



Orchids
in New Zealand

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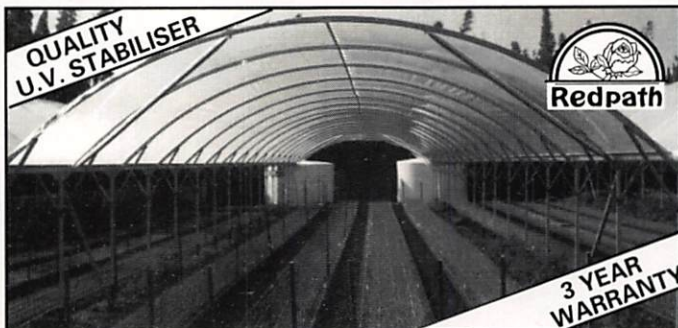
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Into the 21st Century

George Fuller has done it again. I do not know what is in the water in Taranaki, but the recent **Letter to the Editor** from George (see page 90) has got me going. I am sure that he will not have anticipated the result, and perhaps it was just a throw away comment, but his final paragraph really hit the mark.

In his letter, George raised the matter of spelling, and said "**educate the memory of your word processor**". A great idea George, but unfortunately, we, that is **Orchids in New Zealand**, are still living in the dark ages. Any copy is typed, and retyped, and perhaps even retyped again before it appears in the magazine. We still use little bits of paper and stick them together to make up the pages. Proofing of spelling and grammar and syntax is by eye (and brain - but it looks as if this Editor's brain needs reprogramming!!), often late at night usually in a hurry. The ability to have all the contents of the magazine in one - or several - files just does not exist. The ability to run a spelling checker over all the material does not exist. There is some of material that I do not see set - other than in the final magazine. This in particular applies to the captions under the illustrations. Unfortunately time has been against us in this

editorial



Orchids in New Zealand
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regard. I am working on improving this particular facet now there is a bit more of that available, but it does highlight the difficulties.

Computer technology has been around for a number of years, and is well established in the printing and publishing industry. I have been

aware of the issue for some time, and have discussed it informally with a number of people, but not to the wider readership. Personal computers are widely available and not that expensive. The software is readily available, and while I know there are financial constraints, I believe we do need to look seriously at the implementation of full computer technology for the production process of **Orchids in New Zealand**. It should be possible to just type an article once, to run a spelling checker which will pick up most of the errors - there are still some that a checker will not pick up - to take that material and paginate it correctly and make any adjustments necessary, position illustrations, and produce final camera ready copy with available printer technology. There is not even the necessity of using the post, the magazine (other than the illustrations) can be sent to the printer electronically, which can save time.

The use of a computer is widely utilised in magazine production, and not just major publications. I believe **Orchids Australia** uses a system, and the **Orchid Advocate** does - recently embarking on a fund raising programme to update their system, and we have not even looked seriously at getting our first one yet!!!!

It requires computer literacy by the Editor, but I am sure there are plenty people available who have that knowledge when they take over the editorship. The technology is there, and it is not prohibitively expensive. From an Editor's perspective the use of such technology has many practical advantages and should assist in producing a better magazine. I believe it is a matter that we must consider - AND CONSIDER SOON. It will not answer all problems, but it certainly will involve a much better process than we currently use. If we do not adopt appropriate modern technology then we may well suffer the same fate as the dinosaurs - and I am sure you do not want that to happen.

It is an issue that at least merits discussion. Perhaps we need to set up a computer fund to finance such a development. It is not a matter of IF it will happen but rather WHEN.

I have done no financial costings, and that is something that does need to be undertaken, but we are talking relatively modest sums. To be effective we need to co-ordinate with the printer, but I believe all round there are significant advantages.

Now see what you have started, George, you have really got me worked up. Lets hope these comments will start some serious discussion if the issues involved and the practicability of making such a change. Perhaps next year when we are 21 would be the time to get us ready of the twenty-first century. ◀

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South Island Seminar

12th - 14th AUGUST 1994

Over the weekend of the 12th to the 14th August the Nelson Orchid Society will be hosting a **South Island Seminar**. It is planned to have table top displays from as many visiting societies as possible. These displays will be judged and also any plants recommended will be put forward for awards. It is hoped that anybody interested will join the judging panel and take the opportunity to see how this aspect of the orchid fraternity operate. On the Sunday morning it is intended to have a flea market where for a small charge the organising committee will make available a table on which you can set up a small display and sell off all those surplus plants that we all have and also purchase more plants to take their place.

The rest of the weekend will involve a number of workshops which will operate over two hour periods and registrants will be able to move around and take part in what ever takes their fancy. Some of the topics that we hope to cover are, an orchid stamp display; the RHS disc up and running so that you will be able to trace any of those crosses that you can't find in **Sander's**, a workshop on glasshouse gadgets where you can show off your latest invention or pick someone else's brains on how to overcome a problem; another discussion period on growing terms such as what is Lux foot candles, ph, and how do I read them, and any other terms that you might come up with. It is also intended to have a demonstration of seed planting followed by a practical session for those interested in actually flasking seed. We are also trying to get a speaker to

talk on fertilizers that are suitable for use on orchids. Saturday will conclude with dinner followed by a speaker on an orchid related topic. For those that don't have to rush off on Sunday straight after lunch glasshouse visits in the district will be arranged.

Now where will this take place. The venue is the Ngawhatu Hospital Staff Training Hostel which means that we will have accommodation available for those that require it. The rest of the seminar will be held in adjacent halls. It is hoped to be able to hold cost for the weekend to below \$120 and this will cover all meals, accommodation and seminar registration, but as this is just an advance notice please don't hold us to this.

For more information write to the NELSON ORCHID Soc. P.O. Box 2006 STOKE NELSON or contact the writer Rod

Marshall Ph/Fax 03-544-2759.

So how about coming to Nelson for the weekend of AUGUST 12th to 14th 1994 and enjoy a weekend with other orchid enthusiasts. ◀

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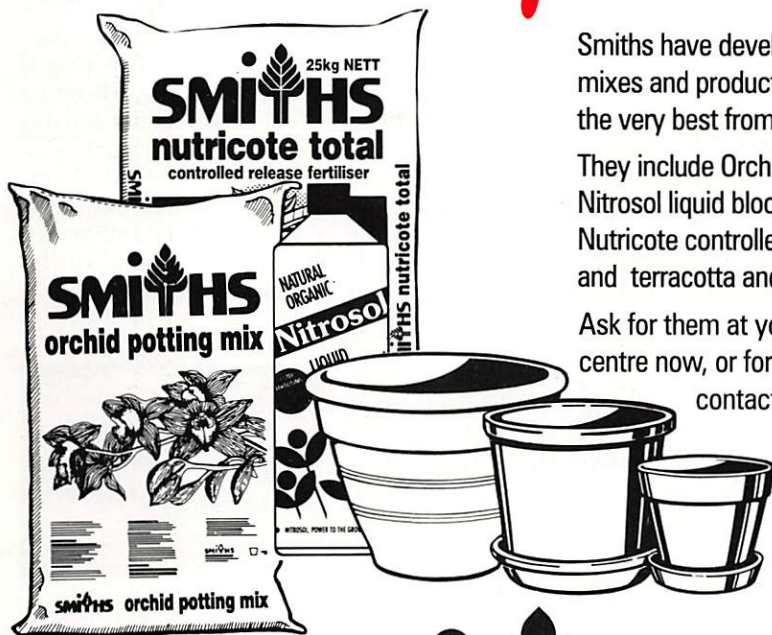
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Waikanae Ramblings

For some time now the Editor has been asking me for some photos and descriptions of the better new seedlings I am flowering here in Waikanae. This season I managed to get my camera out and take some of the best ones.

The flowering season is a very exciting time for the hybridiser as he sees the result of his planning and with the advent of the colchicine converted tetraploid the results are proving to be even more consistent and predictable than in the past.

I have been growing cymbidiums for 36 years and make about 120 crosses a year. I manage to flower about 2000 of the resulting seedlings and in future hope to flower them much quicker as I have just built an overhead benching system constructed of rectangular downpipe (Marley) with holes cut and spaces in it to fit a five inch pot. Each pot is watered and fed by a microtube three times a day with 30mls of water. It has been installed for approximately three months and already the roots are down to the bottom of the pots. The idea was given to me by some visiting Dutch growers who say using the system they get their plants to flower in two

years from flask, with heat in the winter. With the extra space obtained I can now give my plants more room and also grow a few more.

Some of my latest results are:

- **PINK MUSE** (Musita 'Pinkie' 2n x Pink Champagne 'Coburg' 2n) This produced some surprises. The flasks were also treated with colchicine and so far the tetraploids have been outstanding, far better than one would expect, but I have observed this is an unexpected bonus with hybrids bred from Musita 'Pinkie' 4n. Colours have been polychrome pink and green, blush and coral pinks. The diploids have long arching spikes, the tetraploids have upright ones.



- **FANCY FLING** (Coraki 'Margaret' 4n x Fancy Free 'Judith's Blush') This has also been a very consistent cross, here again using the converted Coraki. Shades of clear yellow and gold with tall upright spikes and very free flowering characteristics. Many of the clones look like having a cut flower potential. The Coraki colour has been completely dominant with no blush or lemon shades coming through from the other parent.



- **WINTER FANCY** (Winter Fair 'Nancy' 4n x Fancy Free 'Pink Cloud' 4n). Mostly clear glistening whites, some with a pink blush, tall straight spikes, very free flowering, producing ideal mid winter cut flowers.

- Another converted tetraploid which has been producing superb results has been CORATEA 'REWA' 4n AD, HCC/OCNZ, crossed with JOCKO 'COPPER SMOKE' 2n (REWA SMOKE). It has produced clear richly coloured orange and copper shades with banded orange red lips. Showbench and award quality.



- RED CHAMPAGNE (Red Beauty 'Aafke' 2n x Pink Champagne 'Coburg' 2n). Also colchicine treated, produced some beautiful clear pure color pinks with stunning lips, one had deep rose blooms with maroon bubble like spots on the petals.



- Another fine shapely MUSITA 'PINKIE' 4n hybrid has been crossed with HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN 'MAGIC MUSHROOM' produced very round shapely blooms with typical Musita lips. Colours mostly polychrome pinks, heavily



Top right: *Cym* (Coratea 'Rewa' x Jocko 'Copper Smoke')
 Grower/photo: Norm Porter.

