

## **Robert Lynch Wilbur: Botanist, Mentor, Family Man**

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# Robert Lynch Wilbur: botanist, mentor, family man

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## DEDICATION

Robert Lynch Wilbur (4 Jul. 1925–31 Oct. 2022; Figure 1) spent a well-lived botanical life as a professor, a plant taxonomist of both temperate and tropical floras, and a mentor to numerous students. He focused his efforts on floristics, field work, teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels, collecting and herbarium development, and botanical nomenclature. His contributions are notable in all of these areas. Nearly all of his career was spent at Duke University. The Duke University Herbarium (DUKE) today contains ca. 400,000 specimens of vascular plants—quite a large collection for a university of its size—with most of these accessioned during his tenure. His students belong now to five generations; all called him “Dr. Wilbur” until and often after finishing their studies, and all continue to think of him by this name. He was characteristically exact and exacting, generous, dryly witty, deeply knowledgeable, and stubbornly independent-minded. He trained his students professionally and also kept track of them as they navigated college years, and we take the opportunity here to acknowledge his contributions to botany and to us and make these contributions more widely known.

## EARLY YEARS

Robert L. Wilbur was born in Annapolis, Maryland, but his family soon moved to Durham, North Carolina, where his father was a professor of engineering at Duke University. As the son of a Duke University faculty member, young Bob Wilbur was able to enroll as faculty offspring and complete his BS (1946) and MA (1947) degrees, both in botany, at Duke. His early interest in plant taxonomy was evident in his master’s thesis topic, “Taxonomic Studies of Some Families in the Piedmont Flora,” and his choice of advisors, ecologists H.L. Blomquist and H.J. Oosting.

Between his masters and doctoral degree studies, Wilbur had an appointment as a graduate assistant for Harold St. John (1892–1991) to work on the taxonomy of *Gossypium* in Hawaii (1947–1948). This work presaged the extensive tropical travels and botanical focus that he would continue during graduate school, and the return to the tropics in his professional career a few decades later. It was later discovered that he and Jeanne Marie Doucette, the future Mrs. Wilbur, both had professional appointments in Honolulu at that time, when she was working in Queens Hospital engaged in research on human infectious diseases, but they did not meet until later in Durham.

Wilbur’s field-oriented, taxonomic botanical focus continued with his PhD research



**Figure 1.** Dr. Robert Wilbur in the drying room of Duke Herbarium, 2008. Photo by Mengchi Ho.

at the University of Michigan, where he was Rogers McVaugh's (1909–2009) third graduate student. He accompanied McVaugh on some of the extensive, rigorous field work in western Mexico for McVaugh's *Flora Novo-Galiciana* project (McVaugh 1983–2001) and traveled through the U.S. and the Caribbean with fellow graduate students, including Grady Webster (1927–2005).

Wilbur's doctoral studies were successfully completed in 1953 with his dissertation, "A revision of the North American genus *Sabatia* (Gentianaceae)." The publication of this study, in *Rhodora* (Wilbur 1955), won the prestigious George R. Cooley Award of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT) that year. The choice of *Sabatia* as a dissertation topic was part of his lifelong interest in the flora of the Southeastern U.S. (Wilbur 1955, 1989b). *Sabatia* encompasses approximately 20 species, with the Southeastern U.S. as its center of diversity. Within this region, most of the species are associated with the Coastal Plain physiographic province (Mathews et al. 2015; Wilbur 1955), a formation that had long attracted Wilbur's interest. *Sabatia* also satisfied some of his criteria for choosing a study group: the plants should have big showy flowers (Figure 2) on short stems and thus be easy to find, collect, and study. *Sabatia* plants are herbs of open meadows with bright pink flowers that are some of the loveliest gems of the North American flora. However, he was not much interested in the "prettiness" of these flowers, but in the morphology and systematic problems of the genus.

Wilbur's work on *Sabatia* also set the stage for several of his career-defining foci: on morphological taxonomy backed by extensive field work and study of historical aspects and nomenclature, and on projects centered on the flora of the Southeastern U.S. His research on *Sabatia* and the Gentianaceae continued after he completed his doctoral research, as both he and James D. Perry, one of his first graduate students, published continuing studies of members of this family in *Rhodora* (Perry 1971; Wilbur 1955, 1984b, 1989b) and other journals (Wilbur 1984a, 1988c). These articles began Wilbur's extensive series of contributions to *Rhodora* (26 articles from 1955 to 2008).

