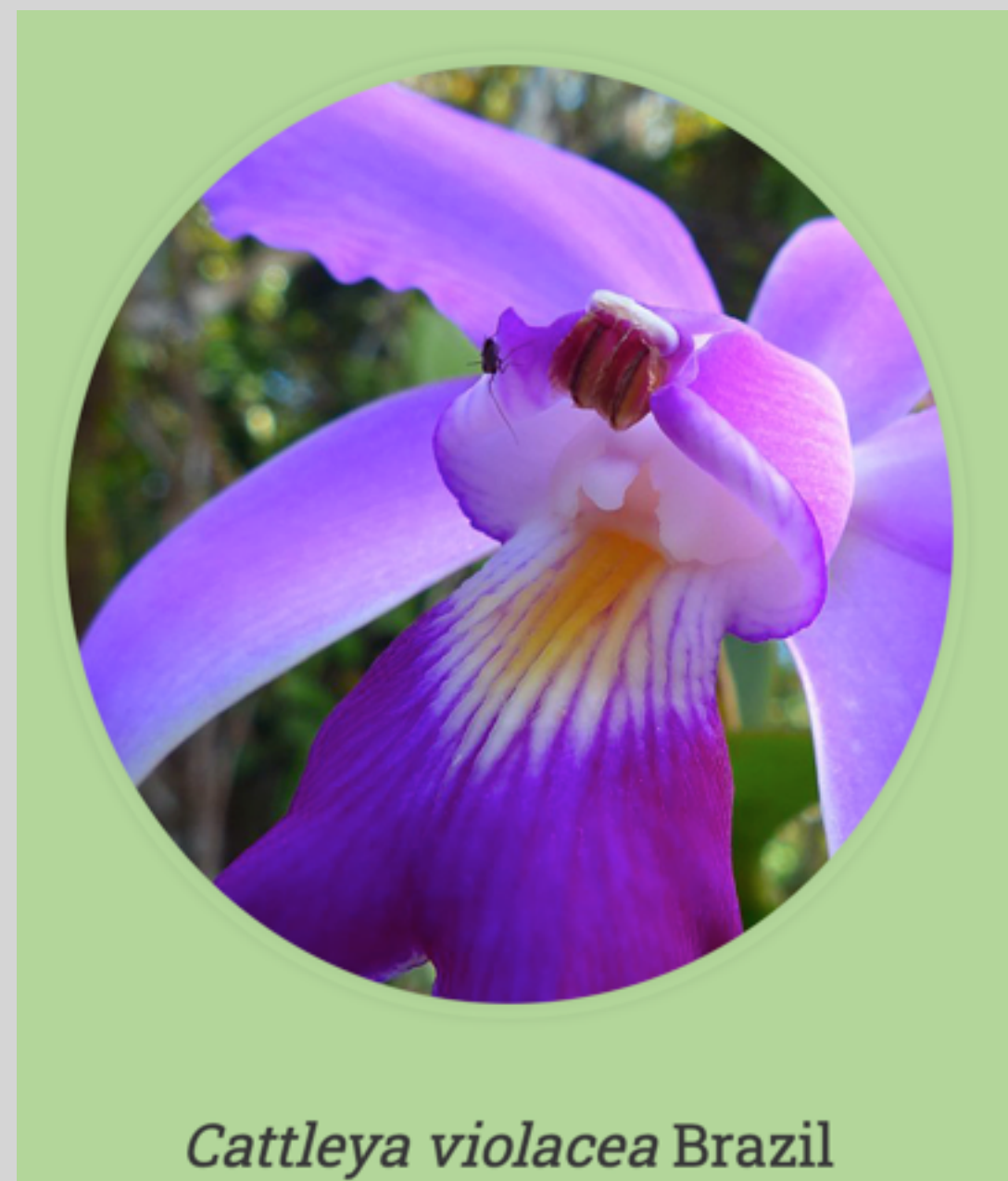




ORCHIDS

The Orchidaceae are a diverse and widespread family of flowering plants, with blooms that are often colourful and fragrant, commonly known as the orchid family.