Centre right: *Cym* Red
 Champagne
 Grower/photo: Norm Porter.

Bottom right: *Cym* (Musita
 'Pinkie' x Huckleberry Mountain
 'Magic Mushroom')
 Grower/Photo: Norm Porter.

striped or overlaid with stronger colours, all borne on long arching spikes.

- (WINTER BRIDE 'ROKOKAURI SNOW' 4n & WINTER BRIDE 'TREBLE ICE' 4n.) ((Dorama x Fanfare) x Winter Fair 'Sylvia') has probably been the most important early white cross I saw last season, bred by Andy Easton. It has huge tall spikes of large pure white blooms, and on the two varieties above, three spikes off each of their two leading bulbs.



Cym (Winter Bride 'Rotokauri Snow x Winter Bride 'Treble Ice')
Grower/photo: Norm Porter.

- CANDY KING (Candy Floss #1 4n x Valley King 'Spirit of '76' 4n). Also bred by Andy, this has produced some superb shapely showbench and cut flower varieties. The variety 'White Cloud' has been the best I have flowered being a pure white, round and shapely, with showbench, award and obvious breeding potential.



Cym Candy King
Grower/photo: Norm Porter

- HIGH PLATEAU (Red Beauty 'Aafke' 2n x Vanguard 'Mas Beauty' 2n). The results from this were very unexpected. The flasks were colchicine treated and the tetraploid ones were in shades of cream, ivory and pink with white lips, while most of the diploid ones were greenish polychromes. A

very beautiful hybrid with exciting cut flower potential.

- KIWI DAWN 'CAMEL' 4n (James Wattie 'Black Midnight' x Huckleberry Mountain 'Magic Mushroom' 4n). This has also been a

superb hybrid bred from James Wattie 'Black Midnight' 4n, a converted tetraploid bred from Doris Aura 'F. J. Noonan' 2n an inspired cross from Andy Easton as he didn't use Doris Aurea 'Cardinal' 4n which make the usual strain of James Wattie.

This crossed with Huckleberry Mountain 'Magic Mushroom' 4n gave a hybrid far better than I had anticipated, with every seedling being a keeper with over half of them having a showbench and award potential. A lot more of this hybrid will be seen in the future.

- (WINTER CASTLE 'THE DUCHESS' 4n x ALLARA 'MAREE' 2n.) Has turned up some fine medium pinks with superb shape and upright spikes. Most have broad, lightly marked, blush pink lips.

- EMMA'S GALA (*parishii* 'Emma Menninger' 4n x

Excalibur 'Galahad'), pure glistening white

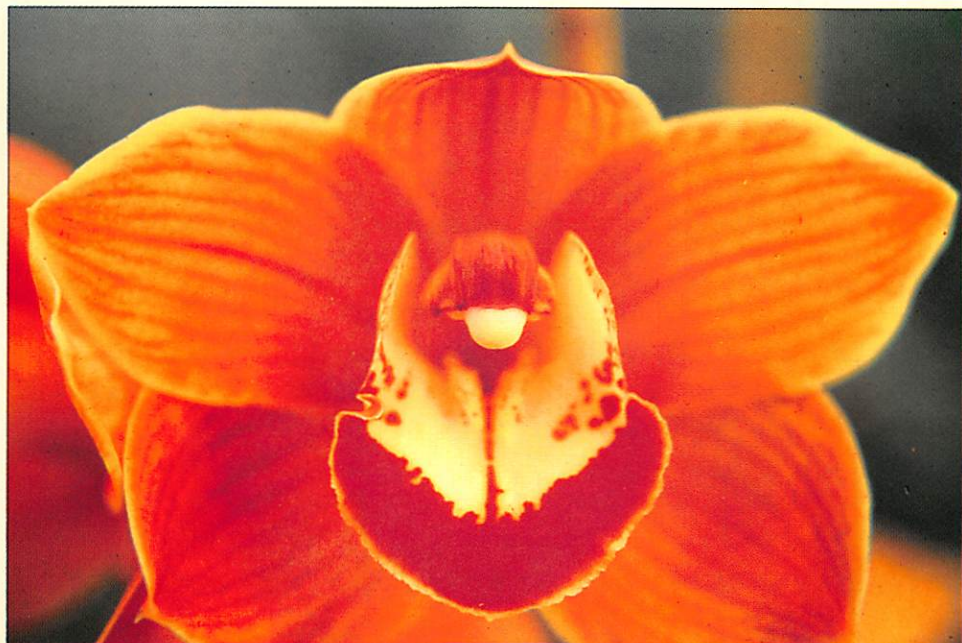
intermediates with beautiful white lips and huge rose red spots, quite different to anything I have flowered. All have very tall spikes.



Cym Emma's Gala
Grower/photo: Norm Potter.

- CORATEA 'REWA' 4n AD, HCC/OCNZ crossed with JAMES WATTIE 'BLACK MIDNIGHT' produces rich bronze and orange shades with massive jet black banding on their lips, probably the best cross so far from Coratea 'Rewa', of obvious breeding potential to carry on the outstanding lips of both parents.

Norm Potter
23 Parata Street,
Waikanae.



Cym (Coratea 'Rewa' X James Wattie 'Black Midnight')
Grower/photo: Norm Potter.

THE ORCHID ADVOCATE

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JUDGING MINIATURE CYMBIDIUMS — THE DIFFICULTIES

How do we decide if an orchid is a miniature or novelty cymbidium?

Successful miniature cymbidiums and a review of judging miniatures.

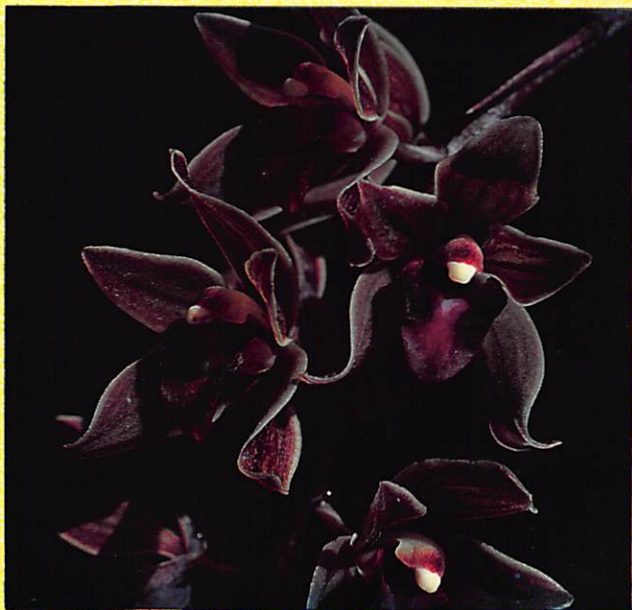
by Clive Halls

It is interesting to review how our judging of miniature cymbidiums has progressed. Certainly in recent years far more miniatures have got the nod from judges. 1990 for instance saw fourteen awards granted, although most were bronzes and cultural, the only recent silver going to a *canaliculatum* hybrid Chrisana (x Mimi) in 1989. Looking at those awarded in recent times shows that not many are of recent breeding. Maybe a lack of commercial incentive for proper miniatures gives no incentive to breed in this area or perhaps, and more likely, with the need to keep plant size down it is necessary to use *Cym. pumilum* or *Cym. devonianum* as primary parents.

With the advent of Miss Muffet 'Agate' which of course combines these two influential parents, it soon became an important parent in its own right for

hybridisation of miniature cymbidiums. A study of the awards will show such clones as Brown Ale (Show Girl x Miss Muffet), Tuffet (Brook Street x Miss Muffet) and a number of other Miss Muffet hybrids make up nearly 50% of miniatures awarded.

The most awarded cymbidium in the last fifteen years is Orchid Conference (*Sola* x *pumilum*) registered by Ireland in 1966. Interestingly, *Sola* is a Jean Brummitt hybrid or correctly Langleyense, so we have *devonianum* genes



Cym devonianum



Cym Jack Hudlow 'Waikanae'
Grower/photo: Norm Porter.



Cym (Parish Touch X Musita 'Pinkie')
Grower/photo: Norm Porter.

involved. At least seven different clones have been awarded since 1975; three were probably more before this time.

Several cultivars of Miss Muffet gained awards with 'Julie Sato' gaining a silver way back in 1983, while others obtained bronze and cultural awards. Apart from Miss Muffet hybrids *Cym. devonianum*, unless used with another miniature species, does not feature very prominently. We have a Plush Canyon awarded in Australia and a Bulbarrow also awarded in Australia, both border line novelties. Touchstone 'Mahogany' received two cultural awards and a bronze. Primary *devonianum* crosses finding favour have been Sweet Devon (x *suave*), Cricket (x *madidum*), Devon Parish (x *parishii*), Vogelsang (x *insigne*), and Jean Brummitt/Langleysense (x *lowianum*).

Many other awarded miniatures have been primary *Cym. pumilum* crosses such as Ruby Eyes (x *Sensation*), Olymilum (x *Olympus*), Sarah Jean (x *Sleeping Beauty*), Lady Bug (x *Finetta*), Amapola (x *Rio Rita*), and Pipeta (x *Spartan Queen*). Second generation crosses all seem to get too big but Dolly x Ruby Eyes which of course maintains 50% *pumilum*, scored a solitary bronze in 1989. This line must lead to more awards in the

future with so many good tetraploid bred *pumilum* hybrids now available, but it seems slow in coming.

As I said at the beginning we are giving more awards to miniatures now than way back in the seventies. However, the average has been only six a year, surely not enough. Perhaps our interpretation of what constitutes a miniature needs closer scrutiny. One thing is certain, as long as we wish to have a separate miniature category we will have to make a dividing line.

