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in New Zealand

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Orchids

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NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

VOL. 17 No. 6

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WHO ARE WE?

This is perhaps an opportune time to ask the question — **WHO ARE WE?**

By “we” I mean **Orchids in New Zealand**.

While I am sure many will be aware of our beginnings, for those who are not, **Orchids in New Zealand** was established by the Orchid Council of New Zealand (now legally known as CONZED), the first edition appearing in July 1975. Since then it has been published bi-monthly. Those first issues were edited by Graeme Boon. Current Conzed President Syd Wray was then Secretary/Treasurer of Council, and a member of the Executive Committee responsible for the establishment of this magazine, and his interest and support has continued strongly to this day.

As the then President Tom French noted in the first issue:

“Those responsible for this magazine hope to make it a compendium of information for all orchid growers throughout New Zealand, and welcome articles to that end . . . The magazine’s success in the future will depend on the measure of support it merits from members of the contributing societies to the Orchid Council of NZ and the interest of members who may from time to time be sufficiently inspired to make contributions to its pages.

Words just as relevant today as they were seventeen years ago.

The owners of this magazine are Conzed, or more particularly the members of the affiliated orchid societies throughout

New Zealand. To those readers who are members of an orchid society

affiliated to the Orchid Council of New Zealand, have **YOU**

editorial



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

- thought about what **YOU** have done for **YOUR** magazine.
- Has **YOUR** society considered how it can support **ITS** magazine (encourage subscribers, articles, donations to colour fund etc).
- Are members of your society aware of **YOUR** magazine, and encouraged to become subscribers. (Only a small number of societies have availed themselves of the bulk subscription facilities).

Any magazine will only survive if it is fully supported by its owners and readers. During the 2 years I have been editor, I have been pleased with much of the support offered the magazine, but more active support is

required if we are not only just to survive, but are to succeed. **YOU** can support us by

- renewing your subscription to the magazine
- encourage others to become subscribers
- give subscriptions to your orchid friends at Christmas if they are not already subscribers
- encourage your society to take an active interest in **ITS** magazine
- encourage members, especially those with knowledge and experience with orchids and their culture, to share that knowledge and experience by contributing articles to the magazine.

The more subscribers we have, the better, larger and more colourful the magazine can be.

We currently need original articles. If the magazine is to prosper, we must have good original material, and you and your society can assist in this way. Articles, both short and long, are required.

There are many subjects:

- Culture, culture, culture
- My favourite orchid
- Orchid personalities
- Orchid collecting
- Society news

. . . and much, much, more.

GET READY FOR THE NEW YEAR — THINK HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR MAGAZINE NOW.

Together we can make this a part of every orchid grower in this country.

ILLUSTRATIONS

One of the major changes made to the magazine during my editorship has been the greater use of illustrations. I believe the saying "a good illustration is worth a thousand words" is very true; we live in an age of not just words but visual images. To date the illustrations have to a very large extent been provided from my own photographic resources; the magazine has minimal picture stocks — some David Menzies slides, an (incomplete) set of the 13 WOC slides, plus the 1990 award slides. If interesting illustrations are to be a feature of the magazine, a stock of good slides is essential; the magazine cannot continue to expect one person to provide the number of slides necessary (not only because of the cost involved but also the time necessary to take them). The ongoing source of illustrations needs to be considered by CONZED and all those involved in the magazine.

Perhaps those competent photographers could take duplicate slides of plants and flowers for the magazine; perhaps the local society could supply some film to make this possible. Some articles are received with photographic illustrations — great. Some authors do not have the ability or facilities to take satisfactory photographs but perhaps someone else in the society could assist in this way.

Do you want continuing illustrations? — or are you satisfied with pages of text with little graphic material. The means by which a picture file can be established is becoming a matter of importance if relevant illustrations are to continue to be a part of the main features of the magazine, and hence I would be interested to receive **YOUR** views.

In these difficult times where everyone is under pressure of one sort or another, it is only with the combined co-operation of everyone — readers, advertisers, CONZED and its owners, the orchid societies and individual orchid growers throughout New Zealand, that we can continue to make this important magazine for New Zealand orchid growers grow and prosper. Unfortunately words alone are not sufficient, **WE NEED YOUR ACTION — NOW.** ◀

*Feature
of the
Month*

This month's feature comprises 3 articles especially directed at beginner orchid growers.

The first looks at coolhouse orchids flowering through the year.

The second asks (and I hope answers) "How does a beginner grow orchids without a glasshouse.?"

The last "With or without a glasshouse — some hints" rounds off this series.

COOLHOUSE ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

— FOR BEGINNERS

WHEN we start growing orchids, we naturally start with cymbidiums, but as a newcomer to this fascinating hobby, I would like to suggest that there are other rewarding orchids, which can give beginners year-round interest. All orchid plants benefit from year-round attention and careful tending during the non-flowering period. But we all enjoy watching the development of flowers on our plants, so why not add year-round flowering interest to our hobby?

It is fascinating to observe how the flower shoots of each species, appear from different positions and develop. The cymbidium bud appears as a thicker and often darker shoot beside its pseudobulb; the *Vanda* bud suddenly appears from the axil of a leaf; the *Encyclia mariae* from the top of a new growth and after flowering forms a new pseudobulb; *masdevallia* buds appear from the basal sheath of a leaf; *dendrobium* (nobile type) from the nodes of the erect pseudobulbs; *paphiopedilums* as a "swelling" from the centre of a mature growth. The appearance of a 'different' shoot on a plant you haven't flowered is the start

of an exciting period of observation, to see if a flower is developing, and what will it be like?

So let us follow through a year, with a selection of orchids which have flowered successfully for a beginner.

JANUARY

Encyclia mariae is a small plant, which each year has produced its unique,

Ross Macdonald of Wanganui discusses some of his favourite orchids which appear in his glasshouse month by month.



Encyclia mariae
 Grower/photo: Ross McDonald

scented blooms — large in relation to the plant. It grows well in a sheltered position in the coolhouse.

Masdevallia mystica, formerly *M. ventricularia*, is a little gem, adding its splash of dark pink and yellow flowers, not only in this summer month, but throughout the year. It has had up to fifteen flowers at a time, and has continued flowering for fifteen months at the time of writing. During this period it has also been repotted. Along with the other masdevallias, it grows on a lower shelf, below the cymbidiums. Extra shade is added during the hotter periods, by hanging dendrobiums above.

Masdevallia colossus adds its large (for masdevallia) red and gold blooms to the January-February display.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Seem to be Vanda months for my orchid house. *Vanda* Roeblingiana regularly produces two spikes with about ten flowers on each. V. J. Van Brero x *V. Luzonica* is more showy with large blooms in pink shadings. These are also lightly scented. This plant often produces two spikes, either simultaneously or one shortly after the other, with up to fifteen flowers on each. *V. Rothchildiana*

adds a blue splash with about six large flowers, giving an attractive contrast to the other vandas. These plants grow in the brightest corner (and probably the warmest corner) of the coolhouse. During these months, *Dendrobium victoria reginae* regularly produces a group of three or four bluish-mauve flowers — so far, not a show stopper, but pleasantly different. It also flowers November/December.

