

JANUARY EVENTS

Monthly Meeting: 8:00 pm Monday, January 14, 2019
Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Pre-meeting Class (7:15-7:45) : Barbara Barnett will have a discussion for novice growers.

Program: Helen (HB) Blythe-Hart

Members may bring plants to sell.

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Bulletin

January 2019

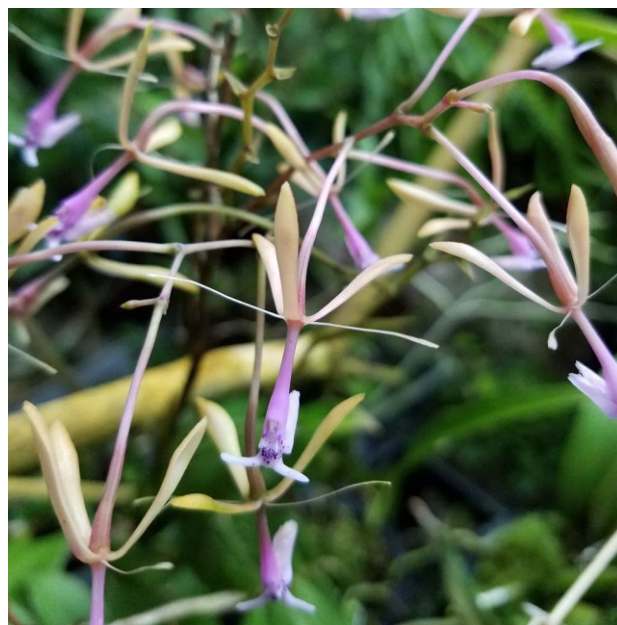
Annual Show Volunteers

We need to start getting ready for our next show! Some of the positions we could really use help with for the March show include:

Society Exhibit Setup – Paul is no longer here, so someone else needs to step up and take charge of the society exhibits. This includes planning what materials are needed, arranging transportation of those materials to the show, getting the display built, and then arranging the plants and final dressing of the exhibit space.

Society Table Coordinator – I could use someone to help coordinate staffing of the society table throughout the show and help make sure that all of the appropriate materials (signs, membership/payment materials, AOS/Orchid Digest samples & signup forms, etc.) are at the society table and ready to go each morning.

There are plenty of other things to do for the show, if you've noticed something in the past that you might want to help with please let me know.



Epidendrum capricornu at ABG



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Lynne Gollob****Silent Auction – Carson Barnes****Monthly Ribbon Judging –
David Mellard****Newsletter – Danny Lentz & Mark Reinke****Orchid Digest Rep– David Mellard****Show Chair – Danny Lentz****Website Committee – Danny Lentz,
Jan Spenard, Jeremie Carroll****The Atlanta Orchid Society Bulletin**

Volume 60: Number 1 – January 2019

Newsletter Editors: [Danny Lentz](#) & [Mark Reinke](#)*The [Atlanta Orchid Society](#) is affiliated with the [American Orchid Society](#), the [Orchid Digest Corporation](#) the [Mid-America Orchid Congress](#), and the [Garden Club of Georgia](#)***Minutes of December 10th, 2018 Society Meeting***submitted by Darrell Demeritt*

The December 10, 2018 monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society, held at the Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, was called to order at 7:00PM by David Mellard, President. Everyone was invited to enjoy the holiday covered dish dinner. At 7:55 PM David called the brief business meeting to order. One new guest, Graham, was introduced and welcomed. The minutes of the November meeting as presented in the newsletter were approved by membership after being moved and seconded.

David Mellard provided a brief financial summary on behalf of Treasurer Dan Williamson, with details available through Dan for anyone interested. David provided a review of several upcoming events: AOS Monthly Judging will be held at the Atlanta Judging Center on January 12th at 1:00 PM at the Turner Theater (Hardin Visitor Center), near the entrance to the Garden; Monthly meeting of the AtIOS will be Monday, January 14th, 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. The speaker for the evening will be Vice President "HB" Helen Blythe-Hart who will present on her experience with orchids; the next AtIOS board meeting will be on January 19th at David Mellard's home. The meeting will start at 2:00 PM, preceded by a visit to David's greenhouse at 1:00 for anyone interested; The Gulf Coast Orchid Society Show will be in Gautier, MS on January 25-27th. Anyone interested can contact Jo Ann Vaz at joannvaz@bellsouth.net.

