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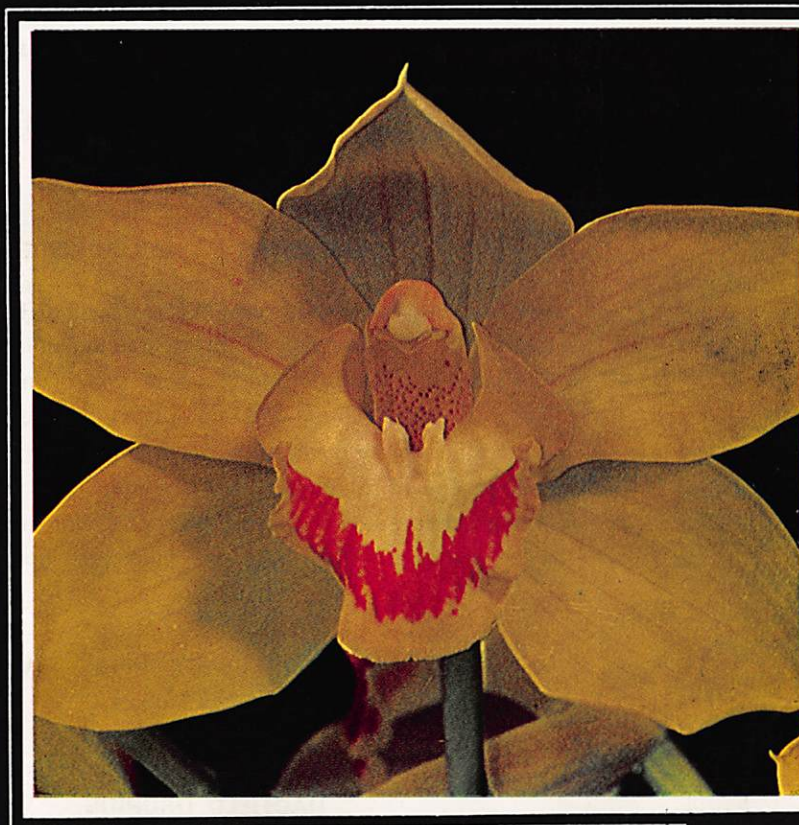
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ORCHIDS IN NEW ZEALAND



January-February, 1978

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CHILOGLOTTIS

by Jim Forrest, Te Puke

Chiloglottis gets its name from cheilos, a lip and glossa, a tongue which refers to the shape of the labellum. Last time we had Insect Orchids (Acianthus), this time its bird orchids. If you've seen them flowering, you'll see how apt the name is, as they just look like birds peering from a nest.

A small genus of seven species, all Australian of which two extend to New Zealand. Ironically the common species *C. cornuta* is very difficult to grow in Australia where as I've found it easy. Apparently this genus has few flowers in Australia also in proportion to the number of plants. At present I grow three other species and find they flower freely. One odd thing about the Australian species is no matter how deep a pot I use, the tubers always finish up in the drainage at the bottom by the end of the year.

Chiloglottis have two opposite leaves light green in colour close to the ground. Quite large they are usually about 5cm long by 1-2 cm wide. I have one plant collected in the Kaimanawas however which is larger than the usual, but its best feature is the leaves which are dark green and veined much like a jewel orchid.

Tubers are oval about 1 cm long. Long white roots run out from the tuber some distance and new tubers form on the end of these roots. This takes place quite late in the season so be careful if lifting a plant as it is easy to lose them.

Flowers, as a rule, two per stem, green and hooded. Several centimetres above the leaves and after flowering elongate as much as four times.

C. Cornuta is very common throughout the country, nearly always in swamps or damp places.

Grows in large colonies, sometimes in thousands or at least so in Southland. Flowers between October and late February.

C. formicera — apparently found only in North Auckland. My plants came from Australia. It is smaller than *C. cornuta* but its fascination lies in the fact that it is pollinated by

pseudo copulation in the same way as *Cryptostylis*.

Cultivation

Leafmould and sand to give a free draining mix. Wide pans are best because of its habit of sending out long roots. Must not dry out during growth or the plant will collapse. Res ponds well as do most terrestrials to foliar feeding with dilute fertilisers. Like many of the smaller orchids the main enemy is aphids and mealy bug. I get rid of these with cotton wool and meths or an atomiser and meths.



FROM HAWKE'S BAY ORCHID SOCIETY

At the October meeting Mr. N. R. C. (Noel) Wilson was made a Life Member. Noel Wilson, a retired Hastings chemist, was one of the founders of the H.B.O.S. and its inaugural President. He served on the Committee until last year when he stood down to take a well-earned rest. Noel is well known for his wide knowledge on culture and sprays. Many of our present-day orchid growers owe much to his generosity and guidance in their early years as a grower. One of his proteges is Andrew Easton who named some of his best seedlings 'Noel Wilson'. Noel has in his collection many plants that originally were divisions of some of H. G. Alexander's famous stock.

Another important presentation was made by the H.B.O.S. in October; at the Spring Show, the John Easton Award was presented for the first time — to that stalwart among orchid growers, Mr. Albert Blackmore of North Shore. Mr. Blackmore sets a high standard for future recipients to emulate. He must have felt honoured when a large contingent of fellow orchidists from North Shore accompanied him to Hastings to receive his award from the hands of Andrew Easton who had made the trip from U.S.A. especially for this occasion.

FERTILISER:

1. A bumble bee or blowfly;
2. A regular topic for the monthly meeting when the programme Committee can't think of anything else;
3. Various chemicals which the experts will tell you to put on or near your weeds.

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Editor: Mr. G. Boon, 30B Waiwaka Terrace, New Plymouth

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CORAKI 'MARGARET' B/CSA, HCC/AOS.

by Andy Easton, Santa Barbara, U.S.A.

