



remember that these plants are not parasitic, They actually obtain their nutrients from air and organic matter that decomposes the tree around their roots, This great competition for sunlight makes the reserve one of the world's best places with to see greatest diversity of orchids per square meter. But why is it so hard watching these flowers? There are several reasons: these plants are seeking sunlight, so most grow high in the branches of trees, also many of these flowers are very small, some about the size of the tip of a pen.

**Common Name:** Orchids

**N. Científico:** *Orchidaceae*

Orchids are a diverse family of plants which include over 550 species in the Monteverde area. Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve is located on the top of the Tilaran mountain range on the continental divide which is influenced by northeast trade winds. This is where there is great competition for sunlight which creates the condition where the branches and trunks of the trees are fully covered by these plants. It is important to





*Pleurothallis sp*

Photo: Johnny Pérez A RBNSE

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The Santa Elena Reserve Administration has decided to create a small garden of orchids, where they can be more fully appreciated with their shapes and colors of the flower. The garden is also a place where our tourists and students can learn from these beautiful plants.

The orchids that are brought to the garden are collected from trees and branches falling on the trails. Most of these plants when they fall from the trees die. Orchid Garden Project aims to rescue some of which are planted in small wooden boxes that are located in the garden.

The name orchid was given by Mr. Teofastro and comes from Orchis which means "testicle". The reason is because the adaptation which many of them have in form of the bulbous stem is called a pseudo bulb, which can store water for dry days. Most Orchids in the Monteverde area are in the group called Pleurothallidinae. They lack pseudo bulbs and for this reason

they are more susceptible to climate change.

The Orchid Garden is located at the main entrance to Santa Elena Reserve.

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*Ada chlorops*



*Oerstedella exasperata* Common name: Ghost

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