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Talk on secret sex life of Malaysian orchids

KUCHING: A public awareness talk on the secret sex life of Malaysian orchids captured on camera will be held at Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC) on Friday June 29.

The presentation will not be X-rated as the speaker Ong Poh Teck will be talking on why orchids are so diverse in their shape, colour, size and scent, and more importantly, how they pollinate, said a press statement yesterday.

Using orchids found in Peninsular Malaysia as references, Ong will talk about how orchids are largely dependent on their incestuous counterpart for reproduction in the wild, aside from a few orchids species which self-pollinate.

Ong, a researcher with the Forest Research Institute Malaysia, has been interested in orchid cultivation as a child.

His field of research includes

orchid taxonomy of peninsular orchids and pollination biology of local orchid species.

He is also the leading author of the recently published 'Wild Orchids of Peninsular Malaysia,' featuring many of his photographs.

Those interested in attending the talk can call Ha-Mim Marzuki or Asha Devi Kaushal at 082-610610 or email biosar@sbc.org.my to register.

Entry into SBC and the talk are free.