It was a cold late May day in 1972 when I first saw Coraki 'Margaret' in bloom at Norm Porter's greenhouse in Waikanae. The brilliant yellow spray of flowers with bold red contrasting lips made a very vivid impression. My initial reaction was that here was the finest yellow diploid Cymbidium in the world, in Waikanae, New Zealand, of all places. Upon closer acquaintance, I am convinced there are none finer.

Coraki was a Wondabah cross of Wyalong 'Wondabah' x Alnwick Castle 'Brentwood' registered in 1967. Other outstanding clones in the cross, 'Daffodil' and 'Nora' both are establishing good reputations in Australia. Despite the prophesies of some hybridizers that Alnwick Castle 'Brentwood' would prove a disappointing parent, it does seem to have vindicated itself in several recent crosses with both diploids and tetraploids.

When judged at the 1976 Santa Barbara show, Coraki 'Margaret' had bloomed on a 2 bulb division brought from New Zealand only 18 months earlier. It was sufficiently outstanding to overcome the normal stigma attached to cut sprays. Although damaged in transit, the plant was again exhibited at the 1977 Santa Barbara show where it created intense interest.

Should we consider Coraki 'Margaret' the finest yellow diploid Cymbidium in the world? There are some strong reasons. It was the only diploid standard Cymbidium awarded by the Cymbidium Society at the 1976 Santa Barbara show, on a point scale which makes no allowances for diploids in competition with tetraploids and triploids. The plant is very vigorous and consistently blooms on both sides of each new growth, with an added bonus that it will even bloom on previous seasons' bulbs for up to 3 years. It has a very bright yellow colour even when grown in subdued light and the bold tomato red lip is an eye-catching contrast. In addition, its strong early-blooming tendencies means that often there will be a spike in full bloom by mid-December in the U.S.A.



Norman Porter with his awards and Coraki 'Margaret'.

Photo by Barbara Matthews.

Despite published predictions that "diploids are dead", we confidently predict that good diploid Cymbidiums will become extremely expensive and much in demand as hybridizers realise their increasing scarcity. In fact the only crosses we have attempted with Coraki 'Margaret' have been to other diploids. Currently there are seedling flasks coming along from crosses with Claude Pepper 'Coburg', Greenstone 'Coburg', and Tapestry 'Cherry City'. Another crossing with the brilliant yellow Peetie 'Golden Harvest', of Orchids by Rowe, has been treated with colchicine and will hopefully yield some superb new early-blooming yellow tetraploids. We also have a

THOSE SEDUCTIVE SLIPPERS

John E. Wilson

Nearly ten years ago, Kunanari Tokagawa, artist son of a prince and Dean of Japanese orchid growers, wrote these words about paphiopedilums:—

"They are void of gorgeous colours, but rich in neutral tints; they are refined and glossy and have a special beauty and are graceful; we never grow weary of gazing at them; they are of the Orient and are congenial to Japanese minds."

The great demand for Paphiopedilums in Japan, and the very high prices reportedly paid for selected varieties in that country attest to the accuracy of Mr. Tokagawa's words.

But it is not in the Orient alone that Paphiopedilums are popular. Throughout the orchid world in recent years they seem to have been winning new friends more rapidly than any other genus.

"Why should this be so?" the newcomer often wonders; why should anyone want to grow those rather drab, even ugly paphiopedilums when he could just as easily produce strikingly coloured Cattleya blossom or decorative sprays of Cymbidiums or Odontoglossums.

These questions are hardly surprising. Few people are captivated by Paphiopedilums at first sight. In fact a taste for 'slippers' is much like a taste for fine wine, it has to be cultivated. But once acquired, that taste is seldom lost.

What is there about Paphiopedilums you may ask that they should have cast their spell over so many orchid growers.

They can of course lay claim to several obvious virtues. They require little space, grow easily, have attractive foliage, flower readily, bloom when many other orchids are not in flower, are relatively free from insects and disease and adapt themselves to a variety of growing conditions.

But to the true Paphiopedilum lover, the great charm of these flowers lies in the almost

infinite variety of form and colour and pattern, all with the grace and refinement and special beauty that intrigued the artist Mr. Tokagawa.

If you have never grown Paphiopedilums may I suggest that you try a few. Like many other orchids they grow best in a glasshouse but they can also be grown in a bush house, or in the house under artificial light, or in the natural light coming through a window.

For your first Paphiopedilums select plants that seem to be growing vigorously and pot them in a medium that is loose enough to provide good aeration but compact enough to retain moisture.

They do not like to dry out completely but they are not water lilies.

To get more specific advice about selecting varieties of Paphiopedilums, pots, potting media and growing conditions suitable for the area where you live, talk to a friend who raises Paphiopedilums, or to a commercial grower, as most of these people will be delighted to get you started.

I am certain though: be careful or you too may be lured away by the siren song of the Paphiopedilum.

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towards the back of the house (or side, depending on its angle on your section). Those which like sun and light, place to the front. A good general guide for shading is to slide an open hand slowly across and just above your orchids on a sunny day, there should be little if any extra shading created on the plants. Also remember that a small glasshouse heats up very quickly with the sun and the humidity drops just as quickly. Because of this a small house is harder to manage than a larger one.

STATEMENT OF THE YEAR . . .
HAPPINESS IS — GROWING ORCHIDS

BEATING THE BUGS

by Janet Mendoza, Lower Hutt.

This year, for the first time, my little 10' x 6' glasshouse has suffered a severe infestation of mealybug, which I first noticed in January after returning from a month overseas. They affected Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums, and later, hard cane Dendrobiums, but seemed to despise the Cattleyas.

I started by spot-treating with methylated spirits, but lost ground rapidly, and reverted to Malathion and white oil. This rapidly abolished all blooms while apparently holding the beasts at bay throughout autumn, but as the bad weather got worse, 'flu struck several times and my spraying programme collapsed. I lost Paph HELLAS 'Westonbirt' from mealy bug infestation, and with the cessation of spraying, mites appeared on the few Phalaenopsis flowers that struggled forth. Back we went to poisonous combinations of Malathion, Lindane and white oil, until it seemed the spraying was having a worse effect on me than on the bugs.

