

# PLEUROTHALLID

Pronounced plur - oh - THAL – id

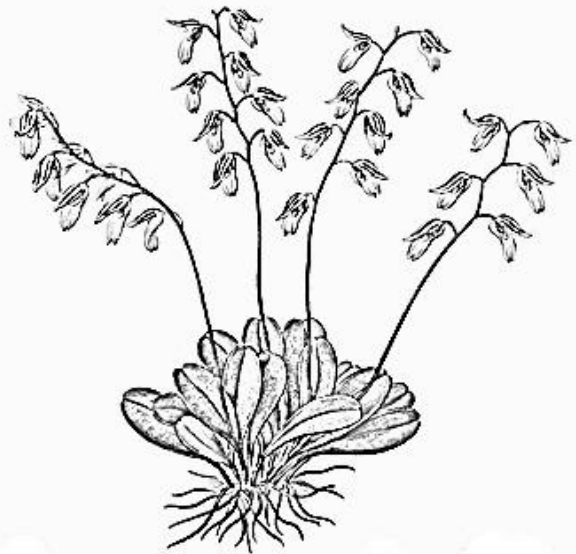
Most of the plants are native to the cloud forests of Central and South America, where they thrive on low temperatures, high humidity and low light, at medium to high elevations.

They range from very small to large plants. Some are epiphytic, some lithophytic and some terrestrial.

The Pleurothallid genera has recently been divided into some 44 different genera so far.

Excellent specific information can be found at the web site of the Pleurothallid alliance.

<http://www.pleurothallids.com/>



*Specklinia grobyi* (syn *Pleurothallis*)

## Healthy Pleurothallids start with healthy roots:

- Many Pleurothallids are best mounted due to their growth habit.
- If potted, the pot size depends on the root mass. Use the smallest possible pot.
- Use small slabs of styrofoam in a bit larger pot to reduce media volume when accommodating top-heavy plants.
- Pot type depends on your conditions and the specific plant. Use plastic, clay or mesh pots.
- Media depend on your conditions, size of plant and its root structure.
- Media should be fast draining, but retain some moisture.
- Sphagnum moss with small / tiny pieces of styrofoam to open up the media so it drains faster.
- Tree fern or fine bark may also be used.
- Water with naturally soft water that is low in dissolved minerals and salts or rain water. Never use chemically softened water.
- Re-pot yearly or as needed, preferably not in the heat of summer.
- No rest period.

## Healthy leaves produce more and bigger flowers:

- Fertilize very weakly, weekly, with 1/8th to 1/4 of the recommended strength. Pleurothallids are not heavy feeders.
- Low light levels. Never full sun.
- Minimum 70% humidity needed.
- Most require cool to intermediate temperatures. Minimum low 5°C to a maximum high 25°C (for short periods), day temperatures best around 16-20°C. Some need warmer nights, 15°C.
- All need at least a 10°C drop in temperature at night.
- Neem oil, used with care, can solve aphid problems. ½ tsp Neem oil, ¼ tsp dish detergent in 500cc (½ Litre) water.
- Good, gentle, air movement is essential.

Pleurothallid plants may have a few flowers continuously or flushes of flowers several times a year.

Space prevents more detail here. The general "Orchid Culture" sheets in this series, available from your society or on the web at <http://www.canadianorchidcongress.ca/> provide further cultural information. For specific help with your orchids or further information join your local orchid society.

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