

BOOK REVIEW

Mann, H., and Burzynski, M. 2018. *Flesh-Eating Plants of Newfoundland & Labrador and the Maritime Provinces*. Softcover, 193 + X pp., ISBN: 978-0-9699509-9-8.

Gros Morne Co-operating Association. \$29.95 + shipping, from grosornecoop.com (email: darlene@gmist.ca).

Reviewed by Barry Rice

Why buy books? Really? There is so much information available on-line, for free, is there really a point? This book reminds me that there is.

My first encounter with this work was a year or so prior to its publication. One of the authors contacted me with a request for a few images. If I recall, they wanted to use a few of my *Utricularia* images. I provided them free of charge, as I do for authors working on carnivorous plant books, but I was intrigued. People frequently ask for images of *Sarracenia* or *Drosera*...but someone wanted images of obscure *Utricularia*? I was intrigued. I offered to look over their text, and relay any useful comments I thought I might provide.

When I opened the files to see how they treated *Utricularia*, I was agog. Simply.... amazed. These authors treated *Utricularia* properly. In fact, in a way, I have never seen a better treatment of these plants!

OK, I have gotten ahead of myself.

This book treats the carnivorous plants of northeastern Canada—*Sarracenia purpurea*, *Pinguicula villosa*, and *P. vulgaris*, five *Drosera* (and hybrids), and eleven *Utricularia*. It includes nice, concise treatments of related issues such as conservation, carnivorous plants in popular culture, *Dionaea*, the use of hand lenses, and other nifty little topics.

But the species treatments are the soul of this book, and they are really extraordinary.

I am simply enraptured by how much geeky, lovely information is provided about each plant. For example—in the *Drosera* treatment there is a key (oh thank god, someone still remembers how to write a key!!!). There is a nice one-page comparison of leaf shapes. For each species there is a range map (yay!) and photos of the plant in full growth, details of the leaf shape, photos of the flowers, seeds, fruit, hibernacula, and on and on. It's great.

Let me give you another example of their detail. Consider the treatment for *Utricularia geminis-capae*. (Not the most famous plant, right?) This species is given six pages, including seventeen color images which show the vegetative shoots, the aerial flowers, the aquatic flowers and fruit, bladder images, leaflet margins, and...yes...quadrid gland images.

Structurally, the book is superb. The images are top quality, the text is clear, the typography and overall layout is excellent. There's really nothing of significance wrong with this book; meanwhile, there's everything right with it.

Simply noted, buy this wonderful book.

Disclaimer: A blurb I wrote appears on the back cover, and some of my images appear in this book, but I have no financial connection with this book's publication.