Cattleya violacea Brazil



Phalaenopsis



Vermont



Cypripedium species are native across much of North America as well as parts of Europe. This adorable little plant has only two leaves, which branch out from the center where its single flower stalk also grows. The unique flower looks just like a lady's slipper (oftentimes spelled as such), closed tightly except for a small opening in the front. Blooms range in color from white and yellow to deep pink and nearly purple shades.

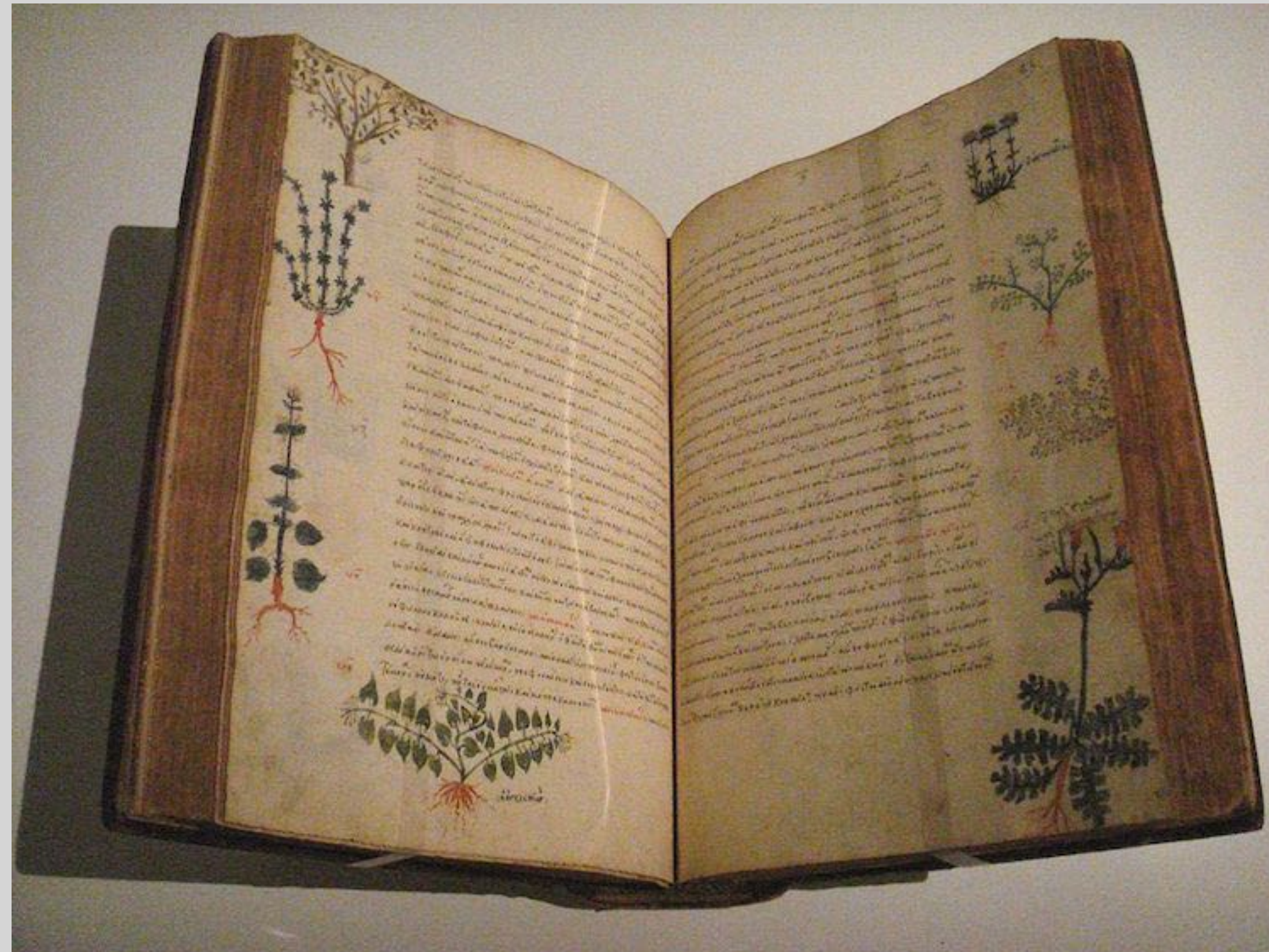
Read more at Gardening Know How: Lady Slipper Care: How To Grow Lady Slipper Orchids <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/orchids/lady-slipper-wildflower.htm>

Prior to the invention of photography, botanical illustration was the only way of visually recording the world's many species of plant life.