A few weeks ago it suddenly dawned on me that since Shell Vapona Peststrips had disappeared from my grocer's shelves last September or so, I had not hung one in the glasshouse. They last about four months so all protection from my last purchase would have been gone by January. Phone calls to Shell established that they were available from Shell

Service Stations (at about twice last year's price, of course) and one was hung within hours. By the end of the week all adult mealy bugs were either dead or dying, there were no mites in evidence on the blooms, and even the recently arrived aphids lay in sticky little heaps on the Epidendrums.

Now, a month later, the only life in the glasshouse is plant life and me, a most desirable state of affairs.

RECENTLY RECEIVED

OAK HILL GARDENS of Dundee, Illinois, U.S.A., is run by Herman and Dorothy Pigors and specialises in Orchids, Bromeliads and exotic flowering and foliage pot plants. Approximately half their catalogue is given over to orchids. There are no colour plates or illustrations and the catalogue consists of an alphabetical list of species, with hybrids of the commoner genera included. Most plants are advertised as being in 3-5 inch pots and prices range from \$2.50 upwards, although \$45.00 was the highest noticed. There was a good assortment of Cattleya seedlings at reasonable prices also of Phalaenopsis and Dendrobiums. No details are given regarding Foreign Shipments and I suspect a blanket mailing to all American Orchid Society members was responsible for my receiving a copy.

J. Mendoza.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

This section is for the use of amateur growers only. Trade your surplus back bulbs and divisions for profit and pleasure. Please reply direct to the addresses given as no correspondence will be entered into by the Editor or magazine staff. Fifty cents for each advertisement, limited to 18 words.

WANTED TO BUY or exchange for Cattleya seedlings: Division or backbulb of Cymbidium Astronaut 'Rajah', Cymbidium Fanfare 'St Francis' 4n, Coelogyne pandurata and Odonoglossum grande. Write: E. Lander, R.D. 12, Hawera.

cross with Coraki 'Margaret' and Dag 'Little Jewel' to see what it will do for 'midis'.

As we eagerly await the first blooming of seedlings from Coraki 'Margaret' our anticipation also increases for the flowering of Coraki 'Margaret' 4n. We are confident that the tetraploid form has higher awards in its future and as the only New Zealand raised clone to gain award recognition in the U.S.A., it already is something of a legend. All orchid hybridizers are gamblers and we would bet that some of the progeny of Coraki 'Margaret' will gain the additional distinction of being the first Cymbidiums, hybridised and raised in New Zealand, to gain overseas awards.

LAELIA ANCEPS

by J. G. Jackson, Palmerston North

The Laelia are widely spread throughout South and Central America and are closely related to the Cattleya having similar flowers with generally narrower petals and sepals.

Laelia anceps is a cool growing orchid flowering in N.Z. in April or May. The flowers are about 10cm across with normally 3 or 4 to a stem which is about 60cm tall. The normal colour is a rosy pink with a rich crimson purple lip. Being widely spread in nature, colour varies a lot—in fact Sanders 1927 Manual lists 27 named varieties.

L. anceps comes from Mexico and enjoys cool conditions. It flowers at the end of the seasons growth and a decided winter rest in strong light is essential. Laelias will normally take more light than Cattleyas throughout the year.

The potting mix should be open and free draining. These plants do not like to be repotted too often.

Like many cool house orchids these plants will also grow well (perhaps better) under warmer intermediate conditions but the cool winter rest will then be even more important.

DENDROBIUM NOBILE

Dendrobiums are a large member of the Orchid family with many species (estimated to be over 1600) and extending throughout South East Asia from Japan and Korea in the North

through China, India and the Malaysian Peninsula to Australia and as far South as New Zealand where we have one solitary species—*D. cunninghamii*.

Dendrobium nobile is a very variable plant growing wild over a large area of India and South East Asia. The pseudobulbs are ½-1 metre tall with broad leaves alternating up the full length of the cane. The plants are deciduous in that leaves are shed from the canes after the second season and flowers are then produced in spring on the same canes.

They like strong light conditions during the summer and during the autumn and winter period maximum light is essential to ensure the canes are well ripened for flowering.

The 8mm flowers are mauve and white with a deeper mauve blotch in the lip, but individual plants vary a lot in shape and colour of flowers. They are produced in groups of two or three up the canes opposite each leaf axil. When flowering well they will produce blooms right up the top half of the cane.

Plants need ample warmth and moisture throughout the summer growing season but flowering will be disappointing unless they receive a decided rest in winter. A cool (10 degrees) dry winter rest is necessary from the time the terminal leaf appears (around Anzac day) until you are sure that the buds are flowers and not new growth (about August). These plants have a disconcerting habit of providing new plants instead of flowers if too much moisture is given during the resting period. This is one way of getting more plants but not every year!!!

This drying out process should be carried out even if you have canes which are not fully grown as they will carry on and complete their growth the next season. Don't be concerned if some shrivelling occurs as long as this is not on the current years growths. If the new canes start to shrivel your resting is a little too severe and some water or more ventilation can be given. The canes will plump up quickly with a little water.

Many interesting hybrids have been made over the years and of recent times the Yamamoto strain of hybrids has been causing much excitement.

GOING TO THE CONFERENCE?

by M. & H. Wilson, Devonport, Auckland.

Bangkok:

Interesting and with increasing fascination as each day passed. So much to see in the little time the tourist has.

After a short flight from Singapore, we arrived in Bangkok to be met by a smiling courier from Thos. Cook Pty., and immediately our luggage came through the Customs, he ushered us into a taxi and we were transferred to the Indra Regent Hotel, one of the new modern hotels with 500 rooms, 4 restaurants, swimming pool etc. Outside the front door a natural oriental bazaar. The back door opens into an air conditioned arcade of 200 boutiques open until 9 p.m. and full of so many tempting things.

