Orchids

Volume 16 No. 5

in New Zealand

October 1990

13th World Orchid Conference — Souvenir Issue



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EDITOR:

PHILIP TOMLINSON 14 Putnam Street Northland Wellington 5 Phone: (04) 758-765

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Distribution Secretary:

MISS B. FEATHERSTON P.O. Box 983 Whangarei

Back Issues Secretary

MRS G. ANDERSON 421 Pukehangi Road Rotorua

All correspondence for:

President MR A. EASTON

Secretary
MRS J. FOSTER EASTON

Treasurer MR P. ANDERSON

To: P.O. Box 390 Rotorua

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Orchids

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incorporating 'The New Zealand Orchid Review'

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NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 16 No. 5

OCTOBER 1990

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OF WELCOME, HISTORY, BOOKS AND US

To all orchid growers from far and wide, welcome.

Welcome to New Zealand, welcome to Auckland, welcome to this magazine, *Orchids in New Zealand*, and welcome to the conference, the 13th World Orchid Conference, an international event being held in this country for the first time. With New Zealand recognising 150 years of European settlement, it is appropriate that we all celebrate with this gathering of orchid growing friends from around the world.

In pre-European times, orchids were appreciated in New Zealand for their food value by the Maoris. The tubers of gastrodia (the potato orchid) and orthoceras, for example, formed a part of their diet.

It was with the start of European settlement that serious study and description of our natural orchids commenced. Father and son botanists J. R. and J. G. A. Foster visited this country with Captain James Cook in 1773. They collected and subsequently described in 1776 the first N.Z. orchid Thelymitra longifolia. Over the ensuing years, more and more were identified, people such as Robert Brown, Cunningham, Hooker, Cheeseman, and Colenso describing many genera and species during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Even the great botanist Charles Darwin visited this country for a short period, and included a description of pollination systems of our native pterostylis in his The Various

editorial



Orchids in New Zealand
Editor:
P. C. Tomlinson
14 Putnam Street
Northland
Wellington 5, N.Z.

Contrivances by which Orchids are Fertilised by Insects, based on information provided by Cheeseman.

We often think that orchid enthusiasm is a modern affliction, but in the Lyttleton Times of March 8, 1883, under the heading correspondence, the following appeared:-

"New Zealand Orchids—Sir, Will you, or one of your readers who possess information on the subject, be good enough to give in your column a list of the native orchids of New Zealand, and their habitats, mentioning which of them will grow in the open air in Christchurch". **

A search of subsequent issues revealed no further information.

Into the present century, Cheeseman, Rupp and Hatch continued the tradition. The publication in 1981 of Dorothy Cooper's book New Zealand Native Orchids - A Field Guide and the subsequent formation of the Native Orchid Study Group has given a modern impetuous for their further study. There is now a small but enthusiastic group actively involved in the detailed study, conservation and distribution mapping of these plants.

* Item supplied by Ken Christie, Wellington.

The introduction of the large flowered hybrid and tropical orchids is something that has not been well recorded. The Bonham's of Auckland have undertaken substantial research on this history, and this story will soon be told in a special historical review available at the Conference.

The establishment of orchid societies has encouraged the development of this hobby over the years. The New Zealand Orchid Society was the first to be established, in 1948, with a significant expansion of such groups in the late 1970's to early 1980's. Each provided a forum for the discussion, mutual support and exchange of information, plus an opportunity to display the flowers. Many produced newsletters-from a single page to quite sophisticated efforts. Shows became a regular feature, attracting a wider range of people to appreciate these plants. The establishment of specialist orchid nurseries also encouraged the development of the hobby. For many years it was the cymbidium that had pride of place; more recently the 'other' genera have assumed increasing importance. Apart from the newsletters, only a few serious books have been published in this country on the main orchid groups. Jim James has produced two, including The New Zealand Orchid Grower.

The Wellington Orchid Society has published a series of cultural guides on specific genera, with over 45,000 copies now in print, including an amazing 35,000 copies of the Cymbidium Guide. From being rare plants, orchids are now widely recognised and appreciated throughout the country, with their culture generally of a high standard. It has been said that this country has one of the highest percentages of active orchid growers of any country in the world.

With change being a fact of modern life, orchid growing is also facing a challenging future. It is an important recreational and retirement hobby, and the opportunity to make contact with fellow enthusiasts throughout the world is something we all should take fullest advantage of. Here is an opportunity that cannot be missed. To allow us all to gain the greatest advantage, let us make this

the 'friendly conference'; friendships developed should enable the interest to be developed to even greater levels of success.

P.S. I will be at the Conference. I hope as many readers as possible will make themselves known to me. In this way I hope to get a feeling of what you think of the changes to the magazinewhat you like or dislike, and what you would like to see in it. It is only by communicating in this way that we can make it a truly great magazine. You never know, I may even be able to persuade you to write an article for it!! See you there.

NOTE:— This issue contains a number of items specifically included for the Conference. We hope they will also be of interest to all readers. For those unable to attend the Conference, we continue our regular features.



May your journey be a pleasurable one. (Tudor Orchids Kapiti Coast Orchid Society display).

Norm Porter Orchids

1990 WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE RELEASES

Six new Cymbidiums which will enhance any collection, being offered for the first time at the 13th World Orchid Conference,
Auckland Showgrounds, Greenlane, Auckland.

CLARISSE AUSTIN 'RUBY DEW' 3N (Tapestry x Rincon)

Deep Ruby Red full round shape, wide bold Cherry Red lip. Petals have White Margin around edge. Award and showbench potential.

CORATEA 'MAORI MOKO' 4N (Coraki x Tamatea)

Superb new copper Brown, with massive 2" Scarlet Red lip. 12-14 blooms.

The most outstanding converted Tetraploid in this colour that I have ever flowered. August.

MIREITA 'KAPITI ISLE' 4N (Miretta 'A.A.McBean' 4N x Miretta 'Glory' 4N)

From the crossing made by Andy Easton, this one of mine is an outstanding Emerald Green Tetraploid with a just massive solid Red lip, 14-16 blooms in July-August.

TIJUANA PURITY 'BLACK COBRA' 3N (Khyber Pass x Claudona)

Huge 14cm deep Copper Red blooms, overlaid with Chocolate, set off by a jet Black Velvet lip. August-September.

PHAR LAP 'APRICOT DEW' (Flame Hawk x madidum)

From a very successful new Hybrid bred by Andy Easton.
This one of mine is a rich Apricot with a lightly dotted lip, almost a concolor.
20-30 blooms on a cascading spike in October.

JACK HUDLOW ('WAIKANAE' AM/NZOS, AM/OCNN (High Sierra x Miss Muffet)

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To Registrants of the 13th World Orchid Conference

ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS of the Planning Committee I would like to welcome you to this occasion which is very special for us in New Zealand. This country, with a small population of little over three million, has a good proportion of orchid enthusiasts. Fifteen per cent of all the 44 N.Z. orchid society members are among the local registrants and they are looking forward to meeting our visitors from overseas, and co-operating with them in every possible way.



Dennis G. Bonham President of Conference.

Our lecture programme offers a wide variety of talks many of them designed for the hobby grower with coverage of most of the common genera. There are commercial and scientific papers, as well as several about people and personalities in the orchid world. We hope that the

abstracts of the talks, in the Conference Handbook, will prove so stimulating that you have difficulty in planning your days. The breakfast forums cover a wide range of topics including a discussion for secretaries and treasurers which, with one on Disa culture, are both additions to the preliminary programme. Several speciality groups within the Registrants will be holding early evening meetings to allow the development and reporting of international ideas and co-operation.

We hope that holding all the daytime functions at the site of the brilliant displays and diffuse commercial areas will enable all registrants to obtain the maximum exposure to everyone present, without the need to travel long distances. The evening functions include a glimpse into the traditional culture and the New Zealand life style.

It is our aim that this World Orchid Conference will be remembered for its friendly atmosphere and happy co-operation amongst all those who participate in its many activities.



Andy Easton

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Well, the 13th World Orchid Conference has finally arrived! We hope your visit to New Zealand will be filled with happy memories of outstanding orchids and new friendships that will grow in the years ahead. During this active week take time to explore the lovely scenic areas that are found within a short distance of Auckland City. The verdant spring pastures of our country have no equal in the world. Enjoy our distinctive food and relax to a more leisurely pace of life. Orchid enthusiasts from all over our country have assembled in Auckland to share your company and the orchids that have arrived from all around the world. If you need advice, a ride to your hotel or a guided tour of the Auckland scenery, you have only to ask. Welcome!

FEATURE

Oncidiums may not be currently the most fashionable of orchids. However, most growers will retain several in their collections because of their bright colourful displays, and general ease of culture. In this article, we look at oncidiums in detail, especially their cultural requirements.

Introducing oncidiums

It is APPROPRIATE to start by defining "What is an oncidium?". As we all have experienced, even the botanists have had difficulty in specifically defining the genus in a way they all could agree, as the same species at various times have been shifted around within the Oncidinae subtribe, to and from such genera as Miltonia, Odontoglossum and Brassia. Alex Hawkes, in his Encyclopaedia of Cultivated Orchids, notes that the distinctions between these genera are slim, often the specific identification "involving rather tenuous floral characters".

Description

In reviewing a genus, botanists compile a general description, and it is interesting to look at such a description of the genus oncidium as it provides information on its main characteristics, plus some measure of its diversity.

Oncidiums are epiphytic with pseudobulbs of one internode, enclosed by sheaths, either as bracts or bearing leaves, in two rows on opposite sides of the pseudobulbs. pseudobulbs are commonly terminated by 1-3 well developed leaves, although occassionally the pseudobulbs may be reduced in size, rarely almost aborted, then with a terminal appendage in lieu of a leaf. Leaves are commonly with a flat yellowish-green

In this month's feature
we discuss the genus
oncidium.
P.-C. Tomlinson
discusses the main
sections, with
particular reference
to the cultural
requirements.

blade, rarely terete or triangular. The inflorescence is a raceme or panicle, rarely one flowered. Flowers vary in size from small to conspicuous, all perfect or rarely intermixed with aborted ones on the same inflorescence. All open simultaneously, rarely in succession. The flowers have spreading sepals and petals, commonly contracted at their base, sometimes wavy of similar

size, or with petals larger in size, the lateral speal variously joined. The lip may be entire or lobed, commonly fiddle shaped, firmly joined without articulation to the column, at an arching right angle. The disc base has small conical projections, crisped. The column is short, stout, often ovoid, commonly without distinct auricles on the sides of the stigma and with a fleshy plate over the stigma. The rostellum is either short or proboscus like. The stigma is more or less large. There are two pollina which are waxy, which more or less show longitudinal grooves on the distant linear stipe, with a small gland. The anther is terminal, which falls away during pollination, and which lies against the top of the column, being one celled, or imperfectly two cell-

The genus oncidium is a large one. Nearly 400 species are listed by Garay and Stacy, with up to 750 odd species mentioned by some authors. Whatever is the true number, it is an extensive genus. The species mainly come from Central America and northern South America, from a wide range of natural habitats. The wide environmental diversity of this region has allowed and encouraged the development of many species. Some individual species grow over an extensive geographical area, others are limited to a specialised habitat of a few square kilometres only. Many different growth and floral forms are present.

Pollinators

Oncidiums belong to the Vandoideae sub family, orchids which are considered in evolutionary terms the most highly developed. They appear to be mostly bee and wasp pollinated, mimicry and pseudoantagonism playing an important part in reproductive process. Some oncidiums, for example, mimic the flowers found on a vine, from which certain bees obtain oil. These bees have been seen to seize some oncidium flowers for an instant. The bees leave the oncidium flower when they find no oil, but pollinate other flowers when they make the same mistake again. In another example of pollination systems, some females of certain bee species are known to gather around certain flower clusters. The males tend to pick such flower clusters for their territories, defending this against other insect invaders. When the wind moves the inflorescence of certain oncidiums, the flowers apparently look enough like an insect in flight to arouse the aggression of the male bee, which attacks the flower. It strikes one and receives pollina on its face: pollination taking place when this is repeated on another flower. This has been called "pseudoantagonism" or pseudotrespassing." hyphaematicum, Onc. planilabre and Onc. stipitatum are pollinated in this way.

