

This edition of *The Fertilization of Orchids by Insects*, by Charles Darwin, is an enlargement and revision of the edition of 1862, which had gone out of print. The additions and corrections are so numerous as to make this essentially a new work. The volume is freely illustrated, and is of course a mass of details of observation and anecdotes which would not be understood if quoted without the context. The object of the author may, however, be briefly stated as a showing that the contrivances by which orchids are fertilized are as varied and almost as perfect as any of the most beautiful adaptations of the animal kingdom; and that these contrivances have for their main object the fertilization of the flowers with a pollen brought by insects from a distinct plant; that it is an almost universal law that the higher organic beings require an occasional cross with another individual. That is to say: nature abhors in plants continual self-fertilization, and that cross-fertilization is sought. Like everything from Mr. Darwin's pen, the volume is certain to enchain the interest of the intelligent reader. (D. Appleton & Co.; New York. Brown & Gross; Hartford.

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