Bangkok, Thailand, a land of contrasts, of friendliness, medley of past and present. Narrow streets, hardly wide enough for one motor vehicle, lead into wide modern boulevards, filled with an endless jam of cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, often with pillion passengers, three wheel bicycles (rickshaws) and their passengers, two wheel bicycles and pedestrians—miss one another only by inches, when they "duck and dive" to get in the front line. If in a motor car, just sit patiently and watch the world go by.

Tiny food shops are side by side with colourful gift shops and department stores. Stalls loaded with fruit and the necessities of daily life cramp the narrow pavements with men and women cooking over their woks.

Bargain in the markets—it is expected. But be ready to be hassled to buy. At first we found it overpowering when closely surrounded by sellers and sometimes missed a bargain with vigorously shaking the head and forcing our way out of the circle. Such bargaining is not in the shopping complexes and arcades, where most shops have fixed prices, but are often agreeable to a reasonable discount.

Do not spend all your time within the city boundary. There are many interesting places

outside. Waterways play an important part in the life of Bangkok. Paddling down leaf strewn (water hyacinth) rivers and canals shopping at neighbourhood floating markets, gazing on the jetty homes perched over the water and passing the floating houseboats. Many children go to school and workers in the city use the river bus. Men and women unconcernedly use the river for their ablutions. Rain water is collected in huge stone jars and kept for drinking and cooking.

You will see silk being woven on hand looms and other craftsmen at work. Thai women are modest in their dress.

Hanging baskets of orchids and other flowers adorn the jetty homes—showing their preference for the humid conditions, with water flowing beneath. Orchids do not abound in plenty in the city streets, but along the canals and riversides you see the Vandas with other plants. We did not have an opportunity to explore the bush to see them growing in natural habitat. We understand this will be possible for visitors to the Conference in January.

We spent a delightful morning with Phairot Lenavat in his nursery. The glorious colours and mass display of Vandas in bloom is something we will always remember. It was hard to choose the few we could bring home with us and finally left the decision to Phairot Lenavat. Before leaving New Zealand, we obtained a permit to import a few orchids. With this and the parcel sealed and stamped at Phairot Lenavat's nursery, there was no difficulty in getting them through New Zealand Customs. Anyone intending to bring home a few orchids should obtain a permit before leaving New Zealand and to buy only from registered exporting nurseries, where one can be sure plants are healthy.

(Mr. Phairot Lenavat is a keen sea-shell collector, and would be very pleased to correspond with collectors in New Zealand.)

CULTURE NOTES JANUARY-FEBRUARY

by Bruce Douglas of Kawerau.

A Happy New Year to all orchid growers. May 1978 be a great year for you both in health and with orchids.

Many of you by now will have started your holidays and others will be taking them soon. To all you folk I trust you have made or will make suitable arrangements for your plants during this period. There seems no point as I see it, growing plants well during the rest of the year and then giving them a holiday while you have yours. May I respectfully suggest you develop that mean streak and keep them working over the whole year; it is just not good enough to get someone to throw a bit of water at them as they think fit. Surely you have someone (or you should have) interested enough to carry on during holidays or sickness etc. in a proficient manner.

Growth:

Most orchids will now be in full growth so give them everything you can to boost that maximum development. This will mean you must carry on with your feeding—no slacking off as the holidays pass. Orchids are gross feeders so little and often with your formula is much better than that feast and famine exercise often carried out as memory dictates. Don't feed a dry pot, water it first.

Pests:

These "big and little pesties" are still able to breed prolifically so there can be no let up. Keep on top of them always, for I believe that for every one we see there are many more unseen—these are the dangerous ones. Check with your local Orchid Society and see what is about in your area at this time of the year and what is best to control them.

Propagations:

I expect your backbulbs etc. are shooting well now and making roots in all directions. Just to refresh your memory may I state that propagations do not need potting until their young shoots are just starting to show their own roots, then you can pot them into your favourite mix. Be careful not to damage those

young roots. It could well be necessary to stake your backbulbs in some way to stop any movement. Make sure you put a label in each pot WITH THE CORRECT NAME. Further data could be its parentage and date of potting should you so wish. Water to keep the mixture nicely moist—not wet—not dry. Plastic pots will not need as much water as clay pots. As the propagations develop they can be treated more and more like your adult plants.

Watering:

This will be about the most drying period of the year. Therefore you must watch your watering; be sure that you are giving each plant enough. Once a pot full of roots becomes dry, it is quite hard to get moisture right through the pot again. In such a case it may be advisable to place the plant in a tub of water until air bubbles stop rising, then lift out and leave to drain.

Humidity:

This is something you will need to watch. Keep it up, not down. This is usually done by damping down—a process of squirting water over benches and floors. I am quite sure in my mind that a light misting of water over the plants (not flowers) is also beneficial and especially so at this time of the year. As well as refreshing the plants after a hot dry day it certainly helps to keep red spider at bay. I know that some folk argue you can not spray water over orchids as it causes growths to rot. If this happens then it is my belief that you are not growing your orchids correctly. I have grown over 400 different orchids covering a wide range of genera, species and hybrids and all were hosed overhead. Well don't they have rain on them in the wild?

Shading:

The sun will be at its strongest soon, if not now, so make sure you have adequate shading. Most of the plants will need shading but a few species take quite a lot of sun. Those requiring most shade can be placed

have to mist the leaves 2-3 times a day, otherwise once per day will suffice. Some growers that I know mist the leaves on alternate days with a very weak fertilizer solution to which has been added a drop of 'Formula 20'.

When you notice that the old roots have started to grow again or new roots appear from the base of the new growth you can start normal watering. Half strength fertilizer can also be applied once per week, you may also move the plants into stronger light.

