



COFFS ORCHID NEWS JULY 2024 PUBLICATION OF THE COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY

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Web: www.coffSORCHIDSOCIETY.org.au

EDITORIAL:

The role of the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society is to facilitate the enjoyment of growing and sharing orchids. It also provides opportunities for members to exhibit their plants, to gain rewards for their cultural efforts and enjoy the company and social benefits of associating with other orchid growers. It should also allow members to learn new orchid growing skills, gain information and know-how that will help them develop into better Orchidophiles.

However, for an orchid society to be successful it must embrace the skills and support of its membership to ensure its continued success.

As a good club member you will show some or all of the following qualities:

1. Volunteer your unique skills for the benefit of the Society. Are you a finance specialist? Are you adept with computers? Are you a great organiser or a fluent speaker? Use your skills so that the Society becomes more efficient.
2. Be a good communicator. Clearly express your ideas and show respect for others opinions and ideas.
3. Take an interest in all aspects of the Society. Read the Society newsletter and any correspondence sent to you. Listen to the Treasurer's Report and question any aspects you don't understand. This enables you to be fully informed about current club activities and future events.
4. Contribute by volunteering whenever help is requested for a club activity. The Society cannot function properly without members who are prepared to assist with tasks such as selling raffle tickets, plant sales, setting up the meeting room, helping with the catering or cleaning up after an event. Don't be the volunteer that never volunteers. When you do volunteer, do more than expected and come with a 100% commitment to getting things done. You can be part of the problem or the solution. Don't be a problem.
5. Create a welcoming atmosphere in the Society. Help club members enjoy the experience of belonging and growing in their orchid caring skills.
6. Be prepared to teach others what you know about growing orchids. Use your unique talents to actively help the membership.
7. Strive towards increasing your knowledge and skills in growing orchids. Be enthusiastic about learning new things. Positivity is infectious.
8. Treat people how you want to be treated and remember good listeners are just as valuable to a team as are good talkers.

Above all, continue to enjoy growing orchids.

BREAKING NEWS

**ALL FUTURE CHOS
MONTHLY MEETINGS
WILL START AT 7PM**

CHOS COMMITTEE 2023-2024

PRESIDENT:	CAROLE DAVIS	026658 1354	carolenlarry@bigpond.com
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CONTACT DETAILS

SPONSORS

SHEARWATER RESTAURANT

Brekkie and Modern Australian dishes in a bright, upscale location with outdoor tables and lovely views over Coffs Creek. 321 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour.
www.shearwaterrestaurant.com.au or Phone 6651 6053.

COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE

Coffs Harbour Produce is at 26 June Street in Coffs. They carry a good range of fertilisers, insecticides and fungicides for orchids, as well as general garden needs. Phone 02 6652 2599.

COFFS COAST MAZDA

For new Mazda vehicles, also second-hand vehicles and ALL your servicing needs. Ring for an appointment 02 6652 3122 or visit 211 Pacific Highway, Coffs Harbour
You won't be disappointed .

DARK STAR ORCHIDS

Dark Star Orchids. 0416 195832 or (02) 65644088.

Hans and Sue run a small nursery west of Bowraville. They specialise in rare, unusual and hard to find species of many orchids particularly Bulbophyllums, Dendrochilums, Stanhopeas, Coelogynes and lots of other genera.

www.darkstarorchids.com.au

email darkstarorchids@skymesh.com.au

BRUCE HALL

Bruce provides raffle prizes for Autumn and Spring Shows.

OFFICEWORKS

Officeworks carries an excellent range covering all stationery needs, computers/monitors/printers, and associated technology. They sell a wide range of smart phones and watches, plus furniture and workspace solutions. If you are looking for low prices on everyday essentials, it's all there at Home Base, Coffs Harbour. Phone 66 919100 or check out the full range at officeworks.com.au.

CALENDAR, 2024

4 July—African Orchid Species—Hans Schaible [plus plant sales from Dark Star Orchids

27 July—Greenhouse visits

1 Aug—Tricks and Tips plus Appreciation Orchid Judging

17 Aug—Port Macquarie Visit

5 Sept— Deflasking Workshop

6-8 Sept—Spring Show

Note: The Committee meets on Tuesday following the Monthly Meeting.



