

Competition: Win a calendar!

# Who's the Heavy Weight?

To have the opportunity to win an impressive calendar, *Lab Times* readers must solve a tricky brainteaser.

This winter, *Lab Times* readers have once again a unique opportunity to win a beautiful laboratory calendar for the upcoming year. Stadler publishing house (Konstanz, Germany) has generously provided us with three copies of *The Language of Flowers 2010* (photographed by Franz Wagner), three copies of *Planet Earth 2010* (photographed by Landsat-7) and four copies of *Hippopotamuses 2010* (photographed by Gabriela Staebler). All of the calendars are trilingual (German/English/French), have 13 sheets apiece and are printed on high-quality premium paper in mirror finish.

## Reinterpreting the floral language

Originally, the 'language of flowers' (aka floriography), was a means of coded communication using floral arrangements, that was popular in the Victorian era. Franz Wagner's interpretation of the floral language is different. Wagner, a Stuttgart-born professional photographer and screen printer who has been publishing since 1973, has staged close-ups of twelve beautiful flowers in their



full glory (50 x 70 cm) against deep black backgrounds. On the January page of *The Language of Flowers*, we can admire a nice Lady's Slipper (*Paphiopedilum spec.*), on the February page a Parrot Tulip, on the March page a Pansy (*Viola tricolor*), and so on.



*Planet Earth 2010* (above) is the opposite of Wagner's close up view of nature. 705 kilometres above ground, the Landsat 7 satellite is orbiting the Earth, transmitting up to 532 images per day. Twelve extraordinary ones were selected for this wonderful calendar, showing characteristic landscapes in quadratic dimensions and at a resolution of 15 meters. Landscapes include the Namib desert, the Betsiboka river in Madagascar and the Gulf of Bothnia between Finland and Sweden.

## Nearly as heavy as a male hippo

Something that weighs nearly as much as Landsat 7 (793 kg) are adult male *Hippopotamus amphibius* (between 1,500-1,800 kg). In fact, males continue growing throughout their lives and can occasionally reach 4,500 kg (or two Landsats). For *Hippopotamuses 2010* the professional wildlife photographer Gabriela Staebler has provided twelve impressive photos of these mighty, mostly peaceful but sometimes very aggressive animals, that – with the excep-



tion of nocturnal grazing – spend most of their lives in the water.

## To win one of these calendars...

... please answer the following three questions:

➤ *Viola tricolor* contains substances that are reported to involve biological activities such as anti-HIV, insecticidal, anti-microbial and anti-tumour functions. Chemically, these substances are disulfide-rich peptides with a characteristic cyclised backbone. Write down the 5<sup>th</sup> letter of these peptides' technical term.

➤ On the northwestern coast of Madagascar near Mahajanga, a 525 km long river flows into the Mozambique Channel. We are looking for the two-part name not of the river, but of the place where the river flows into the channel (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> letter).

➤ *Hippopotamus amphibius* divides into five subspecies. One of these subspecies is named after a central African republic that is often referred to as the "dead heart of Africa". Write down the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> letter of this subspecies' name...

... and assemble these seven letters to get the name of a legendary heavy weight that attracted thousands of visitors each day. **Send the name to [wk@lab-times.org](mailto:wk@lab-times.org)** (including your own name and postal address) and stand the chance of winning a great calendar with which to prettify your lab. Ten winners will be selected at random. All correct answers received before December 20<sup>th</sup> will be considered. Good luck!

WEANÉE KIMBLEWOOD

➤ *The Language of Flowers 2010*. Trilingual calendar (German/English/French), 50 x 70 cm. Stadler, 2009, €29.95.

➤ *Planet Earth 2010*. Trilingual calendar (German/English/French), 39 x 39 cm. Stadler, 2009, €18.95.

➤ *Hippopotamuses 2010*. Trilingual calendar (German/English/French), 39 x 39 cm. Stadler, 2009, €18.95.