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in New Zealand

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NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY

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1992 and all that

It's New Year again. Have you made your New Year's Resolutions? — and broken most of them by the end of New Year's Day!

This is the start of my third year as Editor. I originally said that I would do it for two years, but one does get involved, and I still have some ideas, so on I go — but not for ever I can assure you.

Well, back to those New Year resolutions — or perhaps a 'wish list'.

- To produce a timely, informative interesting magazine — on time.
- To include maximum good illustrations, and as many as possible in full colour as allowed by the funds available.
- To include a wide range of articles on all possible subjects of orchids. Perhaps YOUR resolution could be to contribute to the magazine at least one article.
- To encourage orchid societies to be fully involved in their magazine—encouraging all members to contribute articles and take subscriptions. If every society encouraged one member to write an article, we would have more than enough original material for a whole year.
- To hope that all existing subscribers will renew their

subscriptions for 1992, and perhaps even encourage a friend who does not currently get the magazine to join. Each additional subscriber enables us to add to the magazine — especially colour.

Orchid growers are part of a national, indeed international, family. This magazine should help keep

us all together. There are always regional interests, and these cannot be ignored, but let us never forget the wider interests of growers. While for some orchids provide a living, for most it is just a hobby, a relief from the pressures of living in a much more stressful and difficult economic world. There will be many who will be finding it difficult to sustain their hobby because of financial considerations, health etc, but we should all try and ensure that such people are provided assistance to sustain their interest.

editorial



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

In this issue, we publish the first Newsletter for the next international orchid event in New Zealand. For some, the last event will still bring forth unfortunate memories, but we should put this behind us now and look to the future. We all enjoy a good show, and especially an international one, and if we all get together, learning from the lessons of the previous events, we can make this the event of 1995. At this stage, financial

contributions are not being sought, (and may not be necessary), rather just your practical support is needed by those who have indicated their willingness to organise this event for us all. Lets make it one resolution that we will keep, that we will all get in behind this event to make it the success we will be sure it will be. ◀

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Our thanks to you all. Every donation assists in making this an even more colourful publication.

RE: DONATIONS TO ORCHIDS IN N.Z. COLOUR FUND

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$500 towards the *Orchids in New Zealand* magazine colour fund.

Manawatu Orchid Society, this year had a very successful show and our members would like to share our profits with CONZED in this very worthwhile magazine.

We would like your committee to be aware of our appreciation for their dedication to the orchid world of New Zealand and especially to the magazine committee, we pay tribute for the long and many hours of work spent in the production of a very worthwhile publication, by New Zealand people, for New Zealand people.

We ask you to accept our donation as a token of appreciation.

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3rd NZ International Orchid Expo 1995

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

Yes it's true — the next major orchid event in New Zealand is scheduled to be held in Palmerston North in October 1995.

At the request of the Orchid Council of New Zealand a Steering Committee has been set up and the initial planning is now well under way.

The expo will be 'hosted' by the societies in the surrounding environs — Manawatu, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Levin, Dannevirke and Kapiti.

WHY EXPO?

You might well ask — but if you consult a dictionary you will find that an expo is defined as a **public exhibition**, and by inference it is a public exhibition of some consequence.

WHY PALMERSTON NORTH?

There are several good reasons:

- 27% of New Zealand's population lives in an area which is no more than 2 hours drive from the city.
- The Manawatu Sports Stadium (which is the chosen venue) is the largest single span indoor arena in the southern hemisphere. It provides a unique facility for large conventions, exhibitions, entertainment and sports events.

- Of the six major cities in NZ, Palmerston North has the most centralised and accessible shopping facilities and is known for its variety, quantity and quality of retail shops.
- Palmerston North is one of the few provincial centres in the country whose population is increasing and whose economic forecast is positive.

THE SHOW

The Show will be held over the period 10-16 October 1995 at the Palmerston North Showgrounds.

There is no intention on the part of the organising committee to make this a "Joneses" show and try and outdo all the rest with something that is bigger and brighter. High standards have been set in the past but we know that

with the planning that is taking place and with the co-operation and support of NZ orchid growers this show will be just as successful as previous events.

THE COMMITTEE

The people elected to the Organising Committee are:

Chairperson:

Patricia Elms

Deputy/Registration & Publicity:

Graham Jackson

Secretary/Assist Registration:

Linda Thompson

Finance:

Neville Butler

Show Layout/Commercial:

Gary Jackson

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Show Venue/Caretaking:

Bill Keane

Programme & Proceedings:

Lyn Sherlock

Assist Publicity:

Barry Wickens

Social Functions/Hospitality:
Graeme Rivers

Assist Finance:
Derek Boswell

The Chairperson of CONZED is also an ex officio member of this committee. Additional members will be added in course of time as the responsibilities and workloads in different areas increase. Sub-committees are being formed within the areas detailed and a number of other people from the host societies will be involved on these sub-committees.

THE PROGRAMME

While this naturally has not yet been finalised, the proposed programme as we see it at this stage is;

Tuesday 10th
Setting up

Wednesday 11th
Setting up

Thursday 12th
Day: Judging
Even: Show Opening

Friday 13th
Day: Public View/
Delegates Lectures
Even: Entertainment

Saturday 14th
Day: Public View/
Delegates Lectures
Even: Banquet &
Prize Giving

Sunday 15th
Public Viewing

Monday 16th
Take Down Show

THE FINANCE

Our forecasts at this stage indicate that this project has every likelihood of being self supporting. It does appear that we will NOT need to call on New Zealand societies generally for loan finance to fund the show. However, we are quite willing to organise suitable arrangements should societies wish to provide loan monies, and we will define the terms under which funds will be handled and distributed in our next newsletter.

It is expected that some sponsorship will be received and this with the proceeds of raffles should provide the major part of the finance required.

A number of fund raising products are also being considered. At the present time we are close to finalising details on two sizes of magazine binders — one to fit all those similar in size to *Orchids in NZ*, and the other for those of *Awards Quarterly* size.

We are also considering a series of Greetings Cards and Postcards which will probably feature CONZED awards.

The final result of the show will of course depend on the level of support received from societies right around the country. This has been excellent in the past and we are confident that we can rely on you again this time.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

START PLANNING!

- **PLAN TO BE A PARTICIPANT.**

We want to see all New Zealand societies and their members giving their full support to this Orchid Show.

- **PLAN TO BE AN EXHIBITOR.**

With four years of good growing, the seedlings you purchase now could well be the Show Winners!

Graham Jackson
Publicity Convener

AUTUMN SHOW

Bay of Plenty Orchid Society Autumn Show

**Saturday 4th April —
Sunday 5th April,
1992**

Venue:
Te Puke
High School Hall,
Tui Street, Te Puke.

The show will be open to the public:

Saturday: 12 pm - 5 pm
Sunday: 10 am - 4 pm

*Details available from
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P.O. Box 478, Te Puke.*

*Feature
of
The
Month*

This month we feature an article on influential red breeding cymbidiums.

This feature on cymbidiums concludes with some notes on the species *Cymbidium erythrostylum*.