CHOS BANK DETAILS

BSB No: 533-000

ACCOUNT No: 32817199

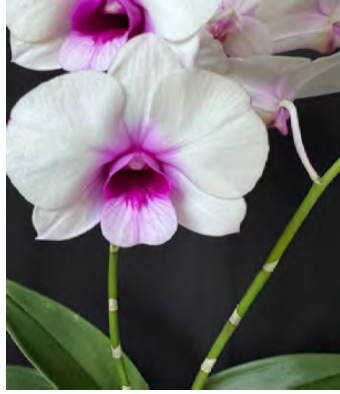
ROSELLA ORCHIDS

Spring and Autumn Show Sponsor

Located in South Grafton and can supply a wide range of orchids but specialises in Cattleya and Vanda genera. They also stock a large range of hardware and accessories for orchid growers. Nursery is closed to the general public except by appointment.

www.rosellaorchids.com.au

CHOS AUTUMN SHOW WINNERS:



Grand Champion Grower, Rhonda Smith, being presented with her awards by President Carole Davis. The winning orchid—*Dendrobium Mary Poppins*

Reserve Champion orchid was awarded to Sue Flanders for her *Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann Buckleberry*. Carole Davis makes the presentation.



President Carole presents Malcolm Ide with the Steve Clemesha Trophy for the Champion Australian Native. Well done, Mal.

Champion Species went to Peter Gough. Barbara and Dick Cooper present Peter with the Edward Pearce Shield. Congratulations Peter.



Jenny Lennon receives a ribbon from President Carole for her Champion Laeliinae Rlc. Donna Kimura. Congratulations to Jenny and Bill.



Champion Vandaceous and Champion Species ribbons were presented to Peter Gough by Carole Davis. Well done, Pete.



Congratulations to Malcolm Ide for benching the Champion Paph and the Champion Australian Native. The ribbons were presented by Pres Carole.

CHOS COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary from the CHOS May Committee Meeting conducted on 11th June 2024 at "The Workshop".

- ◆ All Committee members were present.
- ◆ There were good reports from the June General Meeting, which commenced at the new time of 7pm.
- ◆ New Society Shirts: The new shirts [with logo] will now be further subsidised and will be sold to members for \$20 each. Orders now close with Kerrie Gosling on 14th July 2024.
- ◆ Visits to members greenhouses is planned for the morning of Saturday, 27th July.
- ◆ Suggested venues were tabled for future orchid shows.
Committee to visit venues to determine if suitable.
- ◆ Application has been made to ACNC to register as a Not-For-Profit Charitable Organisation.
- ◆ Committee to investigate the upgrading of the current web-site or construction of a new site.
- ◆ Botanic Gardens Bookings for 2025—April dates not available for the Autumn Show.
Committee considering various options.
- ◆ Investigation the holding of an orchid workshop at a local nursery or other suitable venue.
- ◆ New Member: Shirley Moran has been accepted as a new member. Welcome Shirley!
- ◆ Visit to Port Macquarie Nursery has been set down for Wednesday 17th August. Full details in the near future.
- ◆ Spring Show Schedule presented and approved.
- ◆ New Show Prize Cards approved and ordered.
- ◆ Coffs Harbour Agricultural Show dates are 16th to 18th May, 2025. CHOS will present an orchid display.
- ◆ Next Committee Meeting will be held at 'The Workshop' on Tuesday 9th July 2024.

VALE ANN DEANS

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Orchid Society Member, Ann Deans. Ann had a fall and sustained injuries at home which resulted in her death in the early hours of Thursday 13th June. Ann contributed a great deal to Woolgoolga and Coffs Orchid Societies and to the AOC 2025 Conference Team. Ann was a valuable member of the CHOS Committee for a number of years. She was a wonderful friend to many and will be greatly missed.

Our sympathy and thoughts are with Ann's family at this sad time. A memorial service will be held on Monday 17th June at the Harbourside Presbyterian Church at 10.30am.

COFFS HARBOUR ORCHID SOCIETY SHIRTS [and Logo]: The CHOS Committee has now decided to further subsidise these shirts so that members can purchase them for \$20 each. Orders close with Kerrie Gosling on 14th July. See the June Newsletter for details of how to order the correct size or contact Kerrie on 0427 515 887.

