



Creation - The Bucket Orchid

A plant which never could have evolved!

Many plants have fascinated scientists and gardeners alike, as to the way they grow, flower and reproduce. Surely one of the most amazing examples of plant reproduction is the Bucket Orchid. This orchid has an intricate mechanism by which bees are attracted, trapped and then released.

The orchid, which is partly shaped like a bucket, produces a rich sugary food - a nectar which is very attractive to bees. When a bee arrives to obtain some of this food, it lands on the surface of the orchid near to the lip of the 'bucket'. The surface of the orchid is slimy. This makes the bee slip and fall into the bucket that contains a pool of liquid produced by a gland

in the plant.

The only way the bee can escape is through a tunnel, and there is a convenient step leading from the pool of liquid to the tunnel entrance. As the bee is about to escape from the tunnel, the walls of the plant contract, gripping the bee. The plant's mechanism then glues two pollen sacs to the bee's back, and after allowing time for the glue to dry, releases it.

If the bee then flies to another bucket orchid, the same process will take place, except that this time, when the bee attempts to leave the tunnel, a hook in the roof of the tunnel removes the pollen sacs, and the fertilisation process is completed!

The bucket orchid's reproductive system involves at least six different steps - attracting the bee, causing it to fall into the bucket, keeping the bucket 'topped up' with liquid, the provision of a step and tunnel exit, gripping the bee and gluing on or removing the pollen.

Not Produced by Evolution

It is clear that this flower could not have evolved over millions of years. Evolution says that, for a long time before its completion, this plant was gradually producing or 'bringing together' the various parts needed for it to reproduce. But if any part of this mechanism were missing, or incomplete, the plant could never have been fertilised. The incomplete plant would have therefore died out being unable to produce any offspring. Evolution could not have produced the wonderful plant we see today.

The bucket orchid makes clear the undeniable fact that it was created complete and perfect by God. It had to be produced with every part of its reproductive system present at the very beginning. There is no other acceptable explanation.

All Creation Speaks

There are many thousands of other examples of plants and animals which could not have evolved, but were clearly designed and complete at the very beginning of their existence. The Bucket Orchid is but one of many which show us that God is the one who created this world and all that is in it. It did not evolve on its own, just by chance.

In fact, all of creation speaks to us of God's great wisdom and power. The Bible says that, 'Since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead' (Romans 1:20). When we look at the many great scenes in the world, though we may choose to deny it, every one of us is faced with the fact of God's existence and an appreciation of his power and glory.

Many people will look forward to and enjoy the sunnier days, flowers and colours of Spring

and Summer, and yet they will ignore the One who designed all these things and brought them into existence.

Knowing God Personally

God does not only speak to us through His creation. He also speaks to us through His word - the Bible. The amazing thing the Bible tells us is that this great creator God, who is so powerful and glorious, wants to have a personal relationship with men and women. What a wonderful and amazing thing God has done by creating things like the Bucket Orchid, and yet how much more wonderful it is that God has made a way for men and women to come to know him personally.

The beautiful blossoming and return to life of so many flowers and trees, which over the winter months had seemed dead, is a picture and reminder of the glorious resurrection of Christ. The Bible tells us that Christ, "died...and was buried, and rose again, the third day" (1Cor. 15:3,4).

Why did Christ die and rise again? So that men and women who are sinners, who fail God, could be forgiven their sins and come to know this glorious God for themselves. Christ died on the cross bearing in His body the anger and justice of God - the punishment sinners deserve - so that they might be free from that punishment themselves. God raised Him from the dead, to show the acceptance of His work on their behalf. All who come to God and depend on Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sins, are brought into this glorious relationship with God. They come to know Him as their Father and their Friend. "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). This shows us the confidence that the person has who comes to know this God. They realise that the same glorious God who made this world and all that is in it, who gave His Son to the death of the cross and yet raised Him from death, is the same God who they have come to know personally, through Christ. This God with whom they have peace is .for them. and will keep them through whatever they may have to face and bring them eventually to heaven. Do you know this glorious God?