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Phylogeny And Biogeography of the Carnivorous Plant Family Sarraceniaceae

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Citation	Ellison, Aaron M., Elena D. Butler, Emily Jean Hicks, Robert F. C. Naczi, Patrick J. Calie, Charles D. Bell, and Charles C. Davis. 2012. Phylogeny and biogeography of the carnivorous plant family Sarraceniaceae. PLoS ONE 7(6): e39291.
Published Version	doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0039291
Accessed	February 19, 2015 10:29:49 AM EST
Citable Link	http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:9637949
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(Article begins on next page)

1 **Phylogeny and biogeography of the carnivorous plant family**

2 **Sarraceniaceae**

3
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15
16 **Abstract**

17 The carnivorous plant family Sarraceniaceae comprises three genera of wetland-
18 inhabiting pitcher plants: *Darlingtonia* in the northwestern United States, *Sarracenia* in eastern
19 North America, and *Heliamphora* in northern South America. Hypotheses concerning the
20 biogeographic history leading to this unusual disjunct distribution are controversial, in part
21 because genus- and species-level phylogenies have not been clearly resolved. Here, we present a
22 robust, species-rich phylogeny of Sarraceniaceae based on seven mitochondrial, nuclear, and
23 plastid loci, which we use to illuminate this family's phylogenetic and biogeographic history.

24 The family and genera are monophyletic: *Darlingtonia* is sister to a clade consisting of
25 *Heliophora*+*Sarracenia*. Within *Sarracenia*, two clades were strongly supported: one
26 consisting of *S. purpurea*, its subspecies, and *S. rosea*; the other consisting of nine species
27 endemic to the southeastern United States. Divergence time estimates revealed that stem group
28 Sarraceniaceae likely originated in South America 44-53 million years ago (Mya) (highest
29 posterior density [HPD] estimate = 47 Mya). By 25-44 (HPD = 35) Mya, crown-group
30 Sarraceniaceae appears to have been widespread across North and South America, and
31 *Darlingtonia* (western North America) had diverged from *Heliophora*+*Sarracenia* (eastern
32 North America + South America). This disjunction and apparent range contraction is consistent
33 with late Eocene cooling and aridification, which may have severed the continuity of
34 Sarraceniaceae across much of North America. *Sarracenia* and *Heliophora* subsequently
35 diverged in the late Oligocene, 14-32 (HPD = 23) Mya, perhaps when direct overland continuity
36 between North and South America became reduced. Initial diversification of South American
37 *Heliophora* began at least 8 Mya, but diversification of *Sarracenia* was more recent (2-7, HPD
38 = 4 Mya); the bulk of southeastern United States *Sarracenia* originated co-incident with
39 Pleistocene glaciation, < 3 Mya. Overall, these results suggest climatic change at different
40 temporal and spatial scales in part shaped the distribution and diversity of this carnivorous plant
41 clade.

42

43 **Introduction**

44 Carnivory has evolved at least six times within the flowering plants [1,2] and is thought
45 to be an adaptation to increase the uptake of nitrogen and phosphorous in the nutrient-poor, aquatic
46 and wetland environments where these plants grow [3,4]. The biogeographic distribution of

47 carnivorous plants presents as intriguing a puzzle as the evolution of carnivory itself, but far
48 more attention has been directed at understanding the evolution of carnivorous plants [2,3,5] than
49 has been directed at understanding their biogeography. Here, we present the most fully-resolved
50 phylogeny of the American pitcher-plant family Sarraceniaceae to date. We use these data to
51 estimate molecular divergence times of the group and to address a long-standing debate on the
52 biogeographic origin and the disjunct distribution of these three genera.

53 Carnivorous plants grow on every continent except Antarctica. Some carnivorous plant
54 families, such as the Cephalotaceae, Roridulaceae, and Byblidaceae, are endemics occurring on
55 single (sub)continents, whereas others, such as Droseraceae and Lentibulariaceae have
56 cosmopolitan distributions [1,2,5-11]. The enigmatic, disjunct distribution of the three genera of
57 the American pitcher plants, Sarraceniaceae (Fig. 1), presents an unresolved question for
58 botanists, biogeographers, and evolutionary biologists. Sarraceniaceae includes at least 30
59 species in three genera: one species of *Darlingtonia* Torr., 11 species of *Sarracenia* L., and at
60 least 18 species of *Heliamphora* Benth. Sarraceniaceae itself is a well-supported member of the
61 Ericales [2, 12-15], and is distinguished from other close relatives by its modified pitcher-like
62 leaves [16] that trap and digest arthropod prey [17], and nodding, bisexual flowers [14] that are
63 pollinated by a variety of bees and flies [18-20].