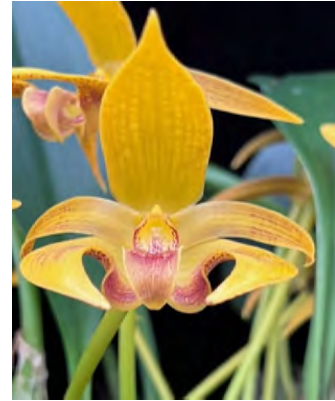
DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday 27th July [morning] to visit members greenhouses in the Woolgoolga area. Full details in near future from Peter Gough.

Wednesday 17th August to visit an orchid nursery at Port Macquarie & additional activities on the day. Frank Pappalardo will provide itinerary details at the July meeting.

POPULAR VOTE AT THE CHOS JUNE 2024 GENERAL MEETING



Popular Vote at the CHOS June Meeting was awarded to Hans Schaible's *Bulbophyllum Wilmar Galaxy Star*. Congratulations Hans and Sue.



BENCHING AT THE CHOS JUNE MEETING



Vanda Somsri Thai Spot



Dendrobium Pink Bonjour



Blc. Young Kong Sun



Dendrobium Yvonne 'George' AM



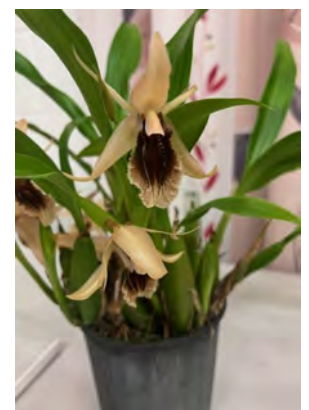
Blc. [Burdekin x Narooma] x Sebastian Scalia 'Ruby'



Cym. Foxfire Mini Pharaoh 'Malcome'



