

Presentation format: Plenary presentation

The species and hybrids of *Dendrobium* section *Latouria* and allied genera

Phil Spence

Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Dendrobium and *Bulbophyllum* are the largest genera within Orchidaceae. The focus of my research has been on *Dendrobium*, particularly the section *Latouria*. In this talk, I will share my trials, experiences, and insights into the 83 known species within this section. The talk will begin with a historical and geographical overview, highlighting the significant impact of altitude on temperatures and climate. I will then delve into various species within *Dendrobium* sect. *Latouria*, emphasising the altitudes at which they thrive. Over the course of more than 60 years, I have dedicated a substantial portion of my life to growing, researching, and raising these species from seed. I have also made them accessible to others, creating numerous hybrids within the *Latouria* section and between this section and other sections of *Dendrobium*. Furthermore, I have organised and participated in field trips to Papua New Guinea and other regions where species of the *Latouria* section are distributed, recording valuable information about their habitats. Using these species as the foundation of my lifelong journey, I have aimed to develop remarkable hybrids catering to a wide range of climatic conditions. Alongside showcasing the flowers of my latest hybrids, I will also present some of the newly named species.

Keywords: *Dendrobium*, *Latouria*, species, hybrids, distribution, new species