64 The single species of *Darlingtonia*, *D. californica* Torr., is endemic to the serpentine
65 seeps and interdunal wetlands of northern California and southwestern Oregon in western North
66 America [14, 21]. All of the species in the tropical genus *Heliamphora* grow atop sandstone
67 massifs (tepui) and nearby savannas in the Guayana Highlands of Venezuela, Guyana, and
68 Brazil [22-25], where the spatial separation of these tepuis is thought to have led to
69 diversification through allopatric speciation [24,25]. The genus *Sarracenia* ranges from the Gulf

70 Coast of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, north along the Atlantic Coast to
71 Newfoundland and Labrador, and west through the northern Midwestern United States and
72 southern Canada to eastern British Columbia [14,26,27]. All eleven species of *Sarracenia* [14]
73 can be found, often growing sympatrically and readily hybridizing, in the southeastern United
74 States, but only one, *S. purpurea* L. ssp. *purpurea* (Raf.) Wherry, grows in the northern regions
75 of North America that were glaciated during the Pleistocene [26,27]. Presently, *Sarracenia*
76 *purpurea* spp. *purpurea* has a nearly transcontinental range, but the remaining species have
77 much smaller ranges. Three centuries of habitat fragmentation and outright destruction, along
78 with extensive legal and illegal collecting of these plants, however, makes assessing their
79 “contemporary” ranges difficult.

80 At least five hypotheses have been proposed to explain the disjunct distribution of
81 Sarraceniaceae [28]. The first four hypotheses emphasize the role of dispersal and posit a single
82 center of origin for the family, either in tropical South America [24,29] or in southeastern North
83 America [30]. Croizat [6] and McDaniel [31] proposed two of the dispersal hypotheses, and
84 suggested that Sarraceniaceae is an ancient lineage; its present distribution in eastern and western
85 North America arose from two independent, Cretaceous-era dispersal events from South
86 American ancestors. Gleason presented an alternative hypothesis: dispersal to North America
87 occurred very recently during the Pleistocene, first via the Antillean Arc to southeastern North
88 America, and second from southeastern North America to the Pacific Northwest (H. A. Gleason
89 *pers. comm.* 1969 to B. Maguire, *vide* [24]). The final dispersal hypothesis is that the family
90 originated in what is now southeastern North America during the Eocene (~40-60 Mya), and
91 achieved its present distribution via two dispersal events: one into northwest North America and
92 the other into northern South America [30].

93 The fifth hypothesis emphasizes vicariance associated with climatic change [18]. Renner
94 hypothesized that species in this family were once widely distributed across present-day North
95 and South America, but she did not specify the time or location for the origin of the family. She
96 then concluded that the present disjunct distribution of Sarraceniaceae arose as a result of
97 fragmentation of this once more widespread range due to climatic changes that sharply reduced
98 the areal extent of their acidic, boggy habitats (although these habitats themselves were likely
99 patchily distributed across the Americas [22]). Such climatic changes are thought to have
100 occurred during end-Eocene/Oligocene cooling (~35-50 Mya [32]) and again during the
101 Pleistocene glaciation and interglacials (~2.6 Mya – 11.5 kya; [32-34]).

102 A better understanding of the phylogenetic relationships within Sarraceniaceae can help
103 distinguish among these competing biogeographic hypotheses. Previous studies using plastid
104 (cp) *rbcL* [1,22] and nuclear (nu) ribosomal ITS and 26S rRNA sequence data [22,28] supported
105 similar phylogenetic relationships for the clade. All three genera were resolved as monophyletic,
106 and *Darlingtonia* is placed as sister to the *Sarracenia* + *Heliamphora* clade. Not all of these
107 studies, however, sampled broadly within the species-rich genera *Sarracenia* and *Heliamphora*.
108 Furthermore, those that sampled multiple species achieved relatively little phylogenetic
109 resolution within these genera [22,28].

110 Here, we used cp, nu, and mitochondrial (mt) sequence data to resolve the phylogeny of
111 Sarraceniaceae. Ours is the first study to include not only representatives from all three genera of
112 Sarraceniaceae, but also complete species-level sampling for *Sarracenia*, including multiple
113 accessions of the *S. purpurea* and *S. rubra* complexes, which have been described at different
114 times as distinct species, subspecies, or varieties [14]. We then use these data to estimate
115 molecular divergence times and ancestral ranges to infer the biogeographic history of this

116 enigmatic plant clade. Results from our study also may help to explain the biogeography of other
117 similarly distributed groups, such as *Clintonia* (Liliaceae), *Trillium* (Trilliaceae), and other forest
118 herbs that exhibit high diversity in southeastern North America, low diversity in northeastern
119 North America, and also occasional disjuncts in western North America [34,35].

120

121 **Results**

122 Phylogenetic analyses

123 Our aligned nu [ITS, 26S, *PHYC*], cp [*matK*, *psbA-trnH*, *trnS-trnG*], and mt [*matR*, *rps3*]
124 datasets included 4463, 2317, and 2846 nucleotide base pairs, respectively. All analyses (Figs. 2,
125 3) supported the monophyly of Sarraceniaceae and each of the three genera in the family,
126 *Darlingtonia*, *Sarracenia*, and *Heliamphora*, with very high support (100 percent bootstrap
127 support [BS]; 1.0 Bayesian posterior probability [PP]). Within Sarraceniaceae, *Heliamphora*
128 always emerged as sister to *Sarracenia* (Figs. 2, 3). Different samples identified as the same
129 taxon (Table S1) based on morphology were consistently identified as the same taxon using
130 sequence data.

