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JULY/AUGUST 1979

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ORCHIDS OF NEW ZEALAND

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COVER PHOTO: Paphiopedilum purpuratum. Photo by courtesy of Mr G. Fuller, New Plymouth.
Hong Kong and the adjacent Chinese coast is the native home of this fine species.

Orchid Council of New Zealand

Fifth Annual Report

The Council has continued to increase in strength, and 18 Orchid Societies and Clubs now form its membership.

We were pleased to welcome to membership during the year the Otago Orchid Club, the Wairarapa Orchid Circle, and the Dannevirke & District Orchid Society.

Assistance has been given where required in procedures for Society formation, and it is possible that a further South Island Society may be formed. The popularity of orchid growing shows no sign of abating, and membership of Societies continues to grow. Council has had many enquiries from new orchid growers as to the nearest Orchid Society, and this information has been supplied, contributing to the growth of our member societies.

The strength of Council is such that Government Departments now generally recognise that we represent the major part of orchid growers in this country.

Generous donations were received from some Societies during the year, some for special purposes. Without these the operations of Council would have been more difficult, especially with new projects. I sincerely thank those Societies for making these funds available for the mutual benefit of all.

Mr G. Herman Slade, of Vila, New Hebrides, once again paid his magazine subscription with a cheque for \$100. His continued support is much appreciated.

A grant of \$500 was made to the North Shore Orchid Society to assist with preliminary expenses for the 1980 International Conference.

Magazine Editor Graeme Boon has continued to give sterling service to ensure the continued success of our Journal, but surely he deserves more support from those who could, and should share their orchid experiences with their fellow orchid growers through the medium of 'Orchids in New Zealand.' We are grateful to those who contribute articles regularly, but surely there are many more who could assist in providing a variety of orchid topics. The magazine was one of the first projects that the Executive was requested to bring into effect by Council members. It is therefore the duty of all member societies to provide the material for the Editor.

During the year we lost the services of Mr A.H. Blackmore as Registrar-General. Mr Blackmore was Chairman of the Committee set up to compile suitable Judging Standards and Rules. Upon the adoption of these Standards, Mr Blackmore was appointed our first Registrar-General, in which position he conducted instruction in Award Judging through the country, and it was through his dedicated work that the Judging Panels so rapidly reached the standard of Judging required.

The Executive appointed Mr F.E.J. Mason to the position of Registrar-General, and Mr S. Woodbury as Deputy Registrar-

General. The experience Mr Mason gained while acting as Deputy to Mr Blackmore has proved invaluable.

One day Seminars were conducted by the Waikato Orchid Society and the Golden Coast Orchid Society during the year. The Waikato Seminar was a large undertaking, well planned, and very successful.

We must congratulate them on their initiative, in providing the means for so much orchid information to be given to so many orchid growers.

The Golden Coast Seminar, though more modest in scope, was very well attended and again demonstrated the eagerness of growers to extend their knowledge.

The Council has received a number of requests from individual orchid growers in other countries asking how they may become members of the Council. These people have been informed that, as subscribers to our Magazine they may participate by letters to the Editor, by writing articles, etc., but that membership is limited to NZ Orchid Societies.

Member Societies should always be aware that the Orchid Council of New Zealand is their own organisation formed by them to encourage the study and cultivation of orchids for mutual benefit. The co-operation of Societies through Council has produced excellent results. With continued co-operation and support the future of the Orchid cult is indeed bright.

Tom French
President.

EDITORIAL



By now all readers are aware that the North Shore Orchid Society is hosting the first New Zealand International Orchid Show and Conference in the month of October 1980. A tremendous amount of planning and preparation has already been accomplished and our magazine is publishing articles informing readers of the various stages of development.

Auckland was chosen for the venue because accommodation for visitors and conference facilities would present little problem. Also the North Shore Orchid Society, being one of the larger in New Zealand, had sufficient members to share the numerous tasks that are required to be done. These people have a great deal of responsibility and no doubt every member of this Society is involved in some way towards making this show a most memorable occasion.

