

外研社·DK 英汉对照百科读物

**ELEMENTARY B** 初级 B

# 危险的植物

## DANGEROUS PLANTS

Sarah Woolard (英) 著



外语教学与研究出版社

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戴 群 译

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# The World of Plants

Plants are everywhere. You can find them growing all over the world. This is a good thing for us, because if we didn't have plants, we would not survive. There would be no life on earth as we know it. Why are plants so important? There are many reasons, but one of their most important jobs is to give food. Plants provide food for animals and people.

But not all plants provide food. Some of them are dangerous to eat. These plants have developed special ways to stop animals or people eating them. One of these ways is to make poison (something that makes you ill or kills you if you eat it) which often tastes horrible and keeps the animals away.

## 植物世界

植物无处不在。你能发现它们生长在世界上每个角落。这对于我们来说是一件好事，因为如果没有植物，我们将无法生存。众所周知，没有植物就没有生命。植物为什么如此重要呢？原因有很多，但它们最重要的工作之一就是提供食物，为动物和人类提供食物。

但并不是所有的植物都可供食用。有些植物很危险，不能食用。它们拥有防止自己被动物或人类食用的各种奇特方法。其中一种就是分泌毒汁（一种可以使人不适或致食用者于死地的东西）。这种毒汁往往味道极难吃，使动物们避之惟恐不及。



*You won't see any flies on this plant – it eats them all! See how the Venus flytrap catches insects on pages 4–5.*

你在这种植物的周围不会看到苍蝇——它已经把它们吃光了！你在第4页到第5页会看到维纳斯捕蝇草是如何抓住昆虫的。



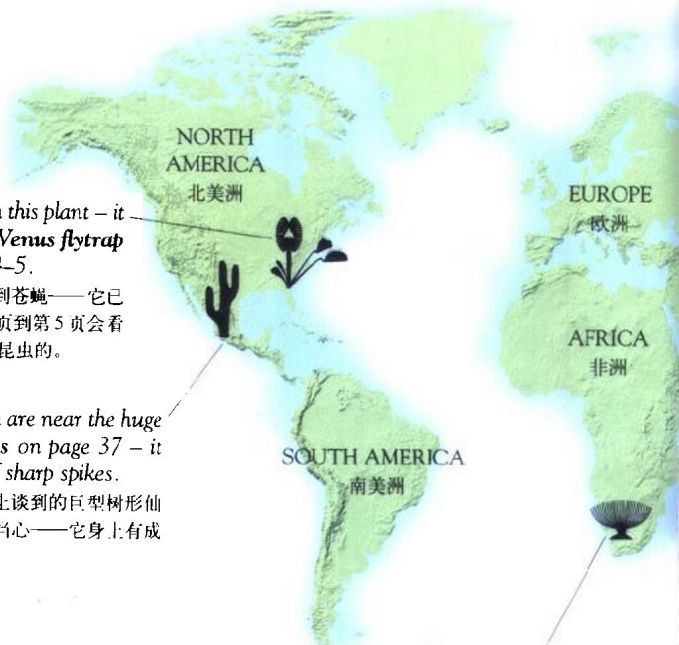
*Be careful if you are near the huge Saguaro cactus on page 37 – it has thousands of sharp spikes.*

当你靠近第37页上谈到的巨型树形仙人掌时，你一定要当心——它身上有成千上万的尖刺。



*Why is this tree called the candelabra tree? Find out on page 40.*

为什么这种树叫烛台树？你在第40页上会找到答案。



Another way to keep animals away is to grow spikes. The spikes are like sharp needles, and hurt any animal that comes near. Some plants have stings (like a wasp). When you touch them, your skin turns red and itches or gets hot. Animals soon learn not to go near these kinds of plants. But some plants are even better at stopping animals. Usually the animals eat the plants, but these plants catch the animals and eat THEM!

You can find these strange (and sometimes dangerous) plants in every country in the world – plants that can sting, scratch, and bite animals and people. Do you know of any strange or dangerous plants in your country? The map below shows where some of them grow around the world – and where you can read more about them in this book.

