

A FLORAL DESCRIPTION AND IMAGE OF THE RARE NATURAL HYBRID
SARRACENIA × *CASEI* MELLICHAMP (SARRACENIACEAE)

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Abstract: *Sarracenia* × *casei* Mellichamp is a rare natural hybrid cross between *S. alabamensis* subsp. *wherryi* and *S. psittacina*. In naming *Sarracenia* × *casei*, Mellichamp (2008) briefly described the floral characteristics of this hybrid from one specimen from its only known locality. The paper provides additional floral information on this hybrid from a new locality discovered by the authors in 2014.

Sarracenia × *casei* Mellichamp is a rare natural hybrid cross between *S. alabamensis* subsp. *wherryi* (D.E. Schnell) Case & R.B. Case and *S. psittacina* Michx. Until 2014, it was known only from its type locality north of Deer Park in Washington County, Alabama. However, the present authors discovered a second population in Baldwin County, Alabama (Neyland *et al.* 2014).

In naming *Sarracenia* × *casei*, Mellichamp (2008) briefly described the floral characteristics of this hybrid from one specimen. Specifically, he stated that the flower is small and that the scape, which is much longer than the leaves, is 35 cm long. Information concerning its floral characteristics and phenology is lacking in the literature. The purpose of this paper is to provide additional floral information on this hybrid. An image is also included (Fig. 1).

Materials and Methods

This study is primarily based on field and specimen observations. Additional information, derived from the literature and from herbarium specimens, augments this study. Specimens were preserved using standard herbarium techniques. A permit for collected material was not required. Taxonomy follows Mellichamp and Case (2009). Herbarium abbreviations follow Thiers (2015).

Results and Discussion

Images of the specimen sheets for the holotype (Mellichamp *s.n.*) and isotype (Mellichamp *s.n.*) of *Sarracenia* × *casei* were kindly



Figure 1: Image of *Sarracenia* × *casei* flower at full anthesis.

supplied by the UNCC and NCU herbaria respectively. Leaves and a single flower are present on the holotype sheet. Only leaves are present on the isotype sheet. From the present study, herbarium specimens (leaves only) are housed in the LSU (Neyland 2478) and NCU (Neyland 2478) herbaria. The single floral specimen is housed at LSU (Neyland 2483).

The following was derived from the sole flower present in the newly discovered population (Fig. 1). Overall, the flower, when compared to those of most other taxa in the genus may indeed be characterized as small. For reference, the flower closely resembles, in size and color, that of *Sarracenia psittacina*.

Specifically, the calyx is 2.1 cm wide. The sepals averaged 2.3 cm long x 1.8 cm wide. Each is ovate, glossy, and maroon red. Three sepals exhibited yellow flecking. The petals averaged 2.5 cm x 0.8 cm wide. They are spatulate, involute, satin textured, and maroon red. The style is 0.9 cm wide. The flower was first at full anthesis on April 19, 2015 and bore no appreciable scent. It is noted that the date on Mellichamp's holotype is August 7, 1985. Therefore, it appears that the flower on that herbarium sheet is well past anthesis. The scape on the newly collected specimen measured 36 cm long whereas, the holotype scape measured 35 cm.

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