

## **ORCHIDS (Orchidaceae)**

Our understanding of Australia's rich orchid flora (over 1200 species) is rapidly evolving, with active research and new species published every year – hence older books become dated rather quickly. The taxonomy of the Australian orchids is also somewhat contentious, with some researchers preferring to split certain large genera (e.g. *Pterostylis*, *Dendrobium*, *Caladenia*) into several smaller genera. As a result there is much discordance between some recent works in the generic names that they use, even though they do mostly agree on the validity of the species themselves. The Australian Plant Census (APC) website (<https://www.anbg.gov.au/chah/apc/>) may be of assistance in navigating the synonyms.

**Backhouse G & Jeanes J (1995) The orchids of Victoria.** Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Vic. 388 pp. ISBN 052284393X.

Keys to genera and species; short descriptions with notes; fair to good colour photos. Now very out of date, superseded by Backhouse et al. (2016), *q.v.*

**Backhouse G (2011) Spider Orchids: the Genus *Caladenia* and its Relatives in Australia.** <https://bushorchids.weebly.com>, Seaford, Vic. 844 pp. ISBN: 978-0-9946489-1-4. Available as EBook PDF on DVD-ROM or USBstick, in large or small file-size options for different devices.

Comprehensive guide to the genus *Caladenia* and its relatives and segregates (*Adenochilus*, *Cyanicula*, *Ericksonella*, *Eriochilus*, *Glossodia*, *Elythranthera*, *Leptoceras*, *Pheladenia* and *Praecoxanthus*) in the subtribe Caladeniinae in Australia; 395 species and subspecies plus 143 naturally occurring hybrids. Brief but diagnostic descriptive text for each taxon, with distribution maps, notes, and good multiple colour images (over 7,800 images in total, showing habit, flower, and variation in colour-phase and features). No keys, but multi-species image plates allow some comparative identification.

**Backhouse G, Kosky B, Rouse D, & Turner J (2016) Bush gems: a guide to the wild orchids of Victoria, Australia.** <https://bushorchids.weebly.com>, Seaford, Vic.

855 pp. ISBN 9780994648907. Available as EBook PDF on DVD-ROM or USBstick, in large or small file-size options for different devices.

Covers all 400 or so species known from Victoria, with brief but diagnostic descriptive text, distribution maps, notes, and good multiple colour images (over 7,000 images in total, showing habit, flower, and variation in colour-phase and other features). No keys, but multi-species image plates allow some comparative identification.

**Banks D & Riley J (2002) Orchids of Australia – limited edition.** University of NSW Press, Kensington NSW. 324 pp. ISBN 0868404543.

A deluxe (\$395) edition of Riley & Banks 2002 (*q.v.*), with each species having one full-colour page of artwork and one of notes.

**Bates RJ & Weber JZ (1990) Orchids of South Australia.** Government Printer, Adelaide. (Handbook of the flora and fauna of South Australia) 182 pp. ISBN 0724365885.

Introductory short sections on ecology, conservation, cultivation, history of study, morphology, pollination, and mycorrhiza. Keys are provided to the genera and species, with brief descriptions

and habitat/distribution notes, and line drawings and good colour photos.

**Bates RJ (2009) Native orchids of South-Western Australia. Edition 1.** Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. (PO Box 565, Unley SA 5061; email [nossa.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:nossa.enquiries@gmail.com); website with purchase details <http://nossa.org.au/products/>).

537 pages, covering 268 orchid species. [NOT SEEN]

**Bates RJ (2011) South Australia's native orchids. [DVD]** Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. (PO Box 565, Unley SA 5061; email [nossa.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:nossa.enquiries@gmail.com); website with purchase details <http://nossa.org.au/products/>). ISBN 9780987161703.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: DVD-ROM** (Format is one long bookmarked PDF file).

Covers approx. 350 species (all the known SA species at time of publication), with short descriptions, synonymies, notes on distribution and habitat, conservation status, and variable quality images (some very good). Chapters on orchid biology, ecology and cultivation. No keys.

**Bedford RB (1969) A guide to Australian native orchids.** Angus and Robertson, Sydney. 134 pp. ISBN 020795190X.

Despite the title, this covers *epiphytic* species only. Short descriptions with line drawings and a few colour paintings; no keys. Now very dated.

