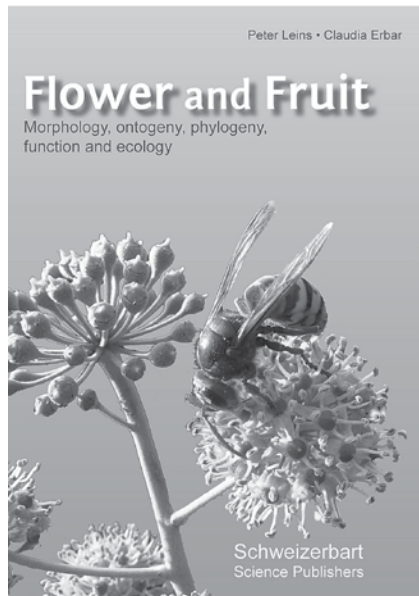


**Peter Leins & Claudia Erbar (2010)**  
**Flower and Fruit. Morphology, ontogeny, phylogeny, function and ecology.** 439 pp., 258 figs, 3 tables.  
Stuttgart, Schweizerbart. ISBN 978-3-510-65261-7  
<http://www.schweizerbart.de/9783510652617>



Whoever deals with investigation of flowers, had at his or her disposal the excellent book of Peter Leins (2000): *Blüte und Frucht, Morphologie, Entwicklungsgeschichte, Phylogenie, Funktion, Ökologie* (390 pp.), of which a second edition appeared in 2008 (Peter Leins and Claudia Erbar: *Blüte und Frucht: Aspekte der Morphologie, Entwicklungsgeschichte, Phylogenie, Funktion und Ökologie*). Recently, this book appeared also in an English version: Peter Leins & Claudia Erbar (2010): *Flower and Fruit* (439 pp.).

Where the German book was already a splendid and most useful source of morphological-ontogenetic information at inflorescence and floral level, pollination biology and flower/fruit ecology, the English version of it is even better. To illustrate the abundance of the content, this book covers early

angiosperm flowers, genetic approach to floral organ determination, differential growth and organ delimitation, number and arrangement of floral organs, floral symmetry, the perianth, the androecium, the gynoecium, the floral axis, nectaries, inflorescences, flower function, flowers and pollinators, seed maturity, and seed dispersal.

All this is presented in a language as simple as possible, and clear explanations about most aspects of inflorescence and flower morphology and biology are given. The book is richly illustrated with photographs and diagrams. Most figures are composed of S.E. micrographs from the own research of the authors. The lay-out is sober, which keeps the attention of the reader on the content. This content is based on the German morphological school, starting with Goethe, elaborated by Troll and modernised by Weberling. Peter Leins and Claudia Erbar successfully adapted the German morphological tradition to the most recent achievements in floral evolutionary and developmental biology as well as (molecular) phylogenetic analysis. Moreover, this book offers clear, functional and unambiguous definitions and explanations of difficult concepts varying from 'obdiplostemony' over 'stamen-corolla tube' to 'day-active-lepidopteran blossoms'. But also basic concepts are treated and sometimes, where terminological confusion exists, comparisons are made with the Anglosaxon interpretations. Therefore, this English edition is very useful for both students and researchers.

In comparison with the original text in German, the layout has been refreshed, the chapter about the evolutionary developmental backgrounds of floral development has been extended, the systematic part has been adapted to APG III (2009), and many existing figures have been improved (e.g. with colour print). New figures as well as a glossary have been added. In short, this book should be present in the library of every research group investigating flowers, and it can be warmly recommended to everybody who wants to understand flowers.

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