

THE SIZE OF THE ORCHIDACEAE AND THE SYSTEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS

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ABSTRACT. An estimate of the number of species in the Orchidaceae is determined to be 19,128. This number agrees well with that of Dressler (1981) and suggests that ultimately there may be 20,000-23,000 species with an improbable maximum of 25,000. No support is given for the claim that the family contains 35,000 species. Orchid epiphytes (13,962 species) account for 73 percent of the family, and 440 of 725 genera (60.7 percent) contain epiphytes.

Few systematic analyses have been attempted to determine the size of the orchid family. Garay (1960) provided an estimate of 30,000 species, Willis (1973) estimated 17,000 species, Madison (1977) estimated 30,000 species, Dressler (1981) estimated 19,192 species, and verbal claims of 35,000 have been made.

The systematic occurrence of epiphytism in the Orchidaceae has also been largely neglected. Madison (1977) estimated that about 67 percent or 20,000 orchid species are epiphytic, a report based on a family size of 30,000 species.

As a result of two symposia on epiphytes at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and Missouri Botanical Garden, it is clear that epiphytism is a field of inquiry still in its initial stages. It has become apparent that the size of the Orchidaceae and the extent of epiphytism in this largest of monocotyledonous families demands a more careful systematic analysis. This paper has grown from and is intended to complement a paper by Kress (1986) describing the systematic distribution of all vascular epiphytes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The analysis of the Orchidaceae was made using a number of resources. The New World orchids were analyzed largely by examining the more than 17,000 species files accumulated at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in the Orchid Identification Center (OIC). These files are particularly well developed for neotropical orchids owing to the interests of several orchidologists which have been associated with Selby Gardens.

For Old World taxa a number of excellent works were consulted, e.g., Seidenfaden (1979, 1983, 1985) and Bechtel et al. (1981). The files of the OIC were also consulted, but they are less well developed for paleotropical taxa than for neotropical taxa.

In cases where little information on particular orchid groups is known, Hawkes (1965) and Willis (1973) have been consulted, but not before

exhausting other resources. Estimates for the subtribe Sarcanthinae were contributed by Eric Christensen (pers. comm.). Additional papers too numerous to mention, also housed in the files of the OIC, were also consulted.

RESULTS

The distribution of genera, numbers of epiphytic species and total species numbers for the Orchidaceae (TABLE 1) is presented in the classification system by Dressler (1981) with few modifications.

The total number of orchid species estimated by the methods outlined above is 19,128. The total number of epiphytic orchid species by criteria given by Kress (1986) is 13,962 or 73 percent of the entire family. The total number of genera with epiphytic representatives is 440 of 725 or 60.7 percent.

DISCUSSION

This species estimate agrees remarkably well with Dressler's estimate (1981) of 19,192, differing by less than 0.5 percent. It also differs by only 2.1 percent with a recent estimate of 18,730 species by Rasmussen (unpubl.). The close agreement of these studies support Dressler's suggestion that the orchid family will ultimately be found to have between 20,000 and 25,000 species. However, this latter number assumes that more than 25 percent of orchid species remain to be described. This seems unlikely in a family with such widespread popular appeal that it is relatively well collected compared to most other families.

While this percentage estimate of epiphytism agrees reasonably well with Madison's estimate (1977) of 67 percent, the actual number of epiphytic species is over 6,000 less owing to previous exaggeration of species numbers.

As expected, epiphytic orchids are distributed mostly in the subfamilies Epidendroideae (88

TABLE 1. The systematic distribution of epiphytic orchid genera and species. Numbers given represent the number of epiphytic genera and species followed by the total number of genera and species.

Taxa	Genera	Species
Orchidaceae	440/725	13,962/19,128
Apostasioideae Rchb. f.	0/2	0/16
<i>Apostasia</i> Bl.		0/8
<i>Neuwiedia</i> Bl.		0/8
Cypripedioideae Lindl.	2/4	38/131
<i>Cypripedium</i> L.		0/40
<i>Paphiopedilum</i> Pfitz.		33/70
<i>Phragmipedium</i> Rolfe		5/15
<i>Selenipedium</i> Rchb. f.		0/6
Spiranthoideae Dressl.	3/84	3/1,165
Erythrodeae Dunsterv. & Garay	0/37	0/515
Tropidiinae Pfitz.	0/2	0/43
<i>Corymborkis</i> Thouars		0/8
<i>Tropidia</i> Lindl.		0/35
Goodyerinae Klotzsch	0/35	0/472
<i>Anoectochilus</i> Bl.		0/35
<i>Aspidogyne</i> Garay		0/26
<i>Chamaegastrodia</i> Makino & Maekawa		0/1
<i>Cheirostylis</i> Bl.		0/25
<i>Cystorchis</i> Bl.		0/8
<i>Dicerostylis</i> Bl.		0/3
<i>Dossinia</i> E. Morr.		0/1
<i>Erythrodes</i> Bl.		0/60
<i>Eucosia</i> Bl.		0/2
<i>Eurycentrum</i> Schltr.		0/7
<i>Evardia</i> Gagnep.		0/1
<i>Gonatostylis</i> Schltr.		0/1
<i>Goodyera</i> R. Br.		0/55
<i>Gymnochilus</i> Bl.		0/3
<i>Herpysma</i> Lindl.		0/1
<i>Hetaeria</i> Bl.		0/27
<i>Hylophila</i> Lindl.		0/6
<i>Kreodanthus</i> Garay		0/6
<i>Kuhlhasseltia</i> J. J. Sm.		0/6
<i>Lepidogyne</i> Bl.		0/3
<i>Ligeophila</i> Garay		0/8
<i>Ludisia</i> A. Rich.		0/1
<i>Macodes</i> Lindl.		0/14
<i>Moerenhoutia</i> Bl.		0/10
<i>Myrmechis</i> Bl.		0/6
<i>Orchipedum</i> Breda		0/1
<i>Papuaea</i> Schltr.		0/1
<i>Platylepis</i> Lindl.		0/10
<i>Platythelys</i> Garay		0/8
<i>Pristiglottis</i> Cretz. & J. J. Sm.		0/13
<i>Rhamphorhynchus</i> Garay		0/1
<i>Stephanothelys</i> Garay		0/4
<i>Tubilabium</i> J. J. Sm.		0/2
<i>Vrydagzynea</i> Bl.		0/40
<i>Zeuxine</i> Lindl.		0/76
Cranichideae Endl.	3/47	3/650
Spiranthinae Lindl.	3/28(?)	*3/390
<i>Beadlea</i> Small		
<i>Beloglottis</i> Schltr.		
<i>Brachystele</i> Schltr.		
<i>Buchtienia</i> Schltr.		
<i>Coccineorchis</i> Schltr.		
<i>Cybebus</i> Garay		
<i>Cyclopogon</i> Presl		

