

NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS: ANTHOCYANIN-FREE *SARRACENIA ALATA* (WOOD) WOOD IN ALABAMA

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Sarracenia alata (Wood) Wood is widely varied in color and morphology throughout its range. The expression of the red pigment anthocyanin creates many beautiful and very different color forms, from lightly veined to a solid maroon that is, in extreme cases, almost black.

Over the years, many anthocyanin-free forms of *Sarracenia* species and subspecies have been found in the wild, including *S. flava* (Bill Scholl, pers. comm.), *S. leucophylla* (Sheridan & Scholl, 1996), *S. minor* (Sheridan & Scholl, 1996), *S. psittacina* (Sheridan & Scholl, 1993), *S. purpurea* subsp. *purpurea* (Case, 1956), *S. rosea* (= *S. purpurea* subsp. *purpurea* var. *burkii*) (Hanrahan & Miller, 1998) *S. rubra* subsp. *jonesii* (Case & Case, 1976), *S. rubra* subsp. *gulfensis* (Sheridan & Scholl, 1993) and a peculiar population of *S. rubra* subsp. *rubra* from western Georgia that has been suggested as being a possible ancestral progenitor for the *S. rubra* complex (Sheridan & Scholl, 1993). However, an anthocyanin-free form of *S. alata* has not previously been reported.

On August 20, 2001, we were botanizing in a seepage bog in southwestern Alabama (Washington County). The site housed various carnivorous species including *Sarracenia alata*, *S. leucophylla*, *S. psittacina*, and hybrids thereof, *Pinguicula lutea*, *Drosera capillaris*, and *Drosera filiformis* var. *tracyi*. Other field workers have reported *S. rubra* subsp. *wherryi* growing in this particular bog (Jay Lechtman, pers. comm.), however, it was not found during this expedition. While surveying this site we stumbled upon a single, large clump of *S. alata* that caught our attention because it was a distinctively uniform light green color, without the red venation that characterized all other specimens of this species at the site. We observed that there was a complete absence of anthocyanin in both the growth point and leaves of the plant (see Front Cover). A flower was not observed; however, we assume that it will exhibit the typical white/yellowish coloration of other anthocyanin-free forms of *Sarracenia*. Like other *S. alata* from southwestern Alabama, this specimen had a slightly pubescent exterior.

Many hours were spent searching the immediate area of the all-green *S. alata* for other specimens; none were found. Jay Lechtman visited the site again in the early spring of 2002—although the anthocyanin-free plant was relocated, an exhaustive search found no other anthocyanin-free *S. alata* plants (J. Lechtman, pers. comm.). To date, no other reports of anthocyanin-free *S. alata* have been published or otherwise publicized.

GPS coordinates for this clump were obtained and reported to the ICPS conservation program. This information will only be revealed to qualified conservation workers.

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Front Cover: Anthocyanin-free *Sarracenia alata*. Photograph by Carl Mazur. See article on page 76.

Back Cover: A large flowered form of *U. bisquamata* in the wild near Hermanus. Photograph by Robert Gibson. Article on page 77.

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