

## **At our Last Meeting**

### **Trey Sanders 'My Favourite Plurothallids'**

Devon Society members were treated to an excellent talk by our very own Trey Sanders who started by showing a list of all the groups within the *Pleurothallid* tribe. Some were familiar such as *Masdevallia* and *Lepanthes* but many were completely unknown. He provided a very useful guide to cultivation and described how his greenhouse is shaded for a large part of the day so was ideal. He emphasised the need for high humidity but suggested anything above 75% could encourage rotting and other problems. A hydrofogger was a useful asset in this regard. Rainwater was best and very little if any fertiliser and either netted pots or mounted was ideal. He then described some of his favourite species which was accompanied by some excellent close-up photography which really brought out the beauty of these, often, very small flowers.



*Above: Dracula vampira* (Credit: Trey Sanders)



*Above: Lepanthes elegantula*  
(Credit: Trey Sanders)

*Dracula vampira* commanded high prices, mainly because of the name, although buyers needed to see the actual plant in flower to ensure they had a good clone of this.

*Lepanthes elegantula* had unusually large flowers but in contrast *Lepanthes deileastes* had an amazing structure which required a decent macro camera lens to see the beauty. These were ideal plants for a terrarium and in some cases were continually in flower

*Masdevallia* were clearly a favourite and Trey's preference were for a small plant and big flowers. These were completely different to anything normally seen and one in particular was found growing near the Andes Mountain snow line which emphasised their need for cool conditions. Examples which caught my eye were *Masdevallia cloesii* and *Masdevallia wurdackii* but I think the bizarre *Masdevallia caudivolvula* which really took the prize for weird.



Above: *Masdevallia wurdackii* (Credit: Trey Sanders)

Trey finished his talk by running through a top 20 list which not unsurprisingly included some truly unusual species

from the *Pleurothallid* tribe. *Diodonopsis erinacea* was unlike anything I've ever seen, *Dracula spectrum* had amazing flowers, *Stelis ornata* with its weird flower attachments and a well-deserved 1<sup>st</sup> place for *Trisetella hoeijeri* (which looks like it is just about to take off!)

In summary an excellent talk by a renowned expert in this field which included some stunning close-up photography to reveal the true beauty of these orchids.

Jonny Hartnell



Above: *Masdevallia caudivolvula* (Credit: Eric Hunt)



Above: *Diodonopsis erinacea* (Credit: Wiel Driessen)