

photograph of a snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*) flower shedding its pollen as a result of vibration (if you happened to lose the dust jacket, the photo is also on page 157). This is a strong hint of the contents of this book on pollination biology. Heather Angel has collected a large number of stunningly beautiful, ultra-sharply focused, and mostly full-page photographs of flowers being pollinated or at least visited by pollinators. Some photos are even presented splashed across two facing pages. The cloth of the covers is teal, with gold printing on the spine. If you are seeking a gift for a botanist, ornithologist, entomologist, ecologist, or photographer, this book should be a real contender!

The book is divided into five chapters: pollination; sexy plants; rewards; anti-pollinators (i.e., nectar-robbers, pollinator predators, and florivores); and flowers – the future (conservation). The examples chosen are from all over the Earth, though, being produced at Kew Gardens, the book has a British Empire perspective. The literal focus, however, is on the flowers and the visiting animals caught in the act of feeding on pollen or sampling nectar. Although the text is clearly of secondary importance, it adds to the understanding of the photos being presented, and the Introduction is worth reading for the context it provides. The writing is clear, the font is reasonable in size or, when smaller (such as in captions), is in bold face.

But the book's main feature is its amazingly beautiful photographs. Heather Angel is an outstanding nature photographer, as evidenced throughout the book. The lighting of her subjects is perfect to show their three-dimensional aspects, and the focus of the extreme close-ups is sharp to reveal very small details of the flower and pollinator structure. She also shows examples of flower pigmentation beyond human vision through ultraviolet illumination and false-color imaging; these help humans appreciate the vision of some pollinators that extends beyond our human visible spectrum. There are photos showing the color changes that accompany flower development through senescence.

The photographs show many examples of insects, birds, mammals, and even reptiles visiting and feeding from flowers. The book also has photos demonstrating wind pollination. So the diversity of examples is excellent. The conservation

chapter gets us to think about our responsibilities as stewards of the biodiversity on our planet.

For photographers, besides the inspiration of the incredible photography, Angel provides photograph notes (pp. 218–219) as “how I did it” clues. The technique of focus stacking, using software to combine dozens of digital images taken at different focus points into a single ultra-sharp image, eliminates the problems with limited depth of focus often found in conventional close-up photography. Angel also reveals a bit about the ultraviolet-imaging techniques she used in combination with focus stacking to show the invisible differentiation of flower parts.

Could I find some omission in this spectacular book? A photograph of the water-pollination mechanism in *Valisneria* would have been very interesting. I loved the photo of *Angraecum sesquipedale* but would have loved it even more if it also showed its likely pollinator, *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, with extended siphon. I would also have liked photos of *Ophrys insectifera* being visited by pseudocopulating *Argogorytes mystaceus*. These would make great additions for a next edition.

Pollination Power is an amazing and wonderful photographic treatment of a photogenic biological action. The very large photographs are beautiful and very sharp close-ups of flowers and pollinators. If you are gift-shopping for a gardener, birder, insect-collector, naturalist, or artist, this book should be on your finalist list!



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POLLINATION

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Pollination Power is a substantial, over-sized (29 × 29 × 2 cm), cloth-bound book suitable for display on a coffee table or in a waiting room. The dust jacket is paper and features a beautiful