

# What Is A Beth Plant?

An Adventure Into the  
Wonderful Weird World of Orchids



*Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis*



*Dendrochilum arachnites*





**Beth Plant** (*adj*) name given to an orchid that fits a certain criteria as one of perhaps a weird or unusual persuasion. Bizarre, quirky, eccentric

Synonyms : Maxillaria, Dracula, Masdevallia, Stanhopea, Gongora, Dendrochilum, Pleurothallis, Eria, Bulbophyllum, Coelogyne, Liparis and many more!

# Maxillaria

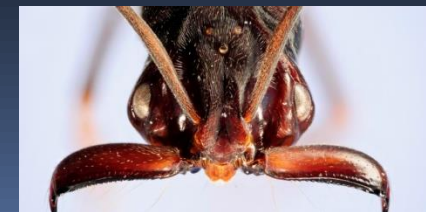
Derived from the Latin word *maxilla*, meaning jawbone



Maxillaria longissima

**Distribution:** From Florida through the West Indies and Central America to southern Brazil and northern Argentina.

- Over 200 species in the genus
- Flowers are usually triangle shaped, often fragrant
- Flowers size ranges from ½ inch to over 6 inches in diameter
- Short flower spikes with one flower grow from the base of the pseudobulbs
- Flowers can cluster and produce more than 1 spike per pseudobulb
- Prefer to grown into large undisturbed plants
- Grows well mounted







**Maxillaria tenuifolia**  
Coconut Orchid

- \* Found near Veracruz , Mexico
- \* Described in 1837
- \* Warm to intermediate growing
- \* Can be grown into a nice specimen in a short period of time
- \* Needs a semi-dry rest through the winter months
- \* Spring and Summer blooming





## Maxillaria scalariformis

The Ladder-Like Maxillaria  
[refers to the leaf arrangement]

- \* Found in Panama rainforests
- \* Cool growing epiphyte
- \* Grows well in cattleya exposure
- \* Needs to stay evenly moist with good drainage
- \* Prefers temps between 50 and 80 degrees







Maxillaria elatior



- \* Interesting upright ladder climbing growth habit
- \* Previous growths will bloom from the leaf nodes for many years.
- \* Will quickly form tall specimen plants.
- \* Pleasant fragrance like over ripe citrus,
- \* Grow intermediate & partial shade



- \* Found in Venezuela and northeastern Colombia
- \* Mat forming, dwarf Maxillaria
- \* Warm to cool growing
- \* Will bloom couple times a year
- \* Grows well mounted
- \* Like to slightly dry out between watering

Maxillaria sophronitis





Maxillaria schunkeana  
'Breezy Hill' AM/AOS  
shun-kee-AY-na



- \* Found in Brazil along the coastal Atlantic rainforest
- \* Growing as a small sized, warm to cool growing epiphyte
- \* Plants flower from spring to summer with a 1cm wide flower

# Stanhopeas

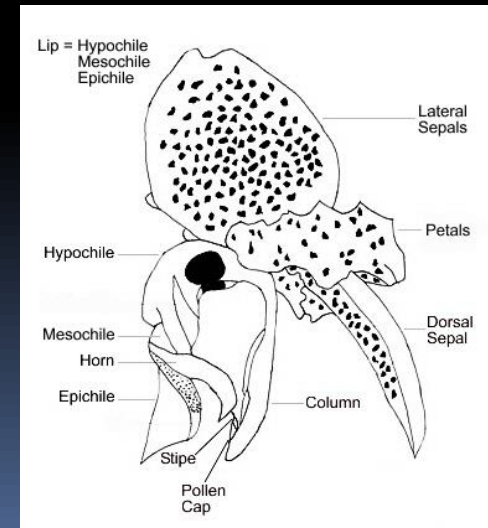
Have large, pleated leaves and bear incredible flowers with intricate, complex structures and mechanisms for pollination, ranging from channeled walkways for insects to buckets of a watery solution.



**Distribution:** Mexico to Brazil

- Genus is comprised of 55 species and 5 natural hybrids
- Flowers out of the bottom of the plant, grown in net pots or wooden baskets
- Flowers are short lived but know for their spicy fragrance

**Temperatures** should be moderate: 52° to 60° F at night, with day temperatures 68° to 75° F in the winter. Plants can stand short spells of higher temperatures, but air movement, humidity and shading must all be increased. Many species flower in the summer, and putting them outside in the summer may be beneficial. Move into higher light slowly to avoid burn. Try for about 70% humidity. They like it to be at least 50%.





Stanhopeas are  
best grown in  
net pots or  
wooden  
baskets.





