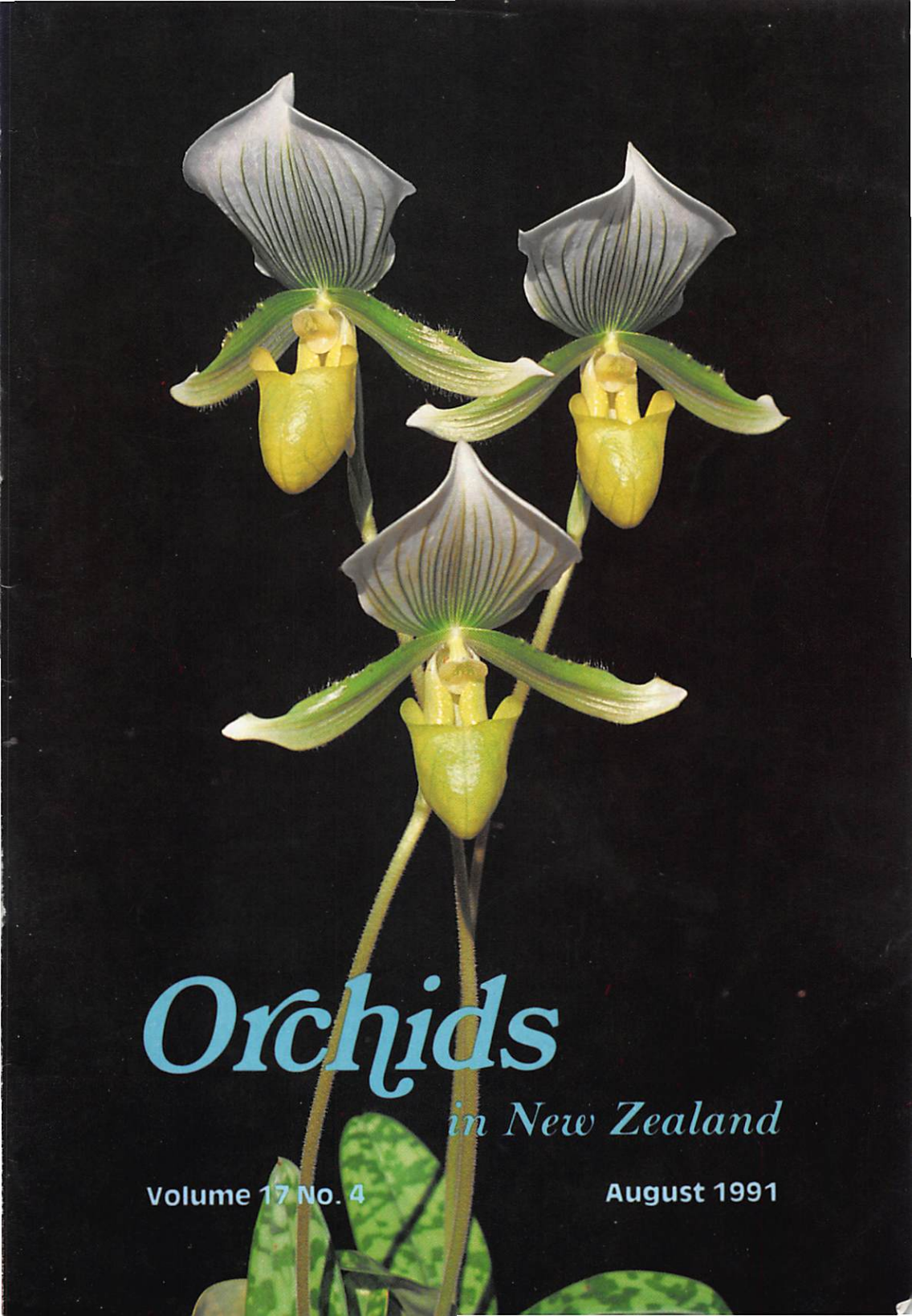

Orchids

in New Zealand

Volume 17 No. 4 August 1991

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Orchids

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NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 17 No. 4 **AUGUST 1991**

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ILLUSTRATIONS

CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION is a word that we all hear about, but how much regard do we have to it in practice. We have our native orchids, but few are of commercial quality. While matters of conservation have been raised at times with respect to some of these plants, our problems are generally minor compared with many overseas orchids.

Conservation concerns the preservation of native plants and native habitats. There are many areas of economic development — farming, mining, housing and commercial development, which encroach onto undeveloped areas. Often the pressures of these activities outweigh the less tangible assets of the natural environment. It is only with a rare plant that they and their habitats can compete and be preserved. Under such situations the value of the habitat and the plant, together with their vulnerability to extinction must be carefully balanced with the profits arising from development. Often this is not done until it is too late.

How often have we been walking in our native bush and seen an orchid that has attracted our attention, and then proceeded to remove it to grow in our glasshouse. And how often has that orchid survived for a year or so — or even less.

Many orchids are very vulnerable to over exploitation because of their magnificent flowers. There is substantial pressure from collecting, both by enthusiastic amateurs and professional collectors in many countries, some attracted by the magnificent flowers, others by the money they believe they can make. Many will have read with amazement the activities of the early orchid collectors who literally stripped many habitats of their orchids, orchids many of which did not survive the stresses of travel to their intended new homes.

There is an increasing fascination with species orchids; orchids that have often been removed directly from native habitats in many overseas countries. How often we think of that when we make our purchases?

In recent years there has been increasing concern of conservation, or rather the complete or substantial disappearance of some orchids from their native habitats, especially those with flowers widely attractive to growers. The introduction of the CITES regulations controlling the exportation and importation of protected species of plants (and animals) is an effort to control the more disasterous effects of this trade. There is always a place for balanced trade, but how do you judge this; if a plant is really in demand the commercial pressures are considerable, and if the plants are available in nature, there then some will sucumb and easily collect to excess.

editorial

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

Responsible distributors are now selling nursery grown specimens, and this is the only way we can know that the environment is not being damaged.

With the enforcement of the CITES protocol, some species of orchids which have been available are now likely to be in short supply. Orchid growers, especially those members of orchid societies, have a responsibility to protect the stock of species we have in this country. And this especially applies to those outstanding forms that occasionally are found. If such plants are known, then they should be distributed as widely as possible in order to ensure their survival. The selfing of selected forms is also an important procedure, as is the distribution of the progeny as widely as possible within the orchid growing community. With increasing controls over the collection of species in their natural habitats, if we do not protect those that we already have, we may find they disappear from our collections. It is worth remembering that many of the advanced hybrids owe their origins to many native species, and that often the introduction of a species is required to rejuvenate vigour into advanced hybrids. If those species are not available, then what can we do?

For those who like species orchids (or any plant for that matter) there is a responsibility to ensure that the plants have been responsibly obtained. Species are a fascinating group of orchids to grow, especially if one takes the time to find out about their native habitats, but such an interest takes with it the responsibility to ensure their survival. ◄

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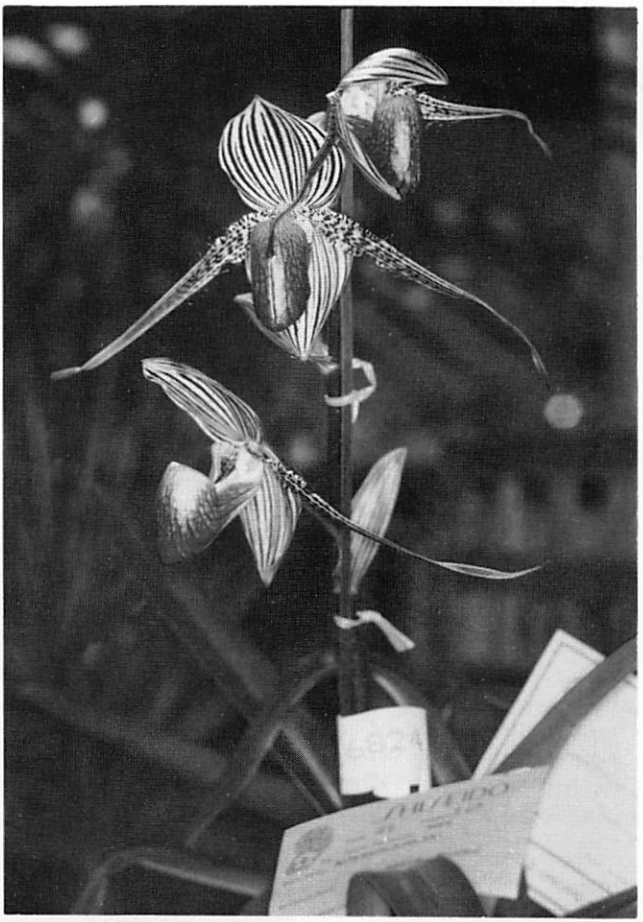


Paph. rothschildianum **collected virtually to extinction in its native habitat on Mount Kinabalu in north-east Borneo. Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids — 13 W.O.C.**