131 The cp and nu phylogenies (Figs. 2A,B, respectively) were largely congruent with one
132 conspicuous exception: the cp phylogeny did not place *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa* var. *montana*
133 D.E. Schnell & Determann with other members of the *S. purpurea* complex; instead, in the cp
134 phylogeny this variety was well-supported (97 BS; 1.0 PP) as sister to *S. oreophila* Wherry. This
135 possible instance of chloroplast capture involving *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa* var. *montana* merits
136 additional investigation. In the cp phylogeny, the subclade consisting of *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa*
137 var. *montana* + *S. oreophila* in turn was sister to *S. alabamensis* Case & R.B. Case ssp.
138 *alabamensis* (99 BS; 1.0 PP).

139 In the nu phylogeny, the *S. purpurea* complex (the two subspecies of *S. purpurea* + *S.*
140 *rosea*) was very well supported (99 BS; 1.0 PP; Fig. 2B) as a clade, which is consistent with
141 morphological hypotheses of relationships [28,36]. In the *S. purpurea* clade itself, the more
142 southerly distributed *S. rosea* Naczi, Case & R.B. Case was sister to a moderately supported (76
143 BS; < 0.85 PP), more northerly distributed, clade that included *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa* (Raf.)
144 Wherry, *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa* var. *montana*, and *S. purpurea* ssp. *purpurea* (Fig. 2B). The *S.*
145 *purpurea* complex in turn was sister to a moderately supported (70 BS; < 0.85 PP) clade
146 containing the remaining *Sarracenia* species (Figs 2B). In the clade of the remaining *Sarracenia*
147 species, *S. psittacina* Mich. and *S. flava* L. formed a well-supported (95 BS; 0.98 PP) clade that
148 was sister to a well-supported (91 BS; 0.87 PP) clade containing the remaining *Sarracenia*
149 species: *S. alata* (Wood) Wood, *S. alabamensis* ssp. *alabamensis*, *S. jonesii* Wherry, *S.*
150 *leucophylla* Raf., *S. minor* Walter, *S. oreophila*, and *S. rubra* Walt. (*sensu stricto*). Relationships
151 of the latter species were largely unresolved, but a clade containing *S. alata* and *S. minor* was
152 moderately supported (86 BS; < 0.85 PP).

153 In *Heliamphora*, relationships were generally well-supported and identical between the
154 cp and nu phylogenies (Figs 2A,B). *Heliamphora pulchella* Wistuba, Carow, Harbarth & Nerz
155 and *H. neblinae* Maguire formed a well-supported clade (>95 BS; 1.0 PP) that was sister to *H.*
156 *minor* Gleason (91 BS, 1.0 PP in the cp phylogeny [Fig. 2A]; 66 BS, 1.0 PP in the nu phylogeny
157 [Fig. 2B]). This clade was, in turn, sister to a sub-clade including *H. heterodoxa* Steyerem. and *H.*
158 *nutans* Benth (94 BS; 0.98 PP in the cp phylogeny [Fig. 2A]; < 60 BS, < 0.60 PP in the nu
159 phylogeny [Fig. 2B]). In the nu phylogeny, we also included *H. tatei* Gleason, which grouped as
160 sister to *H. nutans* but without strong statistical support (< 50 BS, < 0.5 PP). When this taxon
161 was removed, support values in the nu phylogeny all increased to > 90 BS, > 0.95 PP (results not

162 shown). This suggests that although there was a very high degree of congruence between the two
163 topologies, this taxon may be the cause of the overall drop in support values observed between
164 the cp and nu phylogenies.

165 The mt phylogeny (Fig. 2C) produced no additional resolution within either *Sarracenia*
166 or *Heliamphora*.

167 Based on this apparently strong topological conflict between the nu and cp phylogenies
168 (Fig. 2A–B), we removed *S. purpurea* ssp. *venosa* var. *montana* from the combined analysis. Our
169 combined phylogeny of the remaining taxa based on the cp, nu, and mt data was well-supported
170 (> 85 BS, > 0.85 PP, except for the southeastern U.S. *Sarracenia* subclade; Fig. 3) and consistent
171 with relationships inferred from our individual gene trees (Fig. 2). Well-supported (> 85 BS; >
172 0.95 PP) relationships were largely consistent with the nu phylogeny, but the overall support was
173 less in the combined tree than in the nu tree alone. The one exception was within *Sarracenia*: *S.*
174 *alata* + *S. minor*, which were weakly supported as a clade in the nu tree, received high BS
175 support (92 BS, but < 0.85 PP) in the combined analysis. Additionally, *S. oreophila* was
176 identified as a moderately supported (77 BS; < 0.85 PP) sister to *S. alabamensis* ssp.
177 *alabamensis*, mirroring the cp analysis.

178

179 Topological tests

180 All alternative tree constrained topologies reflecting rival biogeographic explanations of
181 Sarraceniaceae were determined to be significantly worse ($P < 0.005$) explanations of the data
182 than the unconstrained ML tree (Fig. 3) based on the approximately unbiased (AU) test.