I trust that all North Island Societies have plans well in hand in respect of their individual displays. Because of the distance and cost involved South Island Societies may not be able to bring plants but it is to be hoped that many members will provide cut flowers for display.

It is understood that a number of overseas visitors have indicated that they will be attending and the show is still over a year away. Let us hope for a record attendance as this will determine the success of the show and possibly lay the foundation for the future.

*THE ORCHID GARDENS OF
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A 17-day holiday departing from Auckland on Friday 28 September 1979. Includes 3-days in Melbourne at the Diplomat Motor Inn . . . six full days in Tasmania Including four days at the wrest point Casino for the 1979 Orchid Convention . . . three days in Adelaide . . . and five days in Sydney!

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\$699.00 per person share twin room
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OR
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**THE OFFICIAL ORCHID CONVENTION TOUR
FOR THE ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND**

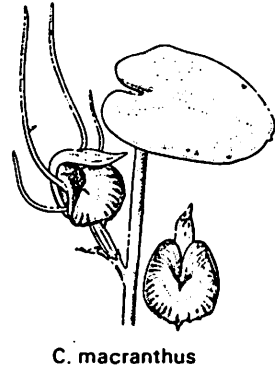
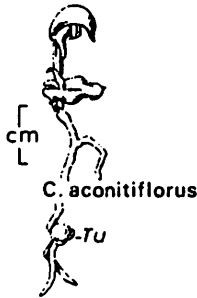
NEW ZEALAND INDIGENOUS ORCHIDS

by Albert H. Blackmore
(Continued from last issue)

Fig. 4 Corybas. All drawn to same scale except whole plant *C. cryptanthus* and enlarged parts of its rhizomes.

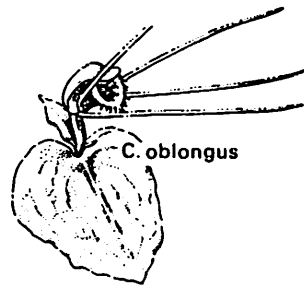
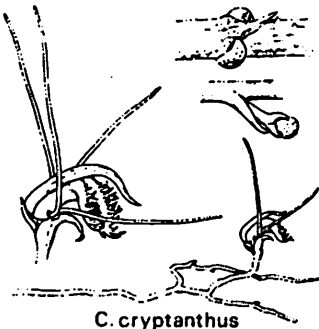
7 CORYBAS has eight species, *aconitiflorus*, *cryptanthus*, *macranthus*, *oblongus*, *orbiculatus*, *rivularis*, *trilobus* and *unguiculatus*. Terrestrial.

(b) *cryptanthus*, grows in both Islands, but mostly in the North. Plant almost wholly beneath surface of leaf mould, flowers translucent white to pale pink streaked with red. Flowers sometimes beneath surface during July and August.

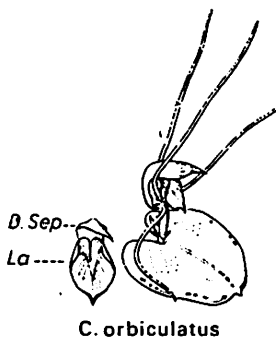


(a) *aconitiflorus*, grows in clay banks and old manuka scrub in both Islands. large flowering species, largest part is purple dorsal sepal. Flowers from June to August.

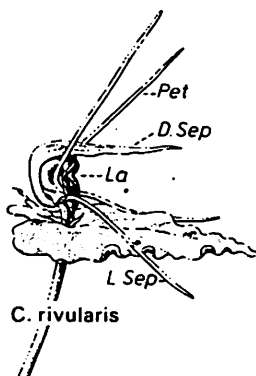
(c) *macranthus*, found in both Islands in wet wood bogs. Flowers purple in June and July.



(d) *oblongus*, found in both Islands sometimes in dry sunlit banks and also in damp shady places. Flowers July to September.



