

SOUTHERN ONTARIO ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWS

October 2017, Volume 52, Issue 9 Meeting since 1965

Next Meeting Sunday, October 1 , Floral Hall of the Toronto Botanical Garden,

- ★ **Cultural snapshots at noon on the stage by Alexsi Antanaitis.**
- ★ **Member and Vendor sales noon to 1pm**
- ★ **Program at 1 pm: Our Speaker is Marilyn Light on the topic: Secrets of our Wild Orchids.**
Marilyn has spent a lifetime on orchid research and orchid conservation, much of it in the Ottawa area where she currently resides. We are very fortunate to have her come and speak to us on this very important topic.
- ★ **Member plant table review. Show your plants, win points.**
- ★ **Raffle**

President's Remarks Welcome Orchid Enthusiasts. Fall is around the corner as I write this, however we are experiencing some wonderful weather in mid-September. If you have left your plants outdoors like I have (I always push the limits until frost threatens), the 'chids' will be reveling in the warm days and cool nights with diurnal temperature variations of 20F/ 11C plus, encouraging phals to start new inflorescences, and "hardening" growth in many orchid types.

A big thank you to Heinz Ernstberger, Inge and Peter Poot, Synea Tan, and Eric and Ellen Lee (Crystal Star Orchids), for opening their growing areas for our growing tours, on the 2'nd weekend of September. I know that I always enjoy these opportunities to see how others grow their plants and to chat about orchids in general. Although I had a modest turnout to view my set-up, it had the added benefit of encouraging me to clean up the plants and the growing area.

Our upcoming speakers are as follows:

- **October 1st:** Marilyn Light Topic: Secrets of our Wild Orchids
- **November 5th:** Stanley Luk, *Paphiopedilum concolor*
- **December 3rd:** Annual auction and pot luck
- **January 7th:** tba Pest and Diseases

Our cultural snapshots will continue to take place on the stage at 12:15 pm, with Alexsi Antanaitis running these sessions. Everyone is welcome to participate. Remember, if there is a topic you would like us to cover, please let us know.

The fall orchid shows are just around the corner, and Don Wyatt and Laura Liebgott will once again be representing SOOS with beautiful award winning displays. They will be seeking your plants for the SOOS displays, so please help them out by sending your plants away with them for a mini vacation and perhaps they will come back with some awards. If you are interested in helping out with any of these displays,

please contact Don and Laura, as I'm sure that they would appreciate any help.

- **COOS Show, Cambridge Sep. 23-24** – Don Wyatt will be designing the display.
- **ECOS Orchidfete, Montreal Oct.14- 15** – Don Wyatt will be designing the display.
- **Windsor show, Windsor - Oct. 21- 22** – Laura Liebgott will be designing the display.
- **Essex County Show, Kingsville (Collasanti's) - Nov. 11- 12** – Don Wyatt will be designing the display.

Thank you in advance for those members who generously loan their precious plants. The SOOS displays could not happen without you.

Now is the time to get your 2018 SOOS memberships. The earlier you purchase or renew a membership, the more opportunities you will have to win the draw for a blooming orchid at the November, December and January meetings. You must be in attendance to win the orchid draw, so if your name is chosen and you are not in attendance, we will draw again until a winner is chosen. All names go back into the draw for the following month, so purchase your membership early to increase your odds of winning.

Thank you also to those members whose names begin with the letter **N through R**, that supplied treats for the September meeting. **The members whose names start with the letters S through Ta are scheduled for the October's treats.**

This is also the time to consider donating some of your precious time to your orchid society to assist in its operations. We will be electing a Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 term at our December meeting, see John Vermeer if you are available. Our show committee can always use more help, see Peter Poot any time.

Happy Orchiding, John Vermeer for
Laura Liebgott
Questions or comments: Please contact
me at:
lliebgott@rogers.com or 905 883 5290

Coming Events 2017

September

23-24, Central Ontario Orchid Society Show, Hespeler
Recreation Center, Cambridge, Ontario.

30, Central NY Orchid Society Show, Syracuse,
NY.

October

1, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales
12 noon, program 1 pm, Floral Hall

7, TJC Monthly AOS Judging Toronto Botanical
Garden
14- 15, Eastern Canada Orchid Society Show +
TAJC Monthly Judging, Montreal
21-22 Windsor OS Show, Windsor, Ontario.