Wilbur's work on *Sabatia* also showed the intellectual rigor, careful observation, and search for adequate data to support conclusions that characterized his career's output. Although not a "numerical taxonomist" (taxonomists who use an approach based on statistical analysis of phenotypic characters) in either the strict or colloquial sense of the term, he compiled as much morphological data as possible and then evaluated the characters of the species through consideration of the mean and range of variation within the overall evidence, as demonstrated by his comments on a taxon of dubious distinction:

The specimens of *S. recurvans* available to Small at New York were too few to be significant in evaluating the supposedly distinguishing characters. This is especially true in regard to the overlapping size-ranges of the corolla-lobes and capsules published as additional evidence. These overlapping ranges might be of some significance if based upon a large series of specimens but in this case furnished only "padding" to an otherwise scantily characterized entity (Wilbur 1955:14).

The study of *Sabatia* also started Wilbur on another lifelong area of professional interest: botanical nomenclature. Writing a treatment of *Sabatia* required analysis of the status of names published in Adanson's *Familles des Plantes* (Adanson 1763; Wilbur



**Figure 2.** Flower of *Sabatia angularis* (L.) Pursh. The Gentianaceae were a focus of Dr. Wilbur's work. Photo by Marty Silver.

1989b) and of the cryptic botanical works of Constantine Rafinesque (1783–1840). Rafinesque studied *Sabatia* among many other genera, and he left a complicated plant taxonomy for later botanists to tease apart and a large set of names of problematic status under the rules of the current *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (Turland et al. 2018). Rafinesque has been poorly regarded and heavily criticized as both a person and a taxonomist, and his work interested Wilbur partly because the names presented a complex nomenclatural puzzle with aspects both of botany and southern history, and partly because Wilbur's first reaction was always to stand up for the disregarded Southern underdog—and Rafinesque surely qualified as one.

#### PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Newly minted Dr. Wilbur was appointed assistant professor at the University of Georgia for one academic year (1952–1953). After this, he happily returned to North Carolina. His first appointment there was as assistant professor and herbarium curator in the Department of Botany at North Carolina State College in Raleigh (1953–1957; now North Carolina State University). In 1957, he moved to Duke University, where he remained for the rest of his career. During these early years, he began work on *The Leguminous Plants of North Carolina* (Wilbur 1963b), a comprehensive and much-cited work to this day (e.g.,



Cardina 2021; Sorrie 2021; Weakley 2022; Weakley et al. 2012). His longstanding love of the Atlantic Coastal Plain flora surely matured during the field work for this volume, along with his personal future: in 1955, he married Jeanne Marie Doucette (b. 1925), who went to Duke to pursue her PhD in microbiology. They met in Duke's Perkins Library and attended the same church, and she finished her degree around the time they were married. For this event, he was willing to make a rare trip outside the South, all the way to Chicago.

Most of Wilbur's long academic career was spent at Duke University, and most of it in the Department of Botany; he never changed his office, classes, or botanical focus, but in the 1990s, the Botany Department did change, merging with the Zoology Department to form the Department of Biology. Over the years, Wilbur advanced from assistant professor (1957–1963) to associate professor (1963–1970), obtained tenure (1964), and then advanced to professor (1970–2007), and finally Professor Emeritus (2007–2022). He also served as rotating chair of the Botany Department for several years (1971–1977).

From early in his career, it was clear that Wilbur's primary interests and main accomplishments were going to be in teaching, student training, field work, plant taxonomy, floristics, botanical nomenclature, and herbarium curation. His professional productivity was notable in each of these areas, likely facilitated by his need for only a few hours of sleep each night. Many nights after his family went to bed, he settled down to work reading journals and writing articles.

Wilbur retired from his academic responsibilities in 2007, but he remained active in collecting and curating specimens. In fact, after retirement he expanded his Southeastern U.S. collecting activities, which he conducted with his dogs and a few field associates, particularly Mengchi Ho.

#### UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Throughout his university career, Wilbur taught classes in general botany, field botany, and botanical nomenclature. His graduate students often served as teaching assistants, and his classes usually included extensive field work. This was facilitated by the proximity of the 2800+ ha Duke Forest, but his botany classes also explored all of Duke's West Campus. Wilbur considered field botany the primary pathway for understanding the diversity of plants, their variants, and their relationships. His lectures were accurate and well organized, and the material was covered completely and with high standards, but often neither he nor the students were deeply enthused about this aspect of his classes. The most memorable and instructive parts of Wilbur's classes were conducted in the field and the lab, where living plants were the focus and students had ample material for examination. Many undergraduates supervised by Wilbur conducted and finished their botany projects and then pursued other careers, but several of them continued into careers in botany.

#### 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. Most of these students continued with careers

in botany at botanical institutes (Arnold Arboretum, Richard E. Weaver, Jr.; Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Peter W. Fritsch; Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Gerry Moore; California Academy of Sciences, Frank Almeda and Thomas F. Daniel; Missouri Botanical Garden, Barry E. Hammel and Charlotte M. Taylor; National Herbarium of Panama, Mireya Correya; New York Botanical Garden, James L. Luteyn) or universities (Duke University, Mengchi Ho and Layne Huiet; East Tennessee State University, Foster Levy; Eastern Illinois University, Gordon C. Tucker; University of Baghdad, Hazim S. Daoud; University of Michigan, William R. Anderson; University of New Orleans, Kathleen B. Utey; University of North Carolina-Asheville, James D. Perry; University of Southern Mississippi, Mac H. Alford). Only one of his students did not continue in the field, Priscilla A. Sherwin. Wilbur was an exceptional professor in the amount of time he gave to his students, and he developed close relationships with many. He was in the herbarium and available to chat six days a week. At noon each day he ate lunch in the herbarium lab with the collections manager, Sherri Herndon, any students who were around, and various faculty colleagues. The lunch discussions covered all aspects of botany, from interesting plants and new articles to recent accomplishments of others in the department to personal stories about other botanists.

Wilbur strongly encouraged his students to obtain their own funding to support their field work and to gain expertise in grant writing. During many of his teaching years, National Science Foundation (NSF) funds were frequently available for these projects. He also ensured that his students' research was formally published, a critical step for a professional career in science and a critical component of the research process. He further encouraged publishing some results before the final dissertation was defended, to gain critical experience. This approach was intimidating for a beginning student but resulted in a feeling of ownership and professionalism.

#### PLANT TAXONOMY, FLORISTICS, AND FIELDWORK

With his view that taxonomic patterns could best be detected by careful examination of a large set of specimens from throughout a taxon's geographical and ecological range, Wilbur always relied on extensive herbarium material as the basis for his research. His approach to taxonomy required detailed morphological examination backed by strong familiarity with the habitats, phenology, and range of variation observed firsthand in the field. For these reasons, throughout his career he spent uncounted hours in the field with the living plants and was an indefatigable collector of the entire flora and of local variation within a species. In 70 years, he made more than 100,000 numbered collections in the United States and six other countries. While still a student, Wilbur had already collected in several U.S. states outside the core of the Southeast (Florida, Michigan, Texas) and the territory of Hawaii as well as in Mexico. After completion of his North Carolina legume treatment (Wilbur 1963b), he continued to collect widely in North Carolina but also began three decades of tropical field work in Central America. His tropical collections at DUKE are from Belize (1970), Costa Rica (1967–1998), Dominica (1964), El Salvador (1972), Mexico (1984), Nicaragua (1972), and Panama (1970s).

Wilbur's specimens were very generous in the amount of plant material mounted on each herbarium sheet, in part to provide ample material for future destructive sampling.

