

THE SLIDE COLLECTION OF KARLHEINZ SENGHAS NOW IN "WORD ORCHID ICONOGRAPHY"

The Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Jany Renz Herbarium, University of Basel, Switzerland, has incorporated the slide collection of Dr. Karlheinz Senghas, the well known orchid expert and former Curator of the Botanical Garden Heidelberg, into its virtual "Word Orchid Iconography".

Visiting the homepage of the Swiss Orchid Foundation at the Herbarium Jany Renz (www.orchid.unibas.ch), it is easy to locate the collection of orchid photographs and drawings which is extremely large and covers a substantial part of the world's orchid flora (in total more than 60'000 pictures).

In the last few months, the staff of the Swiss Orchid Foundation has selected, digitized and incorporated some 10'500 photographs and line drawings from the private collection of Dr. Karlheinz Senghas into its "Word Orchid Iconography". This invaluable

archive, that covers orchids in all continents, is now available to orchid specialists worldwide.

Dr. Karlheinz Senghas was born in 1928. After having achieved his university-entrance diploma, he started his studies in biology at Heidelberg, where he met Professor Dr. Werner Rauh and to whom he later submitted his PhD thesis. In 1960 Rauh appointed Senghas to the post of scientific head of the Botanical Garden Heidelberg with the task to build up its orchid collection. The Heidelberg collection expanded rapidly under his leadership and through his research and collecting activities (1960: *ca.* 400 living species; 1993: *ca.* 6000 species). In addition, he networked with other botanical gardens, organised orchid exhibitions and conferences and published his research results. He also published many articles on orchids in various orchid magazines. His most important orchid publication was his authorship of 5 volumes of the third edition of Rudolf Schlechter "Die Orchidee", of which he was also a co-editor with Professor Friedrich Brieger. His rich and extensive publication list may be searched on the webpage of the Foundation at *Bibliorchidea*.

His active research work brought him several distinctions, notably *Senghasia* and *Senghasiella*, orchid genera dedicated to him, and the spectacular bucket orchid *Coryanthes sengkhaiensis* named in his honour. Following his retirement he continued to attend conferences and meetings of orchid societies and published in various magazines, notably *Journal für den Orchideenfreund*.

Karlheinz Senghas died on February 4, 2004. His widow, Mrs. Irmgard Senghas kindly gave permission to the Swiss orchid Foundation to copy his slide collection and to make it accessible on our website. You can examine his archive on the homepage of Swiss Orchid Foundation SOF through the link "Database Search", "Advanced Search", "Collector/Photo by: 'K. Senghas'" "Search".

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Scelochilus seegeri. Photo y K. Senghas.