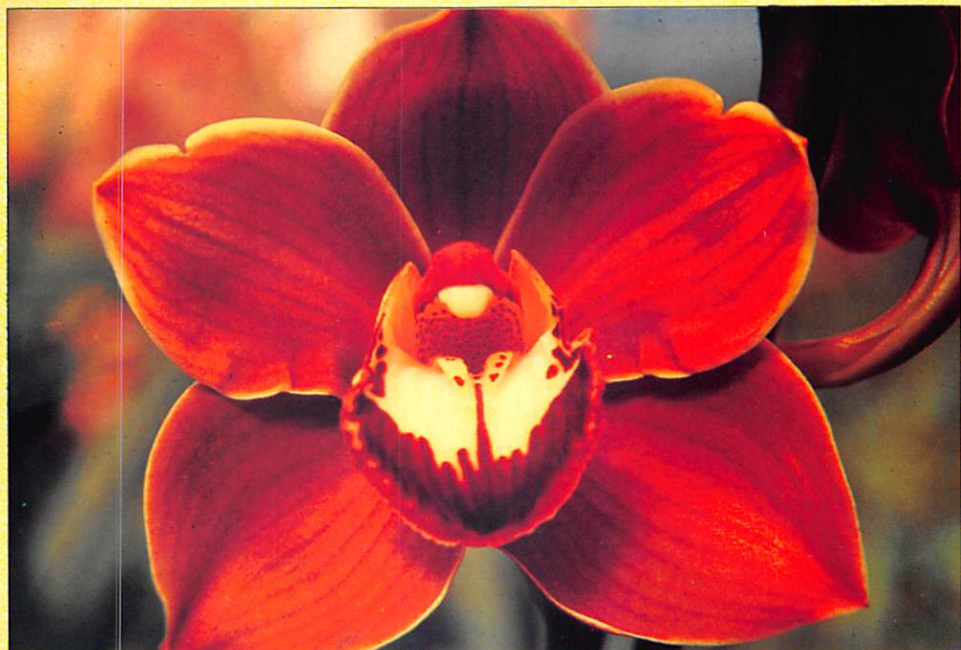
When we read the rules very little differentiates miniature from novelty. Primarily, miniature cymbidiums must have a known dwarf species in its primary or secondary parentage. The plant and flower must also have dwarf or miniature characteristics. A complete potted plant is judged — no cut spikes.

With this in mind and with a plant before us, how do we decide if it is a miniature? Presuming we have our dwarf parentage, and I should not bank on that helping you decide, what other clues do we have? How large can a flower be to still be considered miniature? The rules thankfully do not decree a maximum size. What size is ideal for a miniature? The average

size from awarded plants in the past sixteen years is 4.8cm, the largest being 7.0cm and the smallest 1.2cm (*Cym. sinense*). Several were 6.0cm and many were over 5.0cm. Also what about the forward falling petals that commonly reduce flower size by half? No, measuring does not work, but a flat flower of 5.0cm overall width is probably about what we are looking for.

With plant size we are also looking for dwarf characteristics, but what does this mean? Should the leaves be less than say 30cm long? Do very wide leaves if short as in many *Cym. tigrinum* hybrids get ruled out? How large can the bulbs be? Some *Cym. madidum* hybrids have very short leaves but rather large bulbs. So in the end the decision is based on your experience of how big other awarded miniatures have been, but when you only see so few you will probably have quite a job to remember, and in many times you will be faced with borderline cases.

To a certain degree proportion will influence your decision. Balance of flower to plant, its presentation and floriferousness, all combine to make a plant more suitable for judging in the miniature category. The handbook clearly requires miniatures to be judged as a potted plant, the spikes to



Cym Kiri Te Kanawa 'Maori Maiden'
Grower/photo: Norm Porter.



Cym One Tree Hill 'Waikanae Canary'
Grower/photo: Norm Porter.

be evenly distributed around the foliage with sixteen or more flowers per spike desirable.

Another area of contention is the poorly grown intermediate size *Cymbidium* that through poor culture is not robust with consequently smaller flowers, smaller plant habit, etc. This should be clearly obvious and the general appearance would no doubt reflect poor culture. As well, immature plants may also be presented but are not likely to have sufficient spikes to be eligible. A point to watch. All the same, as descriptions of awards suggest, a few have slipped through in this category at times.

In researching what judges felt the main area of importance in judging miniatures is, the most common remark was "overall charm and distinction". This suggests that miniatures pick up points in this area as distinct from novelties, but this is not so. Both score ten points, so what is the difference? In fact where do the point scores differ between miniatures and novelties? Form has 20/20, colour is 20/20, floriferousness of spike and plant 15/15. So far all is the same. Now we come to flower arrangement and spike habit. The two are combined for novelties, scoring 15 points, but are divided for miniatures into flower arrangement, 10

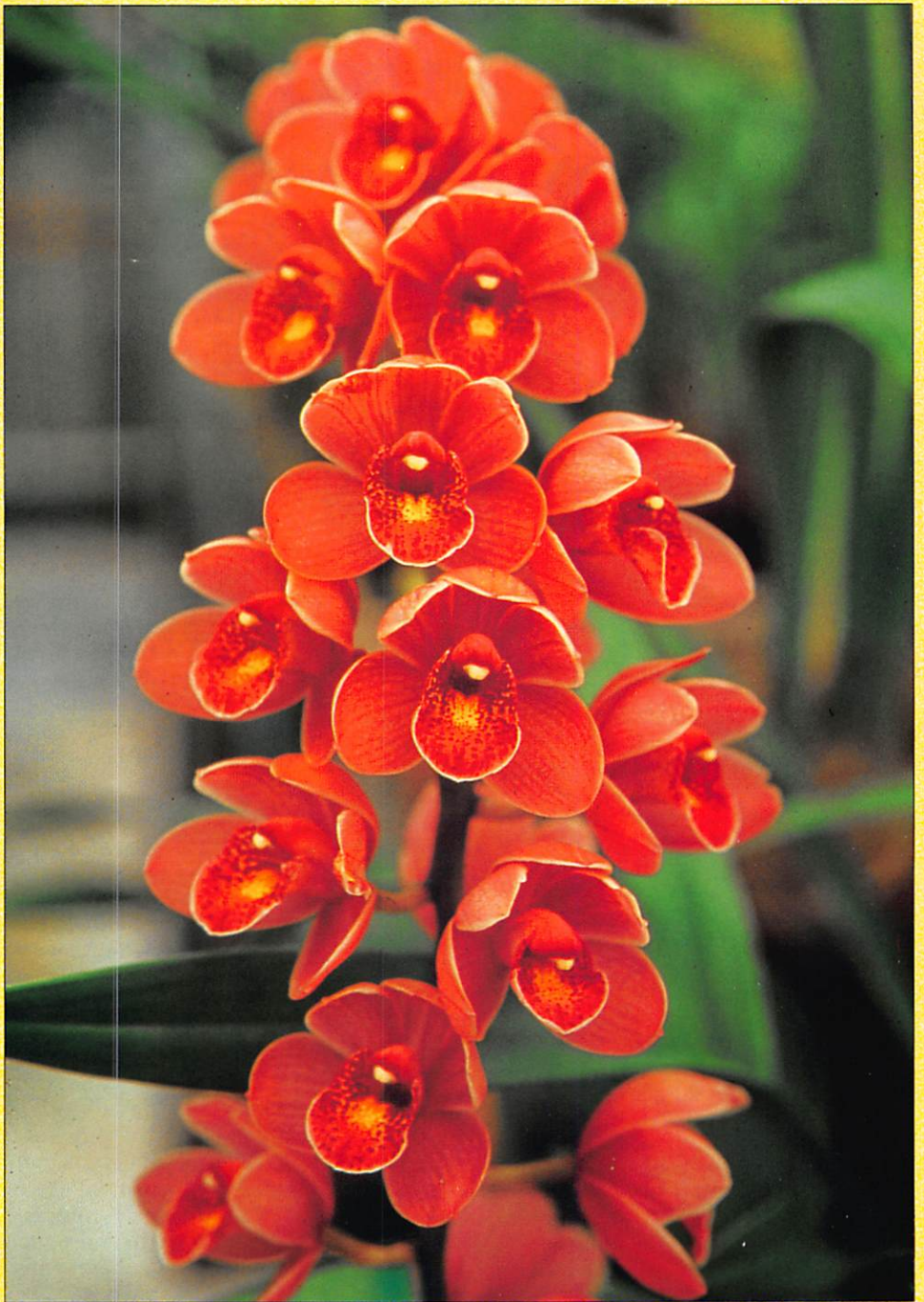
points, and habit of spike, 10 points, the difference obviously geared towards giving our miniatures an extra 5 points in this area of presentation, a most valued asset in a good miniature.

Another area most judges perceived as important was foliage, the whole plant being judged. Well novelties score 10 points for appearance of foliage and miniatures only 5. However, the handbook goes to much greater length to emphasise importance of well presented foliage free from all types of blemish. Only plants with healthy foliage should be considered. No such emphasis is applied to novelties but they score twice the points. No matter, we have to be aware that miniature *cymbidiums* must be judged overall with the plant being judged for its appearance, the rules are quite clear.

Going on with the scoring, substance and texture both score 10/10. Now we get to another interesting area, overall charm and distinction. As I said earlier, miniatures and novelties both score 10 in this area but is there a different type of charm and distinction for each? Well yes, there is some. For novelties the book says "plants may not have the classic proportions normally considered essential in award *cymbidiums*. But charm and distinction may

overcome these shortcomings and produce very attractive specimens. A certain colour or combination of colours may be the distinctive characteristic, as well as form or a particularly fine spike habit." Now when we look at miniatures the good book says, "Charm and distinction may be the projection to the observer of one or more characteristics of the plant that commands attention above the usual qualities present. This is most commonly found in rare colours, or combinations of colours. Attractive colour patterns in the lip may also contribute to the charm and distinction of the flower. Sometimes the form and carriage of the flower will give a distinction and charming appearance. These qualities should be present in high quality orchids and judges must recognise these much admired characteristics."

Now the first thing that strikes me is that we have a point score of ten that all of us give a proportion of, whenever we judge novelties or miniatures. We have already judged for general colour and given a score (out of fifteen). Surely this section is not giving us room to give points for muddy colours, or oddly distributed patterns. If there are stripes, shadings, or overlays with good clarity have we not already



Cym Phar Lap 'Tiki Rose'
Grower/photo: Norm Porter.

considered this in our twenty points for overall colour? Attractive lip patterns are mentioned but again I feel they have already been judged (out of five points). Well what about the form and carriage of the flower? Have we not already considered this also in "flower arrangement" and "habit of spike"? If this score of ten points for "overall charm and distinction" is to be given only for exceptional qualities of the mentioned attributes, then how do you normally assess your score? Maybe you give five or six just to keep the figures right, like me.

