

# WARRINGAL ORCHID SOCIETY INC.



[www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au](http://www.warringalorchidsociety.com.au)

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**October  
2024**

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98173699

All correspondence to be addressed to: The Secretary, 77 Carrington Blvd, Thomastown, Vic. 3074

**The next Committee meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Venue: 77 Carrington Blvd Thomastown.**

**The Warringal Orchid Society meets at the Watsonia Community Hall,  
35 Lambourn Road Watsonia**

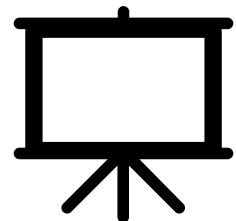
**The next Meeting will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

The hall will be open from 7.00pm. You are welcome to bench plants for judging and to socialise with other members. A sales table operates with pots and other orchid accessories when available. Members are able to submit up to 6 orchid plants for sale (plants to be well established in their pots and in a clean condition). The society deducts a 10% commission on sales. Plants should be listed on a sales form available at sales table.

**Please note – Apologies, but there will be no new growers' group at this meeting.**

**Please be seated on time for meeting to commence at 8.00pm.**

**This month: We are delighted to have Michael Coker present to the members this month.** Michael always has great presentations and this one is sure to be a treat! Though the topic is a mystery, it is certain to be intriguing, interesting and entertaining ... oh, and Michael will likely include an orchid or three, I'm sure . 😊



## CLUB NOTICES

### **New growers group – Please note - No new growers group at our October meeting**

New members wishing to develop their orchid-growing skills are welcome to join the New Growers Group conducted by Jason Khoo. This group runs for approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of the monthly meeting. Next group is planned for November.

### **Monthly meeting - Supper**

All members are invited to bring a plate of supper to share at the end of our meeting. We all value this social time, so do not leave it to the same providers every month. Also, please help pack up chairs/tables etc prior to enjoying supper.

### **Monthly meeting – Setting up**

Help is needed to set the hall up for our meeting. The hall is open from 6.00pm. Come early and help set-up.

### **Committee**

**Any member interested in joining the committee should contact our President, Andrew Fernandez, for more information about what is involved.**



## **Celebrating Christmas, 2024 and the New Year**



We have **not one but two events** to celebrate a successful year for our Society and its members. All members are most warmly invited to attend.

### **Our end-of-year dinner**

**Where:** 35 Lambourn Road  
Watsonia

**When:** Wednesday 4 December  
Members and guests to be seated  
by 7.00 pm

**Cost:** \$22 per person for members  
and \$25 for non-members

**What's included?** Two course  
meal – spit roast with all the  
trimmings and sweets

**What to bring?** BYO glasses,  
drinks, nibbles.

Bamboo disposable cutlery is  
supplied, but feel free to BYO  
cutlery if desired.

**Please RSVP at our October club  
meeting, or to George DImech.**



Image by be\_stasya from  
[Pixabay](#)

### **Our end of year BBQ**

**Where:** 77 Carrington Blvd,  
Thomastown

**When:** Sunday 24 November  
from 11 am till it's over

**Cost:** It's free!!

**What's included?** The Society  
provides meat and bread.

**What to bring?** Please bring a dish  
to share – savoury or sweet – to  
complement a BBQ lunch. BYO  
drinks.

This is a social gathering and a  
time to get to know other members  
(as well as the chance to have a  
gander at how George and Chris  
grow their gorgeous orchids).