MARCH AND APRIL

Are the months to enjoy a number of masdevallias (*barlaeana*, Sugar Baby, Doris, and of course



Masdevallia collosus
 Grower/photo: Ross McDonald

mystica), *Sophranitis coccinea* (almost cerise) flower — x *S. cernua*, and of course the early flowering cymbidiums, which start opening in March in my coolhouse. *Masd. barlaeana* is a really bright rose red

(almost cerise) flower — it was the size of a cymbidium standard, what a real eye-catcher it would be. The bright orange-red flower of *sophranitis* lasts for many weeks. This

grows on the same shelf as the vandas, but in a position of slightly more air movement.

MAY

Maxillaria picta never fails to produce a showing of its gold and brown flowers. These are produced around the base of the plant, so when in flower, needs to be on a reasonably high shelf for one to appreciate the display. Normally, it grows on a slightly shaded shelf near the *masdevallias*. It quickly develops into a good-sized plant. *Laelia gouldiana* adds a showy light mauve touch of colour during this month and on into June. This plant grows in a sheltered corner with medium light.

JUNE AND JULY

Are the slipper orchid (*paphiopedilum*) months and having only a coolhouse, the range of these is limited. However, the ever popular *Paph. insigne* always flowers as do Midred Hunter and one or two other crosses. Although it hasn't flowered yet, a *Paph. hirsutissimum* is growing well from a young plant. These plants grow on a lower shelf in a sheltered corner.

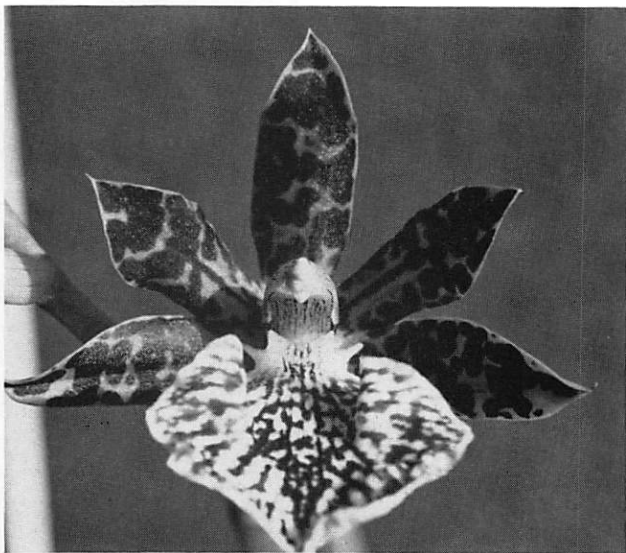
These winter months are also brightened by the unusual flowers of a *Zygopetalum (intermedium 'Bolin' x B. G. White 'Stonehurst')* and its strong

scent is a plus to include this plant in a collection.

The light cream flowers of *Masd. measureseana* first open in June. Held well clear of the foliage, they have a delicate appearance, but last for two or three months.

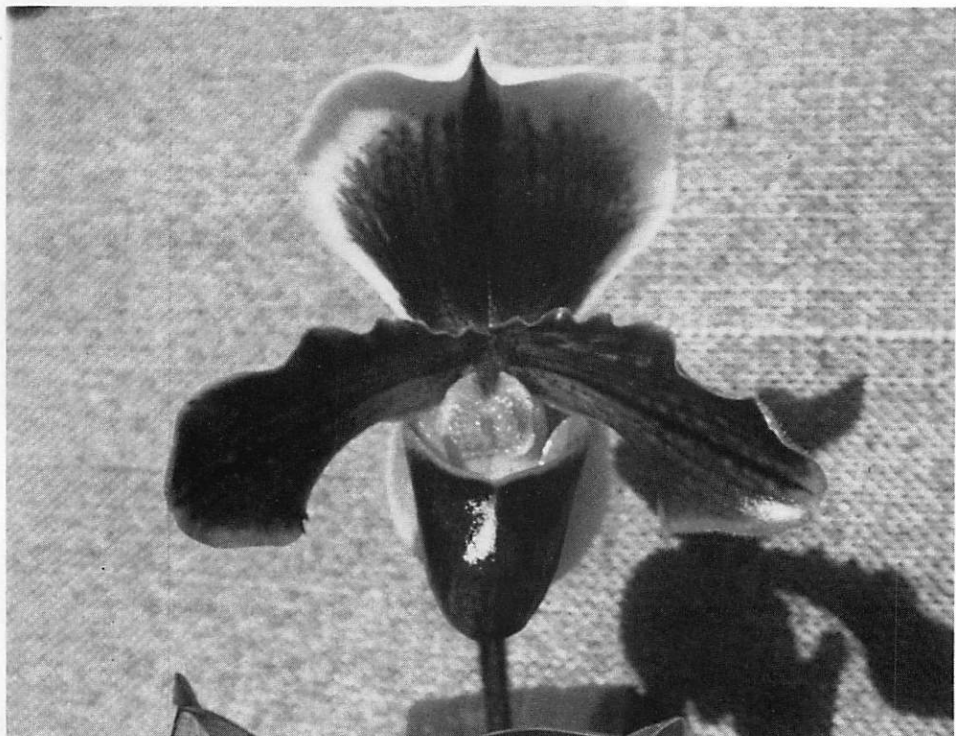
Vanda coerulea also flowers during this period and its blue-tinted flowers are a pleasant contrast to the other orchids flowering at this time of the year.

Although I have a few cymbidiums flowering March to July, August to



Top: *Zygopetalum (intermedium* Bolin x B. G. White 'Stonehurst')

Bottom: *Paphiopedilum* Mildred Hunter
Grower/photos: Ross McDonald



November is the main cymbidium time for my orchid house. Any beginner to the hobby, should plan to purchase plants which flower over a range of months (something I didn't consider initially).

AUGUST SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Supplementing the cymbidiums are *Masdevallia polysticta*, *Calanthe arisanensis* and *Dendrochilum glumaceum*. *Masd. polysticta* holds its multi-flowered spikes well clear of the foliage and a mature plant can be very showy indeed.

Calanthe arisanensis has many dainty flowers on the vertical flower stem. Being terrestrial, it grows well in normal potting mix, and the flower stems seem to grow on and on, displaying the tiny brown cream and white flowers.

Dendrochilum is well known for its wonderful scent, which spreads throughout the orchid house. It is amazing that such tiny flowers can produce so much scent over a number of weeks. I look forward to my plant reaching the size of long-established plants one sees in older collections.