The difference between novelties and miniatures is hard to assess in this area. Probably intermediates have an allowance for varying form in the flower where it says "may not have the classic proportions normally considered essential in award cymbidiums". However, our form judging may already have ruled the plant out by not giving it 75% needed for an award. Assuming this is an odd shaped flower that is not round, star shaped, or vertically oval, that it is also balanced, disproportionate flowers are as we know to be avoided. One wonders what other shape might be presented that has charm and distinction.

So what we probably should be looking for is an extra special presentation of plant, one of those orchids that says "Hey, I'm worth looking at." One such miniature was Sarah Jane 'Ice Cascade' judged in Adelaide some years back. Its mass of pristine white flowers in profusion from a hanging basket was a splendid sight. A great looking miniature orchid that grabbed attention but lost out in form, and our "charm and distinction" score was not enough to drag it through. Actually it gained an AD for its whiteness if I remember correctly. I think we were a bit hard in retrospect.

So I have posed a few questions for all of us to consider. In no way am I trying to detract from our handbook, I am merely analysing how we determine things. How do we know we are judging a miniature cymbidium and where do the differences lie in the concept of a good novelty versus a good miniature? As I have shown a miniature is not just a small plant with lots of flowers that has "appeal". The fact is it will need most of the attributes that any good novelty will need to gain an award. Our often assumed idea that charm and distinction will carry it through is a misconception. Perhaps the only area that can give

a miniature an easier run than a novelty is the fact that judging on comparison of what has gone before gives us a somewhat lower standard because the standard for miniatures is by that definition, not as high. Form in miniatures is slightly different in concept, with balance taking precedence.

In terms of progress in miniature breeding over the last twenty years it is hard to make definite statements. Reviewing the records back to 1975 shows there were far more *pumilum* bred hybrids being awarded. Such things as Pipeta (*pumilum* x Spartan Queen), Beacon Fire (*pumilum* x Khyber pass), and Sweetheart (*pumilum* x Alexanderi) were gaining awards. Hardly any *devonianum* influence was in evidence. One, Peter Pan 'Greensleeves', got a bronze award in 1977. The sparseness of awards to miniatures is very obvious with only half a dozen in five years being recorded in the early seventies assuming that they were all published in the **Orchid Advocate**.

Things picked up in the early eighties with the *devonianum* breeding lines making a big impact. The Keith Andrew inspired crosses having found their way across the Atlantic and finding favour with those who could see further than



Cym Touch of Class 'Flamingo'
Grower/photo: Norm Porter.

a huge bosom busting cymbidium bloom. Such crosses as Plush Canyon (Rio Rita x *devonianum*), Art Koester (Kalinka x *devonianum*), Touchstone 'Mahogany' (*devonianum* x Mission Bay), Bulbarrow (Western Rose x *devonianum*), and Tilly Whim (Remus x *devonianum*) all primary *devonianum* hybrids found favour with the judges and only very few primary *pumilum* hybrids found recognition. However, as I mentioned at the beginning of this talk, the primary hybrid of Miss Muffet (*pumilum* x *devonianum*) has probably had the largest influence. This combination had the great advantage of breeding much smaller plants with both shorter and narrower leaves and smaller bulbs, and flowers were proportionally smaller, averaging about 3.8 cm.

The most awarded of the Miss Muffet crosses has been Brown Ale (Show Girl x Miss Muffet). This cross made by Andy Easton has a gene line strongly influenced by Alexanderi. Once again we see this extraordinary orchid affecting our award orchids right up to the present day in standard, novelty and miniature cymbidiums. Brown Ale has received six awards from the CSA in past years and more will no doubt follow. I have flowered quite a few myself, with one or two

finding a place in the permanent collection, though none have yet made the grade for awards in Australia.

So what else is making news in the nineties? Well not many new breeding lines and that is a pity. 1990 saw the following bronze awards: Ruby Eyes 'Claret Vale' and Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron', both probably tetraploid versions, Miss Muffet 'Kay Mimura', Carikhyber x Miss Muffet, a couple more Brown Ales and a species *sinense*, and one new cross (*suave* x Voodoo) 'Naomi Sato' with tiny flowers; it sounded lovely. A few old favourites gained cultural awards: Sweet Devon, Cricket, and an Olymlium 'White Elf' with flowers at 6.0 cm, perhaps getting a bit large, but Jean Angus 'Pip' was also awarded at 7.0 cm, and lastly our old favourite Orchid Conference, this time cultivar 'Titoshi', was back in the limelight. A remake perhaps?

So not much new in miniatures but I am sure it is coming along on your benches right now. Such crosses as (Fifi x Miss Muffet), (Phar Lap x Miss Muffet) or (Cricket x Tuffet), then again maybe some of Snow Peterson's *madidum* or *suave* based hybrids may make the grade. In the past years so much ground work has been laid with the mixing

of genes from a number of species including *parishii* and *trigrinum* plus the three Australian species interwoven with the *pumilum-devonianum* line through Miss Muffet. The possibilities seem endless. I am sure the next eight years will see some new and exciting miniatures but a few new species like those introduced into paphiopedilum breeding such as *micranthum* or *armeniacum* would surely help us along. ◀

August 1992

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Continuing . . .

North Otago Orchid Society Brisbane Tour

Coffs Harbour

The day dawned cool and sunny with a promise of 17 degrees. We left the Camden Lodge Motel at 8.30 am and as the main highway was blocked by an accident and wouldn't be open until 12.30 pm, we took the Glenreagh Road which is a secondary road but very interesting. At Glenreagh our driver enquired at the local garage about the road ahead as there had been heavy rainfall in the night — he was advised to take the alternative route as that road was also closed. We had to drive 11k south to Nona Glen to get back onto the Pacific Highway and cross the Orara River twice, driving past the Lower Bucca State Forest.

As we travelled we couldn't help but notice the brick red soil which is very good for growing things, but colours everything else, even the sheep. We arrived at Woolgooga for lunch, a small place but nice, bought a seafood package from the local fish shop, sat in the sun and ate it, passing on the squid rings to those who like it!

On the hour we were on our way again travelling through acres of hillsides covered in banana palms. At 1.15 pm we arrived at Bananacoast Orchids, the home of Sandy and Ollie Anderson who made us most welcome. They were nearly finished moving their whole property from a few miles up the road. The plants were housed in glasshouse and shadehouses most suited to them. I was quite envious with the ease in which they grow their lovely flowers and they don't get frosts which is a real bonus!

Sandy showed us around answering questions and gave us a talk and presented us with a video on "How to grow Softcane *Dendrobiums*". I for one learned a lot from that. Neville, Sandy's son, and wife Shirley, live nearby and they provided a shuttle service with two four wheel drive vehicles so we could see their collection of mainly species which was most interesting. There is a gully with trees and wild orchids in front of the house which they are going to develop with paths and seats for tourists.

Heather Thompson thanked both families for their kindness and afternoon tea, presented them with a set of placemats and teaspoons.

Back on the road again at 3.30 pm passing through more hillsides of bananas with bags over the fruit to keep off the fruit bats. Sealey Lookout, altitude 300 metres, had a magnificent view of the countryside, then more bananas until we reached Coffs Harbour and our motel for two nights. The second evening we put on a BBQ to farewell Arnold, our coach captain, and presented him with a few gifts and mementos from home. ◀

Joan Butler
North Otago Orchid Society

Redcliffe to Hervey Bay

Today, Monday 26th July, we are heading to Hervey Bay and as everyone was ready we set off thirty minutes early. As we travelled up the Bruce Highway we saw many points of interest including

the Glasshouse Mountains with Arnold our coach captain explaining the legend of the family of mountains, one of them named Tibrogargan. We stopped for photographs at a wayside where a historic plaque noted that Lt. Matthew Flinders had camped nearby 26/27 July 1799 - 194 years ago almost to the day! Other travellers were also there making "billy tea" and drying washing.

Our next stop a few kilometres down the road was at Farmer Rob's Fruit Stall. Large pineapples \$1-20, Macadamia Nuts 200g for \$4.00, and Papaya to name a few of the purchases. Ettamogah Pub of Australian Post note was to be our next stop. Here several became acquainted with snakes and the carpet snake was the one being handled — I only had the courage to touch and found it to be soft, and not cold as you would expect. Two ladies in our group ventured a ride atop a camel. A quick whiz about the souvenir shop and a few purses, and wallets were lighter!

Lunch for the deer was our next experience when we visited Forest Glen Deer Farm. We boarded a tractor train and went on tour, hand feeding the deer including one very large stag with a lovely set of antlers. There were also guinea fowl, an emu,

wallabies, kangaroos and water birds. Koalas were also a feature of the park and were able to be cuddled and photographed. Our lunch stop was at The Big Pineapple where exotic fruits, desserts, salads and sandwiches were available. We also were able to ride the plantation train with explanations made of the growth of pineapples, bananas and papaya, and introduced to many exotic fruits of the world.

We continued on passing through Gympie — timber and gold mining area, Nandina — ginger area, and sugar cane by the acres. We arrived in Hervey Bay at 3.30 pm to be met

by many of the local orchid society members who whisked us off by private cars to the home of Athol and Betty Bennett. Here we saw the end of a great display of *Vandas* — growing outside against a brick wall. After enjoying a scrumptious afternoon tea there we were off to the home of Brian and Gloria Pearce. Again outside were freestanding concrete block walls with *Vandas* and allied genera planted in hollow blocks at the base. Inside were many glorious hardcane *Dendrobiums* and *Phalaenopsis*. There were more *Vandas* at the home of the Squires with *Dendrobiums* also prominent.



Dendrobium arachnites at Caboolture Orchid Society Shop
Photo: S. Wray

The Nissans were the last place of call with *Dendrobiums* in the trees and a shade house built around a growing tree. In here were many *Paphs.* as well as a house of *Phalaenopsis*, some of which they had bred themselves. Quickly back to the Motor Inn before going by coach to a BBQ tea put on at the home of Noel and Joan Joyce. Many local members were present and what a magnificent spread. Everyone mixed well and chatted. After the BBQ was time for slides firstly from the New Zealand contingent and enjoyed by all. There were several raffles drawn with many of the prizes leaving by coach!