**Bishop A (2000) Field guide to the orchids of New South Wales and Victoria. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn.**

University of New South Wales Press, Sydney. 257 pp. ISBN 0868407062.

Descriptions, keys, and good colour photos for more than 500 species.

**Brown A (2007) Orchids of the South-West.** Dept. of Environment and Conservation. 72 pp.

ISBN 9780730968931. [One of the *Bush Books* series, now distributed by WA Dept of BCA].

Paperback beginner's guide to 33 of the orchids (out of c. 400), of the region south of a line Kalbarri to Esperance - mostly the more common species, and a few rarer ones of note. Brief descriptions and notes plus colour photos.

**Brown A, Dundas P, Dixon K, & Hopper S [2009] Orchids of Western Australia.**

University of Western Australia Press, Crawley WA. 421 pp. ISBN 9780980296457

An art-work book, rather than a dedicated identification guide, covering 409 species for the State (including the Kimberley), with over 200 full-page watercolour illustrations – almost all are habit studies, not necessarily showing diagnostic detail. The descriptive text is very brief; some diagnostic features are noted. No keys.

**Brown A, Dixon K, French C, Brockman G (2013) Field guide to the orchids of Western Australia : the definitive guide to the native orchids of Western Australia.** Simon Nevill Publications, Floreat, WA. 513 pp. ISBN 9780980348149.

Covers 28 genera and 430 species of WA orchids, including more than a hundred phrase-named undescribed taxa. A text-table of features helps the user place a sample to genus, and a pictorial table of exemplar species helps to confirm this. A similar approach is taken within some of the

larger genera to take you to complexes of species. There are no dichotomous keys. Species treatments are short and as plain-language as can be reasonably expected. Distinctive features are spelt out. The colour photos (at least two per species) are excellent. RECOMMENDED.

**Burton E (2015) Orchids of the Hunter region.** [Self-publ. by the author, Woodberry NSW; purchase via <http://kooragangwetlands.com/orchids-of-the-hunter-region/> or phone (02) 4964 9308]. 184 pp. ISBN 9780646934242.

A pictorial guide to over 150 species from the region, arranged by genus but each species with colour-coded top margin of the page approximating the dominant flower colour. No keys and only descriptive brief text, but this includes diagnostic features for each species and some of these are arrowed on the images. Flowering times are given, and some aspects of site-to-site variation are also captured in the images, which are locality-captioned. Competing scientific names are indicated in genera where nomenclature is not settled.

**Collier P et al. (2010) Plant Identikit: Common orchids of Tasmania. Second edition.** Australian Plants Society Tasmania Inc., Hobart Group. 65 pp. ISBN 9780909830649.

Pocket-sized field guide to 72 species, with very brief descriptions and notes, sample localities, cultivation notes, and fair-quality colour illustrations.

**Dacy ME [1987] Victorian orchids in habitat : an aid to their identification.** The Author, Box Hill, Vic. 197 pp. ISBN 0731619129.

Keys and descriptions, with line drawings and photos of critical parts of most taxa. The taxonomy and nomenclature is very dated.

**Dixon KW, Buirchell B, & Collins MT (eds) (1989) Orchids of Western Australia : cultivation and natural history. 2nd edn.** Western Australian Native Orchid Conservation Group, Victoria Park, WA. 68 pp. ISBN 0731692136

Not comprehensive and now very dated; descriptions and illustrations, some in colour.

**Dockrill AW (1992, 1994) Australian indigenous orchids. The epiphytes, the tropical terrestrial species.** Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton, NSW. ( 2 vols.) ISBN 0949524434 (set).

**Vol. 1** (1992): 530 pp., ISBN 0949324442; **Vol 2** (1994): 1062 pp., ISBN 0949324450.

Detailed descriptions and illustrations of all of the species in this category. Very outdated.

**Drewe H, Durie K, & Lollback S (2012) Hassans Walls orchids – Lithgow.** Lithgow & District Community Nursery (PO Box 492, Lithgow NSW 2790). 38 pp. ISBN 9780646579597.

Covers 62 species from one reserve; good colour photos, minimal text. Useful along the western fall of NSW's Blue Mountains. Now superseded by the orchid coverage (73 for the same reserve) in Lollback *et al.* (2014) *Native plants Hassans Walls Reserve Lithgow*, from same publisher.