Prosthechea cochleata



Coelogyne Amber

Gastrochilus rutilans



Photos by Paige Sinclair



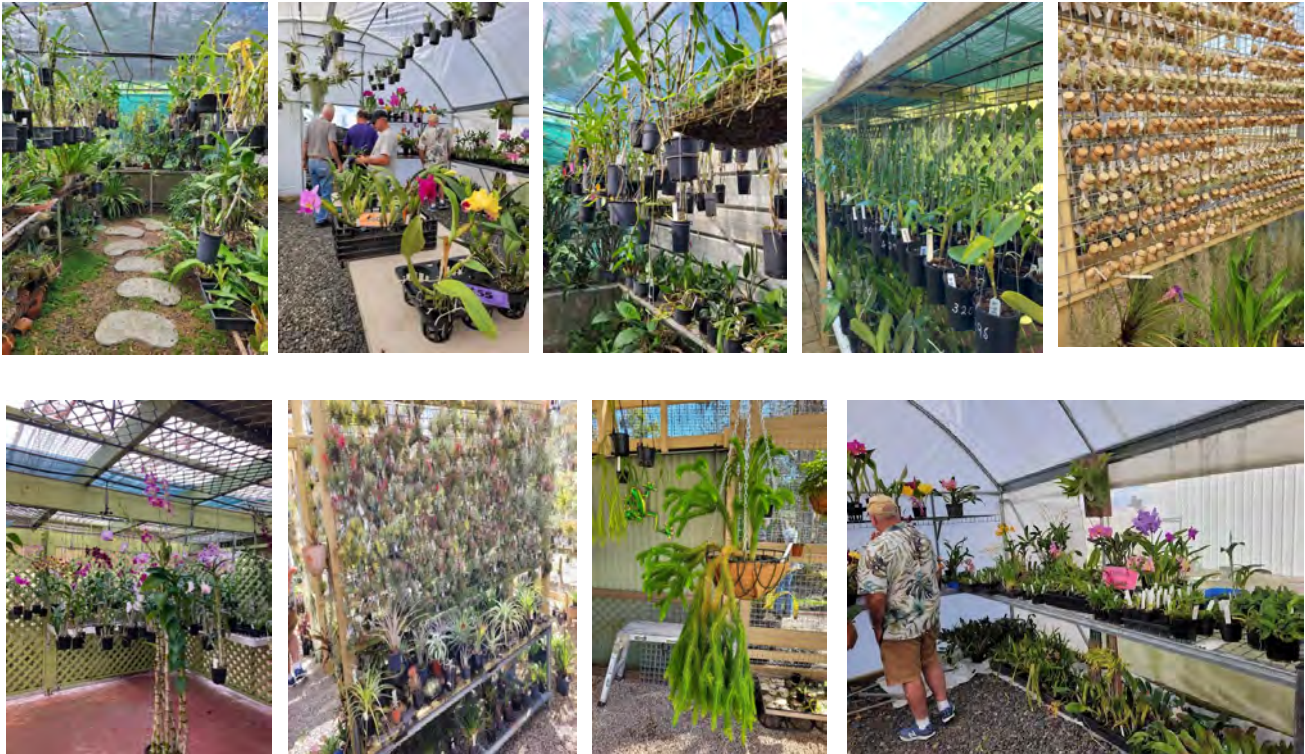
Oncidium sotoanum



WDOS VISIT TO MACLEAN

Photographs by Carole Davis

WDOS [along with some CHOS dual members] recently made a visit to the Maclean area to visit members of the Maclean Orchid Society. Here is a photographic report of the days activities.



SPONSORS' SPOT: COFFS HARBOUR PRODUCE

Coffs Harbour Produce is located at 26 June Street in Coffs Harbour.

They carry a good range of fertilisers, insecticides and fungicides for orchids, as well as general garden needs. If you need orchid or garden advice or you need them to order a special product then phone them on Phone 02 6652 2599 or visit the June Street store. [You can drive in]

SUPPORT THEM AS THEY SUPPORT US

CHOS JULY MONTHLY MEETING—Thursday 4th July 2024 starting at 7.00pm.

Hans Schaible will give an Illustrated talk on African Orchid Species

Plant Sales from Dark Star Orchids

It would be greatly appreciated if you would bring a contribution for members supper.

Don't forget to bring your Competition Plant, *Cattleya* Beautiful Sunset for it's next judging.

Duty Persons for this meeting:

Judges: Bob Southwell and Leonie Everitt

Packing Up: Volunteers on the night **Cleaning Up:** Volunteers on the night

REMINDER : THE JULY MEETING COMMENCES AT 7PM

Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Facebook

June 2024 – Currently, the Coffs Harbour Orchid Society has 2.7K likes. This is up by just under 10% since May 2024. Our 'What's on Bloom' page, is up by 23 people to 330 members, for the same period.



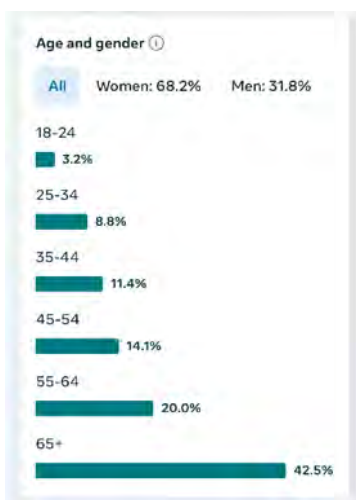
Coffs Harbour Orchid Society

2.6K likes · 2.7K followers



CHOS What's In Bloom Group

Private group · 330 members



CHOS SUPPLIES OF ORCHID BARK: **NEW SUPPLIES—FRESH BARK JUST ARRIVED**

The CHOS now has a NEW supply of Kiwi Bark and Charcoal. Kiwi Orchid Bark is a hard, clean, uniformly graded *Pinus radiata* bark suitable for growing orchids. Due to price rises The Society has had to increase to price of 50 litre bags and these now sell for **\$50 each**.

Kiwi bark comes in four sizes— No.2: **3 to 8mm**; No.3: **8 to 20mm**; No.4: **20 to 25mm**; No. 5: **25 to 50mm**. (The 8 to 20mm size would be equal to mixing 9 to 12 and 12 to 18mm grades of Orchid bark and would be the ideal size for general potting purposes).

Supplies of 15mm charcoal (Orchid Char) are also available. These are in 19kg bags and sell at \$45 per bag.

Supplies are available from Paige Sinclair— Mobile: 0427 591 901

You can pick up the bark from 4 Jean Street, Coffs Harbour or make suitable arrangements with Paige regarding delivery. Payment can be via cash or Direct Deposit (Bank details Page 2).



Proudly Hosted by . . .

Woolgoolga District Orchid Society
Inc.



2025 AOC

International Conference & Show

Orchids
from the
Mountains
to the Sea

23rd Australian Orchid Council
International Conference & Show 2025

Wednesday, October 1 to Sunday, October 5

Woolgoolga Sports Complex
Solitary Islands Way, Woolgoolga
New South Wales, Australia

**CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE
REGISTRATION**

For early bird registration price
paid before July 1 -

\$220 per person

Full price - \$300 per person

Contact Annie Houston

woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com

VENDOR REGISTRATION

Table space for vendors will
be limited.

