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LITERATURE REVIEWS

By Doug Darnowski

Reut M.S., and Fineran, B.A. 2000. Ecology and vegetative morphology of the carnivorous plant *Utricularia dichotoma* (Lentibulariaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand J. of Bot.* 38: 433-450.

The authors examined eight sites spread across New Zealand to better understand the ecology of *Utricularia dichotoma*, defined broadly to include *U. monanthos* and *U. novae-zealandiae*. Essentially they found that *U. dichotoma* prefers open, nutrient-poor, brightly lit, wet sites and could often be associated with a few species of plants, especially various bryophytes and *Juncus articulatus*. It could, however, extend its range into other habitats once well established, such as permanently flooded areas, but not without limits—not surprisingly, *U. dichotoma* was never found growing in calcareous soils. Those trying to grow *U. dichotoma* or any other members of its Australia/New Zealand species complex will find these data helpful, and this paper also presents some valuable insights into the plasticity of one widespread group of terrestrial bladderworts. (DWD)

Sanabria-Aranda L., Gonzalez-Bermudez A., Torres N.N., Guisande C., Manjarres-Hernandez A., Voloyes-Valois V., Diaz-Olarte J., Andrade-Sossa C., and Duque S. R. 2006. Predation by the tropical plant *Utricularia foliosa*. *Fresh. Biol.* 51: 1999-2008.

In this paper, Sanabria-Aranda *et al.* examined prey capture by the large, pan-American *Utricularia foliosa* for the importance of bladder size, the type of prey captured, and the strategies used for trapping. This is a species which can be found as far north as Florida, easily identified by its flattened stems. In this paper, the work was done in Colombian Amazon. Increasing trap sizes did not provide disproportionate benefits in terms of nutrients obtained from prey, and the prey trapped most commonly were those types whose behavior made them most likely to contact the traps and the trap hairs, similar to what has been found by several other studies. Perhaps most interesting and novel was the finding that longer trap hairs/“antennae” led to significantly improved trapping rates, confirming in the field previous experimental studies. (DWD)