- (e) orbiculatus, found in damp banks in both Islands, but predominantly in the South Island. Original locality Mount Cook, Black-birch Creek Valley. Flowers September and October.



- (f) rivularis, found in North Auckland on mossy rocks and in damp places. Flowers September.



- (g) trilobus, found both Islands in damp scrub. Plants very small and easily overlooked. Flowers June and July.



- (h) unguiculatus, sometimes called carsei. Grows north of latitude 38 degrees on shady slopes and peat bog. It is rather rare. Flower purple in colour in July and August.

Fig. 5. *Galochilus paludosus*. Base of one of the long processes on labellum-margin shown enlarged.

8 CALOCHILUS has three species, *paludosus*, *campestris* and *robertsonii*. Terrestrial. This genus has flowers brightly coloured with bearded labellum.

- (a) *paludosus*, found on both Islands. In the north from vicinity of Kaitaia and Whangarei, from Rotorua—Taupo area, Taranaki Range and Upper Hutt about swamps or in tussock. In South from Golden Bay to Westland. Flower stems quite long and erect. Flowers greenish except for bright red beard of the labellum. Flowers October and November.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



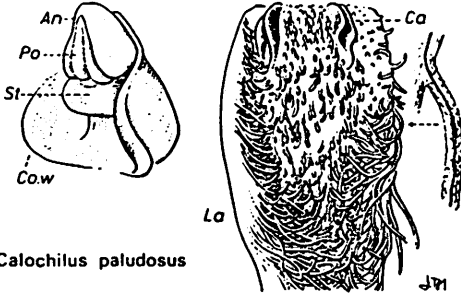
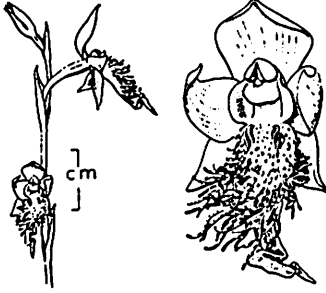
Dear Sir,

What on earth induces a commercial orchid grower to concoct an advertisement such as that labelled 'Straight Talk' in the March/April issue of the journal. I'm equally amazed that our own orchid journal should even sell space for such a controversial article. Other orchid growers, mainly hobbyists who have raised the matter in conversations agree that the advertiser has but one object and that is to imply that commercial growers offering plants and flasks for sale in New Zealand are not to be trusted.

The commercial, show and hobbyist qualities of the particular plants mentioned are well known to all but the newest growers and was a waste of money unless it was intended to impress them alone. One must wonder further at the purpose behind the recommendation that those seeking export information should approach two new growers, who have had very limited growing experience and even less export experience. Both of which was achieved with considerable assistance from existing exporters.

Surely the source of export information must be through Mrs Amos of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Auckland. Mrs Amos has been closely associated with orchid exporters for many years.

Orchid growing is a long term business and it is not conceivable that commercial growers would risk



Calochilus paludosus

- (b) *campestris*, found in North Island Kaimaumu, near Kaitaia, Aranga swamp. Flower similar to *paludosus*, but labellum proportionately smaller, base bluish, dark gland on callus near base. Flowers November.
- (c) *robertsonii*, not uncommon between Rotorua and Taupo in tussock and scrub also near Kaiteriteri, Nelson in burnt over slopes now in pines. Flower stem usually shorter than *paludosus*, but flower very similar. Flowers late spring.

(To be continued)



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their reputation by knowingly supplying inferior quality plants.

Advertisements such as 'Straight Talk' can only be degrading to the New Zealand orchid industry and it is to be hoped that it will not occur again.

Fred Burke
Whakatane.

We are obliged to accept paid advertisements providing they keep within the laws of libel and do not contravene the law of discrimination. As to the accuracy of statements; these are personal opinions of the advertiser and the magazine committee publishes them unless they are blatantly untrue.

Ed.