If you happen to get a fungus attack in community pots you must quickly separate all the sound plants from the affected ones and wash them in a fungicide and spread them out on a plate to dry for 24 hours then repot them into fresh potting mixture; after which be very careful with the water. Generally you get fungus trouble when the roots are kept wet or when the agar has not been properly washed off.

If you observe the above simple rules you should have no difficulty in deflasking orchids.

HADFIELD ORCHIDS

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FISH EMULSION

by Lorenz F. Mezzera, California, U.S.A.

What is Fish Emulsion

It is the water soluble part of raw sea-going fish which has been condensed to a thickened liquid for the purposes of stabilisation and for economy of transportation.

How is it made?

Fish is made up of three basic components: first, flesh and bones; second, fats; and third, water. The fish is ground and then allowed to separate by specific gravity; it settles into three segments. Through compression, liquids are removed from the flesh and bones — the insoluble solids — which are then dried and ground; this is fish meal, and excellent food for poultry and livestock.

The second component — the fats — produces fish oil which is a very fine lubricant.

The balance of the fish, after the removal of the flesh, bones and fats, is water (about 75% of the total weight). Scientific research discovered that fish water — or stick water as it is known in the trade — has great nutritive value. A plant, same as a human, can only absorb food into its blood stream if it is water-soluble. Since fish water is water-soluble it can go to work at once and does not require any breakdown or digestion. It contains the essential elements of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and practically every trace or minor element known to mankind.

In the process of evaporation by means of a partial vacuum and low heat, the fish water is gradually reduced to a thickened concentrate. Why is this necessary? First, for stabilisation of product; and second, for economy of transportation. It is a peculiarity of chemistry that sufficient concentration will actually inhibit bacterial action.

Like the old country doctor who prescribed or doled out little pink pills for almost every ailment, Fish Emulsion Fertilizer can be used on practically every plant — alter the dilution to fit the feeding habits or requirements of the particular plant. It's safe, will not burn, and is easy to use — 1 tablespoon to a gallon of water, this brings the material back almost to its original state or volume prior to concentration.

Bangkok has grown more modern and cosmopolitan in the last fifteen years, still retains much of its original charm. On the riverside are many orchid nurseries—surrounded by bamboo fences. Travelling in the long-tailed speed boats, which I found a little nerve racking, as they bumped and rocked, passing boats laden with foodstuffs and delivering to riverside homes.

The heart of this city—built by King Rama I, in the eighteenth century with his palace and temples, is a must for a visit. Many times we were told it was here Anna met the King of Siam and remained to teach the children of the Court. The Royal Palace, with its Emerald Buddha Temple is magnificent. There are many temples in Thailand to visit, but we must leave their attractions for you to discover. Your impressions may differ from ours.

Older tourists—remembering a film made of the "Bridge over the River Kwai" and the wartime horror of the building of that bridge, may be interested in the day tour to Kwai. Twelve hours in an air conditioned coach, travelling through central plains of rice fields—sugar cane and tapioca fields leading to rubber plantations. Methods of cultivation varied from ploughing with cows and buffaloes to motorised. Women in the fields and on the roads.

A neatly laid out and well kept cemetery, only a short distance from the former prisoner-of-war base camps in Kwai, is one of the three war cemeteries on the notorious Burma-Siam railway and contains 3,771 burials. The courier of the tour was a professor of languages at the Bangkok University. On days when not working there he was engaged as a courier. From him we learnt much about the past and present Thailand.

You may find it difficult to decide on the tours. We hope you will find time with your orchid tours to take the Royal Palace Tour, Floating Market, City of Temples, Boat and Barge Cruise and the Bridge of the River Kwai. You too, will return home with some knowledge of Thailand and wonderful memories of a fascinating land. There are many fine restaurants all serving delicious food. At our hotel and the surrounding arcades the ser-

vice was wonderful. What is more lovely than a posy of Vandas on the breakfast tray, and for a woman to receive the compliment of an orchid corsage each night. The chef sent us a message that the fillet steak came from New Zealand and the head waiter was complimentary when told we too, came from New Zealand. We are sure New Zealanders at the Conference will receive a happy welcome, and we wish we could be with you.

All too soon, we found ourselves packing for home. We had little time for shopping—but we did buy and bring home a few souvenirs and our luggage was a little overweight. This is something we found strict at Singapore Airport, everyone on the plane seemed to have the same trouble, judging by the lineup at the "Overweight" luggage counter. So be prepared and save some cash for that extra charge. (One New Zealand lady was asked for 200 Singapore dollars and had no cash. When we last saw her, she was being ushered into an official office.)

We must compliment Thos. Cook Pty. Ltd. for the wonderful service their representatives gave us. They made travelling a pleasure.

Ladies: Be sure to take a light wrap with you. The air conditioning can be on the cool side and draughty at times. At certain times of the year, temperatures drop in the evenings. A folding umbrella is useful for sudden showers. Cool, comfortable light-weight slacks and tops are practical. Feet swell in the humid heat, so be sure shoes are very comfortable.

We sincerely wish you a happy and enjoyable stay in Thailand.

ILLUSTRATION VERSUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography cannot replace illustrators for several reasons. A camera does not think, it cannot discriminate adequately between a predefined level of pertinence and gross material, and a camera cannot keep the entire field in focus, cannot portray material in depth at a consistent level of intensity and detail.

Cover Photo: Cymbidium Coraki 'Margaret' Photo by courtesy of Andrew Easton of America.

LAMBERT ORCHIDS

(Proprietors: Harry and Bev. Lambert)

53 Wattle Avenue, Hove, South Australia 5048.

Telephone (STD 08) 296 8602

We are pleased to be able to offer for your selection, flasks of Cymbidium seedlings (each containing approximately 25 plantlets); all of which we intend to grow on for our own cut flower market and future showbench winners. We feel that a top showbench orchid is, invariably, a top export orchid and hence our hybridising is aimed at producing, in nearly all crosses, top showbench orchids of the future.

