

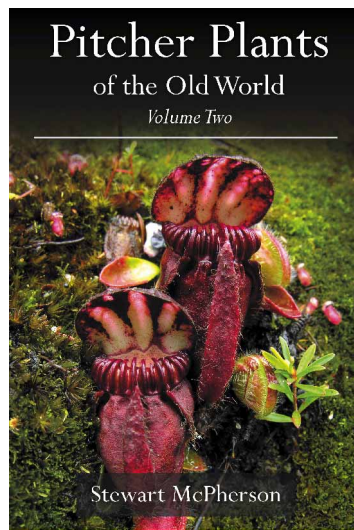
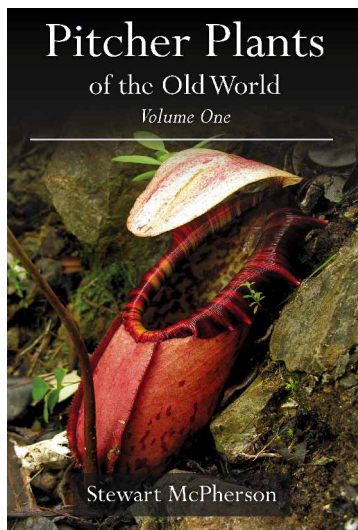


Review of *Pitcher Plants of the Old World*

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By Stewart McPherson, *Pitcher Plants of the Old World*, edited by Alastair Robinson and Andreas Fleischmann. Redfern Natural History Productions, Poole, U.K. 2009. Two volumes, 1399 pp.

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Carnivorous plants have fascinated humans since early history, and these plants continue to tickle the imagination of current day writers. Stewart McPherson shares his fascination for carnivorous plants and he has published various earlier works on the subject, including the excellent *Pitcher Plants of the Americas* (McPherson, 2006) and *Glistening Carnivores* (McPherson, 2008), where, as in the current two volumes, many carnivorous plants are described and beautifully illustrated with photographs taken by the author during his intensive field work in often challenging countries and stunning localities.

These two volumes cover the pitcher plants from Madagascar, tropical Asia and Australia: the genera *Nepenthes* Linnaeus (1753: 955), Nepenthaceae, and the south-western Australian endemic *Cephalotus follicularis* Labillardière (1806: 6) of the peculiar monotypic family Cephalotaceae.

The first chapters introduce carnivorous plants in general and illustrate their fascinating trapping mechanisms. The author then introduces pitcher plants of the Old World and discusses relationships with other organisms coexisting with pitcher plants rather than being consumed by them. The first volume describes the species of *Nepenthes* from Indochina, Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo. The first part of volume two deals with species of *Nepenthes* from the Philippines, Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, New Guinea, the Moluccas, Madagascar, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, northern India, New Caledonia, northern Australia and Micronesia. This is followed by chapters on hybrid *Nepenthes*, a treatment of *Cephalotus follicularis*, loss of suitable habitats and other threats to pitcher plants. This section concludes with a chapter on cultivation and horticulture. The appendix includes a description of *N. micramphora* (Fig. 1), a new species from the Philippines, an account of the discovery of the mediagenic *N. attenboroughii* Robinson et al. (2009: 196), and