

# The Wonderful World of Miniatures

Jay Norris 2017

OR

Little Things I've Grown and Killed

# What Is A Miniature?

## Why Miniatures

- Smaller than 15cm/6" without inflorescence
- Many easy to grow in the house – definitely not all!!
- Don't take up much space
- Allows you more variety!!

# *Lepanthes telipogoniflora* 'Magic Bubble' CCM/AOS



A low elevation species from South America with flowers much bigger than the leaves

Requires warmth and very high humidity

Easy to grow in a sealed globe on a bed of New Zealand Sphagnum moss

Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant

**NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY**

# *Lepanthes caloura*



- Lower elevation species From South America, the 1cm tall flowers are on the back side of the leaves
- Requires high humidity and slightly cooler temperatures, doing well in a cooler basement
- Relatively easy to grow in a small pot with loose New Zealand Sphagnum
- No direct sun – low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# *Lepanthes* Cléopâtre

## 'Elven Queen' HCC/AOS



- A hybrid produced by Ecuagenera from Ecuador by crossing *Lepanthes ionoptera* and *Lepanthes cloesii*
- Requires cold and very high humidity
- Easily grows and flowers in my converted wine cooler mounted on a cork plaque with a small bed of New Zealand Sphagnum
- Sequential bloomer on the same inflorescence with each flower about 2.5cm in height, and up to 8 flowers
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# *Lepanthes calodictylon*



- A low elevation species from South America grown more for its leaves than flowers
- Requires warmth and very high humidity
- Easy to grow in a partially sealed globe on a bed of New Zealand Sphagnum moss or on a small plaque
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# *Lepanthes saltatrix*



- A low elevation species from South America grown both for its leaves and flowers
- Requires intermediate temperatures and very high humidity
- Not as easy to grow in a partially sealed globe, it does well in a cooler terrarium on my kitchen counter, on a bed of New Zealand Sphagnum moss on a small plaque
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY



# *Dresslerella caesarita* 'Marsh Hollow'



- A higher elevation plant requiring cool to cold temperatures to grow and flower well, but it will survive in the cooler basement
- Requires very high humidity and excellent drainage
- Growing easily on a PVC tube wrapped with coir fibres and a bit of sphagnum. The flowers continue to grow as they mature reaching almost 3cm tall
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# Slc. Japanese Beauty



- A modern complex hybrid, this Cattleya alliance does well with intermediate temperatures
- Grows easily potted in pure New Zealand sphagnum in a clear pot so the sun gets on the roots
- Flowers once a year for me
- Handles good bright light, but avoid direct sunlight for long periods of time if you don't have good air circulation
- Can survive going dry between waterings but will slow down flowering frequency

# *Lepanthes orchestris* 'Elven Rubies'

## CBR/AOS



- A high elevation species from South America, doing best in cool to cold temperatures along with high humidity for me
- Flowers are only 2mm tall
- In my cooler, on a cork plaque with a small bed of moss with constant air circulation
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# *Masdevallia deformis* 'Perfecto'

## CCM/AOS



A high elevation species from South America

Requires cool to cold temperatures and very high humidity

Definitely not a beginners plant – grown in converted wine cooler 11-22°C , 95% RH

Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant usually in the bottom of the cooler

It is definitely NOT happy outside the cooler



# Paphiopedilum Little Alexander



- This is man made hybrid of small Paph helenae and larger Paph gratixianum.
- Adapts easily to home conditions
- Easy to grow in a fine bark mix, or straight Orchidata
- Absolutely no direct sunlight , but East window is fine.
- **NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY** – Paphs have root hairs that will die when left to dry, and they will not regrow

# Rossioglossum orstedii

## 'Marsh Hollow Gem' CHM/AOS



- A cool to cold grower from Costa Rica and Panama at 1600-3400m
- The whole plant is typically under 15cm tall, and the flowers are crystalline, fragrant and long lived
- Not an easy species to grow, this rare plant is slow growing
- Moderate light is important as well as good humidity and air movement
- Like most miniatures, totally drying out is not good

# Tolumnia Jairak Firm 'Strawberry' HCC/AOS



- A low elevation species from South America grown more for its leaves than flowers
- Requires intermediate temperatures and good air flow
- Requires a quick draining media so the roots dry
- Tolerant of bright light
- Many bright 3cm flowers on long inflorescences

# Promeneia Ben Berliner 'Hill Island' CCM/AOS



- A hybrid of lower elevation species, this does well with intermediate temperatures
- Requires constant humidity and even moisture in the media
- Relatively easy to grow given enough humidity
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY



# *Ponerorchis graminifolia*



- A Japanese terrestrial, it is occasionally available in Canada. It grows from a tuber. I saw this available in Japan for ¥4,000 – or about \$47 CDN
- Requires moisture when growing and has a definite rest period: when it goes deciduous you hope you have grown next years tuber replacement!
- I have had success in chopped NZ sphagnum, silica sand and fine bark, but not long term
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY when growing, keep from desiccation when dormant

# *Ponerorchis graminifolia*

## 'Flight of Angels' HCC/AOS



- This is another example and happens to have been a plant I killed after three years.
- The entire plant was 12cm tall, with 6 flowers each one 1.5cm x 1.5cm.
- AS I mentioned, I still have not figured out the secret to long term culture for these little gems.