植物的另一种御敌方式就是长满尖刺。这些尖刺就像锋利的钢针一样，能够刺伤敢来靠近的动物。还有一些植物长有能蜇人的刺毛（就像黄蜂的刺一样）。如果你碰到它，你的皮肤就会发红、发痒或者变得很热。动物们很快就会学会远离这些植物。然而，还有一些植物在防御动物方面更有奇招。通常都是动物吃植物，而这些植物能够抓住动物，然后把它们吃掉！

你在世界各地都能发现这些能够刺伤、抓伤甚至咬伤动物和人的奇特（有时是危险的）植物。你知道在你的国家有什么危险的植物吗？下面这张地图表明它们生长在哪里——以及在这本书的什么地方你可以了解到更多关于它们的知识。

ASIA  
亚洲

OCEANIA  
大洋洲



What happens if you fall asleep under the deadly **upas tree**? Find out on page 32.

如果你在一棵有毒的见血封喉树下酣然入梦会发生什么呢？请去看看第32页。



Do you think only wasps can sting? Then read about the **stinger tree** on page 26.

你认为只有黄蜂会蜇人吗？读读第26页上的蜇人树吧。



Learn about the secrets of the beautiful – and deadly – **prayer bean** on page 30.

请在第30页了解有关美丽而致命的祈祷豆的秘密。



## Greedy Green Eaters

At the side of the water, a beautiful, blue damselfly is moving around. It flies over the flowers and grasses, and then sees an interesting plant with strange leaves. The damselfly hovers (*flies without moving*) above the plant and looks more closely, then it lands on the leaves. It is a big mistake. SNAP! The leaves close together and catch the damselfly. The sides of the leaves are like a comb, and they lock together very tightly. The fly is trapped and can't move. Soon it will be dead.

The name of the plant is the Venus flytrap, and it is one example of a carnivorous plant – in other words a plant that eats meat. These meat-eating plants are quite unusual, and are a very interesting group to study.

### 贪婪的绿色捕食者

在宁静的河边，一只美丽的蓝色豆娘正在悠闲地飞来飞去。它从花朵和草叶上飞过，接着它发现了一株有着奇特叶子的有趣植物。豆娘在它的上空盘旋，更仔细地观看，然后落在了那奇特的叶子上。它犯了一个大错误。啪！叶片合了起来，抓住了豆娘。这种植物的叶边像梳子齿一样紧紧地扣在一起。豆娘被困在里面，动弹不得。很快它就丧命了。

这种植物就叫维纳斯捕蝇草，它是食肉类植物中的一种——换句话说就是吃肉的植物。这类食肉植物很不平常，并且非常值得研究。



There are about 250,000 different kinds of plants in the world, but only a small number of these (about 400) are carnivorous, like the Venus flytrap in the picture here. But why did plants start eating meat? Many animals are carnivorous ... surely plants only eat meat in horror movies!

Carnivorous plants grow in wet areas, where the ground is very soft – these areas are called bogs, marshes, or swamps. The ground in these places is not very good for plants to grow. There aren't enough minerals in the ground to provide food for the plants. So the plants get extra minerals from insects – and they have learnt how to catch them and eat them to survive. They have learnt how to be hunters.

It is possible for these carnivorous plants to live without eating insects, but the extra minerals help them to grow better and stronger.

世界上大约有25万种不同的植物，但像图中的维纳斯捕蝇草这样的食肉类植物只占很小一部分（大约有400种）。但为什么植物会开始吃肉呢？很多动物都是食肉动物，而植物无疑只在恐怖电影中才吃肉！

食肉类植物一般生长在潮湿地区，那里土地非常柔软——这些地区被称作泥塘、湿地或沼泽。这种地方的土壤并不适合植物生长，因为土壤中没有足够的矿物质为植物提供养料。于是植物为了生存就学会了如何抓住并吃掉昆虫来得到额外的矿物质。它们学会了如何作一个猎食者。

不吃昆虫这些食肉类植物也可以生存，但是额外的矿物质会帮助它们长得更加茁壮。



*The Venus flytrap grows on the marshes in North and South Carolina in the USA.*

维纳斯捕蝇草生长在美国北卡罗来纳州和南卡罗来纳州的湿地。

When you read about a plant like this eating an insect, it all looks very simple. But it is not very easy for a plant to catch an insect. The Venus flytrap can't move around, and it has no eyes to see the flies above or beside it. It can't hear the noise of insects coming near. So how does it catch something in its leaves – especially something that can move fast, like a fly?

