

Presentation format: Oral

Growing miniature orchids in the tropics

Leong Yuan Wah

Orchid Society of South East Asia

Miniature orchids, measuring no more than 12-15 cm (5-6 inches) in height, deserve a place in any orchid enthusiast's collection. Like their more showy and larger relatives, their flowers do not disappoint with their various shapes, sizes and colours. Some are even fragrant! Due to their small size, one can cultivate many more miniatures than larger plants within a limited area. The culture of miniatures is no different from larger orchids. In Singapore, we often encounter many delightful miniature species from large genera such as *Dracula*, *Masdevallia* and *Specklinia* (*Pleurothallis*) in the catalogues of temperate countries. Unfortunately, many are intermediate and cool-growing, which means they will not thrive in our hot and seasonless weather. This presentation will feature a selection of miniatures from Asia and beyond, which grow and flower well under our tropical climate. Some of the large genera, such as *Dendrobium*, *Bulbophyllum*, and *Eria*, are so diverse in their cultural requirements and sizes that there are plenty of miniature species available to collectors. Unique miniatures from genera with very few species, and even leafless epiphytes, will also be showcased.

Keywords: miniatures, tropics, culture, limited area, leafless epiphytes