

# BABY, BABY, IT'S A Wild World

Consider this your complete field guide to the newest, rarest, boundary-smashing natural extracts being fuelled into skincare products by the bucketload *By Shantila Lee*



*a blossom packed with  
ANTIOXIDANTS*



Blue Orchid Face Treatment Oil, **Clarins**; Orchidée Impériale Eye Cream, **Guerlain**

## ORCHIDS

Skincare infused with orchid extract has become a real 'thing' in the beauty industry, and for a very good reason: the wee, kick-ass blossom is packed with antioxidants and has that live-forever longevity that translates into less wrinkles, more firmness for ageing skin. Clarins' Blue Orchid Face Treatment Oil is legendary for delivering a luscious, healthy dose of softening and hydrating, via plant pigments called anthocyanins — also present in blueberries— known for their anti-inflammatory properties. Guerlain has also staked its claim on the new 'It' flower, trotting the globe to discover rare species to add to its Geneva-based Orchid Library. Their inimitable Orchidée Impériale Eye and Lip Cream draws on the wrinkle-busting powers of *Dendrobium chrysotoxum*, or gold orchid, grown in the company's Tianzi Exploratory Nature Reserve on the mainland.

## SAXIFRAGE

While some brands are deep-sea diving in search of the next big ingredient, others are heading to the hills, specifically The Dom mountains in Switzerland. A team led by Dr Daniel Stangl, an active mountaineer and La Prairie's director of innovation, recently discovered two unrivalled plants—*saxifraga oppositifolia* and *soldanella alpina*—thriving in the ice and snow. The team combined them with extracts of snow algae (another plant that flourishes in high-altitude, extreme conditions) to develop the hydrating and resilience-boosting complex at the heart of the new Cellular Swiss Ice Crystal Cream and Dry Oil. "To be able to capture the youth-protecting properties and adaptive nature of the three survivalist plants and combine those with revolutionary technologies of modern skincare is exceptional," says Stangl.

## PEARLS

The ability of pearl extract to infuse skin with that lustrous, luminous quality it itself emanates, and new science that backs its effect, has brands clamouring to bottle it. Not only a central part of Chanel's house codes when it comes to couture, pearls are now also at the heart of their new Le Blanc range that infuses an extract from akoya pearls cultivated for two years off the western coast of Japan. Specifically chosen for their exceptional lustre, delicate colour and perfect smoothness, mature akoya pearls eliminate dull yellowness and have unmatched skin-brightening goodness. Shiseido's Future Solution LX Superior Radiance Serum draws on a Pearl Hybrid Complex extracted from top quality Hanadama pearls.

*infuses skin with that  
LUSTROUS, LUMINOUS QUALITY*



Le Blanc Brightening Lotion & Soap, **Chanel**; Future Solution LX Radiance Serum, **Shiseido**





# Fascinating Flower



## LONGOZA

Alpha Longoza, an extract of the rare Longoza fruit found in tropical forests of southeast Madagascar, is particularly potent for the skin, with striking efficiency and a double growth factor to regenerate cells. "Extract of longoza, the fascinating flower and signature ingredient of Capture Totale skincare, benefits from natural self-regenerating power," says Dior's scientific communication director, Edouard Mauvais-Jarvis, who notes that the complex repairs damaged (read: wrinkle-laden) cells and recharges proteasome activity. Expect more of this in your antioxidant and moisturising products in the future.

*striking efficiency and a double growth factor to regenerate cells*

Capture Totale Le Serum & One Essential, **Dior**



*huge kick of moisture*

Pure Organic Barbary Fig Seed Oil, **La Bella Figura**; Good Genes Treatment, **Sunday Riley**



## CACTUS OIL

While everyone's been oohing and aahing over Argan oil, which has become the most covetable, sought-after skin oil over the past few years, cactus oil is the new craze set to topple Argan off it's lofty high horse. Grown primarily on the hills of Morocco, it does everything Argan oil does, but better—and, it's also from the desert. Cactus seed oil has heftier doses of the same vitamins and antioxidants (like linoleic acid, vitamin E and flavonoids) that make Argan oil so butt-kickingly great, and with a super light texture that absorbs in a jiffy, delivering a huge kick of moisture, it'll get you through anything hot and dry.



*it'll get you through anything hot and dry.*

## GRAPES

While not entirely new to the skincare world, grape extract is having a major moment with numerous brands getting on the bandwagon. Leading the pack is French vineyard-grown brand Caudalie, with grape vines thriving throughout their family estate in Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte. "The vine is an incredible treasure of benefits and riches. In my vineyard, we say then when a vine cries, the faces of women illuminate," says co-founder Mathilde Thomas. Grapes are rich with polyphenols, the most powerful anti-oxidant on the planet, viniferine from grapevine sap that beats dark spots and infuses radiance, and grape-seed oil that is highly concentrated in Omega 6.

