



Left photo: *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* photo by Gordon Kenyon
Right Photo: *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* 'Monster' HCC photo and grown by Ramon de los Santos

The Challenges of Ex Situ Orchid Conservation Abstract text by Mark Sullivan

One goal of ex situ orchid conservation is to save a species ex situ as it disappears in situ. A further, though unrealistic goal for many species, is to reintroduce the species back into the wild. I say “unrealistic” because the underlying reasons for species extinction in the wild need to be addressed before a successful reintroduction can happen. Ex situ conservation boils down to saving genetic information and diversity. Two main challenges are faced “genomic extinction” through hybridization and selective breeding of species to get human desired traits in species. The article goes on define what is being done and what can be done by orchid societies and individuals to effectively participate in ex situ conservation.

<http://www.orchidconservationcoalition.org/pr/exsitucon.html>