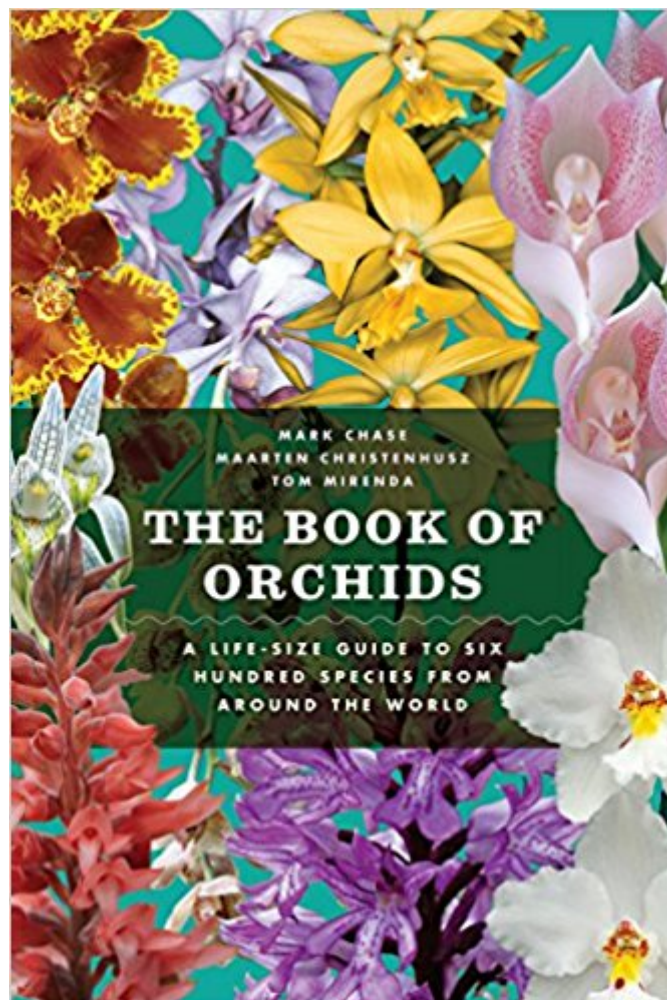




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The Book Of Orchids: A Life-Size Guide To Six Hundred Species From Around The World



Synopsis

One in every seven flowering plants on earth is an orchid. Yet orchids retain an air of exotic mystery—and they remain remarkably misunderstood and underappreciated. The orchid family contains an astonishing array of colors, forms, and smells that captivate growers from all walks of life across the globe. Though undeniably elegant, the popular moth orchid—a grocery store standard—is a bland stand-in when compared with its thousands of more complex and fascinating brethren, such as the Demon Queller, which grows in dark forests where its lovely blooms are believed to chase evil forces away. There is the Fetid Sun-God, an orchid that lures female flies to lay their eggs on its flowers by emitting a scent of rancid cheese. Or the rare, delicate Lizard Orchid, which mimics the appearance of lizards but smells distinctly of goat. The Book of Orchids revels in the diversity and oddity of these beguiling plants. Six hundred of the world's most intriguing orchids are displayed, along with life-size photographs that capture botanical detail, as well as information about distribution, peak flowering period, and each species' unique attributes, both natural and cultural. With over 28,000 known species—and more being discovered each year—the orchid family is arguably the largest and most geographically widespread of the flowering plant families. Including the most up-to-date science and accessibly written by botanists Mark Chase, Maarten Christenhusz, and Tom Mirenda, each entry in The Book of Orchids will entice researchers and orchid enthusiasts alike. With stunning full-color images, The Book of Orchids is sure to become the go-to reference for these complex, alluring, and extraordinarily adaptable plants.

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Customer Reviews

"A luscious coffee-table tome." (Nature) "For pictures you could not do better than The Book of Orchids. . . . Clear, informative text. It is a superb production, reminding us of the astonishing diversity of these plants." (Times Literary Supplement)

Mark Chase is a senior research scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. He is also adjunct professor at the School of Biological Sciences at the University of London and the School of Plant Biology at the University of Western Australia and a fellow of the Linnean Society and the Royal Society. He co-edits *Genera Orchidacearum* and has contributed to more than 350 publications on plant science. Maarten Christenhusz is a botanist who has worked for the Finnish Museum of Natural History in Helsinki, the Natural History Museum, London, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. He was initiator of the botanical journal *Phytotaxa* and is deputy editor of the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*. He has written about 100 scientific and popular publications. Tom Mirenda is Director of Horticulture, Education, and Community Outreach at the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden. He frequently lectures on orchid ecology and conservation in the United States and abroad, and is a columnist for *Orchids*, the magazine of the American Orchid Society.

Amazing book, incredible amount of detailed information about orchids, a must have!!!

Very clear. I like this product.

This is a beautifully produced book with high quality paper and photographs. It is a thick (651 pages) and heavy book though. The first few chapters give a brief but illuminating account of what an orchid is, its evolution from the Cretaceous period (it is a dinosaur plant!) and its pollination, and symbiotic relationship with other plants. The authors also tell us the threats to wild orchids today as well as the commercial production of orchids. The bulk of the book takes us across the world with fascinating orchids and their names – like Blue Fairies, Flying Duck, and Modest Jewel Orchid. Each orchid occupies a page with all the technical information tucked up neatly at the top next to a miniature map of the world and the location of that orchid on the map. The technical information includes the orchid's subfamily, tribe and subtribe, native range,

habitat, type and placement (e.g. epiphytic or terrestrial), conservation status, and flowering time. The main text describes the orchid's history and special features. Priced at £28 it is worth the purchase and makes a delightful gift for plant and orchid lovers. It is a fast growing group.

Saw this book and met one of the authors. Content is excellent and the pictures are really beautiful. I grow orchids and am a member of an orchid society. Anyone who grows orchids will appreciate this well illustrated and written book in their collection of reference books.

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