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Koopowitz, H.: **Tropical Slipper Orchids. *Paphiopedilum* and *Phragmipedium* species and hybrids.** - Timber Press, Portland 2008. 411 pp. USD 59.95. ISBN-13: 978-0-88192-864-8.

The author of the book is professor emeritus of ecology at the University of California, Irvine, and editor-in-chief of Orchid Digest. The book is a complete guide to 482 tropical slipper orchids in cultivation. It is not a taxonomic revision but a horticultural treatise concerning the cultivation, history, and hybridization of tropical slipper orchids as hobby plants. The text of the book is divided into 23 chapters. In the first ones the history of slipper orchids in cultivation, their biology and classification, the connections to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), the methods of cultivation, the pests and diseases are handled in detail. Furthermore, the reader is advised how to select plants for a collection (species or hybrids?) and gets instructions for hybridization and breeding of slipper orchids. Some species of *Paphiopedilum* are especially important to hobbyists and growers, therefore they are organized into horticulturally important alliances. The members of these alliances share a close affinity with each other and it is relatively easy to make hybrids between species within an alliance. The main *Paphiopedilum* alliances are as follows: Barbatum alliance, Insigne a., Parvisepalum a., Cochlopetalum a., Coryopedilum a., Pardalopetalum a. and Brachypetalum a. The major species of the alliances were described based on their flower characteristics. The following chapters deal with several different strategies which have followed the breeding of slipper orchids (*e.g.* production of ever-bigger flowers). Five favoured species of *Paphiopedilum* were used in another type of breeding. „What is a good standard-complex flower in standard-complex hybrids“ was the question which the author asked himself when grouping the plants in groups with green, yellow and fall tones, in red tone and flowers with spots, and in white and pink flowers. A new trend was also selection of small species, called mini paphs. One of the most exciting developments of the 1990s was the production of primary hybrids between the various *Parvisepalum* species: they were distinctive, easy to grow, colourful and manyflowered during summer. Breeding with the *Brachypetalum* species and hybrids is one of the hottest areas of interest in the slipped orchid world now. The Volume is illustrated with 359 perfect special photographies made by James Comstock and watercolors by Carol Woodin. At the end the book contains an index of resources, a glossary of the most important botanical terms, References, a general index including authors and a voluminous index of plant names.

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