

ICPS WILD SEED COLLECTION POLICY

BARRY RICE • ICPS Director of Conservation Programs • P.O. Box 72741 • Davis, CA 95617 • USA • barry@carnivorousplants.org

Keywords: conservation: ethics, seed bank.

The ICPS maintains a policy that field collection of live plants is not justified in most cases. Carnivorous plants are often in small populations, and the removal of live plants can reduce the genetic diversity of a site and impair the long-term viability of native plant populations. Even plants that once existed in large, landscape-level stands are being reduced to small, fragmented populations because of human pressures. However, the ICPS has never explicitly articulated policies regarding the collection of seed for its seed bank. We hope this set of guidelines helps clarify the ICPS's stance on ethical seed collection. The ICPS recognizes and appreciates the comments provided by staff of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and Natural Heritage Programs—these comments were helpful in refining these seed bank guidelines.

1) Gather only enough seed to establish the plant in your own and a colleague's collection. Use the collected seed as parental stock to produce seed for the ICPS seed bank.

2) Minimize your collection impacts by removing only a small percentage of the total seeds available from a site. A good rule of thumb is to collect seeds from only 1 in 50 fruiting plants; do not collect if less than a total of 50 plants occur in a site. It is particularly important not to over-collect seed from plants that reproduce primarily by seed. Small amounts of seed from several plants is better than a large amount of seed from one plant, since the genetic diversity in the collection will be higher, and is more likely to result in capturing a plant most amenable to cultivation.

3) When collecting, proceed slowly and cautiously through the site to minimize your trampling and disturbance of plants or their habitat. Take care to correctly label all the seeds you collect, and do not confuse collections of separate species.

4) Do not collect seeds if you cannot distinguish between mature and immature seed. Maintain collected seed in appropriate containers and environmental conditions.

5) We encourage you to provide accurate location information for all seed bank donations of seed collections and subsequent offspring. The ICPS will only publish seed provenance information to county (or equivalent) resolution.

6) Follow all local, national, and international laws when collecting seed. Many areas have special protection status, and prohibit collecting seeds without collection permits. It is the collector's responsibility to be sure all laws are being observed.

7) The ICPS maintains an "Imperiled Carnivorous Plant Species List" of plants considered particularly at risk. The list is included below as an appendix; for an updated list refer to the ICPS web site. The ICPS seed bank will not accept field collect-

ed seed of listed plants. Seeds from cultivated plants on this list will be accepted by the seed bank if they are donated in accordance with all relevant laws.

8) Anonymous donations of species listed on the Imperiled Carnivorous Plant Species List will not be distributed by the ICPS seed bank.

APPENDIX: IMPERILED CARNIVOROUS PLANT SPECIES LIST

Dionaea muscipula Soland. ex Ellis: Note B

Drosera regia Stephens: Note B

Nepenthes aristolochioides Jebb & Cheek: Note A

Nepenthes bellii Kondo: Note A

Nepenthes boschiana Korth.: Note A

Nepenthes burbidgeae Hook.f. ex Burb.: Note A

Nepenthes campanulata Kurata: Note C

Nepenthes clipeata Danser: Note A

Nepenthes dubia Danser: Note A

Nepenthes gracillima Ridl.: Note A

Nepenthes lavicola Wistuba & Rischer: Note A

Nepenthes macrophylla (Marabini) Jebb & Cheek: Note A

Nepenthes masoalensis Schmid-Hollinger: Note A

Nepenthes murudensis Culham ex M. Jebb & M. Cheek: Note A

Nepenthes paniculata Danser: Note A

Nepenthes pilosa Danser: Note A

Nepenthes rajah Hook. f.: Note A

Nepenthes talangensis J. Nerz & A. Wistuba: Note A

Nepenthes truncata Macfarlane: Note A

Pinguicula ionantha Godfr.: Note B, D

Sarracenia alabamensis Case & Case (= *Sarracenia rubra* subsp. *alabamensis* (Case & Case) Schnell): Note B, D

Sarracenia jonesii Wherry (= *Sarracenia rubra* subsp. *jonesii* (Wherry) Wherry): Note B, D

Sarracenia oreophila (Kearney) Wherry: Note A, D

Sarracenia purpurea subsp. *purpurea* f. *heterophylla* (Eaton) Fern.: Note B

Sarracenia purpurea subsp. *venosa* var. *montana* Schnell & Determann: Note B

Sarracenia rubra subsp. *gulfensis* Schnell: Note B

Listing justifications:

Note A: Listed on the IUCN Red List as “Critically Endangered” or “Endangered.”

Note B: Not listed on the IUCN Red List as “Critically Endangered” or “Endangered”, but included at the discretion of the ICPS Conservation Program.

Note C: Listed on the IUCN Red List as “Extinct,” this species has been rediscovered in the wild.

Note D: This taxon falls under protection by CITES (Appendix 1) and/or the USA Endangered Species Act.