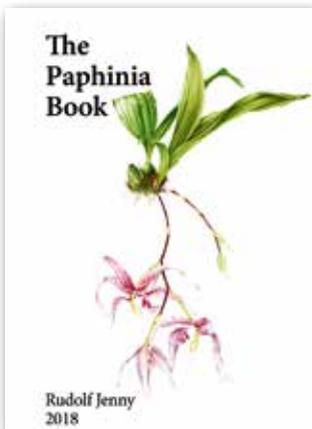


Tenasserim orchids and their paintings. The last part chronicles Parish's final years after his return to Somerset. An extensive bibliography and appendices of his Botanical Collections in Britain and Ireland and a listing of all the Tenasserim orchid drawings and specimens held in the Kew Herbarium bring the book to a close. It goes into enormous detail, even including photographs of the churches near Taunton he was associated with. Despite a timeline that sometimes wavers, Parish's true character does emerge. Apart from the many species he discovered, his lasting legacy will be the illustrations now presented to the attention of the wider orchid world. *Clare Hermans*



### The Paphinia Book

by Rudolf Jenny  
220 pages, hardback, 224  
photographs and 125 illustrations,  
282mm x 226mm, 2018. Published  
by the author, ISBN 9789942307378.  
US\$110 (about £82) plus postage,  
available from the author's website  
<https://orchilibra.com>

A beautiful book by Rudolf Jenny from Switzerland, following the success of his other recent books ...*Of Men and Orchids...* (volumes one and two) and *The Stanbopea Book*.

This is the first monograph of *Paphinia* and describes all 16 species

with clear photographs that make for easy identification. With 350 illustrations this book is picture-led, and they complement every chapter. The author's erudition and huge collection of source literature is evident from the copies of the type paintings and drawings of the plants, which are also accessible online from his BibliOrchidea website. Often the type herbarium sheet is also shown, making this a superb reference book for all interested in the genus.

After the introductory history of literature on the genus, morphology, distribution and habitats, each species is dealt with separately, followed by chapters on pollination and floral fragrance (fascinating), hybrids, etymology, and an extensive bibliography and index. It provides the reader with all the primary sources for each species, and carefully discusses their validity and priority – a real masterclass in making detailed research accessible and interesting.

There are no DNA cladograms so the identifications of the species are based on floral anatomy, and here Jenny has excelled by having photographs of the lips of the species arranged together on pages 22–25 so these important identification characteristics can be compared without flipping from page to page. These are close-ups of the shaggy appendages and the curious callus on the lip which beautifully demonstrate the differences in the 16 species.

Throughout the book there are interesting vignettes about the people whose work has been so important in the last 200 years in connection with orchids, or who have discovered new *Paphinia* or described them. There are photographs of Clarence Horich, Bob Dressler, Gunter Gerlach, Hans-Gerhardt Seeger, HG Reichenbach, Karlheinz Senghas, Jean and Lucien Linden, Joan Levy, Alex Hirtz, Joao Barbosa Rodrigues, John Lindley,

the Dunstervilles and several more.

No cultivation requirements are given, but the distribution maps, showing the habitats as wet lowland forests in Central America and the Amazon basin, from 100 to 1,000m above sea level, indicate that warmth, humidity and shade are required. The photographs showing them growing on small, moss-covered forest branches tell the reader instantly that they require abundant rainwater, perfect drainage, no resting period, and that mounted specimens should work well. As the flower scapes are pendulous, mounted plants or those in hanging baskets allow the short-lived flowers to be appreciated – and, indeed, *Paphinia* plants seen at orchid shows tend to be grown like this.

It is also a coffee table book, a tome for the general reader who will be entranced by the beauty of these plants, as well as any serious student of orchid botany. It should be in all reference libraries with a botanical or horticultural interest, both for its scholarship and as a record of source literature as well as an exemplar of a good orchid book. Orchid societies with judging programmes, and their judges, will find it invaluable in assessing the merits of plants put before them. *Henry Oakeley*



**Above** Page 22 of *The Paphinia Book*, part of a diagnostically useful montage showing the shaggy appendages on the lips of the 16 species