The Editor,
Sir,

Thank you for the pleasure that the March/April issue of your valued magazine brought to our home. It is such a joy to discover that some orchid growers also grow money, a very useful achievement in these days. Shades of Long John Silver and Bluebeard hovered over the pages, with memories of long buried treasure. The gleam and clink of Doubloons and Pieces of Eight; ingots of silver and gold and all the treasures of the Indies were pleasantly brought to mind. Yo Ho for the Spanish Main!

My dictionary defines 'specie' as money.

Yours with a bottle of rum,

'Captain Morgan'

My dictionary also defines 'specie' as money, treasure, sorry about the error that occurred in the March/April issue. The term 'species' is the correct spelling, this is both singular and plural and pertains to all genera in the plant kingdom.

Ed.

KEITH & SHIRLEY GOODWIN

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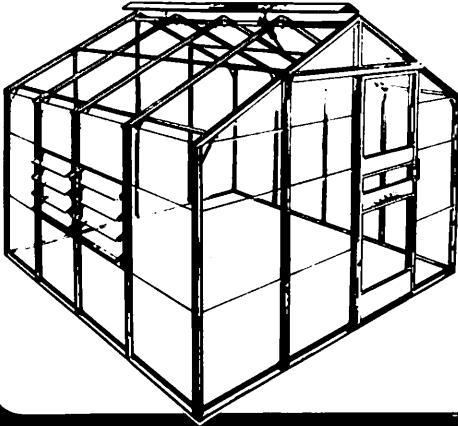
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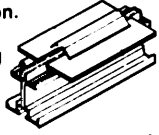
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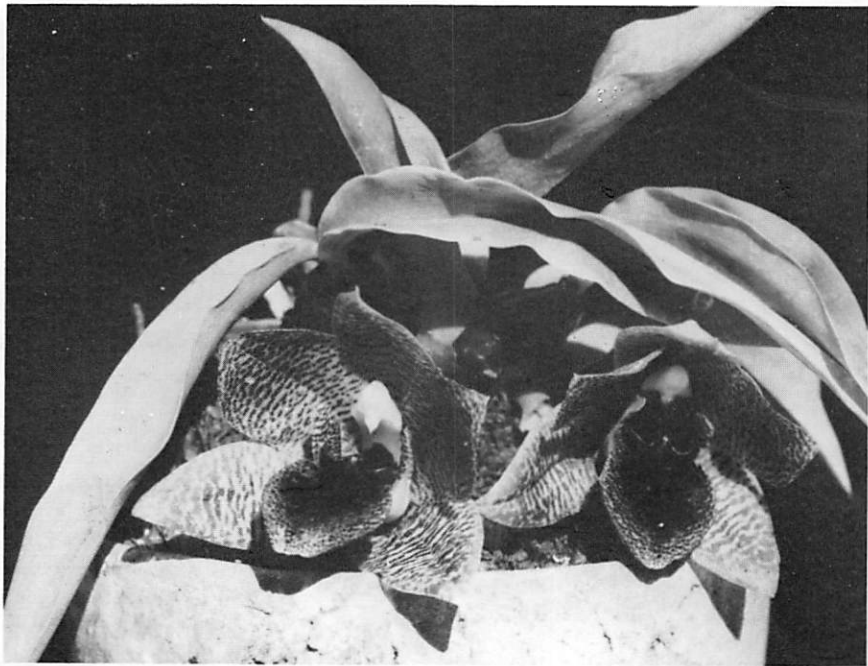
special arrangements can be made for supplying the commercial grower on a wholesale basis. We shall gladly furnish details to meet individual requirements.

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PUKEKURA CORNER

By George Fuller, N.D.H. [N.Z.],
Curator Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.



Promenaea Ldl.

This genus of South American orchids has been included with both *Zygopetalum* and *Maxillaria* in the past. There are only a few species and not many of these are likely to be found in New Zealand but they are very desirable orchids for the blooms are well formed and very

large in relation to the size of the plant.

