

Rudolf Jenny

July 26, 1953 - August 10, 2021

Rudolf was born on July 26, 1953 in Bern. As his father was head of the Swiss Federal nursery, Rudolf was exposed to a rich flora already at an early age and even built a herbarium with fern plants on his own. Soon, he discovered orchids in the greenhouses and developed a passion for these exotic plants which never faded.



As a trained chemist, Rudolf Jenny worked in the field of environmental and ozone technology until his retirement in 2008. As a hobby, Rudolf worked with orchids for more than 40 years and cultivated many tropical orchid plants in his large collection until 1995. Over many years, numerous trips took him to Central & South America for his studies on pollination techniques and taxonomy of orchids. He was especially fond of Costa Rica, where he took part in many expeditions with his friend Clarence K. Horich, to whom he also dedicated the orchid genus *Horichia* ("The Orchid", 1981). Furthermore, he dedicated other orchid genera like *Braemia* ("Die Orchidee", 1985) or *Lueckelia* ("Australian Orchid Review", 1999) to well-known orchid friends. Vice Versa, the orchid genus *Jennyella* was named after Rudolf, described by E. Lückel & H. Fessel ("Caesiana, Revista Italiana di Orchidologia", 1999).

All together Rudolf Jenny wrote more than 600 articles being published in many well-known orchid journals, including monographs on the genera *Gongora*, *Stanhopea*, *Paphinia* and *Sievekingia*. He also wrote the three-part book series "... of men and orchids ..." about the background of orchid names and the stories behind the discoverers and researchers, however, the third part has not been published yet. As a regular participant and presenter at major orchid conferences such as the World Orchid Conference (WOC), the European Orchid Conference (EOC) and numerous other congresses, Rudolf was not only able to maintain his international relations, but also to pursue his passion for photography. Rudolf was also the founder and owner of BibliOrchidea, the world's largest and freely accessible database of orchid literature with over 165,000 entries, covering more than 90% of the existing orchid literature.

Rudolf Jenny was an honorary member of the German Orchid Society (DOG) and the European Orchid Council (EOC), where he held the position of Secretary General since 2010. With his profound knowledge, he also supported the Jany Renz Herbarium of the University of Basel in Switzerland. In addition, Rudolf Jenny was an active member with the RHS Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group (OHRAG) and a former member of the RHS Orchid Committee, both based in England.

Rudolf was a pillar of strength for his wife Veronika Jenny-Keller and his two sons Lorenz and Christoph, an extremely generous person who was lacking in anything petty. He loved spending his family vacation days in his small cottage in the mountains, and together they also enjoyed traveling to numerous countries. Until his last day, Rudolf was an interested and exciting conversationalist family man. He was networked with countless orchid specialists worldwide, gladly answered questions of all kinds and was happy when he could help - a lively exchange that gave him much pleasure. Profit thinking was unknown to him. His *Gongora* monography, which he had co-authored with Günter Gerlach, is nearly ready for print. Rudolf was exciting about publishing his new work.

Rudolf passed away completely unexpectedly on August 10, 2021.

Veronika Jenny-Keller, Lorenz and Christoph Jenny

Carsten Hammer and Emil Lückel