# *Dendrobium moniliforme*



- A wide ranging Asian species which show great variety in its vegetative forms
- Requires warmth, moisture and moderate humidity when actively growing and a cooler dryer winter rest
- Shown here mounded in a traditional Japanese pot
- Light can effect the many degrees of variegation in leaf colours and patterns
- Fragrant flowers

# *Paphiopedilum henryanum*



- A low elevation species from Southeast Asia which readily forms clumps when well grown
- Easily grown in the house
- Grows well in deep pots allowing roots to grow deep, in a fine bark mix or Orchiata
- Absolutely no direct sunlight
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY or root hairs will be lost - they do not regrow



# *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii* ‘



- A higher elevation plant from New Zealand which appreciates cooler temperatures with high humidity never drying out completely
- Grows well in my converted cooler at the top closest to the lights
- Grows in smaller pots with New Zealand moss mixed with styrofoam beads
- Can tolerate bright light with cooler temperatures and moist media
- Blooms in a flush with flowers that can last up to 5 months

# Bulbophyllum taiwanense



- A mid elevation species from about 1000m in southern Taiwan, grown for delicate flowers
- Requires warmth and high humidity
- Relatively easy to grow in a small pot in NZ sphagnum
- Direct sunlight should be avoided – indirect light is best
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# Dendrochilum parvulum

## 'Tom's Favorite' CCM/AOS



At 1200m this plant is endemic to the Philippines growing on mossy trees

Requires cool temperatures

Must never be allowed to dry out completely

Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant

Easy for some people, not so much for me

# Mediocalcar paradoxum subspecies paradoxum 'Tomato' CBR/AOS



- A low elevation species from Aesiana growing warm to hot
- Requires warmth and high humidity
- A unique plant for the collection, these flowers are 1cm tall, and the plant is rangy
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY





# Chilochista parishii

## 'Synea's Green Apple' AM/AOS



- A low elevation species from Vietnam through the Himalayan Kingdoms
- Requires and humidity – this is a leafless orchid! It produces small leaves just before flowering
- Must be grown on a small plaque and be misted daily
- Bright indirect light is good
- Do not allow to go dry for extended periods

# Scaphosepalum fimbriatum

## 'Chocolate Drop' AM/AOS



- A horned flower from northern Ecuador at 750 to 1000m
- Accepts intermediate conditions with good humidity
- Easy to grow in straight NZ sphagnum or on a mount with daily misting – do not allow to dry out completely
- Indirect light and good air movement is needed
- Inflorescences will rebloom, sometimes for up to 2 years – almost always in bloom

# Masdevallia Kaleidoscope

## 'Ilia's Beauty' FCC/AOS



- A hybrid bred by the late Mario Ferrusi, the colours just jump right at you - and the flowers are 6.5cm wide and 15cm tall
- Requires cool temperatures and high humidity, so a basement setup is possible
- Mario grew in New Zealand sphagnum mixed with styrofoam beads
- Requires indirect light
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# *Encyclia mariae*



- A intermediate plant from 1000-1200m Mexico, this is suited to house temperatures
- Does best mounted on a plaque and given a dry winter rest
- It can be semi-deciduous
- The flowers are fragrant!! And on nicely arching inflorescences
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY especially when growing, mist occasionally during the winter to prevent shriveling of pseudobulbs

# Neofinetia falcata 'Manjushage'



- A native of Japan, the Samurai Orchid
- High prized for various colour forms of leaves and flowers – here we have one with three cectaries
- Relatively easy to grow, they are traditionally grown on a mound of Sphagnum which is hollow inside, in intricate hand-decorated pots
- Moderate light and cooler/drier in the winter produce flowers – warmer and moist in the summer
- Can easily summer outside with attention



# *Spiranthes cernua*



- This is native to our Bruce Peninsula and is occasionally available at nurseries – DO NOT REMOVE FROM THE WILD.
- Requires wet bog like conditions to flourish
- Can be grown in a a ‘fake’ peat bog in our backyards with sufficient water – very intolerant of high mineral content in the water
- Can tolerate direct sun
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY

# *Cattleya Parapandola* 'Red Elf'

## AM/AOS



- A hybrid produced by Fred Clarke at Sunset Valley Orchids
- Requires intermediate to warm temperatures
- Grow in New Zealand sphagnum moss in a clear pot and allowed to dry between waterings
- Tolerates bright light and flowers as each growth develops producing 3 blooms every two years

# *Phalaenopsis* Jai Ho Summer Love 'Little Pixie' HCC/AOS



- A free flowering hybrid designed to be easy to grown in the house in New Zealand sphagnum each flower about 5x5cm
- Flowers can last for several months and the inflorescence will continue lengthening until the tip dies
- Absolutely no direct sunlight or the leaves will burn
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY



# *Paphiopedilum malipoense* 'Two Flowers' CCE/AOS



- A high elevation species from southern China and northern Vietnam - this clone produced 13 flowers on 8 inflorescences up to 77 cm tall, but the plant is only 15cm tall
- Requires cool to cold temperatures and higher humidity
- Not easy to grow, this plant does best with very cool temperature in winter with limited water
- Can tolerate bright light as long as the air temperature is cool
- NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY as they have root hairs

# Jewel Orchids



- These are low elevation species from South-east Asia, grown more for its leaves than flowers
- Requires warmth and very high humidity
- Relatively easy to grow in New Zealand Sphagnum
- Absolutely no direct sunlight – a relatively low light plant
- **NEVER ALLOW TO DRY OUT COMPLETELY**

**Thank-you**

**Jay Norris**

**[jay@ravenvision.ca](mailto:jay@ravenvision.ca)**

**[ravenvision.ca](http://ravenvision.ca)**