



Carnivorous PLANTS



BY JOHN MASON

CONTENTS

CREDITS	3
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	4
How do they do it?	4
Types of Traps	6
Families & Species	11
Families	11
Species	11
CHAPTER 2 GROWING AND USING CARNIVOROUS PLANTS	15
Environmental Factors	15
CHAPTER 3 PLANT DIRECTORY	26
Aldrovanda (syn. Aldrovandia)	26
Cephalotus	27
Darlingtonia (syn. Chrysamphora)	28
Dionaea	30
Drosera	32
Dropsophyllum	43
Heliophora	44
Nepenthes	47
Pinguicula	57
Sarracenia	60
Utricularia	75
APPENDIX	80
Distance learning and online courses	80
E-books by John Mason and ACS Staff	81
Printed books by John Mason	82
Useful contacts	83
ACS global partners	83
Social media	83

CREDITS

© **Copyright:** John Mason

Written by

Written by John Mason *Dip.Hort.Sc.*
FIOH, FAIH, FPLA

Photos:

John Mason
Leonie Mason
Stephen Mason

Layout

Stephen Mason

Editorial Assistants/Contributors:

Gavin Cole B.Sc.
Maree Beerman M.Hort.

Published by

ACS Distance Education

P.O. Box 2092, Nerang MDC,
Queensland, Australia, 4211
admin@acs.edu.au
www.acsbookshop.com

P O Box 4171, Stourbridge, DY8 2WZ,
United Kingdom
admin@acsedu.co.uk
www.acsebooks.com

ISBN: 978-0-9925878-9-5

The information in this book is derived from a broad cross section of resources (research, reference materials and personal experience) from the authors and editorial assistants in the academic department of ACS Distance Education. It is, to the best of our knowledge, composed as an accurate representation of what is accepted and appropriate information about the subject, at the time of publication.

The authors fully recognise that knowledge is continually changing, and awareness in all areas of study is constantly evolving. As such, we encourage the reader to recognise that nothing they read should ever be considered to be set in stone. They should always strive to broaden their perspective and deepen their understanding of a subject, and before acting upon any information or advice, should always seek to confirm the currency of that information, and the appropriateness to the situation in which they find themselves.

As such, the publisher and author do not accept any liability for actions taken by the reader based upon their reading of this book.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Carnivorous plants are plants that have unique adaptations that enable them to catch and feed off animals such as insects and other small invertebrates. In some instances, they may even catch and feed off small vertebrates such as mice.



Upward pointing hairs in Sarracenia

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

The mechanisms that exist to trap and feed on animals vary across the range of carnivorous plants, and include the following:

- Plant adaptations to attract animals - including lures, odours and directional guides.
- Adaptations to trap animals - including sticky surfaces to hold animals like flypaper and trapdoor-like openings to digestive chambers.

- Adaptations to help digest animals - such as secretions of biochemical enzymes to break down the organic matter into amino acids, and mechanisms for absorbing the chemicals that are produced.

There are many plants that may have a capacity to attract or trap animals, but they are generally not considered to be carnivorous plants because they lack the significant capacity to break down animal tissue into amino acids and absorb these amino acids into the plant tissues.