## PROGRESSIVE SCORES – September 2024

<b>OPEN</b>		<b>ADVANCED NOVICE</b>	
M. Coker	303	A. La Rocca	53
G & C. Dimech	185	P. Kennedy	44
A. Rogers	107	F. Verlaan	32
J & L Karbownik	59	I. Katis	11
K. Lam	41	G. Sullivan	10
S. Pantelejenko	40	G. Spiteri	4
M. Bastecky	27		
J. Khoo	27	<b>NOVICE</b>	
D Wain	26	J. Wong	46
M & N Truong	23	K. Sloane	34
A. Magnano	16	G. Benson	25
M. Mally	14	K. Lee	21
B. Duncan	13	A. Duerden	16
A. Fernandez	13	D. Parry	13
J Haniver	12	R. Cooper	11
N Meggetto	11	F. Walton	9
T & A Pleitner	8	D. Westhead	9
E & D Baxter	8	K. Littleboy	4
M Drobski	3	A. Angerossa	4
C Krolikowski	2	I Neary	3
<b>INTERMEDIATE</b>			
L & A Shepherd	41		
M. Volodina	39		
S. Grinzic	31		
M. Grzan	16		

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Warringal Orchid Society now has a QR Code.

This enables members to access our website quickly and easily. Simply scan the QR Code using your phone's camera, or a QR Reader app, to take you straight to our website for all the latest news, photos, newsletters and more.



# JUDGING RESULTS - September 2024 meeting

## OPEN

### Maudiae Paphiopedilum

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Mario Palmieri 'Owen'  | M Coker |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peppercorn 'Alexandra' | M Coker |

### Novelty Paphiopedilum

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Franz Glanz               | M Coker |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Niveum x papilio-laoticus | M Coker |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lady Isabel x adductum    | M Coker |

### Species Paphiopedilum

- |                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> hirsutissimum | M Coker |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Malipoense    | M Coker |

### Oncidium

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Zeloncidesa ANZAC Cascade | M Coker |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rst. Violette von Holm    | M Coker |

### Aust. Native Species

- |                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sarco. Roseus | M Coker  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Mortii   | K Lam    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Den Adae      | B Duncan |

### Aust. Native Hybrid

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Australian Artist     | G&C Dimech     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. Class 'Windsor Downs' | A Rogers       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. Eclipse 'Goldie'      | S Pantelejenko |

### Aust. Native Terrestrial

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Diuris orientis 'Langwarrin' | A Rogers |
|--|----------|

### Cattleya

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> C. Snowbird 'Kenny'                | M Coker  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> C Tokyo Magic                      | M Coker  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> L. Santa Barbara Sunset 'Showtime' | A Rogers |

### Vanda

- |                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vandachostylis Pinky | M Coker |
|--------------------------------------|---------|

### Masdevallia Species

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Ignea                  | A Magnano     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ignea 'Orange Fantasy' | J&L Karbownik |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ignea                  | A Magnano     |

### Masdevallia Hybrid

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Copper Angel 'Highlands'  | G&C Dimech    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Macrura x 'Red Hot Chili' | G&C Dimech    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Macchu Pichu 'J. V.'      | J&L Karbownik |

### Any Other Hybrid

- |                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Phrag. Early Surprise | M Coker |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phrag Anne Port       | M Coker |

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Coel. Janine Banks 'Snow White' | J&L Karbownik |
|---|---------------|

### Species - Any Genera

- |                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Coel. Schaiblei   | M Coker    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dinema polybulbon | A Rogers   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Phrag besseae     | M Bastecky |

### Seedling Flowering First Time

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Paph. Thunder World x sib | M Coker |
|---|---------|



- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. tetragonum melaleucaphilum | A Fernandez |
|---|-------------|

### Best in Section – Open

- |                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Coel. Schaiblei | M Coker |
|-----------------|---------|



## **INTERMEDIATE**

### **Intermediate Cymbidium**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lowianum 'Comte d'Hemptinne' M Grzan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wallacia 'Burnt Gold' M Volodina

### **Miniature Cymbidium**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cym. Tiger Kelly S Grzinic

### **Aust. Native Species**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Den. Striolatum L&A Shepherd  
2<sup>nd</sup> Den. tetragonum var tetragonum L&A Shepherd

### **Aust. Native Hybrid**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Den. Yondi x Den. Gracillimum S Grzinic  
2<sup>nd</sup> Den. Grumpy x fuliginosa L&A Shepherd

