



European Orchid Show & Conference

Paris, March 23-25th, 2018

Scientific meeting:

What future for orchids?



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General information and call for communications

The **2018 European Orchid Show and Conference** (<https://eocce2018.com>) is being organized for the European Orchid Council by L'Orchidée en France, a joint association between the Société française d'Orchidophilie, the Société nationale d'Horticulture de France, France Orchidées and the Fédération française des Amateurs d'Orchidées.

We invite the entire orchid research community to take the opportunity to become involved in this forthcoming meeting on **the current status of orchid research**, intended to provide an informed perspective on **the future of orchids** (<https://eocce2018.com>). In recent years, many new tools, ranging from large-scale sequencing and proteomics to development of interactive databases, together with ongoing research efforts using more traditional approaches, have allowed many advances in orchid research. Market demand has also greatly increased, prompting new developments in breeding and culture. Unfortunately, environmental change and other anthropic disturbances have, at the same time, sharply increased, threatening orchids in the wild.

The Paris 2018 conference will offer an excellent opportunity to discuss the current knowledge and perspectives on orchids in a meeting place of easy access (<https://eocce2018.com>), during a conference divided into sessions covering the four main domains listed below. But rest assured that, whatever your research area, if novel, we will find a place for it!

Session 1: Conservation and restoration in a changing world

Global change and other human-induced pressures increasingly threaten attempts to conserve orchids, their genetic diversity, habitats and emergent niches – how can we best respond to these challenges?

Session 2: Orchids in the era of genomics

Knowledge of orchids has benefited greatly from new technologies that promote research areas such as proteomics, transcriptomics, genome sequencing and phylogenomics – what big pictures of orchid biology, ecology and evolution are now emerging?

Session 3: Ecology of mutualism

Orchids have fascinating and vital interactions with soil fungi (mycorrhizae) and insects (pollination), ranging from mutualistic to cheating (parasitic) – how do these intimate relationships shape population dynamics and structure, adaptation and distribution?

Session 4: Biotechnology and breeding

Advances in molecular biology, genomics, and *in vitro* culture are together stimulating approaches to orchid breeding that allow better control of desired traits – can we predict future trends in the nature of cultivated orchids and the way we cultivate them?

Ensuring a secure future for orchids also requires the emergence of a new generation of researchers. We therefore especially welcome **PhD students and post-docs**, not only to present some of the talks but also to offer posters. There will be a poster session and two poster prizes will be awarded; selected posters will be offered a five-minute talk, and all remaining posters will be presented in the form of one-minute quick-fire summaries.

Send your abstract before September 15th 2017 for oral communication or before January 31st 2018 for poster presentation to conference@eocce2018.com and register on the website <https://eocce2018.com> not later than November 30th 2017 in order to benefit from early bird conditions.

