

Carnivorous plants losing ground in U.S.

By Amina Khan, Los Angeles Times

QUINCY – “This is the easy part,” says Barry Rice, half-sliding, half-falling down a ravine through a latticework of dead branches.

Decades ago, lush stands of *Darlingtonia californica* – emerald plants coiled like fanged cobras ready to pounce – grew at this spot in the northern reaches of the Sierra Nevada.

Deep in the ravine, the air is hot and dead. Pieces of bark that have sloughed off trees make every step a danger – nature’s equivalent of a thousand forgotten skateboards cluttering a driveway. Slate tinkles underfoot, and the ground feels like stale angel-food cake: stiff yet porous.

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