183

184 Molecular divergence time estimates

185 Our mean nodal Bayesian divergence time estimates (Fig. 4A) indicate that stem-group
186 Sarraceniaceae originated by the Middle Eocene, ~47 Mya (95% highest posterior density
187 [HPD]: 44-53 Mya). Within crown-group Sarraceniaceae, *Darlingtonia* diverged from
188 *Heliamphora* + *Sarracenia* in the Late Eocene, ~35 Mya (HPD: 25-44 Mya); and *Heliamphora*
189 and *Sarracenia* diverged from one another in the Late Oligocene, 23 Mya (HPD: 14-32 Mya).
190 *Heliamphora* began to diversify during the Late Miocene, 9 Mya (HPD: 5-14 Mya). *Sarracenia*
191 was the most recent clade to diversify during the Pliocene, 4 Mya (HPD: 2-7 Mya). The
192 remaining two major subclades in *Sarracenia* (*S. purpurea* + *S. rosea*; the remaining species)
193 diversified 1 (HPD: 0.5-2) and 3 (HPD: 2-5) Mya, respectively.

194

195 Ancestral areas reconstructions

196 Our ancestral area reconstructions (Fig. 4) indicated that stem-group Sarraceniaceae most
197 probably originated in South America and that species in crown-group Sarraceniaceae were
198 widespread in South America, western North America, and eastern North America. The most
199 recent common ancestor of *Heliamphora* and *Sarracenia* was likely present in South America
200 and eastern North America, whereas *Darlingtonia* was restricted to western North America.
201 Subsequently, the ancestor of *Heliamphora* and *Sarracenia* occurred in South America and
202 Eastern North America and diverged into South American and Eastern North American
203 subclades, respectively.

204

205 **Discussion**

206 The phylogeny inferred from our analysis of cp, nu, and mt genes (Figs. 2, 3) provides
207 the most fully resolved phylogeny of Sarraceniaceae to date. Our results support the consensus
208 that all three genera are monophyletic and that *Darlingtonia* is sister to *Heliamphora* +
209 *Sarracenia* [22,28]. Our biogeographic analyses reveal that stem-group Sarraceniaceae
210 originated in South America 44-53 Mya, and that by 25-44 Mya, crown-group Sarraceniaceae
211 had achieved a widespread distribution across South and North America (Fig. 4A). Our new
212 estimates of divergence times within and among clades (Fig. 4A) also provide support for the
213 vicariance hypothesis proposed by Renner [18] to explain the biogeographic history of the
214 family. Furthermore, our analyses are consistent with the hypothesis that multiple global
215 climactic events, from more ancient cooling during the end of the Eocene [32,34] to more recent
216 Pleistocene glaciation [33,34], may have shaped the biogeography and diversification of
217 Sarraceniaceae. We first discuss the novel phylogenetic insights revealed by our analyses and
218 then elaborate on our hypothesis regarding the biogeography and present-day distribution of the
219 family.

220

221 **Novel relationships within *Sarracenia***

222 Our results provide clearer species-level resolution within *Sarracenia* than previous
223 studies [22,28]. In agreement with an earlier nu phylogeny [28], both our nu (Fig. 2A) and
224 combined phylogeny (Fig. 3) support the placement of the *S. purpurea* complex as sister to the
225 remaining species of *Sarracenia*, and also suggest that *S. rosea* is sister to the rest of the *S.*
226 *purpurea* complex [28]. Within the remaining *Sarracenia* clade results are generally consistent
227 with previous findings [22,28]. The one exception is the placement of *S. minor*. In a previous

228 study [28] this species was moderately placed with *S. psittacina* and *S. flava*. In contrast, we
229 place it strongly in a subclade with *S. alata* (Fig. 3). Our finding that *S. psittacina* and *S. flava*
230 are sister species does not support the separation of *Sarracenia* into species with prostrate
231 pitchers (*S. psittacina* and the *S. purpurea* clade) versus those with upright pitchers (all
232 remaining *Sarracenia* species) [37].

233 Relationships among the members of the *S. rubra* complex (including *S. jonesii*) remain
234 incompletely understood from both a morphological and molecular standpoint [14, 28], and
235 require further investigation. *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *rubra* and *S. jonesii* are sister taxa in the cp
236 phylogeny (Fig. 2A) and consistently group together in the BEAST analysis (Fig. 4), but support
237 for this relationship is not strong in any of our analyses (Figs. 2–4). The lack of resolution within
238 the *S. rubra* complex and other southeastern *Sarracenia* may be explained in part by the rapid
239 diversification of the genus, and in part by the fact that *Sarracenia* species hybridize readily in
240 the wild [28,37,38]. Indeed, Mellichamp [14] reports 19 known hybrids of wild origin. For
241 example, it is possible that *S. alabamensis* ssp. *alabamensis*, *S. oreophila*, and *S. purpurea* ssp.
242 *venosa* var. *montana*, which grow in near sympatry, arose through hybridization and
243 introgression, and that this history of hybridization is still visible in the maternally-inherited
244 genomes (Fig. 2A). Interestingly, our cp phylogeny (Fig 2A) suggests that *S. purpurea* ssp.
245 *venosa* var. *montana* may have inherited its plastid genome via chloroplast capture from these
246 species, but shares its true species affinity with other members of the *purpurea* complex, which
247 is supported by its placement in the nu phylogeny (Fig. 2B). Such a history of reticulation could
248 explain the conflicting topologies of these taxa in the plastid and nuclear phylogenies.

