

## **Abstract**

Albinism is a condition of a plant that is the result of a loss of a pigment, in most cases chlorophyll, either only partially or in its entirety. Full albinism is found in many plant species but leads to large amount of maladaptive features that are usually lethal in early stages of plant development. Some plant species are heterotrophic their whole lives and therefore incapable of photosynthesis. Those are for example parasitic plants of mycoheterotrophic plants that parasite on fungi. Mixotrophic orchids are capable of photosynthesis, but are dependend on fungal carbon. It is the case in mixotrophic plants that there are cases of full albinism in adult individuals that offset the loss of photosynthesis and its products by obtaining carbon from different sources – from fungi. This work summarizes ecophysiological and morphological specifications of albino variants, mostly of mixotrophic orchids, because they are the focus of most research, and tries to answer the question whether the albino variants lead to emergence of a new mycoheterotrophic species.

**Key words:** orchids, mixotrophy, mycoheterotrophy, evolution, albino variants, albinism.