### **Masdevallia Hybrid**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Isbern L&A Shepherd

## **Best in Section – Intermediate**

Cym 'Tiger Kelly' S Grzinic



## **ADVANCED NOVICE**

### **Miniature Cymbidium**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cym. Plush Canyon 'Red Eye' A La Rocca

### **Aust. Native Species**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Den. speciosum 'Ted's Gold' F Verlaan

### **Aust. Native Hybrid**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Den. x Delicatum Kerrie F Verlaan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Den. Gracillimum F Verlaan

### **Any Other Hybrid**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Coel. Unchained Melody A La Rocca  
2<sup>nd</sup> Galeopetalum Giant x Zygo Artur Elle A La Rocca

## **Best in Section – Advanced Novice**

Den. x Delicatum Kerrie F Verlaan





## NOVICE

### Any Other Hybrid

1 <sup>st</sup> Catt. Hybrid mini	K Lee
2 <sup>nd</sup> Phal. Armion	K Lee

### Species - Any Genera

1 <sup>st</sup> Phal. schilleriana	K Lee
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### Aust. Native Species or hybrid

1 <sup>st</sup> Den. Racemosum x linguiforme x striolatum	R Cooper
2 <sup>nd</sup> Den. x delicatum	I Neary
3 <sup>rd</sup> Den. gracillimum	G Benson

## Best in Section – Novice

Phal. Schilleriana	K Lee
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## President's Choice

Dinema polybulbon

A Rogers



## POTS



Due to storage restrictions, the need to order large quantities of stock and the closure of the Orchid Pot Company, we will be reducing the number and varieties of pots available for sale.

Some of the pots currently available will not be replaced once stock has been sold. If you require pots please check with Bob as to their availability and if they are on the runout list it is recommended that you purchase them while you can.

### Bulletin Postage

Due to increased cost of postage, members wishing for a paper copy of bulletin will incur a \$20.00 annual fee added to their membership. **Email copy of bulletin is free of charge.**

# Notes for inspired growing

In our September meeting, Andrew Fernandez spoke about the **top 12 things you need at home for growing great orchids**. For those that missed the meeting (like me), or those who just want a reminder about what he said, here is a quick summary of what you need.

1. Orchid bark in various sizes (mini, small, medium and large)



2. Perlite – large size



3. Pots in various sizes and styles, to suit the growing needs of the orchid you are potting up  
**Plus** tags and pens  
**Plus** plant register



*Editor's note – that gold pen for labeling the pots was my big take-away. I am rushing out to buy one!*



4. Sticks, twist ties and/or clips



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5. Cork or tree-fern mounts

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6. Bush moss or sphagnum moss (for use when mounting orchids)

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7. Fishing line or wire (for mounting orchids)

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8. Pot hangers (consider hanging pots for greater air movement around them)

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9. Seasol and orchid fertilizer

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#### 10. Secateurs



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#### 11. Buckets and foam boxes



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#### 12. ECO oil for bugs, because it is less toxic to use



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*Editor's note: Thanks Andrew for this terrific checklist and all the useful ideas.*

*George Dimech also presented at last meeting. We will hold over George's excellent hints for **presenting your orchids at their best for judging** until next year, as a timely reminder before our next show season.*

# This strange donkey orchid uses UV light to trick bees into thinking it has food

*This article has been reproduced under Creative Commons licence. It was published in The Conversation last year <https://theconversation.com/this-strange-donkey-orchid-uses-uv-light-to-trick-bees-into-thinking-it-has-food-198980>*

*Authors: Professor Adrian Dyer (Monash University) and Daniela Scaccabarozzi (Uppsala University).*

If you've ever compared a frozen pizza to the photo on the box, you know the feeling of being duped by appetising looks.

In our latest study we show that animals – in this case, bees – are also prone to being tricked into making poor decisions, which explains a lot about how gaps in perception are exploited in nature.