We left Hervey Bay on Wednesday morning with our first stop being the orchid collection of Evelyn Williams in Maryborough who had a wide variety of genera and a delight to view. What we noted in general was the size of the hobby collections — they were far greater than any of us had as a hobby; the ease with which Spanish Moss is grown hanging in great clumps under trees; and we also came away with a few tips and ideas, and very impressed with the hospitality we had received. ◀

Jean Thompson
Whangarei Orchid Society

Redcliffe Orchid Society

We arrived in Redcliffe after our visit to the Caboolture Show and some tiki-touring back down the highway through Deception Bay and Scarborough to check out the expensive canal housing areas where we all chose our new "holiday homes", then on down the lovely drive along the

coastline to our motel where we stayed for two nights.

At approximately 3 pm we were joined by several members of the Redcliffe Orchid Society who had supplied a 22 seater bus and cars to transport all 30 of us to a wonderful BBQ held at Ken and Val Balke's place in Deception Bay. We couldn't have wished for a more pleasant



Syd Wray presenting Jim and Betty Raddatz with honorary membership of the Whangarei Orchid Society at the Redcliffe Orchid Society. Photo: J. Wray

evening (once we trained the mossies!) and we had a leisurely stroll around their greenhouses before dinner, which was delicious. What an amazing array of desserts!

Honorary Membership to the Whangarei Orchid Society was bestowed upon Redcliffe President, Jim Raddatz and his wife Betty for all the help and friendship that has been extended to the Whangarei Society over the last 11 years in their visits to Redcliffe and putting on displays at Conferences held in Queensland when they have been a tower of strength to us.

After the presentation our group showed the Redcliffe members some slides of how we grow our orchids in various parts of New Zealand in our backyards — rather smaller set-ups than those we have seen in Queensland. There were a few snow scenes thrown in too, just to keep them awake and down to earth!

The next day we were able to use our own coach to be transported around several ‘‘hobby growers’’ nurseries the first of which was Ed and Mary Thorogood’s in Scarborough. Here we were amazed at the hardcane *Dendrobiums* all growing hanging up high in one of the greenhouses. If you wanted to see the flowers you had to climb up



**Mrs Jean Delvin with Blue tongue lizard, Brian Lundsberg looking behind, at Ed Thorogoods, Scarborough.
Photo: S. Wray**

a ladder and look over the top of the plants! and you walked in between rows of roots to get from one end of the house to the other! Another house had hundreds of *Cattleyas*, other types of *Dendrobiums*, equitant *Ondiciums*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Ondicium* Intergenerics and many others. Several of Ed’s plants were on display at the Caboolture Show so there were not as many flowers to see but even so those that were still ‘‘at home’’ were lovely. While there we had some fun with their friendly gallah and just on leaving Ed found a blue-tongued lizard which several were brave enough to hold for photographs.

Aboard the coach and off to our next stop at Ern and Beris Patching’s who had lots of lovely *Phalaenopsis* plants with many spikes appearing. The weather decided to pack it in at this stage and we had some light rain but it didn’t dampen the welcome we received by Ern and Beris.

Cool drinks were available and after a good look around we boarded the coach once again and Jim took us on a little sightseeing around the Redcliffe area until lunch at a local restaurant — buffet for only \$6.95 and what a lovely selection. Very popular place for young and old.

Our next nursery visit was to Al Sakrzewski's, or "Big Al's" as he is known to the local members. Here we took in the sight of many very large specimen *Cattleya* plants which flower profusely every year for Al. They would have been at least 3-4 feet across and were hanging from the roof of the greenhouse. After several questions as to how and what they were fed with and what potting medium was used we were on our way once again, our last visit being to our guides for the day, Jim and Betty, who live in Woody Point just south of Redcliffe. Jim and Betty, commercial growers now retired, had a wonderful array of plants and flowers on display — *Cattleyas*, *Dendrobiums*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Paphs*, etc., and several interesting flasks made their way into the coach when we boarded to go back to the motel for a spell before dinner.

We were lucky to sample the food at a very popular local Chinese Restaurant for dinner and were privileged to be joined by orchidist extraordinaire, Dr Andree Millar both at the BBQ and the restaurant, who took great interest in our group's background.

The Redcliffe Society certainly put it on for our group and we had a marvellous stay there and it was wonderful to catch up with all our friends once



Joy Wray and Dr Andree Millar at dinner with members Redcliffe Orchid Society. Photo: John Thompson.

again. We hope one day that they will come over to New Zealand and visit us so we can reciprocate their wonderful hospitality. ◀

Joy Wray
Whangarei Orchid Society

Finale

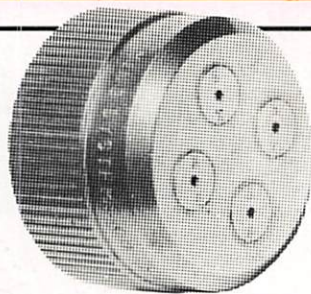
On the final leg of our tour we travelled from Coffs Harbour to Surfers Paradise, visiting the Thursday Plantation where we were shown how teatree oil and other related products were manufactured. It was a fabulous drive along some of the coastline and many holiday spots were much admired. During our stay in Surfers we saw many places of interest and

enjoyed a day's outing over to Stradbroke Island indulging in a scrumptious seafood luncheon on board the ferry. Two members of the group, who shall remain nameless, were coersed into performing the hula and haka with the talented entertainer on board — many photographs and videos were taken in evidence.

We would up the tour with a party on the last evening and the next morning were on our way back to Auckland and Christchurch, worn out but happy, having met many new friends and had memories of a wonderful tour. ◀

Joy Wray

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Something to think about.

Are you completely happy with your collection of Orchids?

What is your goal?

Len and I were talking one evening recently and he asked "How do you upgrade or establish an orchid collection"?

The most important answer is already given. By **talking** about your favourite plants. A good time now is to visit the current shows and take a real good look at every plant on display. Wonder why one plant was given a place ahead of another? Also, talk to as many people, competitors, judges and other enthusiasts as you can. That's for the show people.

Some people only collect species, others select a range of colours, and others only rare and perhaps endangered plants. We can grow exotic and tropical plants with some added heat in the winter and then choose from a range of inexpensive fans, misters or an automatic watering system.

We find the temperate North Island climate is kind to most *Cymbidium* growers. A little frost or high winds can be managed with a little forethought, and there are

several other genera that can be grown in the same *Cymbidium* conditions.

Our meetings provide lots of information about growing conditions, repotting and dressing the plants up for shows, but little about the plants themselves.

"READ ALL ABOUT THEM". We have a grand selection of books, lots of

them, and several are quite expensive, in our library. We also subscribe to several magazines, which in my view, these are the best source of information about our plants that are grown by other people. All of which leads to the thought, "What does each of us have in mind as the REAL GOAL, the ultimate aim of having a collection at all?"



Cattleya bowringiana 'Purple King'
Grower: D. and M. Patchett.

I believe that most of our society people have more than one collection. Take a look around the people you know. Books, pictures, stamps, china pieces and photo albums galore. We will find out about these one club day! But we all have a common interest in gardening. Pot plants are our speciality.

Orchid people, that's us, generally have a mixed lot in our glasshouse, shadehouse, carports (kitchen window-sills are really popular for small plants) and lean-to-places. Along the way the **Orchid Bug** or the **Maggie** syndrome usually takes over and we land up with too many plants, then everything becomes time consuming. Watering takes too long and the plants suffer through being in over crowded conditions.

Once we overcome the temptation to acquire just one more of this or that, then that is the time to really decide which genera or orchid activity will become your goal.

Phalaenopsis, *Pleionies*, *Cattleyas*, *Laelias*, *Paphiopedilums*, *Odontoglossums*, *Dendrobiums* or New Zealand natives. There is a bewildering list of cool to warm growing plants available, but then we



Rossioglossum grande
Grower: Dave Watt.

luckily have our own preferences. Unusual, colourful, long lasting orchids to acquire, they provide the ultimate in variety.

Nearly forgot to mention *Cymbidiums*.

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Large standards, intermediates (or novelty) and miniatures can throw spikes that stand up like soldiers, gently arch or hang pendulous. Take

your pick. Many people, both amateur and commercial world wide are competing to hybridize 'THE FLOWER' that will be the ultimate in shape, form and charm. Don't be surprised that most of us from any country where cymbidiums are grown share the same thoughts.

Take time before our next meeting to think seriously about what you like best about your orchids, what you want to make of your collection and between us all decide the best way to achieve our collective goals.

Tony Ballard

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VANDAS

David and Geraldine's beautiful *Vanda* reminded me of the one that achieved The Reserve Champion title at the 13th World Orchid Conference in Auckland.

It is not surprising, to find, on consulting Sanders List of Hybrids, that they do indeed have several common *Vanda* species and hybrids in their ancestry. *V. sanderiana*, *V. coerulea* and a combination of the two *V. Rothchildiana*, appearing repeatedly.

There is a very interesting article in the 1988 A.O.S. Bulletins, July through to August by Martin R. Motes called "Unravelling A Rainbow", regarding *Vandas*; well worth reading!

In reappraising *V. sanderiana* he writes 'When might you ask, is a *Vanda* not a *Vanda*? Perhaps when it is *Vanda sanderiana*.', He explains how *V. sanderiana* has been shifted from one genus to another over the years because of its botanical and horticultural differences. In 1914 it was classified as a species of *Euanthe* by Rudolf Schlecher, because of its two lobed lip and the absence of a spur found in other *Vandas*. Cultural differences as well as temperature change intolerance and other horticultural differences,

such as flower and petal shape, and a different blooming season also encouraged taxonomists to class it separately.

Vanda sanderiana, hailing from a tropical habitat in the Philippine Island of Mindanao, requires greater warmth than nearly all other *Vanda* species and its hybrids. Hybrids which it predominates are the first to react to low temperatures by ceasing the growth of roots and leaves!

V. sanderiana initially became a popular parent for hybridists to use because of its flower size and its fuller, rounder, flatter shape. The inflorescence also has two desirable qualities, that of its erect stem, which in its best clones, tops the foliage and also its capability of displaying the flowers in a uniformly arranged nearly cylindrical head.

Along with its many virtues, *V. sanderiana* also transmits some of its faults to its progeny, chiefly, the tendency to flower only once a year in the autumn and the slowness in

growing and reaching maturity, sometimes requiring up to six to seven years to bloom as a seedling, which has grown to the size of a young palm.

