

Mimicry is a classic example of adaptation through natural selection. The traditional focus of mimicry research has been on defense in animals, but there is now also a highly developed and rapidly growing body of research on floral mimicry in plants. This has coincided with a revolution in genomic tools, making it possible to explore which genetic and developmental processes underlie the sometimes astonishing changes that give rise to floral mimicry. Being literally rooted to one spot, plants have to cajole animals into acting as couriers for their pollen. Floral mimicry encompasses a set of evolutionary strategies whereby plants imitate the food sources, oviposition sites, or mating partners of animals in order to exploit them as pollinators.

This first definitive book on floral mimicry discusses the functions of visual, olfactory, and tactile signals, integrating them into a broader theory of organismal mimicry that will help guide future research in the field. It addresses the fundamental question of whether the evolutionary and ecological principles that were developed for protective mimicry in animals can be applied to floral mimicry in plants. The book also deals with the functions of floral rewardlessness, a condition which often serves as a precursor to the evolution of mimicry in plant lineages. The authors pay particular attention to the increasing body of research on chemical cues: their molecular basis, their role in cognitive misclassification of flowers by pollinators, and their implications for plant speciation.

Comprehensive in scope and conceptual in focus, *Floral Mimicry* is primarily aimed at senior undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers in plant science, entomology, ecology, and evolutionary biology.

Cover image: Raised black spots on flowerheads of *Gorteria diffusa* mimic resting female flies. These spots are sexually attractive to the male flies that pollinate this African daisy. Photograph by Steven Johnson.

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