**George AS & Foote HE [1971?] Orchids of Western Australia.** Westviews, Perth. 28 pp.

Includes colour illustrations; not comprehensive, very dated..

**Hoffman N & Brown A (2011) Orchids of south-west Australia. 3rd edition.** University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, WA. 513 pp. ISBN 9780646562322.

Key to the genera, followed by short descriptions of 413 species with fair to good colour photos and distribution maps. Now somewhat dated, but still useful - it is superseded by Hoffman et al. 2019. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1998, ISBN 1876268182) and a variant revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition with supplement, are still around, but are now very out of date.

**Hoffman N, Brown A, & Brown J (2019) Orchids of south-west Australia. 4th edition.** [Self-publ., <https://orchidswa.com.au>]. 514 pp. ISBN 9780646999210 (s/bk), 978064699920 (h/bk).

Updated edition with extra descriptions and colour images of more species (and hybrids), with notes on distribution, flowering period and habitat.

**Jeanes J & Backhouse G (2006) Wild orchids of Victoria, Australia.** Aquatic Photographics (PO Box 124, Seaford Vic 3198). 315 pp. ISBN 9780977537204, 097753720X.

Covers 360 species, with a key to genera, then brief descriptions of species, with 1400 mostly excellent colour photos. Largely superseded for comprehensiveness and currency of nomenclature by Backhouse et al. (2016), *q.v.*

**Jones DL (1988) Native orchids of Australia.** Reed, Frenchs Forest, NSW. 656 pp. ISBN 0730101894.

Covers all recognised species at date of publication species, with 260 in colour photos and over 600 line drawings. No keys; good descriptions and colour plates. Near-comprehensive at time of publication but now out of date.

**Jones DL (1991) New taxa of Australian Orchidaceae.** Australian Orchid Foundation, Essendon, Vic. (*Australian Orchid Research* vol. 2) 207 pp. ISBN 0959538461.

Over 100 new species described and illustrated.

**Jones D, Wapstra H, Tonelli P, & Harris S (1999) The orchids of Tasmania.** Miegunyah Press, Carlton South, Vic. 317 pp. ISBN 0522848516.

Detailed descriptions of the 195 then-known species, with excellent colour photos, maps, best recognition characters, and notes. Includes two keys to genera, one using leaf characters only, and separate keys to species. Useful introductory chapter on habitats, conservation, and orchid terminology. RECOMMENDED

**Jones D & Jones B (2000) A field guide to the native orchids of southern Australia.** Blooming Books, Hawthorn, Vic. 278pp.. ISBN 187647324X.

Not for definitive identification, as it covers only 268 species, mostly common or conspicuous; but this is a reasonable sample of species and is a good (and portable!) intermediate guide. Each species has plain-English descriptions and an excellent colour photo; no keys.

**Jones DL & Clements MA (2002) A review of *Pterostylis* (Orchidaceae).** Australian Orchid Foundation, Essendon, Vic. (*Australian Orchid Research* vol. 4) 169 pp. ISBN 0642549044.

A primary classificatory and nomenclatural work, technical and not providing identification

information to species level, but erecting a number of new or reinstated genera within *Pterostylis sens. lat.*, and creating many new species and name combinations. Background only.

**Jones DL et al. (2006) Australian orchid genera: an information and identification system.**

ABRS Identification Series. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic. / Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS). ISBN-10: 0643093362; ISBN-13: 9780643093362.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE – INTERACTIVE:** CD and ?Flash Drive versions.

Now out of print, but still in use. An illustrated interactive key and information system, running on the user-friendly LucID platform, for all 192 genera of Australian orchids recognised by these authors at the time of publication. A matrix of 127 morphological and geographical characters allows easy identification to genus level, with help notes and more than 2500 images to assist with the complex floral structure. Fact sheets are provided for each genus. While the identification tool only goes down to genus level, there is a list of all species names published to April 2006 with nomenclatural and census information.

**Jones DL (2006) A complete guide to native orchids of Australia, including the island territories.** Reed New Holland, Frenchs Forest, NSW. 496 pp. ISBN 1877069124.

Fully comprehensive as at date of publication, with short but detailed descriptions, and excellent colour photos. No keys. The author in this work uses a number of new genus names not necessarily taken up by other workers, but the name equivalents can be clarified easily from the index. Still the best single national-scope resource. RECOMMENDED

**Jones DL (2008) Field guide to the orchids of the Australian Capital Territory.** National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc. 288 pp. ISBN 9780980285420.