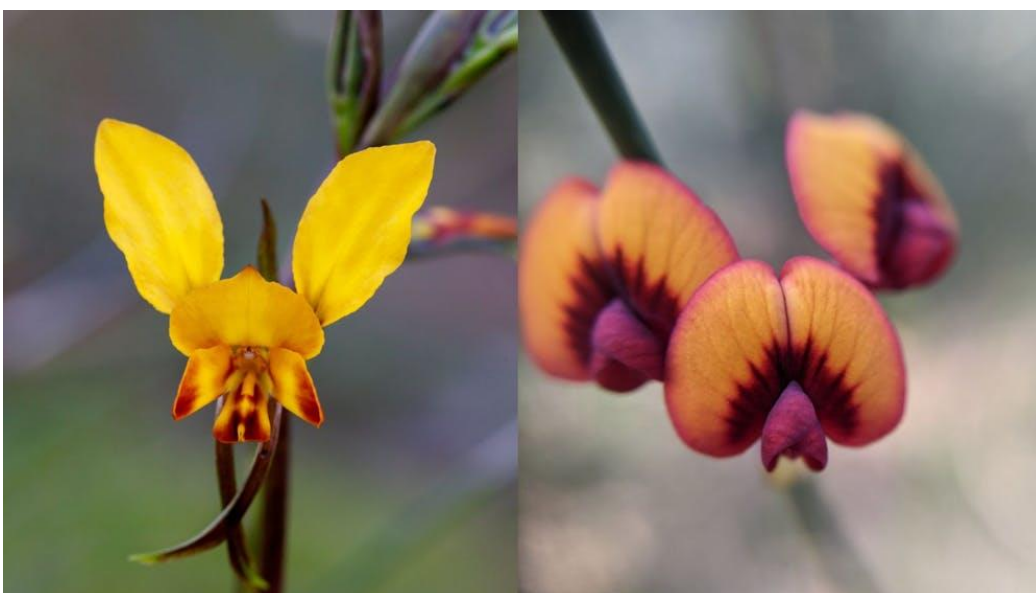
When Charles Darwin was testing the theory of evolution 150 years ago, he looked at the interaction between flowering plants and the animals that forage to collect nectar.

This helped establish that flowers have adaptations to promote easier pollinator access, making it beneficial for the animal who gets a food “reward” from them. At the same time, it means the plants get pollinated and can reproduce.

One perplexing problem is some flowering plants that reproduce by pollination are non-rewarding – the animal doesn't get nectar from visiting the flower. This is true of certain orchids, yet these flowers are still visited by pollinators and survive well in nature.

## A mistaken identity

With the benefit of modern scientific tools like a spectrophotometer that measures the amount of colour, digital ultraviolet (UV) photography and computer modelling of how bees see the world, our international team set out to understand how some orchids have evolved dazzling floral displays.