He frequently instructed, "Get enough to fill a sheet." At each collecting stop or site, his goal was to document all fertile taxa, to provide specimens from throughout a plant's range even for common species, and to fill out floristic data. His specimen numbers averaged 70 per day, collected on 12- to 14-hour workdays during which he rarely stopped to eat. He usually finished the end of a field day by collecting all the weeds along the road on the way to the car, a practice that was considered a waste of time by some colleagues; however, various adventitious species were first documented from countries such as Costa Rica by his "weed patrol." Most of Wilbur's collection numbers included sets of duplicates, to take advantage of precious field time to get material for other institutions. These sets varied from two to a dozen or more duplicate sheets. He was blessed with a strong constitution, and even in the heat of the day he would choose a sunny spot to sit on the ground to press plants (Figure 3). Then, after dinner at home or in a hotel, he would spend the evening emptying field presses, writing field notes, and pressing that day's plants.

Wilbur's taxonomic research focused on vascular plants, and it proceeded through the study of individual groups, often at the genus rank, for later synthesis into larger treatments. His approach was two-pronged, via revisionary study and compilation of floristic treatments. He published a large number of taxonomic works, on his own and with students, addressing problems in a diversity of taxa with all of these based on extensive field work. He discovered and described three new genera, 63 new species, and one new variety (Appendix 1), and 28 new species were named for him by others (including three in this issue; Appendix 2) as a way of honoring his work.

Wilbur intensively studied large and/or complicated groups, even while conducting his general collecting and study of the overall flora. His rule of thumb for tropical plants, evolved from his temperate work, was recommended to students who were choosing a project: a good study group is composed of woody shrubs with large showy flowers borne at eye level, because there are more collections of these and it is easier to find your plants in the field; and he disfavored groups that "muck up the press," such as aroids and palms.

Wilbur's manuscripts were always handwritten on legal pads in an exquisite though rather large script, followed by extensive self-editing, and finally these were typed by Sherri Herndon or the Botany Department secretaries. The majority of his publications are single-authored, but several studies were also co-authored with former students: notably, nine with James Luteyn (1970s–2000s) and five with Hazim Daoud (1960s). The papers co-authored with Luteyn report collaborative work conducted both while Luteyn was a student and later when he worked at the New York Botanical Garden.

Wilbur's taxonomic work had a clear focus on Ericaceae (11 papers), Campanulaceae *s.l.* (9 papers) and Gentianaceae (5 papers), but his choice of study group was little constrained by family preference and spanned the monocots through Magnoliids and many of the eudicots. His choice of project was based on his perception of a group that was incompletely known and clearly in need of revision. In contrast to the ecumenical nature of the groups he studied (species from more than 50 genera are found in the paper titles), the geographical areas of where these taxa occurred showed a clear focus on Central America (primarily Mexico and Costa Rica) and the North American Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains.





**Figure 3.** Dr. Robert Wilbur pressing plants on the Mitchell Mill granite outcrop, Rolesville, NC, 2007. Photo by Mengchi Ho.

### TROPICAL AMERICAN EMPHASIS

Exploration of the New World tropics by scientists from North American universities was increasing in the 1960s, at a time when Duke initiated botanical and zoological exploration in Central America and the Antilles (Raby 2017; Taylor and Gereau 2021). The work at Duke had strong support from the NSF as well as indirectly through the Peace Corps, because in the 1970s several graduate students arrived with Spanish fluency and botanical experience in Latin America from their recent time as volunteers. Duke began its most intensive tropical plant collecting program in the late 1960s, with focused floristic exploration in Costa Rica and Panama and support from NSF (Figure 4). Wilbur's first collecting trip to Costa Rica was with Duke colleague Donald E. Stone (1930–2011) in 1968. It was probably that trip that ignited his interest in the Neotropics and gave him the resolve to return to study what were then little-known tropical plant families in need of taxonomic attention. Wilbur first traveled with his students James Luteyn and Frank Almeda to Costa Rica and Panama in 1971. He was particularly interested in the montane flora of this region, with its representatives of temperate groups, and here initiated his own work on Central American Campanulaceae and Ericaceae, which have high diversity in both this region and the Southeastern U.S. During this time, Wilbur also started a long collaboration with William Burger (b. 1932) of the Field Museum and his *Flora Costaricensis*



**Figure 4.** Dr. Wilbur with young children in Costa Rica, 1977. Photo by Tom Daniel.

project (Burger 1961–2010). Burger and Wilbur exchanged numerous specimens, especially in the 1970s, and they collaborated on identifications and prioritization of taxonomic problems for study.