Feature of the Month

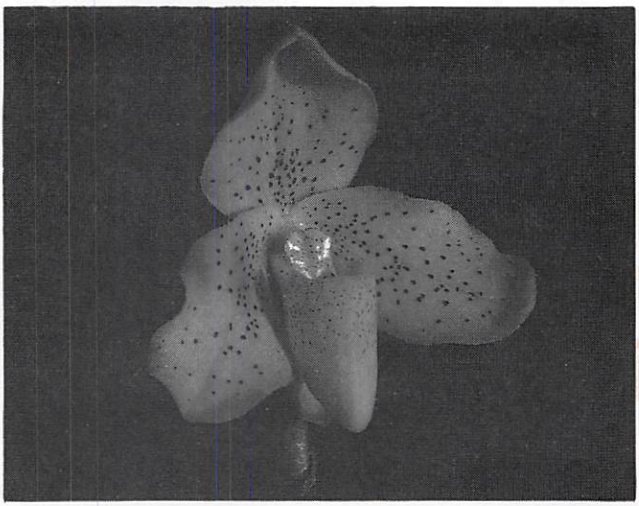
THE CONSERVATION AND GROWING OF SPECIES PAPHIOPEDILUMS

SOME time ago I had the pleasure of being able to give a cultural talk on the growing of paphs. to members of the Kapiti Orchid Society in the informal atmosphere of my home. This was a great success as I was able to use plants direct from my glasshouse to demonstrate any points I wished to make.

Peter Stephens, *co-founder of The Paphiopedilum Group in N.Z.* *discusses what he is doing to assist orchid conservation. He also discusses aspects of culture.*

I never cease to be amazed at the interest expressed by society members in this particular genus of orchids. I cannot help but feel that too little is done to promote paphs; indeed, we do not have any specific organisation which promotes paphs. Australian paph growers have their own magazine, **TAPS**, in which is published a lot of valuable information on growing in Australian conditions. It very well may be that we should have a similar publication here in New Zealand. Food for thought? Perhaps those people who are interested in growing paphs. might like to write to Lyn Sherlock, who, along with the author, are enthusiastic growers of paphiopedilum orchids. Lyn is inviting people with similar ideas to write and submit their views on this to her at Atkins Road, Manakau, RD 1 Otaki.

Late in 1985 we began to realise that if we were to continue growing paphs., we would have to look at some other way of obtaining plants. The cost of importing plants in particular was rising very rapidly. At this point I started looking into conservation and found that most countries were bringing in laws controlling the destruction and exporting of plants from their native habitat. Following discussions with Lyn Sherlock, who is a very enthusiastic grower of paphs. it was decided to go ahead and start producing our own plants. These are selfings and siblings from our own collections of plants.



Paph. hirsutissimum

As there was very little information on producing seed pods (and there still is), it was largely done by trial and error for most of the time. However, we succeeded and today we have a large range of nursery-raised plants of some of the more rare plants, as well as those more commonly available.

The seed pods take anything from 7 to 9 months to mature, upon which time they are sent off to the laboratory for sowing in flasks. This is done under sterile conditions and when the seedlings are large enough, they are replanted and grown on.

It is a great thrill to receive flasks of our own plants, and to be able to start growing them on for our own benefit, as well as being able to make them available for sale at a reasonable price to other hobbyist growers in an attempt to conserve the species. At the present rate of the destruction of their habitat, in a very few years from now, there will be few, if any, plants left in the wild, so we really need to encourage the growth of nursery-raised plants to ensure the survival of the genera.

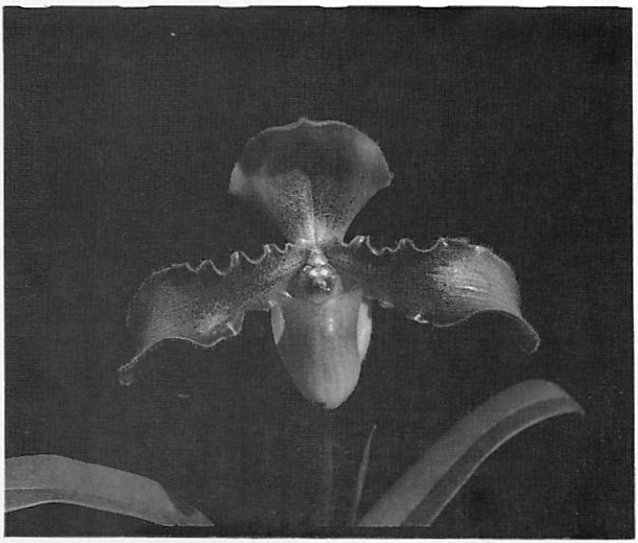
Growing of Plants

This is not difficult to do. Any hobbyist interested in producing his or her own seed can do this quite easily. It is not necessary to send your plants off to a commercial grower to have them grown on. Hopefully the following notes on how I grow mine will be of some help.

I deflask these plants by washing the agar off in a solution of Benlate in tepid water. They are then laid out on newspaper to dry, graded to size, then planted in community pots. They are then placed in the glasshouse where they stay in the community pots for 9 months, by which time they are usually ready to be planted into seedling pots. The community pots are treated just as any other plants in the glasshouse, watered when necessary, and foliar fed with Phostrogen once a week.

Shading the Glasshouse

Since starting to grow seedling paphs., I have increased the shading on the glasshouse to 80%. This has been achieved by placing 50% shade-cloth over the already existing 30% shadecloth. This has helped greatly during the recent hot summer that we have experienced in this area. The hot weather, in my experience, does tend to affect some plants in flower, especially those that flower out of season. I noticed that when my large plant of The Paphiopedilum species *stonei* flowered late during the middle of the hot weather, this showed up in poor, small flowers and less blooms. However, all those people who have had the opportunity of seeing this



Paph. concolor

plant in flower for the first time, have all commented on the size and beauty of the flowers. Unfortunately, *stonei* never gets to any society meeting as it usually flowers consistantly in mid-November when most meetings are over for the year.

Interestingly enough, I have noticed some advantages in applying more shade. It tends to help to keep the house a bit cooler during bright, warm days, keeps the colour in the flowers much better (they don't seem to fade as quickly), and the leaves look better, not soft but firm.

On bright sunny days the light is very good while on overcast days it is still very good, not too dark as might be expected. During late April or early May, I remove the 50% shade-cloth, leaving the 30% shadecloth on for the winter.

Heating

As for heating and air circulation, I keep 2 fans running 24 hours a day. The bottom ventilators on both sides of the house are wide open, NEVER CLOSED, SUMMER OR WINTER, which ensures a constant flow of air around the house. I have a heater, thermostatically controlled, set at 15°C during the day, and 10°C at night. This ensures good, even growing conditions for both seedlings as well as intermediate and mature plants.

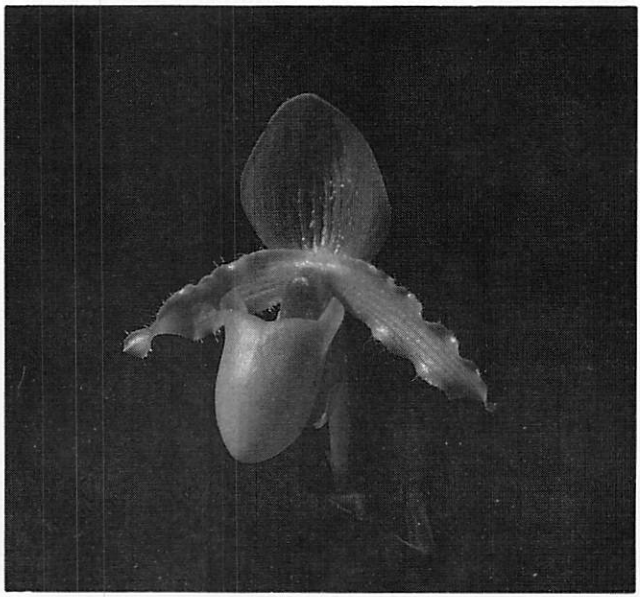
At this point I would like to refer the reader to my previous article re "Growing your Plants", Page 21, Vol. 14 No. 1, Jan-Feb 1988 **ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND.**

Watering

This is a rather difficult problem for most people. I do all my watering during the evenings. I only water my plants about once a week during the winter, and about once every 3 to 4 days during the summer. I do not water overhead. All watering is done by hand. Each plant then gets individual attention, and also stops water accumulating in the leaf fans and so rotting off any buds that might be forming.

Since writing my last article I have installed a rainwater collecting system which holds 400 litres of water and is piped directly from the downpipe from the roof of our house, via a gate valve, into the tanks and from there into the glasshouse. This system supplies me with enough water for most of the year, except sometimes during the summer when we do not receive sufficient rain and I then need to use the town supply.

Finally, I would like to say good growing, look after your plants and I hope that they will give you as much pleasure as they do me. ◄



Paph. primulinum

A DROP IN THE OCEAN . . .