November

4, TJC Monthly AOS Judging Toronto Botanical
Garden
5, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales
12 noon, program 1 pm, Floral Hall.

8-12, 22nd World Orchid Conference,
Guayaquil, Ecuador

18, TJC business meeting and TAJC Monthly Judging,
Jardin botanique de Montreal.

December

2, TJC Monthly AOS Judging at TBG.
3, SOOS meeting, Toronto Botanical Garden, sales
12 noon, program 1 pm, Floral Hall

9, , Monthly Montreal AOS judging, Jardin botanique de
Montreal.

AOS Judging Results

Toronto Judging Centre September 2, 2017:

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii 'California Candy Corn' JC/AOS
John Doherty
Bulbophyllum viaceum 'Don Maples' CHM/AOS 82points
Jean Allen-Ikesen

Catasetum Bel Tramonto 'Lola Muskus de d'Empaire' HCC/AOS
78points Gilberto Arrieche
Catasetum lanciferum ,B-C II'HCC/AOS 77points B. Butts- C
Lefaive
Catasetum lanciferum 'B-C' HCC/AOS 79points B. Butts- C
Lefaive
Catasetum Fransisco Deusvando 'B-C' AM/AOS 82points B.
Butts- C Lefaive
Catasetum Double Down 'B-C II' AM/AOS 84points B. Butts- C
Lefaive

The next judging will be held Saturday, October 7 at the
Toronto Botanical Gardens at 1 pm. There will also be
AOS judging at the Central Ontario Orchid Society show,
Saturday morning September 23 at the Hespeler Arena
in Cambridge. AOS Judging is a service of the American
Orchid Society and is open to all! Bring us your flowering
orchids,

Plant of the month for September 3, 2017



The *Oncidium* (Colmonara) Masai Red that Synea Tan shared with us walked away with that honor this month. The healthy looking plant had a tall inflorescence with lots of red flowers. Synea grows it out of doors on a veranda on the north side of her house for the summer and indoors under LED light tubes in the winter. She grows it in a plastic pot into which she burned lots of extra air holes. Her mix consists of Styrofoam beads and cut pieces of New Zealand sphagnum moss. She waters it twice a week with a weak solution of MSU fertilizer in rainwater (1/4 tsp/ gallon of water). She occasionally uses Miracle Grow instead of MSU. Once a month all her plants get plain rain water. But while it is outside she waters it more frequently. She repots it once per year. Synea also had a beautifully flowered *Cycnodes Wine Delight* AM/AOS with red flowers arranged around the rim of the pot. This plant is potted in clay pellets mixed with Styrofoam pellets and cut up NZ sphagnum moss. Strangely, she keeps it wet all year which probably means she never lets the temperature drop below 65F and thus avoids the onset of several months of dry rest. Synea also mentioned that she uses a mix of Orchidata bark, Perlite and Clay pellets for her *Paphiopedilum rothschildiannum* with good results. Beautifully done Synea!

Incredible Miniature Orchids of Colombia and their Culture by Andrea Niessen, transcribed by Inge Poot



Just going by the genus of a plant does not tell you that you have a miniature plant!

Pleurothallis colossus is anything but miniature even though most *Pleurothallis* are truly miniature! It has bouquets of white flowered sprays emerging from the leaf and stem jointure and the whole plant pictured was as tall as the man standing behind the plant in the picture!

Among the *Acronia* section of *Pleurothallis* are a few giants as well, such as the *Pleurothallis marthae* described in Andrea's previous talk about Colombian Habitats and their Orchids.

Also, what is the definition of a miniature plant? This varies, but in this talk it is a plant which can be 1/2 an inch to 6 inches (1cm to 15cm) in height without its inflorescence. This definition comes from Rebecca Northern's great book on "miniature orchids and how to grow them".

So *Sigmatostylis graminea* with its little tufts of stiff leaves and cute little yellow flowers whose columns remind one of a bird, fit into the miniature category very nicely.

Macrocclinium manabinum is on the edge, since its plants are tiny fans of leaves, but the round heads of chartreuse and lilac flowers are really quite large. An irresistible plant!