Influential Red Breeding Standard Cymbidiums

“Pick what you consider to be the most influential red breeding standard cymbidium of the 1980’s, 1970’s, 1960’s and 1950’s with evidence to support your selection.” An assignment at a judging seminar of the Cymbidium Society, N. Z. Branch by Ray Dix.



Cym. Corakai 'Rewa'
Grower: Norm Porter

The majority of us have a weakness for the colour of red. It is the colour of danger, dominance, mystery and it is synonymous with anything exotic. In flowers, it is the colour that brings out the ooh's and aah's. It is the colour for action and results and when we need these we often use red roses. In this respect, how are we doing with red cymbidiums? How are we progressing in hybridising, and what are we awarding? It is most interesting to investigate the influences

through each decade from 1950.

We are fortunate in orchids to have such good registration and recording systems that make research relatively easy. Sanders and Bishops lists were used to trace hybrids in each decade and that marvellous publication Koesters was used for awards to 1980. Sadly this had not been continued after the death of Arthur Koester and for the last decade under investigation a number of publications were used

including the CSA Cymbidium Awards List, the AOS Awards Quarterly, and the AOC, OCNZ, NZOS awards lists. A much more laborious task.

A list of dominant standard red cymbidiums is shown Fig 1. Most of these are in the nature of household names, so often do they crop up in parentage of present day cymbidiums. In order with oldest registrations first we have:-

Fig 1:

Dominant Standard Red Cymbidiums

1	Ceres	—	1919	(i'ansonii x insigne)
2	Remus	—	193-	(Regulus x Joyful)
3	Rio Rita	—	1937	(Pearly x Ruby)
4	Doris Aurea	—	1942	(Chiron x Lysander)
5	Spartan Queen	—	1946	(Regina x Spartacus)
6	Kurun	—	1953	(Cornette x Stardust)
7	Fascination	—	1954	(Joyful x Constance Flory)
7a	Flavian	—	1955	(Flare x Remus)
8	Khyber Pass	—	1956	(Profita x Carisona)
9	Voodoo	—	1957	(Clarissa x Auribrook)
10	Claret	—	1961	(Clarissa x Atlantes)
11	Firewheel	—	1961	(Doris Aurea x Rio Rita)
12	Musita	—	1961	(Remus x Profita)
13	Sensation	—	1961	(Spartan Queen x Fascination)
14	Sabre Dance	—	1963	(Volcanoe x Khyber Pass)
15	Tapestry	—	1963	(Khyber Pass x Voodoo)
16	Howard Cobb	—	1969	(Khyber Pass x Fascination)
17	Tethys	—	1969	(Suva x Khyber Pass)
18	Terama	—	1971	(Westholme x Sensation)
19	Cabernet	—	1974	(Promona x Carisona)
20	Hamsey	—	1978	(Cooksbridge x Clarissa)
21	Panama Red	—	1978	(Sensation x Khyber Pass)
22	Yowie Flame	—	1981	(Tapestry x Sensation)
23	Mighty Mouse	—	1982	(Pajaro x Redwood)

From this list of dominant red standard red cymbidiums, the most influential can be selected from each decade. Commenting on some of these, Ceres is a significant standard primary hybrid with the most possible pigment for reds. Remus is 50% Ceres. Fascination and Flavian are often linked together and thought to be the same plant. This begs the question of which are the correct parents. In any event the same amount of Ceres is in both. In 1961 with Firewheel, earlier registered red hybrids commence to crop up as parents.

The following tables show the selection of the top red breeders in order of influence, in each decade. Considered is quality of the red breeder, quantity of hybrids registered, and the quality or number of awards of progeny. Each decade is investigated separately.

1950's

Total Awards	Progeny (1950's)	Awards for 50's Progeny
Ceres		
9	25	3
Remus		
2	7	25
Doris Aurea		
1	12	19



Cym. Remus 4N
Grower/Photo: Ray Dix



Cym. Fascination 'Amethyst' AM/RHS
Grower: Norm Porter

Ceres scored heavily over the rest on numbers of hybrids registered during the 1950's and in number of awarded varieties. Remus (50% Ceres) and Doris Aurea did not make up this leeway in awards of progeny since they were mostly not reds, and we are specifically considering red standard cymbidiums.

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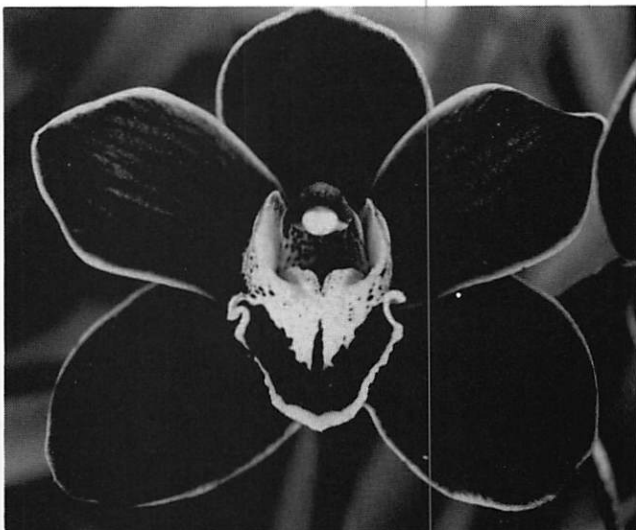
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Cym. Lady Spring
Grower/Photo: Ray Dix

Cym. Sensation 'Chianti' 4N
Grower: T. Martin, Waikato Spring Show
Photo: Ray Dix.



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1960's

Total Awards	Progeny (1960's)	Awards for 60's Progeny
Fascination		
8	16	28
Flavian		
2	4	1
Remus		
2	27	23
Rio Rita		
3	37	23
Doris Aurea		
1	25	26

Fascination and Flavian are linked together as previously discussed, and together get the top slot for the 1960's. One of the most famous hybrids from Fascination is Sensation Aurea, but again few reds amongst their awards. Of the many awarded clones of Rio Rita and Doris Aurea only three and two respectively were red. Coming into the equation now is an increasing number of Awards of Distinction, and no less than 13 of the 28 awards of Fascination progeny were AD's.

1970's

Total Awards	Progeny (1970's)	Awards for 70's Progeny
Tapestry		
12	9	5
Sensation		
15	15	9
Khyber Pass		
8	10	9
Rio Rita		
3	17	5



Cym. Yowie Flame 'Waikanae' 4N
Grower: Norm Porter

Cym. Tethys 'Black Magic'
Grower: Norm Porter



For consistency as a red standard breeder, Tapestry edges ahead of Sensation who with quantity on it's side, comes a close second. The let down is that many of the Sensation hybrids are miniature or novelty, and the same applies to Khyber Pass. Rio Rita has three of it's awarded clones white.

	1980's		
Total Awards	Progeny (1980's)	Awards for 80's Progeny	
Sensation	2	62	33
Tethys	2	35	20
Khyber Pass	4	25	15

Sensation is the clear leader in quality and quantity. Significant hybrids produced are Yowie Flame, Ruby Anniversary and Panama Red. Many of the awards for Tethys and Khyber Pass are AD's sealing the trend set in the 1960's.

