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Fresh water and soil by Seolncr

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Utricularia is a genus of carnivorous plants of the family Lentibulariaceae with 215 species , according to the latest studies. that live in fresh water and soil moist in all continents except Antarctica . Some plants of the genus are cultivated for their flowers to which they are frequently compared with those of Antirrhinum and the orchids .

All are carnivorous and capture small organisms by means of suction traps bladders. Terrestrial species in general have tiny traps (between 0.2 and 1.2 mm), 2 and feed on tiny prey such as protozoa and rotifers floating in waterlogged soils. However, in aquatic species such as U. vulgaris , traps larger than 5 mm in diameter and can feed on larger prey such as Daphnia , nematodes , larvae of mosquitoes and tadpoles . Despite its small size, the traps are extremely complex.

They are highly specialized plants and vegetative organs are not clearly separated into root , leaf and stem as in most other angiosperms . 3 His traps are considered among the most complex structures of the plant kingdom.

Most species lie beneath the substrate surface. Terrestrial species sometimes produce a few leaves are usually photosynthetic prostrate on the ground, but in all species only the flowering stems rise above the substrate and are conspicuous. This means that terrestrial species usually are visible only when they bloom, while waterfowl are visible under the water.

Many species form long stalks, sometimes branched, or stolons beneath the surface of the substrate, if submerged, or hanging in the canopy of rainforest. Those runners are added traps and photosynthetic leaves, which in terrestrial species, are above the ground.

The generic name Utricularia is derived from Latin utriculus , bottle of wine or bottle of leather . The aquatic members of the genus have larger bladders and obvious, which initially served to the waterline to evolve to capture elements carnivorous.

Flowers are the only part of the plant defined. Usually at the bottom of vertical stems, fines, vary from few millimeters to 6 cm or more and have two petals with asymmetrical lips, the lower usually larger than the top. They can be of various colors, similar in structure to the flowers of a genus of carnivorous relatives: Pinguicula .

The flowers of aquatic species such as U. vulgaris are often compared to the tiny yellow flowers of Antirrhinum , and Australian species U. dichotoma may look like a violet . Species epiphytes in South America , however, are considered the most beautiful, for its large flowers, being comparable to the orchids .

Some species can produce flowers closed, self-pollinating (cleistogamous), but the same plant or species produces flowers open, pollinated by insects, at the same time or at different times of the year, and no obvious pattern. Sometimes, individual plants have both types of flower at the same time: aquatic species such as U. dimorphantha and U. geminiscapa , for example, usually have open flowers above the water and one or more closed flowers, pollinated underwater (1) . The seeds are numerous and very small, from 0.2 to 1 mm .

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