Most oncidiums have yellow and brown coloured flowers, with some white, and infrequent red. These colours are consistant with hymanoptera (bee and wasp) pollinated flowers. Clear red colouration is infrequent as most bees are blind to red, the few flowers of red colour often reflecting ultraviolet rays so the bees can perceive them.

The genus contains plants with wide variation in their 2n chromosome numbers, this playing an important part in cross breeding fertility, and may—when more details become known—be an

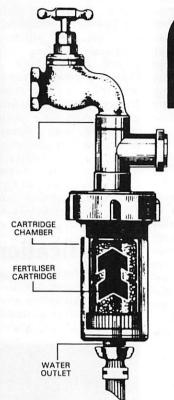
important aspect in a reevaluation of the whole genus. Many oncidiums are largely, or completely, self infertile, although artificial crossing with related genera such Odontoglossum, Brassia, Miltonia, etc. is possible. Naturally, individual species retain their purity by growing over a distinct geographical or altidudinal range, or by differing flower colour, form, callosities or attracting different-and often very specific-insect pollinators.

Classification

It has been suggested that the genus oncidium should be broken up into a number of different smaller genera. However, while it



Onc. micropogon
[Barbata Section]



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is diverse, viewed overall breaking it up may be no more than convenience. Garay and Stacy have suggested possible candidates for separation are the Sections Stellata, Waluewa, Rhinocerotes, Paucituberculata and Concoloria. The Oncidium (Variegata) section. Plurituberculata and Cebolletae have also been suggested as candidates for separation by Williams and Dresler. The different physiological forms and chromosome numbers of some Sections have given rise to these suggestions. The completion of further detailed chromosome and other studies may confirm some division of the genus. Robert Dresler notes that the Plurituberculata Cebolletae, with 2n counts of 28, 30, 32, 34 and 36, seem to be more closely related to trichocentrum (2n 24, 28), and may be separated as the genus Lophiaris. Also closely related to Lophiaris and to Rossioglossum (2n 44) is the Section Glanduligera (2n 38) for which the generic name Psychopsis is available. Most species of "oncidium" have 2n 56. The Oncidium Section Oncidium (variegata) from the West Indies have 2n 40, 42 and cross easily with Ioniopsis (46) and other members of Comparettia complex, comprising also the genera Comparettia (42)Diadenium Plectrophora,

Neokowhleria, Scelochilus and Rodriguezia (28, 42). Hybrids between the Section Oncidium species and the main 56 2n chromosome plants are usually sterile, and this has confirmed to some that the Oncidium Section plants should be removed from the known genus. Unfortunately the name "Oncidium" is fixed to the West Indian Section Oncidium species variegatum, so the removal of the Section Oncidium, taking the generic name "Oncidium" would require the renaming of the bulk of the species with 56 chromosomes left. Already some species have been removed. The Kranzlin Iridifolia Section containing the short lived Oncidium pusillum has now been transferred to a new genus Psygmorchis (as *P. pusilla*). The Section Iridifolia was excluded because the leaves lack articulation (i.e. abcission cells in the leaves forming a join), in view that the closely allied Lockhartia with a similar lack of articulation has been excluded from oncidium for this reason earlier. Sweet has also suggested that certain miltonia species should be transferred to the Oncidium Section Stellata. and indicated that the Section should be given separate generic rank under the name Gymizodon. Obviously from further studies

botanists will either confirm or reject some of these currently held opinions, but whatever happens, we can be assured of further developments (and confusion?) in the classification of these plants we now call "oncidium".

Seasonal Culture

Because the genus oncidium is so diverse, it is perhaps easier understand it by briefly looking at the individual Sections, each of which contains species which are similar in many aspects, and which usually have similar cultural requirements. In broad terms, it is, however, also possible to group many of the Sections with respect to their cultural requirements. It is worth remembering that sometimes individual species in a Section will respond to cultural conditions differing from that required by the other species of that Section. The following broad cultural divisions are indicated within the genus:

- 1. Dry all year round; some 15% of all species.
- 2. Moist all year.
 2a. With cool
 temperatures; some
 28% of all species.
 2b. With higher
 'intermediate''
 temperatures, some
 24% of all species.

- seasonal variations. some 21% of all species.
- 4. Variable requirements within the Sections, some 12% of all oncidium species.

The Sections will be discussed under the above cultural groupings.

1. DRY ALL YEAR

This must not be taken literally; what is meant is these plants come from habitats subjected to drought or semi desert conditions, with the plants being specially adapted to survive the greater degree of dryness. After watering the plants must be allowed to dry out. The following groupings are listed in their increasing ability to survive dry habitats.

1.1. Oncidium Section (equitants, variegata) oncidiums are becoming increasingly popular, largely through the efforts of the Hawaiian breeder, the late W. W. G. Moir. Plants are small and compact, producing a fan of generally triangular shaped leaves. Depending on the classification used. there are 25 to 35 species in this complex, all of which natives of the Caribbean Islands. They generally require intermediate temperatures, although can be grown cooler during the winter if they are kept dryer. The growing media must drain

3. Subjected to distinct well, aerate well, keep free from scum and fungus, and dry well between waterings. The environment must provide good movement. These requirements are applicable to all the plants from dry environments.

> Many of these plants produce spikes that branch after flowering, and should not herefore be removed until they yellow and wither.

- 1.2 Onusta, a Section with one species onustum. It is a native of Peru and the coastal deserts of Ecuador. where it grows on a cactus.
- 1.3 Cebelletae, with 19 species including cebelleta, teres, stipitatum. and jonesianum. Plants are immediately recognisable by their terete (rounded) leaves, a water conservation adaptation to hot dry environments. Additionally, their metabolism has become adapted primarily to conserve water which would otherwise be lost during daytime respiration.



Onc. cebelleta [Cebelletae Section]

These plants, like some cacti and other desert plants, respire at night when lower temperatures do not cause water stress. They are able to then absorb and store carbon dioxide, which is used during daylight hours for photosynthesis. success, these plants need bright light and marked day/night temperature variations. A very open media is necessary which between must dry waterings, slab mounting often being best. Warm to intermediate conditions are appropriate.

1.4 Plurituberculata ('miltoniastrum'—''burro'' or "mule-eared") oncidiums comprise some 17 species including altissimum (luridum), cavendishianum and splendidum. These plants are characterised by heavy thick leathery leaves, distinctively folded lengthwise into an open "V" shape, and which produce a spectacular display of long lived flowers. Able to survive extremely hot and dry habitats, they require diurnal temperature



Oncidium altissimum [Plurituberculata Section]

variations, strong light (full sun) in intermediate to warm temperatures.

2. MOIST ALL YEAR

This second grouping of plants are in growth all year, and accordingly must be watered all year, although this may be reduced when growth slows during the winter. Those requiring cool temperatures are generally high altitude plants which are subjected to cool misting precipitation with daily heavy rains, without significant temperature variations and where air movement is constant. The species in this grouping generally appreciate conditions appropriate for odontoglossums. There are some lower altitude plants requiring warmer conditions, intermediate 13 to 15°C temperatures generally being appropriate for these.

2a. MOIST ALL YEAR: Cool Temperatures

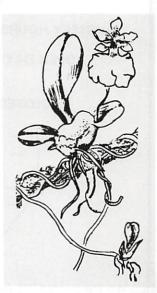
2.1 Cyrtochilum Section, containing some fifty odd species, is the largest Section of the genus, containing falcipetalum, macranthum, and serratum. Large spectacular flowers are produced, which are characterised by somewhat fleshy sepals and petals. Macranthum has been described, as far back as as being 'magnificant oncidium, being one o f the handsomest species yet



Onc. macranthum [Cyrtochilum Section]

introduced'. These species produce a long inflorescence and training spikes around a hoop keeps them manageable while still giving a good display.

- 2.2 *Cimicifera* species (twenty) have small to minute flowers, which are inconspicuous on the plants, and accordingly appear to be unattractive to most orchidists.
- 2.3 Serpentia, with three species, produce a long slender wiry twining rhizome (now known in fact to be an inflorescence) from which plantlets are produced, and 1-2 30mm flowers.
- 2.4 **Rostrata** containing twentysix species including the popular *cheirophorum* and *ornithorhynchum*, are



Oncidium globuliferum [Serpentia Section]

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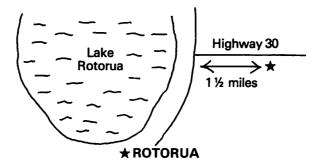
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Best Wishes to the

13TH WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

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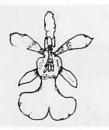
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generally compact growers with free flowering characteristics.

2.5 **Paucituberculata** with eight species, have plants with minute flowers, which are comparatively unattractive.

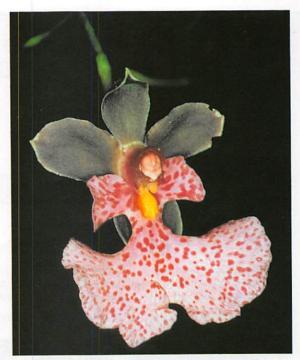


Oncidium ornithorhynchum

2.6 Cucullata is a somewhat confused Section containing cucullata, phalaenopsis, nubigenum and olivaceum amongst some nineteen species. Some botanists list few species, but with some species containing a number of named forms-eight for example being listed for olivaceum. In the main these species are relatively small compact growers producing colourful flowers which last a long time in perfection. These species can flower themselves to death, therefore spikes should be removed early, at least until the plants are well established under cultivation.

2b. MOIST ALL YEAR: Intermediate Growing

A number of constant moisture requiring species come from lower altitudes requiring some additional warmth, up to intermediate temperatures.



Onc. kennedyii [Cucullata Section]. Photo: D. Menzies
Onc. kramerianum [Glanduligera Section].



2.7 **Disticha**, with one species *crista-galli*, is widespread from Mexico to Ecuador and Peru.



Oncidium crista-galli [Disticha Section]

- 2.8 Glanduligera Section with three/four species papilio. kramerianum and sanderae. with perhaps limminghei. produce spectacular attractive "butterfly" like flowers. From a wide geographical range (except sanderae) from the Caribbean, Central and South America, they require some warmth in good light. The floral scapes should not be cut after flowering as they are perennial, flowers being produced intermittantly for 1-2 years.
- 2.9 **Stellata** has flowers giving the appearance of a five pointed star. *Clowesii* and *maculatum* are included in this grouping of thirteen species, which are "neat and pleasing".
- 2.10 *Barbata*, with thirteen species, including *barbatum* and *longipes*, which produce short racemes of flowers in great abundance, from compact plants. Block culture is recommended.
- 2.11 *Oblongata*, with thirtyone species, includes

the desirable leucochilum and tigrinum. Tigrinum is one of the most beautiful and free flowering large flowered yellow oncidiums. Autumn/winter flowering, it lasts six weeks in bloom. Leucochilum is another



Onc. Barbatum [Barbata Section]

desirable and beautiful species, which is variable, some forms being richer in colour than others.

These species are cool to intermediate growing, the flower spikes taking 6-9 months from appearance to blooming. Vigerous growers, they are also free flowerers. Hoop training of their long inflorescences keeps them manageable.

2.12 *Planifolia*, with thirtytwo species including baueri, incurvum and sphacelatum. These are large free growing and flowering plants.

3. SEASONAL DRY/MOIST ENVIRONMENT

Plants from this grouping (characteristically from the Organ Mountains of Brazil) are subject to significant seasonal variations. Winters are cool and bright, and the plants are dormant. With spring rains, new growths are broken, and warm temperatures are experienced. With summer sun, bright conditions are present, although some shade is provided by constant mists

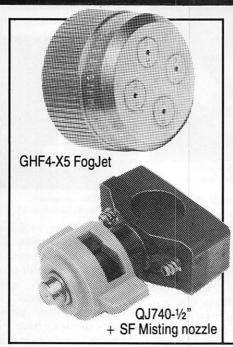


Onc. incurvum
[Planifolia Section]

and appearance of foliage on the decidous trees. The cool dry conditions must be provided when dormant; warm wet when active growth is apparent for success with these plants. Some species have an extensive root run, and slab mounting is often the most appropriate.

- 3.1 *Pulvinata*, with five species including *pubes* and *leitzii*, are natives of Brazil. They are compact growers, free flowering, and appreciate a long root run, prefering a slab to a pot.
- 3.2 Rhinocerotes, with three species, is distinctive as the disc of the lip has a long upward curving terete horn, like the horn of a rhinoceros. These are compact plants which put on a good display.