249

250 Relationships within *Heliamphora*

251 Our sampling of *Heliamphora* was limited – we sequenced only 6 of the 18 recognized
252 taxa – but the relationships among the taxa we sampled were well-supported by both nu and cp
253 data. The consensus tree (Fig. 3) supports the division of our taxa into two clades, one comprised
254 of *H. neblinae*, *H. pulchella*, and *H. minor*, and one comprised of *H. tatei*, *H. nutans*, and *H.*
255 *heterodoxa*. All six of these species grow on different tepuis separated by many kilometers of
256 unfavorable intervening habitat. Given the much older age of the tepuis (Mesozoic Era erosion of
257 the 1.6 Ga Roraima Supergroup craton [34,39]), it is likely that allopatric speciation occurred on
258 these tepui “islands” [25]. The clades we found in our analyses (Figs. 2–4) differ somewhat from
259 those found by Bayer et al. [22], in which *H. tatei* and *H. minor* formed a clade sister to *H.*
260 *nutans*, but in all phylogenetic studies of this genus to date, there has not been sampling of all
261 species in the genus. Ongoing systematic and phylogenetic work [40] should help resolve
262 relationships within *Heliamphora*.

263

264 Biogeography of Sarraceniaceae

265 We hypothesize that during the Eocene (~34-56 Mya), Sarraceniaceae became
266 widespread in the Americas perhaps by migrating from South to North America via a
267 discontinuous landmass in the Antilles region that appears to have begun in the middle Eocene,
268 ~50 Mya [41] (Fig. 4B). Toward the end of the Eocene, land connections between South and
269 North America are thought to have been fairly direct and appear to have facilitated the
270 movement of several mammalian clades into the Antilles from South America [42,43]. We note
271 here that although seeds of modern-day *Sarracenia* disperse on average < 10 cm [44], they
272 (along with seeds of *Heliamphora* and *Darlingtonia*) are hydrophobic, and can disperse longer
273 distances by skimming across water surfaces [22,44]. Rare long-distance dispersal events of 1 –

274 10m, combined with the rapid population growth rate of *Sarracenia* [45] could have led to its
275 spread beyond 10,000 km within 15 million years.

276 By the end of the Eocene, Sarraceniaceae appears to have been widespread across North
277 and South America. Once Sarraceniaceae became established in North America it appears to
278 have spread across the continent, setting the stage for range fragmentation as the climate changed
279 beginning in the Eocene. Indeed, during this time, ancestral populations in Western North
280 America appear to have become severed from those in Eastern North America plus South
281 America. The timing of this major disjunction corresponds roughly with the increasing cooling
282 and drying of mid-continental North America that began in the Eocene (~50 Mya) and ended in
283 the early Oligocene (~34 Mya [32,34]). This sort of climactic shift would have been likely to
284 dramatically affect Sarraceniaceae and other plants with similar distributions [27,34].

285 The second hypothesized disjunction within Sarraceniaceae occurred in the Late
286 Oligocene (~23 Mya), and involved populations spanning South America and Eastern North
287 America. Although some north-to-south connections were likely available between these regions
288 during the late Eocene and into the Oligocene, it appears that nearly direct overland connections
289 may have been broken by the time of this disjunction during the mid-Oligocene [46]. Thus, the
290 subdivision of these land connections may have precipitated the disjunction between
291 Sarraceniaceae of South America and Eastern North America (Fig. 4B).

292 It appears that the crown-group diversification of Eastern North American *Sarracenia*
293 took place 2-7 Mya, with much of the diversification in the group taking place within the last
294 0.5-5 Mya. Under these circumstances it seems plausible that drying events driven by
295 Pleistocene glaciation [33] may have spurred diversification and range expansion in this clade.
296 The northward expansion of the *Sarracenia purpurea* complex from a more southern ancestor, as

297 suggested by our phylogeny (Fig. 3), is compatible with the hypothesis that glaciation may have
298 played an important role for the tempo and mode of diversification, range expansion and/or
299 extinction in *Sarracenia*.

300 Finally, it is worth noting the contrasting pattern in the timing of diversification of North
301 American *Sarracenia* versus South American *Heliamphora*. Our estimates for *Heliamphora*
302 suggest that its crown group diversification of 5-14 Mya is nearly twice as old as the crown
303 group diversification of *Sarracenia*. Our sampling for *Heliamphora* is, however, incomplete, and
304 the actual time of its crown group diversification may be even older. Nevertheless, the observed
305 differences imply different triggers in the diversification of *Heliamphora* and *Sarracenia*,
306 respectively. Alternatively, this trend may represent more widespread extinction of
307 Sarraceniaceae during the Pliocene. In the long term, linking paleoclimatic reconstructions
308 [34,47] with a better sampled phylogeny of the entire group that combines morphological and
309 molecular data could help to resolve relationships within *Sarracenia* [48] and provide further
310 insights into the biogeography of this unusual plant family.