Early registration recommended.

COST: 4 Tables \$575

Frontage - 7.2 metres wide

Contact Ann Deans

woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com

FLOOR OR TABLE DISPLAY

Hundreds of magical orchids and
flasks will be on sale by vendors
from around Australia and the world
to add to your orchid collection

This is a wonderful opportunity for
your Society to stage a magnificent
floor or table top display - contact
woolgoolga.dist.orch@gmail.com

**8 International and
Australia-wide
Guest Speakers**

See our Website for more information - www.aoc2025.org.au

BITS AND PECES:

- ◆ **Looking for that special orchid or the one you wanted to have but were not sure where to source it. Dark Star Orchids stock a wide variety of orchids with many difficult to obtain varieties. Hans Schaible, from Dark Star, will be the guest speaker at the CHOS July monthly meeting and he will have a wide variety of plants for sale. Check out the Dark Star website at www.darkstarorchids.com.au. Contact Hans on 0416 195 832 or by email at darkstarorchids@skymesh.com.au if you want him to bring you a special selection for collection at the July meeting. Remember the meeting now starts at 7pm.**
- ◆ **Do you have a problem with your orchids that you cant solve? Then contact one of our Advisors for advice and assistance. If you have an allocated Advisor then that would be the starting point and if he/she can't assist they will know who else can help. If you don't have an allocated Advisor, or a current Advisors contact list, then please contact one of the Committee and they will point you to a specialist who will assist you to solve your problem. Remember, a problem shared is a problem halved [maybe even a problem solved].**
- ◆ **This publication has had a number of enquiries about where to purchase Richgro Bug Killa which was featured in last months newsletter. The product comes in two sizes—250g and 1kg container. Bunnings, at Coffs Harbour, do not currently stock it. Purchases can be made online at Pestrol [www.pestrol.com.au]. However, I am sure if you contact our sponsor, Coffs Harbour Produce [details on page 2 of this newsletter] they may have it in stock or be able to order it for you.**
- ◆ **Other member have asked about where to buy slow release fertilizer. Small amounts can be purchased off the shelves at Bunnings [Osmocote for Orchids] or online from Fernland [www.fernland.com.au]. Our recommendation for orchids is Planticote Top K [8months] and is sold in 25kg sized containers. It is expensive at \$223 so it is best shared with a few orchid friends. Coffs Produce may also be able to supply this product so it could be useful to contact them.**
- ◆ **Good news about the AOC Conference at Woolgoolga in 2025. If you are a member of WDOS then your Conference fee has been reduced to \$100 if you pay before 1st July 2025. Great value so get in early. See the WDOS advert on page 8 for details.**

St Ives Orchid Fair

'The Big One'

ST IVES SHOWGROUND, Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Friday 16th August 2024 9 am to 4 pm
Saturday 17th August 2024 9 am to 4 pm
Sunday 18th August 2024 9 am to 3 pm

ADMISSION \$8

Major Sponsors
Rosella Orchids - Garden City Plastics

ORCHID VENDORS
Alice's Orchids, Barita Orchids, Dark Star Orchids, Ezi-Gro Orchids,
Fong Ping Orchids, Hills District Orchids, Kings Orchid Nursery,
Macquarie Native Orchids, Nicky's Slippers Orchid Care Services,
Orchid Species Plus, Orchids of Distinction, Orchids on Newbold,
Robertson Orchids, Rosella Orchids, The Orchid Mart /
Serhan's Orchids, Tinonee Orchids, Woolf Orchidculture

For more Information: Show Marshal: Garrie Bromley Ph: 0425 336 049
<http://www.stivesorchidfair.com/>



In partnership with
Ku-ring-gai Council

LOCAL ORCHID SHOW DATES:

Put these in you calendar for future reference. Being a member of CHOS you are eligible to enter each of these Autumn Shows. Or perhaps you may wish to just visit and see what other growers have produced.

29th—30th June: Mingara Orchid Fair and Show, Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi.

29th—31st August: Nambucca Valley Orchid Society Spring Show. Benching on 28th August.

30th—31st August: Grafton District Orchid Society Spring Show. Benching on 29th August.