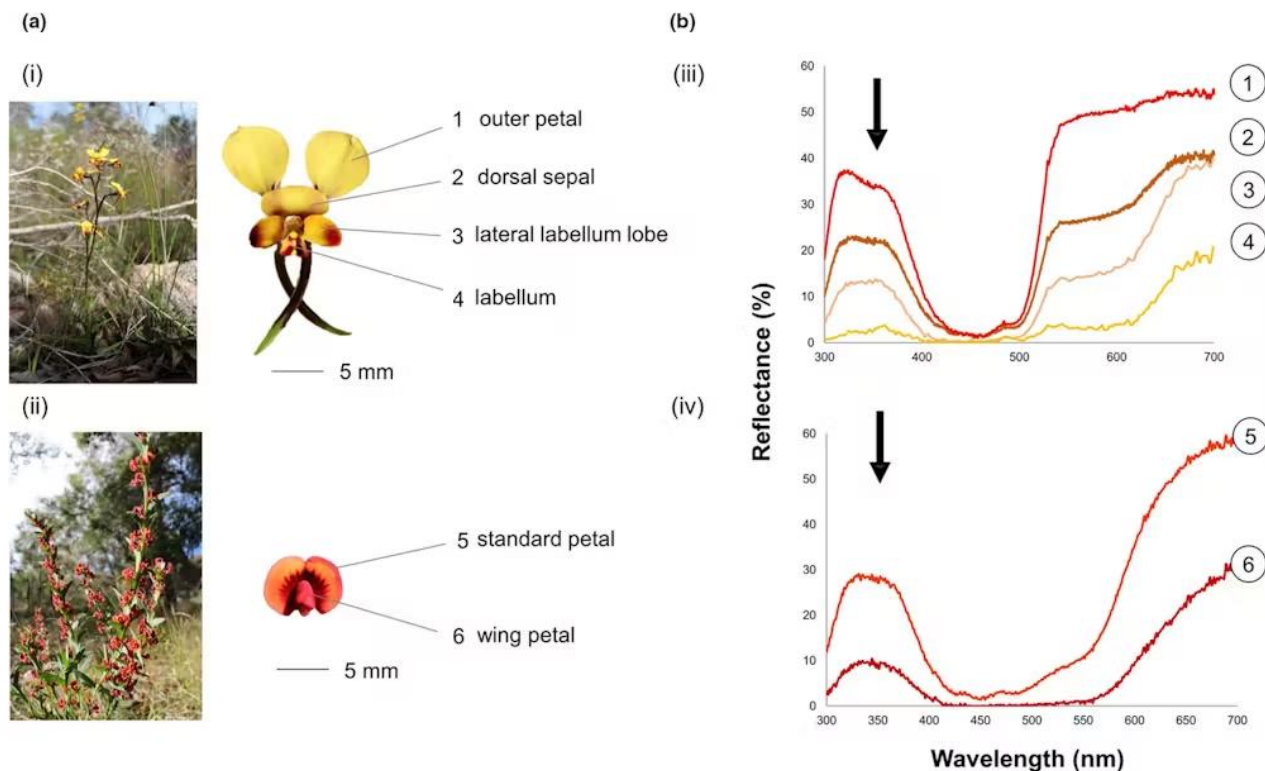


*A winter donkey orchid (left) and a prickly bitter-pea.*

*Cal Wood/iNaturalist;  
caitlind164/ iNaturalist,  
CC BY*

Our chosen species was the winter donkey orchid (*Diuris brumalis*), endemic to Western Australia. This non-rewarding, food deceptive plant blooms at the same time as rewarding native pea plants (*Daviesia*). As a result, native *Trichocolletes* bees appear to mistake the orchid for legume plants frequently enough that the orchid gets pollinated.

We quantified the flower colour signals from both plants, revealing the main component of the visual information perceived by a bee was in the short wavelength UV region of the spectrum. This made sense – while our vision sees blue, green and red wavelengths of light as primary colours, bees can see UV reflected light but lack a channel for perceiving primary red. By using computer models of bee pollinator perception, we observed the orchid mimic species and the native pea plant species did actually look similar in colour to bees.



