Published on *Ciencia Puerto Rico* (https://www.cienciapr.org)

Science is all around you: Carnivorous plants in P.R. [1]

Submitted by Greetchen Díaz-Muñoz [2] on 29 October 2013 - 7:46pm

 [2]



Science is all around you: Carnivorous Plants. Photo: José Almodóvar

---

Greetchen "José, when we think about carnivorous plants sometimes we believe that it refers only to the ones that catch flies like those in the Mario Bros games, but there are other types too."

José: "That's right, there are also carnivorous plants (or insectivorous) that live in the water" In this photo we are showing an aquatic and insectivorous plant of the genus *Utricularia*."



Utricle of the carnivorous plant of the genus *Utricularia*. The plant uses the trichomes to attract the prey. Photo: José Almodóvar

Greetchen: "Tell us more about these aquatic plants."

José: "The photo shows an utricle or the sac that traps small animals and protozoa. The utricle which measures about a millimeter, has some trichomes or hairs that looks like algae and attract the prey. The opening and closing mechanism of the bag is considered to be the fastest capture mechanism among carnivorous plants. "

Greetchen: "Very interesting, and where are these insectivorous plants commonly found?"

José: "The genus *Utricularia* is ubiquitous and can be found all around the world. In Puerto Rico there are five reported species, all of which are considered native. Official reports indicate that there are species in the Yunque Forest and others in the area of Vega Baja and Manati, in the Tortuguero Lagoon. "

Greetchen: "And do you think there are more species to be discovered here on the island?"

José: "It is very likely that there are *Utricularia* in other parts of the island. Some time ago and to my surprise, a professor called me because he thought he found an Utricularia in a small lagoon in Mayagüez, and indeed, when we visited the lagoon there it was! "

Greetchen: "And how could they have gotten there?"

José: "These plants are seasonal and decrease in numbers during the dry stages. Then, they becomes evident during the rainy months. So it's very likely that they have been dispersed by birds that generally visit the wetlands. "

If you enjoyed this image give "like" and share it with everyone. You can follow Greetchen (@GreetDiaz) and José (@titovolvky) on Twitter. Want to know more? Here we include other related resources:

Utricularia- Sociedad Internacional de plantas carnívoras [3]

Utricularia trapping its prey- Video [4]

Tags:

- ciencia a tu alrededor [5]
- planta carnívora [6]
- Puerto Rico [7]
- carnivorous plants [8]

Copyright © 2006-Present CienciaPR and CAPRI, except where otherwise indicated, all rights reserved
Privacy | Terms | Community Norms | About CienciaPR | Contact Us

---

Source URL:https://www.cienciapr.org/en/blogs/ciencia-tu-alrededor/science-all-around-you-carnivorous-plants-pr?language=es

Links
[1] https://www.cienciapr.org/en/blogs/ciencia-tu-alrededor/science-all-around-you-carnivorous-plants-pr?language=es [2] https://www.cienciapr.org/en/user/greetchen-if-then?language=es [3] http://www.carnivorousplants.org/cp/Genera/Utricularia.php [4] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb_SLZFsMyQ [5] https://www.cienciapr.org/en/tags/ciencia-tu-alrededor?language=es [6] https://www.cienciapr.org/en/tags/planta-carnivora?language=es [7] https://www.cienciapr.org/en/tags/puerto-rico?language=es [8] https://www.cienciapr.org/en/tags/carnivorous-plants?language=es