locations.

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## NOTE

Please see front and rear covers for photographs of *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* in pitcher and flower respectively.



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Front cover: *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* in pitcher (front cover) and flower (rear cover).  
Photos in habitat by Donald Schnell. Please see article on page 104.

The co-editors of CPN would like everyone to pay particular attention to the following policies regarding your dues to the ICPS.

All correspondence regarding dues, address changes and missing issues should be sent to ICPS c/o Fullerton Arboretum, CSUF, Fullerton, CA 92634. DO NOT SEND TO THE CO-EDITORS. Checks for subscriptions and reprints should be made payable to ICPS.

All material for publication, comments and general correspondence about your plants, field trips or special noteworthy events relating to CP should be directed to one of the co-editors. We are interested in all news related to carnivorous plants and rely on the membership to supply us with this information so that we can share it with others.

Views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily the editorial staff.

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