Other upcoming events include AOS Monthly Judging on Saturday, February 9th, The AtIOS Monthly Meeting on Monday, February 11th, the Mobile Area Orchid Society 42nd Show at Bellingrath Gardens and Home on March 1st-3rd, and the AtIOS Orchid Show and Sale on March 8th–10th.

The Board Officers and Trustees for 2019 were presented and installed to their positions for 2019. President: David Mellard; Vice-President: Helen Blythe-Hart; Secretary: Darrell Demeritt; Treasurer: Dan Williamson; Trustee: Carl Quattlebaum; Trustee: Atsushi "Matt" Matusumoto.

The results of the monthly plant judging and ribbon awards were announced followed by a holiday gift exchange among members.

With no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

The next meeting of the AtIOS will be Monday, January 14th, 8:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Hope to see you there!

Events Calendar

January

11-13 – Tamiami International Orchid Festival. Miami, FL
<http://tamiamiorchidfestival.com/>

12 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, (noon) training, (1pm) judging, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden - Hardin Visitor Center - Turner Theater

14 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.
AtIOS vice-president HB Blythe-Hart will give a presentation.

19 – AtIOS Board Meeting , 2 pm
(contact David Mellard for details)

25-27 – Gulf Coast OS Show.
Gautier Convention Center, 2012 Library Lane, Gautier, MS 39553

February

9 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, (noon) training, (1pm) judging, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden - Hardin Visitor Center - Turner Theater

11 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m. Show Preparation

22-24 – Spring MAOC Meeting.
Lansing, Michigan. Contact [Doug Hartong](mailto:DougHartong@maoc.org) 770-594-7334

Future Events

March 1-3 – Mobile Area OS Show. Bellingrath Gardens and Home. Mobile, Alabama.

March 8-10 – Atlanta Orchid Society Show & Sale at the Atlanta Botanical Garden
<http://www.atlantaorchidsociety.org/homepage/atlanta-orchid-show/>

March 27-31 – AOS Members Meeting. San Diego, California.

2020 – World Orchid Conference in Taichung, Taiwan
<https://www.woc23.com/>

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners December 2018

Notes by Mark Reinke
Photos by Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – Rhyncolaeliocattleya George King 'Southern Cross,' AM/AOS – **Mark Reinke & Gary Collier**

The original cross of this fairly compact large-flowered Cattleya was registered by its namesake amateur hybridizer of Sacramento, CA in 1970, and the only resulting plant that ever became commercially available was the 'Serendipity,' AM/AOS form, which was awarded in 1975. The parents were a famous and nearly flawless white, C. Bob Betts, and one of the best yellows of the day, Rlc. Buttercup. In making such a pairing, Mr. King perhaps had visions of lovely pale yellow flowers of exceptional form. But at least at first, that was not the result, due to the purple pigments that were present, but blocked by genetics in C. Bob. Betts. Instead, the yellow background color that resulted was overlaid with a wash of that purple pigment and created a color described by the judges as light salmon with peach overtones.

The 'Southern Cross' form came decades later when a chance mutation in the process of mericlone multiplication produced a plant that lacked any purple pigmentation in the tepals. This rare occurrence was perhaps even more serendipitous than the original! This plant received an Award of Merit in 2002, when presented to the judges

by Carter and Holmes Orchids at an IPA meeting in Kannapolis, NC. They subsequently mericlone it and offered it for sale to their customers with the caveat that they could not be certain the resulting plants would not revert to the original. Luckily their concerns proved to be unfounded as all the resulting plants have retained the breathtaking pale canary yellow of the mutation, with delicate shadings of lavender, yellow and white in the lip. This plant was purchased from them about 15 years ago in a 2.5 inch pot. It should also be noted that this orchid carries a captivating daytime fragrance, which has hints of anise and will fill an entire room with its glorious scent.

