

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210814-carnivorous-plants.html>

Botanists have discovered a new, carnivorous plant. It is the western false asphodel. This is a white flower that is relatively common along the coastline of the Pacific Northwest in the USA and on Canada's western coast. It was actually first discovered in 1879, but botanists back then did not realise the innocuous-looking flower was actually a meat eater. Researchers have recently determined that sticky, tiny hairs along the bloom's stem produce a digestive enzyme that other carnivorous plants use to ensnare and eat insects. Professor Sean Graham, a botanist with the University of British Columbia, told the NPR news agency: "We had no idea it was carnivorous."

There are fewer than 1,000 carnivorous plant species known to scientists. The western false asphodel is the first to be discovered in 20 years. Professor Graham believes there may be more carnivores among our common flora. He said: "I suspect that there might be more carnivorous plants out there than we think." He believes many people will be surprised that the familiar asphodel is actually a carnivore. Co-researcher Dr Qianshi Lin said: "What's particularly unique about this carnivorous plant is that it traps insects near its insect-pollinated flowers." He added: "This seems like a conflict between carnivory and pollination because you don't want to kill the insects that are helping you reproduce."

Sources: <https://www.nsnews.com/amp/local-news/west-coast-flower-a-meat-eater-ubc-study-finds-4210585>
<https://thehill.com/changing-america/sustainability/environment/567371-scientists-discover-common-flower-is-carnivorous>
<https://nerdist.com/article/new-carnivorous-plant-species-alaska-triantha-occidentalis/>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. carnivorous | a. A substance produced by a living organism which acts as a catalyst to bring about a specific biochemical reaction. |
| 2. relatively | b. Of a plant able to trap and digest small animals, especially insects; of an animal feeding on other animals. |
| 3. common | c. A flower, especially one cultivated for its beauty. |
| 4. innocuous | d. In relation, comparison, or proportion to something else. |
| 5. bloom | e. Not harmful or offensive. |
| 6. stem | f. Found or living in relatively large numbers; not rare. |
| 7. enzyme | g. The thin body of a plant from which leaves grow. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. species | h. A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding. |
| 9. flora | i. Create or make again. |
| 10. familiar | j. The plants of a particular region, habitat, or geological period. |
| 11. unique | k. An incompatibility between two or more opinions, principles, or interests. |
| 12. pollinated | l. Well known from long or close association. |
| 13. conflict | m. Being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. |
| 14. reproduce | n. Received pollen to allow fertilization. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210814-carnivorous-plants.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The newly-discovered carnivorous plant is black and dark red in colour. **T / F**
2. The plant was originally discovered in the 19th century. **T / F**
3. The plant has sticky hairs on its stem which trap insects. **T / F**
4. A professor from Colombia did research on the plant. **T / F**
5. The last time a carnivorous plant was discovered was 20 years ago. **T / F**
6. The professor doubted more carnivorous plants would be found. **T / F**
7. The researcher said the new discovery would not really surprise people. **T / F**
8. A researcher said the plant is unique because it traps insects. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. discovered | a. trap |
| 2. common | b. notice |
| 3. realise | c. procreate |
| 4. determined | d. widespread |
| 5. ensnare | e. distinctive |
| 6. suspect | f. clash |
| 7. familiar | g. unearthed |
| 8. unique | h. well known |
| 9. conflict | i. found out |
| 10. reproduce | j. guess |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. relatively common along | a. flora |
| 2. It was actually first discovered | b. actually a meat eater |
| 3. the innocuous-looking flower was | c. unique about this |
| 4. sticky, tiny hairs along the | d. known to scientists |
| 5. ensnare and | e. be surprised |
| 6. 1,000 carnivorous plant species | f. the coastline |
| 7. among our common | g. bloom's stem |
| 8. He believes many people will | h. you reproduce |
| 9. What's particularly | i. in 1879 |
| 10. insects that are helping | j. eat insects |

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2108/210814-carnivorous-plants.html>

- 1) What colour is the new flower?
 - a) violet
 - b) black
 - c) white
 - d) lilac
- 2) Where can the flower be found?
 - a) the Pacific Northwest
 - b) all over the US
 - c) northern Canada
 - d) in gardens
- 3) When was the flower initially discovered?
 - a) 1978
 - b) 1879
 - c) 1789
 - d) 1987
- 4) How do tiny hairs on the plant's stem ensnare insects?
 - a) they are magnetic
 - b) they are electrified
 - c) they are poisonous
 - d) they are sticky
- 5) What university does Professor Sean Graham work for?
 - a) the University of Colombia
 - b) the University of British Columbia
 - c) the University of Columbia
 - d) the University of Colombo
- 6) When was the last carnivorous flower discovered?
 - a) 200 years ago
 - b) 20 years ago
 - c) 12 years ago
 - d) 22 years ago
- 7) Where did Prof. Graham think there might be more carnivorous plants?
 - a) in gardens
 - b) in the jungle
 - c) in science fiction
 - d) out there
- 8) How did Professor Graham think people would feel?
 - a) amazed
 - b) surprised
 - c) afraid
 - d) interested
- 9) What did a researcher say was unique about the plant?
 - a) its colour
 - b) it traps insects near its flowers
 - c) its scent
 - d) its stickiness
- 10) What did the researcher say it seemed like pollination conflicted with?
 - a) carnivory
 - b) bees
 - c) pollen
 - d) nature

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'plant'?
3. What do you know about carnivorous plants?
4. What do you think of carnivorous plants?
5. What would life be like if there were human-eating plants?
6. What are your favourite plants?
7. What is the job of a botanist like?
8. How do carnivorous plants catch and eat their prey?
9. What three adjectives best describe this story?
10. What are the most interesting things about flowers?

Common flower discovered to be meat eating – 14th August, 2021
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CARNIVOROUS PLANTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'meat'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the world's most useful plants?
15. Why do people like plants in their homes?
16. Why do people give flowers?
17. Is a carnivorous plant a good gift?
18. What do you know about the process of plant pollination?
19. What do you think of the plants in or around your house?
20. What questions would you like to ask the botanists?