The use of colchicine to convert the ploidy of already known clones and seedlings in their protocorm stage is now well known. However, on checking the offerings being made throughout the world, very few nurseries appear to be offering these colchicine-treated seedlings for sale. Many overseas nurseries in fact do not offer any flask seedlings for sale. The use of colchicine is going to create many beautiful converted tetraploid clones in the next four to five years which we feel, of necessity, will surpass their diploid parents in most departments.

The flask crosses offered are set out below with the price per flask also indicated. (N.B.: freight extra). Flask orders will be received on 1/3 deposit. Delivery of the flasks will be between October 1977 and April 1978 for most crosses.

FLASKS AVAILABLE

N.B.: The letters '+c' indicate that the seedlings have been colchicine treated.

All prices \$Aust.

761.	KATHY LOVELL 'YOWIE BAY' x SLEEPING NYMPH 'HOVE'	+c \$50	The Valley Flower is a tall spiking burgundy coloured polychrome. Expected to produce highly coloured tetraploids of all shades but predominantly pinks, polychromes and the possibility of reds, all of good form and substance.	
763.	KATHY LOVELL 'YOWIE BAY' x ZUMA BOYD 'YOWIE BAY' AM/AOS	+c \$65	7617. HARRY SHEPHERD 'THE PRIZE' HCC/AOC x HAMSEY 'THE GLOBE' AM/RHS	\$40
	Show bench July/August greens and some yellows are expected of award shape; depending on whether the Zuma Boyd carries the pure colour factor, a percentage could be excellent shaped pure colour.		Expected to produce white, pink and burgundy tetraploids of award shape and substance. Keep in mind that Harry Shepherd 'The Prize', even though a white, genetically has pink to rose colouration in its genetical make-up.	
765.	WYANGA 'KADO' x KATHY LOVELL 'YOWIE BAY'	+c \$50	7621. JOYCE DUNCAN 'SUSAN HUGHES' HCC AOC LUNAGRAD 'ELANORA'	+c \$50
	100% pure colours, expecting beautifully displayed lips in July/August.		July, August and September greens of fine flower count in both diploid and tetraploid form.	
7611.	LUNAGRAD 'ELANORA' x PEETIE 'STEADFAST' FCC/RHS	+c \$70	7626. OISO x SHOWGIRL 'JULIE CHRISTIE'	\$50
	Will almost certainly produce top diploid and tetraploid greens in June, of fine shape and good flower count in both diploid and tetraploid forms.		Two miniatures combining, which we expect to produce white, burgundy and pink miniatures of upright spike habit and high flower count.	
7614.	(HAMSEY 'THE GLOBE' x WALLARA 'GOLD NUGGET') 'HOVE' x VALLEY FLOWER 'CLARET'	\$50		

If you wish to receive our full list of flask offerings please advise. Quantity discount available.

DEFLASKING ORCHIDS

by Allan Burrows, Southport, Queensland, Australia.

The deflasking of orchid seedlings presents great difficulty for some growers when first attempting this branch of orchid culture. Yet, if you observe some simple rules governing temperature, light and water there is nothing complicated about the process.

In the flasks the seedlings are grown at a temperature of 20-25 degrees C. so when they are removed from the flask you must always keep them in a warm environment. If you own a heated glass house you can deflask any time of the year. If you don't, then confine your deflasking to the warmer parts of the year, say from Spring to mid summer. This way, the seedlings would be established before the onset of Winter.

Light:

Generally the flasks are grown under approximately 250 foot candles of light and when you consider that a bright summer day can give up to 10,000 foot candles it is easy to see that after deflasking the plants must be kept in heavy shade for a while, generally until the roots commence to grow again. At that time they can gradually be brought out into stronger light.

Water.

In the flask the plants were living in an environment with high humidity, so you must place the seedlings in a spot where they will receive humidity around the leaves but not around the roots. For it is excess moisture around the roots (particularly if all the agar was not washed off) that mould and rot generally start. So the order of the day is to constantly mist the leaves but leave the roots dry until there is new root activity which should occur 2-6 weeks after deflasking. From then on you can safely water the root zone and also apply the first application of a weak fertilizer solution.

With these thoughts in mind you are prepared for your first attempt at deflasking.

If the seedlings in the flask have a small

root system it is possible to fish them out with a bent piece of wire. If there is a good root system then this method is of no use as you will destroy the roots by trying to pull them out. To over-come this situation it is better to apply the newspaper and file method. That is, remove the cork, wrap a sheet of newspaper around the flask and hit it with the corner of a heavy file. If done carefully little damage is done to the plants.

After this, carefully wash the plants 2-3 times in tepid water to remove all the agar which adheres to the roots. The next step is to pot the seedlings into community pots or trays. I recommend the use of community pots in preference to individual pots as I have found through experience that they will grow better under crowded conditions. They can be left in these pots or trays for 12 months if necessary and it does not matter if the plants are 10-15cm. in height before you pot them individually. The seedlings only require a depth of 4-5cm. of growing mixture. Any extra depth in the pot can be filled up with large potting mixture or crocks.

For most orchids we use a mixture of 50% pine chips and 50% charcoal in small grading of 3-6mm. in diameter. For Cymbidiums use a good open Cymbidium mixture or sphagnum moss.

For those seedlings with a small root system plant about 20mm apart, it does not matter if some of the roots are not covered by the potting mixture. Those with a tangled root structure pull apart until they make a doughnut shape. Place them in a 10cm. pot previously filled with crocks etc. and fill the centre and the outside of the doughnut shape with fine potting mixture. We use the potting mixture dry as it is easier to handle. When potting is completed give a good watering to settle them in (you can use a fungicide to do this if you like), and then place them in a warm shady spot in your glass house or bush house where water from the roof or from other plants will not fall on them. If the days are hot you may

HOW DO YOUR SEEDLINGS GROW?