CHRISTMAS:
How about a
gift subscription
of Orchids in NZ



Top: *Dendrobium Gattou Monarch* Bottom: *Dendrobium Utopia*
Grower/photos: Ross McDonald



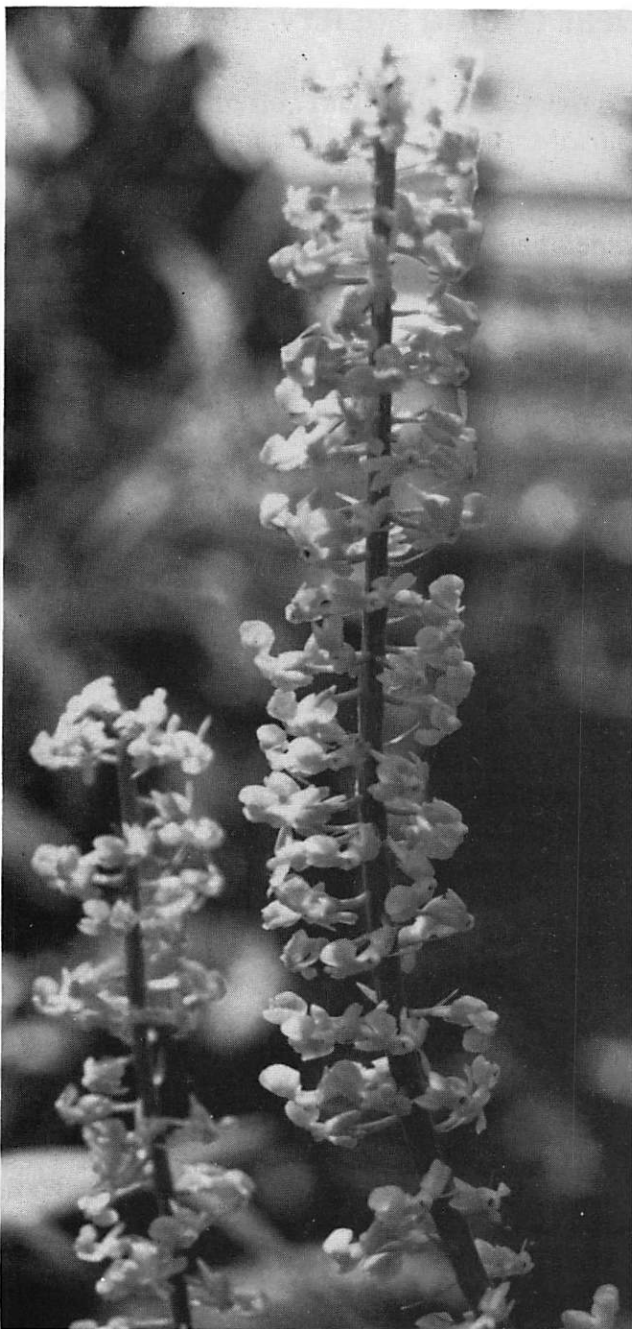
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Is the time to enjoy *Dendrobium* Gatton Monarch, *Dend.* Utopia and other similar orchids. The former has such a strikingly dark brown spot on the disk of the lip, contrasting with the lemon, white and pink colours surrounding it. *Dend.* Utopia is a showy dark pink, with contrasting yellow on the lip. These dendrobiums are hung near the roof of the orchid house and so are growing in the stronger light area.

Finally for December, *Calanthe matsudai*, another of the terrestrial forms, has proved worth growing. This plant has tiny yellow flowers, produced continuously as the spike grows upwards—a delightful contrast to the showy dendrobiums.

I'm sure that many expert orchid growers would have more-qualified suggestions of plants to flower at particular times of the year. The suggestions above have flowered readily for one beginner, and I trust may add pleasure to many more beginners cool orchid house. ◀

BRAZILLIAN SPECIES: Flasks from \$20. Also contract cultivation of your seed undertaken. Ph: 0-9-483 7731 or write to: Jim Gilchrist, Gilchrist Micro Propagations, 11 Seon Place, Birkdale, Auckland.



Calanthe matsudai
Grower/photo: Ross McDonald

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(DONT FORGET TO TELL US YOR ADDRESS!)

How does a beginner grow orchids without a greenhouse?

IT IS CERTAINLY possible for an outright beginner to grow orchids without getting a greenhouse first, but there are a lot of qualifications to the statement. These notes are based on our own experience of three years growing in a small house in Upper Hutt north of Wellington, where we get plenty of sun, shelter from the southerlies, and only an occasional frost.

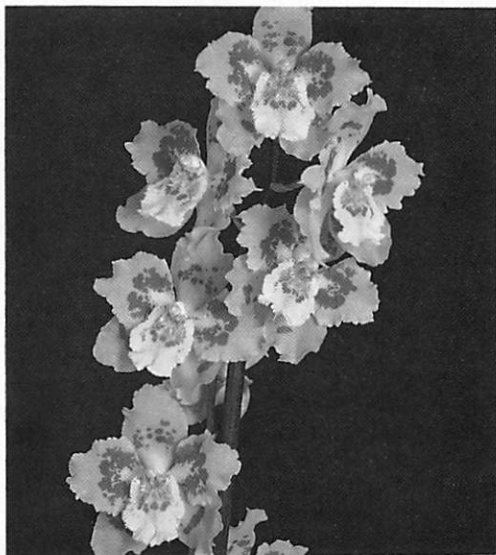
First I should make it clear that these notes do not refer to cymbidiums. We grow a few of these—as outdoor plants—and I don't much like them. This is the first rule for any grower—grow only what *you* like, the plants will reflect your interest and enthusiasm. There is so much variety amongst orchids that there is bound to be at least one group which you fancy

Virtually all other orchids are indoor plants and it is these I write about. Now 'indoors' needs defining. It could mean a centrally-heated home with a minimum temperature of 15°C and low humidity, or that described by an early English grower as perfect for Odonts—"the plants lived in the sitting room where they got frost at night and got no heat at all until the fire was lit for tea."

John Addison discusses how he coped with his increasing addiction for orchids. His experiences may assist other growers.

From the Wellington Orchid Society Journal

Ours is probably more typical of Wellington houses in that it is reasonably well insulated, has a few draughts and is heated by an open fire, a storage heater and the sun. We open doors and windows as often as



Odm. Somelle 'Golden Days'

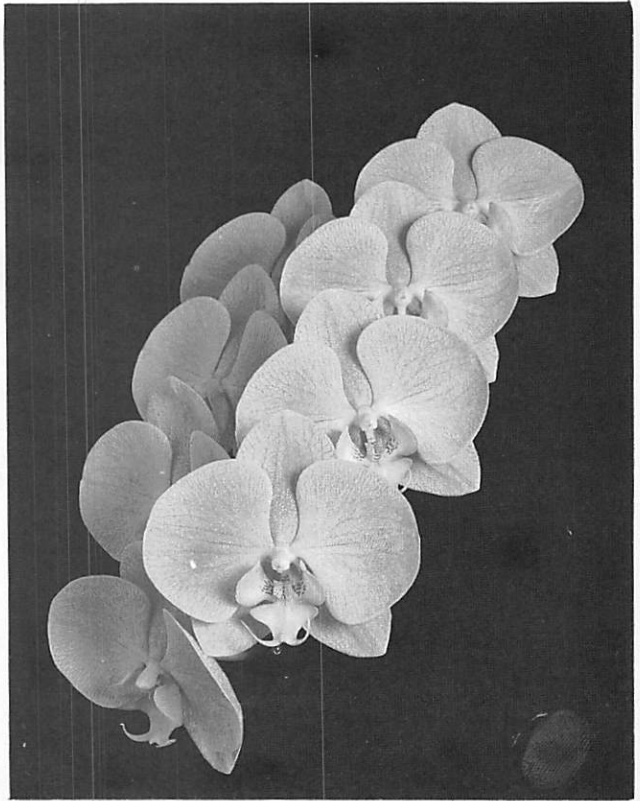
Grower: Geyslerland Orchids

Photo: Autec

possible, but are out all day. The result is a winter minimum temperature of about 5°C, a summer maximum of 25°C and plenty of fresh air. If your home is much different from this these notes may not be much use.