Interestingly, while the background color is pale yellow and not white, some semi-alba flowers have resulted from crosses made with the 'Southern Cross' form, even when the other parent was blend of lavender and yellow. So there is a type of color blocking taking place that can be inherited and even enhanced with the right pairing. Another unusual note is that when 'Southern Cross' and the original 'Serendipity' form were crossed back together, some of the seedlings were peachy salmon and others were pale yellow. And while both parents are strictly fall bloomers, many of these offspring also flower in spring, allowing growers to enjoy their long lasting magnificence twice per year.

Red–Cattleya percivaliana– Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

White–Cattleya walkeriana– Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

Class II – Cymbidium Group

Blue - Cymbidium Ming 'Emperor,' AM/AOS - Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

While this beautiful compact *Cymbidium* does not seem to have any of the species typically associated with warmth tolerance in its background, it is nonetheless easy to grow and flower in this region. We obtained the plant from

another grower at the show in



Birmingham several years ago. This past year it was repotted into a larger container and given extra fertilizer while at the same time allowed to sit in a shallow tray of water all growing season. It received full morning sun outdoors and very light shade the balance of the day. This formula is what will produce excellent results with these showy and long lasting orchids. This plant has four strong, self-supporting inflorescences with nearly 100 flowers in total. The spikes were staked before transporting the plant to the meeting to prevent them from banging together and bruising the blooms. Note that it is important to wait until spikes are fully developed on Cymbidium to stake them, especially if you want to adjust the

position of the spike. Young, developing spikes are tender and easily snapped when manipulated. If you can catch them just before the buds start to open the job will be easier.

While there are a few smaller growing species from the mountains of Japan, eastern China and similar areas that need a bit of a drier rest in winter, most hybrids such as this one will not perform well if allowed to dry out completely at that time, and during the growing season *must* be kept wet in order to achieve the most robust growths. Such growths can produce multiple bloom spikes with larger and more numerous flowers.

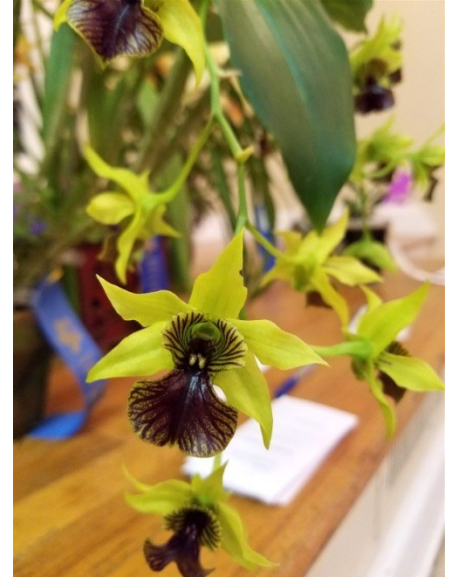
Bright light is also essential, especially in summer while growing, so outside direct sunlight in morning is best with some light shading at midday. We usually leave the larger types out until the first freeze is called for to give them any necessary chill for flowering, but that is not necessary for this variety and many others. These spikes began to develop in September, so this plant was moved into the greenhouse to protect the new, tender buds from snails and slugs. Those voracious eaters consider orchid buds a delicacy and can do considerable damage in a single night.

Class III – Dendrobium Group

Blue – *Dendrobium* Little Green Apples – Rick & Joyce Martinez

In my opinion, this is one of the best green hybrids of the *Latouria* section to date, seemingly always producing spikes of long lasting flowers that have a contrasting black-purple lip, with each growth capable of four or five inflorescences over the course of several years. The cross is *Den. Green Elf*, which is *Den. convolutum* x *Den. alexandrae*, crossed back to *Den. convolutum* and was registered in 2006 by H&R Nurseries on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. *Den. convolutum* is a species from warm rainy low elevation forests on New Guinea,

while *Den. alexandrae* grows a few thousand feet up in the mountains in



cooler, misty conditions on the same land mass. In both cases, plants are growing on mossy trees in dappled light and receive enough moisture that they never dry out at the roots.