7th—8th September: Coffs Harbour Orchid Society Spring Show. Benching on 6th Sept. 3—6pm.

5th—6th October: Woolgoolga District Orchid Society Spring Show and Conference.

FEATURE ARTICLE:

BULBOPHYLLUMS.

By Jim Brydie from the KOS May Bulletin

Best of the Evening Species - *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* grown by Jean Fulcher

This is a real stunner of an orchid. Gigantic flowers for a *Bulbophyllum*. Its flowers are up to 40 cm vertically and 10 -12 cm horizontally. Maybe not as filled in as a big *Cattleya*, but those dimensions are pretty impressive anyway.

Bulb *echinolabium* is found in Sulawesi and Borneo in riverine to primary forests at elevations of 600 to 1200 meters. To interpret that a little for you, that means warm, high humidity, and regular water - between 45 and 80 mm of rain every month of the year. As these are equatorial tropics there is also bright light 12 hours a day in the high canopy above but *echinolabium* doesn't grow up there.



I haven't found much info on habitat specifics but this picture at the left, from Travaldo's blog, would imply that it occurs in the lowest part of the forest on mossy tree trunks and limbs. As such, the light levels would be quite shady but the day length is still the same as in the canopy.



Jean is an excellent grower of *Bulbophyllum* and regularly presents wonderful specimens at our meetings to show us the scope of this curious but intriguing genus. She also wrote a great introduction to *Bulbophyllum* for our Dec 2021 bulletin so I am now thinking it might be time to try to cajole her into a guest speaker spot on *Bulbos* at a meeting night and to extend it to some 'how to grow' culture stuff

because these wonderful orchids do have some idiosyncrasies that make their culture a little different to many other kinds of orchids. (Hmmm, which arm should I try to twist first Jean?)

However, in the meantime, as Jean told us in 2021, *Bulbophyllum* is perhaps the largest genus of all orchid genera with something like 2200 species. But I say 'perhaps the largest' for a reason and that is because the mega-genera like *Bulbophyllum* and *Pleurothallis*, and even some slightly smaller giants, are almost certain to eventually be re-examined and split up into multiple smaller genera. The present DNA recalibration of the orchid family tree is still proceeding but on the areas already done we can see already that many changes will ensue.

Bulbophyllum is one of those very few genera that occupies all of the tropical geographic zones on earth, *Calanthe* is another. The majority of orchid genera are either of wholly Asian or wholly American. For example, *Dendrobium* and *Vanda* in Asia vs *Cattleya* and *Epidendrum* in the Americas. A group that almost makes both is the slipper orchid complex that comprises *Cypripedium* and *Paphiopedilum* in Europe/Asia and *Cypripedium*/ *Phragmipedium* in the Americas. I am guessing that that group began with the predecessors of *Cypripedium* in the northern hemisphere when the north was a tropical zone with land connections across Europe/Asia/America. Paphs were a southerly Asian evolutionary path from *Cypripedium*, and *Phragmipedium* was the southerly evolutionary path in the Americas.

The separate development of the Orchid family in Asia vs the Americas is important because of its relatively recent evolution. When you consider the landmass distribution that comprises the tropical zones today, most are segments of the great southern Gondwanaland that broke apart and migrated north. One was present day Africa, and others were Madagascar and India. Both Africa and India eventually bumped into the Europe/Asia landmass to create land bridges for plant evolution. Madagascar doesn't touch the land around it but is close enough for genetic spread, perhaps by seed. Australia likewise doesn't land connect to Asia but is close enough via chains of islands for genetic connections. The Americas virtually connect to the Europe/Asia land mass in the very far north but couldn't be further separated in the tropic zones. Which has led to the parallel evolution of the Orchidaceae in Africa/Asia and the Americas. E.g. Cattleyas in America vs Dendrobium in Asia. Which leads us to consider how just a few genera, like Bulbophyllum, became pan tropical.

From my point of view, the wide geography and great diversity of Bulbophyllum makes it difficult to see the genus as a whole to gain any insight into its points of origin. The species we call Bulbophyllums in Africa have some quite different characteristics to other Bulbophyllum groups that occur across Asia but then the genus is so diverse in its physical nature that that may just be a side development.

