

THE SLIPPER-SHAPED LIP
OF THE LADY'S SLIPPER
SERVES AS A TRAP FOR
WHICH INSECT?

- A: Sand bee
- B: Bumblebee
- C: Butterfly
- D: Moth



Please use
the grey stamp!



In Europe the **LADY'S SLIPPER**
is the orchid with
the largest blooms.

Please use
the white stamp!



The Lady's Slipper
is out to get
SAND BEES!



“ Sand bees are the perfect size for inseminating the Lady's Slipper. They are not so big that they can climb back out of the pouch and also not so small that they can pass the exit without rubbing up against the pollen package. This becomes attached to their backs as they attempt to fly away. As soon as they are caught in the next Lady's Slipper, they wipe the package off at the intended place on their way back out and the plant is already fertilised. ”

MASTERS OF DECEPTION

THE ARTISTRY OF THE ORCHIDS

Orchids are domiciled in the wild predominantly in undamaged forests or wet meadows. They favour bright but shady conditions. When they are feeling well, they produce numerous tiny seeds. Without certain mycorrhizal fungi in the soil, these seeds cannot germinate. As soon as the young plants have developed their own roots and leaves, they can feed themselves to a large extent. A few species who themselves do not perform photosynthesis remain heavily reliant on the help they get from the soil for their entire lives.

Orchids have developed the most fantastic floral forms and colours to entice their pollinators. Numerous orchids do not even have a drop of nectar to reward the insects for their pollination work. Nevertheless, the insects come back time and time again. So how do the plants manage this? By way of superb deception, that's how! They imitate other nectar-rich plants, promising by way of their appearance large amounts of nectar or even manage to imitate female insects to entice their male counterparts.



We orchids are breathtakingly beautiful plants, don't you think? We have developed the most unusual blooms to get what we want. We manage to entice insects with our shape, colour and scent and then use them to take over the pollination work. Here you can learn more about me, the Lady's Slipper, and three other types of orchid. How do the different orchid types manage to entice insects? Press two matching buttons at the same time and the little green lamp will light up.