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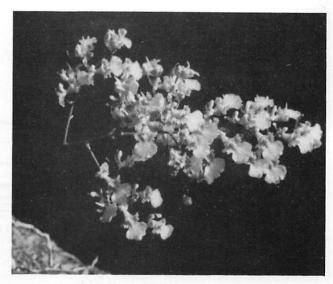
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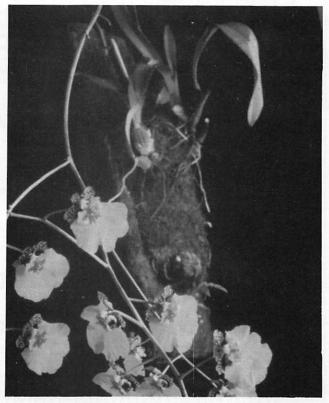
- 3.3 Concoloria, with nine species including the bright and attractive concolor. These plants are modest in size, producing medium to large flowers.
- 3.4 *Crispa* species produce large flowers which last well. They are natives of Brazil, coming from moderate altitude habitats. Some twelve species make up this Section, including *crispum*, *forbesii*, *gardneri gravesianum*, and *marshallianum*. Quite large plants, they produce a great display when well grown.
- 3.5 Synsepala (Varicosa) Section with twentysix species includes the popular varicosum and flexuosum, species that produce a long lasting colourful display. Bright light is important for strong growth and maximum flowering.
- 3.6 Verrituberculata has seven species, including batemanianum. This is a "beautiful and distinct although somewhat variable species". Sometimes a shy flowerer, it is often recommended because of its bright yellow flowers, produced at different times of the year.

4. VARIABLE REQUIREMENTS

The species in some Sections have differing requirements, not fitting in with the above groupings. Experimentation, ascertaining natural habitats



Onc. ((Sultamyre x Nona) x varicosum) [Crispa x Varicosa Sections]





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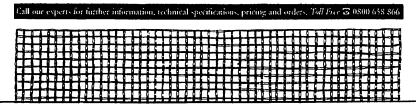
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and observation of growth patterns should enable the constituent species requirements to be ascertained.

- 4.1 Heterantha, with twentyfour species, is characterised by ar "S" shaped column, and by normally developed flowers mixed with aborted star shaped ones comprising the linear segments only on the same inflorescence. Not widely grown or known, they are of South American origin. The species requiring cool to intermediate conditions.
- 4.2 *Plan:labria* Section with fifteen species, are not commonly grown, the descriptions indicating a variable grouping of plants, cool to warm growing.
- 4.3 Excavata, with nine species including excavatum and obryzatum, plants which produce colourful displays, some species being compact growers, others more robust. Temperature requirements vary, some cool to intermediate, some needing warm temperatures.

GENERAL CULTURE

Where available, specific culture relevant to each Section has been noted. Most authors, and growers, have found that oncidiums as a genus are most



Onc. heteranthum
[Heterantha Section]

adaptable, capable of growing under a wide range of conditions, although naturally will show their appreciation when conditions are really to their liking.

Most of the species require free drainage as roots often rot quickly under conditions of poor drainage, and this must be allowed for in mix formulation. Coarse bark, or tree fern mounts are often best, finer mix reserved for those high altitude plants requiring constant moisture.

Good air movement is essential for the continued wellbeing of these plants, many oncidiums coming from natural habitats where constant, and quite strong breezes are a critical element of their environments.

Fertilisers can be applied at ½3 to ½2 of a manufacturers general recommendations, as appreciated by most orchids. With some of the stronger growing species, heavy applications may produce heavy vegetative growth with few flowers, so apply with discretion.

Some oncidiums have winter dormancy, some grow all year. Adjust water and light levels to natural growth cycles. OBSERVE your plants, you may be surprised what they can tell you!! Observation of plant characteristics and growth habits with some experimentation should provide information on correct culture if specific species in formation is not available.

ONCIDIUMS are adaptable, pleasing and rewarding plants and some should find a home in every collection of orchids.



Onc. serpens [Serpentia Section] growing trained on a hoop.



Oncidium rhinoceros [Rhinocerotes Section] with its unique 'rhinoceros horn' distinctly thrust upwards.

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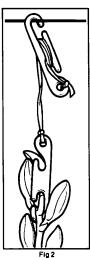




Fig 3

See demonstration at the 13th World Orchid Conference 5-17 September, 1990, Drake Holdings Stand.

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Conzed Council

The following are pen portraits of the current members of Conzed (Orchid Council of New Zealand).



Back row; left to right—Edna Newton, Roy Clareburt, Patricia Elms, Harold Bayram,
Judy Coburn and Ken Christie, (Executive Members).

Front row; left to right—Peter Anderson (Committee member/Treasurer); Syd Wray (Vice President);
Andy Easton (President); Dennis Bonham (Vice President); Jane Easton (Secretary);

EDNA NEWTON

Edna Newton was elected to Orchid Council of NZ Executive in 1985, and has been convenor of the Speaker's Fund. President of the Manawatu Orchid Society for three years she was also a committee member for ten years. hobbyist grower she endeavours to beautify unusual places such as her cowshed, and recently became an orchid judge. She is a speech therapist, proof reader, loves music and singing and played the organ in a local church. Interest in community and welfare work is something she enjoys, as are the committees she is on.

As well as a farmer Edna is a Company Director and Secretary of a farming company. With husband Brian and family she owns and operates the successful Lauriedale Holstein Friesian Stud Fielding, NZ Musswellbrook, Australia. Exhibiting cattle at agricultural shows in both countries they became 1st New Zealanders to gain a first prize at the Sydney Easter Royal Show. Many championships have been won in NZ as well as cattle being exported to many countries. Last year their cow Lauriedale Pabst Pixie VG was the top producing cow in NZ, giving 10,805 litres of milk, 5.7% test, 616 kilos milk fat in 305 days.

ROY CLAREBURT

My introduction to orchid growing started in 1956 when the late Kath Allison gave me two cymbidium backbulbs and a piece of an epidendrum. I joined the N.Z. Orchid Society in 1959 and in 1976 joined the newly formed, North Shore Orchid Society.

In 1979, I was elected a member of the Executive of North Shore Society and in 1981 was elected President, a position held until 1984. I was a member of the organising committee for the first NZ International Orchid Conference held at Ellerslie Racecourse in 1980. Appointed Chairman of the North Shore Show Committee for 1985 and 1986 and Show Marshall in 1987. Awarded Life Membership of North Shore in May 1990.

Elected in 1985 to the Orchid Council of N.Z. and currently still a member. Deputy Chairman of the 13th World Orchid Conference Planning Committee and Chairman of the 13th WOC Show-Commercial Committee.

PATRICIA ELMS

Patricia Elms has been a cymbidium grower for a number of years. From that interest, with her husband Ken, and considerable involvement from their four sons, she moved from Wellington to Bulls in 1983 to establish a commercial orchid nursery, Tudor Orchids. There they grow cymbidiums for cut flower export and the pot plant trade and a range of other genera. Patricia has been actively involved at committee level in various societies since 1981. She has been a member of the O.C.N.Z. Executive for four years and a member of the Committee on Awards since its inception, as Regional Chairperson of the Central region. Outside interests include collecting antiques, particularly china, and gardening when time allows.

HAROLD BAYRAM

In 1980 I was visiting a friend who had recently retired and he showed me his collection of orchid plants. He was convinced that this was an excellent retirement project and that the idea was to build up your collection before retirement so you could have a progression of plants flowering each year. He also took me along to an orchid society meeting and thus commenced my interest in orchids.

It wasn't long before my wife caught the bug and we decided that we would make this our hobby when I retired. We started off with a few cymbidiums (of course) and built a lath/shade house at the back of the garage. We also bought a couple of flasks to experiment with the growing of small plants. I must admit we had many failures as the shade house was not suitable to house the plants over the winter months. Since then we have added on to the shade house three times and now have three quarters of the area under cover. We now have a large variety of different genera and have achieved one of our

goals of having flowers blooming every month of the year. The CONZED President once remarked that I was a typical hobbyist grower—too many plants in too small an area.

My involvement in the local Society is as a committee member, Secretary and President as well as being a member of CONZED Executive Committee. Being Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Awards has further stimulated my interest in both the growing, judging and administration of orchids in New Zealand.

JUDY COBURN

Judy has been on Council since 1985. She is an active member of the Marlborough Orchid Society and is the only South Island representative on Council. Judy travels widely and is often seen at orchid shows and judging seminars around the country. An enthusiastic hobbyist, Judy specialises in miniature cymbidiums, paphiopedilums and the odontoglossum alliance. Her interest is shared by husband Gary and daughter Joanne. All are members of the N.Z.O.C. Judging System. Other interests include stamp collecting, making porcelain dolls and hosting orchid visitors.

KEN CHRISTIE

Member of CONZED Executive Committee since 1987. A hobby orchid grower and long time committee member Capital City Orchid Society, Wellington. Member of the organising committee, 2nd NZ International Orchid Conference, 1985, responsible for finance.

Educated Wairarapa High School and Canterbury University College, graduating in engineering. Engineering and business career spanning fifty years leading to chief executive and board appointments. Served overseas four years in World War II and subsequently commanded territorial engineers leading to five year term as Colonel Commandant of the Royal NZ Engineers.

Community activities have included terms as President, Institution of Professional Engineers, New Zealand; Area Commissioner and member National Executive, Scout Association; Council Member of Consumers Institute; and currently executive member, NZ Amateur Arts Assembly.

SYD WRAY

Foundation Secretary/ Treasurer of CONZED in 1974/75, and Vice-President for the past five years, he has been elected President for the 1990/91 financial year. Syd and his wife Joy grow orchids commercially in Whangarei and both have travelled extensively speaking to orchid societies and conferences over the years.

Syd has been growing orchids for over 25 years. He is a CONZED judge and has had the privilege of judging at the 12th World Orchid Conference in Japan and many Australian Conferences. He is a very active member of the Magazine Committee and also the Show Committee of the 13th World Orchid Conference and past recipient of the John Easton Award.

ANDY EASTON

Commercial horticulturalist since 1973 and professional orchid grower since 1978. President of Orchid Council since 1987 and member of the Committee on Awards since its inception. Regular visitor to overseas orchid shows carrying displays of New Zealand orchids. Through his company, Geyserland Orchids, he has established agencies with major orchid producers in Holland and Japan where N.Z.

raised orchids are marketed on a royalty basis. Married to Jane Easton, Secretary of CONZED since 1987 with three children, John, Elsa and Rosanna. Other interests include the breeding and racing of thoroughbred horses and collecting antique orchid books and paintings.

DENNIS GEOFFREY BONHAM

Dennis Geoffrey Bonham has been growing orchids as a hobby for the past 17 years. His collection is a mixed one covering all the popular genera. He has registered a cattleya and an oncidium cross. Dennis and his wife Nancie are members of the New Zealand Orchid Society of which he is currently President. Nancie has been Secretary of the NZOS and is currently their Newsletter Editor. They are members of the North Shore Orchid Society and the Cymbidium Society of America, New Zealand Branch. Dennis is a Judge of the Orchid Council and an Associate Judge of the NZOS and CSA. He has judged overseas at Calundra, Sydney, Adelaide and Santa Barbara, in the past two years.

Dennis has been Chairman of the Planning Committee and President of the 13th World Orchid Conference since 1986. For the past three years he has been a Vice-President of the Council Executive and has been involved with the Magazine Committee. He has been a member of the Council Committee on Awards since its inception and is particularly interested in the standardisation of Awards. With the help of Martin Bonham who has developed a fine array of programmes, Dennis has been heavily involved in providing a computerised system of judging for use in the September Show. This system was tried out in its early development at Hamilton in October 1989 and in its completed form at the NZOS Show in July 1990, where it was a great success.

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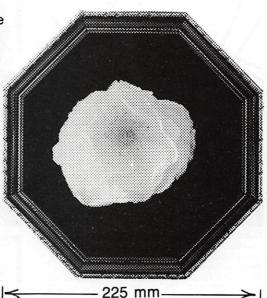
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Set in a park-like surrounding, this nursery is specialising in oncidium, odontoglossum alliance, standard cattleyas and rare endangered species. It has one of the largest hybridizing programmes in the Australian dendrobium alliance in New Zealand. The nursery is owned by Syd and Joy Wray who welcome visitors by appointment only. You are always assured of a warm welcome and a leisurely wander through the glasshouses.

