

Another sorrowful experience for me was the leaving of my collection with detailed instructions in the hands of an inappreciative (or irresponsible) person. In 1984 I embarked on a one year studies abroad program, and while backpacking through China I received the most dreadful news any CPer could hear... all my CP had died. I couldn't believe it until I returned back home to see my once beautiful collection reduced to a desiccated, wispy mass. I felt like feeding my younger brother (the inept caretaker) to a man-eating CP, but lucky for him these man-eaters don't exist. So lesson number three, share your collection with other CPers so that you may recover lost specimens through future reciprocated cuttings, and who knows, this person may look after your collection while you are off exploring the world.

It is with that humbling experience that I believe in trading plants instead of hoarding them. Oh well... I can still be comforted with some of the photos from my ex-collection. Another thing, when taking photos, I find it especially helpful that some sort of scale indicator be placed next to the subject, be it a coin, a camera cap, or even a hand.

Well I am off to a new start, and over the past two years my collection has been slowly but patiently growing. I've enclosed two slides for CPN to use - one slide shows *A. alata* with a fly crawling down its throat, the other slide shows a *N. alata*. The *S. alata* is grown outdoors in the summer, while the *N. alata* is grown indoors in my greenhouse window box.

Literature Review

CENTRE FOR LIFE STUDIES (no author), 1985. Carnivorous plants. Centre for Life Studies (Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY), 57 p. (/ 1.00 UK, \$2.50 US ppd surface elsewhere).

For some reason we had not run across this little booklet before, and we are glad we did. Considering the limitation of size and its intent as a school educational tool, it has a lot of well-written and accurate information in it, if one is ready to excuse a very few oversimplifications. The booklet is very well illustrated by excellent line drawings and covers CP worldwide in terms of all genera, trap functions, etc. A good part of the book is given over to excellent methods of propagation and a thorough discussion of horticulture and cultivation with an eye to economy. The book concludes with a long list of sources, not only legally for plants in the UK, but also supplies other educational materials including slides, books and VCR tapes. DES

IJIMA, T. and S. HAGIWARA. Voltage-dependent potassium channels in protoplasts of trap-lobe cells of *Dionaea muscipula*. *J. Membr. Biol.* 100(1): 73-82 1987.

Using the patch-clamp technique, the outward rectification of the potassium ion current in mesophyll cell protoplasts from the trap lobes of *Dionaea* was studied. The rectification depends on the membrane voltage and the concentration of intracellular potassium ion. Excised patches and intact membrane showed activities.

KARLSSON, P.S., K.O. NORDELL, S. EIRFELT and A. SVENSSON. Trapping efficiency of three carnivorous *Pinguicula* spp. *Oecologia (Berl)* 73(4): 518-521 1987.

The authors tested 3 species: *P. alpina*, *P. villosa* and *P. vulgaris* in regard to trapping prey and comparing them to artificial traps in northern Sweden. *P. vulgaris* trapped the most insects - about 21-37 ug per cm per day while the other two species trapped half that number, a value equal to that of sticky green paper plant leaves. Mostly, the prey were mosquitoes, gnats, craneflies and springtails.

RIZZACASA, M.A. and M.V. SARGENT. The structure and synthesis of nepenthone A, a naphthoquinone from *Nepenthes rafflesiana*. *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans.* 10(9): 2017-2017 1987.

The authors isolated this naphthoquinone pigment, determined its structure and synthesized it to confirm that it was identical to the natural product.