311

312 **Materials and methods**

313 Taxon sampling

314 We sampled 22 accessions of Sarraceniaceae (Table S1). These included the monotypic
315 *Darlingtonia californica*, six of the 18 species of *Heliamphora*, and all 11 recognized species of
316 *Sarracenia* [14]. In *Sarracenia* we included three accessions from the *purpurea* complex (ssp.
317 *purpurea*, ssp. *venosa* var. *venosa*, and ssp. *venosa* var. *montana*), two accessions from the *S.*
318 *rubra* complex (ssp. *gulfensis*, and ssp. *rubra*), and two accessions from *S. alabamensis* (ssp.
319 *alabamensis*, and ssp. *wherryi*). *Roridula* (Roridulaceae), *Actinidia* (Actinidiaceae), and *Clethra*

320 (Clethraceae) were included as outgroups [15]. Plants were obtained from the seed-grown
321 research collection of *Sarracenia* at Harvard Forest, Petersham, Massachusetts, USA [49]; from
322 the research collection of living *Sarracenia* species of Frederick W. Case, Jr. in Saginaw,
323 Michigan, USA; from the private *Heliampora* collections of Steve Boddy, Cliff Dodd, and
324 Charles Powell; or from commercial growers (California Carnivores, Sebastopol, California,
325 USA, and Meadowview Biological Research Station, Woodford, Virginia, USA). Roridulaceae
326 tissues were obtained from the collections of the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Plant Growth
327 Facilities at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA. *Actinidia deliciosa* tissue
328 was obtained from a store-bought kiwifruit and is unvouchered. Additional sequences of
329 Sarraceniaceae [28] were obtained from GenBank (Table S1). No specific permits were required
330 for the described field studies. Specifically, no permits were required for collecting seeds of
331 *Sarracenia alata*, *S. flava*, *S. leucophylla*, *S. minor* plant no. 1 in Table S1, or *S. rubra* ssp.
332 *rubra*, as these species were neither protected nor endangered, and permits for collecting seeds
333 from these pitcher plants were not required by any state or the US Federal Government in 2001
334 when seeds were gathered. No permits were required for collecting leaf tissue of the common
335 *Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *purpurea* (plant no. 1 in Table S1) from land owned by Harvard Forest
336 or in the state of Michigan (*S. purpurea* ssp. *purpurea* plant no. 3 in Table S1), as the plant is not
337 regulated or listed as Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern in the states of
338 Massachusetts or Michigan (USA). No permits were required for using leaf tissue obtained from
339 plants grown in cultivation by commercial growers or by individual collectors (all other taxa).

340

341 DNA amplification and sequencing

342 We sequenced three cp (*matK*, *psbA-trnH* and *trnS-trnG*), two mt (*matR*, *rps3*), and three
343 nu (ITS, 26S, *PHYC*) DNA regions. DNA was extracted either from 0.5–1.0 grams of silica-
344 dried leaf/floral tissue using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit protocol (QIAGEN, Valencia,
345 California, USA) or from 0.5–1.0 gram of fresh leaf material using the CTAB protocol [50].

346 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification and sequencing of *matK* used primers
347 400F and trnK2r [51]; matK1, matK6 and matK1506 [52]; 870F and 1750F (J. Panero, *pers.*
348 *comm.*); matK5 [53]; and SmatK3 [54]. The cp spacer regions *trnH-psbA* and *trnS-trnG* were
349 amplified using published primers and protocols [53]. Amplification and sequencing of *matR*
350 used primers 26F and 1858R [55] or primers matR3'R and matR5'F [56] and a touchdown PCR
351 protocol [57]. Amplification and sequencing of *rps3* followed reference [58]. The 26S locus was
352 amplified using the overlapping primer sets S1/2134rev and S8/3058rev [59]. Nuclear ITS was
353 amplified using the primers ITS4 [60] and ITS-LEU [61]. We cloned ITS to assess sequence
354 heterogeneity [62]. We screened up to eight clones for each accession to check for multiple
355 copies. In the cases where we directly sequenced ITS amplicons, the chromatograms yielded
356 non-overlapping peaks, suggesting that ITS was single copy. *PHYC* was amplified using the *cdo*
357 and int1F primer pair [63] and a touchdown PCR protocol [57]. PCR amplicons were gel-
358 extracted as above and fragments were purified using the Millipore Ultrafree-DA columns
359 (Millipore Corporation, Bedford, Massachusetts, USA). Up to five *PHYC* clones were sequenced
360 for each accession to test for multiple copies. Directly sequenced amplicons yielded non-
361 overlapping electropherograms, suggesting the *PHYC* was a single copy. This is consistent with
362 previous studies of other plant lineages showing that *PHYC* is single-copy [63-65].