Commercial stand and display at WOC. Telephone: (089) 60-515

L. & R. Orchids, whose nursery is situated just one hour south of Auckland, at Tuakau, is owned by Russell and Lorraine Hutton. Their nursery is unique as it specialises mainly in rare and endangered orchid species from around the world. Russell is also very keen on the raising and hybridizing of masdevallias and was instrumental in forming the Masdevallia Society in New Zealand. His glasshouses are well worth a visit if you are interested in species.

Commerical stand and display at WOC. Telephone: (085) 68-392

In the picturesque city of Rotorua, known internationally for its boiling mud pools and cascading geysers, filled with folk lore and Maori legend, is the nursery of Geyserland Orchids. Owned by Andy and Jane Easton,

Geyserland Orchids, situated on the Rotorua/Whakatane Highway opposite Hells Gate, specialises in most orchid genera. It is internationally known for its cymbidium hybrids and the quality of displays.

Commercial stand and display at WOC Telephone (0734) 55-202



L. and R. Orchids display at Wellington in 1985.

Further south on the main highway at Bulls is the nursery of Tudor Orchids. Situated in a country setting with farm animals you receive a big welcome from 'Missy' their beautiful Pyreenean Mountain Dog. Tudor Orchids is owned by Ken and Patricia Elms, who grow a wide range of genera with emphasis on cymbidiums which they also grow for cut flower export and domestic supply.

Display at WOC. Telephone: (0652) 48-966

South of Levin in Atkins Road, Manukau, you will find Lyn and Kevin Sherlock. They grow a wide range of genera particularly phalaenopsis, dendrobiums and vandacaeous. They both

have their individual interests. Kevin also breeds and exhibts dahlias and has an extensive Bonsai collection.

Lyn is particularly interested in paphs and she also has an interesting aviary where she breeds exotic finches and parakeets. You are always assured of a warm welcome.

Commercial stand and display at WOC.
Telephone (069) 26-698

Norm Porter, well known cymbidium hybridizer, can be found in the sub-tropical micro climate of Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast (just 50 kms north of Wellington). To enter the nursery one passes through an attractive arcade of flowering plants and then into the complex which houses various genera, but specialising in Norm's own cymbidium hybrids. Norm exports cymbidium flasks and plants to U.S.A. and Australia.

Commercial stand and display at WOC. Telephone (058) 36-977



Vanda (Soon Thorn x Madame Marcos) Sherlocks Orchids



Norm Porter's cymbidium display at the second N.Z. International Orchid Conference, Wellington 1985.

Black's Orchids in Levin is probably one of the oldest established nurseries in the country. This extennursery sive grows cymbidiums and paphs for the export cut flower market. The original stock for this nursery was sent to this country from the U.K. during the Second World War. Mrs Kath Black is a very interesting lady with a wealth of information.

Commercial stand and display at WOC

On the picturesque coast 10 kms north of Coromandel Barry Fraser has established his well known paphiopedilum and phalaenopsis nursery, Papa Aroha. This has the most comprehensive paph collection in New Zealand and Barry also runs an extensive hybridizing programme.

Commercial stand and display at WOC. Telephone: (0843) 58-291



Paph. micranthum
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South Pacific Orchids. about one hour by air from Auckland or a pleasant 5 hour drive into the heart of New Zealand's wine country, South Pacific Orchids is an extensive nursery set on the hills above the city of Napier. Wes Ross-Taylor offers an excellent laboratory service as well as operating a very large cymbidium export cut flower business wholesale nursery. He also runs a retail nursery covering a wide range of genera, a feature of this being a beautifully presented display area.

Commercial stand and display at WOC. Telephone: (070) 442-990

Sun Valley Orchids is an orchid company owned by Alan and Beverley Patterson-Kane, specialising in mail order orchids. They hold the N.Z. agency for Double U Orchids of Australia with a fine selec-Australian tion of dendrobium hybrids plus a wide range of interesting hobbyist cymbidium meristems and Yamamoto soft cane dendrobium meristems.

Commercial stand and display at WOC

Tuckers Orchids is a family company headed by Ross Tucker with a growing area plus retails sales outlet on Auckland's picturesque North Shore. The company is noted for a wide range of genera, par-

ticularly their unequalled collection of zygopetalum alliance and exhibition cymbidium crossings.

Commercial stand and display at WOC.
Telephone (09) 456-692

A small family company, House of Orchids, offers a broad selection of orchids for the hobbyist. John and Maxine Scott are regulars at all the area orchid shows and offer an attractive selection of imported flasks from several Australian laboratories. They are conveniently located on Auckland's North Shore.

Commercial stand and display at WOC. Telephone (09) 444-9771

Paradise Orchid Nurseries houses the nursery and laboratory of Ron Maunder with particular emphasis on the odontoglossum alliance disas. Importer of Mc Beans stock and a regular exhibitor at various North Island shows. Nursery is not generally open to the public, so please contact for an appointment. Situated near Tauranga, about 21/2 hours drive from Auckland.

Telephone (075) 25-570

Longview Orchids is the well known nursery of Eric and Vorrei Jones with a particular emphasis on pendulous cymbidium hybrids and phalaenopsis seedlings. Located just north of Tauranga they welcome visitors and offer



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A small general orchid nursery, Allans Orchids is part of a larger export cut flower operation also located just north of Tauranga. Ken and Melva Allan are regulars at central North Island orchid shows where they present a wide selection of young orchids with particular preference for miniature cattleyas and related genera.

Commerical stand and display at WOC.

Sunrae Orchids is another Auckland area nursery run by the Young family specialising in cymbidums and Australian dendrobium hybrids. Regular award winners at all Auckland regional shows originate from this nursery. It is situated just south of Auckland, about 30 minutes drive on the motorway. Special conference hours are planned.

Display at WOC.

Marble Gardens, is a commercial cut flower and young plant nursery owned by Marilyn and Bryan Johnson. Many cut flower growers have their young stock grown on by Marble

Gardens and more recently they have expanded their offerings to include Australian seedling and meristem importations. Situated just off the southern motorway about 30 minutes from Auckland in Papakura.

Marion Wright operates a small well established cymbidium nursery specialising in miniatures and intermediates. She also offers a selection of other genera. You can find Marion in Northcote just 5 minutes from Auckland, over the bridge.

Commercial stand and display at WOC.
Telephone (09) 418-4914

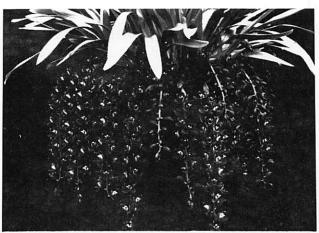
Browning Orchid Estate, one of the largest cut flower exporters in New Zealand, operated by Judith and Nigel Browning, is located near Hamilton, about 1½ hours drive from

Auckland. The nursery is not open for retail sales but commercial cut flower growers and flower importers should contact the Browning's for an appointment to visit.

In Howick, Auckland, **Brian Main** operates a small nursery specialising in particularly well grown phalaenopsis. Brian, who has the agency for Livingstone Orchids of the U.S.A., can be found at most shows in the region.

Commercial stand and display at WOC. Telephone (09) 534-8348

Another of New Zealand's most successful cut flower exporters, Kiwi Orchids, is world renowned for the excellent culture. The Managing Director, Peter Moffatt is widely travelled and the nursery features many innovations. Situated at the north end of the South Island in Nelson,



Cym. Touchstone 'Mahogany' CCC/OCNZ grown by Sunrae Orchids, Auckland.

this nursery is about 3 hours flying time from Auckland. Although not open for retail business, commercial growers and cut flower importers should contact them directly if they wish to visit the nursery.

Van der Linden Orchids is probably the largest export grower in New Zealand with two Auckland area locations. Headed by the indefatigable Bill Van der Linden, this company also acts as an exporter for other growers so they would be of particular



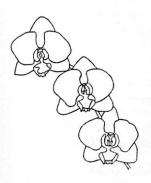
Phalaenopsis (Red Hot Chilli x Rozenauber) AD/NZOS, grown by Brian Main.

interest to commercial cut flower growers and flower importers from overseas. Not generally open to the public, an appointment is essential.

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ORCHID RAMBLINGS

OYOU PREFER to grow mericiones or seedlings? I have been reading some old orchid magazines recently and they were full of articles discussing the newly developed technique of mericioning. There was a great uproar when this was introduced, the main objection being that the flowers would not be identical to the parent plant. We now know that most of them will be the same, there will be some with slight variations, and a few which have gone completely wrong. It is not advisable to mericione a mericione without flowering it first to make sure it is what you expect, and there seems to be a limit to how many mericiones can be made from the same piece of tissue before variations start creeping in. All sorts of growth hormones are used to produce strong healthy plants, and the whole thing now supports the huge increase in the number of orchid growers in the years since mericioning was developed.

Mericlones

The word mericlone was derived from MERIstem CLONE, a clone being a direct copy of anything, and in this case coming from the meristem of the plant, which is the growing tip and consists of undifferentiated tissue which hasn't decided yet whether it is going to be roots or stems or leaves.

The original object of mericloning was to produce plants which were free of disease by cutting out the growing tip of the plant, as this was found to be free of disease such as virus until it had stopped being the growing tip and become a normal part of the plant, if you see what I mean. This tip was then cut into small bits which were grown in a nutrient solution. The original technique was to swirl the Bob McCulloch
mentions many
mericlones,
shows some seedlings
and
follows flowers
forming.



solution around in a container which was slowly rotated so that the little bits of plant would grow into big bits of plant without developing roots or leaves. These bigger bits were then cut into smaller bits, and the whole process repeated until enough bits were obtained. Everything was then kept still so that the bits knew which way was up, and they grew roots and leaves accordingly. Nowadays the small pieces of undifferentiated tissue are placed in flasks containing the nutrients in agar, and the whole thing is much easier.

Until this discovery the method of increasing the numbers of a particular plant was limited to division and backbulb propagation. Not only did this mean that fewer plants were around, they were also more valuable. There were advertisements in these old magazines asking the equivalent of \$250 for a backbulb in the 1960's, which meant that most people could not afford to grow orchids.

OCTOBER 1990

Seedlings

As seedlings were also difficult to grow, they were also expensive. The typical method of raising seedlings was to scatter seed on top of the pot that a plant was being grown in and then water very carefully, and hope that the seeds weren't all washed away before they germinated. Very few seedlings survived, and in general orchid growers in the years before mericlones (BM) depended on fresh imports of species from the wild.

Nowadays it is relatively easy for anyone to obtain a copy of a plant they have admired, at a relatively low price, although genera such as paphiopedilum and phalaenopsis have not yet been mericloned. I believe that some of the cattleya group can't be mericloned either, but that's about all. Of course it is just as difficult to grow a mericlone well as it always has been for any plant. When I buy a flask of mericlones, I keep two or three and put the rest on the sales table once they are big enough. Only very rarely do any of these appear on the display table, and I sometimes wonder about this.

There is something very appealing about owning a copy of a famous or awarded plant, and lots of people grow nothing else. I like the occasional mericlone,

but I prefer to grow seedlings, for they have the quality of being unknown. They will resemble their parents in some way, and a typical cross will have seedlings which vary from all of one parent to all of the other parent, with most of them somewhere in between. There are some dominate, plants which and the other parent doesn't get a look in, and the excitement of waiting for the flowers to open so that you can see what you have got, is much greater than when you know exactly what's coming.

Anyway, all mericlones had to be seedlings at one time, and you might just come up with a world beater yourself. Even if you don't, you have the satisfaction of knowing that no-one else has a plant ex-

actly like yours, for like children, each seedling is unique. Even in a batch of seedlings which are very similar, there are differences in the flowers, and also in the vigour and growth pattern etc., and you can see how someone who can grow large quantities of the same cross to flowering size will invariably finish up with a few superior plants.

Flasks

The technique of growing plants in flasks was extended to seedlings as well, once mericloning was more of a science than an art, and it is the ready availability of mericlones and seedlings at low cost which has enabled the large number of people who now grow orchids to do so without becoming bankrupt. And it made the



Small flasks of orchid seedlings.

art of growing orchids into more of a science as well, for the articles in orchid magazines in the years BM were written in a manner which concealed facts rather than revealed them (unless you knew all about the subject anyway, in which case it was only moderately confusing). Current literature is much clearer, or maybe I have just learned how to decipher it better. It seems to be a peculiarly English trait of never mentioning anything directly, but referring to it through something else which hasn't been explained either. The American and Australian magazines were much better in that respect. Having said that, I must also say that the quality of the plants grown and displayed in England was very high indeed. It's just their way of explaining it which is hard to follow.