Comprehensive for the ACT at time of publication. Brief descriptions and notes, with good colour photos and line drawings. RECOMMENDED

**Jones DL, Hopley T, & Duffy SM (2010) Australian tropical rainforest orchids. Version 1.1, December 2010.** Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, Canberra.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE, ON-LINE: INTERACTIVE** <http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/orfk/index.html> (free access; A Java update may be needed).

Running on the user-friendly Lucid software, this covers 224 species of orchids occurring north of a line approx. Townsville to Broome, in 'tropical rainforest' communities broadly defined – i.e. including lowland and montane forests and the drier rainforest scrubs and vine thickets of the NT and the Kimberley. RECOMMENDED

This information system is the 'orchid module' of *Australian Tropical Herbarium & CSIRO Plant Industry (2010) Australian tropical rain forest plants, edition 6* – see Rainforest section of this bibliography.

**Kangaroo Island Flora and Fauna Club Inc. [Overton B et al.] (2017) Native Orchids of Kangaroo Island: a field guide.** Kangaroo Island Flora and Fauna Club Inc., Kingscote, SA. [Available via <https://www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au/publications/>]. 154 pp. ISBN 9780646972824.

Covers 68 of the 81 species recorded for KI (the remaining species are stated to be presumed extinct). Introductory material on orchid habitats, soil types, and flowering times; then each species has a double page with multiple photographs.

**Kuiter RH (2010) Victoria's small Caladenias.** Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Vic. [or via [rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au)]. 36 pp. [No ISBN].

Covers 25 species, with notes on distribution, habitat, and variation, and multiple fair-quality colour images for each taxon showing habit, floral detail, and variation. Assumed to have been largely superseded by Kuiter (2013). [NOT SEEN]

**Kuiter RH (2012) Victoria's Orchids. Quick-guide to: Sun Orchids, Greenhoods, Greencombs, Diuris, Mountain Spider-orchids, Hyacinths, Potato Orchids.** Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Vic. [or via [rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au)]. 36 pp. [No ISBN].

A small selection of species only are illustrated with fair to good colour photos and very brief notes. OK for casual interest.

**Kuiter RH (2013) Victoria's spider orchids (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).** Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Vic. [or via [rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au)]. 230 pp. [No ISBN].

Covers about 50 species of spider-orchids found in Victoria, each with multiple colour images and brief notes. [NOT SEEN]

**Kuiter RH (2016) Victoria's greenhoods and rustyhoods (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).** Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Vic. [or via [rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au)]. 185 pp. [No ISBN].

Colour images and very brief descriptive and distribution notes for over 70 species of Greenhoods and Rustyhoods (*Pterostylis sens.lat.*) found in Victoria. A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is pending for issue in mid-2019.

**Kuiter RH (2016) Victoria's cryptic orchids.** Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Vic. [or via [rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au)]. 172 pp. [No ISBN].

Billed as a 'comprehensive guide to selected terrestrial genera' of the less conspicuous orchids, including the Beard, Elbow, Onion, Midge, Duck, Horned, Tongue, Fringed Hare, Mosquito, Gnat, Bird and Helmet Orchids. Colour images and very brief notes. [NOT SEEN]

**Kuiter RH (2017) Victoria's summer orchids.** Aquatic Photographics, Seaford, Vic. [or via [rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rudiekuiter@optusnet.com.au)]. 214 pp. [No ISBN].

Covers nearly 100 taxa of spring- and summer-flowering orchids, with excellent-quality images, substantial genus notes, and very brief species notes (main diagnostic features only). A 3<sup>rd</sup> edition is pending for issue in mid-2019.

**Lavarack PS & Gray B (1985) Tropical orchids of Australia.** Nelson, Melbourne. 177 pp. ISBN 017065383.

Introduction chapters on habitats, cultivation, and conservation; treatments of selected species; fair to good colour photos. Out of date.

**Lavarack PS & Gray B (1992) Australian tropical orchids.** Frith and Frith Books, Malanda, Qld. 70 pp. ISBN 0958994285.

Colour photos of 108 species, with brief notes; no keys. Out of date.

