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To fuel the research on nectar and nectaries, I propose here an English translation of a seminal article published 140 years ago in the *Bulletin de la Société Botanique de France*, which was one of the former titles of the current *Botany Letters*. The reference of the original publication is: Bonnier, G. 1878. "Etude sur l'anatomie et la physiologie des nectaires." *Bulletin de la Société Botanique de France* 25 (8): 262–271. doi: 10.1080/00378941.1878.10827912. The translated article is preceded by an introduction clarifying the scientific context, and followed by a synthesis of subsequent and recent studies about nectar and nectaries.

