

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

These plants occur in at least 14 different “groups”, and are not all closely related taxonomical, nor reside in similar regions geographically. They all however have the ability to utilize the flesh of living organisms, but none can survive solely from this source of “nutrients”. Plants are classified as carnivorous if they meet the following criteria:

- Must be able to lure, trap and hold its prey
- Must have the means to digest complex organisms and absorb the by-products into its own tissues
- Absorbed by-products must be used for growth and development

A brief overview of how this “habit” developed will be presented in class.

General Characteristics

All possess “traps”, which take on different forms and utilizes different mechanisms;

* “**Active traps**” involve rapid movement of a plant part that results in capture of prey

- Venus Flytrap
- Water Wheel Plant
- Bladderworts

*”**Semi-Active traps**” utilize movement only as a supplement to an adhesive that captures the prey

- Sundews
- Butterworts (contrast with Bladderworts above)

*"Passive traps" rely on the design of the plant to attract and ensnare or tire out prey

- Pitcher plant

GENERAL CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

Containers -

Media - best is live sphagnum peat moss, but other suitable media exist

Fertilization -

Light

- Natural
- Artificial

Temperature

Watering

Dormancy