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Deiregyne</i> Schltr.		
<i>Discyphus</i> Schltr.		
<i>Eltropectis</i> Raf.		
<i>Eurystyles</i> Wawra		
<i>Funkiella</i> Schltr.		
<i>Galeottiella</i> Schltr.		
<i>Gamosépalum</i> Schltr.		
<i>Hapalorchis</i> Schltr.		
<i>Lankesterella</i> Ames		
<i>Lyroglossa</i> Schltr.		
<i>Mesadenella</i> Pabst & Garay		
<i>Mesadenus</i> Schltr.		
<i>Pelexia</i> L. C. Rich.		
<i>Pseudogoodyera</i> Schltr.		
<i>Pteroglossa</i> Schltr.		
<i>Sarcoglottis</i> Presl		
<i>Sauroglossum</i> Lindl.		
<i>Schiedeella</i> Schltr.		
<i>Spiranthes</i> L. C. Rich.		
<i>Stenorrhynchus</i> L. C. Rich.		
<i>Synassa</i> Lindl.		
Pachyplectroninae Schltr.	0/1	0/2
<i>Pachyplectron</i> Schltr.		0/2
Manniellinae Schltr.	0/1	0/1
<i>Manniella</i> Rchb. f.		0/1
Cranichidinae Lindl.	0/15	0/237
<i>Aa</i> Rchb. f.		0/12
<i>Altensteinia</i> HBK		0/19
<i>Baskervillea</i> Lindl.		0/6
<i>Coilostylis</i> Raf.		0/1
<i>Cranichis</i> Sw.		0/52
<i>Fuertesiiella</i> Schltr.		0/1
<i>Gomphichis</i> Lindl.		0/25
<i>Myrosmodes</i> Rchb. f.		0/12
<i>Ponthieva</i> R. Br.		0/41
<i>Porphyrostachys</i> Rchb. f.		0/2
<i>Prescottia</i> Lindl. ex Hook.		0/24
<i>Pseudocentrum</i> Lindl.		0/8
<i>Pterichis</i> Lindl.		0/16
<i>Solenocentrum</i> Schltr.		0/2
<i>Stenoptera</i> Presl		0/16
Cryptostylidinae Schltr.	0/1	0/20
<i>Cryptostylis</i> R. Br.		0/20
Orchidoideae	1/114	6/2,331
Neottieae Lindl.	0/7	0/81
Limodorinae Benth.	0/5	0/52
<i>Aphyllorchis</i> Bl.		0/15
<i>Cephalanthera</i> L. C. Rich.		0/14
<i>Epipactis</i> Sw.		0/21
<i>Limodorum</i> L.		0/1
<i>Thaia</i> Seidenf.		0/1
Listerinae Lindl.	0/2	0/29
<i>Listera</i> R. Br.		0/20
<i>Neottia</i> L.		0/9
Diurideae Endl.	0/34	0/570
Chloraeinae Rchb. f.	0/6	0/79
<i>Bipinnula</i> Juss.		0/8
<i>Chloraea</i> Lindl.		0/45
<i>Codonorchis</i> Lindl.		0/3
<i>Gavilea</i> Poepp.		0/14

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Geoblasta</i> Barb. Rodr.		0/1
<i>Megastylis</i> Schltr.		0/8
Caladeniinae Pfitz.	0/16	0/123
<i>Adenochilus</i> Hook. f.		0/2
<i>Aporostylis</i> Rupp & Hatch		0/1
<i>Arthrochilus</i> F. Mueller		0/3
<i>Burnettia</i> Lindl.		0/1
<i>Caladenia</i> R. Br.		0/70
<i>Caleana</i> R. Br.		0/5
<i>Chiloglottis</i> R. Br.		0/8
<i>Drakaea</i> Lindl.		0/4
<i>Elythranthera</i> (Endl.) George		0/2
<i>Eriochilus</i> R. Br.		0/5
<i>Glossodia</i> R. Br.		0/5
<i>Leporella</i> George		0/1
<i>Lyperanthus</i> R. Br.		0/9
<i>Paracaleana</i> Blaxell		0/3
<i>Rimacola</i> Rupp		0/1
<i>Spiculaea</i> Lindl.		0/3
Pterostylidinae Pfitz.	0/1	0/71
<i>Pterostylis</i> R. Br.		0/71
Acianthinae Schltr.	0/4	0/86
<i>Acianthus</i> R. Br.		0/20
<i>Corybas</i> Salisb.		0/60
<i>Stigmatodactylus</i> Maxim. ex Makino		0/4
<i>Townsonia</i> Cheeseman		0/2
Diuridinae Lindl.	0/5	0/107
<i>Calochilus</i> R. Br.		0/10
<i>Diuris</i> Smith		0/45
<i>Epiblema</i> R. Br.		0/1
<i>Orthoceras</i> R. Br.		0/1
<i>Thelymitra</i> Foerst.		0/50
Prasophyllinae Schltr.	0/2	0/104
<i>Microtis</i> R. Br.		0/14
<i>Prasophyllum</i> R. Br.		0/90
Orchideae	1/57	0/1,297
Orchidinae	0/35	0/363
<i>Aceras</i> R. Br.		0/1
<i>Amerorchis</i> Hulten		0/1
<i>Amitostigma</i> Schltr.		0/15
<i>Anacamptis</i> L. C. Rich.		0/1
<i>Aorchis</i> Vermeulen		0/1
<i>Barlia</i> Parl.		0/2
<i>Bartholina</i> R. Br.		0/3
<i>Brachycorythis</i> Lindl.		0/25
<i>Chamorchis</i> Rich.		0/1
<i>Chusua</i> Nevski		0/17
<i>Coeloglossum</i> Hartman		0/1
<i>Comperia</i> C. Koch		0/2
<i>Dactylorhiza</i> Necker		0/30
<i>Galearis</i> Raf.		0/12
<i>Gymnadenia</i> R. Br.		0/10
<i>Hemipilia</i> Lindl.		0/16
<i>Himantoglossum</i> Koch		0/2
<i>Holothrix</i> Lindl.		0/55
<i>Neobolusia</i> Schltr.		0/4
<i>Neotinea</i> Rchb. f.		0/2
<i>Neottianthe</i> Schltr.		0/7
<i>Nigritella</i> L. C. Rich.		0/2
<i>Ophrys</i> L.		0/25
<i>Orchis</i> L.		0/35

