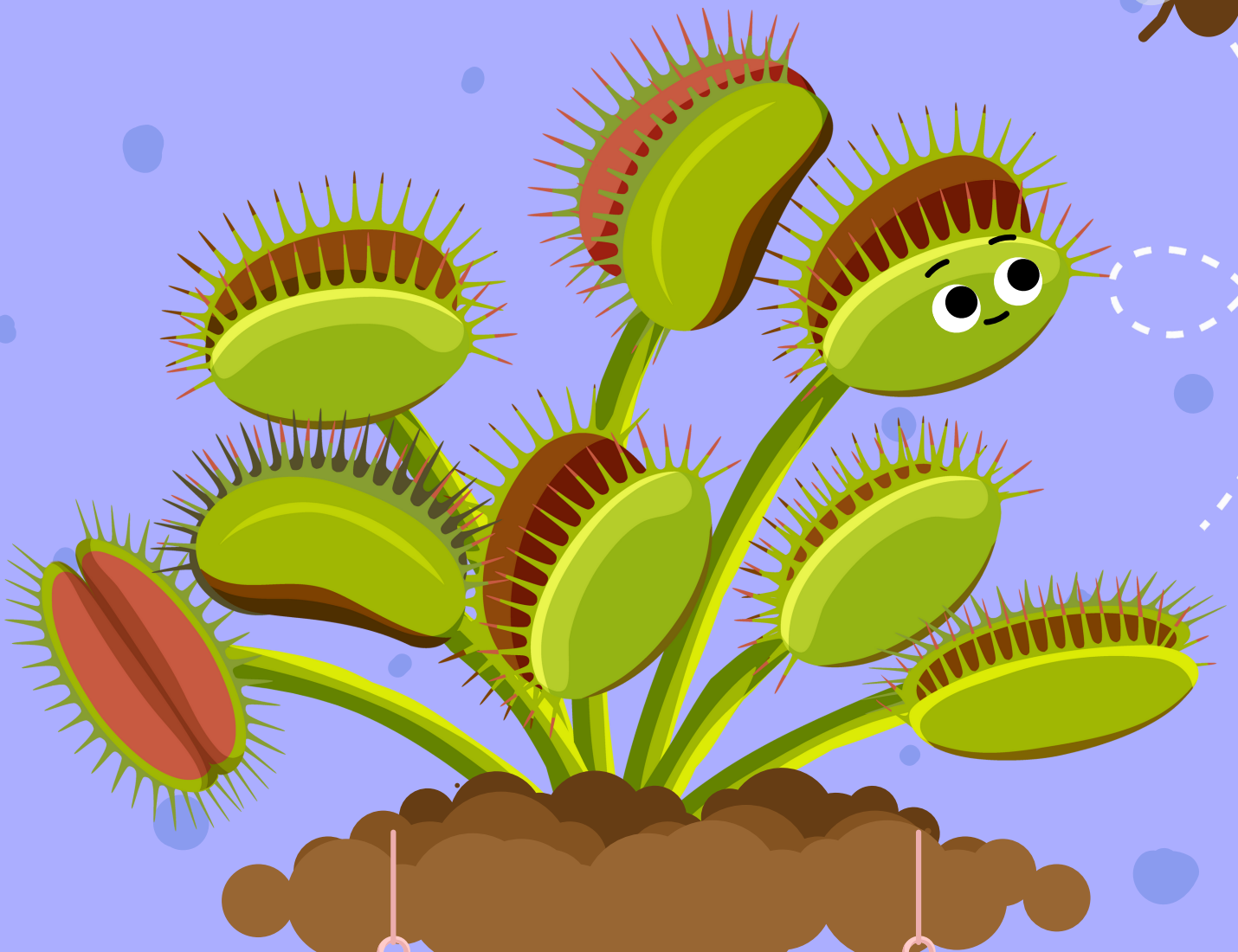
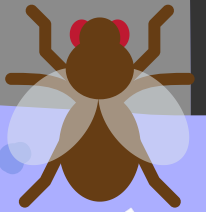
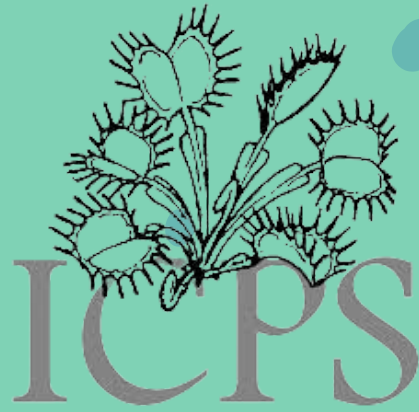