A LOT of water has passed beneath the bridge since I attended an orchid society meeting for the first time around 1978, but even so I can still recall the excitement of it all. I was warmly welcomed and thoroughly enjoyed listening to the growers, admiring their array of exotic orchids and quickly realised that this was a whole, new ball game very definitely worthy of further investigation.

Needless to say, it was not long before I was deeply engrossed with orchids of every shape and size and pursued all avenues of knowledge on this new and absorbing topic. However, it was some years before my preference became clear to me. Who can forget the superb displays of the late Frank Askin and his beloved paphiopedilums; surely those spectacular *P. delanatii's* socked everyone in the eye? So the brain washing or conditioning began where I soaked up all the pearls of wisdom that Frank, and others, dropped and read each and every paph. article that came my way. By this time I had quite a few plants in my collection, mostly hybrids, and then I 'discovered' the species. I firmly believe becoming a species fan must involve virus contamination for the condition never improves, only intensifying as time goes on!

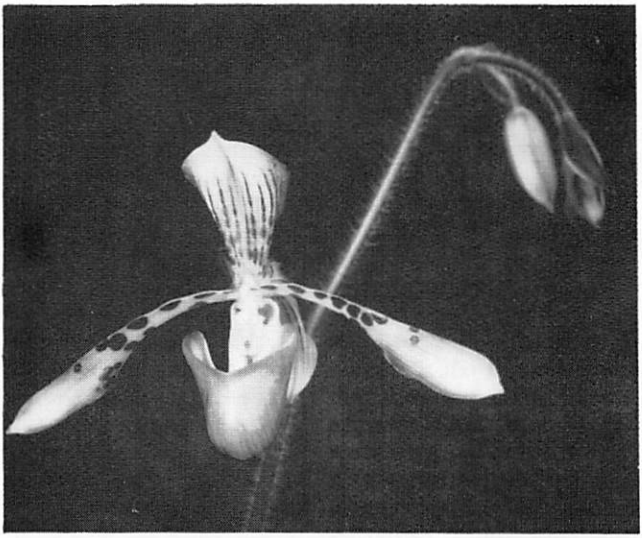
The ability to obtain those precious gems slowly increased but the sight of those single growth,

Paph. delanatii
grown by the late Frank Askin of Wellington

dehydrated, plants saddened me. They had obviously undergone a great deal of stress since their initial collection and often it was months before some of them showed signs of responding to their new environment despite the lavished TLC. Eventually, however, they began to flower and then another learning process started with the realisation that two individual plants with identical flowers had distinct nametags, and before I knew what was happening, I was knee-deep in the quagmire of taxonomic ponderables. However, this is not the time to dwell on that issue; another time perhaps.

Further reading, plus TV documentaries, soon spelt out loud and clear that the habitat of many paphs. around the world, was being decimated at a rate of knots with little or no thought given to those plants. True, the habits or earlier collectors had done significantly more damage when shipments of hundreds and thousands of orchids had been carried out. Extinction of species caused through mankind's plundering is a label too familiar for us to be complacent. Slowly the idea formed that perhaps the thing for me to do was to breed up quantities of species paphs. for general release which would, hopefully, encourage other orchid growers to grow them and learn to appreciate their subtle nuances, and thereby reduce the demand for 'collected' plants. The fact that other people around the world with far larger nurseries than mine were already doing this in part, in no way deterred me, for my interest is just as keen for the more common or usual species as well as the glamorous and currently popular ones. Many paph. fanatics are well aware of the situation regarding *P. rothschildianum;* quantities taken have so depleted the indigenous stock that replanting of carefully nurtured nursery plants was carried out but even some of these have since been taken. Ah, the greed of some. Unfortunately, the power of the dollar (or whatever currency) is extremely powerful and this sadly affects much of the situation. If only orchid lovers would purchase nursery raised plants, surely this would go some way towards alieviating the problem.

To this end my colleague, Peter Stephens, and I are some 6 years down the line raising paph. species and although what we are doing is extremely insignificant compared to the whole issue, we are making a positive contribution. Until NZ signed CITES, I had been importing stud plants for breeding but this is a slow and laborious task and as any hybridiser knows, there is many a slip between fertilisation and healthy plants! We have been most fortunate in obtaining pollen of some species from generous



Paph. haynaldianum

donors but regrettably our own individual collections are incomplete and it may take some time before we can locate those rarities. We are aware that throughout New Zealand orchid enthusiasts are holding individual 'specials', some of them extremely rare, and would like to think that they too will undertake some positive action. All too often the pollen gets used creating fanciful primary hybrids which, in their own rights, are so attractive, but where would we be without those 'building blocks' of species? If, however, there are readers who would like to contribute towards the conservation of the species, I should be glad to hear from them.

In February of this year, the inaugural meeting of the **NZ Paphiopedilum Alliance** was held at my home and through this I hope to further emphasise the dilemma of the paph. species and together with the other members, learn more about these charmers. ◀

Lyn Sherlock
Atkins Road
RD 1, Otaki

Coelogyne barbata

At a recent meeting I took along a multi-spiked plant of *Coelogyne barbata* and was very surprised at the number of members who asked me how I had managed to flower it as they had never had any luck.

My plant is now about four years old and has grown into a reasonable specimen size and flowers quite happily each year with absolutely no special treatment at all. It lives, like most of my plants, outside among my cymbidiums under the Casuarina tree on the south side of the house. We are exposed to the cold south westerlies and do get quite hard frosts here. In fact last year I lost quite a few Australian natives from the frosts.

It is grown in normal bark mix and fed along with my cymbidiums. The flowers are white with densely fringed lips with a sepia-brown beard. The tall erect spikes appear and it is often months before the flowers emerge. I imagine they come from fairly high altitude, like it cool with lots of air movement and providing your drainage is good, don't mind how much wind and rain they get.

Reprinted from Insigne June 1990
◀

Some Common Cymbidium Problems Answered

Q Why do flowers turn pinkish colour after they have been out for only a day or so?

A The change of colour suggest a bee has pollinated the flower. Doors and windows should be checked for gaps which allow the entry of these unwanted visitors and insects.

Q Why do buds drop before they have opened?

A Some plants don't like high temperatures in the autumn or winter. This is sometimes hard to control. The same symptoms can also be caused by the atmosphere being too dry. ◀

GROWING PHRAGMIPEDIUMS . . .

PHRAGMIPEDIUMS are rapidly regaining the popularity with orchid growers that they enjoyed in the late 1800s. The resurgence of interest in *Phragmipediums* has been long in coming for an orchid goup that has so many good qualities and presents so few problems. They are easy to grow, are reliable bloomers, are exceptionally vigorous, and are quite resistant to the pests that commonly attack other orchids.

The various species of *Phragmipedium* grow in many different habitats in nature but these habitats all have two features in common—good light and plenty of water. In the greenhouse, I grow them all under virtually the same conditions. The epiphytes are potted in the same mix as the lithophytes and terrestrials. They come from high altitudes are grown at the same temperatures as those from low elevations. Those that grow in the wild with their roots dangling in rivulets are watered the same as any of the others. As long as they receive bright light and adequate water, they seem quite adaptable. I have noticed no ill effects from uniform culture.

LIGHT:

For many people who are accustomed to growing slipper orchids, the light requirements of most *phragmipediums* is surprising. I grow them on the same benches where my *cattleyas* thrive. *Phragmipediums* require 2,400 - 3,000 foot-candles of light to grow and bloom to their full potential. The only exception to this out of the 18 species and many hybrids in my greenhouse is *Phragmipedium besseae.* It appears to like it a little shadier, so it is tucked behind a couple of large plants of *Phragmipedium sargentianum.* The plants should be spaced far enough apart so that as many leaves as possible receive good light. Leaves of *phragmipediums* should be light green. Dark green leaves indicate too little light and yellowish leaves indicate bleaching from too much sun.

TEMPERATURE:

Here again, because my *phragmipediums* are growing alongside *cattleyas,* they are exposed to the same temperatures. In the summer, the high can reach 40°C but averages 23-36°C. In the dead of winter, the low rarely falls below 14°C and averages around 18°C. Throughout the year, there is usually a differenece of 7-12°C between day and night temperatures. It seems reasonable that *phragmipediums* from higher altitudes could tolerate lower temperatures but because they all thrive in the 14-36°C range that prevails in the section of the greenhouse where they get optimum light, I have not tried to establish a lower limit on their temperature tolerance. Temperatures higher than 36°C should be avoided if possible.

WATERING:

Phragmipediums like to stay wet. They are one orchid group suitable for people who tend to overwater. This is a hard point to make with most orchid growers. We have lived so long with the old adage, "If you are unsure whether to water or not, don't", that we automatically apply it to *phragmipediums.* In the case of this group of orchids, the opposite is true. If you are not sure, go ahead and water. Underwatering damages or kills more *phragmipediums* than overwatering. Fortunately, *phragmipediums* will tell you when they are not getting enough water. The leaf tips begin to spot, then turn

brown and die back. More frequent watering when the spotting is first noticed should stop the spread of these spots. If it does not, then repotting is usually called for because the medium has broken down and the roots are beginning to rot and lose their ability to absorb water.