In the past, illustrations of plant life were used by physicians, pharmacists, botanical scientists, and gardeners for identification, analysis, and classification.

Botanical illustration is the art of depicting the form, color, and details of plant life. The practice can be traced back to sometime between 50 and 70 CE, when an illustrated book titled *De Materia Medica* was created by Greek botanist Pedanius Dioscorides to help readers identify plant species for medicinal purposes. The eighteenth century saw many advances in the printing processes, allowing colors and details of drawings to appear even more accurate on paper. As interest in botanical publications increased, the role of botanical illustrator came to be considered a respected profession.

(<https://mymodernmet.com/history-of-botanical-illustration/>)



De Materia Medica." (Photo: [Wikimedia Commons](#))

Pierre-Joseph Redouté
(10 July 1759 – 19 June 1840)
Painter and Botanist
Belgium

REDOUTE: He was
nicknamed "the **Raphael** of
flowers"
and has been called the
greatest botanical
illustrator of all time.^[2]



Fringed Star Orchid illustration from *Les liliacées* 1805 by Pierre Joseph Redoute 1759-1840



Ophrys Latifolia. *Ophrys à feuilles en lys.*

Brown widelip orchid illustration from Les liliacées 1805



Cypripedium Calceolus *Sabot des Alpes.*

Lady's slipper orchid illustration from Les liliacées (1805)



A lithographic colour plate from Ernst Haeckel's *Kunstformen der Natur* of 1899 showing an artist's depiction of different varieties of orchids

<https://www.kew.org/science/engage/accessing-our-science/accessing-library-art-archives>



Miss Drake's illustrations at Kew

One 19th century artist recognised for her orchid illustrations is Sarah-Ann Drake (1803-1857), about whom remarkably little is known.

The botanist and secretary of the Horticultural Society of London, John Lindley (1799-1865), commissioned Drake to draw numerous plant specimens and his *Sertum Orchidaceum* (1837-1841) boasts some of her most stunning illustrations. Kew is fortunate to hold most of the original drawings prepared by Drake for the volume.





CYCNOCHES EGERTONIANUM.



Dendrobium macrophyllum, detail, lithograph after painting by Sarah Anne Drake, from John Lindley, *Sertum Orchidaceum*, 1837-41 (botanicus.org)



Cattleya bulbosa orchid botanical by Sarah Ann Drake (English, 1803–1857), from Edwards's Botanical Register, 1847.

Phalaenopsis Schilleriana No 12 of Catalogue (see first variety) March 9th 1864 58
my second drawing here

Kenia
Orch.
t. 101
Vol. P. 1



Leaves stout & fleshy, very handsome, being dark green mottled above with whitish underneath. The colour of a beautiful dark purple below. The colour & markings of the leaves vary very much indeed in some the dark predominates, & in others the pale. White spots are very faint & in other strongly marked & defined. They are serrated, obtuse. Rooted by the stem, & sometimes larger in very strong plants.

Scapes 3 or 4 feet long branching. I had one with 110 flowers, but I have seen one at Mr. Warner's with 75 & I believe that number has been exceeded.

Watercolour illustration of *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* by John Day, 9 March 1864. Artwork from John Day's Scrapbook, volume 7, page 58



<https://www.artsupplies.co.uk/item-the-kew-book-of-painting-orchids-in-watercolour.htm>

<https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-in-the-gardens/library-art-and-archives>
<https://www.kew.org/science/collections-and-resources/data-and-digital/collections-catalogues>

Medicinal Properties and Folklore

from Greek *orkhis* (genitive *orkheos*) "orchid," literally "testicle,"

The plant so called because of the shape of its root; Greek *orkhis* also was the name of a kind of olive, also so called for its shape. Earlier in English in Latin form, *orchis* (1560s), and in Middle English it was *ballockwort* (c. 1300; see **ballocks**). The modern word is marred by an extraneous *-d-* in an attempt to extract the Latin stem. Related: *Orchidaceous*.

https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/9789811205309_0001



Abstraction - Close up without a Background

Georgia O'Keefe

An Orchid. 1941

70.2 cm x 55.2 cm

Oil on Canvas