An experienced orchid grower some years ago was talking to me about the history of orchid growing. He reckoned that the gardeners of the people who started growing orchids in England, soon figured out that growing orchids was pretty straightforward. But a job is a job, and they pretended that it was difficult so that they and their families could keep on eating. I appreciate their position, and I suppose we are lucky they didn't form a union!

In the days AM, there were articles explaining how someone had grown several hundred of a cross to flowering size, kept two or three of them for mericloning, and then destroyed the rest. I suppose we should be grateful to these people, but like some others, I believe that the genes in the plants which didn't make it according to the standards of the day, were just as important as the two or three survivors, and that we have reduced our options in the future, particularly if the parent plants have not survived. However, I have been blown out of the water before when talking about genes, so maybe I don't know what I'm talking about, however much I would like to think that I

Be that as it may, my particular interest in growing orchids is to get a flask of seedlings to flower as soon as possible. It is fascinating to see the progress of a bunch of plants from the same flask vary as much as it does. At a year out of the flask, it is not unusual to see some plants four times as big as others which were the same size when deflasked.

From experience, it seems to me that the plants which grow large first bulbs are likely to flower sooner, and the main reason for a plant to put out a new growth is that it has had some sort of check to its growth. This means that you should try to keep seedlings growing steadily to get the biggest bulbs you can, and plants which put



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out lots of new growths one after the other are not likely to flower quickly, if at all. There is the occasional genetic problem which makes a plant put out new growths instead of flower spikes, in fact some of the experts say that there is no difference between growths and spikes to begin with, it all depends on how good the plant feels at the time.

Growing On

The conditions which seedlings prefer (and all plants which have not flowered are called seedlings. whether they mericlones or not) slightly warmer and shadier than adult plants of the same type. Bottom heat will keep them growing in winter, and be careful to keep them cool and shaded in summer, as too much of either heat or light will stunt growth. Humidity should be kept high, and watering should be frequent as the plants are in small pots which dry out more quickly than large pots. Feeding with a high nitrogen fertiliser should be carried out all year. Ventilation is also important, not stuffy and not draughty.

The typical time for cymbidiums from flask to flower is five years, for the first year or so the plants will be in community pots, the next couple of years will be spent growing steadily

in pots of their own, with a larger pot every year. After that they seem to reach a sort of plant puberty and grow much faster and bigger, and with luck some will flower in the fourth year. The majority will flower in the fifth year, or perhaps never, as there are the occasional plants which just won't flower, no matter what you do to them. One reason for not flowering is if the plant is in too large a pot. It gets lazy, and says why should I bother to flower, there's plenty of room to grow here and I don't need to exert myself to survive.



Cym. Lois Graves 'Waikanae' Grower: N. Porter.

If you want to make a really good show with a plant, and you have several years in hand, then put a seedling into a pot that is too big for it, every time you repot it. This will ensure that it has lots of bulbs, but never flowers. Then, when you want it to flower, leave it in the same size pot instead of going up one size. When the pot is full of bulbs, the survival instinct surfaces again, and you should get every one of the new growths flowering at once, and that will make a wonderful sight. Another way to get lots of spikes quickly is to practise spike pruning. This is done by growing the plant very well during the summer, then when spikes appear, let them grow to about 50 mm and break them off. The plant gets in a bit of a panic, and puts out two spikes for every one you broke off. (At least, that's the theory!). If you are really brave you could break these ones off as well. but obviously the plant will flower later than it would have normally, and you could overdo this.

In countries where cymbidiums are sold as pot plants, this as well as root pruning is practised, in order to get a large plant in a small pot with lots of spikes. It seems that when the flowers have finished, the plants are thrown away because there isn't any room to keep them in flats etc.



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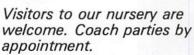
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Opsis. GREEN ISLAND

Other genera mature at either the same speed or sooner than cymbidiums, I am told that phalaenopsis can flower within eighteen months of deflasking if you do it all correctly.

Flowering Faster

The speeding up of this growing process will get you flowers sooner, and there are several ways to do this. I have seen plants which were eighteen months out of the flask, they had seven or eight bulbs, and were in 15 cm pots which were bulging at the seams. These plants had been potted in a very fine mix with an enormous amount of fertiliser. watered three times a day, and kept warm. The bulbs were large but immature looking, more like leeks than cymbidiums, and I never did find out how long it took them to flower. But it shows what can be done if you have lots of resources.

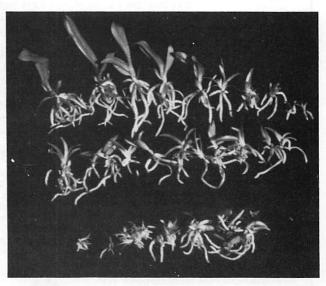
Another way is to give the seedlings extra growing time by extending the day length using artifical light. If they have a sixteen hour day every day and only an eight hour night, it stands to reason that they will grow faster, doesn't it? This would only be practical for an amateur while they were small, as the light would upset the growing and flowering patterns of adult plants, and the cost

of isolating a large area would be pretty high compared to say a few square feet.

The best growth I have ever had from a bunch of seedlings was when I sprayed them with a very weak fertiliser every morning before going to work, and then again when I got home in the evening, and watered them once a week. The roots grew amazingly and the rest of the plant followed soon afterwards. Why didn't I carry on? Because my arm kept falling off with all the pumping, and I was continually late for work.

Another example of improved growth in adult plants was the year I put large trays under the benches and filled them with water to improve humidity. The plants grew enormous bulbs and had lots of spikes, even though I didn't water them very often. If nothing else it showed that my humidity was too low. The trays were never replaced when they started to leak, one day I might get around to automating everything so that all I have to do is wander around glasshouse admiring the flowers. Either that or fixing up all the automatic things that have gone wrong!

In fact, automation seems to be the way to go if you can't be at home to look after your plants all day. There are several types of computer available which will control heaters.



Cattleya seedlings as removed from a flask, showing the wide variation in plant size.

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coolers. humidifiers, watering, and air movement. If you consider the value of your plants then the outlay to protect them from at the best not flowering, and at the worst dying, is not hard to justify. And it stops you worrying if you have to be away from home for a while and the weather does something nasty.

Back to seedlings, I find that the first flowering of a seedling is not always a good indication of the eventual quality of the blooms. Certainly if you

get nicely coloured and well shaped blooms on the first flowering, that's all right, but if not then flower the plant a couple or more times before giving up, as the flowers can improve considerably, and you may finish up with a very nice

Regardless of the quality of the flower, I don't keep plants very long, or rather I don't grow them to be large plants. I suppose this is because of lack of space, a large plant takes up enough room for six

smaller ones, and also tends to shade the plants around it if they are not large too. So I split the plant up, keep a backbulb or two, and sell the divisions. This way I still have the plant, but get a break from it for a couple of years while it grows to flowering size again, and it's like a new plant when it does flower. I also get all that room back, and some cash to buy more plants to fill that room up again! Its a great hobby, isn't it?

Why Not an Issue for **13 W.O.C.**

TNFORTUNATELY, this scribe cannot give you an answer—and even more unfortunately that's not stopping him from writing!

By now you will all have seen the very attractive Miniature Sheet issued by New Zealand Post Ltd., to raise funds for the World Stamp Exhibition being held immediately prior to the 13th World Orchid Conference, New Zealand Post are the major sponsors of the Stamp Exhibition and collectors are doing their share—willingly or otherwise—by paying a premium of \$2.50 over the face value of the stamps included in the Miniature Sheet. (Face value is \$2.40, sheet price is \$4.90).

We are all interested in stamps in one way or the other. Derek Lamb reveals the story behind The 1990 Orchid Issue —an orchid issue but not for the Orchid Conference.

Orchids on stamps are one of the more popular subjects for collectors of thematics-those folk that collect by theme rather than by country. It is an increasingly popular field of collecting as more and more people turn away from the 'country' collection because of the annual increase in numbers of issues or of face value of the issues by just about every country on Earth. Collecting by theme allows the enthusiast to take just what she or he wishes rather than be forced to get them all by the pressures of seeing empty spaces in the album! But I digress.

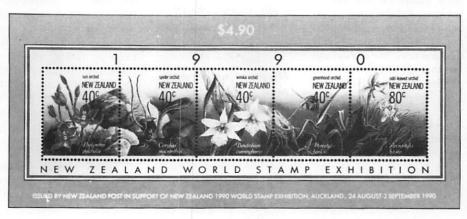
Those people involved with the 13th World Orchid Conference tried very hard

to get New Zealand Post to issue a special set for the occasion and the first letter I can trace was dated 5th July 1984 from Nancie Bonham, asking that a special stamp or set of stamps be issued to commemorate the 13th World Congress of Orchid Growers. Nothing appears to have come of this but a subsequent letter from Professor Bonham to Post Office Headquarters (enclosing a first day cover of the Australian 1986 issue—did he get it back?) earned the reply "that your request has been noted for consideration when the 1990 programme is compiled around mid 1988". In April 1987 Professor Bonham sent a first day cover of the Japanese issue for the 12th World Orchid Conference and suggested a couple of orchids suitable for the occasion. The reply merely acknowledged that the points made had been noted. The crunch came in May 1988 when N.Z. Post advised that an issue featuring orchid stamps would be released in the first quarter of 1990 but would still be available from philatelic outlets in September 1990. The convenor of the New Zealand Native Orchid group, Mr Ian St. George, had suggested that N.Z. Post contact Bruce Irwin (botanical artist) and John Johns (photographer).

In December 1988 N.Z. Post stated that they would be willing to produce a special pictorial date stamp to mark the occasion. Somewhere we seem to have missed the bus in this period but with everything else to be done regarding the Conference arrangments it is not too surprising. During this period there were quite major changes to the postal authority-it became N.Z. Post Ltd., rather than N.Z. Post (my memory may not be correct but this saga might have started when the department was the Post Office).

Early in 1989 I became involved with the Show Committee for the 13th WOC and have been dealing with N.Z. Post regarding their attendance. We could not get N.Z. Post to change their plans despite letters, numerous telephone calls and personal submissions and I have not to this day found out why there was not a special issue for the 13th World Orchid Conference. Wearing my other hat (as a stamp dealer) I can opine that there were just too many issues already planned especially with heritage series in spate-but no one has said so or put any reason in writing.

At the Exhibition there will be a special canceller in use on the 10th September and ordinary date stamps on other days. N.Z. Post will produce a special cover (with artwork similar to that on the Miniature Sheet) and it is expected that Maximum Cards will be available as well.





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COGITO'S DIARY

ORCHID NAMES MADE EASY

WHEN FIRST STARTING with orchids we soon discover that they have names. Equally soon we wonder if we're ever going to be able to remember even a small proportion of them. In my own case I still mixed up *Paphiopedilum* and *Phalaenopsis* several years later. I wasn't even on a "first name" basis after regularly hearing them mentioned. Let alone knowing their "second names"! A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then.

The best way to get familiar with the name of an orchid is to own it. In reality it is no more difficult to remember the word cymbidium than it is to remember such words as violet, dahlia, geranium, gladiolus, or peanuts. Words like potato, spinach, cabbage and lettuce are easy only because we've known them all our lives. Obviously, it it a matter of repetition and familiarization.

Another important angle is whether or not we are sufficiently interested to learn. People who bet on horses know them by name and by-name. They also know their breeding, their form, the names of the jockeys, the racecourses and a host of other things. Followers of the game of rugby know the names of most players of note, the position they play in, their abilities, the names of the various teams, the grounds, the towns, the referees, the selection panels, the jargon, etc. The



Bill Fransen
is trying to get his
plant names and labels
correct. This month he
fully investigates the
mysteries
of nomenclature.

same applies to cricket, golf, squash, tennis, bridge, or the game of chess. Nothing is too difficult if only we are interested. As for me, I only remember a place like the Basin Reserve because it was somewhere in the middle of the road on the way to the Second New Zealand International Orchid Conference in

Wellington in 1985. What we sometimes fail to recognise is that lack of recollection equates with lack of interest.

