

BOOK REVIEW

The Orchids of Indochina by Gunnar Seidenfaden. Opera Botanica No. 114: 1-502. Copenhagen. AiO Printed Ltd., Odense, 1992. ISBN 87-88702-61-2

An enumeration of Indochinese orchids comprises 140 genera with a total of some 800 species, in which endemism is 20 percent. Keys to genera and species are provided, and copiously supplemented by explicit line drawings and coloured photographs. The text is excellently printed on high standard paper.

Compared to Thailand, where about 1000 species are known, basing on 12,000-14,000 collections, our knowledge of the Indochinese orchids is still inadequate, as the majority of the collection comes from Vietnam (about 71 percent). Quite a number of the enumerated species shares common occurrence in Thailand.

In this work the family Apostasiaceae is treated as one of the 6 subfamilies, *Apostasioideae*. Two monotypic genera, *Deceptor* Seidenf. (p. 361) and *Cleistomopsis* Seidenf. (p. 370) are proposed basing on the complicated genus *Saccolabium*; both are so far endemic to North Vietnam.

Twelve new taxa are described as new to science:

Anoectochilus tridentatus; *Biermannia sigaldii*; *Bullophyllum averyanovii*, *B. eberhardii*, *B. tixieri*; *Cleisostoma equestre*; *Epipactis atromarginata*; *Eria donnaiensis*, *E. lanigera*, *E. rubropunctata*; *Flickingeria vietnamensis*; *Habenaria praetermissa*; *Malaxis tixieri*; *Pomatocalpa grandis*; and *Schoenorchis brevirachis*.

The author is highly commended for his assiduous study to elucidate the complexity of this group of plants. The result of his study as presented will serve as a valuable reference to further the study of the Indochinese orchids. It is a must to procure this work in any botanical library. Unfortunately the price is not quoted but enquiry can be made to the following address: Nordic Journal of Botany, The Secretary, Botanical Museum, Gothersgade 130, DK-1123 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

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