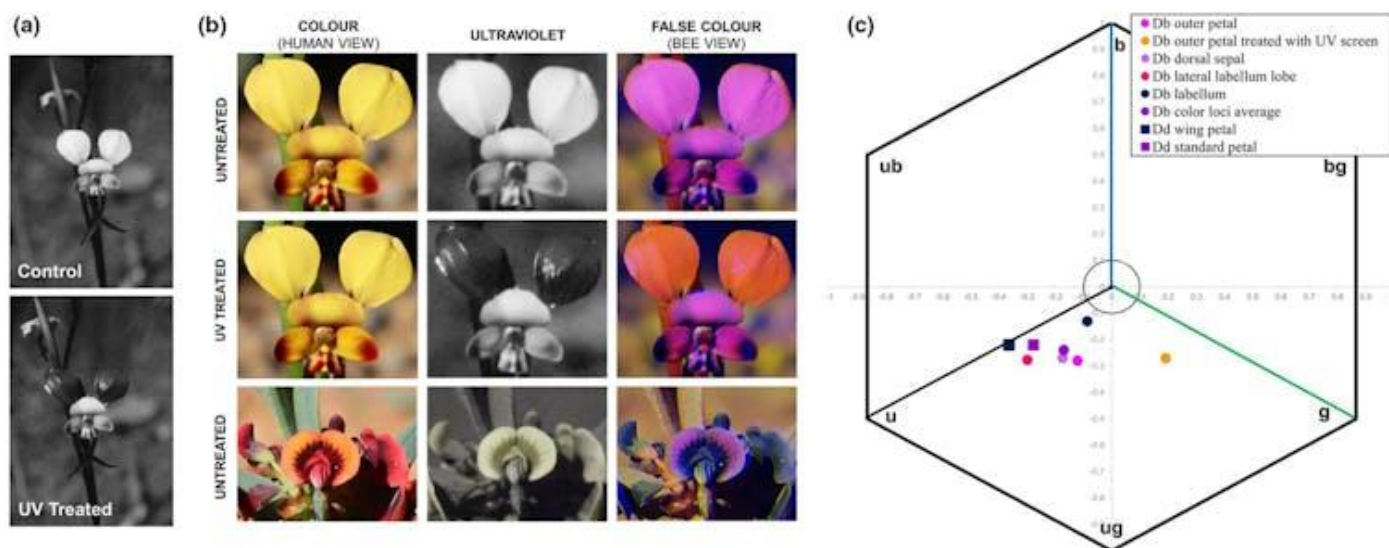
Flower shape and colour properties of an orchid (upper row) and a native pea flower (lower row) shown in the field, as individual flowers, and with spectral measurements. [Scaccabarozzi et al., 2023](#), Author provided

### Putting a UV block on flowers

What was surprising, however, was the non-rewarding orchid flowers – pollinated by deception – actually have more conspicuous advertising for bee vision.

For example, the main display outer flower petals were significantly larger on the orchid plants, and also produced a stronger UV colour signal.

To understand if such signalling was biologically relevant, we next conducted field experiments with the plants. We used a special UV sun-blocking solution to remove the strong UV signals in half of the orchid species, whilst the other half retained their natural appearance.



UV photographs of orchid flowers (upper left panel) in natural state and also with applied UV blocking screen. Middle panels show false-colour photographs of flower appearance for a bee, and right hand panel a computer model of how bee vision perceives flower colours. [Scaccabarozzi et al., 2023](#), Author provided

At the completion of the field season, several months later, we could measure which plants were more successfully pollinated by bees, revealing the strong UV signals had a significant role in promoting pollination in the orchids.

A second interesting finding of the field experiments was the distance between the pea flowers and their copycat orchids was a major factor in the success of the orchids' deception strategy.

If the orchids with strong UV signals were within close proximity – a meter or two – to the rewarding native pea flowers, the deception was less successful and few orchid flowers were pollinated. However, if the deceptive orchids were about eight meters away from the rewarding model species, this produced the highest success rate in pollination.

## Why deception works

It turns out a distance of about eight meters is important because of the way bee brains process colour. When bees see a pair of colours in close proximity, they can evaluate them at the same time. This leads to very precise colour matching. A similar process happens in human brains – we also have to see colours at the same time. However, seeing colour stimuli with a time interval in between means the brain has to remember the first colour, inspect the second colour, and make a mental calculation about whether the two samples are indeed the same. Neither bee brains, nor our own, are good at successive colour comparisons. This is why when we purchase paint for a repair job we take a sample to get a precise match, rather than try and remember what we thought the colour should look like.

Deceptive flowers are successful by exploiting this perceptual gap in how brains have to code information when bees need to fly several meters in search of more food.

By using a “look at me” strategy (essentially, better advertising than other plants) it is possible to survive in nature without actually offering a food reward to the pollinators. To do this, the plants need to be at an optimal distance from the plants they are mimicking. Not too close and not too far, and success is assured.

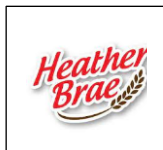


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