FASHION

The fact that something is fashionable also seems to have a favourable effect on our ability (or will) to Now Masdevallias are fashionable, more and more fanciers obtain them and learn about them. Why don't we make it fashionable to have correctly printed plant labels? We can even go further and make it trendy to drop a few names like Oncidium aurisasinorum or Sophronitis brevipedunculata now and again. Think of what it could do to one's image! Orchid societies may start "correct labels" competitions and frequently invite speakers on the subject of pronunciation and the use of Latin-as well "fancy" names

TRENDSETTERS

Let us face it. In our hobby there are trendsetters, just like any other sphere of activity. Commercial growers and their staff take great pains to turn out plant labels that are legible and faultless. They know the difference between Upper and Lower Case print and they apply all the rules pertaining to the use of capitals and small letters to the best of their ability. Single quotation marks hold no mysteries for them. However, just like in any other group of people, there are a few that will recognise only one standard, their own. These people should realise that more orchid labels are COPIED from commercially produced labels than from any other source.

Prominent growers, breeders, and orchid judges are also tendentious leaders who regularly deal with plant names. Their labels are therefore liable to be taken as models of exemplary typographical discipline. Nobody expects it to be necessary to go and check labels that have been written by those members of our fraternity.

Orchid society committees also play an important role. I say committees rather than rank and file members because committees tend to be made up of longer standing "Dyed in

the wool" individuals than the general membership. It helps if plant names in magazines and newsletters are vetted on correct spelling and usage. The "Popular Vote" plant names should receive that special kind of attention as well.

COPYING LABELS

A majority of plant labels are copied at some stage. The ones that are not become unreadable, were lost, forgotten about or thrown out with plants that were culled or killed. Plant labels that are hard to read have gone through various stages of legibility. The first cause of this is the person who wrote it. The second is the manufacturer of your "indelible" pen, and the third is the sun. Labels, or at least the writing on them, will fade.

Fairly early in my orchid fancying career I adopted the habit of recording the names of all newly acquired plants in a register. At the same time I check if the abbreviated generic name is the officially accepted one. I also record the source of supply because that can become necessary knowledge when a plant is used for breeding or registering. When I discover partly faded labels in my collection I can refer back to the register to reestablish the correct spelling for new labels. The lettering produced by softlead-pencils is not so nice and black as of ink-pens but is usually clearer and DOES NOT FADE.

Much of the faulty spelling on plant labels is due to misreading at the time of re-writing. Sloppy or unprofessional writing and fading are other major causes. All sorts of crazy readings can result from partially faded writing. Letters such as A,K,N,R, and B can become H or h. An O,o,e, can become c. There are many more possible misinterpretations, especially if the original print is indistinct in the first place. Shaky or irregular writing can turn n into r or h; an a can become an e,c, or o; and a letter like r can read like a v or y. The possibilities are surprising.

FUNNY NAMES

Sometimes a name looks funny or feels wrong. I have at times decided to "correct" without checking. Nothing is more like asking for trouble than doing that! Murphy's Law operates instantly: "Everytime we change a name without checking, we are wrong; everytime we don't change without checking, we're also wrong". (Did you know that Murphy was an optimist?).

Orchid people register all sorts of names in many foreign languages.

Best Wishes TO THE

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Actually, words don't have to be foreign to be unusual. "Lucella" should not be changed to "Lucille" and Latin word "suffusum" should not become 'suffusion' just because we think that suits better. One may as well write "confusion" and be closer to the truth. "Kissimmee" (it's in Sander's!) may well have the meaning of "Kiss Me" but if you spell it like the latter it's wrong because that wasn't the registered grex name.

NOMENCLATURE (no-MEN-kla-chur)

Sorry, the above heading is not an invocation of divine vengeance 'though some people see it as such. Nomenclature means systematic naming, in this case of orchid plants. In 1957 the International Orchid Commission was formed under the auspices of the officials of the triennial World Orchid Conferences. Their task is to:

- Advise orchid growers on which Latin botanical names to adopt.
- To promote and assist in the work of orchid classification.
- To give advice to the bodies responsible for the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature and the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.
- To make the provisions of the two codes as widely

- known as possible among orchidists.
- To give advice to the International Registration Authority for Orchid Hybrids.

THE HANDBOOK

The last revision of the International Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration was the 3rd Edition of 1985. This handbook should be popular reading for all orchid growers. It is the culmination of the work of the International Orchid Commission and The Handbook Committee. The commission could have easily included "trendsetters". They are however more like originators than trendsetters!



ORCHID SPECIES

These are plants that occur naturally in the wild. Their names consist of two terms in Latin form. The first term is the **generic name**, e.g. Cattleya. The second term is the **specific epithet** which names the species within the genus, e.g. *labiata*. These two terms together make up the

specific name of the plants, e.g. Cattleya labiata. In printing the specific name should always be in italics. There is a printing code which recommends that the use of italics should be indicated by underlining handwritten or typed work, e.g. Cattleya labiata.

The generic name always starts with a capital letter. The specific epithet always starts with, and is written completely in, italics and lower case print (even when derived from a personal name). Alex D. Hawkes, in his Encyclopaedia of Cultivated Orchids (1965), still begins all specific epithets derived from personal names with a capital letter, e.g. Cattleya Skinneri. His use of italics is not as recommended in the handbook but is probably based (like in Sander's List) on a printer's code. Hawkes' Encyclopaedia was published four years before the first edition of the handbook.

Sometimes a third and even a fourth term is added. Wild variants within a species are designated as varieties. When writing the name of a botanical variety a third term in Latin form is added to the abbreviation "var.", e.g. Cattleya labiata var. alba. In this case alba is the third term and is known as the varietal epithet. Note that the abbreviation "var." is not in italics. A fourth term is sometimes added. This is known as a cultivar epithet. This is always a fancy name (not Latin) which starts with Welcome to New Zealand and the 13th World Orchid Conference.

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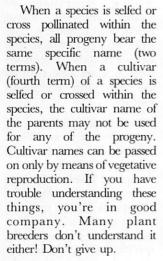
★ See us at the Conference ★

★ in the Harford greenhouse - opp. main entrance ★

a capital and is printed in Roman print and enclosed in single quotation marks, e.g. Cattleya labiata var. alba 'Nonsuch'.

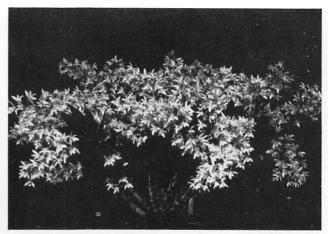


Cattleya skinneri var. alba



NATURAL HYBRIDS

The nomenclature of natural hybrids between species within the same genus is the same as for species, except that a multiplication sign (x) precedes the second term which is here known as the collective epithet. The collective epithet must be



Dend. x delicatum 'Dale' CC/NZOS 1989 Grower: Mrs E. Frost.

in Latin, e.g. x delicatum. The generic name and the collective epithet together make up the collective name of a natural hybrid, e.g. Dendrobium x delicatum.

Natural intergeneric hybrids are named in the same way, except that a new "hybrid generic name" is given, e.g. *Laelio-cattleya* for a cross between a cattleya and a laelia.

ARTIFICIAL HYBRIDS

For artificial hybrids the first term is the generic name (as for species and natural hybrids). Hybrids between parents within the same genus retain their generic name. Intergeneric hybrids receive a new "hybrid generic name", e.g. Sophrocattleya. The rules for writing the generic and hybrid generic names are the same as for species and intergeneric

natural hybrids, i.e. starting with a capital and in italics.

The second term in the name of artificial hybrids is the **collective epithet** or grex epithet. This is always written in Roman type and always starts with a capital (as opposed to the specific epithet of species and the collective epithet of natural hybrids) and is **not** italicized, e.g. Sophrocattleya Cleopatra.

The third term is known as the cultivar epithet and identifies an individual plant and its vegetative offspring, e.g. Sophrocattleya Cleopatra 'Osiris'. The rules for cultivars of artificial hybrids are the same as for species. Rule 9 of the RNRCO (1985) defines a cultivar: "A cultivar is a clone which is a genetically uniform assemblage of individuals derived from a single seedling vegetative propagation".

UNIFORMITY

How many screwdrivers do you have? One might ask what screwdrivers have to do with orchid names! The question has to do with the acceptance of standards. I probably have more than ten screwdrivers in my toolkit and at times cannot find one that fits when I want to tighten a specific screw. The "head" is different and requires yet another "special" screwdriver. The same applies to bolts and nuts, their threads, and the spanners required to tighten what looks like an ordinary bolt or nut. Cars are driven on the left, and cars are driven on the right hand side of the road in different countries. There are wide, and there are narrow railway tracks. We have the metric system, and there are many other ways of defining measurement. The orchid world is no different. Standardisation is a very hard thing to achieve for many and sundry reasons. That is why we have differing judging systems, variable awards, inconsistant abbreviations, unpredictable interpretanon-uniform tions, classification, etc.

Many highly skilled orchidists from many countries were elected on the International Orchid Commission. These people went to great length and applied many specialist skills to establish a

workable code. The Handbook is revised as circumstances and experience dictate. Yet, we will always have our very own dissenters and non comformists. Maybe that is human and a healthy sign that the process of change is eternal.

The field of taxonomy is a very complex one. Classification had to begin somewhere. In its early beginnings all orchids that grew on trees were combined in one genus, i.e. Epidendrum. Even to an aspiring novice it will be obvious that such classification is over-simplistic. Taking into consideration that orchids are the largest group of flowering plants in the world, one may begin to recognise that continued research in all fields is necessary and that changes and reclassification will be inevitable.

A simple example of reclassification is a plant like Haemaria disolor. It used to be known as Ludisia discolor. Many people will argue strongly that Ludisia is still the correct generic name because "some authority" says so. The 1990 WOC Show Schedule gives this genus special distinction by (class 401) making it the only class that is named by its common name, i.e. "Jewel Orchid". The Handbook (1985) on page 41 gives Haemaria discolor as the preferred name. Everybody should give preference to the rules of the Handbook. The alternative is chaos.

SANDER'S LIST OF ORCHID HYBRIDS

Sander's List is to orchidists what the Bible is to Christians. This series of books can be used in many and varied useful ways. We owe it all to the foresight and efforts of Frederick K. Sander as well as the succeeding generations of Sander and the Royal Horticultural Society. The April issue of Orchids in New Zealand contains a good article on some aspects of its use, by John Haywood-Farmer.

An important use of Sander's List is as "The" reference book to check the spelling of the names on our plant labels. My only reservation is that Handbook does not advocate the use of capital letters for every letter in the specific name, or collective name, as is done throughout in Sander's List. This usage in Sander's must be based on a printer's code (typography) which standardises the presentation of printed work. The printers of Sander's List applied this code long before "The Handbook' was even thought of. They are therefore entitled to uphold a proud tradition. Sander's List does use lower case

print for specific epithets, and italics are used when reference to genera and species is made.

Changes in classification must be an extremely difficult problem for the editors of Sander's List. Quite a few problems and misunderstandings arise amongst hobbyists as well. Encyclias for example are all listed as Epidendrums, and Rhyncholaelias as Brassavolas. It is made clear that this is done for the purposes of registration. There are quite a few of these "anomalies" that we have to become familiar with.

Last but not least Sander's List also prints a complete list of standard abbreviations of all generic names that have been used in hybridising. In the 1981-1985 Addendum this list is on pages xxxix to xli. No longer do we have an excuse to use the wrong abbreviations! There are still some practices about that can be confusing to the newcomer. Many authors when writing about say Dendrobiums use the abbreviation "D." as a space saver. That practice is alright as long as it is understood that it should be "Den." when it is used on a label or a card. There are fortythree other generic names that start with a "D." listed. When applied to Cattleyas, only the genus Cattleya has "C." as the standard abbrevia-



Rhyncholaelia digbyana, listed in the Sander's Lists as Brassavola digbyana.

tion. The rest all have longer abbreviations (fifty-three of them).

Don't hesitate to ask long standing members of

your Society for help with the use of Sander's List or any other reference book. They'll be pleased you asked.

