



Some orchids reward their pollinators with scent. *Coryanthes alboros* from tropical America produces large, intensely fragrant flowers. They are pollinated exclusively by male solitary orchid bees from the tribe Euglossini. These bees collect the highly fragrant liquid, which they later mix with other substances to attract females.

3: Why Do Pollinators Visit Flowers?

The typical motivation for pollinators to visit flowers is a reward in the form of sweet nectar. However, some orchids offer other types of rewards.



The most common reward in flowers is nectar. The flowers of this species are visited by hawk moths, which insert their proboscis deep into the flower to reach the nectar.



Some insects also enjoy substances other than the sugars or amino acids in nectar. In the flowers of the South African orchid *Corycium orbanchoides*, pollinators feed on oil.



A certain type of reward can also be found in the flowers of the genus *Serapias*. Their petals form a tube, offering pollinators shelter for the night or protection from bad weather.