

GREEN ANOLE DRINKING NECTAR FROM *SARRACENIA ALATA*

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An online search will reveal publications of different species of anoles feeding on fruit and nectar. There are even some pet care guides that suggest giving nectar to pet Green Anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*). However, I was unable to locate anyone that has noted that Green Anoles drink nectar from plants of the genus *Sarracenia*.

I have seen tree frogs living inside *Sarracenia* pitcher plants in what appears to be a mutualistic relationship. Here is a video I captured of a Squirrel Frog (*Hyla squirella*) capturing a fly from inside a *Sarracenia leucophylla*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlGg2HIUdYA>. While it may seem like the frog is stealing nutrients from the plant, the frog's feces in the plant more than makes up for it. I have witnessed Green Anoles on top of *Sarracenia* quite frequently, and even seen them grab flies that are attracted to the plants. I've seen the anoles down inside the plant, seemingly hunting just like the tree frog. However, I have also found anole skeletons inside the "stomach" of some of these pitcher plants. I guess they get stuck sometimes.

This spring, however, I witnessed a female Green Anole drinking the nectar from potted *Sarracenia alata*, a carnivorous pitcher plant from the southeastern United States (Fig. 1). She was so aggressive about it I was reminded of how Day Geckos in the genus *Phelsuma* lap up nectar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1g_wus-U95o. Here is longer video of her drinking the nectar: <https://youtu.be/5afitrbb3kc>. While my deck, in northeast Florida, is not technically in the normal growing range of *S. alata*, the Green Anole's range does overlap with the natural range of these carnivorous pitcher plants in the wild. This is not the case of an anole drinking dew off of the plant. It was late afternoon and no dew was present. I have now seen the behavior on multiple occasions, but I believe that is has been the same lizard each time.



Figure 1: Female Green Anole drinking the nectar from potted *Sarracenia alata*.