Many of the seedlings that we have sold over the past few years must have flowered, or be of near flowering size by now and we are always interested to hear from our customers of the blooms produced. For the benefit of our friends we advise of the flowers produced on some of the seedlings we have grown ourselves and flowered over the past season.

Slc. CHILI PEPPER 'RED' x Slc. ANZAC 'ORCHID-HURST' FCC/RHS

Two clones of this cross have flowered (all we managed to keep), 2½" blooms of bright red, shape was very good and plenty of substance, the flowers lasting well.

Lc. LAND OF ENCHANTMENT x C. SUAVIOR 'AQUINI'

Two clones of this cross also flowered and were practically identical. Five inch blooms, bright red lavender, petals cherry red. Flowers a little open, but very pleasing.

Blc. RUBEN'S VERDE (Blc GREENHEART 'IMPERIAL JADE' x Blc. LESTER McDONALD 'Kelly').

This was quite exciting, 7½" flowers, sepals and petals verdant green and an enormous yellow green frilled Brasso lip. Held the green colouring for the life of the flowers.

C. CLAESIANA x Lc. CORONET

We advertised this cross as being pinks or yellows. Well, we flowered two clones, one was pink and one yellow. Small dainty blooms, many on a stem. This is one of the fastest growing Catts. we have had in our glasshouse.

Phal. JIMMY HALL (P. SCOTTY MAGUIRE x DARYL BEARD)

Several of this cross have flowered for us and nearly all have been of excellent round shape, glistening white in colour.

Phal. WINNIE PRICE (P. AMBER SANDS 'GERTIE' x NANCY LOCKHART)

Long arching spikes of light yellow flowers dotted with brick red, lip yellowish. Flowers are large for this type and both plants that we flowered attracted attention.

Dtps. MARGUERITE TOLPO (Dtps. PUEBLO JEWEL 'GERTIE' x JASON BEARD 'GERTIE')

The best of these to flower was pure white with a cerise centre and solid cerise lip. This cross has shown some variation, but all we have flowered have shown colourful lips.

Phal. JIMINY CRICKET x LADY RUBY

We have flowered a number of these and all have been interesting. Good size whites with nicely placed pink striping and tan to orange lips.

Phal. BETTY CONROY 'ORCHID CONFERENCE' x ZADA 'PINK VALLEY'

These have all been large two tone pinks of very

All seedlings \$4.50. Orders under \$20.00 please add 50c, also for airmail to South Island.

TOM & PAT FRENCH

Blue Bird Florists, 69 Devon Street East, NEW PLYMOUTH

good shape. We wish we had kept more for ourselves.
DENDROBIUM HAUNANI GAY HO x ETHEL KAWAMOTO 'TOPAZ'

We described this as likely to be unusual. It certainly was! Semi antelope type flowers, chrome yellow tepals and dark red lip.

MILTONIA REGNELLI VAR. ALBA x M. FLAVESCENS

Flowers produced from new growth, several to a stem, about 2½" long (on a small plant), cream in colour, though on close inspection a faint mauve tint can be seen in the large lip. We look forward to flowering more of this cross.

ANSELLIA AFRICANA

The largest plant of this species seedling produced 27 branched spikes of flowers, light yellow in colour, barred with brown.

ANSELLIA GIGANTEA VAR. NILOTICA

A smaller growing plant. Spikes shorter, flowers larger, tepals broader, yellow, heavily barred rich red brown.

We have also flowered several of the mericlones that we have offered, and these of course, have flowered true to descriptions given.

We list seedlings of new crosses now available.

AJ37. C. LEONA BLOOM 'VIP' HCC/AOS x C. NIGRELLA 'JUNGLE PRINCESS'

Large dark red of excellent shape.

AJ42. (C. BICOLOR x Lc. ANTONICA FREDERICK) x C. NIGRELLA 'JUNGLE PRINCESS'

Medium size, dark red flowers. Many to a stem.

AJ47. C. RUBENCITO x Lc. MARIA MIRANDA

Clusters of medium size flowers, yellow to orange with bright red lip (Limited quantity)

AJ49. Lc. OKINAWA x C. NIGRELLA 'JUNGLE PRINCESS'

Expect plum reds from this cross. Lc. Okinawa is Lc. Century Twenty-one x Lc. Walter Armacost

AJ50. C. NIGRITIAN 'NOBILITY' x Lc. LEE LANGFORD 'COPPER QUEEN'

Good size, shapely copper reds. Some unusuals here.

Slc. JEWEL BOX 'SCHEHERAZADE'

Mericlones of this famous Sophro. Compact growing plants brilliant orange red flowers of medium size. A real winner. \$6.00

SHOULD CYMBIDIUMS BE "POTTED-ON" OR "RE-POTTED" . . .

by Russell Martin, of McBeans.

There are differences of opinion among Cymbidium growers as to the merits of potting-on or repotting. Many growers prefer to repot during October, November, December, (completely change the mixture, removing dead roots and replacing plant in new or clean container with fresh mixture) and to pot on at all other times (remove plant from pot with mixture intact and place same in a larger pot, filling in space between old mixture and larger pot with new mixture).

Over the past four years, a controlled experiment has been conducted at the nursery and conclusive proof gained from this has forced us to make a new and definite rule regarding all future repotting, irrespective of the time of the year.

The rule is always repot (see insert above) and under NO circumstances pot on. The reason being, most mixtures having been in a pot for 6-12 months, have begun a breaking down process in that time.

If a plant is potted on and a further time of 6-12 months passes, the new mixture has also begun to break down, but by this time the inner mixture is from 12-24 months old and will be found to have broken down to a much greater extent — in many instances becoming toxic, resulting in damage to the roots passing through this older medium.