# How to grow a venus flytrap



***Dionaea muscipula***



**Kenny Coogan**  
**Education Director and Community Relations**  
**International Carnivorous Plant Society**  
**Tampa, Florida, USA**

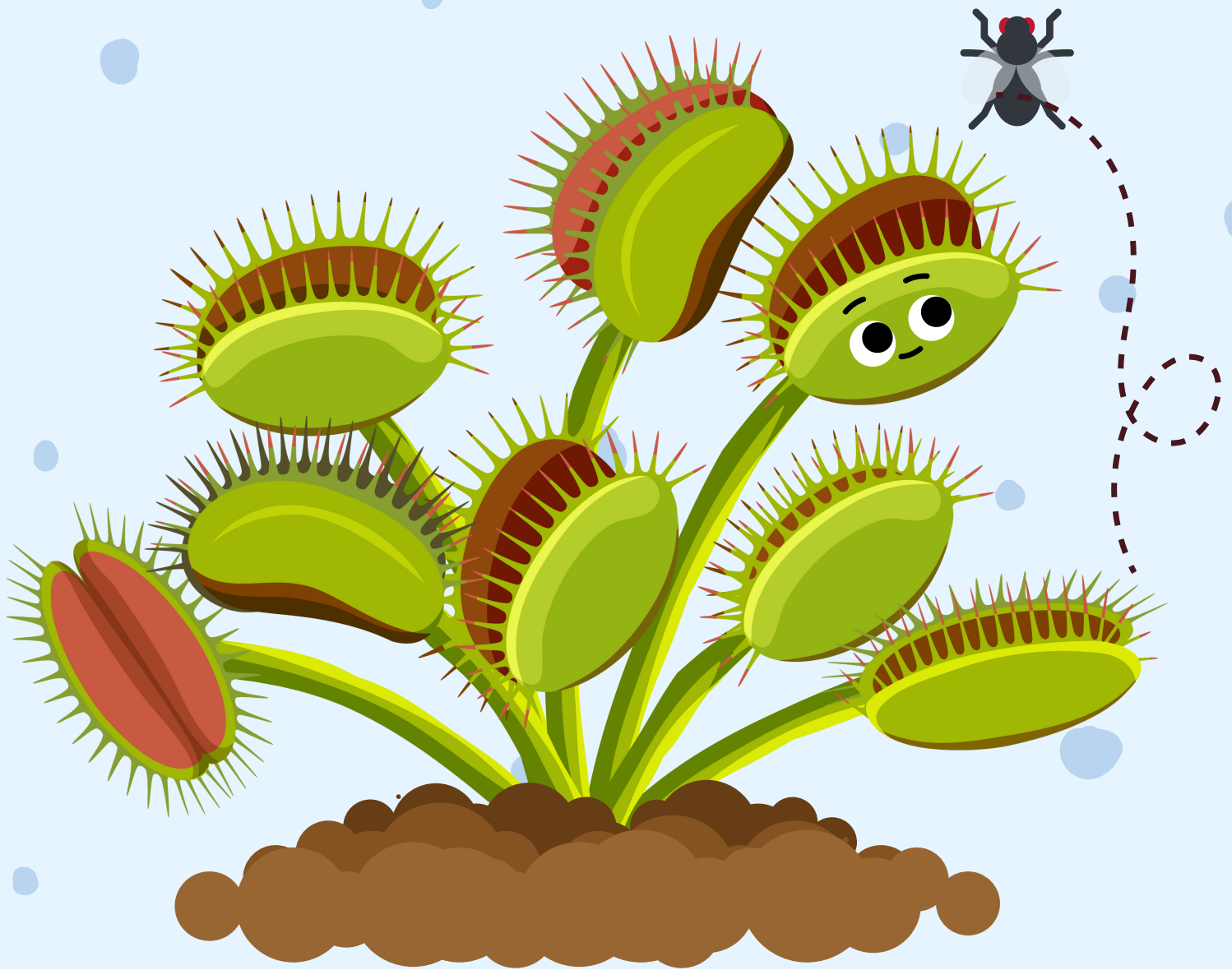


