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Frowine, S.A.: Moth Orchid. The Complete Guide to *Phalaenopsis*. -Timber Press, Portland - London 2008. 204 pp. ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-870-9.

S.A. Frowine, author of this monograph is a professional horticulturist and graduated active garden writer and speaker. His long year interest and specialization are orchids, especially moth orchids, where are the topics of this book.

Why are the moth orchids so interesting? These decorative plants created about 75 % of all purchased orchids. Plants are easy to grow; the plants on the market have the reasonable price. There is the wide scale of flower colours and some of them emit delicious perfumes. They are successfully cultivated in home conditions not only near windows, but under artificial light. Plants from this orchid group are best choice for home orchid growers.

Common name moth orchid is used for plants of genus *Phalaenopsis* and closely related orchid genus *Doritaenopsis*. The say true, mostly these names is only taxonomical synonyms.

The first chapter of the book describes morphological features of moth orchids, basic principles of cultivation and hybrid creation, and elucidates the rules of giving names to orchid plant genera, grex, hybrids and cultivars. Second chapter deals with botanical species of genus *Phalaenopsis*. For each described genus is given native areal, the year of first description, morphological characteristics and culture possibility and contribution of this genus to cultivated hybrids. Next five chapters introduce contemporary cultivated plants and hybrids

categorized according “base” colour of the flower. In spite of the fact, that even author of the book supposes this category may be subjective, for general orientation within the cultivars such categories are very suitable. Plants are divided to: white and pink, yellow and orange, red and purple, harlequins. The last of these chapters covers novelties, multifloras and miniatures. Next chapter describes cultivation principles for growing moth orchids in greenhouses and in home conditions. Plants are not extremely demanding for cultivation skills and as well for environmental conditions. In this chapter are given optimal range of irradiance, temperature, air humidity, air ventilation, as well as suitable soil mixtures and fertilization needs. Growing seedling, insects and disease control are also describes. The last chapter: Selecting and Buying Moth Orchids give us some advices for choice of suitable plants for home decoration. At the end of the book the useful lists are added: List of plant sources, List of fragrant *Phalaenopsis* and List of intergeneric hybrids. Index of all mentioned plants is also included.

The book is rich illustrated by photographs (mostly moth orchid cultivars) and by drawing (mostly morphological features and instructional picture). The list of illustrated hybrids is organized by registration year and by originator of the cultivar. This book is the handsome handbook for everyone who cultivates the orchid and suits to bookshelf of all plant lovers.

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