

The Genus *Paphiopedilum* 2nd Edition

Authored by **Guido J Braem, G. Chiron & Sandra L Öhlund**

ABOUT THE BOOK

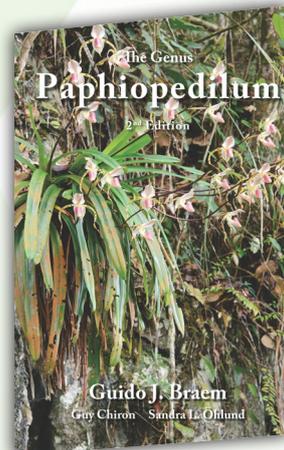
THE GENUS PAPHIOPEDILUM by Braem, Chiron, & Öhlund is the most complete monograph hitherto written about this fascinating genus of slipper orchids. The extensive text is scientifically correct but written to be accessible to commercial and amateur orchid growers, professional botanists, and anyone interested in orchids or in beautiful and exotic flowering plants in general. The book is completed by 247 illustrations, of which 222 are in colour. Overall, the book has 665 pages. The text is written by Prof. Dr. Guido Braem, one of the leading orchid taxonomists of our time. The botanist Dr. Guy Chiron and Professor Sandy Öhlund, an accredited judge with the American Orchid Society and an experienced orchid grower, contributed valuable information.

Starting with a short preamble and a detailed discussion, the book continues with a general section dealing with the basics of orchids and orchid taxonomy. Thereafter, the genus *Paphiopedilum*, representing the Asian tropical and subtropical slipper orchids, is discussed. The infrageneric divisions of the genus are explained and every one of the 98 species of the genus is treated in detail: basionym (the name as given in the original publication), synonym(s), discussion, etymology (origin of the name of the species), detailed description, distribution and habitat, flowering data *in situ* and in cultivation (as far as available), miscellaneous notes such as the mitotic chromosome count, and varieties and forms (as far as applicable). All species are illustrated whereby the great majority of pictures are photographs taken from plants in cultivation and in their natural habitat. Close-ups are available for all species, as well as *in situ* photographs for a great number of the taxa. Furthermore, plates from famous botanical works have been included.

After the descriptive section, there is a chapter with identification keys to the various subgenera, sections, and subsections, and finally for each of these, there is a key leading to the species. The book is completed by an index of plant names and a bibliography.

Overall, the layout of the book warrants easy use. Those not interested in the purely scientific chapters can easily jump directly to the descriptive part of the work that is perfect for identification.

Based on the legendary books about the genus *Paphiopedilum* published by Prof. Braem and his team in 1988, 1998/1999, and 2003, the present monograph is the most complete and up-to-date book on the subject, and will be the standard text for many years to come.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Guido Jozef Braem was born in Ghent, Belgium in 1944. He had a structured but extremely varied academic career, starting in Brussels with studies in chemistry and pharmacology. Professor Braem then worked in virus research in Canada and Belgium. In 1970 he moved to Germany, where he married his wife Gudrun, and studied biology and English at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen. He then earned his doctorate in plant biology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in England, traveling to the Caribbean to do research for his doctoral dissertation, which focused on orchid taxonomy. Afterward, he worked in Germany as an independent scientist and translator, and taught biology for the European divisions of the City Colleges of Chicago and the University of Maryland. His studies have led him to many foreign lands, both in the eastern and western tropics, to research his studies and to be able to write from a knowledgeable perspective.



In the 1990s Dr. Braem became a research associate in botany as well as the history and philosophy of science for the California Academy of Sciences and continued to teach for the European division of the University of Maryland University College, where he was appointed full Professor in 2005. In this same time period, he also continued to travel to Ecuador, Brazil, and Peru; back in Germany he studied art history.

Professor Braem is the author of more than 180 scientific publications on the biology of orchids and carnivorous plants, as well as the texts for several comic books of a satirical nature. He publishes in several languages in journals throughout Europe, Australia and the Americas. In addition to being a renowned plant biologist, teacher, and author, Prof. Braem, who lives in Lahnau, Germany, has been a Darwin scholar and has published an elaborate Darwin biography. Dr. Braem's interest in slipper orchids started in the early eighties of the last century, and in 1988, his first book on the topic appeared; now, nearly 30 years later, an updated treatise on the paphiopedilums is presented.

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