



Peter Taylor

# A Special Issue Dedication — To Peter Taylor

By Donald Schnell

It has been a good number of years since we dedicated a special issue of CPN to a prominent CP botanist, the first and only being in honor of Edgar T. Wherry (Vol. 2, No. 3). We do not have a set policy of regularly dedicating issues of CPN, but wait until a candidate clearly emerges.

After forty years of dedicated work, Peter Taylor obviously deserves this honor, particularly after completion of his summary monograph, *THE GENUS Utricularia* as a special Kew Bulletin issue of considerable weight and dimension. As was so aptly pointed out by the Director of Kew, the work was no small task considering the worldwide distribution of so many species (see review, CPN 19:51-52, 1990).

In addition to dedicating the issue to Peter, we have also updated our previous rendition of the worldwide *Utricularia* list, based entirely on the monograph. There is a brief biography of our honoree, along with his photo, and several other good things.

Unlike the Wherry issue and similar dedications in other publications, we put Peter to work! He has written an entirely new key for the utricularias of North America (The monograph key included all of the Americas) and it is unique in that it can be used for flowering or non-flowering specimens. The first split in the key is flowering vs. non-flowering and it essentially breaks into two keys after that. The key is far more accurate than a previous one we printed in CPN (CPN 2:66-69, 1973), and the vegetative part of the key is the first of that sort that I have found at all usable in this genus, although it requires some specimen magnification in some steps. The biography for this key is, of course, Peter's monograph, so we have not repeated that here.

We decided to push our luck and mentioned *Genlisea*, and there came forth a revised world list of species to date of publication, along with a worldwide key and complete, new bibliography! For both utricularias and genliseas, there is a sort of "mini-monograph" narrative commentary on each species. Finally, Peter produced five plates of his famous line drawings to illustrate points in both keys and his glossary to accompany both keys.

We are certainly grateful to Peter for all of this, and much of it is primary publication here. Most of the color photos are first time printing of some unusual Australian species in particular.

Peter visited Washington, DC in the USA in early July, 1990, to receive the prestigious Engler Medal from the IAPT which was meeting there last year, the medal honoring his work and monograph. While in the country, Peter and I got together for some days of botanizing in the Great Lakes region. After several days of tromping through inland sphagnum bogs and lakefront fens together, we got to know each other pretty well, or rather somewhat reaffirming our impressions of each other gained by intuition or reading between the lines in correspondence. In one bog, he remarked, "This is one of my happiest times, when I can wander in a piece of vegetation such as this...", and I am glad this was provided him. We found nearly all of the utricularias of the area that trip, in spite of high water and an unusually cool preceding June.

On a personal note, it is difficult to summarize one's feelings about such a man who has traveled the ends of the earth to study plants for one of the premier botanical gardens of the world. Friendly, understanding, kind, helpful and willing to inform without lecturing, full knowledge of his subject even to the extent that he was willing to admit his limitations (find that in many experts!), generous, sensitive, considerate, a broad interest in things in general, a true gentlemen—These are just some impressions that come to mind in no particular order. I am pleased and honored to count him as a friend, and to wish him many more productive years in his "retirement" with his hobbies and continued contributions to regional floras of the world.