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[The natural history of pollination.](#)

Author(s) : [Proctor, M.](#) ; [Yeo, P.](#) ; [Lack, A.](#)

Author Affiliation : Department of Biological Sciences, University of Exeter, Exeter

Book : [The natural history of pollination.](#) 1996 pp.479 pp. ref.37 pp. of

Abstract : The forerunner of this book was *The pollination of flowers* by M. Yeo, published in 1973 (in the New Naturalist series). This has now been re-written to provide a completely new, comprehensive synthesis, incorporating the wealth of new information on the subject which has accumulated over the last 2 decades. The book has also been widened from the original British focus so that it now covers pollination mechanisms worldwide. The book begins with a chapter on the history of pollination, followed by a chapter on pollination and fertilization which gives essential information and an explanation of technical terms. The 3 chapters which follow

similar role for the insects which pollinate flowers, describing their behaviour and structure. Subsequent chapters describe the diversity of insect-pollinated flowers, interactions between insects and orchids, pollination by birds, bats and other vertebrates, pollination by wind and water, the deceitful attraction of insects (mostly Diptera and Coleoptera) that are seeking places to lay eggs - the syndrome of 'sapromyophily' and brood-site pollination (e.g. figs and fig-wasps). The final 5 chapters cover breeding systems, plant breeding and crop production, the evolution of pollination, pollination ecology (antheology), and the genetic significance of pollination in the life cycle. The book ends with a 37-page reference section and a good subject index. It is illustrated with 8 pages of colour photographs and numerous black-and-white line drawings and photographs, and the quality of the writing ensures that it will provide an excellent introduction to this highly complex subject for students, naturalists and professional biologists alike.

ADDITIONAL ABSTRACT: This is a new edition of a book first published in 1973 as *The pollination of flowers*. The following chapters are included: The study of pollination: a short history; Flowers, pollination and fertilization; The insect visitors I: beetles, flies and some others; The insect visitors II: butterflies and moths; The insect visitors III: bees and their relatives; The diversity of insect pollinated flowers; The pollination of orchids; Birds, bats and other vertebrates; Pollination by wind and water; Deception and Diptera: 'sapromyophily'; A honey bee reward: brood-site pollination; Breeding systems: how important is cross-pollination; Breeding and crop production: the un-natural history of pollination; Pollination in geological time; Pollination, community and environment; Flowers, genes and populations. An index is supplied. Of interest to undergraduates and to researchers (perhaps not the layman at whom this series of books is generally aimed), this illustrated volume should prove invaluable to all who are interested in this

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