

IN MEMORIAM  
RUDOLF JENNY (1953–2021)



Rudolf Jenny at the 16th World Orchid Conference, Canada, 1999

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Rudolf was born on July 26, 1953, in Bern, Switzerland. As his father was head of the Swiss Federal nursery, Rudolf was exposed to a rich flora already at an early age and even built a herbarium with fern plants on his own. Soon, he discovered orchids in the greenhouses and developed a passion for these exotic plants, which never faded. As a trained chemist, Rudolf Jenny worked in the field of environmental and ozone technology until his retirement in 2008. As a hobby, Rudolf worked with orchids for more than 40 years and cultivated many tropical orchid plants in his large collection until 1995. Over many years, numerous trips took him to Central & South America for his studies on

pollination techniques and taxonomy of orchids. He was especially fond of Costa Rica, where he took part in many expeditions with his friend Clarence K. Horich, to whom he also dedicated the orchid genus *Horichia* (“The Orchid”, 1981). Furthermore, he dedicated other orchid genera like *Braemia* (“Die Orchidee”, 1985) or *Lueckelia* (“Australian Orchid Review”, 1999) to well-known orchid friends. Vice Versa, the orchid genus *Jennyella* was named after Rudolf, described by E.Lückel & H.Fessel (“Caesiana, Revista Italiana di Orchidologia”, 1999).

All together, Rudolf Jenny wrote more than 600 articles published in many well-known or-



Rudolf Jenny photographing a specimen of *Stanhopea wardii* at the Botanischer Garten Herrenhausen, Germany, EOC-Board meeting, 2 October 2015. Courtesy of Johan Hermans.



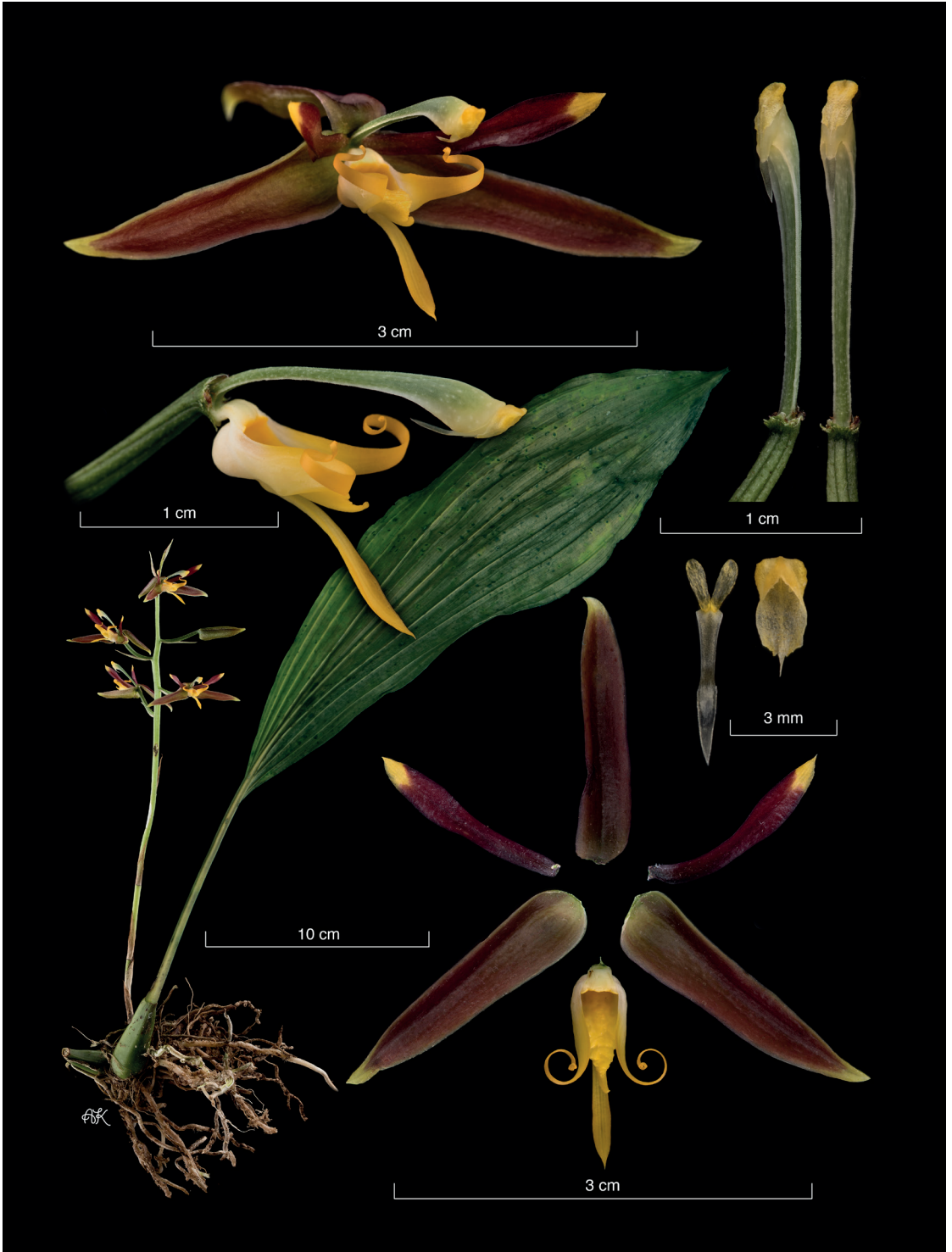
*Teuscheria horichiana*, a species endemic to Costa Rica and Panama, described by R. Jenny and G. Braem. Watercolour by Sylvia Strigari.



