

## A NOTE ON SARRACENIA PURPUREA L. IN LOUISIANA

M. H. & B. R. MacRoberts  
740 Columbia  
Shreveport, LA 71104

During the course of a study of pitcher plant bogs in Louisiana, which included examining herbarium specimens, talking with botanists, and surveying the literature, it became evident to us that there was considerable confusion about the occurrence of Sarracenia purpurea in Louisiana. We therefore looked into the matter.

Using mainly the bibliographies of Ewan (1967), Sundell (1979), and MacRoberts (1984, 1988), we surveyed the literature on Louisiana botany. The earliest reference we found to S. purpurea is that made by Josiah Hale (1852), who included it in his report on the medical botany of Louisiana stating that it occurred in "damp soil, Covington." In the same year, Riddell lists the species in his catalogue of Louisiana plants but without comment, except to indicate in his introductory remarks that the collections on which the catalogue is based were made by J. Hale, W. M. Carpenter, and himself. Langlois (1887), in his extensive list of Louisiana plants, does not mention S. purpurea. W. R. Dodson, botanist for the Louisiana Geological Survey who investigated the Florida parishes in 1894, lists S. purpurea in his report but gives no locality. This report is particularly interesting because W. C. Stubbs, the director of the Experimental Station, prefaces the work by saying that Dodson "made, personally, the collections" (Clendenin 1896: 248). Small (1933) lists S. purpurea for Louisiana in his Manual of Southeastern Flora but without comment. Lloyd (1942: 18), in his classic Carnivorous Plants, says that S. purpurea extends to near the Mississippi River north of New Orleans. Penn (1954), based on personal communication with Joseph Ewan, mentions a specimen collected in St. Helena Parish in 1842 that was deposited at US but gives no further details. McDaniel (1966) includes S. purpurea in Louisiana and is the first author to give a true citation: "St Helena Parish: 1842, Carpenter (US)." McDaniel (1972: 250) describes its range as "Florida to Mississippi (Louisiana formerly?) northward...."<sup>1</sup> Brown (1972) refers to a single collection from Louisiana but provides no further details.<sup>2</sup> Allen et



al. (1975) do not include S. purpurea in their checklist of St. Helena Parish. Murry and Urbatsch (1979), in a paper on Louisiana Sarracenia, state: "The only collection in Louisiana was made near Covington, St. Tammany Parish, in 1871, by Featherman (specimen in LSU)." Godfrey and Wooten (1981) do not include S. purpurea in Louisiana. Thomas and Allen (1982) list it in their checklist of Louisiana plants but without comment. MacRoberts (1984: 119-120) lists it in his annotated checklist of Louisiana plants on the authority of Riddell and adds that "Featherman's collection of S. purpurea L. in St. Tammany Parish was originally identified by him as S. rubra." Taylor and Thomas (1985) list it in their checklist of St. Tammany Parish but without comment. The various Natural Heritage Program special plant lists (1986, 1987) and the report on the natural communities of coastal Louisiana (Craig et al. 1987) do not list it. MacRoberts (1988), relying mainly on bibliographic sources, lists it in his atlas and cites both the Featherman (LSU) and Carpenter (US) specimens, but he (pers. comm.) has seen neither a definitive report on S. purpurea nor these specimens.

We examined all major Louisiana herbaria, as well as US, MO, and GH collections. We found two specimens. Featherman (s.n. LSU). The original label reads: "Sarracenia rubra Walt., Red flowered trumpet leaf, Covington, A.F."<sup>4</sup> We examined Featherman's (1871) account of his botanical expedition to Covington in 1870 and found that he reports the species as occurring precisely as he records it on the herbarium label. Carpenter (s.n. US). The original label reads: "Sarracenia purpurea, Wet Pine Woods, St. Helena, La." This was annotated by Mohr: "Sarracenia purpurea L., St. Helena Parish, Carpenter 1842." Because in 1842 St. Helena Parish encompassed not only the present parish but also the northwestern quarter of Tangipahoa Parish, it is impossible to know from which present-day parish the specimen came.

In summary, there are two voucher specimens for S. purpurea from Louisiana, as well as the two suggestive reports of Hale and Dodson, which we were unable to trace to specimens. Clearly, S. purpurea was part of the Louisiana flora at least through the nineteenth century.



NOTES. 1. McDaniel apparently did not examine the specimens at LSU herbarium. At the time he did his research, C. A. Brown was curator and did not make loans.

2. This undoubtedly refers to the Featherman specimen since it was at LSU, and Brown had annotated it.

3. The year was 1870; 1871 was the year of publication of the report. These authors were apparently unaware of McDaniel's work as they do not mention it.

4. A.F. = Americus Featherman.

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