**Marcela Bianchessi da Cunha Santino**  
**Laboratory of Bioassays and Mathematical Modeling**  
**Hydrobiology Department**  
**Universidade Federal de São Carlos**  
**São Carlos, SP, Brazil**

**2023**



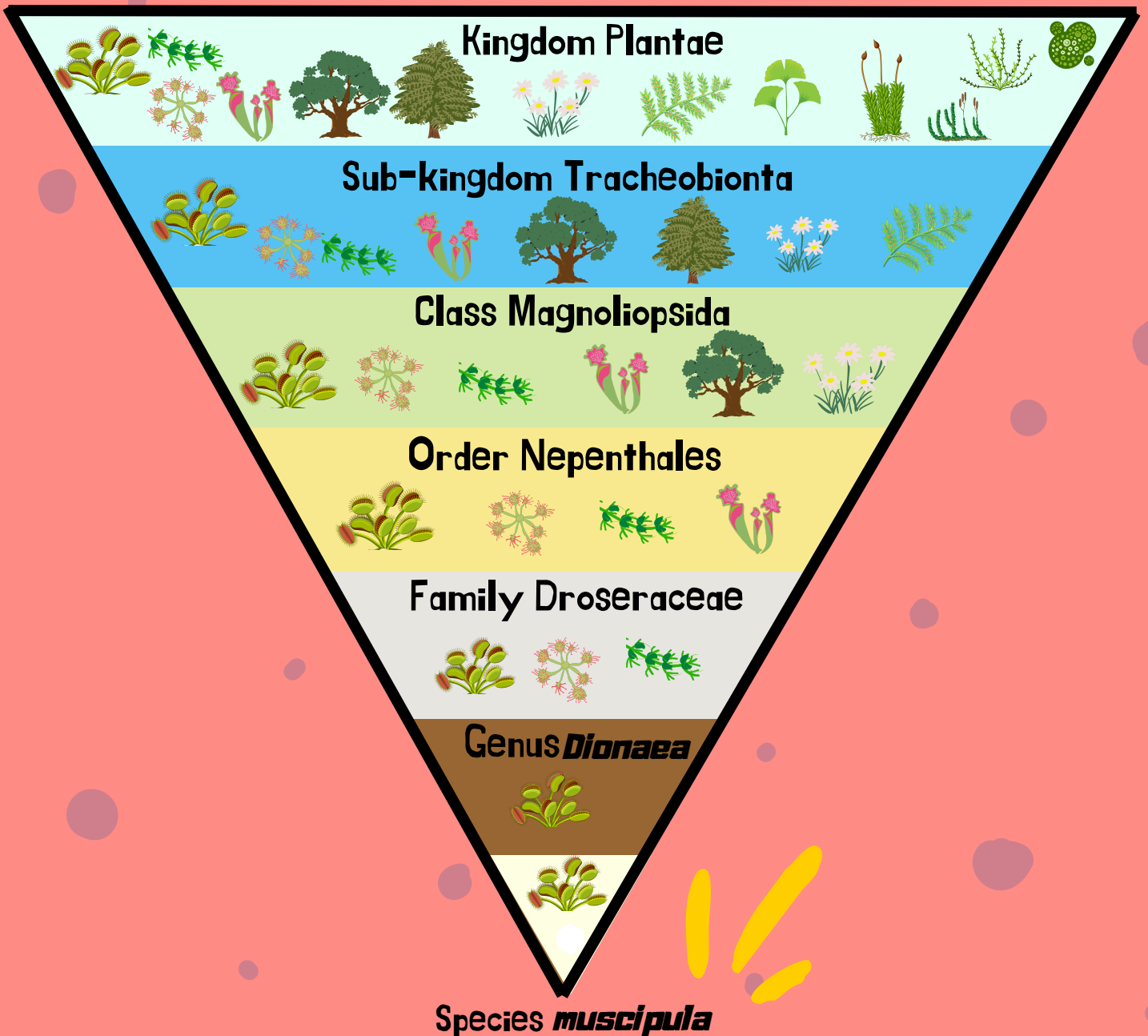
**The Venus flytrap is  
a fascinating  
carnivorous plant!**