Stanhopea warszewicziana



Stanhopea jensischiana





*Stanhopea tigrina*





Trying  
Something  
NEW!





# Gongora

- 65 species found in Central and South America
- Was one of the first orchids described but a western man
- Grown very similar to Stanhopeas but do not need to be grown in baskets
- Likes air movement
- **inflorescence** can measure up to 1 meter long

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Gongora chocoensis



Gongora galeata



Gongora atropurpurea





# Dendrochilum

Curious orchids, not very splendid or extremely beautiful, but they are intriguing and somehow you just can resist their appeal.

**Distribution:** Throughout South East Asia, Taiwan and New Guinea. There are three main centers of distribution: Borneo, The Philippines and Sumatra.

- There are 297 recognized species in this genus
- Plants can look like grass with graceful stems of flowers emerging from the base
- Many of them come from mossy cloud forest, so they don't like to dry out too much
- Warm to Intermediate temperatures and plenty of air movement





Dendrochilum tenellum



Dendrochilum javieri



Dendrochilum wenzelii



# Dendrochilum magnum



# *Bulbophyllum*

Distribution: Species of this genus are distributed worldwide, predominately tropical and subtropical regions. The greatest diversity are found in Papua New Guinea, where they are thought to have originated.

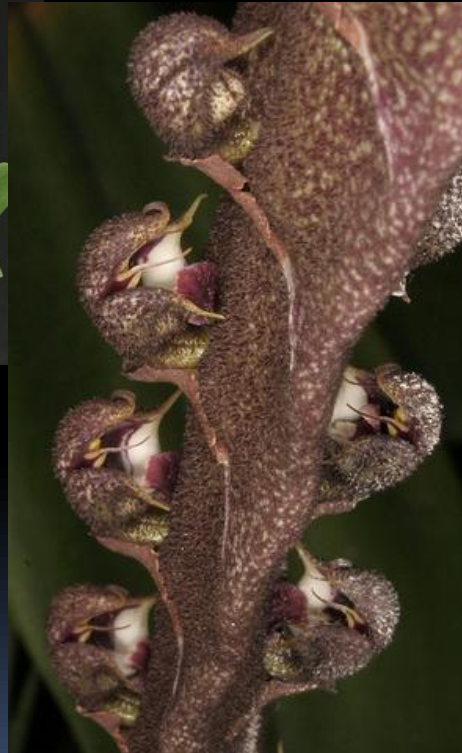


- This genus and closely allied genera are considered to be the largest group of orchids with over 2000 species.
- Flowers are short lived (5-7 days)
- Flowers have a hinged lip that aids in pollination. The pollinator (most often a small fly) lands on the lip, which tilts and causes the pollinator to fall back in to the sticky pollina.
- Occasionally fragrant (while the fragrance can be pleasant it is often quite foul.
- Moderate to bright light is ideal. Higher light that does not damage the leaves, seems to result in better and more frequent blooming.
- Most species prefer intermediate temperatures, 70 to 80F during the day with a 10 – 15F drop at night.
- Grow well in net pots because they like air movement around their roots.





Bulb. *purpureorhachis*



Bulb. *lindleyanum*



*Bulbophyllum corolliferum*



*Bulbophyllum caudatum* 'A-doribil'





**Bulbophyllum makoyanum 'D&B' AM/AOS**



Bulb. Elizabeth Ann  
'Buckleberry'



Bulb. longissimum x



Bulb. rothschildianum



AMERICAN  
ORCHID  
SOCIETY

© 2006 filed with AOS

**Bulbophyllum Elizabeth**  
**Ann 'Buckleberry'** Bulb. longissimum x  
**Bulb. rothschildianum**  
CCM/AOS (98 points) december 15 1993

Two hundred ninety-three flowers and 16 buds on 45 inflorescences borne on one incredible specimen presentation with 129 growths on a 64 cm plant in a 25 cm (10 inch) wooden basket in osmunda and sphagnum moss; inflorescences totally above, around and pendulous below plant; dorsal sepal and petals chartreuse with dark burgundy stripes and spots; lateral sepals chartreuse with vertical raspberry stripes and spots; lip rose; substance good; texture crystalline.



**Bulbophyllum korthalsii**





**Bulbophyllum  
nasseri**







# Coelogyne

Coelogyne comprises about 196 species ,  
Most of the species are easy to grow and  
produce long-lasting, fragrant flowers.

Coelogyne species are distributed from India  
through Southeast Asia, southwest China, the  
Philippines and the islands of Indonesia to as  
far east as New Guinea and islands of the  
southern and eastern Pacific.

Need constant moisture with good  
drainage throughout the year.