This sort of environment is marginal for many orchids, and consequently it is *essential* to attempt only those plants which are likely to adapt to the conditions you can provide. Unless you build special environments like 'Wardain' cases the choice is quite limited. With experience and some special equipment, it *may* be possible to grow phalaenopsis in your home; but it is beginners I'm talking about, and it is pointless—and very depressing—for a beginner to try and grow a phallie in the kitchen. Even those we were growing were greatly relieved when they were finally moved into a greenhouse, and they have all grown twice as fast since then.

All the same, the most suitable plants are frequently not available. You then have several options. The first of these is patience (essential anyway) — and wait until you can find the right plants. If you insist on buying anyway, get adult or near-adult plants, as they are usually more tolerant of marginal conditions than young ones and in any case flower



Phalaenopsis Regal Dancer 'Queenslander'

Grower: Stewart Heyden

Photo: Autec

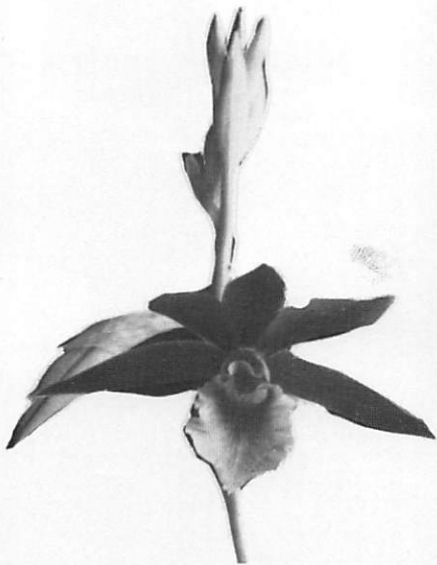
earlier. Buy only a few good ones and try to give them a suitable microclimate. The novice has a great advantage over the expert in that he only has a few plants, and can give them individual microclimates and individual attention.

The plants we have successfully flowered ourselves are mostly in the cattleya group - *Bc* Daffodil, *C* Les Houches, *Epiphronitis veitchii*, and recently *Odontocidium* Crowborough 'Plush'. Others we have bought in

spike and they have happily flowered for us in the house. Yet others are growing reasonably well but have yet to flower as they are still too young - various cattleyas and ondonts, *Coelogyne cristata*, *Phasius tankervilleae*, *Dendrobium nobile*, *Epidendrum radicans*, a dendrobium and a miltonia. There are of course the Australian dendrobiums—*speciosum*, *kingianum*, *falcorostrum* etc.—which can be grown outside during the summer and brought inside during

the frosty season. *D. kingianum* in particular is readily available, grows fast and is very floriferous.

Our failures are equally instructive. They include all of our early phalaenopsis, a large number of our first batch of seedlings (too small—they need some heat at this stage); nearly all of a flask of odonts (an experiment); a flowering size *Cattleya* Colworth x Summer Stars 'Purity' which simply collapsed and died for no apparent reason; and some slippers. You will notice that most of these were bought in defiance of the advice given above!



Top: *Phaius tancarvalliae*
Bottom: *Coelogyne cristata*
Grower: Hugh Davis, Wellington





Dendrobium speciosum

Grower: Dot Hazelwood

Photo: Autec

Most of the plants live on the bedroom windowsill, which has been widened to about twelve inches. The window faces east, but the sill gets sun for most of the morning from the north-facing French doors. The doors or the windows are nearly always open, at least a little. The plants are all on moisture trays of some sort, allowing excess water to drain into the trays and evaporate up around the plants. They get plenty of light, but not the heat of the afternoon sun, and particularly, they get an inspection every morning and evening. This close supervision is an important requirement that isn't really possible

when you have a lot of plants—another beginner's bonus!

The remainder of our indoor plants are warm-growing ones, mostly phalaenopsis. Until recently these lived above the storage heater, sitting in a large pottery bowl full of wet pebbles. This provided the warmth and humidity admirably but unfortunately the heater is in a dark corner and even for Phallies there was insufficient light. Now we have acquired an electric heating board, which is buried in a polystyrene fruit box under an inch of sand, the plants sitting on top and watered in situ. The sand stays moist and

warm, humidity around the plants is continuous, and the whole tray can be moved to a suitable position. It is still far from ideal, but the plants are noticeably happier.

Finally, a few random points that we have found helpful.

- Buy good plants—from reputable growers, that are a reasonable size, that *look* healthy. We have found that plants from some growers do particularly well with us; if you find the same, stick to those sources. Your cultural habits are probably similar.

- All growers are different—take particular care of a plant when you

bring it home, it has to adjust to your conditions.

- Study your plants—inspect them often, encourage them, but resist the temptation to water and feed them every time you inspect them.

- Read a lot—there are plenty of good books in the library, and the first essential is to get used to those terrible names. You will also find lots of conflicting advice.

- Ask questions—talk to as many growers as possible,

visit them and see for yourself what they mean by shade, temperature etc., you will learn more this way than by going to a dozen seminars.

- Accept some losses—they are inevitable. But try to find the reason each time, and use it as a lesson for the future.

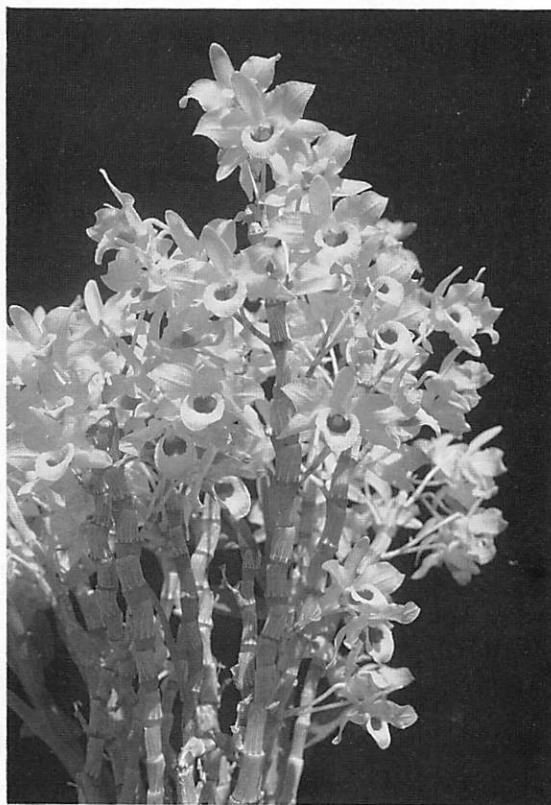
- Your first aim is to get plants growing—flowering is secondary and hopefully will follow naturally.

- Keep records—plants should always be accurately labelled, and it

is fun to look up a plant's history. Most of us have got very inaccurate memories.

- Have patience—lots of it. Orchid growing is an incurable disease, so you've got plenty of time.

- Finally—enjoy your hobby. So far I have found orchid growers to be wonderfully friendly hospitable people, and I frequently think that this is the best reason for joining them—the flowers are a bonus. ◀



Dendrobium nobile

Grower: B. & H. Mooney, Wellington

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WITH OR WITHOUT A GLASSHOUSE

—some hints

Many growers do not own a glasshouse and grow their orchids in their house.

Q. Which orchids can be grown in the house?

A. A surprisingly wide range of orchids is grown indoors.

Odontoglossum—buy a plant with healthy large pseudobulbs. Water with slightly warmed water in the mornings.

Epiphronitis Veitchii is grown by one member on an East facing bedroom windowsill, the window open in summer for air movement.