Analysing awards, many have been to miniatures, intermediates, and non-reds, and no less than 23% of all awards have been Awards of Distinction. When considering only standard cymbidiums, percentage of AD's to quality awards is even higher. Awards counted in

this study are also from judging systems other than the Cymbidium Society of America, and it is common to grant a distinction award to any deep rich red cymbidium. It is clear that although good colour has been achieved, quality of shape has so far been elusive for red standards, and they do not yet match up to whites, pastels and greens.

The first red standard cymbidium that is granted a gold medal award for quality should therefore surely also receive an AD for distinction in shape, for a red. ◀



Cym. Flavian 'Latour'

Grower: Norm Porter

Photo: Ray Dix

Alex D. Hawkes is best known for his "Encyclopaedia of Cultivated Orchids". He, however, also published and edited "The Orchid Journal" — An international review of orchidology. Many of the articles in that journal regularly published in 1952 and 1953. Then irregularly to 1957, are still of interest today and in memory of Alex D. Hawkes we will publish some selected material over future issues.

Editor

Cymbidium erythrostylum

by Harry Crosby

The name is derived from the Greek: *erythros* = red, and *stylos* = column. The dark red column is a distinguishing feature of this species and its hybrids. There is no albino form of this species.

Cymbidium erythrostylum is a native of the hills of Indo-China, where it was collected in 1891 for Sanders of England. It first flowered in Western cultivation at the Royal Botanic Garden, Glasnevin, Ireland in November 1905. The following year it received an FCC award from the Royal Horticultural Society, and attracted the attention of the hybridists.

The species is apparently very scarce even in its native habitat, and only a few plants appear to have been collected. At present it is a first class curiosity, seldom encountered in even the largest collections.

This is one of the smaller growing species in this genus. The bulbs are only 25-50 mm in height. The hard-textured foliage never grows much over a foot in length but is notably tenacious, not being as much subject to discolouration and leaf drop as are the other species. Despite small size, the species grows well and flowers regularly. Owing to its southern habitat it requires a little higher temperature than is usual to the Himalayan species.

The bloom spike appears inside the first or second leaf axil and grows to form an erect arch bearing up to

twelve blossoms just above the leaves. The flowers are closely set on the head of the stem rather than being distributed over its length.

The individual flowers are curiously formed and vary in several particulars from the typical *Cymbidium* shape. The sepals, which are open completely, with the lower two pointing nearly straight downward. The petals are narrower and shorter, and remain half closed over the lip. The lip is unusually long, with the side lobes overlapping above the column. The middle lobe is very short in proportion and only slightly reflexed so

that the lip in front view appears very small. This feature is very evident in its hybrids. The column is short and almost hidden in the lip.

In colour, the sepals and petals are purest white, the lip heavily lined with dark crimson purple on a yellow ground and the column entirely deep red violet. The odd conformation of the flower makes it rather taller than broad; the height may reach 85 mm with the breadth around 50 mm. The substance is adequate but inclined to be light.

The natural blooming season falls in the autumn, although it has been known to bloom in late summer. I have a recent letter from F. K. Sander in which he recalls "I have once seen *Cym. erythrostylum* with a fine spray fully open in August. That was in the Lionel Rothschild collection".

Cymbidium erythrostylum has been used frequently by the hybridists but the results are seldom an unmixed blessing. The advantages derived from it are: (1) An early flowering season. (2) A strong tendency to bloom on each

new growth. (3) A neat, brightly marked lip. (4) A fine white colour. (5) Very broad sepals.

The disadvantages lie in: (1) The half-closed petal habit. (2) The small size of the flowers. (3) Light floral substance. (4) Sepals' tendency to twist.

Probably no other species stamps its features more widely on its hybrids. The odd conformation, shape of the lip, red column and compact growth habit remain abundantly evident in its progeny, even unto the third generation! ◀



Cym. erythrostylum

A BEGINNER'S "SURPRIZES"

WHEN I married Chris in 1986, the package included 2 children, one dog, one cat, and two orchids. I had a rough idea how to raise kids, dogs and cats, but orchids were a completely unknown territory. Perhaps growing up in the cooler climes of the South Island (Christchurch) was the reason for this. I had never seen an orchid in anything else other than a wedding bouquet!

I was amazed at the courage and fortitude of these two orchid plants that produced spikes every year, even though they were falling over with top heavy old backbulbs. I would hose them as I passed by on my way to water the garden, and that was their total care programme. Sometimes in retrospect, I think they produced more spikes then then now — now that I have become a little educated on their needs! Perhaps it is a case of a little knowledge being a dangerous thing — rather like my childhood cactus garden that never flowered because I carefully split up the plants to give them more room, and after being neglected for a couple of years there were flowers that I had no idea existed!

In September 1986 I attended the North Shore Orchid Society Spring Show and was totally entranced by the glorious array of blooms and plants. I was HOOKED! I joined the Society and that was the beginning of my love affair with orchids. I asked

enless questions, picked both hobby and commercial brains, haunted the trading table and the library. Much of the time I was totally confused by the differing growing methods, names, species, genera and hybrids. Now after three years the fog is clearing a little, and I surprise myself at the ease at which some of the names roll off my tongue.

The Winter Show in 1987 was wonderful and I worked on the Show Committee, spending three solid days soaking up all I could while trying to be useful at the same time. I was in heaven! Then came the Spring Show and out went the call for flowers — anything with a flower on it. I still had my two original orchids, although they had long been 'operated' on, and were now growing happily in new bark and even had a couple of spikes! So I cleaned up the leaves, stuck in a bit of bamboo and tied the spikes with a couple of purple and red 'twisties'. Yuk, I think now, but at that stage I was an

innocent to grooming and presentation. Off I went to the Show in my Mini with one plant in the back and one on the front seat with the safety belts holding them securely. When I arrived and saw all the glorious orchids, I nearly left mine in the Mini, and then I thought that I could always donate them to the floral table — if they would have them. So I stuck them at the back of the Novice section and got on with helping set up the Show. Imagine my shock when someone congratulated me the next day after the judging. I smiled politely thinking they must have confused me with someone else; after all, my orchids were old-fashioned cymbidiums with no name. SurPRIZE, a third place gold ribbon! For me it was as good as a gold medal, and there was now a great sense of really belonging.

The Winter Show of 1988 came and I had nothing to enter, but I was still on the Show Committee and once again immersed myself in the heaven of blooms and plants. The Spring Show

saw me in hospital having my little son Michael, so I missed that one. Then the Winter Show 1989 at Browns Bay (I live in Pakuranga) and all I had in flower was a *Zygopetalum intermedium* with two spikes and lots of black spots on the leaves. So once again I jammed in a couple of lumps of bamboo, used a few coloured 'twisties' and trekked off the Browns Bay. I realised that the 6'' - 8'' of bamboo sticking out beyond the blooms looked a bit ugly, but I could not find the secateurs. Peter Lines showed me how to trim the worst of the spotted leaves, and I wandered off to help.