And just so you have proof that some *Pleurothallis* are truly miniature, Andrea included a photo of the mini *Pleurothallis (Acianthera) chamensis* which is a miniature version of an *Acronia* with little plants whose leaf axils sprout little sprays of yellow "insects" that "sit" atop the leaf. It is a variable species and has therefore accumulated a string of synonyms!

Cyclopogon elatus has a rosette of beautiful, leaves bordered silvery-white and an upright stem of a few modest little white flowers.

The opposite extreme is illustrated by *Comparettia ignea* whose leaves tend to be messily arranged, but the branched inflorescence of bright orange flowers with a yellow lip are anything but modest!

The above miniatures have to be grown in a humid environment, as their home is in the cloud forests. In a dry environment the tiny plants would turn to hay in no time. They have no place to store any water. Suitable trees in a cloud forest are festooned with little and of

course also larger epiphytes such as orchids. Some trees have spiny surfaces that catch debris and that debris acts as a substrate for miniatures. Other trees have a non-toxic bark and they too are laden with epiphytes. In a cloud forest it is moist enough so that the epiphytes can be miniature, yet not dry out.



Lepanthopsis astrophora is a charming miniature with sprays of 4mm, quite flat, red-brown flowers.

It can be grown in tiny clay pots suspended by fishing lines from barbed wire strung horizontally across posts emerging from the ground. The barbs stop the pots from sliding and the fishing line makes it very hard for crawling insects and slugs from reaching the plants. Shade cloth protects the suspended pots from too much sun. The potting medium is fine fir bark and moss.

Mounting miniatures:

Lepanthes should be mounted with the leaves hanging down.

If you still have any tree-fern mounts, dig a hole into the slab, wrap the mini into moss and stuff it into the hole. (Tree fern cannot be sold anymore – it is an endangered Appendix 1 plant).

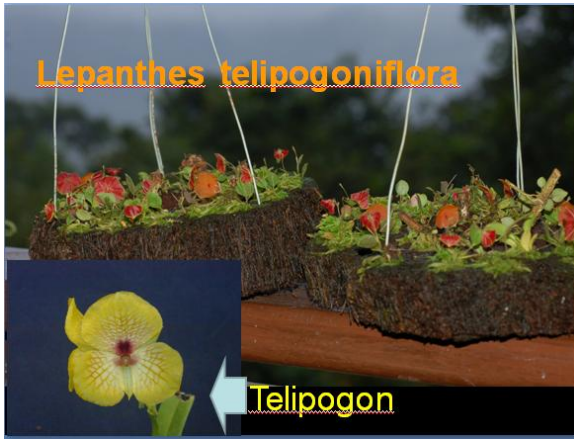
An upright *Lepanthes* is *Lepanthes discolor*. It has sprays of 2-3 large red flowers whose sepals have crisped gold edges. A winner!



Lepanthes niesseniae is similar, but has fuller flowers of a softer red. It is shown climbing up a piece of bark with the leaves arching downward.

Your transcribers favorite miniature was described

next. *Lepanthes telipogoniflora* has huge red to orange flowers that resemble those of a *Telipogon*. In the photo they show them growing in holes dug into a slab of tree fern and stuffed into the hole with sphagnum moss.



Lepanthes telipogoniflora

Telipogon

Miniatures can also be grown in glass globes or tear-drop shaped glass globes. These containers have a large access hole in the side which can be kept as is in a moist greenhouse, but may have to be almost completely covered with Saran wrap in the average Canadian dry home.

The potting medium in these globes is usually good quality sphagnum moss. The moss must be changed frequently, about every 4-6 months.

Never spray water into these globes, but pour it in and then pour it out.

Larger glass cylinders can be adapted as a terrarium too. A little tree trunk or a piece of rounded cork bark could be stood in the middle of it, to mount the miniatures on. Close the cylinder with a glass plate put over the top opening. Place a light above the cylinder. If plants are mounted all around the piece of tree trunk you can place the cylinder on a record player turntable and have it turn at a slow speed (adjust the set speed!) and in this way give even illumination to all plants. (One of our shows had a display of a *Lepanthes telepogoniflora* with a huge flower displayed – and grown- this way minus the turntable though!)

Wardian cases make a great mini cloud forest. Don't forget to supply them with a fan – a small muffin computer fan works well.

If adapting is not your thing you can buy a so-called Biodome that comes complete with a top with holes for ventilation.



