

EDITORIAL

THE TWO JOHN CLARKS

The first two submissions in this issue of *Selbyana* are both co-authored by two botanists of the same name: John Clark. These two very different American botanists, John L. Clark and John R. Clark (John R. is senior author on the first, while John L. is senior author on the second), have independently found themselves researching the same plant family, the Gesneriaceae. As one can imagine, great confusion has arisen stemming from their nearly identical names and similar expertise. A goal of co-authoring two articles in a single issue of *Selbyana* is to establish in the literature their separate identities for reference by future botanists. Here, we describe these two botanists with an emphasis on their backgrounds, expertise and interests.

JOHN LITTNER CLARK, Ph.D., George Washington University, 2005.

Born: 1969, Princeton, NJ, USA. Current position: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, USA. Scientific interests: Gesneriaceae with a focus on neotropical species, in particular the Episcieae; taxonomy, floral characters evolution, molecular phylogenetics and monography. John L. has extensive field expertise in South America, first serving as a Peace Corp volunteer in the early 1990s in Ecuador, an experience that ultimately led to his interest in gesneriads. Through years of detailed observations of living specimens in the field, John L. has pioneered research in understanding flower resupination (inverted flower display) and its role in pollination biology and speciation. Additionally, John L. is fluent in Spanish and adept with Latin culture, abilities that have him now spearheading research ties in Cuba through the University

of Alabama. John L. is an avid photographer and has excelled in taking journal-quality images in the field, examples of which can be seen in the description of *Drymonia collaborati*, this issue. He is a big bluegrass and folk music fan and a lover of good pizza. He is married and has two children.

JOHN ROBERT CLARK, Ph.D., Washington State University, 2008.

Born: 1974, Mariemont, OH, USA. Current position: Director, Gesneriad Research Center, Center for Tropical Plant Sciences and Conservation, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, FL, USA. Scientific interests: Gesneriaceae with a focus on paleotropical species; molecular phylogenetics, monography, ancestral range reconstruction, phylogenetic comparative methods. John R.'s interest in the Gesneriaceae stemmed from an internship followed by a research consultant position at Selby Gardens from 2002–2003 where he curated the former Gesneriad Research Foundation's herbarium, now incorporated into SEL. John R. has broad experience in tropical fieldwork including expeditions to Trinidad, Costa Rica, and throughout the Pacific including Hawaii, Fiji and Samoa. He became an expert in Pacific biogeography and plant dispersal and diversification through detailed studies and analyses of Pacific *Cyrtandra*, the largest genus in the Gesneriaceae. John R. is also adept at scientific illustration, examples of which accompany the species descriptions in his and John L.'s articles, this issue. He enjoys trail running, reading philosophy and fiction, and learning about wine. John R. is currently unmarried.

—W.E. Higgins