**Lawrence R (2011) Start with the leaves: a simple guide to common orchids and lilies of the Adelaide Hills.** Heritage Bushcare [SA?]. 192 pp. ISBN 9780987188601.

A field guide to 50 mostly common orchids of the area, and also covering a number of non-orchid natives and weeds that can be confused with orchids. Arranged by leaf form, with fair to good colour photos and very brief notes.

**Liddelow B (2006) Guide to native orchids of south western Australia.** R&R Publications Australia Pty Ltd. 208 pp. ISBN 0958753245.

Not comprehensive (the 142 species chosen represent under half those in WA), but a useful cross-section. Very brief descriptions and notes, with fair-quality colour photos. Superseded by Liddelow (2015) below.

**Liddelow B (2015) Guide to native orchids of south western Australia. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.** R&R Publications Australia Pty Ltd. 337 pp. ISBN 9780958753258.

A larger selection of species (239) than the first edition; descriptions, notes, colour images.

**Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges and the Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. (2013) Common native orchids of the Adelaide Hills.** Government of South Australia and Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: free poster download (PDF)** from [www.nossa.org.au](http://www.nossa.org.au).

30 species in colour photos in a two-sheet poster format, with brief descriptive notes, icons to illustrate leaf form and pollinator, and a chart of flowering months.

**Riley JJ & Banks DP (2002) Orchids of Australia.** University of New South Wales Press, Sydney. 308 pp. ISBN 0868405019.

A more affordable and practical recension of the deluxe Banks & Riley (2002), and projected as the first volume in a series. Large format. Distribution maps, distinguishing features, habitat, conservation status, full page hand drawn colour illustrations for 150 species, no keys.

**Rupp HMR (1969) The orchids of New South Wales.** National Herbarium of New South Wales, Sydney. (Flora of New South Wales no. 48). 177 pp.

Now of historical interest only. Facsimile of 1943 printing with supplement by DJ McGillivray.

**Scott, J (2015) Orchids of Margaret River and Australia's south-west capes.** Cape to Cape Publishing (50 Harvest Rd, North Fremantle WA 6159). 152 pp. ISBN 9780992485122.

Covers 130 orchid species and natural hybrids occurring west of a line roughly Vasse to Augusta. No keys. Very brief descriptions accompanied by good to excellent colour photos.

**Steenbeeke G (2002-) Orchidopaedia, volume 1 - genera.** Orkology Kreations, web <http://members.dodo.com.au/~orkology/>, email [orkology@gmail.com](mailto:orkology@gmail.com). CD-ROM. No ISBN.

**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE, INTERACTIVE (CD-ROM).**

An early interactive identification tool assisting identification to generic level, this series of framed pages presents information about all 1016 natural genera of orchids (global), and all of the intergeneric hybrids (most of them artificial) up to 2002. Over 400 genera have at least one image. Not comprehensively updated since then, and well out of date for recent developments in generic

boundary recognition in Australia.

**Stephenson AW (2011) Orchid species of the Shoalhaven, NSW Australia.** Self-published (email orders to [affine@tpg.com.au](mailto:affine@tpg.com.au), or via

<http://www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au/publications.html>). 64 pp. ISBN 9780958167918.

Comprehensive field guide to orchids of the area, with 234 good colour photos and brief text.

**Turner J, Bould A, & Wilkinson J (2018) Orchids of East Gippsland: a field guide. Revised edition.** Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club (order via

<http://www.bairnsdalefieldnaturalists.com.au/>). 242 pp. ISBN 0992487714, 9780992487713.

Spiral-bound paperback guide with detailed information on more than 200 species (descriptions, flowering times, distribution, habitat, conservation status), each taxon with colour photographs. [NOT SEEN]. Supersedes the slightly thinner first edition of Turner, Bould & Wilkinson, 2014 (ISBN: 9780992487706), which had additional CD-ROM.

**Upton WT (1989) Dendrobium orchids of Australia.** Houghton-Mifflin, Knoxfield, Vic. 237 pp. ISBN 086700521.

Plain-English descriptions and notes, with poor line drawings and a very few colour photos; now very dated.

**Woolcock CE & Woolcock DT (1984) Australian terrestrial orchids.** Nelson, Melbourne. 154 pp. ISBN 0170062856.

Now very dated and fully superseded; short descriptions and good colour plates; no keys.