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Piperia</i> Rydb.		0/4
<i>Platanthera</i> L. C. Rich.		0/40
<i>Pseudodiphryllum</i> Nevski		0/1
<i>Pseudorchis</i> S. F. Gray		0/3
<i>Schwartzkopffia</i> Krzl.		0/2
<i>Schizochilus</i> Sonder		0/26
<i>Serapias</i> L.		0/13
<i>Silvorchis</i> J. J. Sm.		0/1
<i>Steveniella</i> Schltr.		0/1
<i>Symphyosepalum</i> Hand.-Mazz.		0/1
<i>Traunsteinera</i> Rchb.		0/1
Habenariinae Benth.	1/21	6/929
<i>Androcorys</i> Schltr.		0/4
<i>Arnottia</i> A. Rich.		0/2
<i>Benthamia</i> A. Rich.		6/26
<i>Bonatea</i> Willd.		0/20
<i>Centrostigma</i> Schltr.		0/5
<i>Cynorkis</i> Thouars		0/125
<i>Diphylax</i> Hook. f.		0/1
<i>Diplomeris</i> D. Don		0/2
<i>Gennaria</i> Parl.		0/1
<i>Habenaria</i> Willd.		0/600
<i>Herminium</i> R. Br.		0/30
<i>Megalorchis</i> H. Perrier		0/1
<i>Pecteilis</i> Raf.		0/4
<i>Peristylus</i> Bl.		0/70
<i>Physoceras</i> Schltr.		0/7
<i>Platycoryne</i> Rchb. f.		0/17
<i>Roeperocharis</i> Rchb. f.		0/5
<i>Smithorchis</i> Tang & Wang		0/1
<i>Stenoglottis</i> Lindl.		0/3
<i>Tsaiorchis</i> Tang & Wang		0/2
<i>Tylostigma</i> Schltr.		0/3
Huttonaeinae Schltr.	0/1	0/5
<i>Huttonaea</i> Harvey		0/5
Diseae Dressl.	0/16	0/383
Disinae Benth.	0/9	0/174
<i>Amphigena</i> Rolfe		0/2
<i>Brownleea</i> Harvey ex Lindl.		0/10
<i>Disa</i> Bergius		0/99
<i>Forficaria</i> Lindl.		0/1
<i>Herschelia</i> Lindl.		0/15
<i>Monadenia</i> Lindl.		0/30
<i>Orthopenthea</i> Rolfe		0/1
<i>Penthea</i> Lindl.		0/1
<i>Schizodium</i> Lindl.		0/15
Satyriinae Schltr.	0/3	0/103
<i>Pachites</i> Lindl.		0/2
<i>Satyridium</i> Lindl.		0/1
<i>Satyrium</i> Sw.		0/100
Coryciinae Benth.	0/4	0/106
<i>Ceratandra</i> Ecklon ex Lindl.		0/2
<i>Corycium</i> Sw.		0/14
<i>Disperis</i> Sw.		0/75
<i>Pterygodium</i> Sw.		0/15
[Anomalous Tribes]	0/4	0/25
Triphoreae Dressl.	0/3	0/23
<i>Monophyllorchis</i> Schltr.		0/2
<i>Psilochilus</i> Barb. Rodr.		0/6
<i>Triphora</i> Nutt.		0/15

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
Wulfschlaegeliae Dressl.	0/1	0/2
<i>Wulfschlaegelia</i> Rchb. f.		0/2
Epidendroideae Lindl.	138/195	8,941/10,121
Vanilleae Bl.	0/12	0/239
Vanilliniae Lindl.	0/4	0/152
<i>Epistephium</i> Humb.		0/24
<i>Eriaxis</i> Rchb. f.		0/3
<i>Galeola</i> Lour.		0/25
<i>Vanilla</i> Sw.		0/100
Lecanorchidinae Dressl.	0/1	0/20
<i>Lecanorchis</i> Bl.		0/20
Palmorchidinae Dressl.	0/2	0/13
<i>Diceratostele</i> Summerh.		0/1
<i>Palmorchis</i> Barb. Rodr.		0/12
Pogoniinae Pfitz.	0/5	0/54
<i>Cleistes</i> L. C. Rich.		0/45
<i>Duckeella</i> Porto & Brade		0/3
<i>Isotria</i> Raf.		0/2
<i>Pogonia</i> Juss.		0/2
<i>Pogoniopsis</i> Rchb. f.		0/2
Gastrodieae Lindl.	0/9	0/103
Nerviliinae Schltr.	0/1	0/65
<i>Nervilia</i> Commerson ex Gaud.		0/65
Gastrodiinae Lindl.	0/6	0/36
<i>Auxopus</i> Schltr.		0/2
<i>Didymoplexiella</i> Garay		0/6
<i>Didymoplexis</i> Griff.		0/10
<i>Gastrodia</i> R. Br.		0/16
<i>Neoclemensia</i> Carr		0/1
<i>Uleiorchis</i> Hoehne		0/1
Rhizanthellinae Rogers	0/2	0/2
<i>Cryptanthemis</i> Rupp		0/1
<i>Rhizanthella</i> Rogers		0/1
Epipogieae Parl.	0/2	0/2
<i>Epipogium</i> R. Br.		0/1
<i>Stereosandra</i> Bl.		0/1
Arethuseae Lindl.	7/32	187/560
Arethusinae Lindl.	0/1	0/1
<i>Arethusa</i> L.		0/1
Thuniinae Schltr.	0/1	0/6
<i>Thunia</i> Rchb. f.		0/6
Bletiinae Benth.	4/25	16/374
<i>Acanthophippium</i> Bl.		0/15
<i>Ancistrochilus</i> Rolfe		2/2
<i>Anthogonium</i> Lindl.		0/2
<i>Arundina</i> Bl.		0/1
<i>Aulostylis</i> Schltr.		0/1
<i>Bletia</i> R. & P.		0/30
<i>Bletilla</i> Rchb. f.		0/9
<i>Calanthe</i> R. Br.		0/150
<i>Calopogon</i> R. Br.		0/4
<i>Cephalantheropsis</i> Guillaumin		0/2
<i>Coelia</i> Lindl.		5/5
<i>Chysis</i> Lindl.		6/6
<i>Dilochia</i> Lindl.		3/5
<i>Eleorchis</i> Maekawa		0/2
<i>Hancockia</i> Rolfe		0/1
<i>Hexalectris</i> Raf.		0/8
<i>Ipsea</i> Lindl.		0/1
<i>Mischobulbon</i> Schltr.		0/7