Had the plant been fully repotted, roots inspected for damage, washed and repotted in new medium, this root damage, due to sour medium, would not have resulted. If it is possible for plants to be repotted each year, the benefits are clearly evident. There is little or no sign of matted, or tangled roots, and rarely does one come across a dead or rotted root at repotting time. Plants can be divided with ease, resulting in little or no loss of live active roots and this is most important for the flowering of the divisions next season. The new growths are always strong and healthy with little or no sign of leaf-tip burn, which is often due to a toxic mixture.

During these experiments some seedlings in one controlled batch were fully repotted four times in twelve months. The resulting growth showed as much as 100% increase over similar seedlings potted only once in the twelve months. The only problem encountered with this type of culture, is the time consuming factor, and the use of larger quantities of new mixture. Never re-use any spent mixture on orchids. This is very beneficial for garden subjects, i.e. camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons, etc.

BOTANICAL ODDITIES

by Albert H. Blackmore,
North Shore, Auckland.

Although orchids can be classed as Botanical Oddities they have become New Zealand's most popular flowering plants, being grown by all sections of the population, by male and female, young and old.

The study and teaching about these plants has promoted the formation of local societies throughout New Zealand and other nations, combining to hold National and World Conferences.

It is the only plant that has an international organisation, that can register a name of any hybrid produced and has recorded hereditary history of every registered hybrid dated back to the original native species. It is recorded that prior to 1885, the orchid fancier's interest was in possessing new genera and species and the world was combed for new varieties of orchids. About 1885-1890, some hybrid orchid flowers were displayed in England, causing a sensation and from then on, there was a rush to see what crosses could be made. Mr. Fred K. Sander the leading orchidist of the time recorded these hybrids publishing the first record in 1901 and although hybrid registration was done through the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain, Sander published what was known as "Sanders' list of Orchid Hybrids" until 1960, when at the 3rd World Orchid Conference held in London a decision was made that the Royal Horticultural Society would take over the responsibility.

PUKEKURA CORNER

by George Fuller, N.D.H. (N.Z.), Curator Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.



Coelogyne cristata. Ldl.

As I write, the hustle of the Cymbidium season is over, so too have gone the pure white crystalline blooms of this species brought from Nepal and the foothills of the Himalayas in 1837. On reflection, I think it is an orchid we take for granted; perhaps because it is rather easy to grow and certainly one of the most tolerant of all orchids in terms of surviving neglect.

Few orchids are so accommodating. Let us look at some of the virtues. With a natural distribution in country up to 3000m, quite cool temperatures are tolerated and it has been

This specimen, spanning one metre and growing in a half barrel, gives a good impression of the capabilities of *Coelogyne cristata* for creating massed display.

suggested that they survive snowfall. I would not advocate trying this, but I can report that in the park plants have been growing for many years outdoors on a treefern clad bank with southern aspect. To my surprise, in this unlikely spring, they actually flowered. Other virtues include a habit of multiple breaking of growths with the result that the plants build up in size rapidly and can be made into magnificent specimens. Because of this habit they

can be grown in flat receptacles such as trays, treefern pillars, on slabs of treefern, in baskets, rafts etc., etc. Needless to say they are not fussy over the composition of potting mix but a free draining quality is necessary.

Now let us look at the problems. Despite being one of the most rugged orchids, it seems to resent repotting and tends to sulker for up to a year. Although flowering is in spring (Oct.-Nov. for us) and new growth follows, actual root development doesn't seem to start until about February and establishment won't occur until after this.

Another catch is that although growth is rapid when it starts and feeding can be carried out, good growth doesn't always result in good flowering. From about Easter it is advantageous to drop temperatures (particularly at night), decrease watering to the point of inducing slight wrinkling of pseudobulbs and increase light intensity. A few months of this slow torture can work wonders, as it can also do with *C. cristata*'s neighbour, *Dendrobium nobile*.

From a cream to fawn bud there is a miraculous transformation to purest white. Each spike bears up to eight wavy margined blooms approximately 10 cm across with brilliant orange-yellow ridges in the labellum. There is a variety with citron-yellow markings and another pure white. When out of bloom the tightly clustered pseudobulbs look like bunches of huge grapes and it is not uncommon for visitors to ask if they are edible!

SOCIETY NEWS

WELLINGTON ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

This was held over Labour weekend in perfect weather at the St. Oran's School Hall in Lower Hutt. The enthusiastic members of this newly formed society mounted a fine display of well grown plants in the centre of the hall with three commercial growers providing colour along the walls. Among the standard Cymbidiums that caught my eye were, Sabre Dance 'Kensington', a brick red with a velvet dark red band on the labellum, Pearl Balkis 'Cooksbridge' AM/RHS, a clean large white, red speckled labellum flushed pink and of ex-

cellent form, Dorama x Defiant Gold, this was star shaped but took the eye as it was such an intense golden yellow with a red band on the lip. I was particularly impressed with a miniature cross of *Olymilum* of which there were several clones flowering, each of them different colours and very dainty. I would have liked to have taken several of these home with me. In fact there were many lovely orchids which would enhance any collection, a well grown plant of *Odontonia Moliere 'Etoile'* was especially lovely as was a specimen pot of *Miltonia Woodlands x Crowborough Charm*, I counted upwards of 32 dark red with yellow masked blooms on this one. The novelty *Phalaenopsis Artur Elle*, of which there were three clones flowering, showed the modern trend of breeding in this genera. Our congratulations to Mr. Ian Milne whose *Phalaenopsis Dolores x San Marina* won for him the Waikato Orchid Society Perret Trophy for the best *Phalaenopsis* in the show. This plant was on display and is a magnificent pure white.

SMITH'S ORCHIDS

Church Road, Greenmeadows, Napier.

Phone 442-284.

One of New Zealand's largest and oldest established private orchid collections offers for the first time to the orchid growing public, a selection of the finest orchids growing in New Zealand:

Cattleyas — Flowering size plants \$12 each.

Cymbidiums — Flowering size plants \$12 each.

Also 30 different Standard cymbidiums and Miniature mericlones, 22 cm leaf length \$7 each.

All freight free.