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My students and I collect and analyze the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that mediate ecological interactions between plants, insects and fungi. We are pioneers in a relatively new field that investigates the biological functions of odors, and most of our work can't be done in controlled laboratory environments. In order to standardize our data and extract novel patterns from them, we need light, portable vacuum pumps with adjustable flow rates and easy options for battery power. The PAS-500 pumps simply are the best we have found. When I turn on a calibrated pump with a charged battery, I am confident that I'll get the consistent flow rates I need to collect odors anywhere in the world. We don't leave the lab without them.

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Robert Raguso uses a Spectrex, Inc. PAS-500 portable vacuum pump to collect floral volatiles from a South African *Protea* tree.