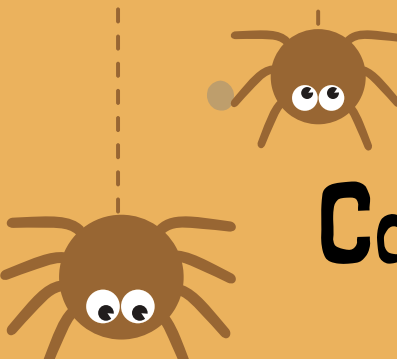


**The Venus flytrap is native to a small area located within the United States.**

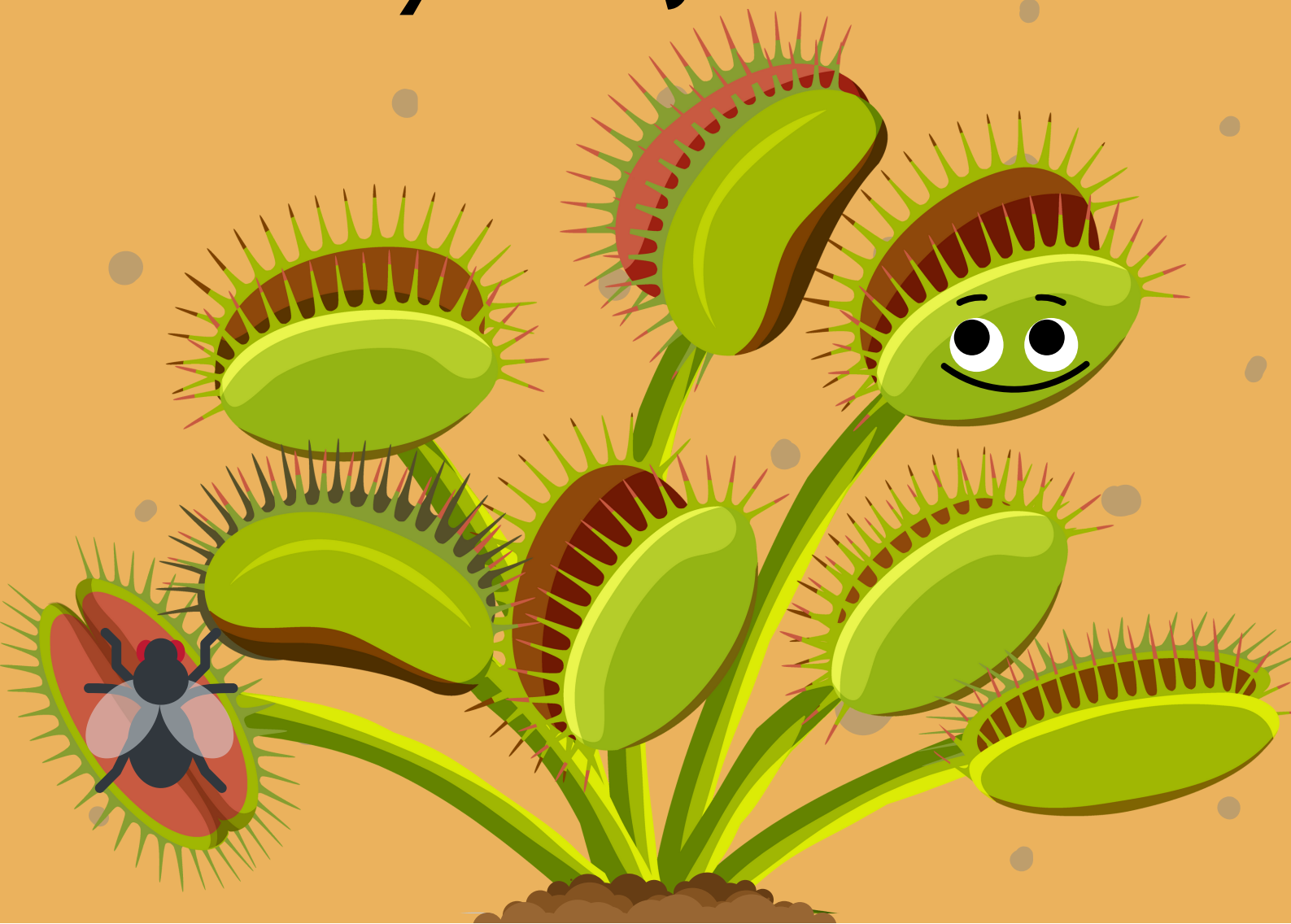


# SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION

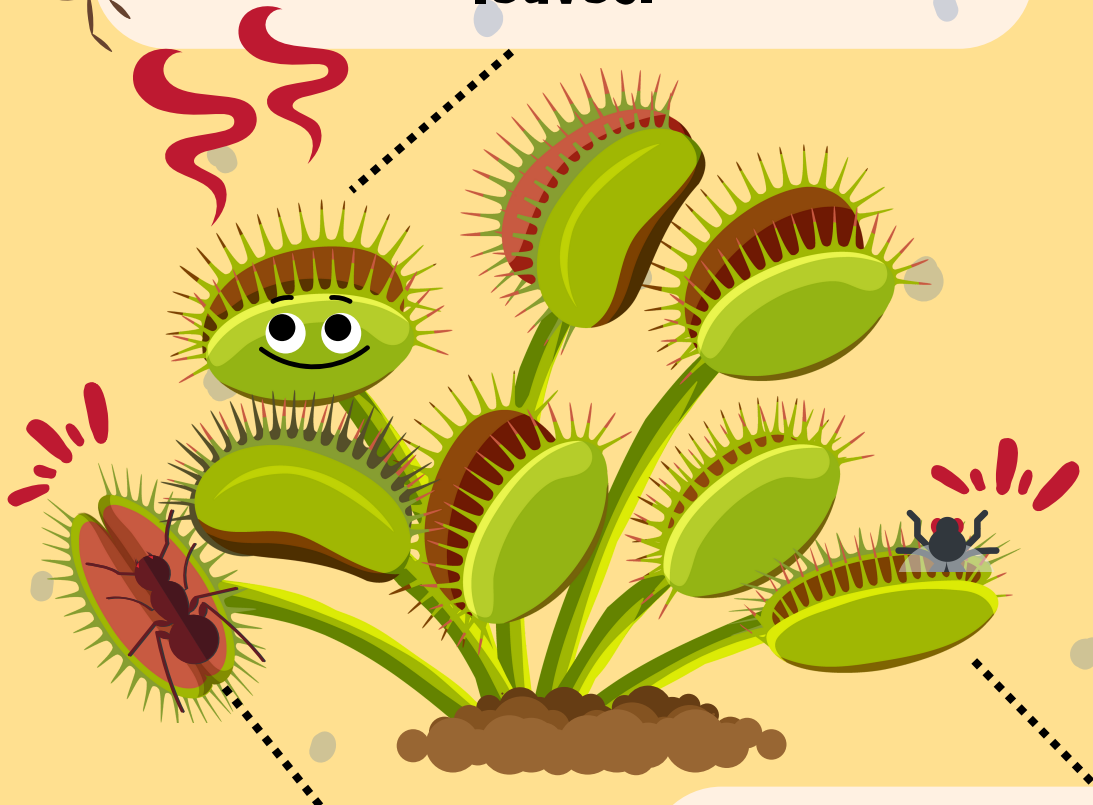




**Carnivorous plants have many adaptations for luring and trapping animals. They get their nutrients from digesting their prey with enzymes - just like us! .**

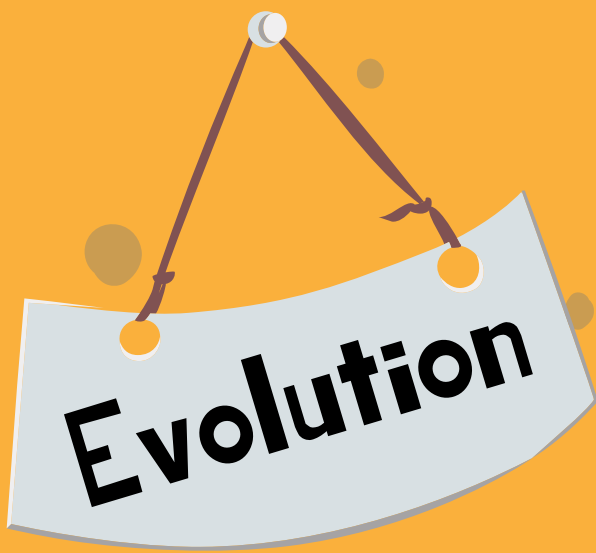