The plant doesn't have to move, it just waits for the meal to come to it. Like all traps, the Venus flytrap uses a special bait. This means it has something that will attract or invite the insects to come near. The Venus flytrap has a very sweet, sugary liquid on its leaves. The insects can smell this, and they think it is delicious – this is the bait. The sweet liquid smells like a tasty meal, so the insects fly nearer and land on the leaves. Of course, they are right – it is a tasty meal, but the delicious meal is them!

当你在书上读到这种植物吃昆虫时，过程看上去全都非常简单。可对于植物来讲要抓住一只昆虫可不那么容易。维纳斯捕蝇草不能够移动；它没有眼睛，不能够看到在它上方和旁边的苍蝇；它也不能听到昆虫悄悄靠近的声音。那么它是怎么用叶片捉住东西——特别是那些像苍蝇一样动作敏捷的昆虫的呢？

它不需要移动，它只要静静地等着食物送上门来。像所有的陷阱一样，维纳斯捕蝇草利用它的特殊诱饵。这意思是说它产生某种能够吸引或招引昆虫靠近的物质。它的叶子上会分泌出一种甜甜的、像糖汁一样的液体。昆虫会闻到那甜味，认为它很可口——而这恰恰就是诱饵。甜甜的液体闻起来像一餐美味，于是昆虫飞近并落在叶子上。当然，这的确是一顿美味大餐，但盘中的美食正是它们！



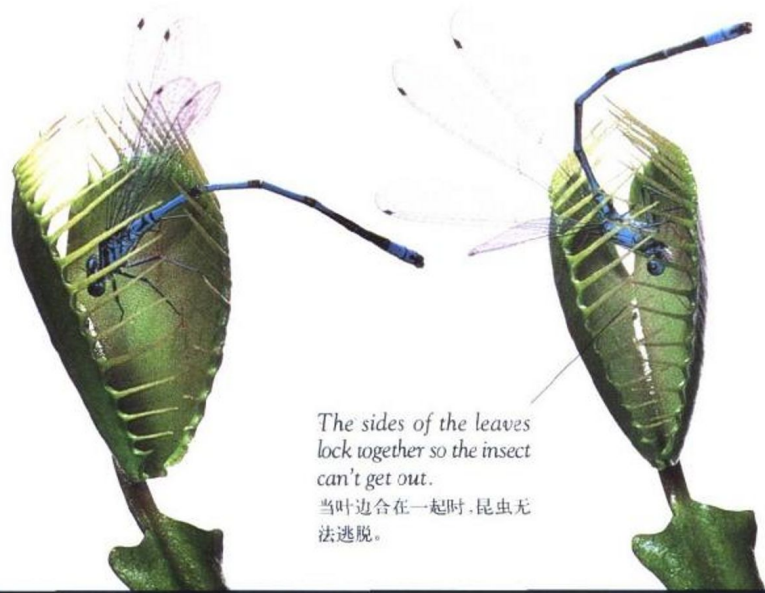


The plant has to work very fast to catch the insect, so when the insect lands on the leaves, the trap starts to work immediately. There are three very small hairs on each leaf, and these are like tiny triggers. As soon as the insect touches these hairs, the trap closes, like the teeth in a mouth. And this happens very quickly. In less than a second, the sides of the leaves close, and the insect can't get out. This is enough to trap a large insect like the damselfly. Now the Venus flytrap has caught its dinner – but it takes a long time to eat it.

The leaves slowly move closer and closer together, and after about half an hour, they are shut tight. Now the leaves are like a cup, and it fills with a special liquid. In fact it is more like a stomach, and over the next week or two the body of the insect dissolves (*becomes liquid*) inside this “stomach”. Now the plant has a cup of “insect soup”! The Venus flytrap can drink this liquid soup through its leaves, and in this way it takes in extra vitamins to help it grow.

要想抓住猎物，植物必须反应迅速，所以当昆虫一落在叶片上，陷阱就立刻开始工作了。捕蝇草的每片叶子上有三根小小的像触毛一样的刺。昆虫一旦碰到这些刺，叶片就像我们嘴中的牙齿一样迅速合拢。一切都进行得那么快，不到一秒钟，叶边已经完全合拢，而小虫已经无法逃脱了。这么短的时间已经足够抓到像豆娘那么大的昆虫了。现在，维纳斯捕蝇草已经抓住了它的晚餐，但它享用起来要花很长时间。

叶片慢慢地越收越紧，大概半个小时后，它就严丝合缝了。现在叶片就像一个杯子一样，里面盛满了一种特殊液体。事实上它更像一个胃，在接下来的一两个星期中，昆虫的尸体就在这个“胃”里面被分解掉(变成液体)。现在植物有了一杯美味的“昆虫汤”！维纳斯捕蝇草可以通过它的叶片“喝”掉这种液体汤，这样它就吸收了额外的维生素以帮助其生长了。



The sides of the leaves lock together so the insect can't get out.

