

Finally, for my discussion I gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing how I grow my Angraecoids under glass in my vivarium. For the purpose of this summary I do not plan to delve into the details of my vivarium setup here. I simply hope that those of you who were present at this month's meeting enjoyed the photos and my presentation. If you missed out, a lot of the information I presented can be found in my personal story featured in the January 2018 Keiki. The Angraecoids are a wonderful alliance of orchids that I have absolutely fallen in love with. They are comprised of approximately 150 genera and nearly 2,000 species that are native to southern Africa and the surrounding islands of Madagascar, Reunion, Comoro Islands, and Mauritius. The vast majority of these orchids, especially those native to Madagascar, are threatened with extinction due to habitat destruction through logging, mining, or agriculture. Even with the amount of research conducted thus far the orchid species in this alliance are still very poorly understood.

The construction of my vivarium has allowed me to create a unique microenvironment within my home capable of providing consistent humidity levels greater than 70% for my orchids. This microenvironment has enabled me to successfully grow and bloom these rare orchids mounted on plaques in a house setting.

The enjoyment I feel in caring for and conserving these rare beauties is unrivaled. Growing orchids in this manner has taught me that if you really have a passion for something just go for it; you never know what you might achieve until you try.