Lack of sufficient watering is one of the key reasons this and other *Latouria* *Dendrobiums* don't perform as well as expected. If you are a strictly once per week waterer, then these orchids need a very moisture retentive media. Better care would be water twice per week using a somewhat better draining mix. The most important thing being that the pot should never, ever be bone dry



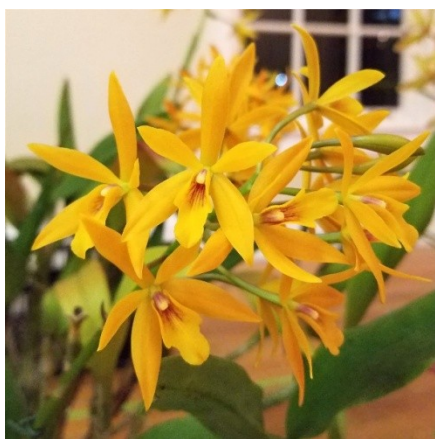
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repeatedly or it will affect the health of the plant. Beyond this requirement, hybrids in this group will grow in a range of temperature and light conditions, avoiding direct sun exposure except perhaps early in the day.

Class IV – Epidendrum Group



Blue – *Epicanthe* Butterfly Kisses 'Mendenhall,' AM/AOS - Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

Of the more than 50 registered hybrids made with our native *Epi. magnoliae* (Southeast coastal plain from Louisiana to southern North Carolina), *Ett.* Butterfly Kisses is one of a select few that have been truly successful, enduring choices for the hobby grower. In this case the other parent was the orange flowered winter blooming favorite, *Ctt.* Trick or Treat. The cross was originated by Highland Tropicals of Half Moon Bay, CA, but was registered by Carter and Holmes Orchids of Newberry, SC in 2001. Giving the cross an official name would have been spurred by them receiving an Award of Merit on the 'Mendenhall' form in January of that year at the Ft. Lauderdale Orchid Society Show. Such awards are considered provisional pending the registration of the cross with the RHS.

Not long after that date, the awarded plant was mericlone by Carter and Holmes, and this plant exhibited is from the first batch of seedlings out of that laboratory procedure, having been purchased by us in a 2.5" pot back in 2004. At

that time we actually purchased two plants, which, while mericlones, are slightly different when viewed side by side in bloom. We liked this cross so much that several years later we purchased an entire flat of young mericlones (approx. 100+ plants) that came from a second batch that Carter & Holmes produced. Sadly, this incarnation of the hybrid seemed to lack the vigor of the first batch, and the plants have never grown to the same stature as the originals. They also exhibited a wider range of variation in the flowers, indicating that the cross can be highly subject to mutation in the laboratory multiplication process.

Another cross worth seeking out that uses *Epi. magnoliae* is *Vaughnara* Fiftieth Anniversary (x *Bc.* Richard Mueller). This particular cross was originated by Carter and Holmes and registered in honor of the 50th anniversary of that company by the Daytona Beach Orchid Society in 2003. The particular cultivar that motivated that club to register the cross went on to receive a 92 point Certificate of Cultural

Excellence in July, 2006 with 259 open flowers and an additional 29 buds! It should be noted that while *Epi. magnoliae* itself is hardy into the teens above zero Fahrenheit, that trait does not seem to be passed on to its hybrids so I would not recommend the risk of exposing them to below freezing weather.

Class V – Oncidium Group



Red– *Oncidium* Tsiku Marguerite– Darrell Demeritt

Oncidium Tsiku Marguerite combines two compact, free flowering species from Mexico and Central America with a double dose of the typically pink *Onc. sotoanum* with a single dose of the yellow flowered *Onc. cheiroporum*. In combination, the pigments most often cancel each other out, resulting in white or cream flowers with a yellow callus. Occasionally a pink flowered plant will result. The former species has a strong vanilla-like fragrance that is passed on, but sometimes with a somewhat medicinal undertone.

The exhibited plant shows only a hint of the potential for the cross. The awarded plants have averaged 66 flowers per inflorescence. At least four of those plants had a total of more than one thousand open flowers when exhibited.

To achieve these results give this orchid bright, but filtered light, regular watering with only slight drying in between, regular fertilizer



Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1-December 31. Anyone joining in the third quarter will get a 50% discount on the current year's membership. Anyone joining in the fourth quarter will purchase a membership for the following year. You can join at one of our monthly meetings, contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application, or complete an application online at our website:

www.atlantaorchidsociety.org

when actively growing and repot about every two years into a moisture retentive, but quick draining mix.