HUMIDITY:

My greenhouse has a concrete floor which stays wet. This keeps the humidity in the 70% to 95% range. *Phragmipediums* obviously like this humidity range, nevertheless, I believe they will grow well at lower average humidities. I often bring blooming *phragmipediums* into the house so I can enjoy them fully. The flowers last as long as those on plants kept in the greenhouse. Plants I have kept inside on a windowsill for up to several months appear to do as well as those in the greenhouse. Therefore, I believe that *phragmipediums,* if they are kept well watered, will perform almost as well inside, where the humidity falls to 40% or less sometimes, as they do in the greenhouse, where the humidity is constantly high.

AIR MOVEMENT:

While *phragmipedium* plants are not very susceptible to rot, the emerging flower stems are. Water standing in the crown of the plant quickly can cause new inflorescences to rot. Therefore, good air movement is essential to make sure the plants dry out as soon after watering as possible.

POTTING:

Potting is probably the single most important element in the culture of *phragmipediums.* The plants must be kept moist. But as with most other orchids, they also need air around

Phrag. caudatum
Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids — 13 W.O.C.

their roots. These two requirements plus the fact that wet potting mix breaks down quickly make finding a suitable potting medium a challenge. Using a fairly open mix in plastic pots and watering frequently produces the best results for me. The mix I use consists of — 8 parts medium fir bark; 4 parts medium-fine charcoal; 2 parts medium tree fern; 1 part expanded shale; and 1 part perlite.

Expanded shale is shale rock that has been heated until gas trapped in the rock expands and honeycombs it with bubbles. *(Sounds like our scoria- doesn't it...Editor)* It is used as the aggregate in lightweight concrete. It is similar to lava rock but lighter and more porous. This open mix means I must water thoroughly every 2-4 days, depending on the weather. Watering cannot be neglected or the plants will suffer. Using a mix that requires watering this often may seen to be making extra work, but it has a number of advantages. The plants grow larger, stronger and healthier root systems. With good root systems come stronger plants that grow faster, produce multiple growths more frequently and bloom better. This open mix breaks down more slowly than tighter mix, therefore the plants need repotting less often. *Phragmipediums* can stay in this mix for up to two years and sometimes longer before they must be repotted. Mixes retaining more water often necessitate annual repotting.

For small divisions and all but the smallest seedlings, I use the same mix with several parts of sphagnum moss added. I grow the small seedlings under fluorescent lights in a mix that consists of equal parts of fine fir bark, fine charcoal, sphagnum moss and expanded shale.

A few years ago, I heard that setting the pots in saucers of water would reduce the need for watering so often and would produce superior growth. The bottom of the pot was to be filled with 1" to 1½" of marble chips or gravel then the plant placed in a saucer or pan of water arranged so that the water level in the bottom of the pot was ½ to ¾". I tried this with four plants with dismal results. Some growers claim this works well for them but if you want to try it, I recommend caution. Try it first with only one plant —and one you are not particularly fond of at that.

Ideally, *phragmipediums* should be repotted just after the plants have initiated new root growth. New roots usually emerge from immature growths soon after they finish blooming. If a plant begins to show symptoms of root loss because of decaying growing medium, repot immediately. Do not wait for new roots to start. Seedlings and small plants should be repotted whenever they out grow their pots or show leaf tip spotting.

The newly potted plants go back to the same spots on the benches from which they came. For the first two or three months, until they become established, they are watered more frequently—often daily during bright, dry weather.

Do not be in a hurry to divide *phragmipediums*. They can be divided down to single growths but large plants will grow and bloom better than small ones; it really is a case of the bigger the better.

FERTILISING:

I fertilise every two weeks with Peters 20-20-20 at the rate of ¼ teaspoon per gallon. Every third fertilising I use 30-10-10 at the same dilution. To all the fertiliser solutions I add SuperThrive at the rate of two or three drops per gallon. Twice a year I top-dress the pots with a 1 to 1 mix of blood meal and bone meal. I do not have any quantitative evidence that the SuperThrive or the blood meal/bone meal mix help the plants grow better but from close observation over the years, I believe

they do. Overfertilising, especially with a potting mix as open as I recommend, will produce the same symptoms as excessive drying—leaf spotting and die back. This is most likely to occur in hot, dry weather. If the leaves begin to spot and the potting mix is in good shape, reduce the fertiliser concentration or water more thoroughly at each watering — or both.

In the wild, *phragmipediums* thrive in areas where they receive plenty of water and sunlight. If we do our best to give our plants the amount of light and water they like, they will reward us with elegant flowers for many months of the year.

Bright light and lots of water, a potting mix that breathes, moderate temperatures, and a little bit of fertiliser are the elements needed to produce truly magnificent *phragmipediums.* ◄

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***Phrag.* Calurum Grower: Eric Young Foundation**

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Editorial 1 Feb. Advertising 21 Feb.

FLOWER POWER

Melanie McDonald's visit to the 1990 Chelsea Flower Show (**Orchids in N.Z.** Feb 91) described the orchids on display in some detail.

Our visit was Open Day on the Thursday and my diary describes the action "Wall to Wall People—thousands-and what a spectacular sight. Every flower imagineable and the plant societies—McBeans and Burnham Nurseries had ajoining displays"—very briefly that to Brian Ritterhausen and a little discussion about potting mixes for Lycastes—he produced the little booklet put out by the Wellington Orchid Society from his back pocket! Hard to take photos with such a crowd of people pushing and gasping. The assorted scents were so over-powering we needed to go outside now and then for some fresh air. So many outstanding displays and flowers assorted to remember. Banks of tall new Delphiniums and Russell Lupins. Daffodils, two shoes of pink Fuschias and Hydrangas, huge dinner plate size flowering in pots with no apparent stems. Miniature violas—Begonias, African Violets and Lillys. One single flower that sticks in my mind is an off-white Geranium with pink spots. But most especially a whole table display of white, pink and lavender Pleionies—many spotted and frilled new seedlings.

One display (Gold Medal)—a huge 12' high Pergola covered in assorted fruits and veges, with matched displays of cabbages and cauliflowers etc. on the floor. Another Medal winner was of tropical flowers by a group from Barbados.

McBeans display deserves a special mention. Their display of *Phal.* 'Prof MAGDI YACOUB' was a superb tribute to the work of this Heart Surgeon, who visited with us a few years ago. The following is an extract from their display brochure.

"This year, McBeans celebrate their 111th Anniversary and hold the grand accolade of having been awarded 111 R.H.S. Gold Medals to date. This is the highest achievement of any Exhibitior. McBeans are one of the four remaining nurseries that have exhibited at every single Chelsea Flower Show—we are drawn back by the prestige and atmosphere of this great national event.

Young by comparison, the Harefield Hospital in London has recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Here, under the eagle eyes and skillful hands of Professor Magdi Yacoub, he and his team have just performed their thousandth heart transplant operation. In honour of this achievement and alos recognising the Professor's love of orchids, McBeans have the honour and pleasure in naming a striking new Phalaenopsis *hybrid* "Prof. MAGDI YACOUB". *The pristine white of this flower is offset by an outstanding ruby-red centre, representing his work with the heart."* ◄

Tony Ballard

McBean's 1986 Chelsea Flower Show display

HAWKES BAY ORCHID SOCIETY
21st Birthday Celebrations

THE Hawkes Bay Orchid Society has survived drought, cyclone and hard economic times for twenty-one years and we think this is cause to celebrate a little. A number of birthday celebrations are planned to which you are all invited. We hope this will be a memorable year for orchids and orchid people.

The Hawkes Bay Orchid Society was formed in August 1970, with the first show in the October of that year. This became the annual Spring Shows which have been held in Napier and Hastings, in alternate years, since then.

The initial membership of 31 has grown to 201 today. Many of the early members are still with us and taking an active part in the society. Ros Bickerstaff is the Editor of the Newsletter, and Frank Smith, an ex president is still on the committee and an active grower.

For many years the society meetings were held in the Pakowhai Hall but a recent move has improved the accommodation both in size and comfort. The society meetings are now held in the Taradale Town Hall, on the corner of Lee and Meanee Roads. A beginners session commences at 7.15 p.m. followed by the main meeting at 8.00 p.m. If any orchidologist is visiting 'The Bay' they are most welcome to come along to any of these meetings; just make yourself known to one of the committee members.

The judging panel meets at South Pacific Orchids, Oak Road, Taradale at 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays, once a month. Any member of the judging fraternity will be welcomed at these sessions. The dates of these meetings are listed below. If you require any further information please contact me on (06) 843-9245 or the Secretary or President.

	Society Meeting	Judging Session
August	19	24
September	23	28
October	28	19
November	25	30
December	9	14

WINTER SHOW

The Winter Show is the smaller of our two regular annual shows, this year will be the fifth. A characteristic of these shows is the variety of plants not usually seen at orchid displays. This show is held in Taradale and Havelock North in alternate years and the 1991 show will be the St Johns Ambulance Hall, Havelock North, on 20th July. This show is not judged.