当叶边合在一起时，昆虫无法逃脱。

The Venus flytrap is the only plant with a killer mouth like this, but other plants have different ways to catch their prey (*the food they kill*). For example, the bladderwort has a very clever way of catching lunch – it sucks up its food like a vacuum cleaner sucks up dust.

These plants are found in many different countries, and can grow wherever it is wet. A bladderwort eats very small water insects and fish. It can eat some baby fish (called fry) in one bite. Bladderworts can grow in very wet ground, but they are not like most other plants we see. Usually, they float around on the top of the water in ponds or lakes. You can find them in water everywhere – even in the small pools of rainwater among the leaves of other plants. The bladderwort is one of the most successful carnivorous plants. Most carnivorous plants can take in food from the ground through their roots, so the insects they eat give them extra food. But the bladderwort can catch all the food it needs in the water, from the insects and other small creatures living there. This means that the bladderwort doesn't need to have any roots in the ground to find food – and so, unlike most plants, it can move or float around in the water. This is a plant that chases its food.



*The flowers and the stem of the bladderwort grow above the water.*

狸藻的花和茎生长在水面上。

维纳斯捕蝇草是惟一长着像这样杀手嘴巴的植物，但其他植物有不同的方法来捕捉它们的猎物。比如说，狸藻有一种相当聪明的捕食方法——它像吸尘器吸灰尘一样吸它的食物。

这种植物在许多国家都能找到，只要环境潮湿，它就能生长。狸藻吃很小的水中昆虫和小鱼。它一口就可以吃下几只小幼苗。狸藻可以生长在非常潮湿的土地上，但和我们常见的大多数其他植物不同，它常常是在池塘或湖泊的水面上漂浮着。你在各处的水中都可以发现它们的身影——即使在雨后的小水洼里也会看到它在其他植物的叶片间漂浮。狸藻是极出色的食肉类植物之一。大多数食肉类植物通过根茎从土壤中得到养分，所以昆虫只是它们额外的食物补充。而狸藻能够在水中捕捉到它需要的所有食物，不管是昆虫还是其他生活在水中的小生物。这就是说，狸藻不需要土壤中的根来帮助它找寻食物——所以，和大多数植物不同，它能在水中自由自在地漂浮移动。它是一种会追逐“猎物”的植物。



*This insect (a mosquito larva) is too big for the bladderwort to suck up and eat – it will probably get away.*

这只昆虫(一只蚊子的幼虫)太大了,狸藻无法把它吸住并吃掉——也许它能够侥幸逃脱。



Unlike the Venus flytrap, it isn't easy to see the bladderwort catch its prey – it is very small and you need to use a microscope. The plant has many long, thin, green roots. All along these roots there are small, round traps that look like tiny bubbles. Usually, these bubbles have no strong colour – you can see through them. After the bladderwort catches its prey, the bubbles change colour to black.

How does the trap work? Each bubble has a little door that can shut tight. To make the trap ready, the plant sucks the water out of the bubble, and the walls of the bubble close in (like a balloon with no air). There are very small trigger hairs on the trap, like the hairs on a Venus flytrap. When an insect (like the water flea in the pictures here) touches the hairs, the trap door suddenly opens. This makes the walls of the bubble explode. Because there is no air inside the bubble, water is sucked in quickly, taking the flea with it. This makes the plant like a vacuum cleaner – it sucks the flea or other insect inside it. This is a very efficient way of eating food.