Instead of pots you can use coconut shell halves with holes drilled into the bottom for drainage and air. Use fine bark as the medium. A *Barbosella prorepens* seemed very happy in its coco-nut shell and sent up lots of little yellow “mosquito”-like flowers with huge “biting mouth-parts”, the dorsals...



Even a huge round pine cone was adapted as a miniature pot! A hole was drilled into the stem part through to the bottom or tip of the cone, three further small holes into the sides to thread wires for hanging it. Then put the miniature with some sphagnum moss into the centre hole. Now all you have to do is keep the cone wet so the scales don't open! Automatic watering reminder when they start to do so!

The last potting suggestion: use the tops of clear plastic drink bottles as containers. Cut the top fluted part of the bottle off with a pair of utility

scissors. Use a soldering gun to melt or a drill to drill, two to three holes near the cut rim for suspending wires,

then melt or drill a few holes into the bottle cap for drainage. Wrap your miniature in a bit of good quality sphagnum and push it into the neck of the bottle. Again change the moss often as in the globes.

Pleurothallis rubella seemed very happy in its bottle-top pot. Its leaves reached beyond the rim of the cut-off bottle and its light red flowers nodded over the edge.



Epidendrum porpax does well mounted on a tree

trunk over a pad of moss. It needs good light to develop good flower colour. It has crowded, short lance-shaped leaves alternating on creeping stems. The flowers are light to dark moss green with a shiny wide band of light to dark red-brown across the distal half of the lip.

Epidendrum escobarianum was mounted facing down on a piece of cork bark. It too has crowded short lance-shaped leaves, but they have several most attractive red-brown horizontal bars across the blade of each leaf. The 2-3 flowered inflorescences emerge from the ends of the pendant stems and have spidery light moss-green sepals and petals and red-brown lance-shaped lips.

Most *Dichaea* species have short weak stems densely covered by alternating short lance-shaped plain leaves. The flowers emerge anywhere along the stems and are usually in shades of red-brown, but can even be white.

Don't use moss for *Dichaea*, but just tie them down onto cork bark with plastic netting.

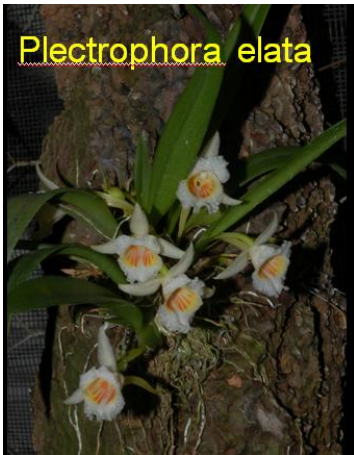
Dichaea histrionica is quite special. Its leaves have fringed edges and its large flowers emerge from the ends of the stems. They are translucent chartreuse with light red-brown barring. The fly in the ointment? You can't grow it because it must live on bamboo trees – presumably live ones! (Now that is a challenge if I ever heard one!)

Maxillaria xylobiflora (when Schlechter named this species he must have looked at *Xylobium ornatum*, because I could not find any other *Xylobium* that resembled this species at all.) This is a cute miniature that has single yellow, typical *Maxillaria* flowers that are quite large for the size of the 2-3cm plant. The plant consists of three-leaved fans of leaves. It was potted in fine charcoal in a clay pot.

Another interesting miniature was a *Cryptocentrum* species. It had a mini-Vanda growth habit and the single beige, spidery flowers emerging in profusion from amongst the leaves.

Plectrophora elata was grown mounted on a cork plaque with a small amount of sphagnum moss under it. It had lovely white flowers and yellow veins in the lips.

Notyliopsis beatricis is a miniature with translucent palest chartreuse, shaded with rose, flowers that are produced prolifically on long inflorescences.



Plectrophora elata



Erycina pusilla

Ericina (*Psygmorchis*) *pumilio* and *pusilla* are two most desirable very similar species with little fans of rigid leaves from which emerge the yellow (with or without red-brown spotting) Oncidium-like flowers. The flowers are large for the size of the plant. They are twig epiphytes and tend to be short-lived, since the thin twigs they live on are short-lived. Ripping them partly off their mount can often make them flower, because they think they are about to die....

