

SIEGFRIED JOST CASPER (1929–2021)

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Siegfried Jost Casper was born on January 12th, 1929 in Oberneuschönberg (united with Olbernhau, Saxony, from 1950) as the son of the teacher Siegfried Casper and his wife Helene Casper (née Zimmermann).

From 1935 to 1947 Casper attended schools in Oberneuschönberg, Leipzig, and Zschopau. From 1948 to 1951 he worked as a teacher at a primary school in Leipzig. This was followed by a degree in biology at the Universities of Leipzig and Jena, which he completed in 1956 with a thesis on the embryology of the genus *Cyclamen* at the Institute for Special Botany under Otto Schwarz (1900–1983). From 1956 to 1961 he was a scientific assistant at the Institute for Special Botany at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. In December 1960 he received his Dr. rer. nat. in Jena with the thesis “Revision of the genus *Pinguicula* in Eurasia”.

Jost Casper was also interested in “lower” organisms (protists) early on, also motivated by the work of Johanna Rosmarie Focke (1933–2020) from the department of Protozoology Science of the Institute for Special Botany, who became his wife. His first lecture in Jena (Special Botany III, 1961) dealt with these groups. From 1962 to 1965, Casper was senior scientific assistant at the Research Center for Limnology of the Academy of Sciences (AdW) in Jena; later as deputy director and from 1969 to 1989 as head of this academic facility. During this time, he completed his habilitation thesis (qualification for professorship) in 1965 at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena with the Monograph of the genus *Pinguicula* L. (Casper 1966).

Further extensive publications of this time covered basic features of a natural system of microorganisms (Casper 1974), the processing of the “Peridophyta and Anthophyta” together with Heinz-Dieter Krausch (1928–2020) for the 2nd edition of the “Freshwater flora of Central Europe” (1980 to 1981) and a publication on Lake Stechlin (Casper 1985). He was also the editor of “Limnologica” and “Archiv für Protistenkunde” (continued as “Protist” since 1998). From October 1, 1992 to September 30, 1996, S. J. Casper was Director of the Institute for Special Botany at Friedrich Schiller



Figure 1: Jost Casper and his wife Rosmarie, after whom he named *Pinguicula rosmarieae* in 2020, on a common excursion in 2004 to a local gypsicolous population of *Pinguicula vulgaris* (“*P. gypsophila*”) in Thuringia, Germany. Photo by Rosemarie Stimper.

University Jena as the successor to Gerhard Franz Klotz (1928–2017). In September 2007 he and his wife moved to Dresden for family reasons. Most recently he lived there in a retirement home. Here he died on June 13th, 2021. His scientific legacy was donated to the Herbarium Haussknecht (JE) of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

Jost Casper and the genus
Pinguicula

Jost Casper was passionate about *Pinguicula*. In his works written in German, he almost never used the common German vernacular name (“Fettkraut”)

but instead adopted to the German language the genus’ scientific name, speaking a bit oddly about “die Pinguikeln” (that would translate into “the penguicles”). He also loved to “Germanize” other technical terms from foreign languages. For the multi-author works “*Pinguicula* of Latin America” (Lampard *et al.* 2016) and “*Pinguicula* of the Temperate North” (Roccia *et al.* 2016) in personal correspondence with the authors he impishly referred to them as the “Vielmännerbuch” (“many-men-book” or “polyandrous book”) in analogy to the “Viermännerbuch” (“four-men-book”) which is German jargon for Strasburger’s textbook of Botany (Kadereit *et al.* 2014) that is traditionally written by four main authors covering the main branches of Botany. His scientific articles are filled with a tremendous amount of information, and he often seemed to have problems fitting all of his knowledge into the main text body. Therefore, Jost Casper commonly used footnotes to accommodate additional information on collectors, etymology, geography, or other interesting facts.

Jost Casper dedicated his scientific work to the research on Lentibulariaceae taxonomy, systematics and biology, especially of the genus *Pinguicula*, which he studied more intensively than anyone else before him and until today. His impact on that field is unreached, spanning 61 years of academic work and scientific research on Lentibulariaceae, cumulating in more than 30 major scientific publications on *Pinguicula*, including his benchmark monograph on the genus (Casper 1966), a recent monograph on the Caribbean *Pinguicula* species (Casper 2019), as well as numerous significant works on the systematics, morphology, chorology, and chromosome numbers of *Pinguicula*, but also some on *Utricularia*, as well as other floristic treatments, including carnivorous plant genus treatments for local floras (see appended Publication List). Even being in his 90s, Jost Casper continued his research and prolific publication efforts on *Pinguicula*, resulting in at least one major publication on the genus every 2-3 years. Casper named 23 species of *Pinguicula*, 2 subspecies, and he additionally coined names for several sections, subsections, series, and other infrageneric groups of *Pinguicula*. Not all of his new names were validly published; Casper casually referred to these names as his “illegitimate children” (J. Casper, pers. comms.). He studied *Pinguicula* from all over the genus’ range (with its diversity centers in Europe, Mexico, and the Neotropics), reshaped the