363

364 Phylogenetic analyses

365 Nucleotide sequences were first aligned automatically using MAFFT [66] and then
366 manually refined by eye using Se-Align v2.0a11 Carbon [67]. Maximum likelihood (ML) was
367 implemented in RAxML 7.0.4 [68] using CIPRES [69]. ML bootstrap percentages (BS) were
368 estimated from 1000 rapid bootstrapping replicates [67] and Bayesian posterior probabilities
369 were obtained from BEAST [70]. The combined dataset was partitioned by locus and analyzed
370 using the General Time Reversible model, with rate heterogeneity modelled by assuming that
371 some sites are invariable and that the rate of evolution at other sites approximates a discrete
372 gamma distribution [GTR+I+ Γ]. This model was determined to be the best fitting based on a
373 likelihood ratio test for the concatenated data, as well as for each of the individual partitions. ML
374 trees were inferred by genome (mt, cp, nu) and for the combined dataset. Clethraceae and
375 Cyrillaceae were included as additional outgroups for *matK* and *matR*; for the remaining genes,
376 only *Roridula* (Roridulaceae) and *Actinidia* (Actinidiaceae) were used as outgroups. For the
377 combined dataset, *Roridula* (Roridulaceae) and *Actinidia* (Actinidiaceae) were used as
378 outgroups.

379

380 Topological tests

381 To evaluate the rival biogeographic hypotheses that have been proposed for
382 Sarraceniaceae, we constructed several constraint topologies and searched for optimal trees
383 under these constraints using maximum likelihood. To test **Hypothesis 1**, that the distribution of
384 Sarraceniaceae in eastern and western North America arose from two independent dispersal
385 events from South American ancestors [6, 31], we constrained the exclusively South American
386 *Heliamphora* clade to be non-monophyletic. To test **Hypothesis 2**, that dispersal of
387 Sarraceniaceae occurred first via the Antillean Arc to southeastern North America and second

388 from southeastern North America to the Pacific Northwest (H. A. Gleason *pers. comm.* 1969 to
389 B. Maguire, *vide* [24]), we constrained the eastern North American *Sarracenia* and the
390 northwestern North American *Darlingtonia* to be monophyletic. To test **Hypothesis 3**, that
391 Sarraceniaceae achieved its present distribution in northwestern North America and South
392 America via two dispersal events: one to the northwest and the other to the southeast [30], we
393 constrained the eastern North American *Sarracenia* to be non-monophyletic. The hypothesis by
394 Renner [18] was consistent with our biogeographic results, and therefore was not tested here.

395 All constrained searches were performed with PAUP* [71] with 100 replicates of random
396 stepwise addition using TBR branch swapping. In the cases of **Hypotheses 1** and **3** the
397 “converse” option was selected in PAUP* so that trees that did not meet the constraint were
398 evaluated and retained. For example, for **Hypothesis 1** only trees in which *Heliamphora* was not
399 monophyletic were evaluated. Optimal trees from each constraint search were then evaluated
400 using the approximately unbiased test (AU) as implemented in CONSEL version 0.20 [72,73].

401

402 Divergence time estimation

403 A Bayesian Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) approach to simultaneously estimate
404 the phylogenetic history and divergence times of Sarraceniaceae was conducted using BEAST
405 v.1.6.2 [70]. We combined the nu (16 taxa; 4468 aligned bp), cp (25 taxa; 2319 aligned bp), and
406 mt (24 taxa; 2847 aligned bp) datasets. *Sarracenia purpurea* ssp. *venosa* var. *montana* was
407 excluded from this combined analysis due to its strongly conflicting phylogenetic placement in
408 the cp and nu phylogenies (see Results, above). We implemented a relaxed molecular clock
409 (uncorrelated lognormal [74]) and a Yule tree prior. Since we had no complete set of sequences

410 for any single accession, we merged sequences from different accessions of the same taxon to
411 reduce the effects of missing data (Table S1).

412 Data were partitioned by genome and a GTR + I + Γ model with six rate categories was
413 applied to each partition with base frequencies estimated from the data. Because several
414 accessions were missing sequence data for some of the regions, clock models were linked across
415 the partition in order to anchor these taxa. A *Sarracenia* fossil has been reported [75] but its
416 ancient Cretaceous age (ca. 110 Mya) is much older than any previous estimates for
417 Sarraceniaceae, or for most other Ericales, which includes this family [76]. Moreover, its origin
418 in China is far outside of the present range of Sarraceniaceae. Due to the exceptionally ancient
419 age of this fossil, and its geographic location relative to present-day distribution of this clade, we
420 instead used a series of secondary age constraints from an angiosperm-wide analysis that relied
421 on 21 fossil constraints [76]. The following constraints were applied with a normal prior
422 distribution that spanned the full range of nodal age estimates: the most recent common ancestor
423 (MRCA) of Actinidiaceae, Clethraceae, Cyrillaceae, Roridulaceae, Sarraceniaceae was set to 50
424 Mya ($SD = 3$ Mya); the MRCA of Clethraceae and Cyrillaceae was set to 42 Mya (4 Mya); the
425 MRCA of Actinidiaceae and Roridulaceae was set to 44 Mya (5 Mya); and stem group
426 Sarraceniaceae was set to 48 Ma (4 Mya) [76]. MCMC chains were run for 50 million
427 generations, sampling every 1000 generations. Of the 50001 posterior trees, we excluded the first
428 1000 as burn-in. Mixing of the MCMC chain was checked using Tracer v.1.5 [70].