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Nephelaphyllum</i> Bl.		0/12
<i>Pachystoma</i> Bl.		0/8
<i>Phaius</i> Lour.		0/20
<i>Plocoglottis</i> Bl.		0/30
<i>Spathoglottis</i> Bl.		0/40
<i>Tainia</i> Bl.		0/12
<i>Tainiopsis</i> Schltr.		0/1
Sobraliinae Schltr.	3/5	171/179
<i>Arpophyllum</i> La Ll. & Lex.		5/5
<i>Elleanthus</i> Presl		70/70
<i>Sertifera</i> Lindl. & Rchb. f.		0/6
<i>Sobralia</i> R. & P.		96/96
<i>Xerorchis</i> Schltr.		0/2
Coelogyneae Pfitz.	15/17	276/301
Coelogyneae Benth.	13/15	273/298
<i>Basigyne</i> J. J. Sm.		0/1
<i>Bulleyia</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Coelogyne</i> Lindl.		100/100
<i>Dendrochilum</i> Bl.		120/120
<i>Dickasonia</i> L. O. Wms.		1/1
<i>Gynoglottis</i> J. J. Sm.		1/1
<i>Ischnogyne</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Nabalua</i> Ames		1/1
<i>Neogyne</i> Rchb. f.		1/1
<i>Otochilus</i> Lindl.		4/4
<i>Panisea</i> Lindl.		0/4
<i>Pholidota</i> Lindl. ex Hook.		40/40
<i>Pleione</i> D. Don		0/20
<i>Pseudacoridium</i> Ames		1/1
<i>Sigmatogyne</i> Pfitz.		2/2
Adrorrhizinae Schltr.	2/2	3/3
<i>Adrorrhizon</i> Hook. f.		1/1
<i>Sirhookera</i> O. Kuntze		2/2
Malaxideae Lindl.	3/6	606/960
<i>Hippeophyllum</i> Schltr.		6/6
<i>Liparis</i> L. C. Rich.		300/350
<i>Malaxis</i> Sw.		0/300
<i>Oberonia</i> Lindl.		300/300
<i>Orestias</i> Ridl.		0/3
<i>Risleya</i> King & Pantl.		0/1
Cryptarrheneae Dressl.	1/1	4/4
<i>Cryptarrhena</i> Lindl.		4/4
Calypsoeae Dressl.	0/2	0/3
<i>Calypso</i> Salisb.		0/1
<i>Yoania</i> Maxim.		0/2
Epidendreae Kunth	112/114	7,868/7,949
Eriinae Benth.	8/8	630/680
<i>Ceratostylis</i> Bl.		70/70
<i>Cryptochilus</i> Wallich		6/6
<i>Epiblastus</i> Schltr.		20/20
<i>Eria</i> Lindl.		500/500
<i>Mediocalcar</i> J. J. Sm.		20/20
<i>Porpax</i> Lindl.		8/8
<i>Sarcostoma</i> Bl.		2/2
<i>Stolzia</i> Schltr.		4/4
Podochilinae Benth. & Hook.	6/7	242/249
<i>Agrostophyllum</i> Bl.		60/60
<i>Appendicula</i> Bl.		100/100
<i>Chilopogon</i> Schltr.		3/3
<i>Chitonochilus</i> Schltr.		1/1

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Cyphochilus</i> Schltr.		0/7
<i>Poaephyllum</i> Ridl.		3/3
<i>Podochilus</i> Bl.		75/75
Thelasiinae Schltr.	7/7	254/254
<i>Chitonanthera</i> Schltr.		7/7
<i>Octarrhena</i> Thwaites		35/35
<i>Oxyanthera</i> Brongn.		6/6
<i>Phreatia</i> Lindl.		190/190
<i>Rhynchophreatia</i> Schltr.		5/5
<i>Ridleyella</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Thelasis</i> Bl.		10/10
Glomerinae Schltr.	6/6	135/135
<i>Aglossorhyncha</i> Schltr.		6/6
<i>Earina</i> Lindl.		7/7
<i>Glomera</i> Bl.		50/50
<i>Glossorhyncha</i> Ridl.		70/70
<i>Ischnocentrum</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Sepalosiphon</i> Schltr.		1/1
Laeliinae Benth.	43/43	1,026/1,026
<i>Alamania</i> La Ll. & Lex.		1/1
<i>Artorima</i> Dressl. & Pollard		1/1
<i>Barkeria</i> Knowles & Westcott		14/14
<i>Basiphyllaea</i> Schltr.		3/3
<i>Brassavola</i> R. Br.		23/23
<i>Broughtonia</i> R. Br.		6/6
<i>Cattleya</i> Lindl.		45/45
<i>Caularthron</i> Raf.		3/3
<i>Constantia</i> Barb. Rodr.		4/4
<i>Dilomilis</i> Raf.		4/4
<i>Dimerandra</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Diothonaea</i> Lindl.		7/7
<i>Domingoa</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Encyclia</i> Hook.		130/130
<i>Epidanthus</i> L. O. Wms.		3/3
<i>Epidendrum</i> L.		500/500
<i>Hagsatera</i> G. Tomayo		2/2
<i>Helleriella</i> Hawkes		3/3
<i>Hexisea</i> Lindl.		5/5
<i>Homalopetalum</i> Rolfe		4/4
<i>Isabelia</i> Barb. Rodr.		2/2
<i>Isochilus</i> R. Br.		13/13
<i>Jacquiniella</i> Schltr.		11/11
<i>Laelia</i> Lindl.		69/69
<i>Leptotes</i> Lindl.		5/5
<i>Loefgrenianthus</i> Hoehne		1/1
<i>Nageliella</i> L. O. Wms.		2/2
<i>Neocogniauxia</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Neowilliamsia</i> Garay		5/5
<i>Nidema</i> Britton & Millsp.		2/2
<i>Oerstedella</i> Rchb. f.		28/28
<i>Orleanesia</i> Barb. Rodr.		7/7
<i>Pinelia</i> Lindl.		3/3
<i>Platyglottis</i> L. O. Wms.		1/1
<i>Ponera</i> Lindl.		9/9
<i>Pseudolaelia</i> Campos-Porto & Brade		6/6
<i>Quisqueya</i> D. Dod		4/4
<i>Reichenbachanthus</i> Barb. Rodr.		5/5
<i>Rhyncholaelia</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Scaphyglottis</i> P. & E.		52/52
<i>Schomburgkia</i> Lindl.		17/17
<i>Sophronitis</i> Lindl.		7/7