Rudolf Jenny at the Botanischer Garten Basel, Switzerland, EOC-Board meeting, 4 October 2013. From left to right: Carsten Hammer, Charlotte Dupont, Emil Lückel, Rudolf Jenny, and Clare Hermans. Courtesy of Johan Hermans.



Rudolf Jenny with Charlotte Dupont at the SFO-Office, Paris, France EOC-Board meeting, 25 October 2019. Courtesy of Johan Hermans.



*Horichia dressleri*, a monotypic genus and scarce species of Costa Rica and Panama, collected and described by R. Jenny in 1981. Rudolf made important contributions to the taxonomy of the Stanhopeinae subtribe. LCDP by A.P. Karremans.



Rudolf Jenny at the European Orchid Council around 2015-2017. Unknown photographer.

chid journals, including monographs on the genera *Gongora*, *Paphinia*, *Sievekingia*, and *Stanhopea*. He also wrote the three-part book series "... of men and orchids ..." about the background of orchid names and the stories behind the discoverers and researchers. However, the third part has not been published yet. As a regular participant and presenter at major orchid conferences such as the World Orchid Conference (WOC), the European Orchid Conference (EOC), and numerous other congresses, Rudolf was not only able to maintain his international relations but also to pursue his passion for photography. Rudolf was also the founder and owner of BibliOrchidea, the world's largest and freely accessible database of orchid literature with

over 165,000 entries, covering more than 90% of the existing orchid literature. Rudolf Jenny was an honorary member of the German Orchid Society (DOG) and the European Orchid Council (EOC), where he held the position of Secretary General since 2010. He also supported the Jany Renz Herbarium of the University of Basel in Switzerland with his profound knowledge. In addition, Rudolf Jenny was an active member of the RHS Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group (OHRAG) and a former member of the RHS Orchid Committee, both based in England. Rudolf was a pillar of strength for his wife Veronika Jenny-Keller and his two sons Lorenz and Christoph, an extremely generous person who was lacking in anything petty.

He loved spending his family vacation days in his small cottage in the mountains, and together they also enjoyed traveling to numerous countries. Until his last day, Rudolf was an interested and exciting conversationalist family man. He was networked with countless orchid specialists worldwide, gladly answered questions of all kinds, and was happy when he could help - a lively exchange that gave him much pleasure. Profit thinking was unknown to him. His *Gongora* monograph, which he had co-authored with Günter Gerlach, is nearly ready for print. Rudolf was excited about publishing his new work. Rudolf passed away completely unexpectedly on August 10, 2021.