In the 1960s, the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) arose from a series of informal meetings among U.S. tropical biologists. At first this was a network for collaboration, then in 1963 it became a formal institution to provide logistical support and accredited tropical field classes to North American students (Raby 2017). After Stone was appointed director, the OTS administration was moved to Duke. In 1968, OTS acquired ownership of a tract of land in lowland northeastern Costa Rica that had been a private natural area belonging to the tropical ecologist and forester Leslie Holdridge (1907–1999). Holdridge's Finca La Selva became OTS's La Selva Field Biological Station with rustic facilities, a program of scientific study in tropical ecology and biodiversity, and field classes. Duke students, supervised mainly by Stone and Wilbur, conducted research there, with significant support from Duke University and in the company of graduate students and faculty from other U.S. universities. Soon after this, OTS began acquiring other reserves and developing additional field stations. The reserves were located in unexplored locations, so little was known about their flora or fauna. With support from NSF, OTS sponsored collecting and inventory projects to support the ecological work and teaching at those sites. Wilbur was very interested in collaborating on that work and in elucidating the

flora of the region. Based on this and OTS's administrative connection to Duke, he took on the Flora of La Selva Project and the Duke herbarium became its home base. This work included extensive collecting efforts, writing flora treatments, developing a repository for La Selva specimens, and student training.

The Flora of La Selva Project received several rounds of NSF funding, and Duke also helped support student field work there. Project funding paid for travel to La Selva for visiting researchers and for a year-round resident plant collector at the station. The resident collector was usually a student, who made extensive field observations and collected herbarium specimens at La Selva and had funding to continue their studies in person at Duke. Wilbur collected ca. 8,000 specimens at La Selva himself; in total, the project compiled at least 18,000 collections under his direction, and another 4000 specimens were deposited by others. The specimen processing (creation of labels, mounting of DUKE herbarium sheets, and distribution of duplicates) was conducted at DUKE and mostly by Sherri Herndon. Several fascicles for the Flora Project were published in *Selbyana*, but Wilbur considered the knowledge of La Selva's flora to be still inadequate for writing treatments. In the late 1990s, the La Selva Flora Project was revived after a pause with continuing NSF support but a new staff and organization based in Costa Rica at the (now) La Selva Biological Reserve.

#### THE DUKE HERBARIUM

Throughout his career, the Duke University herbarium was Wilbur's professional passion and central focus. Although founded in 1921, it had served primarily as a teaching and ecological reference collection until he was named its curator in 1957. The herbarium now has more than 800,000 specimens, almost 400,000 of which are vascular plants, and includes 821 types. The herbarium is remarkable for its size in relation to the size of the university, in both its vascular and cryptogamic collections. 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. He also worked to stimulate collecting of lichens, algae, and bryophytes by other Duke faculty members and students. Duke University consistently supported the herbarium with space, equipment, and personnel, including a full-time collections manager. This position was held for four decades by Sherri Herndon, who mounted most of Wilbur's specimens and handled day-to-day problems for his students while ensuring that Wilbur did not miss classes or meetings.

#### PLANT NOMENCLATURE

A stable nomenclature is fundamental to plant taxonomy, and 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). A large proportion of his publications are nomenclatural clarifications and historical analyses, and he specialized in the works of several taxonomists, notably Constantine Rafinesque and the great botanist of Southeastern U.S. plants, John Kunkel Small (1869–1938). Wilbur also focused on nomenclatural studies of plants found in the Southeastern U.S.





**Figure 5.** Dr. Wilbur and daughter Margaret Wilbur in the Duke Herbarium, summer 2021. Photo by Jim Luteyn.

Regarding plant nomenclature, Wilbur was a stringent rule-follower, and as with other aspects of his botanical work, he was knowledgeable and rigorous. He was not enamored with formal conservation of generic names, and he was uncomfortable with the conservation of species names. He offered one of the few formal classes available then in plant nomenclature, at the graduate level. This was a well-organized pass through the Code of Botanical Nomenclature, as it was then called, which he considered essential for training in plant taxonomy.