They can be grown in the tiny clay pots mentioned before or mounted fans facing down on tree-fern plaques or cork bark with little or no moss under them –but high humidity.

Ornithocephalus bicornis is a member of another genus of orchids with miniature fans of leaves. The flowers in the above species are arranged spirally on a pendent inflorescence and are white with a wide yellow lip. The

species is very floriferous. The various species of this genus are very often misidentified, because the flowers are so small and are all more or less of the same two types of colouring:

either white and yellow or yellow and green.

Ornithocephalus doloratus and *polyodon* are two more species that are choice ones to grow. The former species has more rounded full flowers and the latter

more loosely arranged flowers with some fringing on the sepal and petal edges.

The other group of *Ornithocephalus* used to

belong to the genus *Sphyrastylis*. They look like yellow-flowered *Ornithocephalus* with green in the often cup-shaped lips. They grow cooler.

Triseuxis falcata is another miniature with fan-shaped leaves. It has sprays of tiny flowers that consist of a large winged ovary with a tuft of white at the top end. This plant will only grow on Guava trees. (It is not listed in Orchid Wiz).

Stelis (*Pleurothallis flexuosa*) *kefersteiniana* is a tufted plant whose beige to brown flowers on close inspection show a showy white fringe on the edges of the dorsal and fused lateral sepals.

Anathallis (*Panmorphia*) *rabei* has pretty flowers with a triangular arrangement of the large sepals that shade from soft red to beige from the base to the apex. The lip and petals are tiny and dark brown, the lip has a reddish band near the apex and a white edge at the apex. The flowers are produced in succession.

Anathallis funerea (*praemorsa*) has flowers with yellow sepals and brown petals and lip. The column underside of the clone shown was magenta.

Specklinia (*Pleurothallis*) *picta* is one of the more commonly grown miniatures. It has tufted narrow leaves and upright sprays of cream, clam-shaped flowers with pointy apices.

Ornithocephalus bicornis



Ornithocephalus tsubotae



Sprecklinia grobyi

Sprecklinia (*Pleurothallis*) *grobyi* was illustrated with a quite showy clone with sprays of flowers arranged alternating on both sides of the inflorescence.

The dorsals were brown and the large fused lateral sepals, yellow. Other clones are much less colourful and not as full. It has fairly wide leaves.

Pleurothallis paraniesseniae (Syn. *Acronia niesseniae*) was illustrated with a plant that had crowded strap-shaped little leaves and peeking out between them were lots of little red-brown typical *Pleurothallis*-shaped flowers, while the centre of the flower, composed of tiny petals clasping the short column, was white. It is a warm growing species.

The next slide showed what may be *Pleurothallis plumosa*, a tiny mound of tufted leaves and peeking out between, little yellow flowers. The flowers did not have the long slender dorsals that Orchid Wiz shows for it.

The photo of *Sprecklinia* (*Pleurothallis*) *macroblefaris*

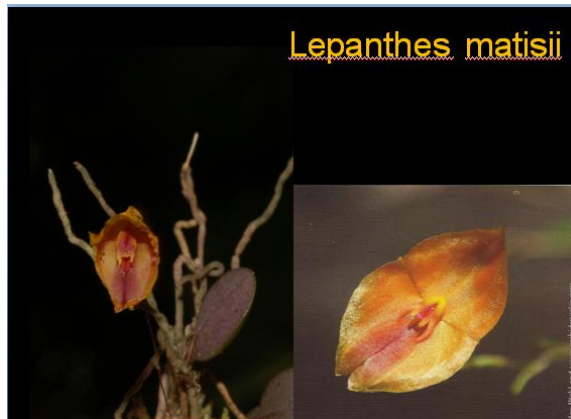
showed a delicate flower held above the foliage. The large flat lateral sepals were slightly hairy and translucent white. The pale peach lip was pressed flat over the split between

them. The dorsal and petals were brown and formed a ring around the white column.

A similar species is *Sprecklinia cestrochila*. Its dorsal and petals are more spread out and just pale brown.

There are many unnamed species waiting to be determined. A little red *Muscarella* with flat red flowers and a *Sprecklinia* close to *intosa* with large pale red flowers are among them.