**The prey is attracted to the trap by color, scent, and nectar. The nectar is produced on its trap-shaped leaves.**

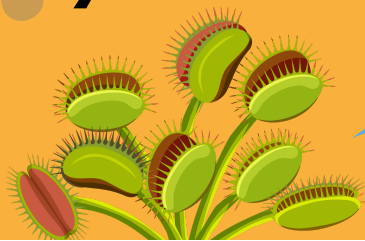
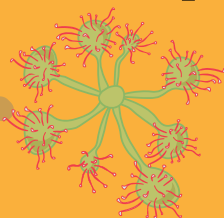


**When prey touch trigger hairs multiple times on the leaf, the hairs cause an electrical signal to move water within the lobes. With more water on the outside of the lobe, the trap snaps shut!**

**The more the animal struggles the tighter the seal. Digestive juices are released, dissolving the prey in 4-10 days, and the plant absorbs the nutrients.**



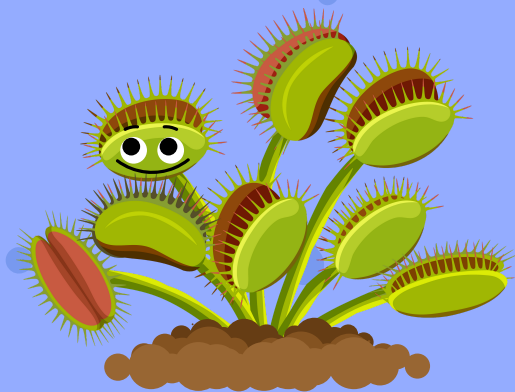
**The ability to trap and digest animals has evolved many times and in many places. By comparing genomes (an organism's complete set of genetic instructions) scientists have been able to learn that Venus flytraps closest relatives are Drosera (sundews) and Aldrovanda (an aquatic waterwheel that catches prey with a snap trap).**