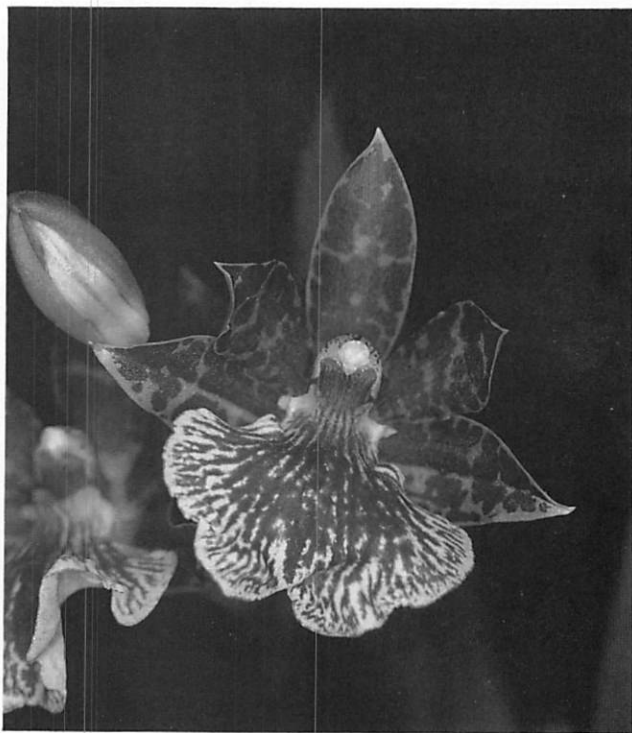
Saturday morning saw me helping out on the trading table with baby Michael in the back pack — grabbing at inviting blooms if I happened to cruise in range. Then Hedy told me the news, surPRIZE — a First, a red banner. WOW!! The competition had not exactly been intense, but that is all the more reason to take along anything, however humble. Needless to say I drove home on 'cloud 9' and without the faintest idea why my plant had a first place.

At a later meeting Brigitta ran a beginners class on how to prepare plants for Shows. I was in the front row eager to learn all I could in readiness for the Spring Show. The next day I rushed out and

bought green split canes and green 'twisties', and madly polished leaves and pots and anything else in my path. I wrapped peices of sponge rubber around some of the buds to ensure they all knew which direction to face. The night before the Show, not one bud had opened! I bought them inside and left the lights on — quite sure that it would do the trick. In the morning still not one open flower, so I hunted around in the shed and found a couple of miniate cymbidiums with spikes actually out, and on the back shelf lurked my little *Maxillaria variabilis* with

what looked like a brown moth on it. It was not a moth but a flower! A quick wipe over the leaves and pots and off we all went in the Mini again — the Maxillaria in my jacket pocket so it wouldn't tip over, the seat belts keeping the others secure. Again my courage nearly failed when I walked in and saw the abundance of magnificent flowers, and I felt embarrassed by my single spike darlings.

Friday afternoon I went to the Show to help and was greeted by Roy Clareburt saying, 'congratulations', I grinned stupidly and



Zygopetalum mackayii

thought he must be having a joke with me. But he was not joking. What a surPRIZE — two 3rds for my little cymbids. Amazing! To think they nearly did not get out of the Mini! I had a quick look around for my Maxillaria so I would know where to pick it up from on Sunday. It was nowhere to be seen — must have been so awful they had hidden it. Saturday afternoon Edna Campbell and I found it propping up a card. What a nerve! I didn't think it was exactly Grand Champion material, but surely it wasn't bad enough to be just a prop? So I walked around the front of

the display to find out who the culprit was. There was a 2nd place blue ribbon obscuring the name. I lifted it and stared in wonderment at my own name! My funny little plant had won a 2nd place in its class. Not bad for three plants just taken to help fill the gaps! It may sound strange that other people always told me of my surPRIZES — I suppose I had never bothered to look for my plants at the Shows because it had not occurred to me that they would ever rate more than a cursory glance. I had taken them along to fill up any gaps, never dreaming of ribbons.

The main reason for this long epistle is to inspire you other beginners like me to take along ANY plant that has a flower on it. I still have not the faintest idea what the judges saw in any of my plants. Take the risk. Take the chance of receiving a huge thrill. Take your plants along. Take part!

Even if you miss out on a ribbon, I guarantee you will not miss out on the trill of being part of the wonderful whole that is an Orchid Show.

Adrienne Wilson
Reprinted from
North Shore Orchid Society
Insigne May 1990



Cym. Lady Bug 'Drumm'
Grower: Nancy Fulford,
Kapiti Coast Orchid Society

Corybas oblongus in the Kaimai Ranges

Corybas oblongus is a terrestrial orchid, widespread throughout New Zealand according to Dot Cooper's "*Field Guide to New Zealand Native Orchids*". She describes its habitat as "prefers damp situations", and says it occurs "under beech or scrub, often in thick wet moss".

The guide says there are eight species of *Corybas* in New Zealand, of which five are endemic. The endemic species have their petals and lateral sepals drawn

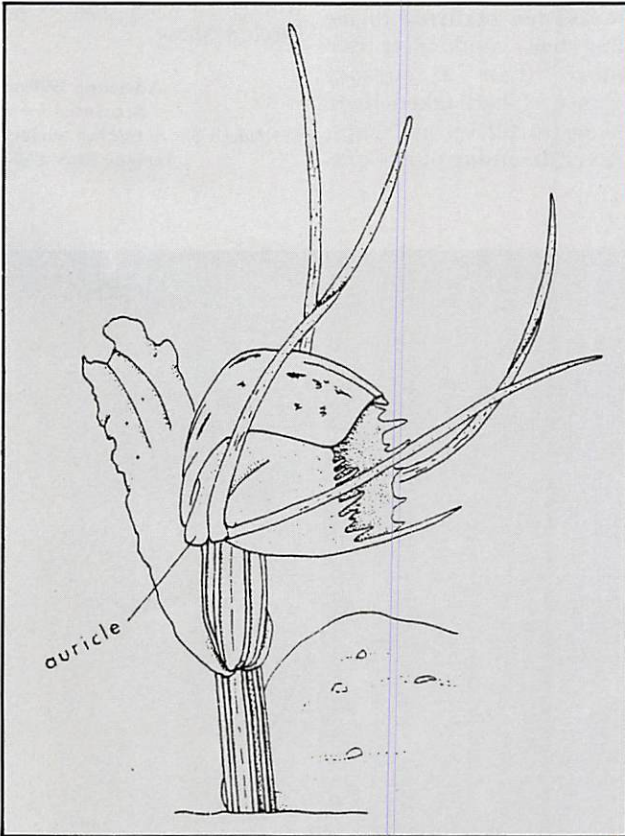
out into long filaments, or "wings", which makes the flowers very striking. The specific name appears to come from a Greek word meaning "a drunken

man"; what the significance of this is I have no idea!

The plants pictured were found in the Eastern Kaimai ranges, near Tauranga, last October. I was having lunch alongside a river, after a rather unsuccessful morning. I had planned to photograph a group of *Pterostylis banksii* that we'd seen two weeks previously, which included some very large and beautiful flowers. We'd found them again alright, but some little varmint had been busy — every single flower had been bitten off. They looked very naked and forlorn.

Then I had spent some time photographing a *Drymoanthus adversus* that I had seen in bud on the previous trip. It was in a difficult position, and I wasn't too hopeful that the pictures would amount to much. I'd given the orchids up for the day, and was looking for other subjects.