The Hawkes Bay Orchid Society would like to invite the members of all other societies to visit this show. Morning and afternoon tea and lunch will be available at our cafeteria.

SPRING SHOW

Our twenty-first Spring Show is to be in the Centennial Hall, McLean Park, Napier, from 13th to 15th September 1991. All members of other societies are invited to come along and see what is being grown in Hawkes Bay.

The theme for the show this year is, obviously, 'A Twenty-First Birthday'. There will be displays of decorated cakes, floral arrangements and Intermediate School orchid art, as well as the orchids themsleves, following this theme. Orchid plants will be available from the Hawkes Bay Orchid Society members Sales Table and a number of commercial growers.

An invitation is also extended to all members of the judging fraternity to assist with the judging on Saturday morning.

continued bottom of page 114 . . .

Dendrobium margaritaceum

EVERY orchid grower has a few favourite orchids, and this is one of mine. It has all the advantages of being a small, compact growing plant, so it allows room for other plants; it flowers profusely over a period of about 3-4 months; it is relatively easy to grow and flower, and has a delightful perfume that makes it a real pleasure to visit the shade house.

Den. margaritaceum is a semi-forgotten plant from the **nigrohirsutae** section, more correctly known as the **Formosae** section, of the genus Dendrobium. These are characterised by the short black hairs ('nigro' black 'hirsute' hair) that cover the underside of the leaves and the sheaths around the stem. These are most noticeable on the new growths. I say semi forgotten because it does not seem to appear in many of the breeding lines, and this is a shame because its overall charm should make it a desirable parent. While I do not have any plants suitable to cross with it anyone who has may have some of the pollen; just get in touch with me during the late summer or early autumn and I will send you a bucket-full (in return for some of the progeny). Within the genus *Dendrobium* are approximately 1,400 species and many, many hybrids, some of these must be suitable.

Den. margaritaceum is closely related to the lovely miniature *Den. bellatulum.* The biggest of this group is *Den. infundibulum* which grows to 90 cm tall. Most of the species in this group are white with yellow or red lips as seen in *Den. formosum, triganopus, scabrilingue.* The exception is *Den. cruentum* which is a waxy green with a red throat. *Den. cruentum* has been crossed with *margaritaceum* to give us *Den.* Precious Pearl, a sparkling white with yellow veins on the petals and sepals, an intense yellow lip with a deep crimson throat. Most species are cool growing, with the exception of *Den. formosum* and *cruentum* which are being used to impart warmth tolerance to the hybrids.

Den. margaritaceum was first introduced to the outside world at the turn of the century when it was collected by Vernet in Annam (Vietnam). Vernet sent a plant to A. Finet, in France, who described it in the *Bulletin , de la Societe Botanique de France* in 1903. It has also been found in Thailand.

Its name comes from the Greek *'dendros'* tree *'bios'* life, indicating that many of this genera are found growing in trees. I don't know who the Margarita* this species was named after was, but she must have been lovely, as are the flowers that bear her name.

**The name in fact is from classical latin,* margaritaceum *means pearly — of pearls, with reference to the pearl like characteristics of the flowers.*
Editor

The plant consists of spindle shaped pseudobulbs up to 5 cm tall that grow close together in a tuft. Each bulb is covered in the black hairy sheaths

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continued from page 113

A wine and cheese evening with supper is to be held, in the Centennial Hall, on Saturday evening, in conjunction with the prize-giving. A small charge will be made for entry to this function. Contact the Secretary, President or Show Marshal for details of this closer to the date. Our cafeteria will be serving morning and afternoon teas and lunches.

◄

Ian Jenkins
Show Marshal
Hawkes Bay Orchid Soc.

characteristic of this section, and has a single leaf at each node. The underside of the leaves are also covered with the black hairs. The short flower spikes emerge from the upper nodes and usually bear a single flower, with occasionally a second.

The flowers are a sparkling white with some faint veining on the sepals, the lip is white and has a scarlet throat surrounded with yellow. They grow up to 30 mm across. These flowers are normally pollinated by bees or wasps, and hopefully in the future by orchid enthusiasts, attracted by the strong scent of vanilla. The bulbs may flower for successive years, and should not be removed just because the leaves have fallen. Various sources claim diferent flowering season but mine seems to prefer the Autumn when the new growths are mature.

I have been growing this species in a shade house in Hawkes Bay. It seems to thrive on 'cool' conditions under moderate shade. Plenty of water without becoming soggy around the roots and good moist air movement will ensure good growth and many flowers. In the winter a semi-dry rest wil enable it to withstand quite cold temperatures for short periods. Conditions similar to cymbidiums seem to suit, with perhaps a little more light. They are generally regarded as evergreen, although leaves will drop when the roots are damaged.

Bibliography:

The Orchids. R. L. Dressler (1981)

The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species. Bechtel, Cribb and Launert. (1986)

Saunders List of Orchid Hybrids, 1981-1985, etc al

The Nigrohirsute Dendrobiums of Thailand and their Hybrids. Roy S. Takunaga.

American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol 59 No. 8.

Ian Jenkins

NOTE: *While this plant is widely grown under this name, authorities now indicate that the name* Den cristyanum *is now botanically more correct.* ◄ *Editor*

***Dendrobium cristyanum* (syn. *margaritaceum*)**
Grower/photo: Ian Jenkins

NEW PRODUCT:

Using N.Z. Sphagnum Moss as a Potting Medium

Over many years our local sphagnum moss has been used very successfully for growing certain genera of orchid plants. More recently it has become well known overseas and is now widely used in Japan, Taiwan and the USA for propagation of "back bulbs", growing ex-flask and developing roots on orchids.

The problem in the past has been to obtain regular supplies of moss at a reasonable cost. For years it was packed in 25 kg bales which were bulky, dusty and took up a lot of storage space with high freight costs. The moment a bale was opened problems started such as moss blowing everywhere resulting in waste and the sheer bulkiness made it difficult to handle. Now, however, a pelletized form of sphagnum moss leaf is available which overcomes most of the problems and simplifies transport and storage. It has been heat treated, screened to remove impurities and stem materials, etc., then compressed into conveniently sized pellets to facilitate transport. Pellets are compressed to exacting standards to ensure complete rehydration and to preserve the integrity and structure of the sphagnum leaf minus the stems. It requires only the addition of water to rehydrate the moss ready for use. Because it is compressed and requires water to be added it is dust free. Freight costs are considerably less therefore cost to the user is reduced.

Testing by D.S.I.R. in N.Z. on Cymbidiums, and in Queensland's Gold Coast have shown that growth rates of small orchid plants particularly ex-flask are greatly speeded up with minimum loss of plants. The *Cattleya* alliance, *Phalaenopsis, Odontoglossum* alliance, *Dendrobiums* and other genera has confirmed the value of sphagnum in pellet form.

Over the past two years Wal Murphy a grower in Queensland's Gold Coast has grown the above genera in N.Z. sphagnum moss direct out of flask onwards. Alongside these he has grown an equal number of identical plants direct from flask in a normal bark/charcoal seedling mix. All these orchids have received exactly the same light, fertilizer and water etc.

Over a two year period many of these orchids have been potted— into larger pots—still growing in the same position and conditions. The results have been startling—those growing in N.Z. sphagnum moss have far out-stripped those growing in normal seedling orchid mix both in plant size and root development. Of the original batch (2 years old) the majority of those grown in N.Z. sphagnum moss are at a stage of development at least 6-12 months in advance of those grown in normal orchid mix. With all other factors such as light, water and fertilizer being identical, the only conclusion is that the N.Z. sphagnum moss is a superior medium.

Another interesting factor is the ease of potting in the sphagnum moss: it is clean and unlike bark mixes, it does not stain or damage the skin or finger nails while potting. Indeed it is pleasant to pot with.

Method of using the pelletized sphagnum moss

One kilogram of moss pellets will fill approximately 45 100mm pots or 130 50mm tubes.

1. Place a single pellet or more in a container of water and allow 10-15 minutes for the moss to rehydrate—this can be speeded up by using warm water.

2. Pour off any excess water through a fine sieve, squeeze out water by hand over the sieve and tease out the compressed moss to break up any tightly packed areas—moss caught in the sieve can be reclaimed.

3. For compots of orchids ex flask fill the pot to the brim with teased moss and firm it down to approximately 2.5cm below the rim of the pot.

4. Plants are removed from the flask—the agar-based medium thoroughly removed by washing under a running tap and the undisturbed roots placed on top of the firmed moss—additional moss is placed around the edge of the pot and firmed down to cover any exposed roots.

5. For individual plants, the bottom section of the pot is filled with sphagnum moss and firmed down gently. Sphagnum moss is carefully packed between and around the roots and the plant firmed into the pot. Additional moss is added to secure the plant in the pot.

An important point to remember is that the tighter the moss is packed the less water it holds. If the sphagnum is packed too firmly it will shed water completely. Never allow the moss to dry out completely.