Class VI – Cypripedium Group



Blue – *Paphiopedilum* Toni Semple 'MBF,' HCC/AOS (provisional) – Mark Reinke & Gary Collier

This showy multifloral primary hybrid uses the albino mutations of both parents, which are *Paph. lowii* and *Paph. haynaldianum*. The former species is fairly widespread in portions of Indonesia, Borneo, the Celebes Islands and on the Malay Peninsula, always growing in high rainfall areas in fairly bright conditions up to as much as 4500 feet above sea level. The latter species has a more restricted range in the Philippines on Negros Island and on three disjunctive provinces on Luzon Island, where it grows from sea level to about 4600 feet above. There is a photo of the more typical color form of *Paph. haynaldianum* with the red ribbon winner in this category for the month. Usually there is a bit more purple in the petal tips than this example, but the spots and lines on the dorsal sepal are typical and are an easy way to distinguish it from *Paph. lowii*, which has no spots and much more subtle, networked veining on the dorsal.

While this orchid and its parents are usually billed as warm to hot growers, they have ranges that creep into cooler zones with elevation and we have found that they will still grow and bloom just fine in our greenhouse, which is typically 50-55F at night during the cooler months.

This plant is a first bloomer with 4 flowers on the spike. When older, it could have 5 or even 6 flowers. They open sequentially and each lasts between 2 and 3 months or even longer in cool conditions. The Highly Commended Certificate of 79 points was awarded at the Triangle Orchid Society show last month. It is still provisional because it is not yet available for us to pay on the AOS website.



Red – *Paphiopedilum haynaldianum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum* Hsinying Gold x Giantstone – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group

No Entries

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Vanda* Manuvadee–Darrell Demeritt

Vanda Manuvadee is a hybrid between *V. Ponpimol* and *V. coerulea*, but the parents were listed on the tag in a way that didn't clearly indicate what was going on, so Darrell had entered the plant as an unregistered cross. While the *V. coerulea* makes up 63% of its background, not all of the seedlings

bloomed out violet blue like this one. Some instead were pink and some very pale with purple spots. The cross was originally registered in 1985 which is quite a while ago, raising the question as to whether this plant is from a remake or from the original batch. As David Mellard pointed out, the flower form was not as good as it could be since there are gaps between the segments that in the best examples would be filled by wider, more overlapping segments.

Conditions at the time of blooming can influence flower form of an orchid. This plant had lost quite a few of the older, lower leaves indicating it wasn't growing in an ideal situation. So perhaps with better humidity, water and feeding, along with higher light levels, it could perform better. The recommended care for this orchid under its listing in Orchidwiz is high light, close to full sun with only minimal diffusion, 80% humidity in summer with daily watering and weekly fertilization, but with somewhat less in the cooler months. Because of the amount of *V. coerulea* in the background, a mountain species from Southeast Asia, it should easily tolerate nights in the 50's in winter and may need nights as cool as 60F at least to do its best.

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – *Diodonopsis* (syn. *Masdevallia*) *erinacea*– Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Taxonomists and Kew have decided that this and four other miniature

species deserve their own genus separate from *Masdevallia*, so officially, the accepted name is as above. The plant exhibited had somewhere north of 30 open flowers last year at this time, which definitely put it in league with those plants that have received cultural awards from the AOS. Now it is even bigger (relatively speaking) and better!

The species name is in reference to the flowers' resemblance to a hedgehog. At very close inspection it can be seen that the blooms are covered in small hairs or spines, emoting to the describer of the species the endearing bristly European mammal mentioned. (One that I am surprised has never become naturalized in North

America.)

This delightful elfin species comes from moderate elevations in rainy tropical forests in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Costa Rica. While the range of elevation and fairly wide distribution may imply a plant adaptable to a range of conditions, when dealing with orchid plants this small attention must always be paid to their care if you hope to achieve results like this. The fact that this plant has been exhibited multiple times and has become ever more impressive from year to year shows dedication on the part of Danny. [Dedication, luck, or just a hardy little plant? –Ed.]