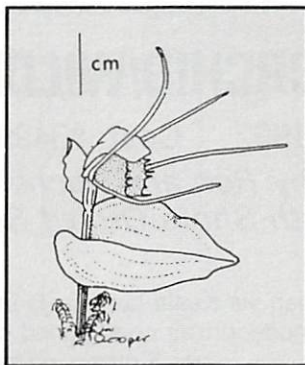
So when my companion called me over to the bank behind us, I wasn't expecting more orchids — it was



Corybas oblongus
Detail from Cooper D.
N.Z. Native Orchids — A Field Guide

a very wet mossy bank; maybe she'd found some ferns, or exotic snails, or something. Consequently, at first I didn't recognise what it was that she was so excited about — and then all of a sudden I realised what I was looking at, and saw that the whole bank was covered with them. They were a large *Corybas*, and there were literally dozens of plants in the small area we were looking at — and later we discovered hundreds more, scattered all along the bank.

The site was a steep bank, just above a river. Most of it was covered in thick moss, very wet, and in shade; in many cases the plants were over-topped by ferns and small grasses. The size of each plant, the number in a group, and the strength of the coloration in the leaves and flowers, seemed to depend on how wet and shaded the site was. A few plants grew in



Corybas oblongus
Detail from Cooper D.
N.Z. Native Orchids —
A Field Guide.

the open in drier, sunnier spots; they were smaller, mostly solitary, and their leaves were a plain, paler green.

The plants I photographed were in the wettest place of all — a small gully in the bank, in deep shade and covered in that thick spongy moss that oozes water as soon as you touch it. Each plant had one or two flowers with a single large leaf, and they grew in

great profusion. Most of the leaves had strong red-purple markings, as you can see in the picture on the back cover; the deep red of the labellum and wings, contrasting with the green dorsal, pale fringe to the labellum and the white spot at the back of the throat, was very striking.

For the camera buffs, I was using Kodacolor 100 film, a Nikon 2020, a 70-210mm zoom lens with a 1.5 dioptr attached, and a Vivitar TTL flash unit on automatic; all mounted on a tripod. I set the aperture at f32 to get maximum depth of field, used the exposure compensation dial to underexpose by about one stop (to ensure good colour saturation), and bracketed. My companion pushed the button — I was using both hands to hold the tripod steady in a most unstable position!

John Addison

DID YOU KNOW?

Flowering Tips

Did you know that in order to get either a *Coelogyne speciosa* or *Coelogyne fragrans* plant to flower right round the pot, and not off just one or two new growths, you should turn the pot a quarter turn each month? This will also work with some cattleyas.

An Easy Method to get rid of Mealy Bug

Mix a solution of methylated spirits and water in a spray household cleaner bottle (a window cleaner bottle) and use this to spray infected plants. It can be kept ready to use whenever you find mealy bug.

Reprinted from
Bay of Plenty Orchid Society
Newsletter

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Two Summer-flowering Orchids



Masdevallia Falcata 'Mac'
Grower/Photographer: Ross MacDonald

Masdevallia Falcata

Masdevallia Falcata flowers in the early summer months, November, December and as the illustration shows, a small plant can produce an attractive display. The flowers last for about six weeks. The plant shown was three years old (and about 2/5 actual size).

Masdevallia Falcata is a primary hybrid, which was first registered in 1899. Its parentage is two very well-known *Masdevallias*, *coccinea* and *veitchiana*. *Masdevallia*

coccinea originates from Colombia and Peru, in high cloud forest, between 2400 and 2800m altitude. *Masdevallia veitchiana* was found amongst the Inca ruins of Macchu-Picchu and along the Peruvian Andes, above the tree line at 3300-3400m. The atmosphere in this area is continuously moist.

With this data it is to be expected that *Masdevallia Falcata* will respond to cool, moist growing conditions throughout the year. In the cool orchid

house, a shelf below and sheltered by cymbidiums, appears ideal. During summer, dendrobiums are hung above on the sunny side to increase summer shade and hopefully reduce temperatures. Frequent misting, along with twice-weekly watering in summer, ensures that the free draining potting mix does not dry out.

Laelia harpophylla

Laelia harpophylla is one of the smaller-flowered laelias, which makes a

rewarding addition to a cool-growing collection. The starry flowers last for about six weeks and, as the illustration shows, are produced on quite a small plant (close to actual size).

This is a species from Brazil, where they grow in a temperate climate in

lower mountain areas or foothills. There is plentiful rain and high humidity, but also good air flow and wind throughout the year.

In the cool orchid house, this plant is placed on a shelf with good light, lightly shaded and where it will receive any air

movement that may be present in the house. At least twice-weekly watering in the warmer months and frequent misting is given. Humidity is maintained by the floor being constantly damp. Less moisture is given in the winter months.

Ross MacDonald



Laelia harpophylla

Grower/Photographer: Ross MacDonald

"Pleione Orchids by the tens of thousands!"

This is not an advertisement but an article stimulated by a picnic visit by members of the Otago Orchid Club in mid September.

We visited *Blue Mountain Nurseries* in Tapanui, West Otago, which is operated by Margaret and Dennis Hughes. About 20 years ago Dennis began an interest in pleione orchids and now a section at their

nursery is given over to their culture.

These lovely cool growing orchids present a breathtaking display of pink, rose, lilac, white, cream and yellow, species and hybrids, growing under shadecloth and plastic in an unheated glasshouse.

Imagine a field of pleione orchids growing to

perfection in the cool climate and lasting in flower for 3 weeks or more.

The fluffy mix in which the bulbs are grown is based upon sphagnum and bark. After planting in July the mix is kept almost dry while the delicate roots develop and the flower buds emerge. Then as growth continues so does the watering. Good drainage is essential.



Pleione limprichtii

One of the most delightful species. Flowers deep rose-pink with a paler lip spotted brick red with white lamellae. Altogether a most rewarding plant. For best results keep cool during the winter months. Will flower from very small pseudobulbs. The photo shows one of Blue Mountain Nurseries display plants in flower in the spring.

Leaves of 20-30 cm are usual after the flowers fade and die and copious water and careful feeding produce large bulbs.

When the leaves have completed their purpose in the growth cycle and brown and fall, the bulbs are harvested and stored dry in cold to zero conditions to await planting again.

Thank you Margaret and Dennis for sharing your knowledge with us and making so enjoyable our day's outing.

Our September meeting featured pleiones grown by members in their individual and sometimes differing ways, enabling us all to observe and comment upon culture and learn and improve on how to grow these lovely orchids.

John Lloyd
Dunedin

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All ex members please
contact the above Society
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*A reply is needed by
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Per medium of your magazine I would like to say "Thank you" to all those orchidists who were my hosts during my tour of North Island orchid societies during late October/early November. I was made very welcome and experienced the legendary New Zealand hospitality.

I was amazed at the lengths some orchid growers go to in order to cultivate an incredible range of orchid genera. Your problem is too cold in winter, and while we experience frost occasionally in winter, our major problem is the summer heat.

