

bargained for. Near the top of the Serra do Araponga, above 1350 m altitude, the rain-forest gives way to grassy mountainsides. When we arrived, these areas were very wet (even boggy), and *U. longifolia* Gardner leaves and inflorescences were growing as thick as a grass lawn. Curiously, the inflorescences were highly branched, each bearing several large pink-purple flowers. Most interestingly though was that about half the *U. longifolia* population had pure white flowers, with only the yellow mark on the lower lip! The leaves of these plants were an overall light-green in color, with no red pigmentation (i.e. what many carnivorous plant growers call albino plants).

Around the *U. longifolia*, we found plenty of *G. lobata* and, partly shaded by grasses, *D. villosa* plants forming curiously long stems. I was more than overjoyed and happily surprised to find *G. lobata* on the Serra da Araponga, since it was previously only known from two locations on the nearby Serra do Caparaó.

The *G. lobata* plants at the Serra da Araponga were growing in humid sandy soil, semi-shaded by grasses. Plants growing in sunny areas had flowers colored like those of the specimens I had seen at the Serra do Caparaó (Figure 2), but in shady spots the white background was instead light-lilac with light-purple streaks on the lower lip, reminding me very much of its close cousin *G. violacea*.

G. lobata is surely very closely related to the more widespread *G. violacea*, and both have very similar requirements in cultivation. These two species can be grown as perennials and pollination must be done by hand to ensure seed set. If the pedicel remains erect after the flower drops off, the pollination was unsuccessful, but if the pedicel bends downwards, watch the developing seed capsule so as to not miss the seeds when the capsule splits. Germinating the seeds is a whole different story: Good luck! It seems that some kind of dry stratification helps. Sow the seeds, water them once or twice, and then let the pot dry for a few weeks (or months). Keep it moist again, thereafter.

References:

- Fromm-Trinta, E. 1977, *Tayloria* Fromm-Trinta — Nova Seção do Gênero *Genlisea* St. Hil. Bol. Mus. Nac. Rio de Janeiro, Bot. 44: 1-4.
- Fromm-Trinta, E. 1989, *Genlisea lobata* Fromm-Trinta — Uma Nova Espécie para o Gênero *Genlisea* St. Hil. sect. *Tayloria* (Lentibulariaceae), Bradea 4: 152-155.
- Taylor, P., and Fromm-Trinta, E. 1983, Uma Nova Espécie para o Gênero *Genlisea* St. Hil. sect. *Tayloria* (Lentibulariaceae): *Genlisea uncinata* P.Taylor & Fromm-Trinta, Bradea 3: 365-368.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

Moran, J.A., Merbach, M.A., Livingston, N.J., Clarke, C.M. & Booth, W.E. 2001, Termite Specialization in the Pitcher Plant *Nepenthes albomarginata* - Evidence from Stable Isotope Analysis. *Annals of Botany* 88: 307-311.

Schulze, W., Schulze, E.D., Schulze, I. & Oren, R. 2001, Quantification of Insect Nitrogen Utilization by the Venus Fly Trap *Dionaea muscipula* Catching Prey with Highly Variable Isotope Signatures. *Journal of Experimental Botany* 52: 1041-1049.

Although fashionable among ecologists, stable isotope ratio analyses of carnivorous plant extracts are less convincing than simple identification of carcasses in the traps or tracer feeding studies. As long as isotope selectivity in the absorption of nutrients or during metabolism in the plant cannot be ruled out, and if no attempt is made to determine the physiological fate of specific metabolites, the mere isotope ratio is actually of rather limited informative value, unless someone doubts that nitrogen is taken up at all from the prey in the two species discussed. Nevertheless, the two cited papers are amusing examples of elaborated scientific proof for the obvious. (JS)