

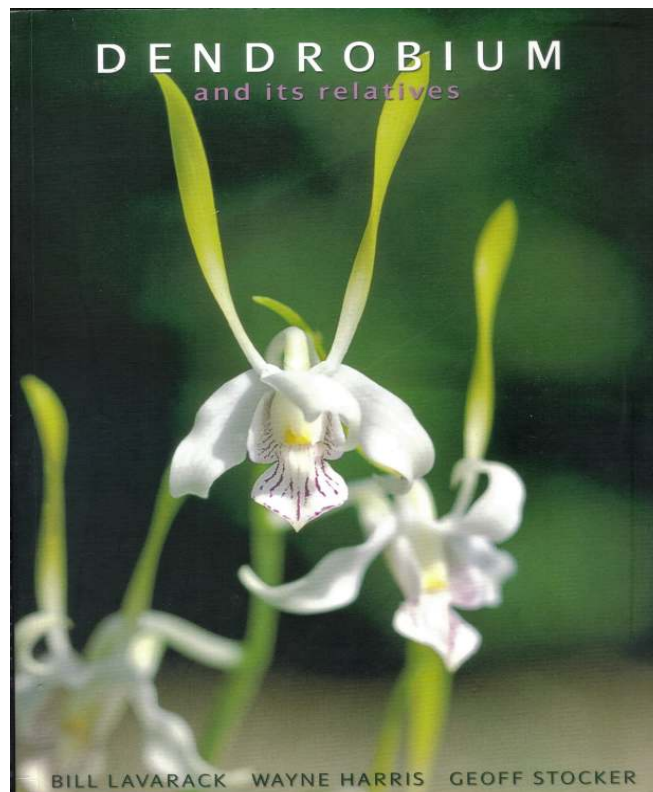
Book Review:

DENDROBIUM AND ITS RELATIVES

Green Culture Singapore Feature Article for December 2008

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• Text by Lim Xuan Hong •



Above: The cover page of 'DENDROBIUM and its Relatives'

'*Dendrobium* and its relatives' is a must read for all orchid lovers, especially those who cultivate and collect *Dendrobium* species. It is written in an informative yet easy to understand tone, making it a delightful read for both amateurs and professionals alike. Printed on glossy paper, readers will be captivated by the alluring photos of these unique *Dendrobium* flowers.

'*Dendrobium* and its Relatives' is a very comprehensive book, packed with essential information necessary for an orchid connoisseur's understanding of the subtribe *Dendrobiinae*. Armed with full sized blown up photos, the authors and illustrators of this book also ensure that anyone who read this book will be 'wowed' by the beauty and unrivalled blooms of *Dendrobiinae*. Despite being loaded with comprehensive information, this book is well organised into two parts, one being an introduction of the distribution and ecology of *Dendrobiinae* and the other being a complete descriptive list of the *Dendrobiinae* species.

Conservationists may find this book interesting and informative. The book devotes a substantial number of pages describing the ecology of *Dendrobiinae* and how climate change and manmade activities are threatening the natural habitats of *Dendrobiinae*. Chapter 5 is entirely dedicated to the conservation of *Dendrobiinae* with reference to specific case studies of many species and offers a great deal of suggestions to remedy the situation. Other than conservation, the origins of *Dendrobiinae* are also highlighted in this book. With reference to tectonic plates and geographical events, this book also explains the theories on the origin of *Dendrobiinae* and how the different sections of *Dendrobiinae* evolved.

However, '*Dendrobium* and its relatives' is not suitable for an orchid beginner due to its large volume of information specific to *Dendrobiinae* and the technical names used in the book. One who is not familiar with orchids might be overwhelmed by the scientific names as well as the taxonomy of *Dendrobiinae*. This book also does not focus on the cultivation of commercial *Dendrobium*, which is what an orchid amateur would be more interested in.

Nevertheless, this book is indeed a valuable addition to one's plant literature collection as it contains a wealth of information and is a good species look-up guide. I would highly recommend it to anyone who wants to collect orchids or learn about *Dendrobiinae*.

Details of this book

This book can be purchased online via Amazon.com. Details about this book obtained from the Amazon.com website are given below:

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Timber Press, Incorporated (2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0881928054

ISBN-13: 978-0881928051

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8.1 x 0.9 inches

It is also available for lending from selected library branches of Singapore's National Library Board and its call number is English 635.9344 LAV-[HOM].

Acknowledgements

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