I must admit I had expected to see cymbidiums everywhere, but instead I saw an enormous range of genera, and in particular so many Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. I was surprised to be confronted by a couple of familiar species from this area in *Den. speciosum* var *capricornicum*, and *Cym. canaliculatum* var *sparkesii*. As the latter grows high on dead trees in the hot summer sun and endures drought conditions, it was

the last orchid I had expected to see in flower in New Zealand.

Thank you to the **Orchid Council of New Zealand** for arranging the tour, and to all the societies for arranging special meetings for my visit. And I should thank all those growers who came to the meetings, especially those who drove long distances from other cities and towns.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to publicly thank the President of the Orchid Council of New Zealand, Syd Wray, for the invitation (which took 2 years to come to fruition) and for being my chauffeur, tour manager, and projectionist for the tour.

It was a marvellous experience for me and one I shall long remember.

Sincerely,

Colin Hamilton
Rockhampton, Australia.

P.S. When I purchased my air ticket to Auckland, I had no idea Qantas would put me on a very special aircraft, a Boeing 767 named "City of Rockhampton"!

P.P.S. It was only 15 degrees in Auckland when I departed. I arrived home to a very warm welcome... 37°!

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THE CASE OF THE STOLEN SLIPPERS

PLANTS are the Cinderellas of conservation, overshadowed by furred and feathered species. In a landmark case at Old Bailey, Judge Clarkson highlighted the plight of plants by jailing one of the key players in an international racket involving rare orchids.

Orchids made their first appearance at the Old Bailey this month. Some of the world's most endangered species were paraded before the judge to illustrate the beauty and rarity of plants that fetch thousands of pounds on the black market. In sentencing Henry Azadehdel to a year in prison for smuggling and dealing in endangered orchids, the judge made it clear that the law intends to protect all endangered species, including plants. The destruction of rare species is not caused by overenthusiastic collectors but by cynical and ruthless commercial exploitation and trafficking for profit. "If ever a trade wants discouraging, it's this" he added, a sentiment that will be cheered by conservationists the world over.

Azadehdel was caught red-handed, returning through Heathrow from Ecuador just before Christmas in 1987. An astute customs officer confiscated his suitcase full of green shoots and called in the experts to identify them. The plants were taken to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, where botanists identified them and then held them in a 'bonded' greenhouse for Customs and Excise.

At the time Azadehdel walked through customs at the airport the plants were easily identifiable as wild specimens. Plants from a glasshouse have almost unblemished, healthy-looking leaves. Plants torn from the jungle are usually damaged with broken roots, chewed leaves and sometimes an encrusting

covering of lichens and mosses.

Azadehdel, too, was a marked man. He had corresponded with botanists at a number of research institutions for years, gleaning snippets of information that allowed him to piece together the locations and rarity of many species. Eventually his questions roused suspicion. Botanists alerted the authorities and customs officers began to watch his movements.

After the seizure at Heathrow, further hauls at Azadehdel's glasshouses at his home in Nottingham produced 348 plants that seemed to contravene the international laws on trade in endangered species. Three of the species represented are on the World Wide Fund for

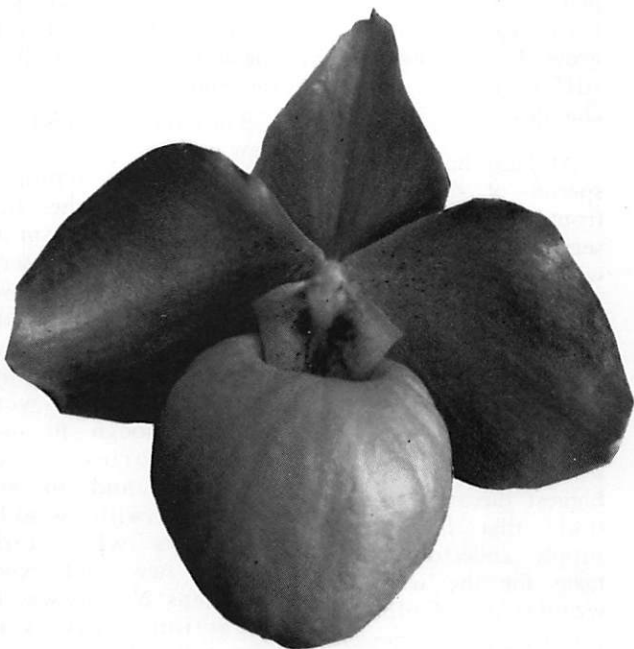
Nature's Top Ten most endangered plants in the world.

After almost two years collecting evidence, the Crown claimed that Azadehdel was dealing in large numbers of orchids collected from the wild. "With total disregard for conservation, preservation, countries of origin and the law, he has raped beauty spots around the world of some of their most precious assets to feed his obsession with orchids and undoubtedly fatten his bank account", said the prosecution counsel. "Some of the species, thanks to Mr Azadehdel and others like him throughout the world, may now be extinct."

Orchids are probably the most spectacular flower on Earth. From one basic

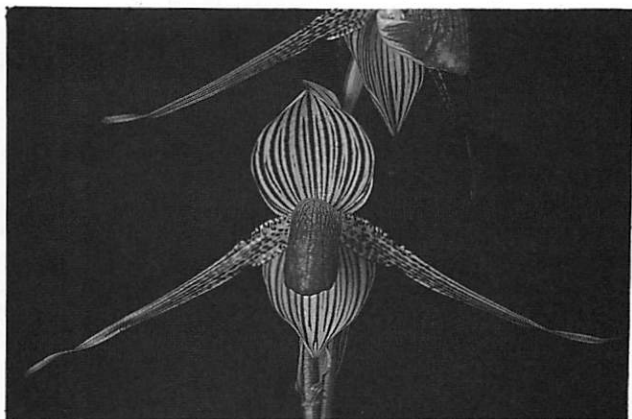
pattern, evolution has sculpted thousands of shapes in every imaginable colour. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Wild Fund for Nature estimate that of the 60,000 species of organisms that will go extinct in the lifetime of a child today, one in ten will be an orchid. One group, the primitive slipper orchids, is at special risk.

Most slipper orchids are naturally rare because they have very specific ecological requirements. They are often confined to very small patches, on a particular type of rock or tree. The golden slipper of Yunna *Paphiopedilum armeniacum*, for instance, grows on a single limestone mountain in China. The Rothschild's slipper, *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*, with its regency-striped awning and long curled moustaches, is confined to a national park on Mount Kinabalu in Sabah. Slipper orchids, like other orchids, have ingenious methods of pollination, often depending on a single species of insect. The orchids' special relationships with particular insects has produced some strange and extravagant flowers; it also makes them more vulnerable to change in their habitat. Like other orchids, slipper orchids also have a special relationship with a fungus which provides the embryonic



Paph. armeniacum 'Manakau'
Grower: K. & L. Sherlock

Paph. rothschildianum
Grower: Papa Aroha Orchids
Photo: Autec Photo Centre (13 WOC)



plant with the nutrients it needs to germinate and grow. This relationship can suffer if the habitat changes.

