

Senghas, K.: Orchideen. Pflanzen der Extreme, Gegensätze und Superlative. Orchids. Plants of Extremes, Contrasts, and Superlatives. - Verlag Paul Parey, Berlin - Hamburg 1993. 182 pp.

Despite of many former books available on the same topic, this one has privileged place among all of them. It is based on the huge documentary material of the author. This volume is directed to botanists, physiologists, gardeners, and all the beauty lovers. It describes intelligibly the characteristics, structures and shapes of this plants in great detail. One chapter deals with their amazing distribution and habitats all over the world. Very intriguing is the part of orchid interactions with man including useful instructions for these plants cultivation. Well known and widely used kind of orchids represents vanilla with its fragrant and tasty fruit. Preparations from these plants for medical purposes are well known from ancient Greek ages. People always tended to think of mysterious power and potency of orchids, partly due to its amazing and magnificent shapes and colours of the blossoms. This book shows all the variability and diversity of this challenging plant family on numerous perfect full-colour pictures. Even the most rare as well as recent, just discovered orchids are presented. This remarkable issue has one more notable trait, it is written both in English and German languages simultaneously. This book challenges the reader to stand up and visit the Heidelberg orchid collection immediately, which is headed by this book author.

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