和维纳斯捕蝇草不同, 想看到狸藻捕食不是非常容易——因为它实在是太小了, 你不得不通过显微镜来观察。这种植物有很多长长的、细细的、绿颜色的根。在根的周围有很多小泡泡状的圆形小陷阱。这些小泡泡颜色通常都是淡淡的, 几乎透明。但当狸藻抓住了它的“猎物”后, 这些小泡泡的颜色就会慢慢变黑。

陷阱是如何捕食的呢? 每个小泡泡都有一个能关得紧紧的“门”。为了作好准备抓住猎物, 这种植物会把水从泡泡中吸出去, 让泡泡像没有吹气的气球一样瘪瘪的。像维纳斯捕蝇草一样, 狸藻的陷阱上也有许多触毛。一旦有像图中的水蚤一类的小昆虫碰到了它们, 陷阱的“门”就会突然打开。这样小泡泡就会爆开。因为泡泡里没有空气, 水就会带着小虫一起被吸入其中。它像吸尘器一样把水蚤或其他昆虫吸进去。这是一种非常有效的捕食方式。



*A water flea gets too close to a bladderwort.*

一只水蚤离狸藻太近了。



*The flea is sucked into the trap.*

水蚤被吸入了陷阱。



*The bladderwort eats its meal.*

狸藻在享用美味。



*The roots of a bladderwort, showing the small traps like bubbles.*

狸藻的根部显现出许多小泡泡一样的陷阱。

SNAP! The door closes again and the insect is trapped inside. This happens very quickly, in about one-fiftieth of a second, and much faster than the eye can see.

Then the plant starts to suck the air out of the bubble again. It fills the bubble with a special liquid, and (like the Venus flytrap) this liquid kills and dissolves the body of the insect. Now the plant is ready to eat, and it can drink the “insect soup” slowly. After about two hours, the bladderwort is ready to set its trap again – just one of the many small traps along its roots, all working at the same time.

啪！小门又一次关上了，把那只小虫被关在了里面。这一切都发生得太快，大概五十分之一秒，比眼睛能观察到的要快得多。

现在狸藻又一次把空气挤出了泡泡，而后其中就充满了可以杀死并分解昆虫尸体的特殊液体（就像维纳斯捕蝇草一样）。现在这株植物要开始用餐了，它能慢慢喝掉这“昆虫汤”。大概两个小时后，狸藻又重新把它的陷阱准备好——而这个陷阱只是它根部同时工作的许多小陷阱中的一个。

### Plants that eat people!

Carnivorous plants usually eat insects. People-eating plants, like this one from the film *Little Shop of Horrors*, exist only in stories and films.

#### 食人植物！

食肉植物通常只吃昆虫。食人植物，像电影《恐怖商店》中的这个，只出现在故事或电影里。





The bladderwort can move around, and its special bubbles have doors that open and close – this makes it easier to catch its prey. The Venus flytrap can open and close its leaves to trap insects. But pitcher plants can't move around, and they have no special “doors” or moving parts. They have a different way of catching their prey. These plants drown their prey in pools of liquid. The liquid is a mixture of water and special juices that dissolves the bodies of insects.



The plant keeps this killer liquid in special leaves that look like jugs (called pitchers). There are many different kinds of pitcher plants, with different shapes and sizes of leaves, and some examples are shown in the pictures here. Some are long and thin, others are round or fat.

The biggest pitcher plants grow in Borneo, an island in Southeast Asia. These huge pitchers can hold 2 – 4 litres of liquid, and they sit on the ground. They are big enough to trap insects and small birds, and they can even catch small animals like rats!

But the plants are not always killers. The monkey cup pitcher plant, for example, gets its name because thirsty monkeys come to drink from its pitchers. The pitchers are strong, and they can be very useful in everyday life. People in some countries use them to carry water to their homes, and others use them as cooking pots.



狸藻可以四处移动，而且它特殊的小泡泡有能开能合的门，这使捕住猎物变得更容易。维纳斯捕蝇草可以开合自己的叶片来捕食。而瓶子草则既不能移动，也没有可以开合的特制“门”或可以动的部位。它们用自己不同的方式来捕食。它们会把猎物浸没在一种液体中，这种液体由水和能够分解昆虫的特殊液体混合而成。

这种植物把能杀死昆虫的液体储存在它壶状的特殊叶子中(称作瓶状叶)。有很多不同种类的瓶子草。它们的叶子有不同的形状和大小。这里给出了几个例子，有些又细又长，有些则是圆圆胖胖的。

最大的瓶子草生长在东南亚一个叫婆罗洲的岛屿上。这种巨大的瓶子草能够容纳2到4升的液体，长在地上。它大得能够捕住昆虫和小鸟，甚至还能捕住老鼠一类的小动物!

但这种植物不总是杀手。比如说，猴子杯瓶子草就因有渴坏了的猴子从它的“瓶子”中饮水而得名。这种瓶状叶很结实，在日常生活中用处很大。有些国家的人们用它们来往家抬水，甚至还用它作煮饭的锅。