

BOOK REVIEWS

Krishna Chowlu. 2022. *A Glimpse into Orchids of Namsai District of Arunachal Pradesh.* Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun, India. Pp. 182. ISBN 978-93-93628-53-4.

Dr Krishna Chowlu, Scientist C, Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar, has been working on Orchid Flora for more than a decade. She is the Life Member of 'The Orchid Society of India'. The book *A Glimpse into Orchids of Namsai District of Arunachal Pradesh* presents the amalgamation of an updated checklist of orchids of Namsai District of Arunachal Pradesh, supplemented with descriptions and photographs of orchids allowing the reader a better understanding and develop great interest towards most fascinating and diverse plant family, Orchidaceae. This book lists a total of 73 orchid taxa. Amongst these, 9 species are terrestrial, 1 is myco-heterotroph, and rest are epiphytic. *Dendrobium* with 15 species is the dominant genus. A number of species, e.g., *Aerides rosea*, *Dendrobium fimbriatum*, *D. nobile*, *D. transparens*, *Papilionanthe teres*, and *Rhynchostylis retusa* are also grown in the home gardens. Apart from the basic information on orchids, their history, medicinal properties, and artificial key to genera are also provided. Presentation of text and photographs contains photo plates and brief description of the species. For each taxon, the correct name with protologue citation, followed by concise information of life forms, phenology, and Indian and global distribution is provided. The morphological characters of orchids including different types of pollinia, gynostegium/column, labellum, floral morphology, and tubers have been described in the book. Minute variations in different species of same genera are excellently demarcated.

To have a pictorial representation on such an important group of plants will in fact, be a boon in the hands of researchers and hobbyists alike and is of great taxonomic interest. This comprehensive collection of orchid flora of Namsai District would serve as an important field guide to the botanists, forest officials, researchers, and conservationists for identification, medicinal use, and distribution of various species as it will give them first-hand information of flora found in the district. This book will not only inspire new generation of researchers for understanding the orchids, but also will be helpful in management of bio-resources in the district.

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Udai C. Pradhan. 2022. *Indian Orchid Hybrids- A Personal Journey.* Reproman, Mani Bhawan, 123 Church Road, Siliguri, West Bengal, India. Pp. 267. ISBN 978-93-5636-340-3.

Mr Udai Chandra Pradhan graduated from Allahabad Agricultural Institute gained insight in techniques of meristem tissue culture

and commercial aspects of production and sales of orchids at the Agronomical Research Station Versailles, France and at Celle, Germany. Udai Chandra Pradhan is the life member of The Orchid Society of India, Chandigarh. This book *Indian Orchid Hybrids- A Personal Journey* is a culmination of exchange of knowledge, invaluable insights and memorable experiences of author with plants, people, organization and institutions and is written with a view to creating awareness amongst the orchid growers and hobbyists regarding the orchid hybrids already registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as well as the process involved in registering them.

Orchid breeding is one of the most important aspects of orchid commerce. The creation of orchid hybrids also helps to offset the commercial pressures on natural species and thus is a positive step towards their conservation. Inquisitiveness of breeding new genera using compatible species and primary hybrids (first generation hybrids) led author to experiment with his collection of orchids (*Arachnis clarkei*, *Cattlianthe* sp., *Cymbidium* sp., *Epidendrum radicans*, *Odontochilus* sp., *Paphiopedilum* sp., *Phaius* sp., *Phalaenopsis* sp., *Vanda coerulea* etc.) which resulted in new lines of crosses (*Aranda*, *Epicatanthe*, *Pradhanara*, *Renades*, *Renastylis*, *Vanvanda* etc.). The book also encompasses information about national and international orchid hybridizers.

Some of the author's registered orchid hybrids are *Aranda Badri Narayan Pradhan* (*Arachnis clarkei* x *Vanda coerulea*), *Aranthera Usha ki Suraj* (*Arachnis Ruben* x *Renanthera imschootiana*), *Cattlianthe Mahatma Gandhi* (*Cattlianthe Rojo* x *Cattleya Bob Betts*), *Cymbidium Herbert Graham Brown* (*Cymbidium eburneum* x *Cymbidium Dryden*), *Cymbidium Tej* and *Udai* (*Cymbidium Camalex* x *Cymbidium tigrinum*), *Paphiopedilum Doctor Kamaljit Bawa* (*Paphiopedilum Sukhadru* x *Paphiopedilum Goultanianum*), *Phalaenopsis Manju Sharma* (*Phalaenopsis mannii* x *Phalaenopsis Lipperot*), *Phalaenopsis Triloki Nath Khoshoo* (*Phalaenopsis taenialis* x *Phalaenopsis Robert Bauman*), *Rhyncattleanthe Suraj Prakash Vij* (*Rhyncattleanthe Delhi Samsher Pradhan* x *Cattleya Naomi Kerns*) etc. The book also contains Appendix I illustrating the list of registered Indian orchids from 1977 onwards till October, 2022 and Appendix II includes the International Orchid Registrar, Julian Shaw's contents in the Sander's list of Orchid Hybrids, 3 Year Addendum, 2017-2019 with permission from the RHS, London, UK so as to benefit hybridizers and Orchid enthusiasts around the world.

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