Coelogyne usitata





*Coelogyne cristata* 'Mt. Cuba'



summer days average 69-75F (21-24C), and nights average 58-59F (14-15C), with a diurnal range of 10-16F (6-9C). During the drier, brighter winter months, days average 51-55F (11-13C), and nights average 36-39F





*Coelogyne lawrenceana*



*Coelogyne pandurata*



*Coelogyne* Bird In Flight

November 27<sup>th</sup> 2018



December 4<sup>th</sup> 2018



December 10<sup>th</sup> 2018





# Coelogyne tomentosa



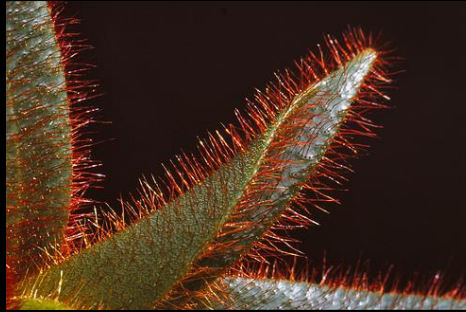
December 12<sup>th</sup> 2018





# Trichotosia vulpina

'Mt. Airy' CCM/AOS



Seventy-four sequentially-  
opening flowers and 104 buds  
on 30 arched inflorescences  
elegantly presented on seven  
inter-twining growths  
June 15, 2005



# Isabelia virginalis



- \* Native to Brazil
- \* Will tolerate a broad range of temperatures
- \* Grows well mounted
- \* Requires frequent watering
- \* Blooms fall and winter





*Orchis italica*



© J. L. GALLERAS



*Eria* is a large genus with  
over 500 described species

Ranging from China,  
Southeast Asia to New  
Guinea

*Eria convallarioides*



*Eria javanica*





# Liparis viridiflora



This genus was recognized in 1818.  
Is from the Greek liparos = greasy or  
shining and refers to the shiny leaves of  
many of the species.  
Indigenous to Java  
Blooms late fall to early winter





Schomburgkia  
Wellesley





# Waldor's Display at National Capital Show

October 2018





# Sobralia La Folie

(leucoxantha x xantholeuca)





Vanilla pompona



Stunning, stylish  
and graceful,  
Encyclias



Encyclia phoenicea

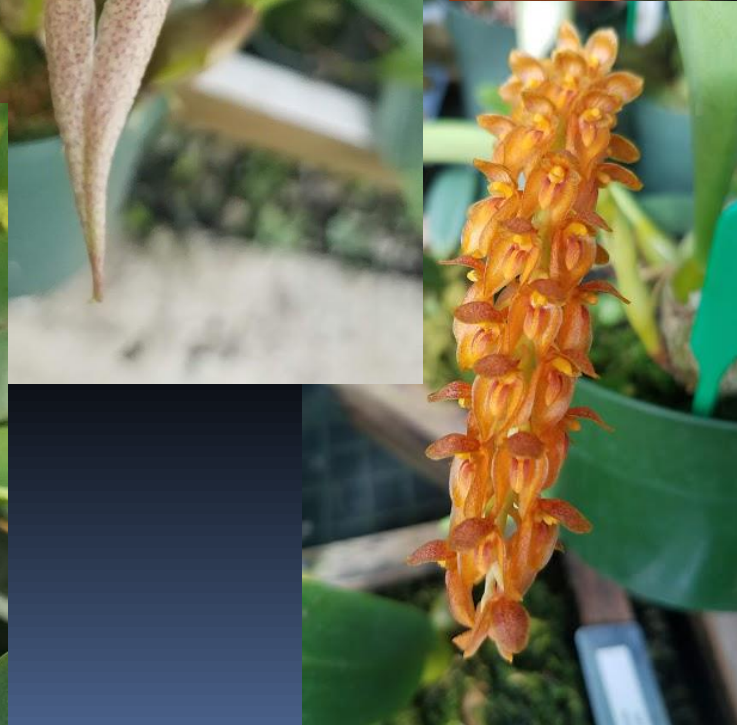
Encyclia Leaf Hopper



Encyclia plicata



In-depth look at  
Bulbophyllums: culture,  
blooming habits and new  
hybrids.



## Resources

American Orchid Society [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)

Orchid Species Lists [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com) Large catalog of orchid species including habitat, when they bloom and how to grow them.

Orchid Roots [www.bluenanta.com](http://www.bluenanta.com)

Orchid Wiz [www.orchidwiz.com](http://www.orchidwiz.com) Orchid Database Software

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families

[https://wcsp.science.kew.org/prepareChecklist.do?checklist=selected\\_families%40%40037060220192213931](https://wcsp.science.kew.org/prepareChecklist.do?checklist=selected_families%40%40037060220192213931)