REFERENCES:

- International Orchid Commission. The Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration, 3rd Edition (rev) 1985.
- 2. G. M. Barker. Orchid Names, Waikato Orchid Society Newsletter, May 1988.
- **3.** A. D. Hawkes, 1965 ENCYCLOPAEDIA of CULTIVATED ORCHIDS.
- **4.** SANDER'S COMPLETE LIST OF ORCHID HYRBRIDS, Sanders (St Albans) Ltd. 1946 & ADDENDA.

COMING UP:

DECEMBER: A look at phalaenopsis culture. Some different ideas to provoke us all.

FEBRUARY '91: Odontoglossums and their culture. Art Kramer reveals his secrets.

SHOW WEEK

SHOW WEEK (no better than the others through which I have lived . . .)

The North Shore Orchid Society must have had some interesting shows.

Beverly O'Dowda certainly enjoyed getting ready for one.

MONDAY: Cleaned house—showered in my new shower—went to meeting-home to mow lawns-showered again. Shower doesn't work. Got plumber back . . . started to type this issue of our magazine Insigne. Watched Games. Got up tired.

TUESDAY: Threw wet towels from plumber's flood into laundry, swept out all the tramped in clippings from plumber's boots. Day's work. Shower before dinner. No cold pressure. Burnt back. Another lot of towels. Still clippings throughout.

WEDNESDAY: Plumber at door at 7 am. Can fix he thinks. Will bring extra part home tonight. I sweep back porch after he goes and add last night's towels to the other lot. *Insigne* put away as tonight is prepping plants

for Show night. 8 pm dinner. Plumber comes again and after the third lot of towels and 'you know whats' I have a lovely shower. Get the plants done. Beautiful shower and bed. No games.

THURSDAY:

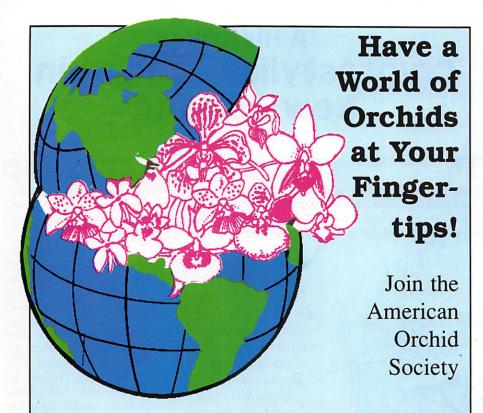
SHOWER FIRST. I am living in it you understand. Now I lose my good pen. Turn house upside down. Also cannot find shoe polish. I am so clean, and so is house . . . not shoes. Decide I have time to put all the towels through before I go to work. Washing machine won't go!!! 10 towels all in machine. Late to work. Executive meeting that night—but machine was fixed during that day.

FRIDAY: Suddenly it all comes together. I get all the plants packed into the car to go with me to Otahuhu for the day's work before taking to the hall tonight. I tear upstairs to clean teeth, decide to swish a few clippings from the shower with the new nozzle . . . I CAN'T TURN THE SHOWER OFF!!! The plumber's gone to work and I am soaked. I earbash his wife, leave him the key, replace clothes which are dirty as well as wel, having scrabbled around the water main . . . drove to work at such a pace I snapped off two labellums.

SHOW WEEK!!!!



Some people just can't stand the pace!! Kapiti Coast Orchid Society display 1990.



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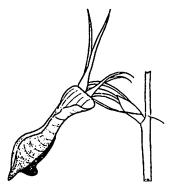
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A History Cryptostylis subulata in New Zealand

THE LATE DIGBY GRAHAM must have been pleasantly surprised when, in 1975, he was directed to an unusual plant growing on the Seymore's farm at Kaimaumau in the Far North. Digby, an accomplished orchid artist with a bent for paphiopedilum, and a regular visitor to the Seymore's, recognised their discovery as an orchid previously unknown in New Zealand. Cryptostylis subulata became a spectacular and attractive addition to the country's flora.



Cryptostylis subulata (Detail from A. W. Dockrill Australian Indigenous Orchids)

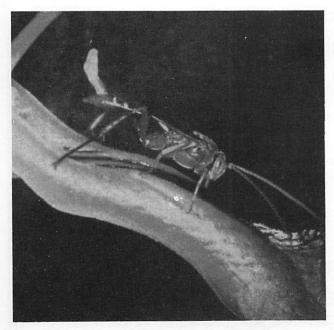
many years this evergreen orchid was known only from the southern end of the Kaimaumau wetland Reserve. As adiacent Crown lease land was cleared of scrub and drained for dairy farming, the Reserve became more accessable. Cryptostylis subulata has since been found in localised colonies throughout this Reserve and in two others. It is present in good numbers in all three and appears to be on

Doug McCrae,
Conservation officer
for the Native Orchid
group discusses our
native Cryptostylis
subulata, with
special reference to
its discovery and
current conservation
status.

the increase. The conservation status of *C. subulata* is a ranking in the IUCU category— Vulnerable.

My first introduction to Cryptostylis subulata was in 1984 when the Kaitaia Senior Field Officer for the now defunct Department of Lands and Survey directed me to Allan Summers' farm at Motutangi. Mr Summers was preparing an area adjacent to the northwestern boundary of the Kaimaumau Reserve for grassing. In the drained

and partially converted paddocks C. subulata was unusually abundant. The population comprised 4-5000 plants on low-lying peatland over c.2ha that was periodically submerged in winter-spring. The area had been crushed in 1979-80 and had been repeatedly rotary-hoed for two to three years and lime had been applied. The very high local population density was due to the above factors together with the repeated earlier fragmentation of vegetative parts (propagules) combined with opening up of the surface peat and release of the orchids from intensive competition of other species and shading by manuka. The increase in orchid population would probably have been an opportunistic 'flush'. The maintenance of the habitat in its state at that time would have required special management—a tool not available at that



An ichneumon wasp pollinating this species. Photograph: Doug McCrae.

Despite my efforts to have the Reserve boundary extended to accommodate this largely 'artificial' population, a DSIR report commissioned by the Department of Lands and Survey recommended otherwise. The report did recommend that salvage should be operations undertaken for as many orchid plants as would be practical and for some of the threatened ferns-Cyclosorus interruptus and Thelypteris confluens.

About half of the *Cryptostylis* population was salvaged. The Department of Lands and Survey transferred a number of plants to one of the other Reserves where *C. subulata*

known was to grow naturally. Tour parties from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and various individuals also collected plants. I personally removed almost 1000 plants, mainly for holding in storage for later transfer to conservation areas. Many plants were gifted to interested persons and later some were sold. Having such a large number on hand provided opportunity for the experimentation with cultural techniques for the purposes of both conservation and commercial sales.

Cryptostylis had proved easy to propagate and easy to keep in cultivation. New plants were produced from the tips and internodes of broken sections of the long, fleshy and brittle roots, when buried in a potting medium in large pots and flat trays. The mix was kept evenly moist, but not overly wet.

Natural propagation for this species is achieved by a pollinating agent-the ichneumon wasp. Lissopimpla semipunctata. By performing the strange practice of pseudocopulation, the male wasps attempt to mate with the flower. During this process the pollinia become attached to the wasp's abdomen (see photo). When the wasp visits another flower some of the pollen is deposited onto the stigma. The wasps are attracted to the plants by floral mimicry and scent. The warm, humid weather during December and January seem to suit the orchid and the wasp. These months are the main flowering period for the orchid and probably the maturity stage of the wasp's life cycle.

In Australia Cryptostylis subulata is widespread and not uncommon in the southeastern and southern states. In New Zealand, it is to be found in good numbers in three separate protected areas and is on the increase.

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BINDERS EAUTIFUL

IN OUR LOUNGE, in a (sort of) tidy pile, is a seemingly endless pile of orchid information in the form of papers on various genera, Bulletins, Awards Quarterly and Orchids in New Zealand. There is over 10 years worth of those so they really did need a good home.

Now it happened that the organisers of the 13th WOC badly needed funds and it was put to our Society to think of a way to raise some money. So I though some way of binding "Orchids in Zealand'' into New methodical order was a thought.

One thing that really annoys me is punching holes in magazines, so I went around all the binding firms listed in the Yellow Pages until I came up with a well made binder with an ingenious method of filing, which eliminated the need for holes, and didn't cost too much.

It all seemed quite easy—the orders started to come in and we packed and dispatched furiously-then little hitches appeared; courier fees increased dramatically so allowance for postage wasn't enough and so our profits were reduced, then single orders we discovered cost THREE times our postage allowance (we had expected just bulk orders) and then couriers don't deliver to box

numbers so alternative addresses had to be researched (although that problem was overcome by the use of Fast Post deliveries).

In the two years we've been doing this, we've made \$500 direct donation to WOC and also loaned \$500 to be returned to our Society later.

We hope to sell still more and will continue to share profit until WOC is over-so, if your "Orchids in New Zealand" are in a (sort of) organised pile but would love to live in an attractive, green, hard cover with wired spine, get your Society to send a cheque for a bulk order (minimum 14) at \$9.50 each, or for a lesser number an extra \$1 per binder post and packing.

Canterbury Orchid Society Binder a/c c/- G. M. Day 44 Harrowdale Drive Christchurch 4

Non Toxic Sprays

With the current trend towards non toxic sprays in regard to both the environment and our own health here are a few from The Bay of Plenty Orchid Society.

For Red Spider — 2 tablespoons Cold Water Surf; 1 tablespoon Meths; 1 tablespoon All Season Oil. Shake up in a gallon of water and spray 2-3 times at 10 day intervals.

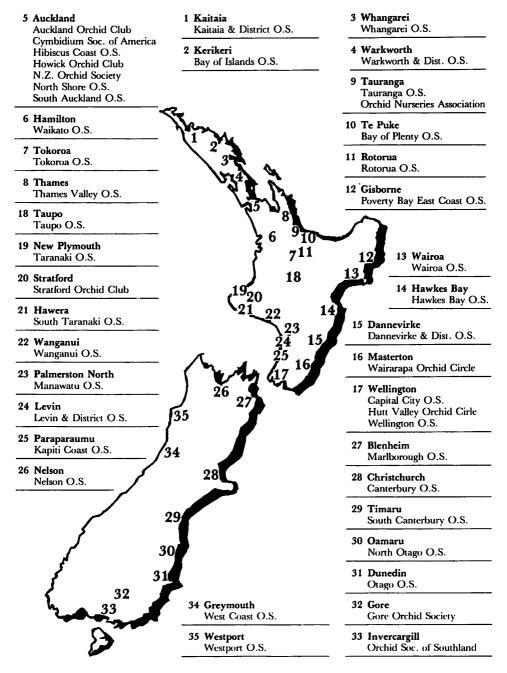
For Slugs, Snails and Slaters — 1 tablespoon Ieves Fluid in 1 gallon of water. Spray as necessary.

For minor problems with aphids and the like— a simple 'Green soap' spray at 1 teaspoon per litre of water. This soap is available from the chemist, although you may have to order it. The principle involved is essentially to make life sticky for the insects and to block up their breathing holes.

Watch storage of madeup sprays — generally they should be used straight after mixing.

New Zealand Orchid Societies

Location meeting details follow:



วิธา เรียดวัดจะ จากตัว ต่อเปิดเกิดเห็น โดยเป็นเดิมที่ได้ เดียดได้

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY SECRETARIES & MEETING NIGHTS

Following each secretaries' name is a personal address and telephone number should you wish to make contact with a society at short notice. If a societies' mailing address differs from that of the secretary it will appear directly underneath. Meeting nights and venues are listed on the right hand side.

NOTE: Numbers relate to map location.