P. Crawshayana, a hybrid, seems to be the most common representative in New Zealand. The blooms are approximately 50mm (2") across, yellow and suffused with fine purple spots. The parents

are *P. xanthina* and *P. stapelioides* the former a beautiful clear yellow and the latter cream to green heavily spotted with dark purple.

The photograph is of a plant which came into the collection labelled, *S. paranaensis*. I cannot find reference to this anywhere and believe that it must be a synonym for *P. stapelioides*, for the blooms are very well described as "looking like a *stapellia*."

The plants are very compact, pseudobulbs clustered, topped with greyish-green matt leaves up to approximately 10cm long and 1.5cm wide. As specimens the plants are most spectacular but they need to be somewhat underpotted for the blooms are short-stemmed and are best displayed over the rim of the container.

We grow the plants warm but they will tolerate intermediate growing conditions. General potting mix is used or they can be slightly elevated on pieces of treefern pushed vertically into a pot. Push along while in growth but after flowering introduce a rest period of about a month. Our plants flower in January and February.

Orchids in the Sub-Antarctic

from the "Australian Government
Information Service"

Siologist Nigel Brothers and botanist Michael Brown, officers of the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service, have discovered orchids growing on the West coast of Macquarie Island. The island, situated about mid-way between Australia and Antarctica, is 34 kms long and 4 kms wide. The orchids

are a species called *Corybas macranthus*, or Helmet Orchid, which grows in New Zealand and on some islands south of New Zealand. Australian botanists are excited about the find as they believed orchids could not live as far south as Macquarie Island, which is 1770 kms south of the Australian continent.

Macquarie Island, which is part of the Australian State of Tasmania, is a national park and wildlife reserve, with an average temperature of 4.5 degrees centigrade. The island is often lashed by rain and strong winds, and the seas around it are so rough in winter that members of the Australian National Research Expedition, who spend 12 months there, are cut off from the outside world for nine months.

Mr Brothers, spent 16 months on various wildlife projects on Macquarie Island from November 1975 to March 1977 and during that time found leaves on the west coast that he was unable to identify.

During a walk on the island in November 1977 he returned to the place where he found the leaves. "There to our amazement were several patches, each about 1m square, of flowers which were instantly recognisable as orchids," he said. "The plants, which grew up through moss with their stems mostly buried in the moss, had round green leaves which lay on the moss surface. The simple flowers which were dark purple with a green base, were almost flat on the moss. We found them on the featherbed, a soft, spongy layer of very wet mosses and grasses on the island's coastal terrace about 15m above sea level. We only found the four patches but there could well be others in the vicinity."

VANDACEOUS ORCHIDS

by Barry Paget Australia

Around eighteen different genera of orchids may be included within the *Aerides* tribe, a group of plants whose structure resembles that of a *Vanda*. It includes some of the most spectacular orchids known, and, generally speaking, all members of the *Aerides* tribe are easily cultivated, once a few of their basic requirements are understood.

The word, "Vanda," is a Sanscrit word referring to a native orchid of India, *Vanda tessellata*, and for many years the term was used to describe all plants having the same structure. Over the years taxonomists have studied these plants, and have placed them into the various generic groups which we accept today.

They are sub-tropical and tropical in distribution, ranging from the Himalayan Mountain areas; across South East Asia and through to Japan; south through the islands of the Philippines and Indonesia; New Guinea, and the sub-continent Australia. They vary in elevation from sea level, where hot, humid conditions prevail, to an elevation of 2000 metres. In either zone, they appear in rather open areas.

The *Aerides* tribe is quite diverse in the range of shapes, sizes and colours of blooms produced upon the various plants. The *Ascocentrums* produce small brightly coloured blooms on erect sprays; semi-pendulous sprays of blooms are carried by the *Aerides* and *Rhynchostylis*; large showy blooms are carried by the *Vandas*; masses of starry red blooms enhance the *Renantheras*, and *Phalaenopsis* carry their symmetrical flocks of white or coloured "butterflies."