At least half of the 70 species of slipper orchid from tropical Asia are seriously threatened in the wild. In many cases the threat comes from the destruction of their habitat. Clearance of one small patch of forest can wipe out an entire population of a specialised species. For some species, however, the biggest threat is from the trade that flourishes to supply collectors with a taste for the weird and wonderful. Collectors, prepared to pay thousands of dollars for a single specimen of a rare orchid, have encouraged the development of a much larger trade. The irony is that as dealers strip orchids from the wild, the prices fall and the trade spreads beyond the rich collector to the enthusiasts with a greenhouse. Specimens that fetched hundreds of dollars 10 years ago now sell for as little as \$5.00.

Until recently the extent of the trade was obvious from the pages of advertisements in magazines for the orchid grower. Dealers advertised the fact that their specimens were 'jungle-collected', even though trade in many of the species was illegal. Now banned from offering such plants, dealers simply list

the species and country of origin — signalling that the specimen has come from the wild.

The fad for orchids is not new. The fascination began when explorers brought back the first strange specimens from the tropics. Once a nurseryman induced one to flower and revealed his secret, the craze took off. Yet it was an aristocratic hobby. Most collectors were wealthy enough to own conservatories or orangeries and to rub shoulders with wealthy travellers who could provide new and exotic specimens. Novelty was the attraction. Any self-respecting collector wanted a flower that no one else had. This aspect of the trade has not changed much. The sort of customer has.

Most orchids on sale today are raised in glasshouses. They are either hybrids, the product of professional or amateur breeding to produce something different, or pure species raised from seed. This is the legitimate side of the business and does not threaten wild species. Indeed, most orchid nurserymen are keen to eliminate the illegal trade. While they spend years developing better ways of rearing glasshouse specimens, the illegal traders undercut their prices and damage their business.

Despite successes in rearing some of the rarest species, there is a tiny proportion of collectors who still want the authentic plant, plucked from the jungle. As with paintings or porcelain, status comes with the maker's mark or signature; with an orchid, the stamp of the jungle comes in the form of encrusting lichens and partly chewed leaves.

Trade in wild orchids has increased tenfold in the past five years. Some people doubt that collectors can drive orchids to extinction, pointing to the scale of destruction through forest clearance in the tropics. But there is a classic example of how collectors drove a species to the brink. The lady's slipper orchid, *Cypripedium calceolus*, once grew in many places in the north of England. Victorian gardeners and orchid fanciers collected large numbers until, by 1945, only one colony survived. Today the single remaining plant is closely guarded.

The modern trade is uglier, some collectors simply take a few specimens for themselves; in the US there are even organised collecting tours. But dealers like Azadehdel are in another league, where the stakes are high and the threat to wild orchids correspondingly large. The biggest markets are Japan and the US, but

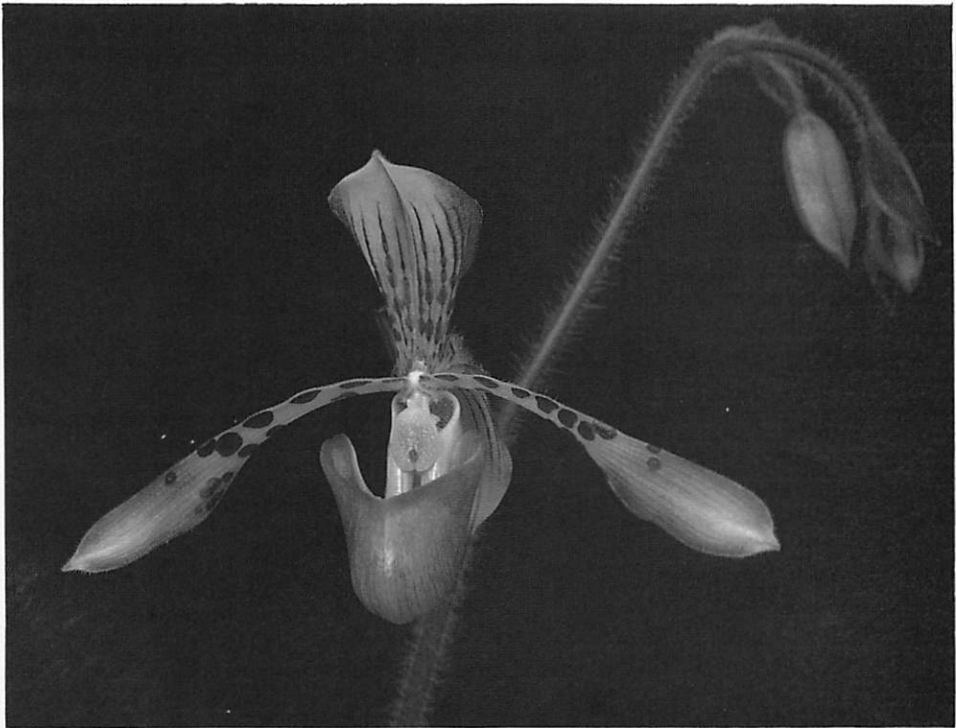
there is a thriving trade in Europe and Australia and even in the tropics, in Singapore, Malaysia and Mexico. Japanese collectors pay the highest prices for the rarest plants.

Almost as soon as a new species is discovered, unscrupulous dealers seek it out, often quizzing local people and offering a few cents for each plant. The clever dealers scour the academic journals where botanists publish their research in an effort to piece together the habits and whereabouts of a new

species. The rewards are so great that some dealers can afford to mount expensive expeditions worthy of the largest botanical institution. Once they have found what they are looking for, they may even clear out every specimen to prevent their competitors from offering the same species.

There are some distressing examples. *Paphiopedilum haynaldianum* grows in only three or four places in northern Luzon in the Philippines. On one trip to study the orchid,

John Atwood, of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, found a small population of the plants in a tree. "At five in the evening I left the site, intending to come back a couple of hours later. By evening, the plants had gone", he said. *P. haynaldianum* is a candidate for extinction by collection. "Some species seem to be able to take the pressure", said Atwood, "but this species has a poor rate of pollination and is slow to regenerate. What's more, it is conspicuous from about 100 metres. It's



Paph. haynaldianum

Grower: K. & S. Smith — Wellington

difficult to overlook and could easily be wiped out.”

The golden slipper of Yunnan was described in 1982. Since then, thousands of plants have appeared in nurseries around the world. Plants that fetched hundreds of dollars in 1986 now cost a fraction of the price. All were collected from the wild.

Paphiopedilum druryi comes from the Travancore Hills in southern India, separated from any other slipper orchid by many hundreds of kilometres. For most of this century, botanists believed the species was extinct. In 1974, however, Verghese Mammen, a collector based in Nairobi rediscovered it after years of sleuthing. Mammen published details of his discovery, with a map to show where he found it, in the *Orchid Digest*, and *American* magazine for orchid enthusiasts. On the facing page, Mammen advertised *P. druryi*, at \$50 a growth, or three for \$110. Armed with his map and description, other collectors followed his lead. In 1980, botanists working for the Indian government could find only three plants — which they removed so that they could propagate more specimens from them.

