



# The Anther: Form, Function and Phylogeny

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**The Anther: Form, Function and Phylogeny** From Cambridge University Press

Despite its significance in the reproductive cycle of flowering plants, and its importance in helping to interpret plant evolution, the stamen, and its fertile, pollen bearing part, the anther, have received relatively little scientific attention. To address this shortcoming, the contributors in this volume give an indication of the kinds of studies now being undertaken with a view to stimulating further work on this neglected plant organ. Traditional and current concepts of stamen construction, terminology and function are summarized, and an extensive bibliography gives access to relevant literature. New evidence for the evolution of the anther is drawn from the fossil record and from current studies of its growth and structure, and the dynamics of stamen evolution is detailed for several families.

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#### Review

"This book testifies to the diversity of questions that can be asked about the angiosperm anther...essential for anyone working on anthers, and highly desirable for anyone seriously interested in floral structure and function." James D. Thomson, *Quarterly Review of Biology*

"The volume is elegant in style, has a good standard of finish and the format makes it a delight to handle....a comprehensive work..." E.M.A. Steyn, *Bothalia*

"...an interesting readable volume and a useful resource..." L.M. Baird, *Choice*

"This important volume should prove to be an indispensable reference work for all professional botanists interested in plant structure, evolution, and development. This book makes an invaluable contribution by focusing on many potentially important and overlooked systematic and phylogenetically significant characters....clearly a source of very useful comparative data....This book thus not only points out the importance of the anther but also presents challenging new avenues for future research." William C. Dickison, *Taxon* 46

"...one of the most useful publications on this subject available today. Until now a scientist looking for a summary of anther structure, function and evolution would have had little success." Bruce K. Kirchoff, *American Scientist*

"With this book, D'Arcy and Keating provide a strong starting place for the scientist who wants substantial data on the structure of the flowering plant anther." Bruce K. Kirchoff, *American Scientist*

"I would recommend this as a very good reference book for those researchers involved in stamen studies be they morphological, phylogenetic or focused toward whatever aspect of staminal characteristics." Paula M. Hermann, *Plant Science Bulletin*

"Its a fine odd little book, great for androecium aficionados who want nothing better than to curl up on the sofa for a weekend and think only about what the world means to a microsporangium of an anthophyte." Paul Wilson, *Systematic Botany*

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