AUCKLAND ORCHID CL	IID	HOWICK ORCHID CLUB		
Mr Doug Lilly 1st Tuesday, 7.30 pm (except Jan)			2nd Sunday, 1.30 pm	
12 Spence Road, Henderson	Henderson Civic Centre.	73 Ridge Road	2nd Sunday, 1.50 pm	
AUCKLAND	Alderman Drive, Henderson	HOWICK	Auckland	5
Telephone: (09) 836-8900	Auckland 5		Auckiano	,
,	Addition	HUTT VALLEY ORCHID (CIRCLE	
BAY OF ISLANDS ORCH	D SOCIETY	P. O. Box 31430	4th Monday, 7.30 pm (Sept/Apr)
Mrs Lesley Rockell	2nd Wednesday, 7.30 pm	LOWER HUTT	4th Sunday, 2pm (May/Aug)	
R.D. 2, KAIKOHE	St. James Church Hall	LOWER HUTT	Hutt Valley Horticultural Society,	
Telephone: (0887) 68-845	Keri Keri 2	KAITAIA & DIST. ORCHID	Supper Room, Lower Hutt	17
		Mrs Margaret Perry SOCIETY		
BAY OF PLENTY ORCHI	D SOCIETY	P.O. Box 245		
Mr Trevor Signal		AWANUI		
Lambert Road,	2nd Sunday, 2 pm	Telephone: (088971) 593		
WHAKATANE RD 2	Te Puke High School Library	Waiharara	Various Dates and locations	1
Telephone: (076) 28-233	Tui Street			•
P.O. Box 478, Te Puke.	Te Puke 10	KAPITI ORCHID SOCIETY	Y	
		Mrs Maureen Brown	2nd Monday, 7.30 pm (except Ja	ın)
CANTERBURY ORCHID		53 Bengal Street, Khandallah	Hadfield Room, Coastlands	•
Mrs Adrienne Rushworth	1st Monday, 8 pm	WELLINGTON	Shopping Centre	
P.O. Box 7131,	Rangers Football Pavilion	Telephone: (04) 796-994	Paraparaumu	25
SYDENHAM	158 McGregors Road	P.O. Box 93, Paraparaumu		
Telephone: 855-483	Christchurch 28	1.O. box 93, Faraparaumo		
CARITAL CITY OFCUIR	COCIETY	LEVIN & DIST. ORCHID SOCIETY		
CAPITAL CITY ORCHID	nday, (except Dec/Jan), 7.45 pm	Mrs Lyn Sherlock	4th Tuesday, 7.30 pm	
	llah School Hall	Atkins Road, Manakau RD	Methodist Church Hall	
		LEVIN	Kent Street, Levin	24
WELLINGTON Clark S	reet, Khandallah, Wellington 17	Telephone: MNK 698	nem outer, ixviii	
CYMBIDIUM SOC. OF A	MERICA	P.O. Box 180, Levin		
AUSTRALASIAN BRANC				
Ray Dix	•	MANAWATU ORCHID SOC	C	
381 Redoubt Road		Mrs L. Thompson	2nd Thursday, 7.45 pm	
MANUKAU CITY	5	64 Tutaenui Road	All Saints Church Hall	
Telephone: (09) 263-6090		MARTON	Church Street	
• • •		Telephone: (0652) 7007	Palmerston North	23
DANNEVIRKE & DISTRI	CT			
ORCHID SOCIETY	2nd Monday, 7.30 pm	MARLBOROUGH ORCHID	SOCIETY	
Mr Derek Boswell	Hearing Association Hall	Mrs Gwenda Costello		
P.O. Box 288	McPhee Street	P.O. Box 143	Winter - 3rd Sunday, 1.30 pm	
DANNEVIRKE	Dannevirke 15	SEDDON	Summer — 3rd Thursday, 8 pm	
	•	Telephone: 27-377	Wesley Centre	
GORE ORCHID SOCIETY	(P.O. Box 804, Blenheim	3 Henry Street, Blenheim	27
Mrs I. Stewart 3D William Street		NET CON ORGENER COCKET	-=/	
GORE	2nd Tuesday, 8 pm	NELSON ORCHID SOCIET	T	
Telephone: (020) 86-639	Different members' homes 32	Mrs Gillian Lyster	3rd Tuesday, 7.30 pm (except Jar	
relephone. (020) 00-033	Different memoris montes 52	62 Point Road, Monaco NELSON	Methodist Church Hall	.,
HAWKES BAY ORCHID	SOCIETY	Telephone: (054) 76-743	Neale Avenue, Stoke	26
Mrs Iris Burge	1st Monday, 7.30 pm	recpnone: (034) 70-743	. Weate Avenue, Stoke	20
6 Tiffen Place	Pakowhai Hall	NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SO	CIETY	
GREEN MEADOWS	Pakowhai Road	Mr Derek Lamb	3rd Wednesday (except Dec/lan)	
Telephone: 444-602	Hawkes Bay 14	229 Lake Road	Mt Albert Memorial Hall	
•	•	TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND		
HIBISCUS COAST ORCH		Telephone; (09) 496-645	Auckland	5
Mrs Jean Ellison	2nd Sunday, 2 pm	• • •		•
2/222 Centreway Road	Bridge Clubrooms			
OREWA	No. 4 Centreway Road			
Telephone: 64-726	Orewa 5			

Mrs Shirley Piercy 2nd Thursday, 7.30 pm 36 Chelmers Road OAMARU Red Cross Rooms Telephone: 46-796 Centennial Building P.O. Box 207, Oamaru Severn Street, Oamaru

NORTH SHORE ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs Annette Hart

P.O. Box 33493, Takapuna 1st Sunday, (except Jan) AUCKLAND Auckland

ORCHID NURSERIES ASSOCIATION

Mr Ron Maunder P.O. Box 2107 TAURANGA

ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTHLAND

Noeline Murch 1st Tuesday, 7.30 pm Myross Bush, No. 2 RD Federated Farmers Rooms INVERCARGILL Forth Street. Telephone: 304-781 Invercargill

OTAGO ORCHID CLUB

Mr John Lloyd 48 Wray Street DUNEDIN

4th Wednesday, 7.30 pm

St Peters Hall Hillside Road South Dunedin

POVERTY BAY EAST COAST ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs Helen Topp 315 Clifford Street GISBORNE Telephone: (06) 867-4327 2nd Monday, 7.30 pm Waiapu Girl Guides Lodge

Valley Road Gisborne

ROTORUA ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs Jess Foster 1st Sunday, 2 pm 9a Apollo Place Malfroy Road Primary School ROTORUA Malfroy Road West Telephone: 478-370

STH AUCKLAND ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs M. Emery 1st Monday, 7.30 pm P.O. Box 97361 Senior Citizens Hall South Auckland Mail Centre East Street, Papakura Telephone: (09) 267-6416 Auckland

STH CANTERBURY ORCHID, BEGONIA & FERN SOCIETY

Mrs Olive Slater 1st Tuesday, 7.30 pm Waitawa Orchid, No. 4 RD Caroline Bay Community Lounge TIMARU Timaru Telephone: 880 MAK

STH TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs Una McCormick 25 Puriri Street HAWERA Telephone: 85-755

3rd Thursday, 7.45 pm Hawera Community Centre Albion Street

P. O. Box 275, Hawera Hawera

STRATFORD ORCHID CLUB Mrs Joan Maul

1st Wednesday, 7.45 pm 16 Hamlet Street STRATFORD 13 Flint Street Telephone: 5404 Stratford

TARANAKI ORCHID SOCIETY

2nd Tuesday, 7 pm Mr Grahame Hill P.O. Box 635 Fitzroy Community Centre NEW PLYMOUTH Sackville Street Telephone: 86-505 New Plymouth

TAUPO ORCHID SOCIETY

3rd Tuesday, 7.45 pm Mr Bill Rademaker 3 Frederick Street DSIR, Freshwater Division TAUPO Tuwharetoa Street Telephone: 89-417 (85-000 bus) Taupo P.O. Box 650, Taupo 3300 (Opp. Cobb & Co)

TAURANGA ORCHID SOCIETY 3rd Tuesday, 7.30 pm

Miss Barbara Nalder (Dec only 1st Tue) P.O. Box 669 Wesley Hall, TAURANGA Methodist Church Telephone: 85-270 13th Avenue, Tauranga

30 THAMES VALLEY ORCHID SOCIETY

Miss B. Tompkin Telephone: 78-525 Last Sunday, 1.30 pm P.O. Box 319 Thames High School THAMES Sealey Street, Thames

TOKOROA ORCHID SOCIETY

Diane Willson 4th Wednesday, 7 pm 84 Tasman Drive Tainui Intermediate School TOKOROA Staffroom Telephone: 66-428 Tokoroa

WAIKATO ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs J. Bell 4th Tuesday, 7.30 pm Telephone: (071) 56-5410 Hamilton Gardens Complex P.O. Box 7101, HAMILTON Cobham Drive, Hamilton

WAIRARAPA ORCHID CIRCLE Mrs Dorothy Hatt

16 Venice Street 1st Sunday, 2 pm Senior Citizens Hall MARTINBOROUGH Telephone: (0553) 69-829 Cole Street P. O. Box 302, Masterton Masterton 16

WAIROA ORCHID SOCIETY Mrs Nita Rolls

45 Mahia Avenue WAIROA Telephone: (0724) 8067 P. O. Box 281, Wairoa

Wairoa 13

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WANGANUI ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs Mary Phillips 1st Wednesday, 7.30 pm P.O. Box 7080, Mid Avenue Old Folks Centre WANGANUI (opp. Council Chambers) Telephone: 39-413 Guyton Street, Wanganui 22

WARKWORTH & DISTRICTS ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs E. J. Wilkins 11 Browns Road WARKWORTH Telephone: (0846) 8451

Last Wednesday, 1.30 pm Totara Park Warkworth

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WELLINGTON ORCHID

1st Monday, 8 pm (except Jan) Mrs D. Williamson SOCIETY Our Lady of the Rosary School 39 Normanby Street, Newtown Wainui Road WELLINGTON Lower Hutt

WEST COAST ORCHID SOCIETY Miss Eileen Pike

24 Sturge Street, Cobden GREYMOUTH

20

19

18

34 21

WESTPORT ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs Jewel Lemon 3rd Wednesday, 7.30 pm 22 Romilly Street Westport Plunket Rooms WESTPORT Cnr Russell & Lyndhurst Street Telephone: 8386 Westport 35

WHANGAREI ORCHID SOCIETY

Mrs Joy Wray 1st Wednesday, 7.30 pm P.O. Box 1408 St Johns Church Hall WHANGAREI Kamo Road Telephone: (089) 436-0515 Whangarei

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Diary Dates 1990

September

Monday 10th Show opens Sunday 16th Show closes

Conference runs 5-17 September SOCIETY: 13th World Orchid Conference

VENUE: New Zealand Exposition Centre
ADDRESS: Greenland Road, Auckland
CONTACT: Registration: P.O. Box 12-442

Auckland

Thursday 27th. Friday 28th, Saturday 29th SOCIETY: Kaitaia Orchid Society CONTACT: P.O. Box 245, Awanui

Thursday 27th running through to

Sunday 30th

SOCIÈTY: Aus. Native Orchid Conference VENUE: University of Woolongong ADDRESS: Woolongong, NSW Australia

Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th

SOCIETY: Canterbury Orchid Society

October

Friday 5th, Saturday 6th

SOCIETY: Wairoa Orchid Society
VENUE: Presbyterian Hall
ADDRESS: Queen Street, Wairoa

Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th

SOCIETY: Dannevirke Orchid Society

VENUE: Manchester Unity Hall

ADDRESS: Dannevirke

Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th

SOCIETY: Manawatu Orchid Society

VENUE: Civic Centre
ADDRESS: Palmerston North

October continued

Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th

SOCIETY: Taupo Orchid Society
VENUE: Taupo Memorial Hall
ADDRESS: Tongario Street, Taupo

Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th

SOCIETY: Wanganui Orchid Society

Friday 12th — Opens 5 pm Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th

SOCIETY: Nelson Orchid Society
VENUE: Stoke Memorial Hall

ADDRESS: Stoke

CONTACT: 62 Point Road, Monaco, Nelson

Saturday 13th

SOCIETY: Tokoroa District Orchid Society
VENUE: St John's Ambulance Hall
ADDRESS: Logan Street, Tokoroa
CONTACT: P.O. Box 538, Tokoroa

Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st

SOCIETY: Tauranga Orchid Society

VENUE: Greenton Hall ADDRESS: Tauranga

CONTACT: P.O. Box 669, Tauranga

Saturday 20th, Sunday 21st

SOCIETY: Wairarapa Orchid Circle
VENUE: Knox Church Hall
ADDRESS: Dixon Street, Masterton
CONTACT: P.O. Box 302, Masterton

September 1991

Friday 13th running through to

Thursay 19th

SOCIETY: Australian Orchid Conference ADDRESS: Perth. Western Australia

ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND:

Closing Dates		Editorial	Advertising
Nov/Dec 1990 issue Jan/Feb 1991 issue	Vol. 16:6 Vol. 17:1	1st Oct '90 1st Dec '90	21st Oct '90 21st Dec '90
Mar/Apr 1991 issue	Vol. 17:2	1st Feb '91	21st Feb '91

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