A RE-VISIT TO FLORIDA AND GEORGIA C.P.

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After having lived for several years in Virginia and finally moving back to Florida in September of 1982, one of the first things I wanted to do was revisit some of the many CP sites in the area.

On the last weekend in September, I left for the Georgia border from Jacksonville. As I approached the border, patches of *Sarracenia minor* became more numerous. *Drosera capillaris* were very common in the wet drainage ditches, and *Pinguicula* were very common in the areas along the roads. Just over the border, I found lots of *S. minor, D. capillaris* and *P. lutea* in the damp sandy areas and Utricularias were in very wet and flooded areas.

After driving 30 miles into Georgia, and several more miles on a dirt road, there was a very low-lying area, mostly sandy but some sphagnum in spots. There was the usual *S. minor, D. capillaris, D. inter* usual *S. minor, D. capillaris, D. intermedia* and *P. lutea*, and in the sphagnum moss areas I saw *S. flava* and *S. psittacina* growing. After reaching Rt. 84, going west, I passed through a small town which had a three-street interchange in the middle of town. There, on the corner lot which was vacant, were hundreds of *S. minor* growing in the grass, weeds and brush and it was evident that it was not mowed for ages. It was quite a contrast to see this thriving bog in the middle of a town and seemingly unnoticed. I remembered this lot from several years ago and wondered from time to time how it was doing. I was glad to see it still untouched.

While I was in Georgia, I was told by a state employee that the highway department no longer cuts the roadside grass and weeds due to the damage they were causing carnivorous plants and I was glad that they were allowed to grow freely. This gives me something to remember as we can help to preserve areas by simply informing or caring enough about CP.

I left this area on the way to Folkston to visit the Okeefenokee Swamp. I went to a small area which was under several inches of water with plenty of sphagnum, where in the past I found probably the largest and most beautiful *Drosera intermedia* that I've ever seen. For whatever reason, I didn't find even one single plant now, which was a real loss. I'm hoping to see them in the spring, if they do return. I did see some really nice plants of the "Okee Giant" *S. minor*. All the plants were going through the dormancy process, but the good pitchers



"Okee Giant", *Sarracenia minor* in Okeefenokee Swamp Park.
Photo by Gary De Puy

that were left did show their tall and stately appearance as compared to their shorter cousins outside the swamp. It was interesting that the "Okee Giant" *S. minors* were going dormant and yet most of the shorter *S. minor* were still in flower and many were actively growing. I also found lots of *S. psittacina* which were still in bloom.

Well, by now it was now raining, and I had donated enough blood to the mosquitoes, so I headed for home. I regretted that I didn't get the chance to view some other areas where other species of *Sarracenia* and *D. filiformis* grew. Hopefully, in the spring I'll have more time to do this. It was good to return to areas where not much has changed and many small stands of CP are surviving.

Looking back on my trip, I noted that the *S. minor, S. psittacina, Drosera capillaris*, and *D. intermedia* were all flowering but neither the Pinguiculas nor *S. flava* were in bloom. Utricularias were in bloom everywhere, sometimes just filling a drainage ditch or wet fields with flowers. Although most of the plants seemed to be actively growing, several weeks later we had some cool weather here, and judging from the CP in the Jacksonville area, that cool spell finally sent them on their way to dormancy. And with that, this field trip comes to an end with bites and wet feet — at least until spring.



Pinguicula in Folkston, GA
Photo by Gary De Puy

Review of Recent Literature

Aldenius, J., et. al. 1983. Effects of insect trapping on growth and nutrient content of *Pinguicula vulgaris* L. in relation to the nutrient content of the substrate. New Phytol. 93: 53-59.

Plants fed insects or given soil nutrients or both in controlled enviroments grew larger and had greater dry weight. A single "dipterid" insect was applied to one leaf of each test plant in the series, and those plants so fed seemed better able to take up nutrients applied in the soil, suggesting some other component absorbed from the insect that seemed to increase root absorption efficiency.

(Ed. comment – It would seem that these results can only be related to the experimental environment since in nature many insects of diverse kind and over a period of time are trapped by a plant.) (DES)

Broussaud, F., and C. Vintejoux. 1982. Etudes ultrastructurales et cytotechniques de tissue superficiels places a l'entree des urnes d'*Utricularia* (Lentibulariaceae). Bull. Soc. Fr., 129, lettres bot., 191-201.

IN FRENCH

Examination of the utricle entrance of Utricularias by ultrastructural and cyto-