

JAPANESE CARNIVOROUS PLANT GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

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Abstract: The 13th ICPS International Conference, held in Himeji City, Japan, in May 2023, was supported by a nation-wide network of carnivorous plant groups and organisations in Japan.

The 13th International Conference of ICPS successfully ended in May 2023, after the third postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference was supported by the nation-wide network of carnivorous plant groups and organisations in Japan. Members of these groups and organisations have actively collaborated for a long time for their common passion.¹ In this brief article I list 11 major ones in the country along with some trivia:

1. Hamatonbetsu Shokuchūshokubutsu Kenkyūkai (‘Hamatonbetsu Carnivorous Plant Society’)
A local society based in Hamatonbetsu, Hokkaido Prefecture. IPS (see below) was involved in the foundation. This society is aimed at habitat conservation and environmental education.
2. Hiroshima Carnivorous Plant Society (HCPS)
A regional society that is active in Hiroshima Prefecture. HCPS has connections with famous local nurseries, and their main activities include sales and exhibitions as well as a regular meeting.
3. Hokkaidō Mōsengoke Kurabu (‘Hokkaido Sundew Club’)
A local group from Hokkaido Prefecture. This group works on habitat conservation and environmental education.
4. The Insectivorous Plant Society (IPS/IPS, Japan)
A society in Tokyo that focuses on research, cultivation, conservation, and promotion of carnivorous plants. IPS was founded in 1949, which apparently makes it the oldest in the world. The core members have aged, but the organisation is still active today. They hold a regular meeting and publish a quarterly Japanese-language journal.
5. Japanese Carnivorous Plant Society (JCPS)
A Kanto-based organisation that aims at nation-wide hobbyists. JCPS has connections with regional societies and organises a monthly meeting called Kantō Shūkai (‘the Kanto Meeting’). Kantō Shūkai is also known as ‘Hamadayama Shūkai’ (‘the Hamadayama Meeting’), because it used to be held at a citizen hall in Hamadayama, Tokyo. They issue a quarterly informal newsletter in Japanese.

¹JCPS, KCPS, TCPS, and others (see the list) organise together an annual gathering called the ‘Summit’ for avid enthusiasts, in addition to their own regular meetings.

6. Kansai Carnivorous Plant Society (KCPS)

KCPS has been active in Kansai/Kinki² Area. This regional society was previously an unofficial open meeting held by members of IPS (see above) in this area. They have many experienced members as well as connections with the local botanical gardens and professional horticulturists. KCPS's regular meeting is called 'Kansai Shūkai' ('the Kansai Meeting').

7. Niigata-ken Shokuchūshokubutsu Aikōkai ('Niigata Prefecture Carnivorous Plant Society')

This is a regional society in Niigata Prefecture, Honshu, which has some active enthusiasts. This society is famous for their discoveries of *Utricularia minor* f. *terrestris* sites and low-altitude populations of *Pinguicula macroceras*.

8. Nippon Utsubokazura Kyōkai

An association founded by Hiroshi Suzuki, the owner of a nursery in Yamanashi Prefecture in Kanto Region. This society is focused on horticulture of *Nepenthes* and conservation of cultivated strains. They exhibited at the 13th ICPS International Conference as 'Nippon Nepenthes Society'. Also, Suzuki's nursery 'Hiro's Pitcher Plants' has been hosting the annual intersociety gathering aka 'Summit' since 2018.

9. Shokuchūshokubutsu Konwakai ('Carnivorous Plant Discussion Group')

A local group that is based at the Higashiyama Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture. This group was founded by horticulturist Masahiro Kondo, the father of botanist Katsuhiko Kondo. Their aims are research, conservation, and promotion of carnivorous plants.

10. Shokuchūshokubutsu Tansakukai ('Carnivorous Plant Spotting Group')

A Kansai/Kinki-based group led by Makoto Miyamoto, a 'planthunter' who has had adventures around the world for carnivorous plants. This group is mainly focused on field trips. They used to have a joint regular meeting with KCPS (see above) as they share many members.

11. Tokai Carnivorous Plant Society (TCPS)

A regional society in Tokai Region, the mid-south part of Honshu. Tokai Region has been famous for horticulture and is home to many early adopters and pioneers regarding carnivorous plant enthusiasm. Their regular meeting is called Tōkai Shūkai ('the Tokai Meeting').

² 'Kinki' is Japan's previous capital area including Kyoto and the surrounding regions, even though it may sound 'unfortunately familiar' by coincidence to English speakers. It is almost synonymous to 'Kansai', which is a word coined as opposed to 'Kanto'. The name 'Kanto' originally means 'eastern wilderness beyond the border gate', and Kansai means 'the opposite side (west) from the border gate'. Some people may recognise these region names from *Drosera* labels before the early 2000s.