No other genus of large flowered orchids displays the diversity of colour and patterns, as do the modern *Vandas*. The wealth of hues and markings reflect the contribution of genes from numerous species, which often manifest themselves at five or six or even more generations removed from their source.

That hybridists have been able to develop qualities of colour and marking in large flowers, that are essentially *V. sanderiana* in shape and size, is a monument to the power of selective breeding, states Martin R. Motes.

The overall, bright colours that we are coming to accept as commonplace in modern hybrid *Vandas*, do not exist as such in nature.

Vanda coerulea — was regarded by early orchardists, as the finest of the *Vanda* species for its long



Vanda (Southeast Beauty X Ascocenda Medasand)
Grower: Sherlock Orchids.

scapes of large flowers and wonderful colour, coupled with its cold tolerance made it the prime parent used during the early years of hybridising. The colour dominance of *V. coerulea* produces wonderful shades of blue-purple. Blue, the rarest colour in the flower world is rarer yet in orchids. The early hybridists saw in *V. coerulea* a much more dynamic potential than in the large formal and rather staid *V. sanderiana*.

V. coerulea ranges through the Himalayas from India and Nepal to Burma and North Thailand. It grows at elevations above 2500 ft, where plants are subjected to night temperatures considerably lower than those experienced by most *Vanda* species. It was this cold tolerance that endeared the species to the early European breeders. The other factor was its size. Although it can grow rather tall, the leaf span is quite narrow. As a breeding plant, it has contributed more positive features to its progeny. That of size, vigour, floriferousness, cold tolerance, colour pattern and length of inflorescence, than the negative feature of the shape of flower, because this seems to quickly be overcome in two to three generations.

This orchid occurs in shades ranging from whites

through pinks to reds to blues, intense lavenders and to purples. It contributes its overall tessellated colour pattern to its progeny as well as the long erect inflorescence of two or more branches which carry up to twenty five flowers. It spaces its flowers in a less crowded way than *V. sanderiana* and in addition to all its other virtues is the most free flowering species of the *Vandas*.


The most famous cross of these two species is *V. Rothchildiana*, registered in 1931 but with constantly improved strains being made, an average plant from a remake is frequently surpassing an awarded clone from a previous generation.

Strap-leafed *Vandas* were first bred in Europe far away from the part of the world we associate with these colourful tropical plants, but in the 1950s the centre of the hybridising was without a doubt in Hawaii.

The 1960s saw the beginning of hybridisation in Thailand, where they have continued to produce many award winning modern hybrids in the blues, purples and more recently, the yellow, by introducing *V. dearei* and *V. scandens*.

An important note taken from Tauranga's latest Newsletter: Re orchid names — eriana or erana? Following a decision taken at the last International Botanical Congress in Berlin, the ORAC has agreed that in the International Register all specific epithets based on personal names ending in —er, should be followed in their latinised adjectival form by the ending —iana, or (ianus, ianum) and not —ana (anus, anum). This reverses a previous decision and changes been made to the RHS database. e.g. *sanderana* becomes *sanderiana*, *walkerana* becomes *walkeriana* and *hookerana*, *hookeriana*. ◀

From Manawatu Orchid Society Newsletter 1992:2



We'd like to get in touch with the following varieties standard cymbidium, who were on display on the 13th WOC in Auckland in 1990?

- High Sierra x Loch Lamond (green)
- Cariga x Mem Smith Beavers (yellow)
- Sleeping Beauty Wallaria x Golden Nuggett Lutina (yellow, from orchid society of Southland)
- Orroro Perfection Pink (grower J. Allen)
- and Highland Mist 'Jayne' (green, seen in Australia)

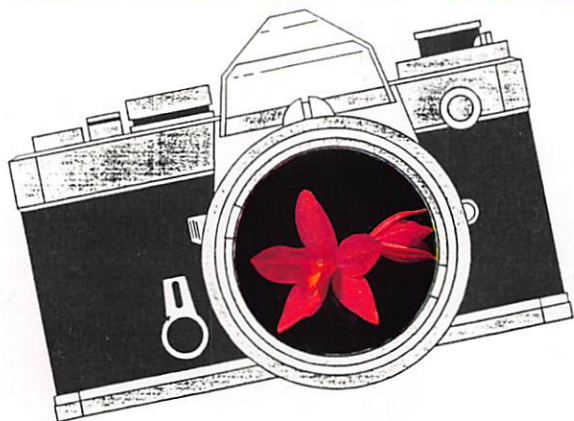
Please contact Gus Sonneveld, SH 22 RD 2, Drury, ph/fax 0-9-294 7202
We are always looking for new standard cymbidium varieties for cutflower production, if you have something please send us a picture.



Vanda sanderiana
Grower: R. F. Orchids.

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FULL DETAILS NEXT ISSUE

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SLIDES OR PRINTS

SUBJECT
"BLOOMING ORCHIDS"

The RHS CD-ROM information System in New Zealand

by Dennis and Martin Bonham

The Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids

Most serious orchid growers have met the **Sander's List** which has been produced since 1946. There are now seven volumes that make up a composite list of all the hybrids registered by the RHS. The new volumes of the List are now produced every five years and the latest included registrations from 1986-1990. For subsequent registrations one has to look through the monthly or bimonthly pages reproduced in the better known orchid journals, unfortunately not yet in **Orchids in New Zealand**. The volumes cover consecutive periods of time and the latest does not go back over earlier registrations. Thus one needs to have access to all seven books. Fortunately most orchid societies have a set in their library.

As the **Sander's List** is essentially of hybrids it includes the names of species only when that species has been used in making a hybrid. Thus species not yet used to make registered hybrids are not included. This is a weakness of the list and to check names of species one has to use the texts on species such as Hawke's Encyclopaedia, Bechtel, Cribb and Launert's **Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species** or Pridgeon's **What Orchid is That?** Unfortunately each of these does not cover all the species and other works may have to be consulted.

One of the problems of using the **Sander's List** is that each genus is separate and when looking up the name of a plant in the



Dendrobium nobile
Grower: Brian Mooney.

Cattleya Alliance one has to go through all the generic and multi generic names. There are 171 generic headings in the *Cattleya* (Epidendroideae) Alliance from *Allenara* to *Yamadara* so that even if one looks up in the commoner ones *B., C., Epi., L., Soph., Bc., Blc., Lc., Slc., and Pot.*, in each of seven volumes it is often a mammoth task.

Why not computerise it? Well of course they did. The first version of the computerised list, entitled the "**RHS Orchid Information System**" was released in December 1991 as a combined effort from the Royal Horticultural Society, the American Orchid Society and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Much of the work was done by three Australian enthusiasts, Peter Wilkins, Vernon Lobb and Ian Melrose who are computer people with an interest in orchids. The system allows a very rapid search across all genera for an orchid's name, and other search functions, as well as the facility to produce printouts of hybrid lists, and family trees showing the ancestry of an orchid.

There is so much information in the **Sander's List** that the Information System has been released as a "CD-ROM". This is a compact disk identical in appearance to a music CD,

but containing data which can be ready by a computer equipped with a special CD-ROM player. The disk is so spacious that it will hold more than the 80,000 plus hybrid registrations. Additional material includes the text of the **Handbook of Orchid Nomenclature and Registration** Part VIII and the details of **AOS Awards** and also 500 pictures of orchids, which can be viewed in colour on the computer. At present we are hoping that the text and illustrations of the **13th World Orchid Conference Proceedings** will be included in the third version.

The cost of the work involved in the development and production of the system for the RHS and the relatively small market have been considerable, and unfortunately this cost is passed on to the subscribers. The CD-ROM system costs subscribers just over NZ\$2500 (in addition to the cost of the computer equipment to read it), and then a smaller charge for subsequent updates. The second version which contained registrations up to and including August 1992, was released in December 1992 and the third version is expected in late 1994.

Advantages to RHS Registration.

Users of the RHS Registration system will have noticed the improvement in the time taken to accept registrations now that the material is all computerised. Now the application form is returned, having been approved, to the registrant by return. It still takes some six months to get into the journal supplementary lists which is related to publication time. Persons with access to the RHS system can check for duplication and suitability before sending in their application forms which can also save time.



Catesatum russellianum
Grower: Dave Watt.

Arrangement in New Zealand.

The Bonham family have jointly, with the Committee on Awards of the Orchid Council, purchased the first and second version of the RHS CD-ROM. Queries will be answered rapidly in response to a written request with a stamped addressed envelope. Telephone enquiries will be answered by mail.

The possibility of access to the system from another computer elsewhere linked by *modems* connected to telephone lines exists but as yet the demand for this has been insufficient to justify the extra expense.

To illustrate the use of the system this week we have had requests for lists of all the *Pleurothallidinae* as well as lists of *Pleione* and *Calanthe* together with details of AOS Awards for these genera. Local growers are increasingly interested in having labels and names checked.

All members of orchid societies affiliated to the Council are invited to make use of the system.

What should we do?

Whenever one purchases an orchid the advise is to knock it out of the pot and check the roots. When doing this take out the label and

check the spelling. If a hybrid is shown as A x B check with **Sander's** if the cross has been named. If you have any difficulty then consult the RHS System in Auckland giving as much detail as possible. The same applies to flasks, gifts and even purchases from well-known sources. Our aim is to improve the accuracy of the names of

all orchids in New Zealand. It is a great idea if someone takes on the job of checking the names of all plants on display at Society meetings as is done at several of the Auckland Societies.

24 Coronation Road, Epsom,
AUCKLAND 1003. Telephone
0-9-625 6300



(*Cattleya bowringiana* X S1 Gustave Vinelze)
Grower: Barry Wickens.

Show week strikes again! (Or how I feed my cats)

A week before our spring Show I happened to be at a certain South Auckland orchid nursery where I chanced upon some flagons of liquid fish fertiliser which, I am assured, is potent and very effective stuff. Replacing the top of my head after taking a deep sniff to ensure that this was indeed the case, I made the mistake of wiping my sticky fingers on my windcheater. "Pooh!" said someone a few minutes later.... "is that you?" Later still, Roy Neal sniffed the air pointedly and said, "Are you still here Bev?" I answered that yes I was, and was there a problem? But it was clear that I had become persona non grata, so I surreptitiously rinsed strategic points in a post-cloudburst puddle and set off home with two flagons of you-know-what in a plastic bag in the boot.