Even species offered protection in a nature reserve or national park are

not safe. *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum*, collected from the national park on Mount Kinabalu, was recently offered for sale in the US for \$5,000. And the magnificent *P. sanderianum*, whose whereabouts in Sarawak was until recently a closely guarded secret among botanists, was ‘discovered’ by a group of collectors, who described the rigours of their expedition in the *Orchid Digest*. Although the discovery was in a national park, *P. sanderianum* has since appeared on the market at enormous prices.

Rare plants are subject to the same legal protection as rare animals. Most countries now have laws on trade in endangered species. Internationally, the trade is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The treaty came into effect in 1975 and almost 100 countries have ratified it. CITES seems to have helped to stem the trade in endangered animals but it has not worked so well for plants. The Treaty virtually bans all movement of the most endangered species, those listed in Appendix 1, if they are collected from the wild. Species listed in Appendix 2 can be exported, but each plant needs an export permit. The European Community goes further and demands an import permit too. In

each country an organisation, usually a government department, is responsible for issuing permits and for checking on the legality of the export and import. In Britain, for example, the Department of the Environment is responsible.

In many countries where the rarest orchids grow, CITES has failed to control trade in endangered species, “The problem with convention for plants is that it is difficult to implement practically, and there is not always the will to make it work”, said Sara Oldfield, a former conservation officer at Kew. Many countries have the machinery in place to carry through the procedures involved, yet lack the specialised knowledge to identify the specimens. Where corruption is commonplace, specialist knowledge can be harmful, providing the confirmation a corrupt officer needs to ask high prices for plants. It is all too easy for dealers to acquire the documents they need to carry on their trade. They can simply claim that their plants were raised in nurseries or that they are hybrids. Unless CITES officials have a detailed inventory of who grows what in nurseries, or can identify a rare species from small green shoots, they stand little chance of proving otherwise. The trade in propagated plants

is massive and legitimate. It provided a good cover for the illegal trade.

Illegal dealers show remarkable cunning. In countries that forbid the export of orchids collected from the wild, they simply smuggle them out of the country and acquire the appropriate documents elsewhere. For instance, plants from Burma, which has strict controls on exports of orchids appear on the market as exports from Hong Kong and Thailand.

The trade operates at several levels. At the bottom are the local people who collect the plants, earning a few cents per plant, perhaps \$5 for a particularly rare species. These collectors may be hired directly by the big dealers or they may collect for local middlemen. In the Far East it is easy to buy wild specimens of rare orchids in local nurseries. Sellers may recommend that you wrap your purchase in your underwear to prevent detection at customs but are otherwise unabashed, well aware of the extra value of jungle-collected orchids. Even in the Far East, however, the law is beginning to tighten its grip. In April, the Ministry of Agriculture in Hong Kong seized almost 7,000 Chinese slipper orchids destined for sale in West

Germany. The dealer was fined and lost plants worth HK \$350,000.

Many conservationist claim that the only way to enforce the terms of CITES is at the point of import. If plants are refused entry, the market should dry up. Another way to slow the trade is to destroy the attraction of rare species. "Until you eliminate the greedy, 'I want' you won't get anywhere," claims Atwood. "You can't blame local people for collecting plants when they are starving. They aren't the villains. There is a lot of ignorance along the way."

The saddest side of this story is that there is no need to drive any wild orchid to extinction. Almost every one of these species can be propagated, from seed and raised in nurseries. Plants grown in nurseries are usually healthier and better formed. Collectors, rarely dealers themselves, tear plants from trees or cliffs, damaging roots in the process. Stuffed in bags, the plants are often on the road for many weeks and arrive battered and dehydrated. "This is a shock for the plant," said Paul Phillips, of Ratcliffe Nurseries in Hampshire. "Some plants never recover. Those that do often take a long time to re-establish themselves."

As nurseries and botanic gardens become better at propagating rare species from seed, they may be able to flood the market with specimens. Almost everyone could have a Rothschild's slipper without doing any damage to the species. As the price falls, illegal traders should find that it is no longer worth the risk or effort of tracking down wild plants.

Stephanie Pain
Reprinted from
'New Scientist' June 1989

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

Coffs Harbour Orchid Festival

The North Shore Orchid Society have arranged a tour to the Twoomba Garden City then to the Coffs Harbour Orchid Festival. The tour departs on 4th September 1992 and returns on 17th September ex Sydney with an option to extend for 2 days in Melbourne including a night at "Phantom of the Opera".

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SPECIES OR HYBRID?

A species (both singular and plural) plant is one which exists in the wild and when fertilised by a plant of the same species will produce offspring the same as the parents. When two different species are bred together a HYBRID is produced. This is usually done by man (or woman for the libbers) but can occur naturally. Nature usually avoids this by not having different species flowering at the same time or having different insects to pollinate them etc. A hybrid produced from two species is called a Primary Hybrid while the offspring from two hybrids is a Secondary Hybrid.

While the progeny of two of the same species will always be the same as its parents, the progeny of a hybrid will be like the children of a family probably resembling either or both parents and all being a little different. Any hybrid can have its name registered and this is its Grex name. A hybrid from a set combination can only have one Grex name, that being the one first

registered for that combination of parents. Any further crosses from parents of those names must always have that Grex name. However, a breeder may feel that one of his hybrid 'children' may be prettier or better than the others and he can give it a name. This is its 'Cultivar' name and is always given single quotation marks. Any divisions, tissue culture, back bulbs or keikis from this plant will retain its 'Cultivar' name.

Several species having what botanists consider to be similar characteristics are grouped together into one genera (plural geuns) and given a name e.g. *Dendrobium*, *Cymbidium* etc. These names are latinized and should be given a Capital letter. A species plant's own name is also latinised but does not have a capital letter. e.g. *Cymbidium tracyanum*. A hybrid made from two species of one genera will retain the genera name followed by its grex name which should be in modern language and given a capital. This can be followed by its cultivar name in quotation marks with a capital. e.g. *Cymbidium* Granville 'Tainui'.

Hybrids made from species of two or more genera are given an

intergeneric first name that covers that combination of species e.g. *Miltassia* (*Brassia* x *Miltonia*) followed by its grex name.

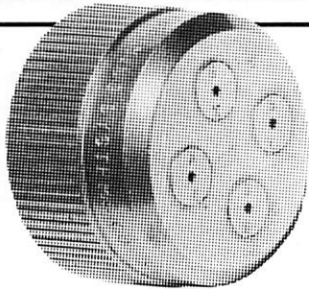
So if you have a plant with its second name starting with a small letter chances are that it is a species, that is if some previous person hasn't written the label incorrectly. Most catalogues and very often labels are written all in block or capital letters then the only way of determining if you have a species or a hybrid is to try and find the same name written in a book, or you can make a guess by assuming that if the second name is latinised it could be a species.

Sometimes a species name is followed by var. being short for variety. This is because some species can vary in colour or have changed due to growing in a different environment, or some other botanical reason. e.g. *Miltonia specabilis* var. *Moreliana*.

A hybrid name must be registered to be used but anyone can give a seedling a Cultivar name but there are rules to follow. The above is only intended for beginners therefore some detailed aspects have been left out. ◀

Ron Roy

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Corybas oblongus growing in the Kaimai Range is discussed in an article by John Addison. The colony had plants with plain green leaves and some strongly marked red-purple veins; a striking contrast.