

are beautifully portrayed. Even the little green *Malaxis*, *Piperia* and *Listera* look good.

The author has used a dark background throughout, throwing the flowers into bright relief. The effect is dramatic and very artistic. I know how difficult it is to get photos of this quality. It must have taken a lot of time and patience and culling through many photos to pick the best. The left-hand page has a full frame portrait of a single flower for the larger species and an ultra closeup for the tiny ones. The right-hand page shows the plant in habitat. Overlaying these large photos are further vignette photos, a distribution map and text boxes.

Once you have ogled your way passed all the pictures, you should read the text. This has been written with care so that it provides the basic information you need, without compromising the layout. The species names are given in French, English, and Latin. So *Calogogon tuberosus* is called the Grass Pink, Swamp Pink or *Calogogon gracieux* [the French name sounds so much more elegant for this graceful flower]. A text box gives the origin of the scientific name, the flowering season, the size and the scent. The remaining text gives background on varieties, the species preferred habitat and its abundance. Fifty-one species in twenty genera are covered, starting with the charming *Amerorchis rotundifolia* and ending with *Spiranthes*. *Platanthera* has the largest representation. Generic distribution maps are also included.

There is a section at the back of the book which is largely a translation of the French text into English. Unfortunately this was not proof read by an English editor so there are some rather odd sentences. For example under *Cypripedium reginae* it says "As opposed to what said Marie-Victorin ..." instead of "As opposed to what Marie-Victorin said ...." [Brother Marie-Victorin championed the formation of a botanical garden in the City of Montréal in 1931, and wrote *Flore laurentienne*, the first botanical treatise for southern Quebec's indigenous species.] Similar problems occur in other parts of the text – Under *Epipactis helleborine* it says "From it was introduced ..." and under *Goodyera tessellata* the French *venimeuse* is incorrectly translated as poisonous. Despite these errors [presumably introduced by the author's English collaborator as the author speaks little English himself] you should have no trouble understanding the text [and you can always refer back to the original, better French].

Any person interested in Canadian wildflowers, Orchids in particular, will be delighted to own this book. It will make a superb present, as it is a joy to see and French text is pleasant to read. Gardeners and orchid growers and even people who are not into wildlife will still get a thrill from the photos.

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## The Rare and Endangered Plant Species in the Area of Three Gorges Dam

By Wu Jinqing, Zhao Zien and Jin Yixing. 2009. China Water Conservancy and Hydropower Press, I-D, Yuyuantan Rd (S), Haidian, Beijing, China. 280 pages. 128.00 CNY.

The Three Gorges Dam is a hydroelectric river dam that spans the Yangtze River in Sandouping, Yichang, Hubei, China. It is a man-made miracle, a jumbo construction at one and a half miles wide and more than 600 feet high. Its completion made a list of at least 10 world records, including the creation of a reservoir hundreds of feet deep and nearly 400 miles long. As the world's biggest producer of electricity from hydropower, its turbines are expected to create as much electricity as 18 nuclear power plants. However, the electricity generated by the large dam was not regarded as renewable by many environmentalists because of the social and environmental damage or catastrophes that followed the project. The dam has flooded archaeological and cultural sites, displaced some 1.24 million people, and is causing dramatic ecological changes, including increasing the risk of landslides, deforestation and water pollution, and the danger of extinction of some valuable, rare, and endangered species, a consequence of their living habitats being flushed. Although some preventive measures could have been taken to avoid further deterioration of the ecological, environ-

mental and geological issues, the future is not very optimistic, since some environmentalists predicted that the impacts caused by such a large dam located at a place with a history of geological fragility might be irreversible.

The Three Gorges area alone accounts for 20 percent of Chinese seed plants—more than 6000 species. Many precious plant species near extinction in the area of Three Gorges Dam are on the national-level protection list. Some of them grow within the area submerged by water when the reservoir is full, so their disappearance is assured by the dam. Some other species might have to face the hidden dangers imposed by the reservoir in that their reproduction patterns tended to be altered by the dramatic landscape change. The reservoir could also break up land bridges into small islands, isolating clusters of animals and plants. The effects of disturbance of the dam on the whole ecosystems could reverberate for decades. In the short term, these species might still be there, but in the long term, they may disappear. Thus, the biodiversity in this area is being threatened as the dam floods some

habitats, reduces water flow to others, and alters weather patterns and the reproduction patterns of some species. In this course, the rare and endangered plant species certainly stand in the breach.