Dendrobium kingianum—can be grown outside all year round (as can *D. speciosum* and other Australian natives) but does not like frost.

Vanda—can be grown and flowered well inside. These and *Cattleyas* need plenty of light to flower. *Paphiopedilum* *Leeanum*, *P. insigne* and its hybrids and many other paphs do well—although *insigne* and its hybrids might do better outside in the cold.



Dendrobium Ellen

Roger Cooper, in the Journal of The Wellington Orchid Society, discusses what can be grown without a glasshouse, and some features he considers important.



CHRISTMAS
HOW ABOUT A
GIFT SUBSCRIPTION
OF 'ORCHIDS IN
NEW ZEALAND'

As an aid to indoor culture, plants can be grown on a wire tray over a metal tray containing water, to keep humidity up near the plants. In summer, plants growing on sunny windowsills can be protected by net curtains. A small table fan helps air movement around plants indoors.

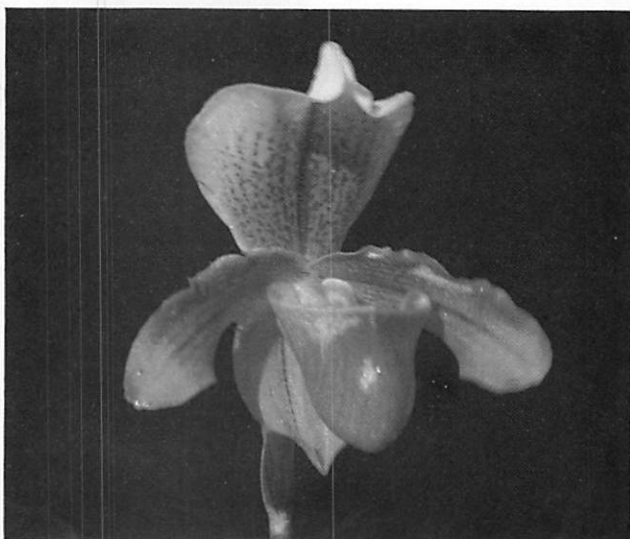
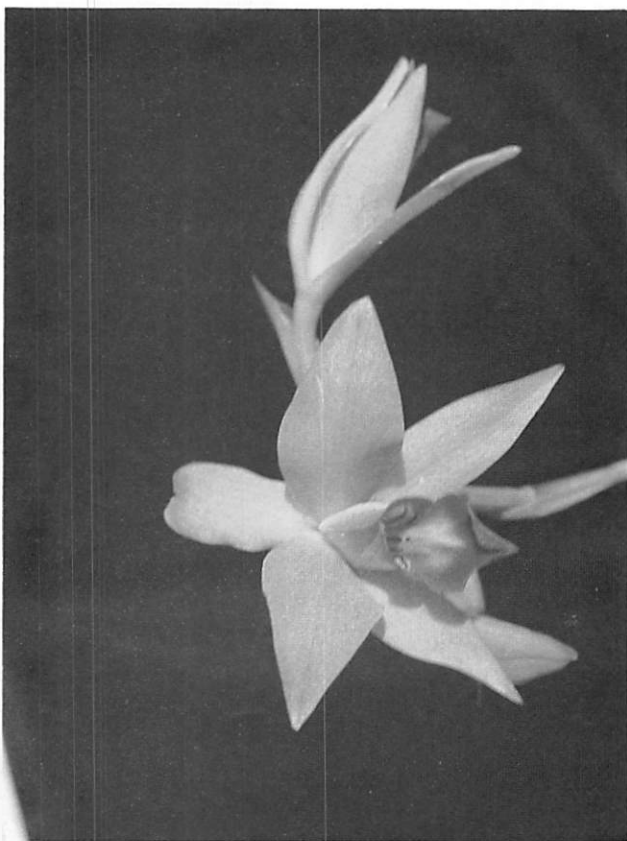
Q. What other genera can be grown with *Cymbidiums*?

A. *Odontoglossum*, *Odontioda*, *Oncidium*, (some species only), cool *Paphs*, (*insigne* group) and *Miltonia* are all grown in the *Cymbidium* house without any heat at all, and with good success. It is important to keep plants on the dry side in winter, and to give the *Miltonias* more shade than the others. The biggest danger is to have the mix too wet in winter, when root rot can easily arise. Keep the mix coarse and open.

Other groups that can be grown entirely cold are *Masdevallia*, *Pleione*, and *Coelogyne*. With each of these and with the groups mentioned earlier, it is essential to consult a manual to find out which species are the cold growing ones. *Laelia anceps*, *L. gouldiana* and *Zygopetalum mackayi* are other species grown with *Cymbidiums* by members.

Top: *Laelia anceps*

Bottom: *Paphiopedilum insigne*



Q. For those with glasshouses, what is the best way to insulate them?

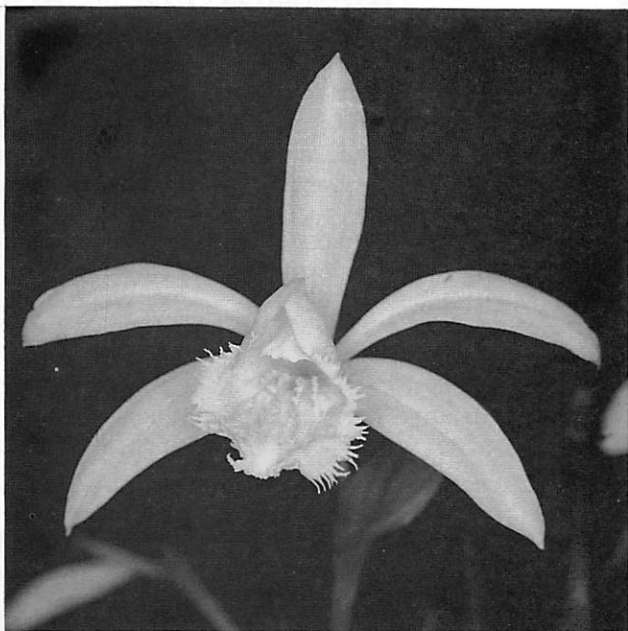
A. It is not necessary to have glass down to ground level, a better insulating material can be used such as plywood or asbestos board, or even bricks for below bench level. Polythene bubble sheeting is used by many members but is found to break down from UV radiation after about three years. UV-stable insulating plastic was mentioned but details of its availability in New Zealand are unknown. Polycarb plastic twinwalled glass substitute is now available from Calvert Plastics Ltd, Stokes Valley.

Solid walls could be filled with insulating, or heat storing material, or lined with expanded polystyrene.

Various methods of storing solar heat for re-use at night. An old trick, still common in the UK, is the pit house—a glasshouse of which only the roof is above ground level. The ground serves as an efficient insulator. Another tip is to use ceiling fans or other means of keeping the air inside the glasshouse well circulated. This prevents heat build-up near the ceiling and heat loss by conduction, through the ceiling. ◀



Top: *Masdevallia instar*
Grower L. & M. Dougherty
Bottom: *Pleione formosana alba*



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In June we went to Hawaii – We flew to Hilo – We visited Yamamoto Dendrobiums and met Koichi the manager and did a deal. Now we have landed a shipment of their best. These are not seedlings but divisions of their best stud plants – Blooming side – Showbench winners.

Christmas Chime 'Asuka' AM/AOS – Milky white with purple tips.

Hot Pulany 'kibi' – Dark purple, maroon lip, profuse bloomer.