Vandaceous orchids are monopodial, growing upwards (or downwards) from one foot or base. They do not have a rhizome, but instead have a single upright stem. The roots have a two-fold purpose, primarily anchoring the plant to its

host, and also absorbing the dissolved minerals to carry them through the stem and into the leaves where, during photosynthesis, they are converted into food. In nature, plants of this tribe are found growing upon trees, fallen logs, on rocks and on cliff faces. These plants are true epiphytes or air plants, their roots spreading over the outside surface of the host, and never actually penetrate the inner layers of the host, or the soil.

Vandaceous orchids are most adaptable to cultivation and may be grown under similar conditions to *Cattleyas*, *Dendrobiums* etc. In areas north of Brisbane they are easily cultivated under bush-house conditions, provided they are protected from strong winds, especially the westerlies which prevail during the winter months. Some added protection may be necessary if frosty conditions are prevalent overnight. In areas south of Brisbane hot-house conditions become necessary, according to the general temperature range. The plants prefer minimum temperatures between 10 degrees to 15 degrees centigrade, although exposure to lower temperatures for short periods of time is not harmful.

Generally speaking these plants are light lovers, and most plants which are of a strap-leaf structure revel in around 50 percent shade. Those vandas of the terete or pencil type of leaf, require full sunlight to bloom satisfactorily. In southern centres, plants could be suspended from the roof of the orchid house, where they will receive the greatest amount of sunlight.

Being monopodial, these plants have no water storage organs such as the pseudo-bulbs of the Cattleya alliance. As a result they require more regular applications of water, especially during the growing season. The amount of water required, and the regularity of application, are governed by the potting medium used. The plants appreciate high humidity for the greater part of the year, though they will withstand dryness especially during the colder periods of the year. They do not have a definite resting period but their rate of vegetative growth slows considerably during the cooler months of the year. Air movement is a vital necessity for all genera.

Vandaceous orchids are heavy feeders, but I strongly recommend applying fertiliser at half the rate recommended upon the packet. I feel that many of the fertilisers available are suited to a large group of plants, but the orchid root system is often damaged through the application of a strong dosage. I recommend weekly applications of fertiliser for seedlings, fortnightly applications for mature plants. It is also a wise move to apply a variety of fertilisers over a two-monthly period, as no single fertiliser has a complete range of necessary ingredients. there is a very fine balance between light, water and fertiliser, and an increase in any one of these factors necessitates an

increase in the other two factors. Similarly a decrease in any factor requires a decrease in the others.

For many years these plants have been grown in large pots, in mixtures ranging from pure charcoal to the various fibres and bark. Nature designed these plants to be "air plants" and by following her example, we are able to devise a satisfactory method of culture. Charcoal in itself is a natural filter, and over a period of time it absorbs the dissolved salts in the fertiliser applied to the plants, until after three years or so, it has built up to a toxic level, with consequent root damage. The various other media used "break down" over a similar period of time. It is also difficult to dry out the compost in a large pot quickly and plants sitting in a damp, cold mix are very susceptible to bacterial and/or fungal damage to the root system. Consequently, following three years of research I recommend the cultivation of these plants in empty wooden baskets or empty terra-cotta pots. Consider the plants growing under natural conditions. They are receiving their requirements such as sunlight and ventilation, and the root system is permanently exposed to the atmosphere. The plants may be drenched during a tropical downpour and one or two hours later the surface of the root system has dried off. Growing the plants in empty containers allows the same process to occur. I have found that using this method, the plants establish much faster than they do under conventional potting methods. Placed in an empty container, they have no 'comfortable' environment (such as moist compost) where they are able to rest on their laurels, and are forced to put out new roots in order to preserve themselves. During the