Since the rare and endangered plant species in the Three Gorges Dam area are facing the danger of extinction, the protection and rescue of these species in situ or ex situ is becoming more and more imperative. To do this work more effectively, knowledge of these species is needed. The publication of the book *The Rare and Endangered Plant Species in the Area of Three Gorges Dam* is timely and meets the current and urgent demands. The book reflects the consciousness of responsibility of Chinese scientists in raising public awareness, providing information for presentations, and suggesting effective countermeasures for dealing with the problem of the rare and endangered plant species in the area.

The book is based on original data obtained from field surveys. The book includes accounts of 350 plant species in the Three Gorges Dam area, of which 288 were state-approved rare and endangered plant species, and 62 were recommended rare and endangered plant species. All these species are briefly introduced in terms of their biological and ecological characteristics, but with focus on a selection of 200 species. Chinese name, Latin name, geographical distribution area, morphological characteristics, habitat characteristics, modes of reproduction, category or status of rareness and endangeredness, value of protection, and the extent that they are affected by the Three Gorges Dam project, are detailed. Then appropriate protection measures are proposed. The book contains a total of 413 color photos of these plants including, for each species, 1 to 5 color photos taken at different growth periods. Some of these plant species are pteridophytes, belonging to the families such as Psilotaceae, Ophioglossaceae, Dicksoniaceae, Cyatheaceae and

Adiantaceae. Some are gymnosperm, belonging to the families such as Cycadaceae, Ginkgoaceae, Pinaceae, Taxodiaceae, Cupressaceae, Cephalotaxaceae and Taxaceae. Some are angiosperm, belonging to the families such as Saururaceae, Chloranthaceae, Juglandaceae, Betulaceae, Fagaceae, Ulmaceae, Moraceae, Aristolochiaceae, Polygonaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Nymphaeaceae, Eupteleaceae, Cercidiphyllaceae, Ranunculaceae, Berberidaceae, Magnoliaceae, Calycanthaceae, Lauraceae, Papaveraceae, Cruciferae, Bretschneideraceae, Saxifragaceae, Hamamelidaceae, Eucommiaceae, Rosaceae, Leguminosae, Rutaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Buxaceae, Aquifoliaceae, Celastraceae, Staphyleaceae, Aceraceae, Hippocastanaceae, Sapindaceae, Balsaminaceae, Rhamnaceae, Actinidiaceae, Theaceae, Tamaricaceae, Flacourtiaceae, Begoniaceae, Nyssaceae, Theligonaceae, Araliaceae, Umbelliferae, Primulaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Oleaceae, Scrophulariaceae, Plantaginaceae, Rubiaceae, Caprifoliaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Araceae, Liliaceae, Dioscoreaceae, Iridaceae and Orchidaceae. At the end of the book, the detailed list of the rare and endangered plant species in the Three Gorges Dam area which are listed in the Red List of China Species is attached.

The book was well written and there are few errors. Abundant illustrations help readers to easily understand the explanations. The book is suitable for professionals engaged in botany, forestry, geography and environmental resources and other related fields, as well as professional teachers, students and so on.

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## Common Wetland Plants in China

By Zhang Shuren. 2009. Beijing Science and Technology Press, 16, Xizhimen South Street, Beijing, China 100035, 286 pages. 75.00 CNY

As we all know, wetland is an area of land whose soil is saturated with moisture either permanently or seasonally, including all areas whose water depth does not exceed six metres. Wetlands are described as ecotones, providing a transition between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, making them inherently different from each, yet highly dependent on both. The quantity of water present and the timing of its presence in part determine the functions of a wetland and its role in the environment. Wetlands provide values that no other ecosystem can, including natural water quality improvement, flood protection, shoreline erosion control, opportunities for recreation and aesthetic appreciation, and natural products for human use at no cost. Wet-

lands were regarded as the "kidneys of the world". Thus, protecting wetlands in turn can protect human safety and welfare.

Wetlands are considered the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems, or the "biological supermarkets". Wetlands support species ranging from obligate aquatic to obligate terrestrial, and also provide food and/or shelter for a large and diverse range of animals and microbes. In general, wetland can be classified as four categories; i.e., marshes, swamps, bogs, and fens. In each type of wetland, the number of species, the abundance and structure of each population and community are different, which is determined at least in part by the physical and chemical features of wetland.

***Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist 126(4)***

In response to the review of *Contributions to the History of Herpetology*. CFN 126(3): 344-345, the book's editor Kraig Adler pointed out (personal communication to FRC 12 May 2013): "Only one small correction. Mrs. Martof used a kitchen knife, not a gun. She told the police she slipped while cutting some pizza. But Bernie was stabbed up under his rib cage several times!"

***Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist***

It has come to our attention that sections of many of the book reviews by Li Dezhi and Qin Aili were copied from sources without attribution. The journal and the authors apologize for this oversight.