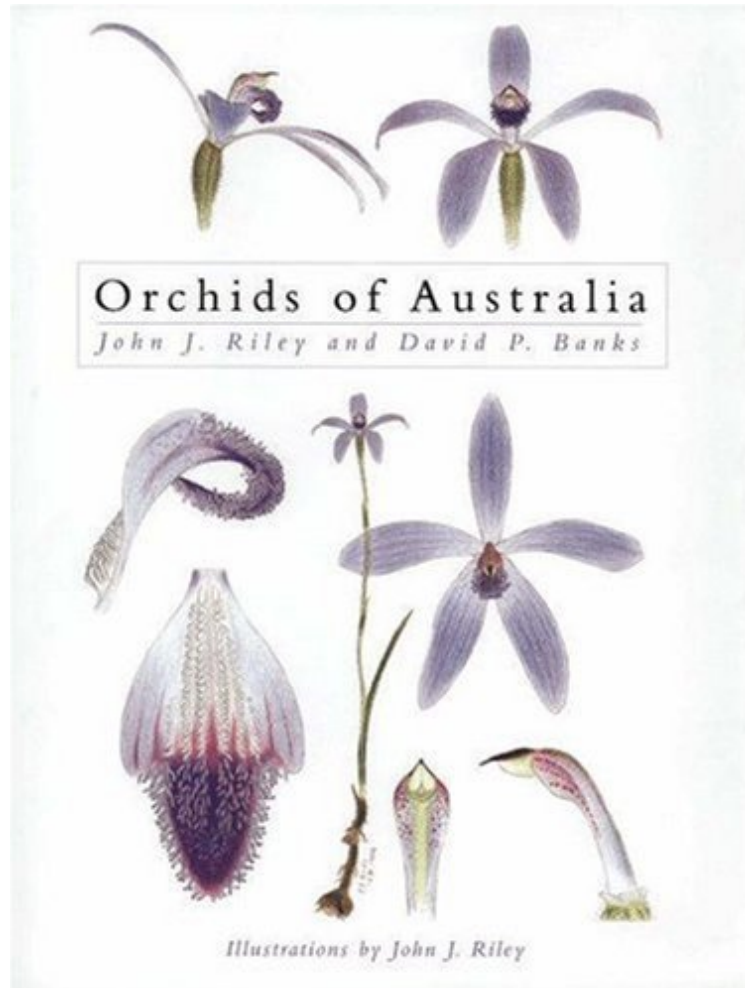


## Orchids of Australia (Princeton Field Guides)

*John J. Riley*

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#3941005 in Books Princeton University Press 2003-01-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 13.12 x 1.17 x 9.701, 4.76 #File Name: 0691114900320 pages | File size: 74.Mb

**John J. Riley : Orchids of Australia (Princeton Field Guides)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Orchids of Australia (Princeton Field Guides):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book! By M. D. Kobler Both a great reference and a lovely coffee-table book. I gave two to my advisors as graduation thank-you gifts and they were delighted. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Great work from down under By dirk\_fluehs The book is a great reference data base of the fascinating Australian orchid flora. Although 'only' a choice of 150 out of some 1200 Australian species is shown this book gives a good impression of what an orchid friend may expect from the Orchidaceae of this continent. Both terrestrial and epiphytic species are included. The plants are shown in alphabetical order of the genus, with the species in chronological order of scientific description. John Riley's drawings of the species are most skillful and combine botanical accuracy with a highly esthetic standard. Every illustration is a masterpiece, showing the plant entirely and its parts in adequate magnification. Thus the reader gets an impression of the plant which is very close to

the real view. The presentation of anatomical details allows to identify closely related species. This is useful feature especially in the case of a number of very similar species, for instance within the genus *Pterostylis*. I have seen several species myself in natura and I can confirm that such a drawing gives more visual information about the plants than a photo often can. Additional information about the species is given in the accompanying text. It contains data about the distribution, the typical habitat and the state of endangerment. David Banks' text is concise and testifies a great competence in this field. In summary this book can be recommended all orchid friends. And I hope that the authors will have the time and opportunity to publish some additional volumes of their magnificent work to deliver insight of their intriguing orchid flora to all interested people inside and outside of Australia. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Great Coffee Table Adornment By Grey Falcon This is a beautiful book with glorious artwork. We thought of cutting out some coloured drawing and faming them to hang on the wall, but finally decided to keep the book intact as a coffee table adornment. But this book is not a guide to the orchids of Australia. It contains only a relatively small number of the thousands of species. There are other books that buyers should consider if they want a comprehensive guide, such as David Jones's 'A Complete Guide to the Native Orchids of Australia'.

More than 80% of Australia's lavishly abundant species of native orchids are found nowhere else in the world. With their delicate beauty, often brilliant colors, bizarre shapes, and wondrous biological relationships, they have attracted a dedicated following of passionate devotees. This magnificently illustrated, up-to-date, and authoritative book covers 150 of the most well known and widespread species as well as many that are extremely rare or were only recently described. These include both terrestrial and arboreal orchids from all parts of this fascinating continent. John Riley's drawings are not only beautiful but masterpieces of meticulous accuracy: all are anatomically exact, representing the finest collection of illustrations of this flora published to date. The concise text, by David Banks with contributions from Riley, complements the drawings with precise, pertinent information. Each species description consists of a full page of color illustrations of all key parts with a page of text opposite. The orchid genera are arranged alphabetically and, where appropriate, separated into informal groupings. Within each genus, the species appear in chronological order of their scientific description. Closely related taxonomic groups are therefore presented together, for easier comparison. Orchids of Australia will become a benchmark among the burgeoning numbers of orchid lovers, growers, and specialists worldwide, combining the most up-to-date nomenclatural treatment of Australia's indigenous orchids with superb, highly detailed, full-color illustrations. John J. Riley, who worked for many years as a sheep shearer in his native Australia, is one of the country's most accomplished botanical artists. He has been researching and drawing the country's orchids in the field for more than twenty years. In 1992 he was awarded a fellowship by the Australian Institute of History and the Arts in recognition of his botanical illustrations and his celebrated carvings on emu eggs. David P. Banks is the editor of the Australian Orchid Review and former editor of The Orchadian. Author of Tropical Orchids of Southeast Asia and Growing Orchids, he is a popular lecturer both in Australia and abroad on orchids and their cultivation. The most beautifully illustrated, up-to-date book on some of the finest of Australia's abounding native orchids Strikingly detailed and accurate, full-color drawings of 150 species, from the most well known and widespread to the rare and recently described Each orchid described by a page of illustrations Text on facing page provides succinct information on range, etymology, flowering time, habitat, conservation status, and distinctive features Closely related taxonomic groups presented together for easier comparison Genera arranged alphabetically and species within each genus ordered chronologically by date of scientific description Range map for each species

"Vast in scope and amazing in detail, this comprehensive guide highlights a different type of orchid on each pair of beautifully designed pages. . . . Banks' and Riley's passion for the native orchids of Australia has clearly resulted in one of today's finest contemporary orchid books. Well written and wonderfully illustrated, Orchids of Australia is one of the most interesting and beautiful guides available."--The Botanical Artist