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Tetramicra</i> Lindl.		11/11
Meiracylliinae Dressl.	1/1	2/2
<i>Meiracyllium</i> Rchb. f.		2/2
Pleurothallidinae Lindl.	27/28	3,381/3,405
<i>Acostaea</i> Schltr.		8/8
<i>Andreettaea</i> Luer		1/1
<i>Barbosella</i> Schltr.		27/27
<i>Brachionidium</i> Lindl.		0/24
<i>Chamelophyton</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Cryptophoranthus</i> Barb. Rodr.		36/36
<i>Dracula</i> Luer		93/93
<i>Dresslerella</i> Luer		8/8
<i>Dryadella</i> Luer		31/31
<i>Lepanthes</i> Sw.		500/500
<i>Lepanthopsis</i> Ames		25/25
<i>Masdevallia</i> R. & P.		400/400
<i>Myoxanthus</i> P. & E.		42/42
<i>Octomeria</i> R. Br.		134/134
<i>Phloeophila</i> Hoehne & Schltr.		7/7
<i>Physosiphon</i> Lindl.		6/6
<i>Physothallis</i> Garay		2/2
<i>Platystele</i> Schltr.		58/58
<i>Pleurothallis</i> R. Br.		1,500/1,500
<i>Porroglossum</i> Schltr.		21/21
<i>Restrepia</i> Kunth		32/32
<i>Restrepiella</i> Garay & Dunsterv.		1/1
<i>Restrepiopsis</i> Luer		17/17
<i>Salpistele</i> Dressl.		6/6
<i>Scaphosepalum</i> Pfitz.		26/26
<i>Stelis</i> Sw.		300/300
<i>Trichosalpinx</i> Luer		84/84
<i>Trisetella</i> Luer		15/15
Dendrobiinae Lindl.	6/6	1,147/1,147
<i>Cadetia</i> Gaud.		67/67
<i>Dendrobium</i> Sw.		900/900
<i>Diplocaulobium</i> Krzl.		94/94
<i>Epigeneium</i> Gagnep.		12/12
<i>Flickingeria</i> Hawkes		70/70
<i>Pseuderia</i> Schltr.		4/4
Bulbophyllinae Schltr.	7/7	1,026/1,026
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> Thouars		1,000/1,000
<i>Chaseella</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Drymoda</i> Lindl.		2/2
<i>Monomeria</i> Lindl.		4/4
<i>Pedilochilus</i> Schltr.		15/15
<i>Saccoglossum</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Trias</i> Lindl.		2/2
Sunipiinae Dressl.	1/1	25/25
<i>Sunipia</i> Buchanan ex Smith		25/25
Vandoideae Endl.	296/322	4,974/5,339
Polystachyae Pfitz.	3/4	153/154
<i>Hederorkis</i> Thouars		2/2
<i>Imerinaea</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Neobenthamia</i> Rolfe		0/1
<i>Polystachya</i> Hook.		150/150
Vandeeae Lindl.	137/138	1,969/1,972
Sarcanthinae Benth.	87/88	1,304/1,307
<i>Abdominea</i> J. J. Sm.		2/2
<i>Acampe</i> Lindl.		6/6
<i>Adenoncos</i> Bl.		17/17
<i>Aerides</i> Lour.		19/19

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Amesiella</i> Schltr. ex Garay		1/1
<i>Arachnis</i> Bl.		14/14
<i>Armodorium</i> Breda		2/2
<i>Ascocentrum</i> Schltr.		8/8
<i>Ascochilopsis</i> Carr		1/1
<i>Ascochilus</i> Ridl.		6/6
<i>Ascoglossum</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Biermannia</i> King & Pantl.		8/8
<i>Bogoria</i> J. J. Smith		4/4
<i>Brachypeza</i> Garay		7/7
<i>Calymmanthera</i> Schltr.		5/5
<i>Ceratochilus</i> Bl.		2/2
<i>Chamaeanthus</i> Schltr. ex J. J. Sm.		10/10
<i>Chiloschista</i> Lindl.		15/15
<i>Chroniochilus</i> J. J. Sm.		5/5
<i>Cleisomeria</i> Lindl. ex E. Don		2/2
<i>Cleisocentrum</i> Bruhl		3/3
<i>Cleisostoma</i> Bl.		95/95
<i>Cordiglottis</i> J. J. Sm.		7/7
<i>Cottonia</i> Wight		1/1
<i>Cryptopylos</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Dimorphorchis</i> D. Don		2/2
<i>Diplocentrum</i> Lindl.		2/2
<i>Diploprora</i> Hook. f.		1/1
<i>Doritis</i> Lindl.		0/3
<i>Dryadorchis</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Drymoanthus</i> Nicholls		2/2
<i>Eparmatostigma</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Esmeralda</i> Rchb. f.		2/2
<i>Gastrochilus</i> D. Don		38/38
<i>Grosourdua</i> Rchb. f.		8/8
<i>Haraella</i> Kudo		1/1
<i>Holcoglossum</i> Schltr.		8/8
<i>Hygrochilus</i> Pfitz.		1/1
<i>Hymenorchis</i> Schltr.		9/9
<i>Loxoma</i> Garay		3/3
<i>Luisia</i> Gaud.		47/47
<i>Macropodanthus</i> L. O. Wms.		1/1
<i>Malleola</i> J. J. Sm.		34/34
<i>Megalotus</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Micropera</i> Lindl.		19/19
<i>Microsaccus</i> Bl.		14/14
<i>Microtatorchis</i> Schltr.		49/49
<i>Mobilabium</i> Rupp		1/1
<i>Neofinetia</i> Hu		1/1
<i>Omoea</i> Bl.		2/2
<i>Ornithochilus</i> Wallich ex Lindl.		1/1
<i>Papilionanthe</i> Schltr.		10/10
<i>Papillalabium</i> Dockr.		1/1
<i>Paraphalaenopsis</i> Hawkes		4/4
<i>Pelatantheria</i> Ridl.		3/3
<i>Pennilabium</i> J. J. Sm.		10/10
<i>Peristeranthus</i> T. E. Hunt		1/1
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Bl.		46/46
<i>Phragmorchis</i> L. O. Wms.		1/1
<i>Plectorrhiza</i> Dockr.		3/3
<i>Pomatocalpa</i> Breda		46/46
<i>Porrorrhachis</i> Garay		2/2
<i>Porphyrodesme</i> Schltr.		3/3
<i>Pteroceras</i> Hasselt ex Hasskarl		41/41
<i>Renanthera</i> Lour.		14/14

