



# British Orchid Council

....promoting orchid growing...

I am quite sure this won't apply to anyone in your society—but it seems some people still haven't heard about the Covid-Congress! So please, everyone, make sure that these bulletins get forwarded to all the members in your society and anyone else who might be interested so that nobody misses the deadline. I am including (again!) the details about entering the Congress at the end of the bulletin.



**Official closing date for entries Sunday 7th June**

Entries to: [chairman@british-orchid-council.info](mailto:chairman@british-orchid-council.info)

website: <http://bocovid19congress.org.uk/>

***However as I will be processing entries on Monday morning if anyone has something special last minute make sure it reaches me by 12 noon on Monday - Helen***

Our traders this time are two companies that only trade online and at shows

1. [Orchid Botanics](https://orchidbotanics.co.uk/) [www.https://orchidbotanics.co.uk/](https://orchidbotanics.co.uk/)

operated by Trey Sanders who has kindly allowed us to publish his Dendrochilum article this time. He also runs a Dendrochilum website which is well worth looking up [www.dendrochilum.com](http://www.dendrochilum.com)

2. [Phalaenopsis and more](http://www.phalaenopsisandmore.co.uk) [www.phalaenopsisandmore.co.uk](http://www.phalaenopsisandmore.co.uk)

operated by Frances Quesada Pallares (hope I've spelt that right!) Both of these guys will be well known to you if you attend many shows



## **Posted on the Covid-19 website this week-**

1. The case of the faded label - *an orchid mystery story by Chris Barker*. Well worth a look and read!! A clickable link is on the web site or copy and paste this link into your browser <https://vimeo.com/422102291>

2. There are two talks by Philip Seaton, who will be well known to everyone

**Talk 1:** *Odontoglossum crispum (Oncidium alexandrae if you prefer)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAxnzrTOpow>

**Talk 2:** Biodiversity and Orchid Conservation

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaS\\_FbM7\\_7I&feature=youtu.be&t=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaS_FbM7_7I&feature=youtu.be&t=1)

3. And a third by Rudolf Jenny on Stanhopeas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rzjqEoj9-M&feature=youtu.be&list=RDCMUCABkbiZnETdXL8kbXtWI-uw&t=2>

*If you come across anything else interesting, let me know, so that I can post the link in the bulletin for others to enjoy!*

## Growing Dendrochilum – Trey Sanders

*Dendrochilum* is a large genus of plants. Currently 316 are described and there are many more undescribed plants in the wild and in cultivation that I am aware of.

*Dendrochilum* are primarily found in montane and submontane forests at elevations between 1,000-2,500 metres. The preferred type of forest for many species is wet and mossy cloud forest. Some species are found up as high as 3,800 metres in very cold conditions while others are found at sea level on mangroves around Singapore in very hot conditions. This makes generalising culture for *Dendrochilum* inadvisable. One thing that I discovered from observing them in the wild is that they like a lot more light than I originally thought. I have since increased the level of light they receive in the greenhouse.



The picture above shows many orchids including *Dendrochilum* growing in thick moss.

*Dendrochilum aurantiacum* can be seen cascading from the tree branches. The plants are growing just beneath the tree canopy and at about 25 metres (82 feet) up.

*Photo: Trey Sanders*



*Dendrochilum ophiopogonoides* var. *korintjiense* growing in full sun in a swamp in Sumatra. The humidity in the swamp averaged 85%, higher than the average of 78% elsewhere nearby.

Please note that this is the first time that photographs of this species have been published anywhere!

*Photo: Trey Sanders*

What makes *Dendrochilum* a rewarding genus to grow is the sheer number of flowers that a plant can produce when grown well. Not all species produce long inflorescences of many small flowers but most of the plants in cultivation do. There are even miniature species that are well suited to vivarium and paludarium growing. To learn how to grow a *Dendrochilum* well in cultivation you need to understand how they grow in the wild.

I estimate that this plant of *Dendrochilum afkorintjiense* has approximately 70,000 flowers on it!

The plant is growing in full sun on the edge of the forest.

*Photo: Trey Sanders*



This plant of *Dendrochilum tenompokense* from Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia has 30,000+ flowers on it.

*Photo: John Varigos*



One thing *Dendrochilum* like a lot of is moisture. Don't ever allow *Dendrochilum* to stay dry for long.

There is one group of *Dendrochilum*, the '*convallariaeforme*' group, that seem to like conditions drier than most others in the genus. I always advise not to let plants dry out. There are some growers, including myself, that keep pots in trays with water but caution is needed before adopting this approach. Make sure that plants are given good quality water.

*Dendrochilum* like humidity, an average of 65-80% humidity is suitable. If humidity is too high and air movement low or non-existent new growths will rot. I grow in a greenhouse with a hydrofogger, this blows a gentle cool mist over the plants which they seem to like.

Plants divide easily but if you want to grow a specimen plant, I recommend letting them grow.



Specimen plants can look breath taking such as these two plants.

*Dendrochilum propinquum*.

