

# Species of the Month

July 2007



*Bulbophyllum echinolabium*

## Hedge-Hog Orchid

Easy growing epiphytic *Bulbophyllum echinolabium* can be found growing at lower equatorial elevations in Sulawesi, the Celebes Islands and Borneo where it receives extreme rainfall and can be observed in dense forest. This sympodial unifoliate epiphyte has the largest flower in the genus with a 28 inch long successively single-flowered inflorescence that slowly extends itself with up to 10 or more unpleasantly fragrant flowers that can be up to 16 inches long with pink to crimson sepals and petals with a mobile long sharply pointed orange lip. The blooming season starts in the spring and summer; however, each inflorescence can last 6 months with each flower lasting about 1 week. These plants do not respond well to repotting! Repot infrequently and then only when new roots appear. Maintain growing conditions year around; water may be reduced somewhat in winter. Plants should NOT be allowed to dry out.

### LIGHT

1800-3000 foot-candles: This orchid will bloom at varying light levels. No direct sun!

### TEMPERATURE

Warm to Intermediate; 55°F min. to 90°F.

### WATER

Water thoroughly and heavily while actively growing with only slight drying allowed between waterings. Even though the plants like heavy watering, never allow the roots to become soggy. Do not allow water to collect in the new growths.

### HUMIDITY

70% - 80% is preferred.

### POTTING

Shallow pots or baskets with a medium that provides excellent drainage and aeration around the roots. Many growers use sphagnum moss; however, it may be best if sphagnum is used as an additive to your fast draining medium to help retain moisture. A medium/ fine fir bark mix is okay.

### FERTILIZER

1/4 to 1/2 strength applied weekly while plants are actively growing.