A regular fertilizing programme is carried out on all plants using Flowfeed fertilizers produced by General Fertilizers at the rate of 1 g/litre.

Features that influence the use of Flowfeed are extremely high solubility, selected micro-nutrients present in chelate form, and balanced nutrition containing elements in good maintenance level chlorine free. The addition of calcium nitrate (0.26g/litre) and of magnesium sulphate (a 1.25ml level spoon/5 litres) is necessary as these elements are not compatable with fertilizer. Fertilizer was applied at 3 day intervals. pH readings of established pots in the pelletized moss show a healthy pH 6.6.

Conclusions

1. The pelletized N.Z. sphagnum moss is the most effective and convenient form of medium I have found for growing-on orchids ex-flask, for producing root growth on divisions and "back bulbs", and for the mass production of orchids.

2. The pelletized form of N.Z. moss is far more cost effective in that initial freight and handling costs are reduced, storage space is greatly reduced (500kg/cubic metre) and handling of the sterilized pelleted form is more convenient, creates less dust and wastage and is less of a health hazard.

3. The continuously moist moss provides a convenient and beneficial source of constant humidity to the plants, especially necessary for young plants fresh out of the flask.

After more than 2 years of growing in N.Z. sphagnum moss and with over 20,000 plants currently growing in their moss medium, I can personally recommend it's use as a good orchid medium.

This includes *Cattleya* alliance, *Oncidiums*, *Odontoglossum* alliance and *Phalaenopses* which have flowered in the moss, some less than 2 years ex flask.

Adapted from an article by Wal Murphy, Queensland printed in the August issue of Orchids Australia. ◄

Laws of Orchid Growing

1. **First Law of Selective Survival:** The probability of any plant surviving is inversely proportional to its cost.

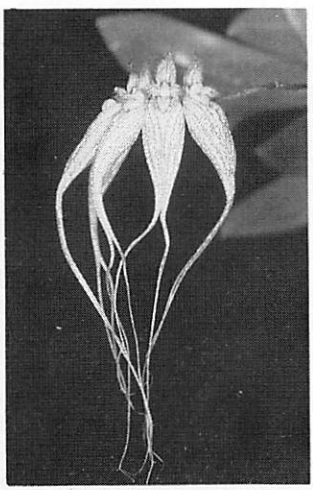
2. **Second Law of Selective Survival:** The probability of any plant surviving is directly proportional to its availability from friends.

3. **The Plant Perversity Rules:**

(a) Any desirable plant that can die, will.

(b) Any desirable plant so tough that it cannot possibly die, will, but will be in bud when it does so.

4. **Law of Selective Flowering:** The probability of a plant flowering is inversely proportional to its desirability.



Cirrhopetalum **Elizabeth Ann. Grower: N. Parker**

Corollary—When flowering does occur it will be at the most unsuitable time.

5. **The Flower Perversity Rules:**

(a) No plant likes to have all its flowers open at the same time.

(b) Any fully open spike must have one conspicuous flower facing the opposite direction to all others unless only fully open between shows.

(c) Flowers pass their best the day before they are needed.

(d) Admiration causes flower degeneration and bud drop.

6. **Flower Descriptions:**

(a) Floriferous—Plants *you* enter in a Show.

(b) Spectacular—Plants *others* enter in the same Show.

(c) Magnificent—Plants only flowering between Shows.

7. **Laws of Pest Perversity:** The probability of any pest attacking a plant is directly proportional to its value, importance, and difficulty of replacement.

8. **Law of Selective Gravitation:** Any plant knocked over or dropped will fall in such manner and direction as to cause maximum damage to itself and others.

9. **Law of Mutable Stability:** Any new growth, no matter how small, will create total instability—selective gravitation will then apply.

10. **Law of Concurrent Chemical Change:** Bud formation causes chemical reactions in the structure of plant pots, resulting in instant fracturing on lifting, selective gravitation then applies.

11. **First Law of Plant Transport:** Plants move independently of the vehicle transporting them and in the direction of the greatest hazard.

12. **2nd Law of Plant Transport:** Transport motion causes plants to gain height creating negative head room.
Corollary—Height gained is greater if buds or flowers are present.

13. **3rd Law of Plant Transport:** The probability of emergency braking occuring is directly proportional to the value, desirability and rarity of plants being transported.
Corollary 1—Probability further increased by non-ownership of plants.
Corollary 2—For valuable, rare, non-owned plants with buds or flowers $p = 1$. Selective gravitation applies.

14. **The Orchid Growers Mantra: 'All Orchids are Flowering Plants'.** (This should be chanted throughout every visit to the greenhouse—the Lotus position is optional. ◄

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Sir,

One thing that has really been bugging me and some of my friends, is the reluctance of growers and/or retailers of orchids to keep up with the registered names of the plants they sell. On numerous occasions we have purchased plants under their cross name and then found later that we already have the plant bought under the registered name. Two examples I can give; (a) *Odam.* Blue Poole x *Oda.* Matanda, registered as *Oda.* Matoole in 1985 already in my collection (b) *Cym.* King Arthur x Seafoam registered as Call del Mar in 1983 already purchased. When one is out on a bus trip buying plants in a group of fifty people it is not feasible to ask the retailer for the parentage of a plant you admire, it is a case of buy what you see. If you collect small plants for later flowering sight unseen it is usually because of the parentage and if you see a flowering plant under another name you don't connect the two until a check is made at home. In all other fields of retailing one is expected to keep up with the latest trends, so surely it is not unreasonable to expect plant retailers to keep up with registrations made many years previously. In these days of declining sales, it may be a point worth thinking about.

Aline Bovaird
Rotorua

Sir,

I received the April edition of Orchids in New Zealand the other day with the excitement that it causes each time.

The lead story in **More Conference Comments** was written by Tarris McDonald (not Tarras) who belongs to the Orchid Society of Southland. (We are not lost. The OSS knows where it is).

With **'The Crucifix Orchid'** article you have printed photos of *Epidendrum* Boindii and *Epidendrum* Nebo from the 13th W.O.C. As I have spent a lot of time going through the Hybrids lists over the years I was interested to see these names. In 1903 Sir Jeremiah Colman of Gatton Park, Great Britain registered the cross of *Epi.* Burtoni and *radicans* as 'Boundii' but I cannot find any Boindii.

Burtonii—was *ibaguense* crossed with O'Brienianum by F. M. Burton 1899. O'Brienianum—was *evectum* crossed with *radicans* by Veitch 1888 *radicas* is taken by some botanists as a form of *ibaquense.*

For the life of me I can not find *Epidendrum* Nebo. Eug.Thayer of Massachusetts crossed *Cattleya* Claesiana with *Epidendrum* O'Brienianum in 1902 and named it *Epicattleya* Nebo.

I notice also that Michael Tibbs writing in The Orchid Review, March 1991 shows a photo, 'Fig. 62. Bronze Medal winner *Epidendrum* Nebo'. Surely those checking the plant registrations at the W.O.C. should have picked *Epc.* Nebo up or is this something that has happened since?

I know it is easy to find fault with what others are doing but I hope that these comments are taken in the light in which they are given, that is to try to correct further publications and maintain the good standard of Orchids in New Zealand.

P.S. I had my copy Edited too.

John McDonald

Sir,

You expressed an interest in results of Questions put to members to assess their preferences for the year's programme. I have enclosed one of the

replies that I received, one of our eight who even bothered to reply at all. Do we assume our members are content with whatever we dish up, or does the great New Zealand apathy reign.

Aline Bovaird
President
Rotorua Orchid Society

QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to gauge the feeling of all Society members concerning the running of your Society, would you please fill in these few questions and return the form to your Secretary on or before the next meeting.

Name: .....(Optional)
Do you think we should have an Annual Show. Yes/No
do you prefer a one or two day Show. One/Two
Should the format be competitive or display only Comp./Display
Are you prepared to assist with preparations Yes/No
Do you have any suggestions regarding speakers or subject for discussion. Comments:

Do you have any suggestions to change, add to, or criticism of the presentation of our monthly meetings. Comments:

Sir,

Your article on propagating panels (or heatboards as they are commonly known) was both timely and warranted. However, it has the unfortunate effect of branding all heatboards as dangerous in the minds of many of your readers. Since the article many of our customers calling to purchase plants etc have indicated they were going to buy one of our propagating panels but have been put off by your article.

We have been selling and distributing Heatboards for nearly 10 years and the fibreglass style for the last 6 years. During all that time there has never been a fire, the only failures being a fault in the thermostat which caused the board to stop heating or a failure of the wiring loom. Both of these faults can be repaired in most cases.

There is a big difference between **Carbon fibre** (the basis of your article) and **Fibreglass** (the panels we sell). I trust in the spirit of fairness that you will publish this letter.