429

430 Ancestral area reconstructions

431 Ancestral area reconstructions were conducted in a likelihood framework using the
432 dispersal-extinction-cladogenesis model as implemented in LAGRANGE_cpp ver. 0.1 BETA2,

433 applying a uniform weighting of area connectivity [77,78]. Our input topology was a 10 000-tree
434 subsample taken from the output of the BEAST analysis described above. Five areas of
435 endemism consistent with the present distribution of our outgroup and ingroup sampling were
436 specified for this analysis (Table S1): South Africa, East Asia, South America, Eastern North
437 America, and Western North America. We did not restrict the maximum number of ancestral
438 areas.

439

440 **Acknowledgments**

441 Peter D'Amato, Steve Boddy, Cliff Dodd, Charles Powell, and the late Frederick W. Case, Jr.
442 shared pitchers from their collections of cultivated *Sarracenia* and *Heliamphora* plants that we
443 used for DNA extraction. Brad Ruhfel, Cathy Rushworth, Hanno Schaefer, and Zhenxiang Xi
444 provided essential lab and technical support at Harvard University; Joe May (University of
445 Tennessee Molecular Biology Resource Facility) provided DNA sequencing support; Jeffrey D.
446 Palmer provided laboratory space and supplies for DNA extractions by RFCN; and Matthew
447 Klooster helped with six of the extractions. Clinton Morse (University of Connecticut) provided
448 the *Roridula* samples. Randy Small and James Beck provided direction in the selection of
449 informative loci; Charlie Willis provided advice about cp regions to amplify; and Stephen
450 Furches shared additional insights on *Sarracenia* biology. Elizabeth Farnsworth, Hanno
451 Schaefer, and two anonymous reviewers provided critical and constructive reviews of early
452 versions of the manuscript.

453

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- 619

620 **Figure Legends**

621

622 **Figure 1. Geographic distribution of Sarraceniaceae.** *Darlingtonia* (A) is restricted to
623 western North America, *Sarracenia* (B) is widespread in Eastern North America, and
624 *Heliamphora* (C) occurs in northern South America [17,27]. Photographs by the authors.

625

626 **Figure 2. Maximum likelihood phylogenies of Sarraceniaceae.** Phylogenies are based
627 on (A) plastid (*matK*, *psbA-trnH*, *trnS-trnG*); (B) nuclear (ITS, 26S, *PHYC*); and (C)
628 mitochondrial (C, *matR*, *rps3*) sequence data. ML bootstrap percentages > 65 and Bayesian
629 posterior probabilities > 0.85 are indicated at the nodes, respectively. Scale bar shows nucleotide
630 substitutions per site.

631

632 **Figure 3. Maximum likelihood phylogeny of Sarraceniaceae based on plastid,
633 nuclear, and mitochondrial data combined.** *Sarracenia purpurea* var. *montana* was excluded
634 from this analysis (see text). ML bootstrap percentages > 65 and Bayesian posterior probabilities
635 > 0.85 are indicated at the nodes, respectively. Scale bar shows nucleotide substitutions per site.

636

637 **Figure 4. BEAST chronogram for the combined data and hypothesized
638 biogeographic history of Sarraceniaceae.** (A) Mean divergence times estimates are shown at
639 the nodes of the cladogram. 95% posterior probability distribution shown with thick blue lines.
640 Ancestral areas reconstructions from LAGRANGE [70,71] shown in boxes near nodes. SA =
641 South America; ENA = Eastern North America; WNA = Western North America; SAf = South
642 Africa; and As = Asia. (B) We hypothesize that Sarraceniaceae originated in the Middle Eocene,

643 perhaps in South America, and achieved its widespread distribution in North and South America
644 by the Late Eocene. An early migration of Sarraceniaceae out of South America during the
645 Eocene may have been facilitated via land connections in the proto-Caribbean. This connection
646 would likely have been unavailable for direct overland migration by the mid-Oligocene, which is
647 consistent with the early Oligocene disjunction of northern (*Sarracenia*, *Darlingtonia*) and
648 southern (*Heliampora*) members of Sarraceniaceae. An East (*Sarracenia* + *Heliampora*)/West
649 (*Darlingtonia*) disjunction occurred in the very latest Oligocene, and may have been attributable
650 to broad scale cooling and aridification during the late Oligocene.

651

652 **Supporting Information Legends**

653

654 **Table S1. Taxa of Sarraceniaceae (*Darlingtonia*, *Heliamphora*, and *Sarracenia***
655 **species) and outgroups (*Actinidia*, *Clethra*, *Cyrilla*, and *Roridula* species) used in the**
656 **phylogenetic analysis and ancestral area reconstruction of the family.** All sequences have
657 been deposited in GenBank and vouchers are accessed as noted (CONN – University of
658 Connecticut Herbarium; GH – Gray Herbarium, Harvard University). A sequence for which the
659 voucher is a GenBank number is a previously published sequence that is also used in the
660 analyses presented in this paper. Abbreviations for modern-day distributions are: EA – East Asia;
661 ENA – Eastern North America; SAm – South America; SAf – South Africa; WNA – Western
662 North America.

663