

Carnivorous Plants Use Pitchers of Slimy Saliva to Catch Their Prey

Flies quickly became completely coated in the fluid and unable to move even when diluted more than 90% with water. Physical measurements on the fluid showed that this was because this complex fluid generates viscoelastic filaments with high retentive forces that give no chance of escape to any insect that has fallen into it and that is struggling in it. That the viscoelastic properties of the fluid remain strong even when highly diluted is of great adaptive significance for these tropical plants which are often subjected to heavy rainfalls.

For insects, this fluid acts like quicksand: the quicker they move, the more trapped they become. Its constituency is closely akin to mucus or saliva, which, in some reptiles and amphibians, serves a very similar purpose. The exact makeup of this fluid, apparently unique in the plant kingdom, remains to be determined; however, it may point the way to novel, environmentally friendly approaches to pest control.

Citation: Gaume L, Forterre Y (2007) A Viscoelastic Deadly Fluid in Carnivorous Pitcher Plants. PLoS ONE 2(11): e1185. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.

At the same time blank test.

2, the determination of mercury: directly on the machine measured series of standards 0,1,2,4,8,10 ng / ml, respectively.

3, the determination of arsenic: from the remaining supernatant 25 ml in 50 ml tube than color, by adding 1 ml concentrated HCl, 10% thiourea + ascorbic acid (1 +1) 5 ml, constant volume. At Half an hour later, the machine measured series of standards 0,10,20,40,80,100 ng / ml, respectively.

10% thiourea + ascorbic acid: that 10 g thiourea in small beaker, carefully add water heating solution, together with 5 g of ascorbic acid, dissolved, constant volume 100 ml.n

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About the Author

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