Likely he is cultivating this little wonder under lights in controlled conditions. The fact that it is

protected from extreme heat is an important factor in his success, as the ideal temperature range for the species is from mid 50sF to about 80F at a maximum.

There are a loose handful of registered hybrids made by crossing this species to one of the smaller growing *Masdevallia*

hybrids. The first was *Diovalia* Hobgoblin (x *Masd.* Angel Frost) registered in 1994 and I must say the results of it and others I have seen in photography are utterly charming. If you find one you should snatch it up immediately!



Red–*Pterostylis obtusa*– David Mellard

Red–*Stelis nexipous*– David Mellard

White– *Lycaste xytriophora*– David Mellard

White – *Lycaste* Reverend Canon Mari– David Mellard

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan	30	49	28	49	156
Carson Barnes	34	54	37	16	141
David Mellard	25	27	27	26	105
Dan Williamson	34	5	13	6	58
Kurt Drewke & Ariel Christiansen	3	16	15	13	47
Darrell Demeritt	0	14	9	14	37
Roy Harrow	0	12	16	0	28
Jon Crate	21	6	0	0	27
Mark Reinke & Gary Collier	0	0	3	24	27
Janice & David Lankford	15	3	3	0	21
Nancy Newton	0	0	21	0	21
Veronique Perrot	0	6	5	10	21
Vinh Nguyen	2	17	0	0	19
Karl Harden	9	1	5	1	16
Trac Nguyen	0	14	0	0	14
Larry Kikkert	0	3	7	1	11
Bob Grzesik	10	0	0	0	10
Helen Blythe-Hart	0	0	5	5	10
Jeremie Carroll	0	0	0	10	10
Kyle Brooks	0	0	9	0	9
James Roberts	1	1	5	0	7
Maegan Brass	1	5	1	0	7
Geni Smith	0	6	0	0	6
Ellen Brand	0	5	0	0	5
Rick & Joyce Martinez	0	0	0	5	5
Annelies Carl	0	0	3	0	3
Barbara Barnett	0	3	0	0	3
Madlen Wilmes	3	0	0	0	3
Magg & Daryl Wattley	3	0	0	0	3

2018 Ribbon Judging Results

One of the best features of our society is our monthly show tables where we can see a wide variety of blooming orchids grown by our fellow members.

Each year we award prizes for the members with the most points from ribbon judging for each quarter (\$25) and for the entire year (\$50). We had twenty-nine different households win ribbons at the show tables in 2018. Our commercial growers are ineligible to win the prizes, so that eliminates Carson Barnes and the duo of Mark Reinke and Gary Collier from the awards even though they each had enough points to win a quarter. A member can only win one of the four quarterly awards, which typically makes the fourth quarter results very interesting.

This year's winners are:

Q1: Dan Williamson (34 pts.)

Q2: Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan (49 pts.)

Q3: David Mellard (27 pts.)

Q4: Darrell Demeritt (14 pts.)

Year: Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan (156 pts.)

Recent Blooms at the Atlanta Botanical Garden (December 2018)

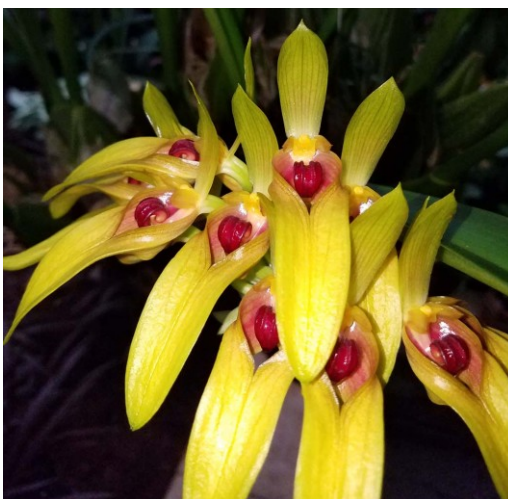
Angraecum superbum



Phalaenopsis viridis



Aspidogyne querceticola



Bulbophyllum graveolens



Dendrobium nemorale



Lepanthes escobarina. This is a giant flower (for a *Lepanthes*).