

A RHODORA TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. WILBUR

Rhodora 124(998/999):115–373. 2022 [2024]. New England Botanical Society, Inc. 22 Divinity Ave., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, U.S.A. An issue of *Rhodora* with remembrances of Robert Lynch Wilbur and other scientific contributions including three papers describing new species commemorating Dr. Wilbur (*Justicia wilburii* T.F. Daniel; *Marcetia wilburiana* Almeda, R.B. Pacifico & Fidanza; *Palicourea wilburiana* C.M. Taylor). (**Orders:** nebc@rhodora.org).

Robert Lynch Wilbur: Botanist, Mentor, Family Man. Pp. 115–132.

Contributors: **Foster Levy and Charlotte M. Taylor.** Levy and Taylor examine the life of Dr. Wilbur by subject matter and start their tribute with a **Dedication.** What follows are various subject matters that look into the life and legend of Dr. Wilbur. **Early Years** (pp. 115–118) that includes a nice portrait of Dr. Wilbur in the Duke herbarium drying room. Professional Career looks at his academic life but most of his academic career was spent at Duke University. Dr. Wilbur retired in 2007 but never stopped collecting or curating specimens in the herbarium. **Undergraduate Teaching.** “Throughout his university career, Wilbur taught classes in general botany, field botany, and botanical nomenclature.” **Graduate Students.** “Fourteen graduate students finished degrees under Wilbur’s direction, and he served as a committee member or informal advisor for a large number of other students and post-docs working on a wide diversity of plant taxa.” **Plant Taxonomy, Floristics, and Fieldwork.** “In 70 years, he made more than 100,000 numbered collections in the United States and six other countries.” Needless to say, Wilbur was an active field botanist. **Tropical American Emphasis. The Duke Herbarium.** “Throughout his career, the Duke University herbarium was Wilbur’s professional passion and central focus. Wilbur’s enthusiasm and energy for adding collections via both direct collecting and specimen exchange tripled the number of vascular plant specimens during his tenure, from ca. 130,000 to ca. 400,000.” **Plant Nomenclature.** “Wilbur was a productive nomenclaturalist in both his own studies and as a member of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT) for 21 years (1981–2002).” **Publications Authored or Co-authored by Robert L. Wilbur.** An impressive four page list. I might add here, this list does include articles published in *Sida* and *JBRIT*. **Appendix 1: Names Published by Robert L. Wilbur and Co-authors.** There are two pages, double columns, of Wilbur names. **Appendix 2: Taxa Named for Robert L. Wilbur.** I count 25 taxa.

Remembering Robert L. Wilbur. Pp. 133–146.

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