**The Genus Bulbophyllum**

Thouars 1822

Type species: *Bulbophyllum nutans*

The genus Bulbophyllum was described by Louis-Marie Aubert Du Petit-Thouars in 1822, with the name coming from the Greek bulbos (bulb) and phyllon (leaf). Bulbophyllum and closely allied genera (especially Cirrhopetalum) are considered to be the largest group of orchids. Taxonomists have described at least two dozen allied genera, which have been combined with, and separated from, Bulbophyllum, over the years. This is an enormous genus rife with synonymy. The actual number of species varies depending on whether or not the proposed, closely allied genera are included. Currently, the World Checklist of Monocotyledons recognizes only Trias as a separate genus and includes more than 2000 species in Bulbophyllum. the former segregate Genera Cirrhopetalum, Ione, Epicranthes, Mastigon & Sunipia were subsumed into the Genus Bulbophyllum according to Kew: World Checklist of Selected Plant Families and Genera Orchidacearum Volume 4: Epidendroideae

Predominately tropical or subtropical, although the range can extend into temperate regions. A few dozen species are found in the New World (South and Central American and the Caribbean). Several hundred species are found in equatorial Africa and the island of Madagascar. Most species are found in Asia; ranging from the foothills of the Himalayas (2500 m) in Indochina, down through Southeast Asia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia (especially Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Sulawesii), New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand. The island of New Guinea, which has at least 600 species, is believed to be the dissemination point for the genus. Since Bulbophyllum species are a very diverse and wide ranging group of orchids, only general culture can be given. The grower should try and obtain habitat information for his/her species of interest.

The general characteristics for this genus are: single-noded pseudobulbs, the basal inflorescence and the mobile lip. This genus covers an incredible range of vegetative forms, from tall plants with cane-like stems, to root climbers that wind or creep their way up tree trunks. Other members are pendulous epiphytes (growing on other plants), and quite a number that have developed succulent foliage to a greater or lesser degree. Some species are lithophytic. One species has almost become leafless and uses its pseudobulbs as the organs of photosynthesis. There is a wide range of fantastic flower shapes and sizes (2 mm to 400 mm). The flower form has a basic structural blueprint that serves to identify this genus. But this form can be very diverse: compound or single, with few to many flowers, with the resupinate flowers arranged spirally or in two vertical ranks. The sepals and the petals can also be very varied: straight or turned down, without footstalk or with a long claw at the base. They are often hairy or callous. . The petals have various shapes and sizes but are always much smaller than the dorsal sepal. The column is short, often with 2 erect horns, winged or not, base produced to a long curved foot and 2 - 4 collateral, naked hard and waxy pollinia with stipes present or absent. The fruits are beakless capsules. All have a hinged lip which bobs, weaves, jiggles or jumps in the slightest breeze that aids in pollination. The pollinator (most often a small fly) lands on the lip, which tilts and causes the pollinator to fall back in to the sticky pollina. The flowers are usually short lived (5-7 days) and are occasionally fragrant (while the fragrance can be pleasant it is often quite foul). Many Bulbophyllum species have the typical odor of rotting carcasses, and the flies they attract assist in their reproduction through pollination. Nevertheless, there are many species with mild and pleasant floral fragrance attract fruit flies (particularly Bactrocera spp.) via methyl eugenol, raspberry ketone or zingerone that also acts as floral reward during pollination.

Most bulbos like wooden slat baskets with some treefern and sphagnum as potting media. Bulbophyllum species tend to prefer a minimum of repotting. Mounting (tree fern or cork slabs), well-draining baskets, and pots can all be used successfully. The recommended potting media are sphagnum moss, coir (coconut chips or fibers) and tree fern. The choice of potting will often be dictated by the very long rhizomes of some species. Most species come from humid rain forests. Humidity should be kept at 60%, which can be difficult to do outside of the greenhouse. Water frequently, as both mounted (at least daily) and potted plants (several times a week) will thrive under wetter conditions than most orchids. Bulbophyllum may be the exception to the rule "when in doubt, don't water". Species from more temperate regions often have a dry period, and watering should be adjusted accordingly. The plants' growth habit produces widely spaced pseudobulbs along cord-like rhizome sections, and most of these plants are best accommodated on plaques. Some species in this genus can get very large, but most are small to medium-sized epiphytes from warm, moist, humid tropical forests. They can grow continuously year round with no apparent dormancy period if they are kept warm, are moderate feeders in cultivation, and must be kept moist all the time. They can tolerate dryness for short periods, but they have fine root systems which require moist conditions all the time.