Figure 2: Jost Casper at his last workplace in a retirement home in Dresden, where he continued his studies on *Pinguicula*, and wrote – among other publications – his monograph on the Caribbean butterworts (Casper 2019). Photo taken by Max von Tilzer on the occasion of Casper’s 90th birthday.

infrageneric classification of the genus and also made profound contributions to the karyology and phylogeny of the genus. His unbroken effort and in particular his scientific achievements (that vastly exceed his work to promote our understanding of the genus *Pinguicula*) are indisputable and fully deserve our admiration and appreciation. Even more so, as his thorough morphological studies on *Pinguicula* are largely based on careful examination of herbarium material, which he received from colleagues all over the world. Unfortunately, restricted in the former German Democratic Republic (GDR), he was not allowed to travel himself to the destinations where the plants he admired so much are growing. Jost Casper (pers. comms. to AF, 2017) explained that he had difficulties accessing herbarium material from some countries during the work on his *Pinguicula* monograph in the 1960s. For example, he was not able to consult one of the World's largest herbarium collections of Lentibulariaceae at Kew Herbarium, England, because he was not allowed any correspondence with Great Britain at that time. He referred to that as the “KEW-gap” of his monograph and explained it to be caused by the “preposterous situation during the Stalinism era” (J. Casper, pers. comm. 2017).

Together with the late Peter Taylor (1926–2011), the carnivorous plant community is now missing the leading taxonomic experts and monographers of Lentibulariaceae. We hope that their spirits meet up on the other side, whence they might appraise their posterity's modest taxonomic efforts with mildness.

Jost Casper as a lecturer and teacher

Jan Schlauer had the pleasure (in 1999) to witness him as a lecturer (on the genus *Dracaena*, see Casper 2000), and the term “impressive” is too weak to describe this experience on him. Already back then Casper was an emeritus. Even though the presentation was “old school” in the best of any meanings, it was educative in every aspect. It was a diapositive slide presentation and the person who operated the projector was clumsy enough to drop the slides in an unsuccessful effort to change trays in the middle of Casper's lecture. The second half of the presentation used randomly reassembled slides with upside-down or otherwise disoriented pictures. This introduced new unexpected spins and twists to the original story. Still Casper managed to make perfect sense of his unintended surprise show. Without a manuscript he told the modified story as if it followed the original plot in a perfect diction without stops or delays (which can be a challenge even when you are reading the text from a teleprompter). From that date Jan knew what a real “Professor” should be like and that he could never hope to reach Casper's level of mastery.



Figure 3: Two *Pinguicula* species have been named in honour of Jost Casper: *Pinguicula casperi* from Mexico (left; see also back cover) and *P. casperiana* from Spain (right; see also article by A. Rocca on p. 198). Photo of *P. casperi* by David Juárez, photo of *P. casperiana* by Oliver Gluch.

Jost Casper's nomenclatural legacy
 Eponymy – plants named in honor of Jost Casper:

<i>Pinguicula casperi</i> H.D.Juárez & Zamudio (2018)
<i>Pinguicula casperiana</i> M.B.Crespo, Mart.-Azorín, M.Á.Alonso & L.Sáez (2020)

Taxa named by Jost Casper (vascular plants only)

<i>Pinguicula agnata</i> Casper (1963: 14)
<i>Pinguicula apuana</i> Casper & Ansaldo (2009: 13)
<i>Pinguicula baezensis</i> Casper (2019: 23)
<i>Pinguicula balcanica</i> Casper (1962: 105)
<i>Pinguicula balcanica</i> subsp. <i>pontica</i> Casper (1970: 285)
<i>Pinguicula bissei</i> Casper (2004: 2)
<i>Pinguicula caryophyllacea</i> Casper (2004: 8)
<i>Pinguicula cubensis</i> Urquiola & Casper (2003: 170)
<i>Pinguicula cyclosecta</i> Casper (1963: 11)
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i> subsp. <i>rosea</i> (Mutel) Casper (1962: 85)
<i>Pinguicula imitatrix</i> Casper (1963: 12)
<i>Pinguicula infundibuliformis</i> Casper (2003: 144)
<i>Pinguicula jaraguana</i> Casper (2003: 141)
<i>Pinguicula kondoi</i> Casper (1974: 1)
<i>Pinguicula lippoldii</i> Casper (2007: 77)
<i>Pinguicula longifolia</i> subsp. <i>caussensis</i> Casper (1966: 154) = <i>Pinguicula caussensis</i> (Casper) Roccia (2016: 127)
<i>Pinguicula longifolia</i> subsp. <i>reichenbachiana</i> (Schindler) Casper (1962: 71)
<i>Pinguicula mariae</i> Casper (2009: 3)
<i>Pinguicula moaensis</i> Casper (2019: 93)
<i>Pinguicula nevadensis</i> (H.Lindb.) Casper (1962: 112)
<i>Pinguicula orthoceras</i> Casper (2019: 97)
<i>Pinguicula poldinii</i> J.Steiger & Casper (2001: 28)
<i>Pinguicula rosmariae</i> Casper, Bussmann & T.Henning (2020: 111)
<i>Pinguicula sharpii</i> Casper & K.Kondo (1977: 112)
<i>Pinguicula toldensis</i> Casper (2007: 85)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Agnata</i> Casper (1963: 331)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Ampullipalatum</i> Casper (1963: 334)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Cardiophyllum</i> Casper (1962: 34)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Discoradix</i> Casper (1963: 332)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Heterophyllum</i> Casper (1963: 332)

