

GREEN ANOLES AS *SARRACENIA* POLLINATORS?

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In the September 2019 issue (CPN 48(3): 136), I reported seeing a female Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) drinking nectar from the lips of *Sarracenia alata* pitchers. As I stated then, “I have witnessed Green Anoles on top of *Sarracenia* quite frequently, and even seen them grab flies that are attracted to the plants. I’ve seen the anoles down inside the plant, seemingly hunting just like the tree frog. However, I have also found anole skeletons inside the “stomach” of some of these pitcher plants. I guess they get stuck sometimes.” I went on to report my findings and video of a female Green Anole drinking the nectar from the lips of *Sarracenia alata*.

This spring, however, I witnessed a male Green Anole licking the pollen from inside the flower of *Sarracenia leucophylla*, a carnivorous pitcher plant from the southeastern United States (Fig. 1). He was just as aggressive about licking up this pollen as the female was about drinking the nectar. I have posted two videos from different days of the male anole licking the inside of the flowers. I know that the flowers are situated to be pollinated by specific insects, but as I watched him crawl over and through the flower, I began to wonder if he could be helping in pollination as well.

Green Anole licking pollen from a pitcher plant flower:

<https://youtu.be/X8njx4Aw9nM>

https://youtu.be/_vJ8eEtk1lw



Figure 1: Male Green Anole licking pollen from the flower of *Sarracenia leucophylla*.