Wikipedia tells us that: "Molecular phylogenetic studies place the origin of the orchid genus Bulbophyllum into the early Miocene (that is, about 5 million years ago to 23 Million years ago). Biogeographic analyses and ancestral area reconstructions identified the Asia-Pacific region as the ancestral area of Bulbophyllum and suggest an early-to-late Miocene scenario of 'out-of-Asia-Pacific' origin and a progressive (east-to-west) dispersal-mediated diversification, resulting in three additional radiations in Madagascar, Africa and the Neotropics, respectively." I am not sure how widely that view is agreed.

New Guinea has the largest number of Bulbophyllums with around 600 species so many consider that a possible point of origin, which would be consistent with the Wikipedia view.

So what is it that defines an orchid as a Bulbophyllum? Perhaps a little Botany is called for.

In her article, Jean quoted the following 3 key genus defining criteria from author Bill Thoms - :

1. There is only one joint in the pseudobulb
2. The inflorescence must arise from the base of the plant or along the rhizome
3. The lip must be mobile. That is, connected with a flexible joint

Wikipedia writes it up a little more taxonomically but ends up saying pretty much the same. - "Plants in the genus Bulbophyllum are epiphytic or lithophytic sympodial herbs with thread-like or fibrous roots that creep over the surface on which they grow. The stem consists of a rhizome and a pseudobulb, the latter with one or two usually fleshy or leathery leaves. The flowers are arranged on an unbranched raceme that emerges from the pseudobulb, usually from its base. The dorsal sepal is free from the lateral sepals which themselves may be free or fused to each other. The petals are also free from each other and smaller than the lateral sepals. The labellum is often fleshy, curved and hinged to the base of the column."

From a growers point of view:

1. The fact that the base flower stalk (peduncle) arises from the rhizome is quite different to most other orchids, and it is also significant that the inflorescence is never branched.

Some Bulbophyllum species do have more than one flower per peduncle – for example the daisy flower head types we mostly used to call Cirrhopetalum, but there are also other groups with cluster headed, multiple flowers at the top of a single stem.

In addition, some Bulbophyllums flower along the sides of the peduncle itself. If the flower has a separate stalk connecting the flower to the peduncle, that stalk is called a pedicel. In some cases flowers have pedicels, in some cases they do not. If the flower has no pedicel it is describes as sessile. As an example, the bulbed garden plant Gladiolus has sessile flowers on an unbranched inflorescence (a spike).

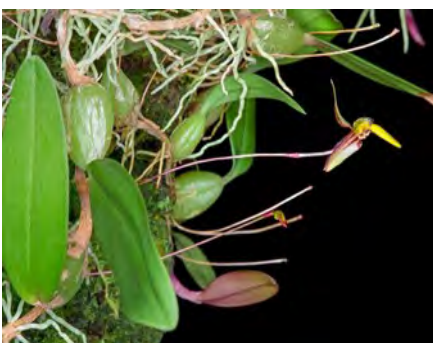
2. The Flowers. Wikipedia tells us that the petals are free and smaller than the sepals. Free means not fused together. Now if I was looking at a new orchid in flower in front of me, I am afraid that is unlikely to help me separate the newbie as a Bulbophyllum or anything else unless the petals in front of me did happen to be fused which would rule out Bulbophyllum.

What is more significant is the bit about the hinged labellum which as Bill Thoms notes, makes the lip mobile. That is, it bobbles about as part of the mechanism to attract a pollinator. And although it isn't an official discriminator, the mobile lip is almost always associated with a second attractant – perfume. Bulbophyllums are almost always pollinated by flies and their perfume is notoriously on the unattractive side. Not all are real stinkers, but most have an aroma reminiscent of rotting meat or similar.

3. The pseudobulb. Very few orchids have single segment pseudobulbs. If you bring to mind Dendrobiums for example, the 'canes' or pseudobulbs have many joints separating each segment of the pseudobulb. Cattleyas have less, but also have multiple segments. The fact that Bulbophyllums have only one segment pseudobulbs is significant and may imply that they are relatively primitive in the evolution of the orchid family.

4. But finally, and it isn't a genuine botanical separator, but the majority of Bulbophyllums are creepers or climbers with a distinct and sometimes exaggerated rhizome stem in between each pseudobulb. They march across a pot or tray and go exploring. In an orchid house they go over the edge of their container and off, in between other pots, across other pots, up a wall, whatever. They are hard to organise. However, if you see it happening you can steer the new growth back around the original container and try to send it back criss crossing itself if you try hard. So what I am saying is that the adventuring nature of most Bulbophyllums helps you decide whether what you are looking at is a Bulbophyllum or not. Definitely not scientific, but at least a good pointer.