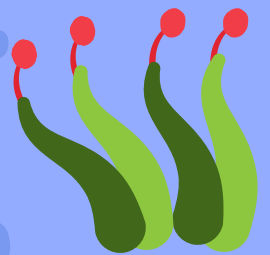




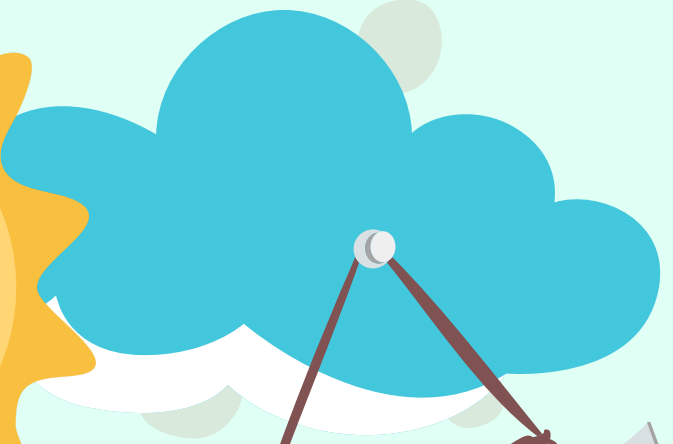
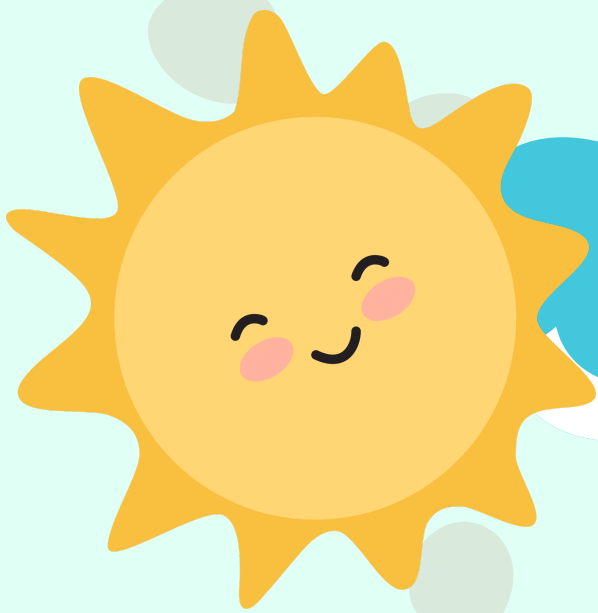
**It is hypothesized that plants that were able to catch and keep large insects with sticky leaves had an advantage.**



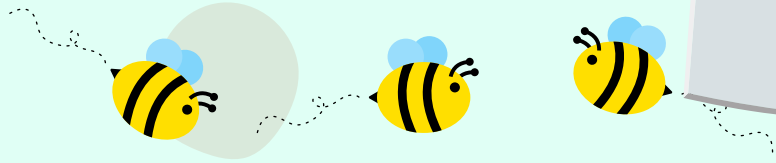
**This allowed them to acquire nutrients and pass on their traits to their offspring.**



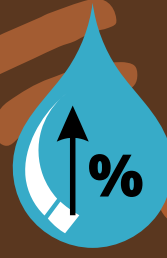
**Over a long period of time long snap-tentacles turned into the snap-traps we are familiar with today.**



**Habitat**



**Venus flytraps are found in acidic soils with low nutrients. They are found in wet savannahs which keep their roots moist for long periods of time.**



# What you need to know about a Venus flytrap



**LIGHT PROVISION:** Venus flytraps grow best in full sun if you live in an area that is humid or cool in the summer. If where you live is hot and dry, full morning sun and then part shade is appreciated.

**SOIL:** 1:1 mixture of peat moss and perlite or 100% long fiber sphagnum is ideal.



**WATERING:** Rainwater, distilled or reverse osmosis water is preferred (some local water may be acceptable but you should test it first).