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Renantherella</i> Ridl.		2/2
<i>Rhinerrhiza</i> Rupp		2/2
<i>Rhynchogyna</i> Seidenf. & Garay		2/2
<i>Rhynchostylis</i> Bl.		3/3
<i>Robiquetia</i> Gaud.		39/39
<i>Saccolabiopsis</i> J. J. Sm.		13/13
<i>Saccolabium</i> Bl.		4/4
<i>Sarcochilus</i> R. Br.		14/14
<i>Schoenorchis</i> Bl.		22/22
<i>Sedirea</i> Garay & Sweet		2/2
<i>Seidenfadenia</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Smitinandia</i> Holttum		3/3
<i>Stereochilus</i> Lindl.		5/5
<i>Taeniophyllum</i> Bl.		187/187
<i>Thrixspermum</i> Lour.		165/165
<i>Trachoma</i> Garay		6/6
<i>Trichoglottis</i> Bl.		80/80
<i>Tuberolabium</i> Yamamoto		5/5
<i>Uncifera</i> Lindl.		7/7
<i>Vanda</i> Jones		45/45
<i>Vandopsis</i> Pfitz.		18/18
<i>Ventricularia</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Xenikophyton</i> Garay		1/1
Angraecinae Summerh.	16/16	383/383
<i>Aeranthes</i> Lindl.		30/30
<i>Ambrella</i> H. Perrier		1/1
<i>Angraecum</i> Bory		206/206
<i>Bonnieria</i> Cordemoy		2/2
<i>Campylocentrum</i> Benth.		45/45
<i>Cryptopus</i> Lindl.		3/3
<i>Dendrophylax</i> Rchb. f.		5/5
<i>Harrisella</i> Fawc. & Rendle		4/4
<i>Jumellea</i> Schltr.		60/60
<i>Lemurella</i> Schltr.		3/3
<i>Neobathiea</i> Schltr.		7/7
<i>Oeonia</i> Lindl.		6/6
<i>Oeoniella</i> Schltr.		3/3
<i>Perrierella</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Polyradicion</i> Garay		4/4
<i>Sobennikoffia</i> Schltr.		3/3
Aerangidinae Summerh.	34/34	282/282
<i>Aerangis</i> Rchb. f.		60/60
<i>Ancistrorhynchus</i> Finet		13/13
<i>Angraecopsis</i> Krzl.		14/14
<i>Barombia</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Beclardia</i> A. Rich.		1/1
<i>Bolusiella</i> Schltr.		10/10
<i>Calyptrochilum</i> Krzl.		2/2
<i>Cardiochilus</i> Cribb		2/2
<i>Chamaeangis</i> Schltr.		15/15
<i>Chauliodon</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Cyrtorchis</i> Schltr.		18/18
<i>Diaphananthe</i> Schltr.		45/45
<i>Dinklageella</i> Mansfeld		1/1
<i>Distylodon</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Eggelingia</i> Summerh.		2/2
<i>Encheiridion</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Eurychone</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Lemurorchis</i> Krzl.		1/1
<i>Listrostachys</i> Rchb. f.		3/3
<i>Microcoelia</i> Lindl.		26/26

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Mystacidium</i> Lindl.		5/5
<i>Nephrangis</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Plectrelminthus</i> Raf.		1/1
<i>Podangis</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Rangaeris</i> Summerh.		6/6
<i>Rhaesteria</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Rhipidoglossum</i> Schltr.		4/4
<i>Solenangis</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Sphyrarhynchus</i> Mansfeld		1/1
<i>Summerhayesia</i> Cribb		2/2
<i>Taeniorrhiza</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Triceratorhynchus</i> Summerh.		1/1
<i>Tridactyle</i> Schltr.		35/35
<i>Ypsilopus</i> Summerh.		2/2
Maxillariae Pfitz.	56/71	1,183/1,257
Corallorhizinae Camus et al.	0/9	0/46
<i>Aplectrum</i> Nutt.		0/1
<i>Corallorhiza</i> R. Br.		0/15
<i>Cremastra</i> Lindl.		0/2
<i>Dactylostalix</i> Rchb. f.		0/1
<i>Didiciea</i> King. & Pantl.		0/1
<i>Ephippianthus</i> Rchb. f.		0/1
<i>Govenia</i> Lindl. ex Lodd.		0/13
<i>Oreorchis</i> Lindl.		0/9
<i>Tipularia</i> Nutt.		0/3
Zygopetalinae Schltr.	21/27	193/221
<i>Aganisia</i> Kaempfer ex Sprengel		1/1
<i>Batemannia</i> Lindl.		4/4
<i>Bollea</i> Rchb. f.		7/7
<i>Chaubardia</i> Rchb. f.		3/3
<i>Chaubardiella</i> Garay		6/6
<i>Cheiradenia</i> Lindl.		2/2
<i>Chondrorhyncha</i> Lindl.		16/16
<i>Cochleanthes</i> Raf.		20/20
<i>Dodsonia</i> Ackerman		2/2
<i>Hoehneella</i> Ruschi		2/2
<i>Huntleya</i> Batem. ex Lindl.		10/10
<i>Kefersteinia</i> Rchb. f.		25/25
<i>Koellensteinia</i> Rchb. f.		1/11
<i>Mendoncella</i> Hawkes		11/11
<i>Neogardneria</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Otostylis</i> Schltr.		0/3
<i>Pabstia</i> Garay		5/5
<i>Paradisianthus</i> Rchb. f.		0/4
<i>Pescatorea</i> Rchb. f.		14/14
<i>Promenaea</i> Lindl.		15/15
<i>Stenia</i> Lindl.		1/1
<i>Vargasiella</i> C. Schweinf.		0/2
<i>Warrea</i> Lindl.		0/3
<i>Warreella</i> Schltr.		0/3
<i>Warreopsis</i> Garay		0/3
<i>Zygopetalum</i> Hook.		40/40
<i>Zygosepalum</i> Rchb. f.		7/7
Bifrenariinae Dressl.	4/4	57/57
<i>Bifrenaria</i> Lindl.		27/27
<i>Rudolfiella</i> Hoehne		2/2
<i>Teuscheria</i> Garay		6/6
<i>Xylobium</i> Lindl.		22/22
Lycastinae Schltr.	3/3	54/54
<i>Anguloa</i> R. & P.		10/10
<i>Lycaste</i> Lindl.		43/43