Accompanying the long list of professional accomplishments was Wilbur's devotion to his family (Figure 5) and his religious beliefs. Jeanne and Robert Wilbur were married for 67 years and nurtured a close-knit family. They raised six children in a principled Roman Catholic household. They dearly loved and maintained close ties to all their children: Ralph, Martha, Mark (deceased), Ellen, Lenore, and Margaret. The family atmosphere was always enhanced by cherished companion dogs, who often were taken along to the herbarium and the field. Some of the dogs were given preference over colleagues and students; as Foster Levy recalls: on a field trip in dense vegetation, Wilbur instructed

him to go ahead, “in case there is a snake, it will bite you first rather than my dog.” The lives of Dr. Wilbur’s students and family were enhanced by his gentle humor, faithfulness, and kindness.

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#### APPENDIX 1

Names published by Robert L. Wilbur and co-authors.

##### Apocynaceae

*Bleekeria compta* (K. Schum.) Wilbur

##### Campanulaceae

*Burmeistera almedae* Wilbur

*Burmeistera chiriquiensis* Wilbur

*Burmeistera chirripoensis* Wilbur

*Burmeistera darienensis* Wilbur

*Burmeistera dukei* Wilbur

*Burmeistera hammelii* Wilbur

*Burmeistera kirkbridei* Wilbur

*Burmeistera mcvaughii* Wilbur

*Burmeistera morii* Wilbur

*Burmeistera panamensis* Wilbur

*Burmeistera pirrensis* Wilbur

*Burmeistera toroensis* Wilbur

*Burmeistera utleyi* Wilbur

*Burmeistera zurquiensis* Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia* Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia aurita* (Brandege) Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia cordifolia* (Hook. & Arn.)  
Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia flexuosa* (C. Presl) Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia flexuosa* var. *intermedia*  
(Hemsl.) Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia gibbosa* (S. Watson) Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia goldmanii* (Fernald) Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia knoblochii* (T.J. Ayers)  
Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia macrocentron* (Benth.)  
Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia margarita* (E. Wimm.)  
Wilbur

*Calcaratolobelia mcvaughii* (T.J. Ayers)  
Wilbur

- Calcaratolobelia pringlei* (B.L. Rob.) Wilbur  
*Calcaratolobelia tenella* (Turcz.) Wilbur  
*Calcaratolobelia villaregalis* (T.J. Ayers) Wilbur  
*Centropogon darienensis* Wilbur  
*Centropogon irazuensis* Wilbur  
*Centropogon luteynii* Wilbur  
*Centropogon panamensis* Wilbur  
*Centropogon talamancensis* Wilbur  
*Lobelia calochlamys* (Donn. Sm.) Wilbur  
*Lobelia dressleri* Wilbur  
*Lobelia guatemalensis* (B.L. Rob.) Wilbur  
*Lobelia zelayensis* Wilbur  
*Siphocampylus darienensis* Wilbur
- Cistaceae**  
*Lechea lakelae* Wilbur
- Colchicaceae**  
*Uvularia caroliniana* (J.F. Gmel.) Wilbur
- Combretaceae**  
*Bucida correlliana* Wilbur
- Ericaceae**  
*Arctostaphylos arbutoides* var. *costaricensis* (Small) Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Didonica* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Didonica panamensis* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Didonica pendula* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Disterigma fortunense* Wilbur  
*Disterigma hammelii* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Disterigma luteynii* Wilbur  
*Disterigma pilosum* Wilbur  
*Disterigma trimerum* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Disterigma utleyorum* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Lateropora santafeensis* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Lateropora tubulifera* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Lysiclesia panamensis* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Macleania megabraceolata* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Macleania talamancensis* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Psammisia darienensis* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Spherospermum tuberculatum* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Themistoclesia costaricensis* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Themistoclesia horquetensis* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Themistoclesia revoluta* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Utleya* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Utleya costaricensis* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium almedae* Wilbur & Luteyn
- Vaccinium bocatoreense* Wilbur  
*Vaccinium campanense* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium chihuahuense* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium costaricense* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium floccosum* (L.O. Williams) Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium furfuraceum* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium jefense* Luteyn & Wilbur  
*Vaccinium luteynii* Wilbur  
*Vaccinium monteverdense* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium orosiense* Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium racemosum* (Vahl) Wilbur & Luteyn  
*Vaccinium santafeense* Wilbur & Luteyn
- Euphorbiaceae**  
*Jatropha bartlettii* Wilbur  
*Jatropha hintonii* Wilbur
- Fabaceae**  
*Amorpha georgiana* Wilbur  
*Amorpha georgiana* var. *confusa* Wilbur  
*Amorpha herbacea* var. *floridana* (Rydb.) Wilbur  
*Amorpha ouachitensis* Wilbur  
*Rhynchosia cytisoides* (Bertol.) Wilbur
- Fagaceae**  
*Quercus elliotii* Wilbur
- Gentianaceae**  
*Halenia alleniana* Standl. ex Wilbur  
*Halenia crumiana* Wilbur  
*Sabatia bartramii* Wilbur  
*Sabatia dodecandra* var. *foliosa* (Fernald) Wilbur  
*Sabatia macrophylla* var. *recurvans* (Small) Wilbur  
*Sabatia quadrangula* Wilbur
- Myricaceae**  
*Morella* subgen. *Cerothamnus* (Tidestr.) Wilbur  
*Morella* ser. *Cerothamnus* (Tidestr.) Wilbur  
*Morella* ser. *Faya* (Webb & Berthel.) Wilbur  
*Morella californica* (Cham.) Wilbur  
*Morella faya* (Aiton) Wilbur  
*Morella holdridgeana* (Lundell) Wilbur  
*Morella phanerodonta* (Standl.) Wilbur  
*Morella picardae* (Krug & Urb.) Wilbur  
*Morella pringlei* (Greenm.) Wilbur