<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Homophyllum</i> Casper (1963: 325)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Isoloba</i> Casper (1963: 330)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Longifoliae</i> (Casper) Blanca, Ruíz Rejón & Reg.Zamora, as ' <i>Longifolia</i> ' (1999: 347)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Micranthus</i> Casper (1962: 45)
<i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Nana</i> Casper (1962: 41)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Agnata</i> Casper (1966: 92)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Agnatiformis</i> Casper (1966: 75)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Alpiniformis</i> Casper (1966: 114)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Caudatopsis</i> Casper (1966: 144)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Heterophylliformis</i> Casper (1966: 113) = <i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Heterophylliformis</i> (Casper) A.Fleischm. & Roccia (2018: 76)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Homophylliformis</i> Casper (1966: 96)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Isolobopsis</i> Casper (1966: 99)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Orcheosanthopsis</i> Casper (1966: 103)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Orchidopsis</i> Casper (1966: 136)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Primuliformis</i> Casper (1966: 80)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Pumiliformis</i> Casper (1966: 71) = <i>Pinguicula</i> sect. <i>Pumiliformis</i> (Casper) Roccia & A.Fleischm. (2018: 75)
<i>Pinguicula</i> subsect. <i>Violiformis</i> Casper (1966: 133)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Agnatae</i> Casper (1963: 332)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Albidae</i> Casper (1963: 332)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Alpinae</i> Casper (1963: 335)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Andinae</i> Casper (1963: 334)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Antarcticae</i> Casper (1963: 334)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Balkanicae</i> Casper (1962: 105)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Caudatae</i> Casper (1966: 139)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Cyclosectae</i> Casper (1966: 136)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Grandiflorae</i> Casper (1962: 74)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Hispanicae</i> Casper (1962: 112)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Longifoliae</i> Casper (1962: 61)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Montanae</i> Casper (1962: 88)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Prealpicae</i> Casper (2009: 13)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Pumilioidae</i> Casper (1966: 80)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Septentrionales</i> Casper (1962: 114)
<i>Pinguicula</i> ser. <i>Variiegatae</i> Casper (1963: 335)

Non-carnivorous taxa

<i>Najas marina</i> subsp. <i>intermedia</i> (Wolfgang ex Gorski) Casper (1979)

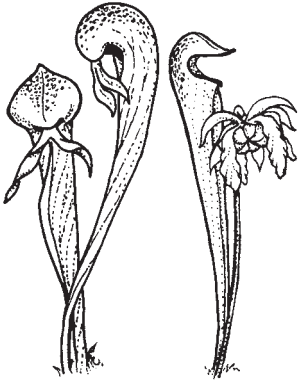
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CARNIVOROUS PLANT NEWSLETTER

Journal of the International
Carnivorous Plant Society
www.carnivorousplants.org

Volume 50, Number 4
December 2021



Front Cover: Siegfried Jost Casper at his workplace, the Institut für Spezielle Botanik in Jena, Germany, on 2 January 2004. Photo provided by Hermann Manitz. The photographer is Rosmarie Stimper. Article on page 165.

Back Cover: *Pinguicula casperi*, named in honor of the late Prof. S. Jost Casper, flowering at its natural habitat in Durango state, Mexico. Photo by David Juárez. Article on page 165.

Carnivorous Plant Newsletter is dedicated to spreading knowledge and news related to carnivorous plants. Reader contributions are essential for this mission to be successful. Do not hesitate to contact the editors with information about your plants, conservation projects, field trips, or noteworthy events. Advertisers should contact the editors. Views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not the editorial staff.

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Date of effective publication of the September 2021 issue of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter: August 6, 2021.

The ICPS is the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for the names of cultivated carnivorous plants according to the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Send relevant correspondence to the ICPS, Inc.

Carnivorous Plant Newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December by the ICPS, Inc., 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 290, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, USA. Periodicals postage paid at Walnut Creek, CA and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to ICPS, Inc., 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 290, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, USA. Printed by Allen Press, Inc., 810 E. 10th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044. Logo and masthead art: Paul Milauskas. © 2021 International Carnivorous Plant Society. All rights reserved. ISSN #0190-9215

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