

New findings on the pollination of European orchids

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Attracting potential pollinators is of vital importance for orchids, for most orchids depend on insects for the transport of the genetic material, the pollinia. Observations showed that some insect species can pollinate a wide range of orchid species, whereas other orchids are adapted to a specific pollinator. *Empis* species proved to be pollinators of *Neotinea ustulata*, *Neottia ovata*, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, *Gymnadenia conopsea* and *Epipactis palustris*. Various *Bombus* species are the main pollinators of *Epipogium aphyllum*. We found Crambidae and Diptera to be the main pollinators of *Gymnadenia rhellicani*.