

BOOK REVIEWS

by Bob Ziemer

Carnivorous Plants and Their Habitats: Volume 1 (723 pages, 374 photographs) and **Volume 2** (719 pages, 425 photographs).

Stewart McPherson; Edited by Andreas Fleischmann and Alastair Robinson.

2010. Redfern Natural History Productions Ltd., Poole, GB. ISBN-13: 9780955891854

These books should be considered one 1442-page tome that is divided into two volumes containing 799 excellent photos and 740 references.

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Evolution of Carnivorous Plants (by Andreas Fleischmann) [56]

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Carnivorous Plants and their Habitats is an outstanding encyclopedic work that covers the ecology, diversity, and natural history of each carnivorous plant genus in great detail. Each genus chapter is a self-contained treatise with the headings: Distribution, Botanical History, Plant Structure, Habits and Ecology, Traditional Uses, Associated Life, Cultivation Requirements, Conservation Status. These volumes will be invaluable to botanists, naturalists, and horticulturalists, as well as anyone with an interest in carnivorous plants. I found the five introductory chapters of Volume 1 to be particularly interesting to read and Andreas Fleischmann's "Evolution of Carnivorous Plants" to be quite thought-provoking. Volume 2 includes the formal descriptions of four new *Nepenthes* species (*N. gantungensis*, *N. hamiguitanensis*, *N. holdenii*, and *N. palawanensis*). The chapter on *Philcoxia* introduces three rare species that are potentially carnivorous.

The Index has a number of errors, directing the reader to incorrect pages. These are only minor detractions from two excellent volumes.

Bizarre Botanicals: How to Grow String-of-Hearts, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Panda Ginger, and Other Weird and Wonderful Plants

Larry Mellichamp and Paula Gross, with Foreword by Tony Avent

284 pages, 114 color photos

2010. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon; London, UK. ISBN-13: 9781604690767

This book is written for the general public, particularly those that seek an introduction to a wide range of unusual plants. There are short 2- to 3-page plant profiles, including brief growing tips, for each of 75 strange plants. Chapter 1 is titled Carnivorous Plants (33 pages) and includes profiles on *Cephalotus*, *Darlingtonia*, *Dionaea*, *Drosera*, *Heliamphora*, *Nepenthes*, *Pinguicula*, and *Sarracenia*. Those with a passing knowledge about carnivorous plants will likely find nothing new. The remainder of the book contains profiles for 67 other non-carnivorous botanical curiosities.