

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #74



Pitcher Plant

CARNIVOROUS PLANT

HABITAT

Grows in soil without many nutrients and with a lot of acid, such as in bogs.

BOG LIFE

A bog is a unique and special ecosystem. Its soil is very acidic, so only certain plants and creatures can call it home. The bog grows out over a body of water, such as a lake. The bog floor squishes beneath your feet, and can be very dangerous (explore with care and adults!) Also be careful to walk on boards or a path, as to not harm a delicate ecosystem.



WHAT IS THE STRANGEST PLACE YOU HAVE EXPLORED?

This week, while visiting Wisconsin, I enjoyed a nature class exploring a bog. A bog is very wet; in fact, it's an ecosystem that grows over the water! It is very different from where I live in Colorado, which is very dry.

The naturalist guiding the class showed me many special plants that can only grow in areas like bogs, including the pitcher plant. Pitcher plants eat insects! They are known as carnivorous plants. Another carnivorous plant you might be familiar with is the Venus fly trap.

A pitcher plant has a special leaf that looks like a pitcher you might pour lemonade out of. But the pitcher plant's pitcher does not have lemonade. Instead, it has a special liquid with something called enzymes. When an insect flies or falls into the pitcher, it becomes stuck. The enzymes in the liquid break down the insect, allowing the plant to utilize all its nutrients.

However, the pitcher plant should not eat up the insect that helps spread its pollen (allowing more pitcher plants to grow). So it grows a very tall flower (see the small picture to the left) so that while insects collect its nectar and pollen, they are not caught in the deadly pitcher below.

Have you ever felt stuck? Perhaps you are stuck in a bad habit, an unhealthy thought pattern, or a sinful behavior? In Psalm 40, we read about being rescued from a pit: "He (God) lifted me out of the pit of destruction, out of the sticky mud. He stood me on a rock and made my feet steady."

You never need to live like a hopeless insect stuck in a pitcher plant. Instead, you can live in freedom through Christ, knowing He rescued you from sin's penalty and can pull you out of any pit.