

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00359-9 - On the Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants

Charles Darwin

Frontmatter

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### On the Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants

Initially published by the Linnean Society, this 1865 essay was Darwin's first foray into the study of climbing plants. He was inspired to produce this work by a paper on the tendrilled Cucurbitacean plant by American botanist Asa Gray, with whom he had a firm intellectual friendship. Darwin examines in detail those plants which climb using a twisting stem, such as the hop; leaf-climbers, such as the clematis; tendrilled plants such as the passion flower; and hook and root climbers such as ivy. The conclusions reached by his study are presented in terms of the adaptations of various species to their environments, a continuation of the theories that Darwin had propounded in his Origin of the Species six years earlier. His passion for the design of the plants and fascination with the diversity of their powers of movement are clear in this accessible example of the process of evolution.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108003599](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108003599)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1865

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00359-9

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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ON THE  
MOVEMENTS AND HABITS  
OF  
CLIMBING PLANTS.

BY  
CHARLES DARWIN, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S. ETC.

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[*From the* JOURNAL OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY.]

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LONDON :  
SOLD AT THE SOCIETY'S APARTMENTS, BURLINGTON HOUSE ;  
AND BY  
LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, ROBERTS & GREEN,  
AND  
WILLIAMS AND NORGATE.  
1865.