Lovely Virgin 'Angel' – Elegant pink with reddish border.

Orange Gem – Very beautiful deep orange, maroon lip.

Sailor Boy 'Pinky' – Soft pink, cream lip.

Seigyoku 'Queen' HCC/AOS – Clear white, reddish throat.

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Perth Conference

Only a few days since our return from Perth and the **12th Australian Orchid Conference** and our display was so successful we just had to send a copy of the results for inclusion in the magazine. We have included all the New Zealand successes not just those in our display, and also the results of the floral art entered by New Zealand registrants.



"Now what shall I use next?"

Albert Blunhardt, Shirley Grey, Wally Lomas and Syd Wray setting up.

Photo: S. & J. Wray

As you can see we had plenty to be excited about and these results make the whole thing really worthwhile. It's a lot of work getting the flowers over there (seven boxes) and putting up the display

but it was worth it in the end.

The Conference was very successful and a very friendly atmosphere; must have been over 100 New Zealand registrants

attended which was a great turnout. All social events and day tours were very enjoyable and well supported especially by the N.Z.ers!

We did a four day wildflower tour after the



Whangarei Orchid Society Display nearly finished,
 CONZED President, Syd Wray adding final touches.
 Photo: S. & J. Wray

conference and found many different kinds of native terrestrial orchids which caused great excitement, especially when one of our members almost stood on a snake — so engrossed in looking for orchids we never thought about the possibility of what else we might come across! Some species we saw were *Caladenia flava* (cowslip), *Caladenia gemmata* (blue china), *Caladenia huegelii* (king spider), *Caladenia latifolia* (pink fairy), *Elythranthera brunonis* (enamel orchid), *Diuris longifolia* (donkey orchid), *Pterystylis vittata*, and many others. There were many Australian

terrestrials on show at the conference but it wasn't until I started finding them in their natural habitat that they gained my interest and I then went back and had a more understanding and appreciative look at them in the show.

On our return from the wildflower tour we spent another couple of nights in Perth, then flew over to Melbourne. We had a full day charter coach the next day and visited Dingley Fern Market and Garden World Collectors Corner which was absolutely fantastic (a definite must for anyone visiting Melbourne), and also Clive Halls nursery Mt. Beenak

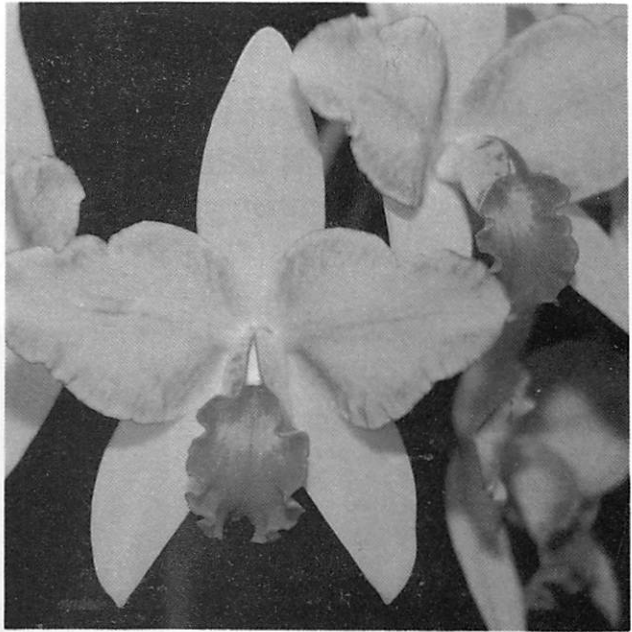
Orchids which is out near Yarra Junction. The weather wasn't too fantastic (in fact it was wet) on that day but the places we visited made up for that without a doubt. The rain cleared in the afternoon so our visit to Clive and Agi's was very enjoyable and interesting. Our coach driver had his work cut out on the narrow metal road up to Clive's but he showed his capabilities admirably. On showing him through the nursery I think we converted him quite successfully to an orchid lover!

Our tour was over much too soon and on our final

night in Melbourne everyone went to see "The Phantom of the Opera" after which we enjoyed supper at The Windsor Hotel. What a way to go! An absolutely marvellous show and a great time was had by all. We had people on our tour from Dunedin, Oamaru, Christchurch, Westport, Blenheim, Wellington, Raumati Beach, Te Puke, Auckland, Warkworth, Kaikohe and Whangarei and I know we all came home having made some great friendships within the group.

Looking forward now to the 4th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference in Thailand in January 1992.

Joy Wray



Top: *Slc. Mine Gold* 'Margaret's Pride' AM/OCNZ ACC/AOS.
Bottom: *Paph. Picture Book* 'Sandstone' - Grower: A. Easton
Photos: S. & J. Wray



RESULTS OF NEW ZEALAND ENTRIES IN 12th AUSTRALIAN ORCHID CONFERENCE — PERTH SEPTEMBER 1991

GRAND CHAMPION OF SHOW:

MR ANDY EASTON, ROTORUA —
Paph. Picture Rock 'Sandstone'

Andy also gained the following placings:

- 1st Place Cymbidium, predominantly green
Cym. Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae'
- 2nd Prize Cymbidium species — *Cym. insigne*
- 3rd Prize Cymbidium species — *Cym. parishii*
'sanderae'
- 2nd Prize Odontoglossum Alliance, Any Other
Odcdm. Tiger Hambuhren 'Mieke'
- 3rd Prize Odontoglossum Alliance, Any Other
Odcdm. Golden Trident.

MERV AND LOIS DOUGHERTY,
WELLINGTON —

- 2nd Prize Paphiopedilum — Developmental
Hybrid, species Characteristics
Predominant *Paph.* Mauven x
fairieanum.
- 3rd Prize Paphiopedilum — same section as
above *Paph.* (*venustum* x *Holdenii*)

DISPLAY BY AN INTERSTATE OR
OVERSEAS SOCIETY —

- 1st Prize Whangarei Orchid Society, plus
GOLD MEDAL.
- 2nd Prize Orchid Club of South Australia
- 3rd Prize Northern Territories Orchid Society

FRED & MARGARET BRETT, WHANGAREI

- 1st Prize Oncidinae-Odont Hybrid *Odm.*
(*Ardentissimum* x *Onc. crispum*)
- 2nd Prize Odontioda/Odontonia Hybrid —
Odontioda Ingmar

BRUCE & JILL GOVER, WHANGAREI —

- 3rd Prize Cymbidium, Standard Green *Cym.*
Levis Duke 'Bella Vista'



Cymbidium Champion of Show
Photo: Nevelle Butler

WALLY & MARGARET LOMAS,
WHANGAREI —

CHAMPION CATTLEYA, *Slc.* Mine Gold
'Margaret's Pride' GOLD MEDAL.
This flower also went on to gain an
HCC from the Australian Orchid
Council with 78.9 points.

