

MENU OF CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

Summary

Carnivory is a interesting example of plant adaptation to the environment deprived in mineral nutrients, especially nitrogen. Carnivorous plants derive some or most of their nutrients from trapping and consuming animals (mainly insects), instead of taking them from the soil. The results of experiments started in the past (even more than 100 years ago) on *menu* of carnivorous plants demonstrated that not only nitrogen but also phosphorous or carbon may be absorbed from trapped victims. Carnivorous plants are subdivided into those with passive traps and those with active traps. For some of these traps the actual method of insect decomposition involves

digestive enzymes produced by the plant and bacterial decay within the trap. The composition of digestive fluid is still controversial, although activities of typical enzymes that can hydrolyze carbohydrates, nucleic acids, proteins and even lipids were found in the solution. Depending on the manner of nutrition e.g. a variety of victims, the group of carnivorous plants may be divided into carnivorous *sensu stricto*, pseudocarnivores and detritivores/coprophages. The aim of this review was to clarify current knowledge on mineral nutrition of carnivorous plants in relation to their favor diet.