establishment time, they are given more shade and higher humidity which encourage the development of roots. I have seen plants establish in less than three months, where similar plants, grown in a conventional compost, require up to twelve months to establish. I prefer terra-cotta pots to plastic in that terra-cotta acts in the same way as a conventional compost, retaining a certain amount of water and fertiliser. The terra-cotta pot can be leached using a heavy application of water (charcoal cannot). The roots are permanently exposed to the atmosphere and plants can be watered daily in summer. In winter water may be applied every second or third day, depending upon weather conditions. The retention of some moisture in the pot stabilises the plant and maintains it in a plump condition. Plastic pots do not have these properties. An empty pot provides fewer locations for cockroaches and other insect pests to hide. The size of the plant and the size of the pot have no direct relationship. These plants have adventitious root systems, and regardless of the size of the pot, they will always check out "greener pastures." I recommend that no pots larger than 15 cm. squat pots be used. At my nursery some of the plants are suspended, others are staged upon benches, with similar results in either method.

Vandaceous orchids are relatively free of pests and diseases. The armoured scale is probably the most common insect pest affecting these plants. Regular applications of insecticides and fungicides are advised as a preventative measure rather than curing the problem after it arises. During cold weather the plants become susceptible to fungal and/or bacterial spotting. This may

be avoided by spraying and keeping the plants on the dry side during these times.

Seedlings are easily grown provided they have warmer conditions than those required for adult plants, and less direct light applied to them. In Bangkok the plants are grown under very shaded conditions until they are considered to be of blooming size. This, combined with the higher temperature, high humidity, and regular applications of weak liquid fertiliser, hastens the rate of growth of these plants. Some growers have been disappointed with early bloomings of some vandaceous hybrids. A small plant cannot possibly display the same quality blooms as a plant twice its size. Allow a plant to bloom three or four times before seriously considering its quality. Vandaceous hybrids bloom three or four times a year once they have become mature, a performance record which is difficult to beat with other genera. Some of the first-generation Ascocenda hybrids are forever in bloom, developing a new spike before the current blooming spike has finished.

Hybridisation within the vandaceous field is now gathering momentum. The hybridists have to satisfy two schools of thought in this field. For many years vandaceous orchids have been cultivated for the cut-flower trade. This has become a very important industry in S.E. Asia and Hawaii where spray-type hybrids and species are cultivated by the hectare. In many other areas of the world, orchids generally are considered as "pot plants" and in Australia the vandaceous orchids come under this category.

(To be continued)

HADFIELD ORCHIDS

(Norman G. Wood)

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Mounting small pieces of Epiphytic Orchids

by Peter Hornsby, from the Native Orchid Society of South Australia

Often small pieces of epiphytic orchids are offered as loose pieces or mounted on sections of the old trunk, or cordex, of a tree-fern. The latter is popular with dealers and at a glance at any plant so supplied shows the orchids themselves are equally enthusiastic. However, if you are like me, you hope that one day the little plant will become a big one, and so sooner or later you are going to be faced with the task of remounting it. Here is where problems arise because it is virtually impossible to disentangle the orchid roots from the tree-fern.

After puzzling over this for sometime, I decided that rather than separate the plant from its mounting I would try to accommodate both in a new setting. My previous experience with growing orchids on cork had shown how readily the plants accept this medium. Thus I set about cutting a recess in the side of a cork brick (about the same size as a standard house brick) and slotted the tree-fern base into the space so made. The result is visually satisfying, and I have no doubt the orchid will find it acceptable.

For the record I did as much of the cutting as possible with a hack-saw (any fine-toothed saw will do) and removed the remainder with a 2.5cm chisel (though any sharp-edged cutting instrument may be used). By cutting the recess slightly narrower than the tree-fern slab, I am able to achieve a tight fit and so there is no need to use separate fastenings to

secure the tree-fern to the brick. The whole lot is then supported in the shadehouse by a wire passed through the cork brick.

It is possible to suspend the brick either vertically or horizontally, and so the orchid can be trained to go whichever way is appropriate, and loose pieces of orchid may be fastened directly on to the brick.

