

# CREATION MOMENTS

*Proclaiming Evidence for Truth*

## THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

### The Orchid That Captures Workers



*Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number. (Job 9:10)*

The relatively rare bucket orchid, *Coryanthes*, behaves almost like an animal at pollination time. This remarkable ability is essential to its survival.

*Coryanthes* has a steep-sided flower. Two glands extend over the center of the "bucket" and secrete a clear fluid into the flower after it opens. Just above the pool of fluid inside the bucket, a tunnel opens to the outside of the bucket. At the end of the tunnel are the

flower's pollen and stigma.

When it opens, the flower sends out a strong, sweet odor that can attract male bees from over five miles away. The male bees collect a waxy material on the flower's surface that they later use in mating rituals. As the number of bees collecting this substance off the flower's surface increases, so does the likelihood that in the excitement one of them will fall into the pool below. When this happens, the sticky fluid makes it impossible for the bee to make its way out of the "top" of the bucket-shaped flower. However, the tunnel provides an easy exit. But as the bee nears the tunnel's end, the flower drops down a projection from the tunnel's ceiling, holding the bee for about ten minutes before freeing it. While the bee is held, the flower glues two packets of pollen to the bee. If it should happen that the bee already has pollen packets, this activity delivers the pollen to the stigma, and pollination is complete.

The *Coryanthes* orchid not only shows us the Creator, but it shows us how unlimited His creativity and imagination are.

Image: *Coryanthes verrucolineata*. (CC BY-SA 3.0)

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