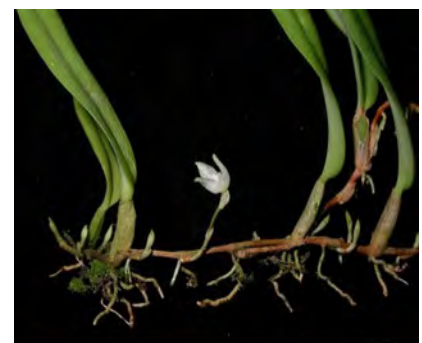
So lets look at some of the amazing physical forms of Bulbophyllum in plant and flower.
First the Rhizome:



Bulb tenuifolium



Bulb inconspicuum



Bulb laxum

As you can see above, the pseudobulbs are not always widely spaced with an exaggerated rhizome between them, but their habit is explorative. Sometimes they march straight ahead, other times the growth branches from the rhizome and creates multiple growth directions but it seems to me the genus has the ability to go looking for a better location than where the seed may have started them. Perhaps they need a bit better light, perhaps more reliable water or accessible food, but they don't just stay put and die out.

Flower and plant size - While *Bulb. echinolabium* probably has the largest flower, it is nowhere near the largest plant. That honour goes to *Bulb fletcherianum* from PNG which has huge, dangling, strap shape leaves that measure up to 1.5 metres long x 17 cm wide. The picture at the right shows a cluster of plants growing in the wild on a wet rock-face in PNG. The closely clustered flowers are reddish lilac and about 2.5 cm wide.



At the other end of the scale, *Bulb minutissimum* from Australia has to be one of the smallest for both plant and flower. The chains of little green or reddish blobs in this picture by David Banks are the pseudobulbs. They are between 2 and 3 mm wide and perhaps half that thick. Kind of flattened, and with a little pointy leaf in the middle. The leaf is only 0.2 mm wide and it is the little flat

topped pseudobulb that does most of the photosynthesis. The red striped flower (at the right edge of the picture) is about 4 mm across and the plant pictured here is mounted on a piece of cork.

Flower form: And lastly, just a few very beautiful examples of the amazing variability among its flowers. The first line shows some examples of small flowers arising directly from the peduncle and where the display is not just the flower but the combination of the two parts in the wild on



a wet rockface in PNG. The closely clustered flowers are reddish lilac and about 2.5 cm wide.

Bulb pinelianum

Bulb falcatum

Bulb maximum

This next set (see below) are my favourites. What I called earlier "the daisy flowered types". The majority if these fall in section *Cirrhopetalum*, but not all, so I can't just call them *Cirrhopetalums*. The peduncle rises away from the rhizome and ends in a growth point that produces multiple flowers, usually arranged in a circle. As you can see below they make very beautiful flowering orchids and come in a rich array of colours. Those that array like a daisy flower head may only array a half or $\frac{3}{4}$ of a daisy but still look so lovely.

Others like *Bulbophyllum medusae* arrange in a less single plane to present almost a ball of flowers.



B. makoyanu



Bulb. medusae



Bulb skeatianum



Bulb mastersianum

And as a final exotic example, there are those that produce a large flower but often closed over to create a limited space for the desired pollinator to enter. Sort of an attempt to keep out the riff raff and just let in the right types. The one on the left is Bulb. arfakianum (6 cm wide x 10 cm long), the next is Bulb. grandiflorum (7 cm x 13cm).



Congratulations on another wonderful BOE Jean, and my humble apologies for hijacking the write up. And growers please remember, Bulbos are *warm* growers. When you are ready, ask about what you need to consider before buying a glasshouse. That is a topic in itself.

Humour to End the day

Skipped the gym today and put on a fitted sheet instead



This is what irony means. You buy an electric car to save the planet and a tree kills it!



95% of electric vehicles are still on the road.
The remaining 5% made it all the way home.

I E-MAILED THIS TO MY JAPANESE DOCTOR FRIEND.



HE REPLIED "IF LIGHT STAY ON MORE THAN 4 HOURS, CALL ERECTRICIAN."

"A friend is one of the nicest things you can have
And one of the best things you can be."



SOMETIMES ALL YOU CAN DO IS JUST HANG ON.