J. Scott
House of Orchids

Since the original article was published, little response has been received. I can only, therefore, presume that the failure represents a local phenonemon. Care with the product referred to originally would, however, still appear warranted. ◄

Editor

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 Jeyes 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 made-up sprays—generally they should be used straight after mixing. ◄

POLLINATORS

THE POLLINATORS of orchids have played a major role in their evolution. Orchids are thought to have been highly pollinator-oriented even from the earliest stages of their development. Other plant families had similar orientation, but it is thought some special breakthrough occurred allowing specialisation of orchid flowers with rapid evolution based on the pollinators. The complex pollinator mechanisms, which evolved, reduced the possibility of natural hybridisation with its consequent reblending of characters in the development of the species.

Van der Pijl and Dodson (Orchid flowers; Their Pollination and Evolution) consider some 86% of orchids are pollinated by various types of insects. The pollinators are listed as follows:

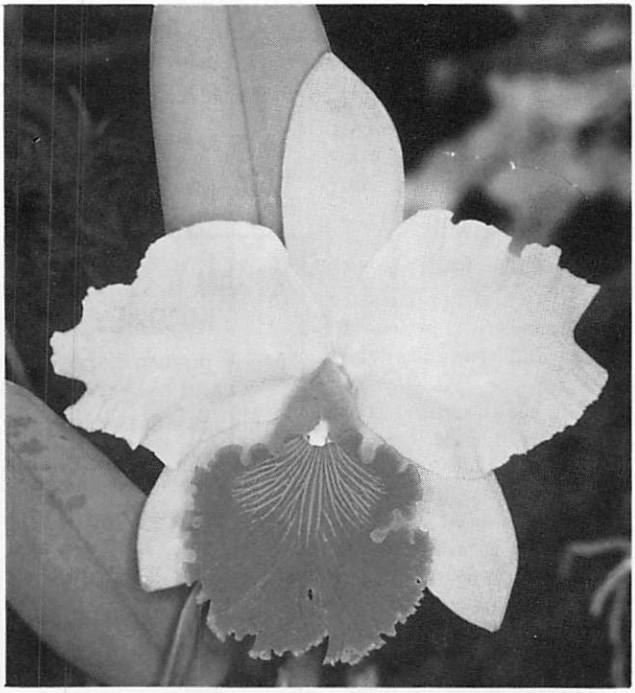
Wasps and bees	60%
Moths	8%
Butterflies	3%
Flies	15%
Total Insects	86%
Birds	3%
Mixed agents	8%
Autogamous	3%
	100%

The primary characteristics of orchids pollinated by the various agents can be briefly summarised as follows:

1. Bee and wasp pollinated orchids open during the day, when these insects are mostly active. The flowers generally produce odours pleasant to us, as these insects have a highly developed sense of taste and smell. The flowers also generally have bright colours in the violet, blue, green and yellow spectrum, which is attractive to these insects. They cannot see the red colours, although do react to ultraviolet. A well developed 'lip' landing platform with well developed lines or keels leading to the nectaries are present.

What pollinates an orchid flower is always fascinating. The following introduces this interesting topic. Written by **P. C. Tomlinson,** *this first appeared in the Wellington Orchid Society Journal.*

2. Moths and butterflies are generally attracted to nectar producing flowers. Moth pollinated flowers generally open at night, some even close during the day. The lip (landing platform) tends to be either turned back out of the way, or turned upwards. Colours are commonly white, creamy, or even green, to show up at night. Abundant nectar is produced, often hidden in deep cavities or tubes.



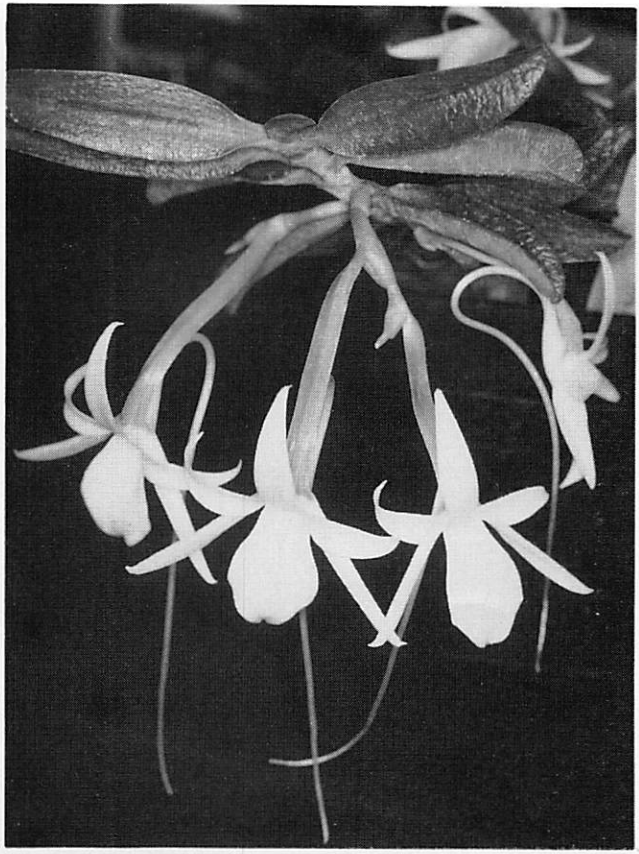
Blc. **alma Ku 'Tipmate' — bee pollinated. Grower: Ken Sherlock.**

Butterflies fly during the day, and are attracted by bright coloured flowers having fresh agreeable fragrances. As they are not strong flyers, they generally have well developed landing platforms on the flowers they pollinate. Abundant nectar is usually produced in deep cavities.

3. Bird flowers are generally highly coloured, with red predominating. There is usually little fragrance produced as birds have little sense of smell. The flowers are also often pendant, as the birds normally do not land on the flower, but hover in front. Abundant nectar in deep cavities is characteristically produced by bird pollinated flowers.

4. Flies may be attracted by food sources, or maybe attracted by deception. Flies which need food are usually attracted by flowers having shallow nectaries, sweet odours and an open shape. Many insects are, however, looking for decaying substances, either to lay their eggs, or to obtain food. Some flowers imitate these substances, producing odours unattractive to humans, often coloured like rotting meat or other foul substances. These flowers often have trap devices to hold the pollinator, with various, often complex attracting devices. Some fly pollinated flowers have returned to a radial pattern (e.g. *Cirrhopetalum).*

5. Other agents exist, but are not significant with respect to the orchid family overall.



Angraecum compactum
showing typical moth pollinated characteristics.
Grower: Ken Sherlock — Levin Orchid Society Show.

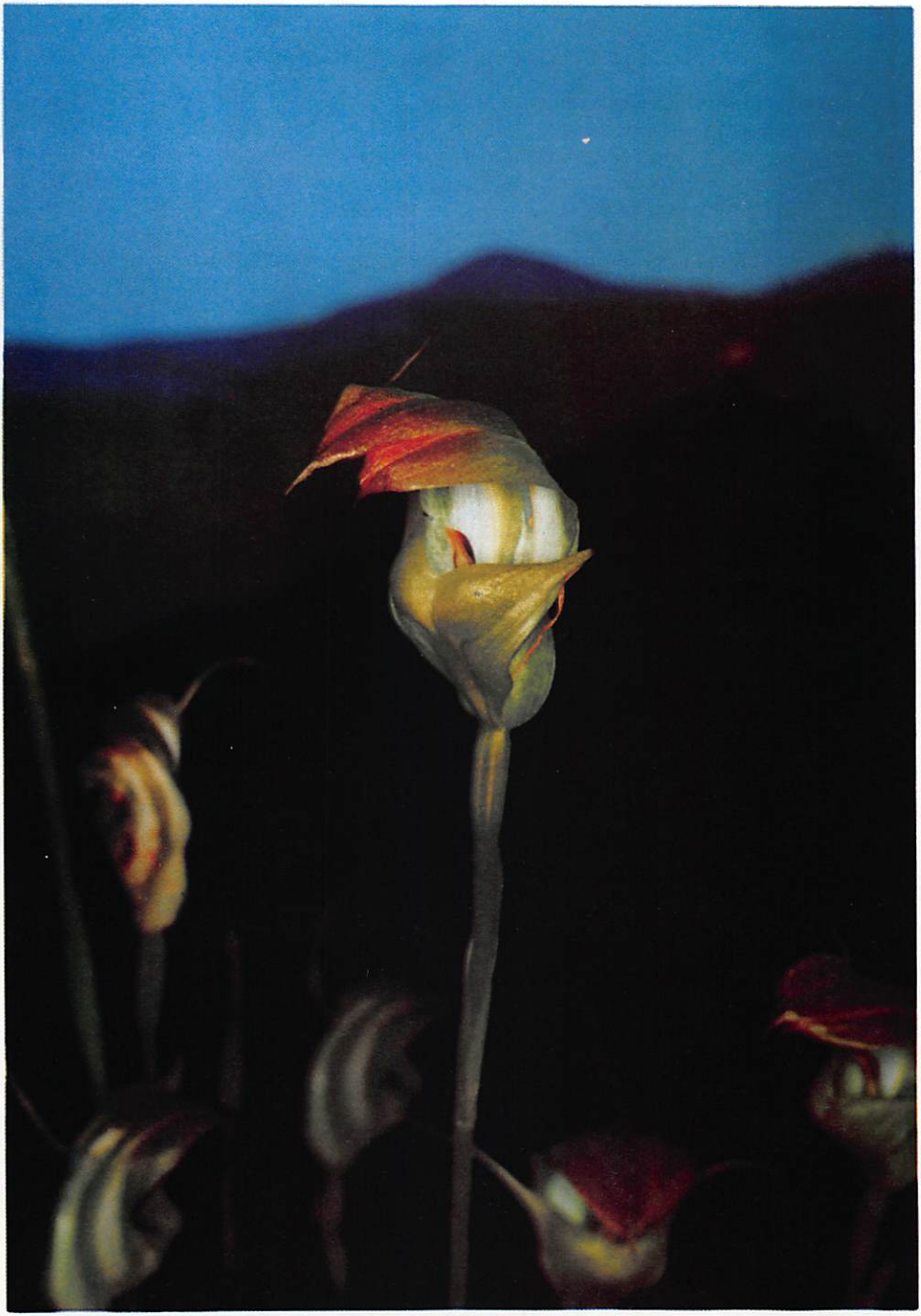
The principal pollinators of the following genera occur (refer to Van der Pijl and Dodson for full list):