**TEMPERATURE:** From 25° - 95° F (-4° - 35° C).

**GROWING PLACE:** Outside or indoors with artificial light a sunny windowsill.

**DORMANCY:** Will go through dormancy if they experience winter temperatures below 10° C.

# How to plant and grow a Venus flytrap

You will need the following:

A 3.5 inch wide x 5 inch deep pot or larger



Potting substrate



Watering can



**Step 1: Mix the potting substrate with water until damp.**



**Step 2: Firmly pat it down into the pot and create a small hole in the center.**



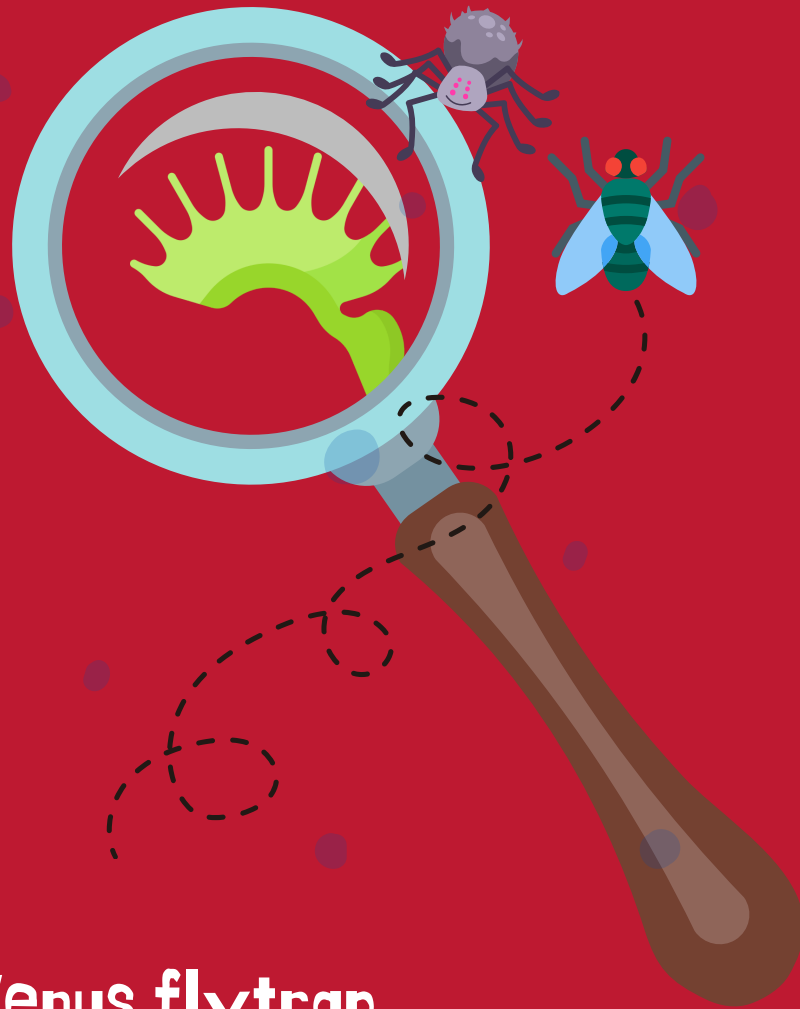
**Step 3: Place the plant in the potting mix, sticking the thin black roots into the hole. Pat the soil into place around the roots.**



**Step 4: Place the pot which has drainage in a tray or shallow dish. Keep the plant damp to wet by filling the tray with 1/8 to 1/4 inch of water. Do not let it dry out.**



# Watch your Venus flytrap daily and think!



1. Describe a Venus flytrap.
2. Describe the characteristics of the soil where the Venus flytrap is found.
3. How does Venus flytrap trap its prey?
4. How long does the Venus flytrap digest its prey?



*Dionaea muscipula*  
is classified as a vulnerable  
species by the International  
Union for Conservation of Nature  
(IUCN).



< VULNERABLE >

VU

***Dionaea muscipula*** has become increasingly threatened by habitat loss, pollution, and climate change.



**Conservation initiatives such as restoring the natural habitats of Venus flytrap must be encouraged to prevent this carnivorous plant from becoming extinct!**



ICPS

