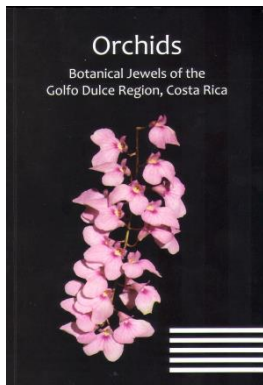


Contribuții Botanice – 2013, XLVIII: 96
Grădina Botanică “Alexandru Borza”
Cluj-Napoca



RAKOSY D., SPECKMAIER M., WEBER A., HUBER W.,
WEISSENHOFER A., (eds.) - 2013, *Orchids: Botanical
Jewels of the Golfo Dulce Region, Costa Rica*, Verein zur
Förderung der Tropenstation, La Gamba, Vienna, Austria.

The book "Orchids – botanical jewels of the Golfo Dulce region, Costa Rica" is the result of the work of an Austrian research team at the University of Vienna. Among them we are pleased to note the presence of a former student of the Faculty of Biology and Geology of "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj, Demetra Rakosy, who is a member of the team of the integrated Zoology Department of Vienna University.

The Golfo Dulce region is situated in the south-west of Costa Rica, on the border with Panama, and includes the Piedras Blancas National Park and the La Gamba Tropical Research Station, having a vegetation typical of wet tropical forests.

This richly illustrated book offers a general view of the biology and morphology of orchids.

The first chapters provide us with general information on the study area (Golfo Dulce), including climatic features and vegetation specific for this area.

The first part also offers data on the morphology and anatomy, growth and development patterns, as well as the types of inflorescences in orchids.

The peculiarities of the orchid flower are described in detail in five pages.

Particular importance is also given to the process of pollination of orchid flowers; the pollination mechanisms and the main pollinators of the orchids studied in the area under study are explained.

The book also deals with subjects such as: fruit structure and seed dispersal mechanisms, and the diversity, classification and cultivation of orchids in the Golfo Dulce region.

New information is provided in the pages on „Orchids and ants”, which reveals the presence of a symbiosis between two genera of orchids and ants in the Golfo Dulce region; as well as in the pages on the well-known spice – vanilla.

The second part of the book (Rakosy, D., Speckmaier, M., Weber, A.), which is the main body of the text, comprises the detailed descriptions of 73 orchid species of the 234 that grow in the Golfo Dulce region.

Orchids are the plant family with the highest diversity in Costa Rica. The majority of the orchids presented in this book are botanical species, with large and spectacular flowers, some of them being commoner species and others, even if not spectacular, having interesting particular pollination mechanisms.

The 73 species are presented in alphabetical order, and for each there is provided synonymy, (if available) the popular name, the etymology of the scientific name, the classification of the orchid, the description of the species, its distribution, ecology, flowering period and pollination features, with observations and bibliographical sources.

This book is intended to be a source of information and pleasure for all those who love tropical plants and particularly orchids: pupils, students, teachers, researchers or any person with a passion for plants. The language and the pictures of nature described in the pages of this book will awaken the love of nature and urge to travel in all readers.

Crina MOCAN