

ACTIVITIES

PROTECTION

If you have read this book carefully you should know that orchids are very special plants. They are beautiful, but easily damaged plants that are often hard to find. Unfortunately human beings have a bad habit of collecting rare and beautiful things such as orchids. It seems that selfish humans pick orchid flowers without really thinking about what they are doing. So, as you see, you should never collect orchids or pick their flowers.

OTHER THREATS TO ORCHIDS

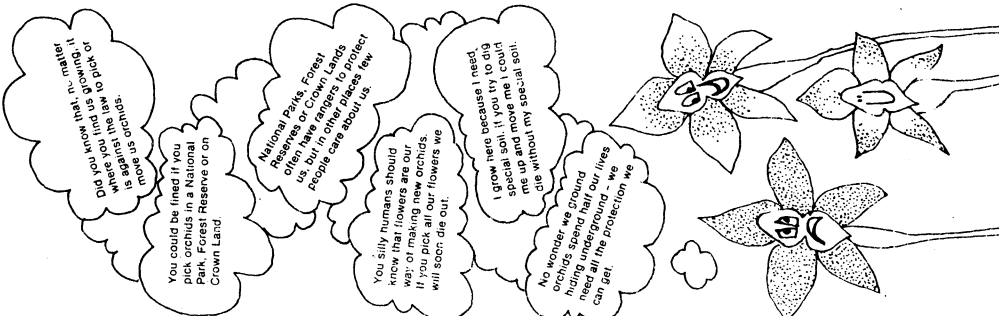
Because ground orchids hide underground for part of each year, people that own bush blocks often kill the new shoots when they mow in spring and summer. Cows, sheep and other animals may eat orchids.

If a bush block is cleared, orchids often die because the trees and insects that help orchids to survive are gone.

ORCHID STUDIES

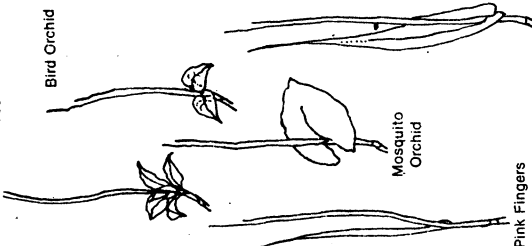
If you live close to a bushland area you could make studying orchids a long term project.

- Try keeping records of such information as:
- the time shoots appear each year;
 - the time that flowers are present;
 - other changes such as the dying off;
 - Numbers of each type of orchid in an area;
 - Plant associations, try to identify other common plants, especially note trees that grow close to orchids;
 - which insects visit orchid flowers; try to capture some of these insects with a butterfly net.
 - describe the soil you found the orchids growing in;
 - take photographs of the orchids and their surroundings.



Greenhood

Bird Orchid

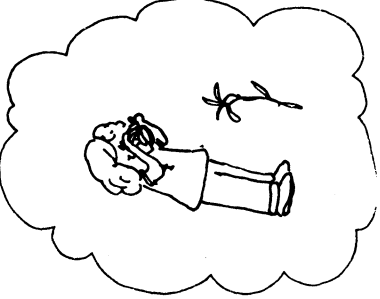


Mosquito Orchid

Pink Fingers

Flying Duck

Basal Leaves



ACTIVITIES

Look for the rosettes or basal leaves before the orchids appear. Record the date and location for later observation. Remember that sometimes the leaves grow after the flowers have bloomed.

FLOWER-FRIENDS

Find an orchid in flower. Watch and record what happens when any insect comes near. Could it be pollinating the flower?

PHOTO-TIME-LAPSE

Use your camera to take a photo from the same spot each day (or week) to record the life of an orchid.

ORCHID WORDS

perennial epiphyte *tuber* *chlorophyll*
stigma *pollinate* *saprophyte* *anther*
labelium
 Orchids live for many years - they are *p*..... herbs.

Some orchids have a fleshy, storage root, called a *t*.....

The green color in plants, called *c*..... helps in making food for the plant.

A non-green plant which can not make its own food is a *s*.....

A *e*..... is an orchid that grows on trees.

Many orchids have insect help to *p*..... their flowers.

The orchid *l*..... (or tongue) helps to attract insects to the flower.

Orchids are pollinated when the pollen from the male *a*..... is placed on the female *s*.....