

Orchids the surprising faculties

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surprising faculties

Mimicry

This is probably one of the most fascinating phenomena of the vegetable kingdom, especially since it is repeated in various ways at various groups of insects and unrelated orchids.

Examples abound.

The *Bulbophyllum* attract flies by their decaying matter of appearance.

Many species mimic the abundant flowers and attractive plants for pollinators.

Dodson says a male bee that pollinates the kind *Oncidium* attacking the inflorescence that mimics another male in flight, while receiving the head pollinia ejected, it will drop to the next "attack" ...

Reproductive mimicry

Mimicry is a coping strategy, that is to say the means for a species to gain an extra advantage in its struggle to survive.

The goal here is to use a third party to allow the distribution of seed and plants it is mostly - but not always - that use this very special mimicry since there are no victims.

If most extraordinary of these orchids that mimic uncannily the body of a bee or a wasp, so that the insect, deceived, is smeared pollen that export on a nearby Orchid allowing the reproduction of the species.

mimicry pyannaïen

Many plants have evolved to resemble other organizations, mostly insects.

This can have many benefits, including increased pollination.

In the pyannaïen mimicry, the flowers visually mimic a potential female, but the key stimuli are often chemical and tactile.

The orchid hammer a kind threat of orchid which is native to Australia is one of the most notable examples.

The orchid has visual and olfactory imitation of wasp female to attract males to both store and collect pollen.

Up to 10 000 species of delicate orchids in the floral world also use deception to be pollinated:

Over time, they have developed elaborate ruses to attract insects.

In general, we believe that flowers provide food for insects that pollinate them.

Evolution has produced many species of flowers that claim to have food that insects want emitting coconut odor or even rotten meat.

Orchid Australian hammer

(Caleana major)

Australian hammer orchid took advantage of a mating ritual of thynnide wasp, which involves a female wasp waiting atop a branch or a plant for a male the mark.

The flower of the hammer orchid mimics the female wasp looking up for a flying colt with false shiny head and a hairy body.

The orchid even releases a pheromone attractive female wasp.

When the male wasp tries to mate with the female dummy, it fails, but manages to get the orchid pollen on the wasp.

It flies away, only to be duped by another orchid pulling the same trick.

There are many specimens of orchids that mimic certain animals, insects or everyday objects ...

There are bumblebee orchids, monkeys, hedgehogs, ballerinas ...

She has a wide palette and the phenomenal ability of the orchid to take unusual shapes.

Sometimes we can not say why she does it - why can she look like any other and not a flower corolla?

It is clear that if the orchid takes the form of a bee, it is because she wants to deceive another insect and attract it.

The resemblance is so great that some bees, flies and bumble bees take the flower for a representative of their own species and want to copulate with it.

But why should a flower look like a monkey's head, an angry person, a graceful ballerina or something else?

This may be especially to ask about the power of nature when it comes to its smallest creations, to surprise us or just to charm us.

This book will introduce you to one of the most fascinating phenomena of the plant kingdom.

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