Next Andrea discussed *Lepanthes*. There are about 300 species of them described so far for Colombia. The first to be described by Lindley in 1834 was *Lepanthes monoptera*. During the next three centuries many collectors were interested in miniatures, among them A. R. Andres who worked mostly in Ecuador and illustrated more than a 100 species of *Lepanthes*. An expedition to New Granada (Present day Ecuador and adjacent states including Colombia) added to the knowledge of the genus. Noteworthy collectors were José Celestino Mutis



Lepanthes matisii

(1732-1808) and Francisco Xavier Matis who produced beautifully detailed paintings of his finds. *Lepanthes matisii* was named for him. It is a

worthy tribute with a showy species that has up to 3cm large round, orange and red flowers.

Lepanthes foveata a species described by Luer and Escobar in 1984 was shown attached to a mossy twig and two of the spiny leaves had an orange little flower crawling like a bug along its mid-vein!

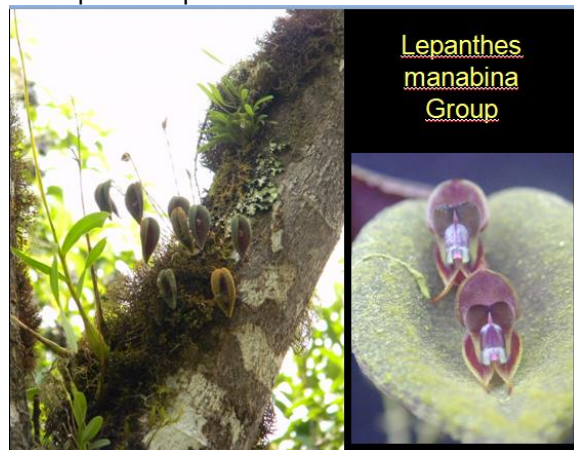
The name *Lepanthes* was coined in 1799 by Olaf Schwartz by combining "lepos" for bark with "anthos" for flower.

Lepanthes manabina can be confused with many similar species. The one shown has purplish-brown flowers, a yellow edge to the sepals and a shiny brown lip with a curled-up white tip.



Sprecklinia macroblefaris

(*Pleurothallis macroblefaris*)



Lepanthes manabina Group

Lepanthes smaragdina is another species with many similar relatives. It has pendent leaves with very pronounced lepanthiform bracts along their petioles. The flowers are lying atop the leaf blade and have light olive green sepals, bright green petals and a brown lip with a green tip. Other species are olive green with yellow, another has rust-brown with a yellow picotee sepals, olive petals and a white lip. Another little beauty had round flowers lying atop a purple-tinged leaf and the flower colours were metallic grey and gold, with a white lip.

Lepanthes felis, the title picture of this article is really choice. It is quite variable in colour of the sepals, that appeared to be fused on the proximal half. The examples shown varied from yellow with a red band around the middle of the sepaline tube, to various shades of red for the expanded part of the tube, while the bottom of the tube was high-lighted with yellow. The

petals were narrow green and rod-like. The tiny lip was green as well.

Lepanthes uribei had hard, flat, little flowers in shades of yellow and pale peach. The greenish petals had a maroon blotch on their upper inner edges.

Lepanthes calodyction is well known and loved for its beautiful leaves. They are round, have tightly crisped edges, a base colour grass green and reticulated light purplish brown. The mosquito sized and shaped red flowers are present almost the whole time. In nature they are found on the shady side of tree trunks growing in moss. Fruit flies pollinate them.

A sister species *Lepanthes tenticulata* is slightly less showy, since its reticulation is paler and thinner. The flower is also tiny and red, but less intricately folded than those of *calodyction*. It needs to be grown warm and humid in a bottle.

Lepanthes dodsonii is also similar to the above two species, but the reticulation is paler yet and the flower is larger, but less colourful.



Lepanthes dodsonii

At Calima Lake, just north of Cali there is a stand of several *Sobralia virginialis* that sure steal the show with their succession of crisp, full white flowers.

But a minute inspection of the trees in the area can reveal a far more striking orchid – mind you in miniature: *Lepanthes calimae*. The top half of the petals has split into two arms and the bottom looks like an extra set of lateral sepals! The colours vary in the species, but this specimen was delicately hued in pink, pale peach and yellow – all ephemerally translucent!

Lepanthes filamentosa has its petals only split into two long filaments, but otherwise resembles *Lepanthes calimae*. It has light brown sepals, the rest of the flower is creamy yellow.

