



14 August 2009

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Sara Mainguy
North-South Environmental
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Dear Sara,

I was surprised and delighted to learn that I was to be honoured by the FBO with the Goldie Award.

Goldie has a particular significance for me because my first research project at the University of Waterloo, when I arrived in Canada in 1968 was a study of Goldie's Chickweed - *Stellaria longipes* - a species which Goldie discovered and named from a collection that he made on June 14, 1819 on his journey through Upper Canada "in the woods near Lake Ontario".

In 1968 I tried to retrace Goldie's journey and I rediscovered the *Stellaria*, still growing vigourously in the area where Goldie found it nearly 150 years earlier. It was growing on an alvar near Odessa in the Kingston area.

In 1968 I also took on my first graduate student at the University of Waterloo - C.C. Chinnappa (CC to all of us in the Department of Biology). He studied *Stellaria longipes* with me for many years, receiving a Ph.D. for his work. Subsequently he became Professor of Biology at the University of Calgary where he has had a distinguished career. As part of our work on Goldie's Chickweed, CC and I, along with Joan Venn (who still looks after our herbarium at the University of Waterloo) travelled extensively in North America collecting living material of this species where ever it grows, in order to study its remarkable biology. We grew this material in the Botanical Garden and greenhouse at the University where at one time we had several hundred collections in cultivation.


I also attempted to rediscover the original specimens of the *Stellaria* which Goldie had collected. He donated his herbarium, with the *Stellaria* specimen in it, to Glasgow University in Scotland. Some years later that herbarium was transferred to the one at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh. However, repeated searches in that herbarium by many botanists, myself included, have failed to find Goldie's specimen of *Stellaria longipes* and it was thought to have been lost.

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In 1994 on a visit to the herbarium at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, I was going through their extensive collections of *Stellaria* and came across a portion of Goldie's collection of *Stellaria longipes* mounted on a sheet along with specimens of the similar *Stellaria longifolia*. The specimen had been sent to Sir Joseph Hooker who became Director at Kew. It was clearly labelled by him "flowering in June, Woods of Lake Ontario, Goldie". So we now had the original material (the TYPE collection) of Goldie's Chickweed.

Also about that time I was able to locate one of Goldie's descendants living in Ontario - Mrs. Theresa Goldie Faulkner - a great great grand-daughter of Goldie. She sent me a booklet that she had written about her illustrious ancestor. This is part of my extensive botanical memorabilia of John Goldie with whom I am honoured to be associated by this award. I am saddened that poor health prevents me from being with you to receive this award. Many thanks for the recognition that you have bestowed upon me. I hope that you and your members have a successful meeting in Orillia and wish you every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John K. Morton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

J.K. Morton
Professor Emeritus