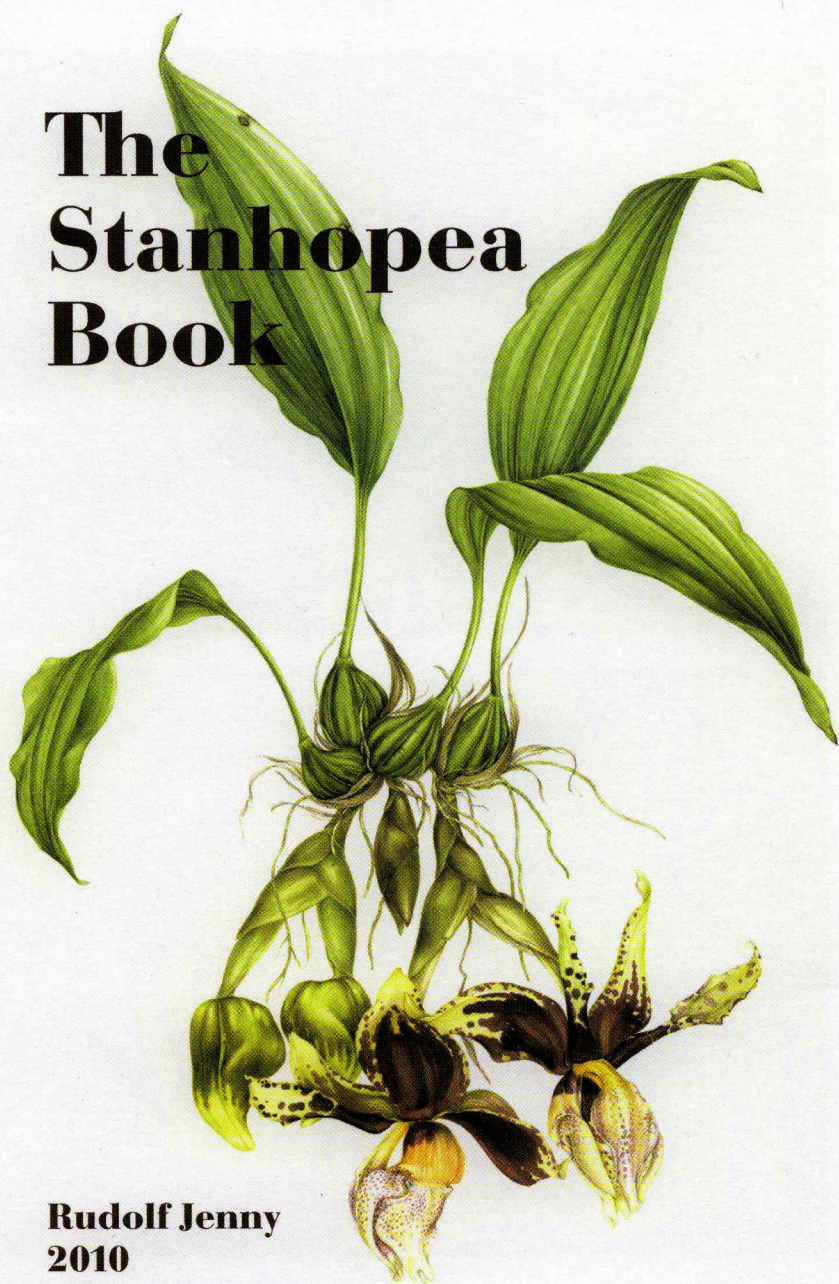


The Stanhopea Book



**Rudolf Jenny
2010**

— Rudolf Jenny, a chemist by training, was active in environmental and ozone-technology until his retirement in 2008. He has been working with orchids for more than 40 years and had a large collection of tropical orchid plants until 1995. Over many years, he has travelled in Central and South America in connection with his studies of pollination ecology and taxonomy. He has published some 550 articles in many of the world's leading orchid journals and published monographs of the genera *Gongora*, *Stanhopea*, *Paphinia* and *Sievekingia*. He is a regular lecturer at conferences around the world and owner of one of the most complete orchid libraries

in private hands. He maintains *BibliOrchidea*, the world's largest and freely accessible database for orchid literature with more than 175,000 entries, covering about 90 percent of the existing literature (<http://Orchid.unibas.ch/bibliorchidea.index.php>). He is a research associate at the Jany Renz Herbarium, University of Basel, Switzerland, honorary member and secretary general of the European Orchid Council, honorary member of the German Orchid Society and member of the Orchid Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society. In addition to orchids, cave-climbing has been a hobby for many years.

Rudolf Jenny. 2010. Published by Rudolf Jenny. More than 850 photographs. Hardcover. 495 pages. \$175. In the United States, the book may be obtained from Santa Barbara Orchid Estates (tel 1800-553-3387; e-mail SBOE@SBORCHID.COM). All others should contact Rudolf Jenny (rjorchid@gmx.che-mail).

The book, which has 495 pages, covers the 59 presently known species, one subspecies, the six known natural hybrids and two species of *Embreea* (which at one time were classified as stanhopeas). Why do you need so many pages for this number of plants? This is a thorough monograph/treatise. An early section to the book gives an overview of the taxonomy of the genus to where we are now. Each of the taxa is treated with a full botanical description, a list of synonyms, reproductions of the first description of the taxa and of many of the synonyms, variations within the species, copious illustrations of the taxa using both botanical illustrations and photographs (more than 850 are in the book), detailed pictures of the lips and columns in multiple directions, fragrance analysis, pollination information (where known), distributions and registered hybrids.

If this were not enough, the general section goes through the complete historic and convoluted history for each of the studied taxa. This section is fantastic for the research that went into it and makes for fascinating reading. I was surprised that there was no etymology for each species; then I found a section that listed the etymology for each species in the back. As mentioned above, there are no keys; however, with all of the diagnostic pictures one can easily identify the species that you have. There is also a section with images of stanhopeas that have not yet been identified; this includes both species and possible putative hybrids.

In addition to all of this information there are sections on hybridization giving information or listings of all the presently known generic and intergeneric hybrids of stanhopeas, many with pictures; common-sense culture, a complete checklist of the genus, and for those who like them, some cladograms. The bibliography consists of 22 pages. The book, as tradition has it, ends with an index to the plants presented. For those who are interested in the members of the stanhopeas, and there are many of us who are, and those who are interested in the members of the orchid family this book is must-have reference. — *Review by Leon Glicenstein, PhD.*