Another unidentified pale yellow species was photographed against the finger of someone posing it and its long sepals had a greater vertical

natural spread than the width of the person's finger.



Lepanthes calimae

The above three species have tiny leaves, dwarfed by their spidery flowers.

Lepanthes tsubotae has shiny rounded red-brown sepals with short tails and red petals and lip. It looks like a tiny *Masdevallia*! Unfortunately it is hard to grow, because it comes from above 3000m altitude and does not like lower elevations.

As mentioned before, many species are as yet unnamed. Andrea showed us three pretty unnamed species one in gold and red, one in yellow, gold and red and one with dark red sepals and orange with a gold edge for the petals and lip.

Lepanthes yubarta in gold with a light red lip was irresistibly attractive to a mosquito of the genus *Bradisia*!

Lepanthopsis acuminata is a member of the cutest genus whose lined up flowers look like a corp de ballet – in this case all with pointy hats and red hearts!



Lepanthopsis acuminata

The next *Lepanthes* went through a lot of name changes but settled for now on *Lepanthes*! All the name changes were probably as a result of the strange growth habit of this species. *Lepanthes pilosella* (*Bracycladium pilosellum*, *Oreophilus pilosellus*, *Pendusella pilosella*, *Neooreophilus pilosellus*) forms a hanging curtain of hairy-leaved stems and the flowers come from any of the

leaves. The flowers are yellow, the large hooded dorsal has red-brown blotches and the smaller fused lateral sepals have each three red-brown longitudinal veins. The tiny lip is red-brown. The column looks like a translucent ball with a spout sitting on a



Lepanthes pilosella

plate, where the plate is probably the column wings. The unmarked yellow petals look like L-shaped straps spread out along the dorsal's lower edge.

Ophidion dasyglossum is of a genus related to *Zootrophion*. This species has quite colourful flowers, gold with mahogany-red spots and of course the slits in the sides of the fused sepals, inviting the pollinator to examine the interior.

The next genus to be illustrated was *Platystelis*. There are about 40 species described as occurring in Colombia. They have a creeping growth habit, short petioles on the leaves and many species with flowers as large as the leaves! The single flowers tend to be flat and the petals are similar to the sepals in size and shape. The first species shown was as yet unidentified, but showy in its miniature way! It had translucent white flowers with yellow mid-veins, the down-sloping petals and lateral sepals were flushed pink and the small lip was red-brown.

A translucent yellow species related to *Platystele* *possadae* had fairly large red-brown lips.

Platystele calantha had full translucent peach flowers and a deep red-brown lip.



Another quite curious species is *Platystele umbellata*. Its velvety red-brown flowers are arranged in dense balls held just below the taller foliage. The columns are white and lend definition and contrast to the mass of flowers whose enlarged lips are the most prominent feature. Irresistible! Andrea also showed a picture of a gold-coloured clone of this species.

Platystele beatricis also has its flowers in clusters, but not really in a ball. The flowers are more spread out and look like miniature cream *Promenaeas* with red lips.

Platystele ortiziana also had somewhat spherical clusters of velvety flowers, this time in dark brown, with the pinched lip red-brown and the column as in *umbellata*, white.

The next genus touched upon was *Specklinia*. It used to be included in *Pleurothallis* and has flowers on short inflorescences, with the flowers looking like wide-open narrow clams. They do well in glass globes. *Specklinia corniculata* has light orange flowers.

Porroglossum is another strange genus. Its flowers are on long hairy stems and have large sepals – the laterals turned down in the unnamed species shown and fairly small lips that fold up over the column when an insect alights on it. When the pollinator scrambles out of the trap pollination occurs.

The genus *Restrepia* contains many delightful, easy to grow species.

They have antenna-like petals. Some examples are in the photograph.



Restrepiopsis niesseniae has small translucent yellow flowers emerging on short stems from the leaf and petiole jointure, on the underside of the leaf. The fused lateral sepals have an apricot tinge and the dorsal and petals a hint of green. The petals are not antenna-like, but rounded and quite full.

Stelis flowers usually have a triangular shape and are borne on fairly long inflorescences.