Photo: Jeffrey Tyler

*Dendrochilum parvulum*

Photo: Jeffrey Tyler



Many of us will be familiar with *Dendrochilum glumaceum*, *Dendrochilum cobbianum*, *Dendrochilum wenzelii* and *Dendrochilum filiforme*. However, there are other *Dendrochilum* that I highly recommend for growers and which include:



*Dendrochilum gracile* Photo: Trey Sanders



*Dendrochilum kopfii* Photo: Malcolm Perry



*Dendrochilum arachnites* Photo: Trey Sanders



*Dendrochilum cootesii* Photo: Trey Sanders



*Dendrochilum woodianum* Photo: Trey Sanders



*Dendrochilum coccineum* Photo: Malcolm Perry

Some  
Phalaenopsis  
pictures for  
you...  
One or two  
more unusual  
species and  
different forms.



*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*



*Phalaenopsis javanica*



*Phalaenopsis viridis*



Phalaenopsis 'Nancy Joy'

### Peloric Phalaenopsis

You either love these or hate them, but  
some are a lot prettier than others, to be  
fair

They can have three complete lips or one  
main lip and two dorsal petals which are  
partly formed as lips (semi-peloric)



Full Peloric form



Semi-peloric form

Finally—

can anyone recognise this handsome guy?? One clue - he's an expert orchid grower!

But more importantly does anyone know where and when the picture was taken??



I hope you can all manage to keep your orchids cool and shaded in this hot weather. My greenhouse has been over 30°C most days so far. It has really made a change, at least here in the Midlands. We seem to have had nothing but cold and rain for so long this winter after a very wet and cool summer last year. But its not good when you are growing Pleurothallids in a greenhouse!!

And do remember to enter any last minute pictures you can into the Covid-19 online Congress. Entries are now coming in faster and I am expecting a last minute rush—so I hope I won't be disappointed!

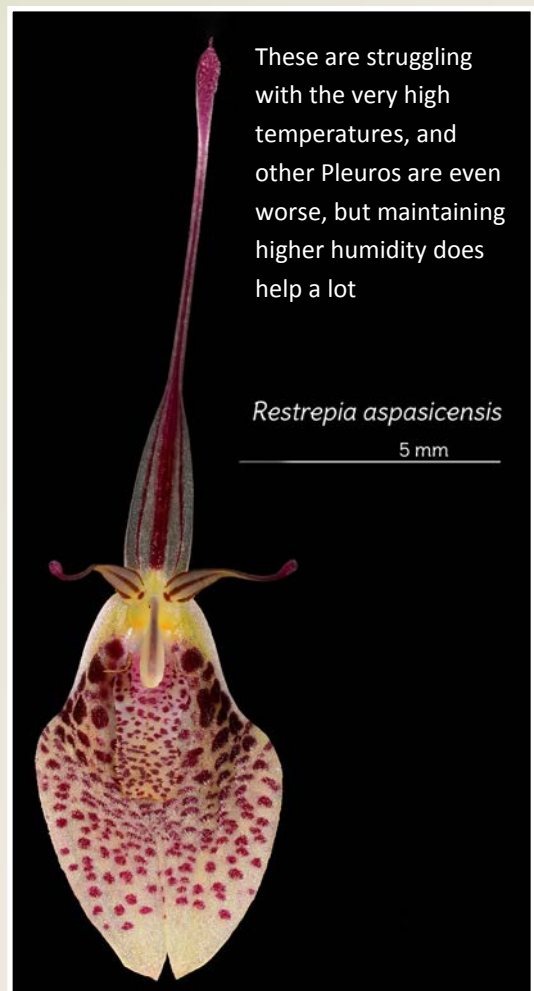
We would all like this to be a huge success as there has been a lot of work put into getting it off the ground by different people on behalf of BOC.

But we can't do it without your entries!!

So take your pictures and email them to me at

**chairman@british-orchid-council.info**

**Stay safe and keep your orchids cool!!**





# FAQ

## 1. Who can enter?

If you are in the UK - a) anyone who is a member of an orchid society

AND b) anyone else who grows orchids!

Not in the UK?—you may still enter provided you are either a member, honorary member, affiliated member etc. of a UK orchid society.

(e.g. OSGB and Central OS both have overseas members)

## 2. How many pictures can I enter?

As many as you like!! But please use common sense and don't send dozens!!

## 3. Closing date for entries?

**Sunday 7th June** This means the final results will come out just after the dates for the Malvern show that couldn't be held this year.

## 4. What do I put in my email with my entry?

*very simply:*

**You only need to put your name and the name of your OS if you have one**

Your images should be attached as .jpg files labelled with the correct name of the orchid

eg *Restrepia antennifera* plant.jpg *Restrepia antennifera* flower.jpg

## 5. My orchid is an unidentified species

Then label it as sp. (for species!) after its genus.

For example a *Pleurothallis*, (which never seem to have their specific name) would be labelled as - *Pleurothallis* sp,

Other genera might be *Catasetum* sp., *Dracula* sp.

# Checklist

1. Clean up and present your plants as carefully as you would for any ordinary show
2. Photograph them against a plain background
3. Photograph both the whole plant and a single flower
4. Save the images with the correct file names as jpg images (see above)

**Most importantly....**

## 5. ENTER THE CONGRESS!!

email your images to:

**[chairman@british-orchid-council.info](mailto:chairman@british-orchid-council.info)**