

Floral morphology remains the cornerstone for plant identification and studies of plant evolution.

This book gives a global overview of the floral diversity of the angiosperms through the use of detailed floral diagrams. These schematic diagrams replace long descriptions or complicated drawings as a tool for understanding floral structure and evolution. They show important features of flowers, such as their relative position in an inflorescence, the positions of the different floral organs, their fusion, symmetry and structural details. In addition, the book contains a wealth of information as a comprehensive synthesis of the diversity of families. The relevance of the diagrams is discussed, and pertinent evolutionary pathways are illustrated. The range of plant species represented reflects the most recent classification of flowering plants based mainly on molecular data, which is expected to remain stable in the future. This book will be invaluable for researchers and students working on plant structure, development and systematics, as well as being an important resource for plant ecologists, evolutionary botanists and horticulturists.

Dr Louis P. Ronse De Craene is Director of the M.Sc. course on the Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. He is a world-leading expert in floral morphology, with emphasis on floral development. His research interests centre on the structural complexity and evolution of flowers and encompass a broad range of angiosperm families.



Cover illustration: *Polygala*. Photo courtesy of Louis P. Ronse De Craene



Cover design: Sae Watson

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-0-521-72945-1



9 780521 729451