

cuts through serpentine bluffs near the Todt Hill Exit. I explored these bluffs during a visit to my aunt who lived nearby. They were fenced from adjacent residential development, probably for safety reasons. The top of the bluffs were sparsely vegetated with *Schizachyrium scoparium* and a variety of weeds. I planted the *Cerastium* plants near the edge in a particularly stony sparse area. I visited the plants six years later just before I moved to Florida. They had spread to cover an area about 1.5 m in diameter.

In April 1988 I asked Dick Buegler, an active member of the Torrey Botanical Club in New York who lives in Staten Island, if he would check on the plants. I received the following report in a letter dated April 28, 1988.

"After supper tonight, at about 8 p.m. I drove from my home near the Bradley Avenue exit toward the Verrazano Bridge . . . I spotted a grassy, treed area to my right that I knew had to be your site. I looped back onto the local roads and from a hole in the fence . . . I crossed to the plant's site. You should have been with me because you would have been delighted to see what has occurred in the intervening eight years. There are now thousands of plants.

The *Cerastium* plants are found in at least six different colonies. Four smaller colonies measure approximately 7×12 , 3×15 , 2×3 and 4×7 feet. The two large ones are approximately 25×50 and 30×60 feet, all of them within less than a hundred feet of each other. The original site is approximately 25×50 feet. The best stand is south of the original site and covers a southwest sloping site. In some areas the colonies are somewhat sparse, but generally they have formed a fairly thick, continuous dense mat with the vigorous flowering shoots poking above. It's apparently in full bloom now."

Kruckeberg (1986) reported the deliberate introduction of 27 individuals of *Silene paradoxa*, native to serpentine and calcium substrates in southern Europe, to a serpentine barren in western Washington in 1964. These plants grew to a population of nearly 1000 plants by 1983. Human introduction of new species to a native flora is risky. Alien species may replace less aggressive native plants that often have to contend with pathogens and predators that do not affect the non-native.

Kruckeberg's site was a "barren habitat devoid of other plants," so no native plants were displaced. *Cerastium arvense* var. *villosum* was planted in a region and habitat type that it formerly occupied. If preserved serpentine sites in Staten Island are available, Pennsylvania serpentine barrens can be used as donors for other transplants. These transplants could be conducted as scientific experiments to study demography, colonization, and competition among serpentine plants and to observe how a plant community develops.

LITERATURE CITED

KRUCKEBERG, A. R. 1986. The birth and spread of a plant population. *Amer. Midl. Nat.* 116: 403-410.

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THREE NEW TAXA FOR THE DELMARVA-PENINSULA. I found *Litsea aestivalis* in June, 1985, in Wicomico County, Maryland, about 10 miles west of Salisbury. It was growing in an open woodland pond surrounded by pine oak forest. There were great huge clumps of both male and female individuals present. One or two specimens were 10 to 15 feet wide and over 8 feet tall. Well over 25 separate shrubs or groups of stems. The pond itself was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre in size and a little deeper than the few other similar ponds I know of in Maryland. It held about 8 inches of water one dry summer when all else was dry. In the spring of 1985 the water was 24 inches deep. In 1986 it was bone dry that fall. Surprisingly, to date, no other rare plants have turned up with this southern shrub. *Litsea* is rare in North Carolina, the next state south with an extant station. It was known in southeastern Virginia but is now considered extirpated there. The associates are: *Carex striata*, *Dulichium arundinaceum*, *Proserpinaca pectinata*,

Scirpus cyperinus, *Rhexia virginica*, *Juncus repens*, *Leucothoe racemosa*, *Vaccinium atrococcum*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Clethra alnifolia*, *Rhododendrom viscosum* and *Panicum spretum*. *Litsea* covers about 10–15% of the pond.

Zephyranthes atamasco is fairly common in Southeastern Virginia (C. Ludwig pers. comm.) but never apparently reported north of Chesapeake Bay. I first saw the leaves of this plant back in 1982 east of Snow Hill in Worcester County, Maryland. I was plant hunting in one of the local rich woods pockets, a rare phenomenon on the outer Coastal Plain. There were no flowers then and a few repeated trips to watch it revealed nothing but vigorous leaves which were very strange and unfamiliar to me. The plants were a mystery with no flowers for seven years. This year, 1990, Ron Wilson and I started an inventory of the woods, and after the wettest, rainy spring in many years, Ron finally saw the plant flowering on May 17th. A few days later we were delighted with well over 100 beautiful large white flowers. In the South *Zephyranthes* is called the Rain Lily and it proved to live up to its name here in Maryland. The area is quite natural with some very interesting rich Piedmont type plants. A few important associates are: *Galearis spectabilis*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, *Dentaria laciniata*, *Claytonia virginica*, *Obolaria virginica*, *Viola sororia*, *Oxalis violacea*, *Carex rosea*, *Carex styloflexa* and *Carex laxiculmis*. We have recorded about 30 plant taxa from this small five acre spot that are absent or extremely rare in the acid Coastal Plain.

Schizaea pusilla is a new addition to Delaware's flora. This tiny rare fern was discovered while searching stream corridors for the Delaware Heritage Program. On June 20, 1990, accompanied by Ron Wilson, and fighting our way through a fairly dense cedar swamp, west of Milton in Sussex County, we came upon a small (¼ acre) open, cedar bog. Struck by the similarity of a New Jersey Pine Barren cedar bog, we stood fascinated by the beautiful blooms of *Calopogon tuberosus* and *Pogonia ophioglossoides* and sparkling patches of *Drosera* leaves. The whole bog was spotted with small tumps or hammocks supporting small white cedars. The sedge, *Rhynchospora fusca* caught my eye and then the small graceful fertile fronds of the Curly-grass. The area was very fragile and we hated to step on the tumps but we did manage to carefully survey a good portion and found the fern very abundant. Some tumps had over a dozen or two fruiting fronds. There were perhaps over a couple hundred plants in this small spot. Some other associates were: *Eriocaulon septangulare*, *E. compressum*, *Juncus militaris*, *Scirpus subterminalis*, *Utricularia fibrosa*, *Carex exilis*, *Cladium mariscoides*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Xyris smalliana* and a tall *Platanthera*, not yet flowering. Mostly all of the taxa are on Delaware's list of "plants of special concern" and are rare statewide. Many of the species in this bog are at, or near, their most southern range. FRANK HIRST

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