- 1st Prize Cymbidium species — *Cym. lowianum*
2nd Prize Orchid species other than listed —
Laelia rupestris
3rd Prize Phalaenopsis/Doritaenopsis Yellow or
Yellow with spotting/barring/stripes
Phal. Golden Sands x Judith Gill

DON & INA LUKE, WHANGAREI —

- 1st Prize Paphiopedilum species *Paph.*
armeniacum, SILVER MEDAL
1st Prize Paphiopedilum, Exhibition Spotted
Paph. Amanda Hill
3rd Prize Ascocenda, Pink/Red *Ascda.* Peggy
Foo x Shinba

ALAN & JANICE SHAYLER, WHANGAREI

- 3rd Prize Odontioda/Odontonia Hybrid *Oda.*
Echanson x Margia

IRIS & COLIN SYMONDS, WHANGAREI —

- 2nd Prize Cattleya Intermediate Red *Slc.* Haxel
Boyd 'Redstone'

SYD & JOY WRAY, WHANGAREI —

- 1st Prize Oncidinae — Oncidium Hybrid
excluding Equitant Oncidium John
Louis Shirrah — SILVER MEDAL
1st Prize Oncidium species — *onustum*
'Everglades'
1st Prize Cymbidium Intermediate,
predominantly yellow *Cym.* Mary
Pinchess 'Del Ray'
1st Prize Cymbidium Intermediate,
predominantly pink *Cym.* Excalibur
'Kensington'
SILVER MEDAL — *Brassia* Rex x *Miltonia*
Seminole Blood
2nd Prize Cymbidium Intermediate,
predominantly green *Cym.* Dolores
Hoyt 'Lemon Light'
2nd Prize Orchid Hybrid other than listed *Epicat*
Rene Marques 'Tawhai'
3rd Prize Orchid Hybrid other than listed
Angraecum veitchii
3rd Prize Cymbidium Intermediate
predominantly green *Cym.* King
Arther 'Paseo Verde'
3rd Prize Orchid species other than listed *Laelia*
flava

FLORAL ART

Class 166 One wired bouquet for the 'Queen of
1st Prize the Carnival' — Dawn Worsnop,
Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Soc.

Class 169 Junior — One shoulder spray of
1st Prize Orchid/Orchids. Tracy Worsnop,
Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Soc.

Class 171 One shoulder spray of
2nd Prize Orchid/Orchids Dawn Worsnop,
Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Soc

Class 172 One arrangement for the tables at the
2nd Prize Masked Ball. Dawn Worsnop,
Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Soc.

Class 176 Junior — One shoulder spray of
2nd Prize Orchid/Orchids. Tracy Worsnop,
Poverty Bay East Coast Orchid Soc.

Dawn Worsnop received a Conference BRONZE
MEDAL for her Floral Art. ◀



Lycaste at Perth Show
Photo: Nevelle Butler



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Queensland Orchid Society Display
Perth Show
Photo: Nevelle Butler

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'Bugs and Beasties'

THE 'two spotted spider mite' is the most commonly encountered and most difficult to control orchid pest. The summer forms of the female are pale green-yellow with two distinct black spots. Males and immature stages are of similar colour but smaller than the females. A loose webbing is secreted by the females to protect the developing eggs and nymphs on the underside of leaves. Females lay eggs at a rate of 3 to 14 dyas. They take 2 to 15 days to hatch. After hatching the mites progress through 1 larval and 2 nymph stages. Between each of these immature stages there is a resting stage which is resistant to pesticides.

In autumn, in response to short days and cool temperatures, reproduction usually ceases and the females hibernate in crevices amongst plants or on the greenhouse structure. Strains of mites associated with perennial crops often adapt to continuous reproduction, irrespective of day length, particularly in heated greenhouses.

Hot dry weather is conducive to outbreaks of spider mites. Optimum temperatures are 28-30°C. Mites are more active and lay twice as many eggs in dry conditions than in a high humidity environment. Spider mites enter greenhouses on clothing, plants, or air currents. They damage plants by feeding directly on the leaf cell contents, causing them to collapse and die. As mites multiply, the foliage loses its healthy green colour, with the undersides of the leaves

becoming silvered or brownish and of dry, shrivelled appearance.

Scale insects are usually small and not easily seen in their early stages. Infestations become obvious when they mature, by which time control with pesticides becomes difficult. Scales are usually introduced into the greenhouse on new plants. These should be isolated until confirmed as clean. Scales suck plant fluids. There are two types of scales:

1. Soft scales which have a soft external shell. They are not particularly damaging, but secrete large quantities of honeydew on which sooty mould fungi grow.
2. Armoured or hard scales which live freely under a hard outer shell that is produced as the insect grows and moults.

The life cycle of a typical scale consists of eggs, 1st stage females or 'crawlers', 2nd stage females, and adult females. Some species have winged male forms.

Mealybugs are another group of sap suckers. They also secrete honeydew which attracts sooty mould. Mealybugs get their name from the covering of 'meal' which serves as a protection that readily sheds pesticide sprays. Mealybugs prefer to live in protective crevices at the base of leaves, amongst pseudobulbs, or in the potting medium.

Aphids have many alternative host plants. They generally enter the greenhouse as winged females, although some enter on clothing, or on air currents. Aphids breed throughout the year at a rate proportional to temperature. Most species have very complex

lifecycles. Females can produce live young or eggs. Even as young develop inside the female parent, their own future offspring have already commenced to develop within them. This can result in a population explosion. At other times the female will produce both male and female nymphs which will subsequently mate after which the females can go on producing offspring without further male involvement.

Aphids commonly infest orchid spikes and new growth in spring. They suck sap. Some inject toxins as they feed.

Woolly Aphids are occasionally found at the base of plants, amongst the pseudobulbs. They excrete masses of white woolly material amongst which the colonies breed.

Thrips occasionally enter greenhouses during hot, dry summer weather. They feed on cell contents, causing a silverying of leaves similar to that caused by spider mites. Sometimes flower buds are also damaged.

Snails especially those locally known as bush snails, have become widely distributed in orchid houses since the 1940s. Many sources of potting media based on bark are contaminated with these snails, and few orchid collectors are free of this

pest. They damage orchids by chewing the roots, particularly the active growing root tips.

Slugs, Garden Snail, Black Field Cricket, Cockroaches and Slaters will feed on orchid foliage, flowers and aerial roots to

varying degrees. All these pests prefer greenhouses with weeds and debris under the benches to serve as daytime shelters. ◀

Gary Barker
Reprinted from
Waikato Orchid Society
Newsletter May 1986

SPRAYS

The following appeared in the Wanganui Society's Bulletin and is very sound advice.

1. Keep all sprays out of reach of children and pets.
2. Always store agricultural chemicals in the original containers and keep them tightly closed.
3. Always read the label before using sprays, granules or dusts. Note warning and cautions each time before opening the container.
4. When directed on label, wear protective clothing and a mask. Avoid inhaling dusts or sprays; never smoke while spraying or dusting.
5. Keep pesticides away from food and feeds. Pet's food and water containers should be covered.
6. Wash hands and face and change to clean clothing after spraying.
7. Check your equipment.
8. Dispose of empty containers so that they pose no hazard to humans, animals or plants.
9. Observe label directions and cautions about residues and withholding times for edible plants.
10. If symptoms of illness occur during or after spraying, seek medical advice immediately.

(We understand some of our members have had allergic reactions from using sprays and we do suggest every care and precaution is taken when dealing with these toxic preparations.)

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"ESCARGOTS"

'Tis a great thing to have compassion for all living things, but not when they are intent on destroying beauty and the *Helix aspersa* — commonly known as the garden snail is an expert at destruction, be it roots, leaves, stems or flowers.

