

FINAL PROTECTION RULING ON *SARRACENIA RUBRA* ssp. *ALABAMENSIS* UNDER UNITED STATES ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

by Donald Schnell

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In the December, 1988 issue of CPN (CPN 17:104), we cited a Federal Register entry proposing the *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* be listed as endangered.

There were two replies to the federal request for input, one from an individual and one from a conservation organization, both favorable. As a result, the Federal Register (54:10150-10154) of 10 March 1989 has described the subspecies as officially endangered, the status effective 10 April 1989. ICPS members should adjust all of their activities pertaining to the subspecies accordingly.

The original Federal Register article cited in the December, 1988 CPN had a pretty good summary of the subspecies history, ecology, references, causes for endangerment, etc. Much of this material is repeated in the Federal Register entry cited above, with the addition of a brief description of the taxonomic problems and why the Fish and Wildlife Service chose the subspecies nomenclature.

Many of you, as I was, may wonder why *S. rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* received this designation prior to *S. rubra* ssp. *jonesii* which is certainly present in fewer numbers and has received much more publicity over the years. A telephone conversation with Ms. Susan Lawrence of the Fish and Wildlife Service on 29 March 1989 may have shed light on what happened. As a result of recent political decentralization of government, regional divisions of the F & W Service have been given more autonomy in their activities. Since *S. rubra* ssp. *alabamensis* range falls in the Jackson Mississippi region, and *S. rubra* ssp. *jonesii* range is in the Atlanta, Georgia region, the Mississippi office apparently placed their priorities regarding limited finances and other resources differently.

Personally, even though the field work to propose a species as endangered is closer to division offices, I think a central authority should still guide decisions in order to provide cohesiveness, balance and priority in allocation of expensive efforts.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Source List Corrections:

Lee's Botanical Gardens
12731 SW 14th Street
Miami, FL 33184
(305) 223-0496
(The address was omitted)

Burleigh Park Orchid Nurseries
(Australia) No longer stocks C.P.