Anguloa ..... bee
Brassia ..... wasp
Cattleya..... bee
Coryanthes..... bee
Cymbidium ..... bee/wasp
Disa ..... fly/butterfly
Haemaria ..... butterfly
Lycaste ..... bee
Maxillaria ..... bee
Odontoglossum..... bee
Pterostylis ..... fly
Barkeria ..... bee
Catasetum..... bee
Cirrhopetalum..... fly
Corybas..... fly
Dendrobium ..... bee/fly/bird/wasp
Epidendrum..... bird/moth/butterfly
Laelia ..... bird/bee
Masdevallia ..... fly/bird
Miltonia ..... bee
Oncidium ..... bee
Paphiopedilum ..... fly/bee

The relationship of orchids to their insect pollinators is fascinating, and it can be an interesting exercise looking at a flower and imagining how it is pollinated, and by what. ◄

Miltonia Langwood — an example of a typical bee pollinated flower.
Grower: J. Askin.

Cirrhopetalum mastersianum — fly pollinated flowers
growing in a radical pattern.



Pterostylis baptisii on Taranaki Orchid Society display — 13 W.O.C.

Diary Dates 1991

August

Thursday 29th, Friday 30th
SOCIETY: **Marlborough Orchid Society**
VENUE: St Christopher Hall
ADDRESS: Redwood Village Blenheim

Friday 30th, Saturday 31st August
Sunday 1st September
SOCIETY: **North Shore Orchid Society**
VENUE: A.T.I.
ADDRESS: Akoranga Drive, Takapuna
Auckland

Friday 30th, Saturday 31st,
Sunday 1st September
SOCIETY: **Whangarei Orchid Society**

Saturday 31st August, Sunday 1st September
SOCIETY: **Otago Orchid Club**
VENUE: St. Peter's Church Hall
ADDRESS: Cnr Hillside Rd & Eastbourne St
Dunedin

September

Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th
SOCIETY: **Howick Orchid Society**
VENUE: Cook Street Anglican Hall
ADDRESS: Cook St, Howick, Auckland
CONTACT: Show Marshal:
28a Churchill Road, Howick

Saturday 7th 10.00 - 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 8th 10.00 - 4.00 p.m.
SOCIETY: **Kapiti Orchid Society**
VENUE: Waikanae War Memorial Hall
ADDRESS: Waikanae

Saturday 7th, Sunday 8th
SOCIETY: **Poverty Bay East Coast Soc**
VENUE: Boys High School
ADDRESS: Stanley Street

Friday 13th, Saturday 14th
SOCIETY: **Hibiscus Coast Orchid Society**

Friday 13th, Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th
SOCIETY: **Hawkes Bay Orchid Society**
VENUE: Centennial Hall
ADDRESS: McLean Park, Napier
CONTACT: Ian Jenkins, Ph. (06) 843 9245

Friday 13th, Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th
SOCIETY: **Sth Auckland Orchid Society**
VENUE: Papakura Community Centre
ADDRESS: Great South Road, Papakura

Friday 13th, Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th
SOCIETY: **Tauranga Orchid Society**
VENUE: Greerton Hall
ADDRESS: Tauranga
CONTACT: P.O. Box 669, Tauranga

Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th
SOCIETY: **Sth Canterbury Orchid Soc**
VENUE: West End Hall

Saturday 14th, Sunday 15th
SOCIETY: **Taupo Orchid Society**
VENUE: Art Society Hall
ADDRESS: Redoubt Street, Taupo

Saturday 14th
SOCIETY: **Tokoroa District Orchid Soc**
VENUE: St Johns Ambulance Hall
ADDRESS: Logan Street, Tokoroa
CONTACT: P.O. Box 528, Tokoroa

Thursday 19th, Friday 20th, Saturday 21st
SOCIETY: **Kaitaia Orchid Society**
CONTACT: P.O. Box 245, Awanui

Saturday 21st, Sunday 22nd
SOCIETY: **Canterbury Orchid Society**

Friday 27th, Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th
SOCIETY: **New Zealand Orchid Society**
VENUE: Mt Albert War Memorial Hall
ADDRESS: New South Road, Mt Albert
Auckland
CONTACT: Mrs Z. Pattullo,
32 Church St, Onehunga

Friday 27th, Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th
SOCIETY: **Taranaki Orchid Society**
VENUE: St Josephs Hall
ADDRESS: Devon St West, N Plymouth
CONTACT: P.O. Box 635, New Plymouth

Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th
SOCIETY: **Manawatu Orchid Society**
VENUE: Convention Centre
ADDRESS: Main Street, Palmerston North
CONTACT: Bruce Ellison Ph 83-789

Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th
SOCIETY: **Orchid Soc of Southland**
VENUE: Ascot Park Hotel
ADDRESS: Invercargill

Diary Dates 1991 continued . . .

October

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th
SOCIETY: **Bay of Islands Orchid Soc**
VENUE: Union Church Hall
ADDRESS: Kerikeri

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th
SOCIETY: **Waikato Orchid Society**
VENUE: Hamilton Gardens Complex

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th
SOCIETY: **Wairoa Orchid Society**

Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th
SOCIETY: **Wanganui Orchid Society**
VENUE: Wanganui Boys College Hall
ADDRESS: Ingestre Street, Wanganui

Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th
SOCIETY: **Dannevirke Orchid Society**
VENUE: Manchester Unity Hall
ADDRESS: Dannevirke

Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th
SOCIETY: **Nelson Orchid Society**
VENUE: Stoke Memorial Hall
ADDRESS: Stoke
CONTACT: P.O. Box 2006, Stoke, Nelson

Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th
SOCIETY: **Levin & District Orchid Soc**
VENUE: Horowhenua College Hall

Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th
SOCIETY: **Rotorua Orchid Society**
VENUE: Malfroy Primary School Hall
ADDRESS: Rotorua

Labour Weekend—Saturday 26th 11am-5pm
Sunday 27th 10am-4.30pm
SOCIETY: **Wairarapa Orchid Circle**
VENUE: McGregor Hall, Masterton
ADDRESS: Cnr Dixon & Worksop Roads
Masterton, (Opp. Woolworths)

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International Diary Dates

13th - 19th September
SOCIETY: **12th Australian Orchid Conf**
VENUE: Grandstand, Ascot Racecourse
ADDRESS: City of Belmont, Perth, WA
CONTACT: Mrs B. Burnett, Conf. Sec., PO Box 1050, Morley, WA 6062 Ph (09) 377-6781

Friday 27th, Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th
SOCIETY: **Nightcliffe Orchid Society**
VENUE: ARAFURA ORCHID CONFERENCE; Australia
ADDRESS: 7 Thrush Court, Wulagi 0812 Darwin, Northern Ter, Australia

January 1992
Monday 20th running through to Sunday 26th
SOCIETY: **4th Asia Pacific Orchid Conf**
VENUE: Maejo Institute of Agric. Tech.
ADDRESS: Maejo Inst of Agric. Technology
CONTACT: Maejo, Chiang Mai 50290, Thailand

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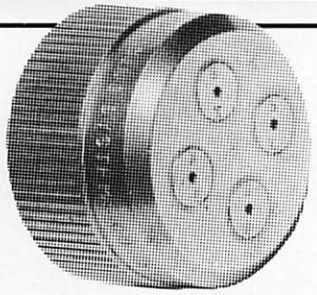

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A Rose?
By any other name

Dendrobium christyanum or *Dendrobium margaritaceum?*

This attractive small growing dendrobium is from the *Formosae Section* of the genus. It is widely grown in this country as *Den. margaritaceum* (the name meaning 'pearly') with reference to the colour/texture of the flowers. Gunnar Seidenfaden in Orchid Genera of Thailand, however, notes that Finet, when naming the plant overlooked the earlier description by Reichenbach of *Den. christyanum,* and accordingly the earlier name is correct, and should be used.