Until recently little hybridizing has been done in the genus however, two particularly attractive hybrids are Bulbophyllum Daisy Chain; an example of the smaller umbellate-flowered group, and Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann; a wonderful example of the large-flowered group.

Judging Bulbophyllum varied due to the vast differences in flower shape and floriferousness, therefore, various scale will be used to judge Bulbophyllum depending on the species involved.

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| Significant species | First. generation | Progeny | Awards | Bloom time | Location/Temperature |
| Bulb. lobbii | 50 | 75 | 1 FCC, 21 AMs, 14 HCCs, 20 Cultural, 5 Other | Su | SE Asia/W-H |
| Bulb. echinolabium | 49 | 63 | 20 AMs, 6 HCCs, 2 CCMs, 1 CHM | Spr / Su | Sulawesi/ W-H |
| Bulb. rothschildianum | 17 | 53 | 2 FCCs, 10 AMs, 2 HCCs, 14 Cultural | Spr / F | SW China, NE India/ H-C |
| Bulb. fascinator | 30 | 51 | 2 FCCs, 10 AMs, 2 HCCs, 3 CCMs, 1 CHM, 1 JC | Su | SE Asia/ W-H |
| Bulb. longissimum | 27 | 68 | 4 FCCs, 4 AMs, 3 HCCs, 3 CCMs, 3 CCEs, 1 CBM | Spr | SE Asia/ W-H |
| Bulb. annandalei | 31 | 36 | 1 FCC, 9 AMs, 2 CHMs, 1 CBR | Spr | Thailand, Malaysia/ W-C |
| Bulb. amplebracteatum | 28 | 32 | 5 AMs, 6 HCCs, 4 CCMs, 6 Others | F / W | Indonesia, Phillippines/ W-H |
| Bulb. lasiochilum | 24  | 34 | 1 HCC, 6 CCMs, 1 CBM, 1 CHM | F | Thailand, Burma, Malaysia/ W-C |
| Bulb. bicolor | 20 | 24 | 5 AMs, 2 HCCs, 2 CCMs, 1 CCE, 1 CHM | Spr | Hong Kong/ W-C  |
| Bulb. mastersianum | 21 | 25 | 1 AM, 1 HCC, 1 CCM, 1 CHM | Spr | Indonesia/ W-H |
| Bulb. frostii | 15 | 22 | 2 AMs, 3 HCC, 2 CCM, 1 CBM | Spr | Vietnam/ C |

Section Aeschynanthoides

Section Alcistachys

Section Altisceptrum

Section Antennata

Section Balaenoidea

Section Beccariana

Section Bifalcula

Section Bifarium

Section Biflorae

Section Biseta

Section Blepharistes

Section Brachyantha

Section Brachypus

Section Brachyostele

Section Brachystachyae

Section Bulbophyllaria

Section Bulbophyllum

Section Carnosisepala

Section Cirrhopetaloides

Section Cirrhopetalum

Section Codonosiphon

Section Comata

Section Denticulata

Section Desmosanthes

Section Didactyle

Section Drymoda

Section Emarginatae

Section Ephippium

Section Epibulbon

Section Epicranthes

Section Eublepharon

Section Furvescens

Section Gilgiana

Section Gongorodes

Section Hemisterantha

Section Hirtula

Section Hoplandra

Section Hyalosema

Section Hymenobractea

Section Ikogoense

Section Imitatores

Section Intervallate

Section Inversiflora

Section Ione

Section Kinethix

Section Lemniscata

Section Leopardinae

Section Lepanthanthe

Section Lepidorhiza

Section Lichenophylax

Section Lupulina

Section Lypeocephalum

Section Macrobulbon

Section Macrocaulia

Section Macrostylida

Section Macrouris

Section Megaclinium

Section Micranthae

Section Minutissima

Section Monanthaparva

Section Monomeria

Section Monosepalum

Section Moratii

Section Napellii

Section Oreonastes

Section Oxysepala

Section Pachyanthe

Section Pachychlamys

Section Pantoblepharon

Section Papulipetalum

Section Pedilochilus

Section Pelma

Section Peltopus

Section Phreatiopsis

Section Piestobulbon

Section Planibulbus

Section Ploiarium

Section Plumata

Section Polymeres

Section Polyradices

Section Pseudopelma

Section Ptiloglossum

Section Racemosae

Section Repantia

Section Rhinanthera

Section Rhytionanthos

Section Saurocephalum

Section Schistopetalum

Section Sestochilos

Section Stachysanthes

Section Stictosepalum

Section Tapeinoglossum

Section Trias

Section Tripudianthes

Section Uncifera

Section Vesicisepalum

Section Xiphizusa

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