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Neomoorea</i> Rolfe		1/1
Maxillariinae Benth.	9/9	652/652
<i>Anthosiphon</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Chrysocynis</i> Lind. & Rchb. f.		5/5
<i>Cryptocentrum</i> Benth.		14/14
<i>Cyrtidium</i> Schltr.		4/4
<i>Maxillaria</i> R. & P.		600/600
<i>Mormolyca</i> Fenzl		6/6
<i>Pityphyllum</i> Schltr.		4/4
<i>Scuticaria</i> Lindl.		6/6
<i>Trigonidium</i> Lindl.		12/12
Dichaeinae Schltr.	1/1	45/45
<i>Dichaea</i> Lindl.		45/45
Telipogoninae Schltr.	4/4	108/108
<i>Dipterostele</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Stellilabium</i> Schltr.		16/16
<i>Telipogon</i> Kunth		82/82
<i>Trichoceros</i> Kunth		8/8
Ornithocephalinae Schltr.	14/14	74/74
<i>CentroGLOSSA</i> Barb. Rodr.		6/6
<i>Chytroglossa</i> Rchb. f.		4/4
<i>Dipteranthus</i> Barb. Rodr.		2/2
<i>Dunstervillea</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Eloyella</i> P. Ortiz		3/3
<i>Hintonella</i> Ames		1/1
<i>Hofmeisterella</i> Rchb. f.		1/1
<i>Ornithocephalus</i> Hook.		28/28
<i>Phymatidium</i> Lindl.		7/7
<i>Platyrrhiza</i> Barb. Rodr.		1/1
<i>Rauhiella</i> Pabst & Braga		1/1
<i>Sphyrastylis</i> Schltr.		6/6
<i>Thysanoglossa</i> Porto & Brade		1/1
<i>Zygostates</i> Lindl.		12/12
Cymbidieae Pfitz.	100/109	1,669/1,956
Cyrtopodiinae Benth.	15/24	139/424
<i>Acrolophia</i> Pfitz.		0/9
<i>Ansellia</i> Lindl.		2/2
<i>Bromheadia</i> Lindl.		11/11
<i>Chrysoglossum</i> Bl.		0/10
<i>Claderia</i> Hook. f.		2/2
<i>Cyanaeorchis</i> Thouars		0/1
<i>Cymbidiella</i> Rolfe		3/3
<i>Cymbidium</i> Sw.		50/50
<i>Cyrtopodium</i> R. Br.		12/12
<i>Diglyphosa</i> Bl.		0/2
<i>Dipodium</i> R. Br.		12/12
<i>Eriopsis</i> Lindl.		2/3
<i>Eulophia</i> R. Br.		0/200
<i>Eulophiella</i> Rolfe		2/2
<i>Galeandra</i> Lindl.		20/20
<i>Gastrorchis</i> Thouars		0/20
<i>Geodorum</i> Jackson		0/8
<i>Grammangis</i> Rchb. f.		2/2
<i>Grammatophyllum</i> Bl.		12/12
<i>Graphorkis</i> Thouars		5/5
<i>Grobya</i> Lindl.		3/3
<i>Oeceoclades</i> Lindl.		0/31
<i>Porphyroglottis</i> Ridl.		1/1
<i>Pteroglossaspis</i> Rchb. f.		0/3
Genyorchidinae Schltr.	1/1	6/6
<i>Genyorchis</i> Schltr.		6/6