*Morella pubescens* (Humb. & Bonpl. ex  
Willd.) Wilbur

#### **Primulaceae**

*Myrsine hosakae* Wilbur  
*Myrsine meziana* (H.Lév.) Wilbur  
*Myrsine punctata* (H.Lév.) Wilbur

#### **Rubiaceae**

*Gouldia affinis* (DC.) Wilbur

#### **Selaginellaceae**

*Selaginella corallina* (Riddell) Wilbur &  
Whitson

### APPENDIX 2

Taxa named for Robert L. Wilbur.

Taxa preceded by an asterisk are newly published in this issue of *Rhodora*.

#### **Acanthaceae**

\**Justicia wilburii* T.F. Daniel  
*Razisea wilburii* McDade

#### **Araceae**

*Philodendron wilburii* Croat & Grayum

#### **Asteraceae**

*Critonia wilburii* R.M. King & H. Rob.  
*Munnozia wilburii* H. Rob.  
*Pentacalia wilburii* H. Rob.  
*Perymenium wilburorum* McVaugh  
*Schistocarpa wilburii* H. Rob.

#### **Begoniaceae**

*Begonia wilburii* Burt-Utley & Utley

#### **Bromeliaceae**

*Pitcairnia wilburiana* Utley

#### **Campanulaceae**

*Centropogon wilburii* Lammers

#### **Cyperaceae**

*Cyperus wilburii* G.C. Tucker

#### **Ericaceae**

*Vaccinium wilburii* Almeda & Breedlove

#### **Euphorbiaceae**

*Bernardia wilburii* McVaugh  
*Croton wilburii* McVaugh

#### **Malpighiaceae**

*Banisteriopsis wilburii* B. Gates  
*Jubelina wilburii* W.R. Anderson  
*Malpighia wilburiorum* W.R. Anderson

#### **Melastomataceae**

*Blakea wilburiana* Almeda  
\**Marcetia wilburiana* Almeda, R.B. Pacifico  
& Fidanza

#### **Poaceae**

*Panicum wilburii* H.St.John

#### **Primulaceae**

*Auricularia wilburiana* Lundell

#### **Rubiaceae**

\**Palicourea wilburiana* C.M. Taylor  
*Psychotria wilburiana* Dwyer

#### **Salicaceae**

*Neosprucea wilburiana* M.H. Alford