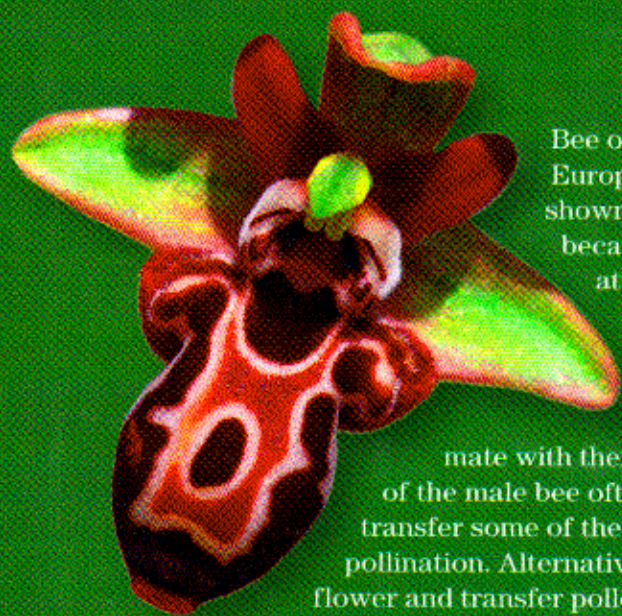




On The Cover

Bee orchids are a genus of orchid (*Ophrys*) that are found in southern Europe, northern Africa, and southwestern Asia. The bee orchid shown on the cover is *Ophrys apifera*. The bee orchid gets its name because it has evolved two unusual mechanisms to specifically attract male bees of the genus *Eucera*. First, the bee orchid flower produces a pheromone—a sexual attractant molecule—that is similar to ones produced by female bees. Second, certain parts of the bee orchid flower resemble the bodies of female bees.

Male bees are attracted to the flowers and actually attempt to mate with them, an event called pseudocopulation. In the process, the head of the male bee often becomes coated with pollen. The movement of the bee may transfer some of the pollen to the stigma of the same flower, thereby promoting pollination. Alternatively, the bee may fly away and attempt to copulate with another flower and transfer pollen to a different plant.

