

# *Round - Leaved Sundew*

The sundew is the smallest of Michigan's carnivorous plants. The leaves of each plant are arranged in a rosettes that vary in size from the diameter of a quarter to a silver dollar. Each tiny leaf is about the size of one's little fingernail.

Insects are attracted to the red colors on each leaf and to what look like drops of dew covering the leaf's ray-like projections. The "dew" turns out to be drops of a gluey substance that quickly trap the hapless insects.



**The sundew plant above, one leaf has captured an insect. The leaf below shows the "dew drops."**



Once trapped, the insects are digested by enzymes released by the plant. Because sundews grow in very nutrient poor environments, they have developed this unique method of supplementing their diet.

Sundews grow in wet fens and bogs that are not easily accessible. Thanks to the bog trail at the Discovery Center, park visitors can see these unique plants without getting their feet wet.

It might be necessary to get down on hands and knees on the board walk to see them, however. The sundew viewing season lasts from May through early October. They become dormant with the first autumn frosts and will not become active again until the bog warms in the spring.

The Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center is located at 17030 Bush Rd. Chelsea, MI. A recreation passport is required for entry. The cost of a recreation passport is \$10.00 and provides unlimited access to any Michigan State Park for the entire calendar year.