

puncturing your gloves or cutting your fingers.

After you have the piece cut, use Elmer's glue (latex type) to secure the bar on the middle of the plastic piece. Wrap the unused bar and place it out of reach of children and pets. You will notice that it looks like cheese. Leave the area for a breath of fresh air and on your return, the bar should be securely fastened to the plastic. Now you can handle this without gloves and place it in your terrarium or by pots which have plants infested with ants, aphids, flies and many others. The insects will climb up the plants and die in a day or so. This strip also kills bugs which hide underneath leaves!

Remove the bars after checking the plants the next day or so, place in plastic

bags separately, and then wrap them all in one bag. This is to prevent you from touching other bars when you stick your hand inside for just one bar. Repeat this treatment when pests reappear.

I have also found a product called "Algae Destroyer" suitable for tanks containing *Utricularia gibba* and *purpurea*. However, it will kill *Aldrovanda*. With only a few treatments, algae disappear forever. The directions for usage are adequate for 5 gallon aquariums and up. The chemical resembles chewable vitamin pills so these must be kept out of reach of children and pets. Smaller pieces can be used for small containers. The cost is \$2.39 for 18 tablets and the address is: Aquarium Pharmaceuticals, P.O. Box 222, Perkasie, PA 18944.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MITE INHABITATION STUDIES IN SARRACENIAS

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For two weeks during mid-August, 1984 my ecology professor, Dr. Richard W. Fredrickson and I traveled through the southeastern United States studying the mites associated with *Sarracenia* species. Four species of mites have been described from the pitchers of *Sarracenia* species and are thought to live nowhere else. Little is known about these mites. In fact, they are reported from only three *Sarracenia* species. Hence our goal is to study their distribution, ecology and systematics.

Through the very helpful guidance of Drs. George W. Folkerts, Robert K. Godfrey and Donald E. Schnell, and supported by grants from Sigma Xi (the scientific research society), the Saint Joseph's University Sigma Xi Club, and the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium (Dover, Delaware), we collected pitcher contents from at least one population of each of the species of *Sarracenia*. We sampled all five subspecies of *S. rubra* and a few hybrids also.

As a result of processing the nearly forty samples we collected, I have found that

mites occur in the pitchers of every species of *Sarracenia*. Each *S. rubra* subspecies has mites and so do the hybrids sampled. The mites appear to be most abundant in young pitchers which are in prime trapping condition and which contain abundant prey. Large pitchers in such condition may contain well over one hundred mites. The mites produce no obvious effects on the plants and may be commensals. I will now begin identifying these mites and plan to inform CPN readers of my findings.

Photo right:

N. albo-marginata scrambling through trees of Penang. Photo by Roger Shivas.