It was quite a long drive and the smell was indescribable so I was not surprised to receive some queer looks in the local corner dairy. Unpacking, all was revealed when I established that the contents of one flagon had elected to relocate

themselves throughout the car carpet.

For some days I endured the extremes of olfactory discomfort and decided to remove the one non offending flagon to the orchid house. This at least would restore the

atmosphere of the garage to normal and the vile fumes could do nothing but good wafting about beneath the shade cloth!

Well the next night I am due to transport plants to Akoranga Drive and all goes smoothly until 3pm when I receive a call from the fish shop. Here I must digress.

At appropriate intervals when the tides flow correctly and the trawlers do their thing, there happens into my fish shop large quantities of cream fish, otherwise known as leatherjackets. These deep water reef fish become, when de-jacketed, small succulent triangular fish varying between 7-10mm x 6-8mm, and are much prized by Asian people for stir-fried dishes. Some retailers are appalled to



Capital City Orchid Society display, Wellington 1985.

know that I purchase these for my two cats. Anyhow, I have established this routine in that every six weeks or so I will be seeking to 'buy in bulk'. This means an expenditure of perhaps \$60, but it buys me a huge bin - perhaps 15 kilos.

The fun starts when I arrive home as while I package these up 4 to a bag for the freezer (2 each per meal), Jodie and Barnaby are performing cartwheels around the kitchen. Before I get on to the next bit, I am as confident of the value of this diet as is that awful man in South Auckland with his wretched fertiliser. Jodie and Barnaby are given their cream fish whole, and demolish them raw, bones and all. The result is that they have teeth of adult tigers, coats like velvet, and temperaments as equable as Roy Clareburt's.

But I could do with out this bulk freezing bit when I should be in the car headed across to the shore.

Pondering all this, I glance out the kitchen window and am intrigued by an unusual object on my next door neighbour's lawn. It looks at first glance like a loaf of bread, but the more I regard it, and the neighbour's dog Duke's exceeding interest in it, the more uneasy I

become. Finally I check in the orchid house and yes, the remaining flagon has disappeared. Neighbour and I meet at the adjoining fence, he holding a dog-tooth-pierced and heavily leaking flagon of fish fertiliser. About \$12 worth of fertiliser is now nourishing his lawn, and I gleefully note his jeans.

By 5pm I am on my way to Akoranga Drive in my still stinking car, and thinking that I must ring Roy Neal. He told me to top-dress my cymbidiums in February with dried blood. I did that and the next day when I came home half of them were scattered across the back lawn. The local dogs love my section.

Nothing seems to change for me in Show week. One year it was the shower, another the garage door, then the oven and this year has a fish theme.

I can hardly bring myself to tell you that when I got home after taking my orchids to the Show I discovered that the washing machine had broken down!

I didn't get one prize.

And now I've been made redundant!

Bev O'Dowda

Continued from page 92:
"Letter to the Editor"

growing - if it is not in the book - they don't want to know. Most are not in any way prepared to risk their precious plants in experiments. If only more WOULD experiment and furthermore submit their findings to their Society's news-sheet journal, there would be more happy Editors and hopefully more knowledgeable growers. I can well imagine the response to my article when it appears in print. "Horse manure - for orchids? Ugh! Whatever next!"

J.A. Gulliver
England

It is great to receive this letter from an English reader. I am sure many readers will be interested in your experience with this new medium which has raised many eyebrows amongst established growers.

Editor.

Don't forget . . .

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A History of Orchid Badges in New Zealand New Zealand Orchid Society

This begins a series of articles tracing the history of our orchid societies and their badges. Actually, as it turns out orchid badge collecting is not all that new. Thankfully there are many "Clayton" collectors who have been saving badge mementoes from past conferences and various orchid societies for a number of years, as many as 35 in some cases.

As our oldest society THE NEW ZEALAND ORCHID SOCIETY (INC) has a rich history. On April 22nd 1948 eighteen people met, having been called together by the secretary of the Auckland Horticultural Society with the view to forming an orchid society. On May 12th 1948 the election of officers took place.

A society badge figured prominently in the scheme of things it seems, for the fourth batch of society badges is mentioned in the *N.Z. Orchid Review* in March 1958!

To date three different dies have been used. The first, a *Cattleya* design, exploded after much use. As you can see in fig. 1. the three *Cattleya* look quite different yet each badge was produced from No. 1 die. Fig. 2. and fig. 3. show the badges when the die was very new. Compare



Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 2

these with the veining in the *Cattleya* petals in the leading logo. The veining tends to disappear as the die wears.

The second die using a *Cymbidium* design has been around for many years. Fig. 4. The badges released for the 13th W.O.C. in Auckland in 1990 were made from particular die, and for the first time were finished with a clear resin.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

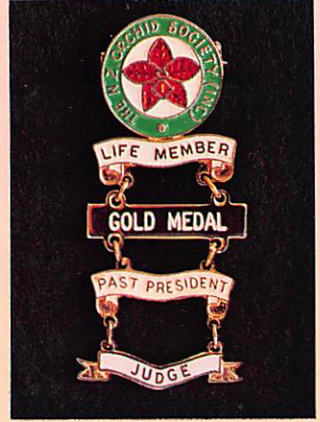


Fig. 6

Badges from the third die were first introduced around the time of the 14th W.O.C. in Glasgow in 1993. These look very much like the original *Cattleya* design but have the clear resin finish. Fig. 5. (centre).

Badges of Office such as Past Presidents and Secretary are also valued. As orchid judging became established, a badge to identify the qualified members was struck as well. Fig. 5.

Those who have served the Society well over many years have been forgotten. The ultimate is the badge and four Bars. Fig. 4 & 6. Five of these very special badges exist at present time. The Medal of Achievement Fig. 7. is handsome but large at 56mm so as Figs. 4 & 6 show a simple "Gold Medal" recognition bar is presented simultaneously. There are differences as

can be expected between one Four-Bar badge and another. The other long service award is the "Life Member" badge. Fig. 8.

Occasionally one issue can look very much like another so the badge-backs become an important part of the identification process for cataloguing. Clasps have altered markedly from the unsophisticated bent pin arrangement to the safety-feature types of the modern-day badges. Sometimes a badge-maker identification-mark or some other feature will help to confirm the correct position in a badge line-up. The most valuable of all though is the feed-back from members' and a Society's well kept records.

Summing up, we have three dies with the first two being used a number of times resulting in a slightly different "look" and almost always with a colour

variation each time as well. Die number three has been used only once to date.

Article: Heather Crofskey
Photography: Val Bayliss



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

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But Tut! Tut! Tut!

Sir,

Hey! What a wonderful achievement by Morris Almersten in flowering her *Dendrobium* as reported by a proud friend in this column in Volume 20 No. 1. Well done and accolades also to Audrey Bennet for taking the initiative to bring this success to our notice. Perhaps others will make similar moves to help brighten the pages, since bashful owners are often reluctant to raise the issue of their own successes.

Amongst other things this example proves that one doesn't have to have a glasshouse to succeed with even the tricky specimens because orchids are very forgiving and don't all need a lot of fuss.

Just try to imagine the situation. Here we have a species conditioned to tolerate exposure to the sun of Burma and Thailand imprisoned in a house in Otago of all places for six days of the week, taken outside by the busy owner on Saturday morning, given a hosing down presumably with the car, then a feed, is hung up to dry, presumably with the washing and after all this, blooms in exultation! Sir, there IS no justice.

But, (and there is a big BUT) in recording the story you have fallen into the trap cunningly devised by the naming botanist to trip unwary players. If my deductions are correct the plant in question is not the notorious and mythical *D. thrysiflorum* but *D.*

thrysiflourm. On the first occasion I blamed a forgivable typing error, but it is repeated threzs (whoops! sorry) thrice, which almost makes it indelible in impressionable minds.

My sensitivity to this widely dispersed spelling error was heightened some years ago when our unsuspecting newsletter editor innocently made the same mistake when reporting a wonderful specimen displayed at our show by Norm and Dot Porter. The correction which probably came via fastpost from Dot had the same dramatic effect on our members as I recall the 'THWACK' of the teachers ruler on the desk had on our class at primary school. I can just visualise Dot's nostrils flaring as she reads the article. If you haven't already heard from her you had better hurry and print this correction - or else! Too late, I have already been reprimanded!! Editor.

For those with an addiction for reading valuable information which is immediately forgotten, the epithet *thrysiflorum* (try saying that while munching a digestive biscuit) means flowering in *thyrse*s or - having flowers in a compact, egg-shaped panicle. A good one-word description, I think you will agree.

And so, Sir, while congratulating Mavis on her wonderful success, perhaps we should respectfully suggest that when the washing is dry next Saturday, she should take the opportunity of correcting her label, together with every other grower who is perpetuating the error. Oh! And perhaps they could go one step further by explaining the error to the person from whom the plant was obtained. Good Samaritans, that's what I like.

In the meantime, sir, I just hope you have the



(Dendrobium superbum X parishii)
Grower: Sherlock Orchids.

memory section of your word processor otherwise you will most assuredly incur *'The Wrath of Dot.'*

George Fuller
26/3/94

*My knuckles are rapped! -
and I have no excuse?*

Editor.

Sir,

Like your correspondent Harry Bennett in the June issue, I too was intrigued by the article on horse manure by van den Bosh in the December '92 issue of **Orchids Australia**. However it was not until reading Harry's article I decided to have a go, but found as he did pure horse manure originating from riding stables is 95% straw and 5% manure. Firstly I was not prepared to separate it and secondly what the heck would I do with all the straw. As Harry had successfully used an organic compost in the beginning I had a look around the local stores and to my delight I found bags of a proprietary brand horse manure compost. On the bag is printed 'A truly organic compost.'

Five 15kg bags were duly delivered to my home and the fun started. Despite the fact it was June, our mid-summer, over 100 plants were transferred to the new medium in a furious and lengthy potting session. Complete madness maybe, but we

have an old saying which states 'nothing ventured - nothing gained.'

A warning on the compost bag did state it was not suitable for ericaceous subjects, thereby indicating the compost was alkaline in content. No problem, as I gave the pots a thorough wash through initially and as I possess both conductivity and pH meters I ensured subsequent feeds were low strength and had a pH value around 5.5.

