Species of the Month

Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society



Photo courtesy of Jay Pfahl

Psygmorchis pusilla

Miniature Equitant Oncidium

May 2003

Widespread through Mexico and South America, easy growing *Psygmorchis pusilla* can be everblooming. The plants are found growing on trees and shrubs in areas that are hot and humid. These plants grow as twig epiphytes in nature. The 3" long flat pointed, fleshy yellowish-green leaves are about 1/2 wide and stand erect to form a fan-shaped plant. The multiple flowered spikes emerge from the leaf axles on each fan. The blooms are produced in succession with several inflorescences formed by each leaf fan. The yellow flowers with reddish brown spots are 1" inch wide.

LIGHT

Bright; 2000-3000 Footcandles (very bright indirect light). Light should be as high as possible without burning the leaves. Strong air movement should be supplied.

TEMPERATURE

Intermediate to warm; 55°F min. to 85°F max. Summer days average 86 degrees F and nights average 70 degrees F.

WATER

Moist; 3-5 waterings per week (let dry lightly between waterings). Plants should be allowed to dry slightly between waterings. Reduce watering gradually in autumn after the new growth has matured.

HUMIDITY

In the natural habitat the humidity ranges from 75-80% most of the year. For two months in winter it is relatively dry.

POTTING

Plants may be mounted if humidity is high. If potted, use an open fast draining medium. Repotting is best done in the spring when new roots are growing.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizer should be provided on a regular basis during the active growing period, 1/4 to 1/2 strength applied weekly from spring to midsummer. Use a fertilizer high in phosphates in late summer and autumn.

Sources: Home Orchid Growing by Rebecca Northern and Orchid Species Culture Sheets by Margaret L. and Charles O. Baker