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
Thecostelinae Schltr.	1/1	5/5
<i>Thecostele</i> Rchb. f.		5/5
Acriopsidinae Dressl.	1/1	12/12
<i>Acriopsis</i> Reinward ex Bl.		12/12
Catasetinae Schltr.	5/5	166/166
<i>Catasetum</i> L. C. Rich. ex Kunth		76/76
<i>Clowesia</i> Lindl.		5/5
<i>Cynoches</i> Lindl.		17/17
<i>Dressleria</i> Dodson		4/4
<i>Mormodes</i> Lindl.		64/64
Stanhopeinae Benth.	17/17	211/211
<i>Acineta</i> Lindl.		10/10
<i>Cirrhaea</i> Lindl.		3/3
<i>Coeliopsis</i> Rchb. f.		2/2
<i>Coryanthes</i> Hook.		20/20
<i>Gongora</i> R. & P.		40/40
<i>Houlletia</i> Brongn.		8/8
<i>Kegeliella</i> Mansfeld		4/4
<i>Lacaena</i> Lindl.		3/3
<i>Lueddemannia</i> Lind. & Rchb. f.		1/1
<i>Lycomormium</i> Rchb. f.		5/5
<i>Paphinia</i> Lindl.		8/8
<i>Peristeria</i> Hook.		8/8
<i>Polycynis</i> Rchb. f.		20/20
<i>Schlimmia</i> Planch. & Lind. ex Lindl. & Paxt.		5/5
<i>Sievekingia</i> Rchb. f.		15/15
<i>Stanhopea</i> Frost ex Hook.		55/55
<i>Trevoria</i> Lehmann		4/4
Pachyphyllinae Pfitz.	2/2	34/34
<i>Fernandezia</i> R. & P.		9/9
<i>Pachyphyllum</i> Kunth		25/25
Oncidiinae Benth.	58/58	1,096/1,098
<i>Ada</i> Lindl.		9/9
<i>Amparoa</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Antillanorchis</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Aspasia</i> Lindl.		6/6
<i>Bractia</i> Rchb. f.		6/6
<i>Brassia</i> R. Br.		38/38
<i>Capanemia</i> Barb. Rodr.		16/16
<i>Caucaea</i> Schltr.		1/1
<i>Cischweinfia</i> Dressl. & N. Wms.		6/6
<i>Cochlioda</i> Lindl.		7/7
<i>Comparettia</i> P. & E.		11/11
<i>Cypholoron</i> Dodson & Dressl.		2/2
<i>Diadenium</i> P. & E.		2/2
<i>Erycina</i> Lindl.		2/2
<i>Gomesa</i> R. Br.		9/9
<i>Helcia</i> Lindl.		1/1
<i>Hybochilus</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Ionopsis</i> Kunth		3/3
<i>Leochilus</i> Knowles & Wescott		16/16
<i>Lockhartia</i> Hook.		29/29
<i>Lophiaris</i> Raf.		25/25
<i>Macradenia</i> R. Br.		11/11
<i>Macroclinium</i> Dodson		25/25
<i>Mesospinidium</i> Rchb. f.		7/7
<i>Mexicoa</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Miltonia</i> Lindl.		12/12
<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Godefr.-Lebeuf		6/6
<i>Neodryas</i> Rchb. f.		4/4

TABLE 1. Continued.

Taxa	Genera	Species
<i>Neokoehleria</i> Schltr.		7/7
<i>Notylia</i> Lindl.		46/46
<i>Odontoglossum</i> Kunth (s.l.)		140/140
<i>Oliveriana</i> Rchb. f.		4/4
<i>Oncidium</i> Sw.		430/432
<i>Ornithophora</i> Barb. Rodr.		2/2
<i>Otoglossum</i> (Schltr.) Garay & Dunsterv.		8/8
<i>Palumbina</i> Rchb. f.		1/1
<i>Papperitzia</i> Rchb. f.		1/1
<i>Plectrophora</i> Focke		6/6
<i>Polyotidium</i> Garay		1/1
<i>Psychopsis</i> Raf.		4/4
<i>Psymorchis</i> Dodson & Dressl.		6/6
<i>Pterostemma</i> Krzl.		1/1
<i>Quekettia</i> Lindl.		5/5
<i>Rodriguezia</i> R. & P.		34/34
<i>Rodrigueziopsis</i> Schltr.		2/2
<i>Rossioglossum</i> (Schltr.) Garay & Kennedy		5/5
<i>Rusbyella</i> Rolfe		2/2
<i>Sanderella</i> O. Kuntze		2/2
<i>Saundersia</i> Rchb. f.		1/1
<i>Scelochilus</i> Klotzsch		34/34
<i>Sigmatostalix</i> Rchb. f.		35/35
<i>Solenidium</i> Lindl.		3/3
<i>Symphoglossum</i> Schltr.		4/4
<i>Systeloglossum</i> Schltr.		5/5
<i>Trichocentrum</i> P. & E.		23/23
<i>Trichopilia</i> Lindl.		21/21
<i>Trizeuxis</i> Lindl.		1/1
<i>Warmingia</i> Rchb. f.		2/2

* Owing to current controversies concerning generic circumscriptions, only an estimate for the subtribe is given here.

percent) and Vandoideae (93 percent). There would appear to be a correlation of increasing epiphytism with other derived characters as the Apostasioideae (0 percent), Spiranthoideae (0.26 percent) and Orchidoideae (0.26 percent) are relatively primitive and primarily terrestrial. In accordance with this correlation, the second most advanced subfamily, Epidendroideae, includes 5 percent fewer epiphytes than the most advanced subfamily, Vandoideae. But the Cyripedioideae with 29 percent epiphytic species (primarily the tree-crown and cliff-inhabiting *Phragmipedium caudatum* complex as well as numerous species of *Paphiopedilum*) does not conform to such correlation if it is indeed a primitive subfamily. However, this problem is solved if we accept these genera as advanced relative to their obligately terrestrial counterparts, *Selenipedium* and *Cypripedium*, albeit on a primitive ground plan (Atwood, 1984).

By various estimates (e.g., Haywood, 1978; Cronquist, 1981) the Asteraceae, the largest fam-

ily of dicotyledonous plants, contains 20,000–25,000 species. The Orchidaceae and the Asteraceae are essentially of equal size. It is interesting to note that both families are considered to be the most advanced among the monocots and dicots, respectively, but have exploited very different ecological possibilities. The orchids have exploited very specific, often unusual habitats where competition from other plants is minimized. Hence we see terrestrial orchids as characteristic denizens of northern bogs, and epiphytism seems a logical consequence to adaptation to unoccupied ecological space. The orchids have also increased efficiency of pollen transfer by compacting their pollen into easily transportable pollinia, thus effecting the production of thousands of seeds per successful pollination event. With such an efficient system of pollen transfer, the orchids have exploited several instincts of diverse pollinators from food foraging, whether or not by deception, to pseudocopulation and egg laying in a false brood site.

This is often accomplished by exploiting a single species of insect. The sunflowers overcome the problem of competition by quickly and aggressively invading open, terrestrial, often seasonably dry habitats, especially disturbed sites and rarely of unusual habitats such as tree canopies. Their populations tend to be large by comparison with orchids, and repeated visits by numerous pollinators negates the necessity of efficient pollen transfer. Diversity of pollination systems is low and repeated visits reinforced by food rewards is the rule. Pollination by deception is unknown. As a consequence of this, flowers of the Asteraceae are less diverse and usually aggregated in more or less amorphous capitula. Reproduction is often by asexual means, either vegetatively by stoloniferous habit or by asexual seed set. Whatever accounts for the species richness of these two most advanced of families, they have achieved their sizes through very different modes of evolution.

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