The plants repotted comprise a good variety of genera including Cymbidiums, Odont. alliance, Vuylstekearas, Aussie Dendrobe hybrids, *Sarcochilus*, *Laelia*, *Brassia*, *Rhyncolaelia* (*Brassavola*), *Promenaea*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Epidendrum* and *Zygopetalum*. After four months no plants are showing any signs of distress, in fact on some I notice aerial roots are entering the compost which must surely be a good sign. I must confess I have not been watering the plants twice a day - nor once a day. Our late summer and autumn has been particularly cold, wet and windy, in fact September was the coldest for 40 years. I have only watered once a week. Even so, testing the pots after a week with a moisture meter I have found it still gives a maximum reading.

I first started growing orchids approaching 40 years ago when osmunda fibre and sphagnum moss was the order of the day - and when fertiliser was a dirty work in orchid culture. There is no doubt osmunda and sphagnum was an excellent medium for all genera and gave good results. Just one snag, repotting was a tedious task and resulted in many broken clay pots when the last was of compost was forced in. The final test was to lift the plant by its leaves - if the pot came up as well you knew you had repotted successfully. If not, then you started all over again.

Today numerous varieties of potting medium are used worldwide. In fact it would appear most growers have their own particular recipe. I have yet to find one which can be successfully used on all genera. Dare I hope horse manure is the answer to a maiden's (?) prayer? I look forward to reading Harry's promised update in the not too distant future.

I have written an article on the subject for our Society's journal but I very much doubt many members will try the experiment. In my opinion most amateurs are very staid in their approach to orchid

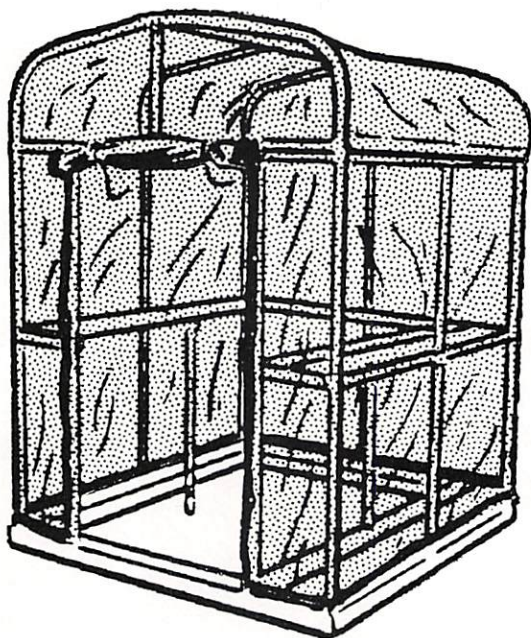
Continued on page 85...



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SOBRALIAS — COMPETITION FOR CATTLEYAS

Sobralia is, according to Schlechter, a genus of about 60 species, in the American tropics. We believe that, following a critical revision of the component entities of the group, this number would be materially reduced, perhaps to no more than 25 valid species, with several varietal forms. Such a revision has long been needed, but due to the extreme difficulties encountered when working with this genus, it will doubtless be some time before an enterprising taxonomist undertakes such an exasperating project.

These orchids are, however, despite their botanical complexities, among the most magnificent of all the multitudinous members of this family of plants. Certainly in few genera of the Orchidaceae, not even the flamboyant Cattleyas, do we encounter such exquisite form, colouration and texture of blossoms as in *Sobralia*. The majority of the known species are terrestrial in habit. A few brief notes on this neglected genus is appropriate.

Sobralia as a genus dates from the year 1794, when it was established by the Spaniards Ruiz and Pavon. The original species was *S. dichotoma*, a superb plant known from Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and probably elsewhere. It is, although now rather

aberrant within its genus, one of the largest of all orchidaceous plants; Lindley, in discussing the species, writes: "This is the finest of the genus, six to eight feet high according to Linden, from twelve to even twenty feet high, forming impenetrable thickets, according to Poppig, with stems resembling those of Bamboos." The foliage of this species, as is typical of virtually the entire group, is rather dry in appearance, dull or slightly bright green, and definitely folded or plicate. The flowers, which appear singly over a long period of time from an apical bracted inflorescence, reach a length of 75 mm, and are typically deep lustrous rose, with a somewhat lighter lip. This plant, called *Flor del Paraiso* in

Peru, has almost excessively fragrant flowers, the perfume having been likened to that of wallflowers or heady jasmine. Regrettably, like almost all of these fine plants, these blossoms last only a very few days (at most under a week) when left on the spike, though we have found that by picking them as soon as they open — generally in the morning hours — their life expectancy many be considerably increased.

Sobralia rosea P. & E. from Colombia and Ecuador, is another large-growing species with 75 mm perfumed light rose-violet or dull-violet blossoms, which have a white and magenta lip. The plants attain a height of almost 2.5 metres in robust phases, and

generally grow at high elevations (8000 feet and more) in the Andes, hence must be given a rather cool situation while being grown. The culture of this species is rather characteristic of the entire genus, so we should perhaps dwell briefly on it here.

Primary among the cultural requirements of these orchids is the rule: **do not disturb!** It has long been apparent that flowers are not produced until the plants are very well-established at least for two or three years in the same pot. They appear to delight in a tightly pot-bound condition and grow best in a well-drained compost of about $\frac{1}{3}$ decayed osmunda fibre, $\frac{1}{3}$ old sphagnum, and $\frac{1}{3}$ dried manure. Since they do not possess pseudobulbs for storage of moisture, they should receive considerable water at all times, particularly while the new growths are forming, and should never be allowed to dry out completely. Liberal applications of manure water are beneficial while the plants are in active growth, and the specimens should be given a rather sunny situation at all times, though care should be taken not to burn the often rather delicate foliage. Repotting should occur only when the plants are too tightly encased in their containers to permit further extension of the

growths, and not before. If further compost is needed, due to deterioration of the old medium, it should be carefully tucked in around the roots, disturbing them as little as possible.

In Panama, where the majority of the species seem to occur, we find another truly majestic species, *Sobralia leucoxantha* Rchb. f. (also known from Costa Rica). This fine plant, grows to about 1.8 metres tall, and bears white flowers, the lip marked with yellow or orange in the throat.

In Williams' revision of the genus in Panama, sixteen species are listed as native to that country, of these, *S. panamensis* Schltr. is certainly among the prettiest. It is another large plant, often epiphytic in habit, with flowers varying in colour from purple to white.

Among the most commonly seen members of this genus in cultivation is *Sobralia macrantha* Ldl., known from Mexico and Guatemala, where it is apparently often rather common in some areas. It is a very large plant, to 2.5 metres or more, and among the most easily cultivated of the group. The marvellous flowers reach a diameter of almost 300 mm, and are typically rose or magenta-rose, with a darker lip, marked with yellow or gold in the

tubular throat. When cut from the plant, it is virtually impossible to tell one of these flowers, at a distance at least, from a fine *Cattleya*.

Many additional *Sobralias* are known to science, though they are seldom seen in collections today, due doubtless to their impressive and space-consuming size, and to the fugaciousness of the flowers. When in bloom, however, these truly aristocratic orchids can successfully vie with any plant in the family, and even furnish serious competition to the proud frilled *Cattleyas* and their ilk. ◀

A. D. H.

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Sobralia macrantha

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 1994

DATE	SOCIETY	VENUE, ADDRESS
July 6,7,8,9,10	NEW ZEALAND	Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland
July 17	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavilion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
Aug 13,14	KAPITI	Kapiti Senior Citizens Centre, Ocean Road, Papaparumu Beach
Sept 1,2,3,4	WHANGAREI	Forum North Centre, Whangarei
Sept 3,4	HOWICK	All Saints Church Hall, Cook Street, Howick, Auckland
Sept 9,10,11	HAWKE'S BAY	Hastings Girls High School
Sept 9,10	HIBISCUS COAST	Community Hall, Orewa
Sept 10,11	SOUTH AUCKLAND	Papakura Community Centre, Great South Road, Papakura
Sept 10,11	SOUTH CANTERBURY	Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru
Sept 14,15,16,17,18	NEW ZEALAND	Mr Albert War Memorial Hall, New North Road, Mt Albert, Auckland
Sept 17,18	LEVIN	Horowhenua College Hall, Weraroa Road, Levin
Sept 17,18	ROTORUA	Soundshell, Lake Front, Rotorua
Sept 16,17,18	TAURANGA	Greerton Hall, Cameron Road, Tauranga
Sept 23,24,25	TARANAKI	St Josephs Hall, Devon Street, New Plymouth
Sept 24,25	MANAWATU	Convention Centre, Main Street, Palmerston North
Sept 30, Oct 1,2	NORTH SHORE	Browns Bay Community Centre, Bute Road, Browns Bay, Auckland
Sept 30, Oct 1,2	WAIKATO	Chartwell Seminar Room, Hamilton Gardens Pavilion, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
Oct 1,2	TAUPO	Great Lakes Centre, Tongorio Street, Taupo
Oct 1,2	WANGANUI	Wanganui City College, Ingestre Street, Wanganui
Oct 7,8	DANNEVIRKE	St Josephs Church Hall, Allardice Street, Dannevirke
Oct 15,16	WAIKATO	McGregor Hall, Workop Road, Masterton

All societies are offered the free listing of their current years show dates.

Please ensure accurate and full information is forwarded if this listing is to be of maximum use.

Details must be received by the Editor as follows to guarantee inclusion in the issue noted:-

ISSUE	REQUIRED BY	ISSUE	REQUIRED BY
March	1 January	September	1 July
June	1 April	December	1 October

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will be held with the annual Taupo Orchid Society Field Days
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to celebrate the official opening of the

Iwitahi Native Orchid Reserve and Heritage Park

by the Hon Simon Upton, Minister for the Environment.

Offers of papers and registration enquiries should be directed to
Trevor Nicholls, 33 Hinekura Ave, TAUPO. Phone: (07) 3784813

Something Different

Cochlioda noezliana



The Cochlioda genus comprises 5 species, natives of South American Andes. They are natives of the cloud forest, growing at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,500 metres. The species *noezliana* has been quite widely used to introduce and intensify red colouration within the Odontoglossum alliance.