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Edward L. Schneider
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Roy L. Taylor
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

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INTRODUCTION

EDWARD L. SCHNEIDER

*Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
1212 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, California 93105*

AND

ROY L. TAYLOR

*Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 N. College Avenue
Claremont, California 91711-3157*

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's 1996 Symposium, *Plant Evolution and Conservation on Islands: A Global Perspective*, brought together speakers whose collective knowledge provided an important review of progress and current understanding of island plant biology and conservation on a global level. Several of their papers are published in this issue of *Aliso*. Island biology has received much attention in the past 30 years, providing models for the study of evolution by building on seminal works of Darwin and Wallace, among others. Studies of island biology also have illuminated the fragility of island biotas and the critical need to conserve and manage their remarkable and unique condition.

The occasion of this symposium also marked a very special event: recognition of Sherwin Carlquist's many scientific contributions, including those first published 30 years ago, which we believe stimulated new approaches to understanding patterns of insular adaptation (see references). These works represent the innovative thinking that has marked Sherwin's distinctive career.

The beginning of his multifaceted research interests was initiated in his dissertation research on *Fitchia* (Asteraceae) at the University of California, Berkeley (Carlquist 1957a), later extended on tarweeds of California and the related silversword alliance of Hawaii (e.g., Carlquist 1957a, 1958, 1959). Sherwin proposed, on anatomical evidence, that the Hawaiian silverswords had originated from mainland tarweeds such as the California endemic *Raillardella*, despite the lack of superficial resemblance in gross morphology. His interpretation depended on recognizing the role of long-distance dispersal of fruits and subsequent adaptive radiation within the Hawaiian archipelago. In a time when vicariance biogeography was widely popular, this interpretation was challenged. Thirty years

later, his ideas have been validated by the molecular work of Baldwin et al. (1991).

Sherwin's studies of dicotyledonous wood evolution on islands led him to view evolutionary patterns on islands as a whole. His interests first focused on dispersability (Carlquist 1966a, b, c, d), which he regarded as essential to understanding insular plant biology. His insistence that oceanic island floras were derived within relatively recent times by long-distance dispersal has been validated in numerous studies, summarized by Wagner and Funk (1995). Sherwin's monograph on island biology (1974) reviewed and summarized patterns of dispersal and evolution, including the results of many of his original observations and studies. This seminal work stimulated a new generation of students to use islands as exemplars to study evolution, speciation, and adaptive radiation. His popular monographs on Hawaii and islands in general (Carlquist 1965, 1970) contributed to a general interest in oceanic islands and the conservation of their biotic diversity.

During his 36 years (1956–1992) as Professor of Botany at the Claremont Graduate School and Pomona College, and as Plant Anatomist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Sherwin provided innovative leadership and mentoring through teaching and research. Upon "retirement" in 1992, he moved to Santa Barbara where he continues his teaching and research, serving as Adjunct Professor at the University of California Santa Barbara and as a Research Botanist and member of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

For his many accomplishments during a distinguished career, the Santa Barbara and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens and the California Botanical Society jointly resolved that Sherwin Carlquist be formally recognized for his many and continuing contri-

butions to botany. These contributions were formalized on May 4, 1996, when he was presented a lifetime achievement award by the two gardens and an honorary life membership in the California Botanical Society.

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