It's the one that invades my bit of terra firma—that dastardly little mollusc that is capable of slithering through any obstacle course of pellets to get to the plants, chewing a hole in a leaf or eating the entire centre out of a plant leaving it either marked for life or perhaps only 12 months until new growth appears.

They even rub salt in the wound be leaving behind their mucousy trail to make sure I know who called. I need these night chewers about as much as Custer needed another indian.

I look at the snail with no feeling of fear, nausea or disgust, nor have I ever seen one that looked diseased or dirty.

Encountering a snail is like discovering dandruff — something to eliminate.

While snails live in communes their homing instinct is excellent. To launch them over the fence into the neighbours is useless as they do return climbing fences and walls if need be. This extra

exercise only serves to work up a more voracious appetite on returning home.

And return home they do. I have proved this by painting their shells with nail polish. Different colours from different areas. Some took 2 weeks but home they did come. The 'Pink Pearls' returned to the Echeverias, the 'Rose Frosts' returned to the Epiphylliums while the 'Hot Spices' headed back to the Haworthias—briefly I might add.

Their predator the hedgehog can't be trusted. To look on the road shows that their navigational skills are not the best. Their enemy the thrush and blackbird don't seem to be dwindling the numbers fast enough and I don't keep ducks. Let's face it man has to be the one to deal with these rascals.

With a life span of 5 to 10 years these hermaphrodites with male and female organs can both produce, laying 40 to 100 eggs at a time, which they

deposit in the soil then hide them by covering them up. In 2 to 4 weeks — lots more snails.

In the medical world they have been used in the treatment of tuberculosis, colds and corns. The french see them as a delicacy. The english used to buy them in the markets at a penny a pop under the name of Wall fish. Some folks farm them while others race them.

If they ate bugs I'd be tempted to let them be. Mealy bugs being as difficult as a summer cold to get rid of — However, mealy bugs are another story.

Eradication of snails is the main issue here. I am definitely not deceived by these annihilators of the night with their harmless looks and slow movement. Their I.Q. has to be high to achieve what they do.

As the predators and pellets are not doing their job the simple answer has to be — Place all plants on top of a greasy pole. ◀

Reprinted from
NZ Cactus & Succulent Society

The Genus *Masdevallia*

A collection comprising some of the 250 to 300 species of this genus can be very rewarding, as it can mean flowers at all times of the year. The majority are found at high altitudes, up to 4,000 m (13,000 ft), from Mexico through Tropical Central America to Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, with the greatest numbers found in the high cloud forests of the Andes in Colombia. More are therefore cool growing. Some from lower elevations throughout the area do require warmer conditions.

They grow as A: Epiphytes — a plant which grows on other plants, trees, etc., but is not nourished by them (not a parasite), an air plant and B: Lithophytes — growing on rocks or stony outcrops. C: Terrestrials, growing in the soil.

Their natural habitat is almost continually shrouded in cloud, mist, or rain and is subject to heavy dew at night. They are always moist but the free draining nature of their environment means their roots are moist at all times, but are not under water. Light levels are low and they receive little or no direct sunlight.

Requirements for the cultivation of the cool growing species of this genus here in New Zealand are simple and inexpensive.

A: Mix: fine but free draining grade of fine bark and pumice, with the addition of aquarius foam to maintain moisture

around the roots. The latter can help considerably if watering is inclined to be spasmodic.

B: A cool shady position: particularly during the summer season, with free air movement.

C: Water: keep moist at all times, and during hot dry weather misting of the

foliage will help to keep a moist, cool, atmosphere.

D: Weak solutions of fertiliser: can benefit growth.

These all add up to conditions which every orchid grower in New Zealand can provide at little or no expense.



Masdevallia coccinea

Grower: L. & M. Dougherty
Wellington Orchid Society

Few species of any genera are too difficult to grow provided we are prepared to learn something of their natural habitat and environment, and endeavour to approximate these conditions in the mini-climate we create to grow them in.

The summer period is the most difficult time of the year for Masdevallias, here in New Zealand. With high light intensity and dryness any neglect of the basic needs of the plants can lead to stress, which may show in the form of die-back of the leaves or leaf-drop. A check of a, b and c in requirements above, and a return to these basic needs should go a long way to solving the problem.

Do not be too hasty in removing the stems or spikes of Masdevallias as soon as the flowers have dropped, for if the stems remain green and healthy they may flower on these stems again. Three that come to mind that have this ability are, *M. tovarensis*, *M. infracta*, and *M. ephippium*.

Even in quite recent publications there are a number of species still referred to as Masdevallia which have been moved to the genus *Dracula*. These although similar in appearance and enjoying the same conditions, are best grown in pot-like

baskets, for their flower spikes often grow down through the mix. If in a pot they can come out through the holes in the side and bingo you have flowers halfway down the side. Plastic shade-cloth (netless) with about 6 mm holes is ideal for this type of container.

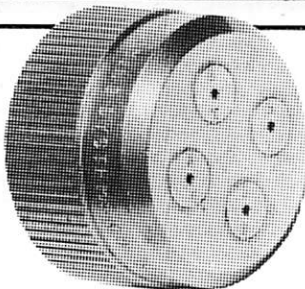
Give them the right conditions and the Masdevallia family are a joy to live with, and a dream come true for the heavy handed waterer. ◀

From the late
Alex Arms



Masdevallia Dorris
Grower: L. & M. Dougherty
Wellington Orchid Society
Apology: Print error — photo upside down.

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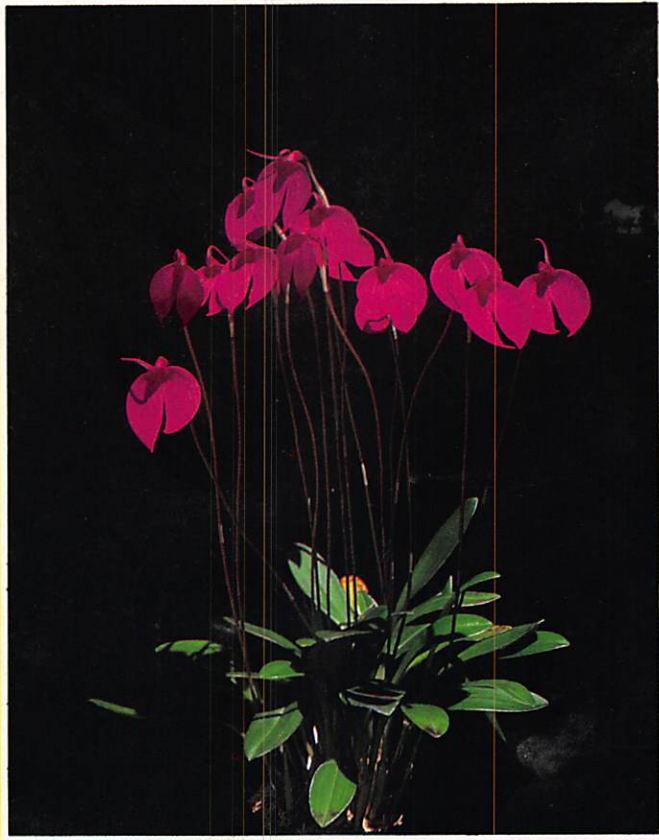
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Masdevallia coccinea



This month we feature an article looking at some of the 'other' orchids in flower each month. One genus of increasing popularity is Masdevallia, and we feature here a spectacular specimen grown by L. and M. Dougherty, exhibited at a recent Wellington Orchid Society show.