DECEIVING THE INSECTS

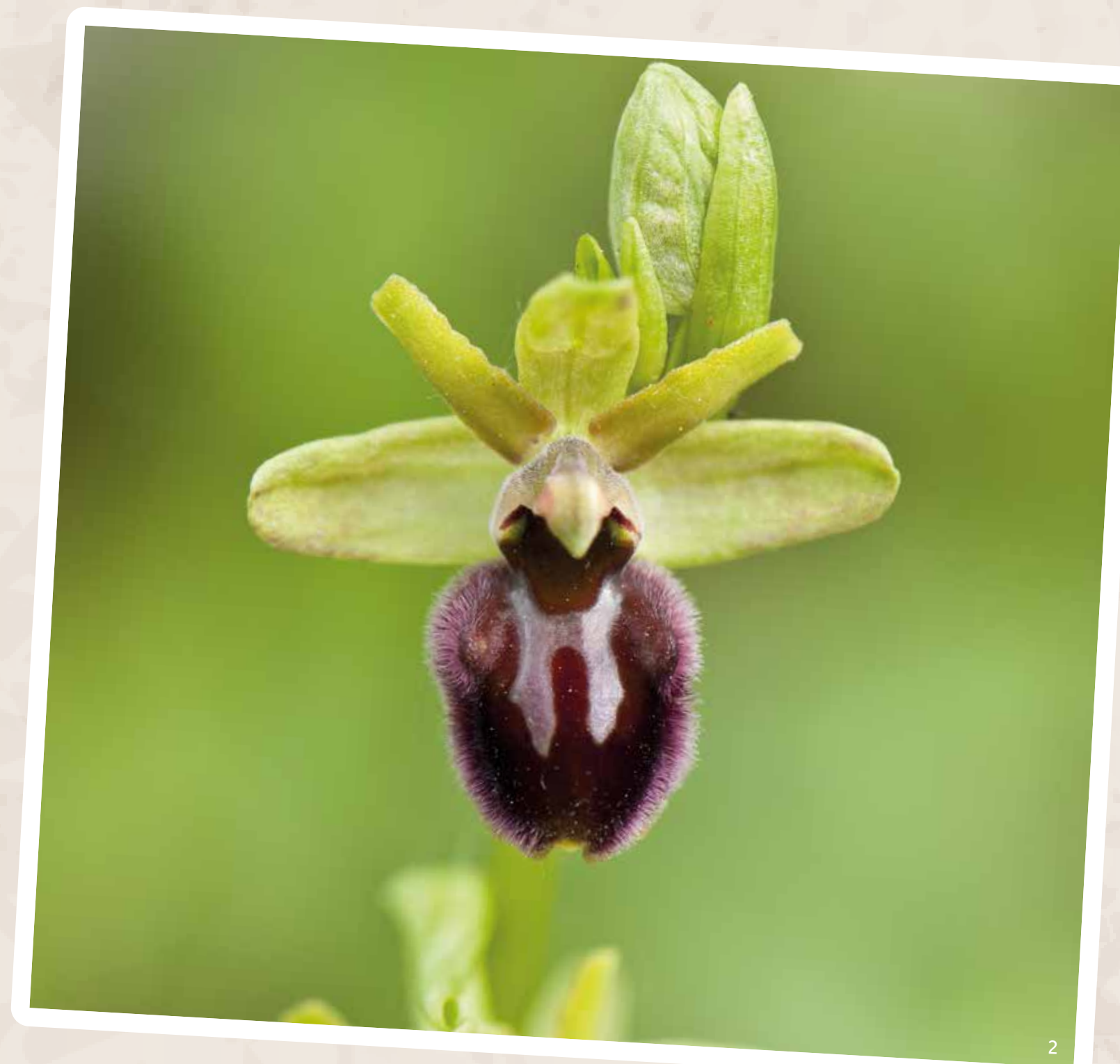
DISREGARDING THE INSECTS

BEGUILING THE INSECTS

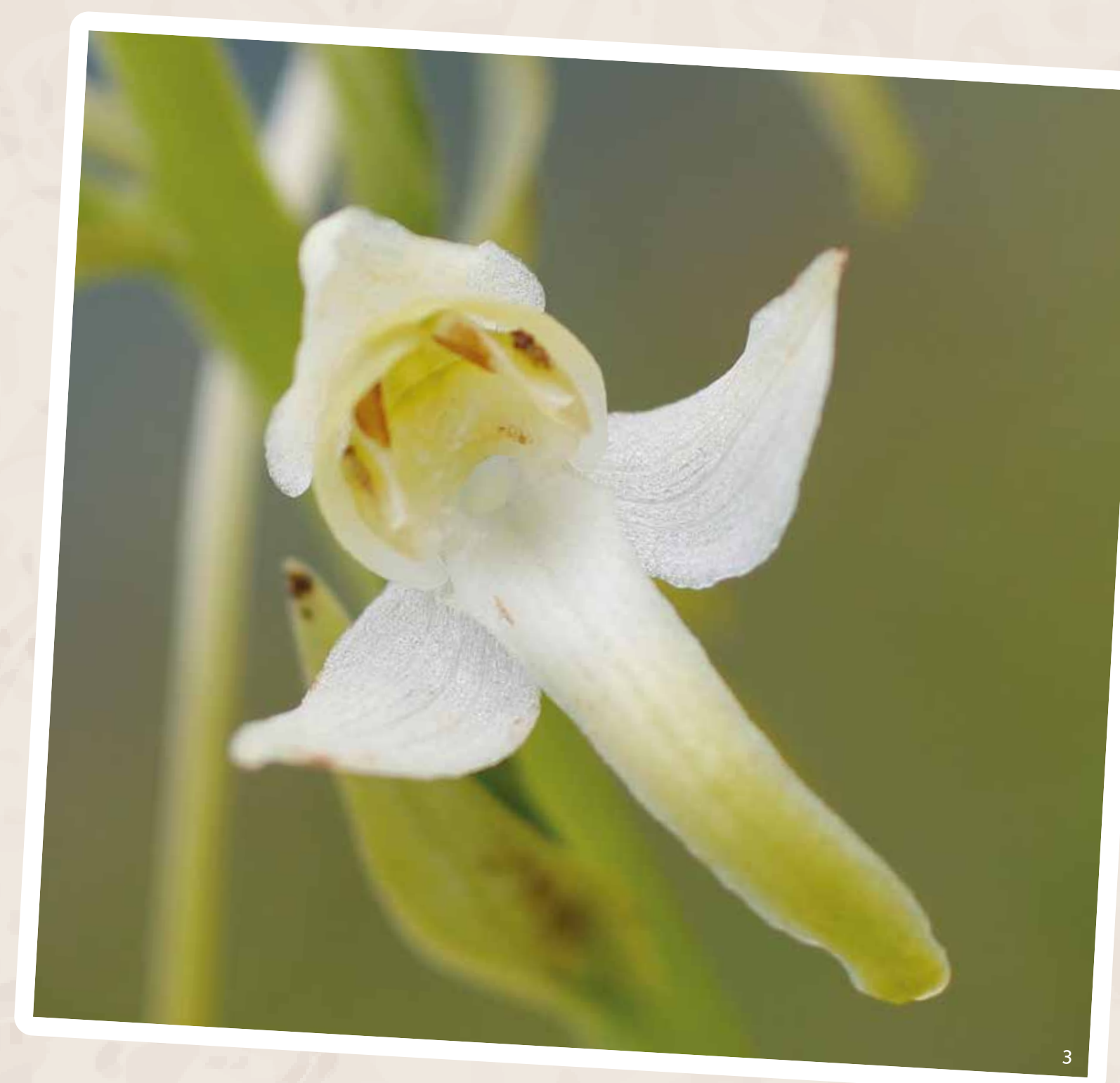
REWARDING THE INSECTS



The yellow **LADY'S SLIPPER** entices its victims with its bright yellow pouch and sweet scent. As soon as the enticed insects land on the flower, they are not able to remain on the oily surface and slide into the trap below. There is a way out via a specific route which gives the insects pollen for the next Lady's Slipper.



The **SPIDER BEE ORCHID** entices sand bee males by imitating their female counterparts. The flower imitates the smell and the appearance of the females. While the males approach a flower in the hope of mating with it, a pollen package is attached to their bodies that they then automatically carry forward to the next spider bee orchid.



The **BUTTERFLY ORCHID** entices its insect visitors with an irresistible scent. It only exudes this scent at night which particularly attracts moths with long proboscis. While the moths suck on the copious amounts of nectar, pollen packages become stuck to the sides of the proboscis which are then carried on to the next butterfly orchid.



The pale or **WHITE HELLEBORINE** has in turn a completely different way of ensuring it is pollinated. While the flowers are still closed, the anthers are already opening inside which allows the plant to pollinate itself. This type of self-pollination is a very accurate method. There is, however, no exchange of genetic material between specific individuals.



The adventure trail is a pilot investment of the VISIO project. It is realised within the framework of the INTERREG V-A, SK-AT programme and co-financed by ERDF.

