

# Ron Parson

## Orchids of Australia and Tasmania

The southwest corner of Australia has one of the world's few Mediterranean climates, A Mediterranean climate is one in which the winter is cool and wet while the summer is hot and dry, usually lacking any precipitation. Most of the orchids of this area are endemic, with just a handful also being found in southeast Australia. Unlike the orchids of the southeast Australia, all are terrestrial here. This talk will feature some of the country's most incredible and bizarre flora. Tasmania may be Australia's smallest state, but it is the world's 26th largest island! In addition to being the home of the Tasmanian devil, this island state is also home to quolls, wombats, kangaroos and wallabies, some of the oldest and tallest trees of the world, and over 200 orchid species! These include spider orchids (*Caladenia*), bearded orchids (*Calochilus*), donkey orchids (*Diuris*), sun orchids (*Thelymitra*) and so much more.



*Caladenia plicata*  
Crab-lipped Spider Orchid

Ron Parsons has been growing orchids for more than 50 years, and has been interested in the species for most of that time. He loves to photograph orchids and other flowers whenever he can, and does so as often as possible. Ron has more than 100,000 digital images, most of which are of orchids, and still retains a slide library that exceeds 100,000 botanical images. He has given more than 500 talks on various botanical topics, and has nearly 6500 published photos. Ron has co-authored four books on botanical subjects, all with Mary E. Gerritsen. The first two, published by Timber Press, are *Masdevallias*, *Gems of the Orchid World* and *Calochortus*, *Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives*. Their third book, a two-volume set, *A Compendium of Miniature Orchid Species* was published by Redfern Natural History Productions in January 2014. In 2019 *The American Orchid Society Guide to Orchids and their Culture* was released, and is on its third printing. They have recently completed a fifth book, a much-revised second edition of *A Compendium of Miniature Orchids Species*. It is now in four volumes with 3100 photos (1800 of those are new), including those of more than 500 species not in the first edition. The set was released in early October, 2021.

