

(3) Illegal collection. – not significant until populations were so small because of habitat destruction. Where do these illegally collected plants go? The only country that sells wild collected *Sarracenia* rhizomes is U.S.A. In Australia it is easier to propagate our own as imported plants take at least 2 years to fully reverse seasons and quarantine house conditions often cause losses. The only times I have imported is to get varieties I could not get in Australia. Few if any illegally collected rare *Sarracenia*s ever are sent out of U.S.A.

Now *Nepenthes*. Under my conditions many of these will grow out of doors and most of these flower freely. I have about 30 large seedlings of our Appendix I *N. khasiana*. I also have a cutting grown plant that a friend gave me. It has flowered and is a female. Presumably one at least of my seedlings will be a male and I will be able to produce plenty of seed of it. What will I be able to do with it? Everyone who grows *Nepenthes* in Australia has it. I can't legally send it overseas without a lot of fuss and red tape. How does this help conserve the species in its natural habitat?

I imported 12 *Nepenthes* plants last year. The friend sending them could not get his CITES permit in time so he sent them to another friend who he thought could get one sooner. He could not so they finally went via a third person. The permit was a very restrictive one only allowing certain named plants in. Curiously *N. khasiana* was on it but had been crossed out. With a few adjustments my plants fitted the permit and so they came here. The quarantine here managed to get some of the names wrong, but I was still able to know which was which if I consulted my lists. One time the quarantine inspector carefully looked at each plant but if all had been *Sarracenia*s he would not have known the difference. Just what was all this great fuss over? Not it was not *N. rajah* or *N. khasiana* or hybrids of them. Ten were hybrids and the other 2 were one each *hirsuta* and *ventricosa* (speckled form). I want them for breeding and expect eventually to have spare seed from them and guess what I won't legally be allowed to do with it.

If the aim of CITES was to accelerate the extinction of endangered species, its present regulations would assist this.

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## Tepuis

### The Lands Unknown

By Jeffrey Gold, 2560 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94704  
(415) 540-5400 FAX (415) 540-5415

On the evening of January 24, 1990, I will arrive in Caracas, Venezuela to begin a project that I have been dreaming about for the past ten years. I will study the delicate ecological balance of the northernmost reaches of the Amazon Basin of South America, where nature has carved over 100 fantastic table mountains, or tepuis, as they are called by the Indians.

In September of 1979, I first learned about the tepuis of Venezuela upon reading an illustrious description by Joseph Mazrimas within the pages of CPN. I dreamed of someday visiting this region that has proven to be nearly inaccessible to mankind. Today that time has come. I will soon learn the hidden secrets of the tepuis.

I have organized a nonprofit corporation called TEPUIS to conduct and publish ecological research. TEPUIS is coordinating efforts in Venezuela which will last a minimum of six months or, more likely, as long as several years. Offices are located in Berkeley, California and a research facility will be opened in Venezuela to coordinate South American expeditions.

TEPUIS's expeditions are largely funded by private and institutional donations. TEPUIS provides photographic portfolios and live botanical specimens in return for contributions that support our research efforts. You will see many of the results of our expeditions illustrated and described within the pages of CPN in the coming months.

TEPUIS researchers have been trained to take great care not to disturb the ecological balance of any region when obtaining specimens from the field. Our efforts have the support of the

Venezuelan government which is providing the necessary permits and guidance for our efforts. Collected specimens will be propagated through tissue culture for further distribution to scientists around the world.

TEPUIIS will publish a scientific journal four times per year, as well as operating seed, plant, photo, and movie banks. TEPUIIS will also sponsor guided expeditions through the tepuis of South America.

You can become a member of TEPUIIS and receive the TEPUIIS newsletter by making a contribution of \$25 - \$500 to support our research efforts. Contributions of \$100 or more will entitle you to one free plant specimen for each \$10 donated (\$100 = 10 plants, \$250 = 25 plants).

It is not our goal to become a commercial supplier. The aforementioned prices are only a guide to help us solicit funds to continue our research in South America. TEPUIIS will also donate plant material to universities for research, and to commercial growers for further propagation and distribution.

As I depart for Venezuela, I would like to thank all of the members of ICPS who have already pledged their moral, monetary, and scientific support for our projects in South America. I look forward to sharing our results with you soon.

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## Insectivorous Flora of Sequoia National Park

By Thomas L. Engelhardt, P.O. 281, Lodgepole, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262

For the past seventeen years I have been actively involved in my advocacy, growing carnivorous plants; but throughout this time have never had the opportunity to observe and study them in the wild, until now. When I became a naturalist for the National Park Service, one of the first things I did was begin the search for these marvelous plants. I received a few tips from the veteran rangers on the staff, and utilizing many botanical references, tried to determine possible species diversity, distribution and localities.

Research has shown that in or in close proximity of the boundaries of Sequoia National Park there is one species of the family Droseraceae and four species of the family Lentibulariaceae. In the family Droseraceae, *Drosera rotundifolia* is the sole inhabitant of this 630 square mile preserve. From the family Lentibulariaceae it has been established that four species of the genus *Utricularia* are present: *Utricularia gibba*, *minor*, *vulgaris* and *intermedia*.

In mid June, after only a 15 minute search, I came upon *Drosera rotundifolia* in its moist, acidic, niche, within the Montane Meadow Community, surrounded along the perimeter by giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). How exhilarating it was to see *Drosera rotundifolia* in its native habitat, hidden under a canopy of Sierra wildflowers and meadow grasses at an elevation of 6600 feet. The healthiest population of these glistening gems was in the wettest region of the meadowland, where some plants actually established themselves in a small tributary beneath two centimeters of water. In order to gain access to the sundews I utilized a fallen sequoia that traversed the bog as an observation point. Thus the fragility of the meadow was preserved and no damage to the delicate ecosystem could occur.

Plants growing in the full sun develop tight, robust, basal rosettes approximately 3.1 centimeters in diameter and dark crimson coloration. Plants hidden from the direct rays of the sun under taller vegetation, were lighter in color, and interestingly, possessed significantly longer petioles of approximately 4-5 centimeters.

At the end of the month I returned to find the same population covered with an array of attractive, white inflorescences and by the first of September, most of the *Drosera rotundifolia* had gone to seed and will begin the dissemination process.

Though a four month period of dormancy is quickly approaching, winter hibernacula were not observed as of the printing of this article.

My search for members of the genus *Utricularia* was, at first, futile. For days I explored numerous Sub-Alpine Meadow localities, at an elevation of 7680 feet, until one morning I came