Stelis ciliata has pendent inflorescences of red-brown flowers, while *Stelis umbelliformis* looks superficially much like the *Platystele umbellata*, but closer inspection shows that the velvety red flowers have the typical triangular *Stelis* shape. The flowers of this species open all at once, not in succession as in the typical *Stelis* species.

The genus *Masdevallia* has mostly miniature members, but of course some are more diminutive than others.



Masdevallia molosoides is a delightful example of a tiny member of the genus. The flowers vary from cream to yellow, variously overlaid brown to mahogany – mostly on the interior of the sepaline tube. Its tails also called caudae, are very short.

Masdevallia herradurae has red-brown flowers whose sepals have tails that are spread out fairly evenly in a triangle. The flowers peek out from amongst the leaves about half-way up the height of the leaves.

Masdevallia wendlandiana has delicate slightly tubular cream flowers whose yellow caudae also form a triangle. The more colourful clones have some magenta or maroon overlay on the proximal portion of the interior of the sepals. The flowers are presented just above or even well above the foliage.

Masdevallia pteroglossa has pale peach flowers, the colour darkening along the veins in the throat of the flowers. The sepals have long tails.

Masdevallia anachaeta has strongly nodding flowers in chartreuse and mahogany.



Masdevallia erinacea

Masdevallia erinacea is delightfully miniature and has relatively large, hairy rust-coloured flowers whose sepals have drooping antennae-like tails.

Another tiny plant is *Masdevallia picturata*. Its tiny tufted plants lift

little white, purple-spotted flowers above the foliage.

Masdevallia andreae is another worthy name-sake for our speaker! The little plant produces deep red flowers whose wide, as good as tail-less sepals are fused into a triangle.

Rodriguezia granadensis is much smaller than most *Rodruiguezias*, but the plant shown was hardly visible under the big spray of white flowers it produced.

Zootrophion alvaroi is an especially tiny member of an already miniature genus. The whole plant just covered half of the width of Andrea's palm! It had bright yellow flowers with the typical snake-head shape, where the eyes are the entrance slits into the interior of the fused sepals cavity.



Trichocentrum brandtia (longicalcuratum)

'Andrea Niessen' AM/AOS, Photo: JC Uribe, OW X3.3

Trichocentrum brandtia (longicalcuratum) is a small member of this already small-growing genus. Andrea received an AM/AOS on a fine clone of the species. It had flat, round white flowers with striking maroon

blotching.

Our speaker also showed us a photo of a two-flowered specimen growing in the moss-covered crotch of a tree.

Stelis quadrifida formerly called *Pleurothallis longissima* as well as *Pleurothallis ghiesbreghtianum* with an abundance of yellow-flowered inflorescences is one of the twig epiphytes that often end up on the ground when the twig they cling to dies and falls off.

So is *Lepanthes imbricans* with a delightful succession of peach flowers and a deep maroon centre of the flower was the last species brought to our attention.



Lepanthes imbricans

Andrea gave us a summary of the culture of the majority of the miniatures she featured:

Orchideas del Valle use 20-19-8 fertilizer at a low concentration. Slow release fertilizer pellets are too strong and may burn your plants to death.

They maintain a pH of less than 7.

Globes are watered by pouring water and fertilizer in and then out –no spraying.

Terraria with branches for mounting the miniatures make good homes for them.





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Sept 3 2017 Show Table Ribbons

Class	First	Second	Third
Class 1 Cattleya Alliance	Cattleya (Lc) Crownfox Sweetheart 'Paradise' Synea Tan	Rhyncattleanthe (Pot) Toshie's Charm John Vermeer	Rhyncholaeliocattleya(Pot) Newberry Delight 'Newberry' X Rhyncholaeliocattleya(Pot) Dream Circle 'Fordyce' AMAOS John Vermeer Cattleya (Lc) Love Castle Synea Tan
Class 2 Paphiopedilium	Paph basket Stan Luk		
Class 4 Oncidium and related	Colm Masai Red Synea Tan		
Class 5 Cymbideae	Cygd Wine Delight AM/AOS Synea Tan		
Class 6 Dendrobium	<i>Den moniliforme</i> 'Beni Botan' Stan Luk		
Class 7 All Others	<i>Habenaria radiata</i> 'White variegated' Stan Luk		



flora-peculia 

orchidées japonaises
japanese orchids and orchid species

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Annual Show: February 10-11, 2018.