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MERICLONES versus DIVISIONS

Russell Martin, Australia

With the introduction of meristem propagation, the average orchid enthusiast has been afforded the opportunity to obtain the very latest in awarded and outstanding varieties produced by orchid hybridists at a fraction of the cost involved with an original propagation. Within eighteen months to two years of the award or new variety being created, plantlets are available, whereas an original propagation may take from four to ten years to produce.

Mericlones are the only way in which a cut flower grower can quickly up-grade his stock to suit a particular market or to multiply an outstanding cut flower clone which may suit his needs. However, some control is necessary over the number of mericlones produced from any one clone and this is a matter for the experienced orchid nurseryman to control. As with all forms of nursery propagation, the so called "back-yarder" is always ready to make a quick dollar and this leads to an over-production of any particular clone, and naturally reduces the value of that clone, no matter how valuable it may have been.

As this comparatively new method of propagating orchids settles down, no doubt the large orchid hybridist with the long range breeding program, incorporating only the finest and latest breeding stock, will win out. Naturally the outstanding clones to be subjected to the meri-stem technique must be drawn from a large selection of seedlings flowering for the first time and it is therefore more necessary

than ever to produce and flower a large quantity of seedlings from which to select the outstanding clones for multiplication.

Orchid enthusiasts do not all look for a monetary return from their investment but no doubt gain one when their purchase finally flowers, producing a "thing of beauty" for them.

How many plants survive from flasks? If you have a controlled heated house, the advantages of a mist propagator, evaporative cooler or aerovator, and can be in attendance with the plantlets for eight to ten hours a day, seven days a week, you will naturally have a great deal of success but can the average orchid enthusiast afford this type of equipment and spend the necessary amount of time, with the plantlets??

Mericlones are currently listed in catalogues, throughout the world, for sale in various sizes. This is an example of a certain clone priced at: Size A, \$6, 15cm—22cm leaf growth; Size B, \$9, 30cm—45cm leaf growth; Size C, \$12, 1 bulb and Lead; Size D, \$24, 2 bulbs and lead; Size E, \$30, Mericlone in Spike.

As against these figures, an original propagation of the same clone would be currently offered at \$40—\$50, depending upon availability.

When comparing original divisions with the aforementioned mericlones, surely a comparison can be drawn say, as in the field of Art. A collector will not hesitate to pay from \$1,000 upwards, for an original Sir Hans Heysen, Sir Arthur Streeton, or an Albert Namatjira,

when reproductions of the originals can be purchased for \$5 to \$10. The original will always hold its price for an interested collector.

To say that the "market for divisions only exists for plants not worth mericloneing or those with only limited appeal" is far from correct. Many hybridists do not agree with mericloneing and naturally do not have their outstanding or award varieties subjected to this new technique. This does not mean that their varieties are inferior to clones which have been mericloneed. In fact, in the case of some wealthy orchid enthusiasts who prefer to retain an outstanding clone in its entirety, substantial sums of money have been refused, for the rights of reproduction.

Perhaps it should be brought to the notice of newer growers, news of the transaction of division sales just after the Second World War. This period could be rightly termed the "Girrahween Golden Era" for it was during this period that Girrahween 'Enid' FCC. Gold Medal Orchid Society of New South Wales was enjoying its just rewards. An interested buyer was afforded a special treat when offered a small green bulb of this fine cymbidium for two hundred pounds (yes! \$400) in an almost cloak and dagger atmosphere. I often wonder just how many transactions of this nature took place during this "golden era" of Cymbidium orchids in Australia.

NOTICE

It has been proposed that a study group be set up to investigate New Zealand Orchids. Such things as their cultivation, distribution and raising from seed etc. Anyone interested contact W.J. Forrest, 19 Fairview Place, Te Puke.

10th World Orchid Conference 11-18th September, 1981.

The South African Orchid Council extends a cordial invitation to orchid growers throughout the world to attend the 10th World Orchid Conference and Show in Durban during September, 1981.

If you would like further information, please write to: The Working Committee, 10th World Orchid Conference, P.O. Box 10630, Marine Parade, Durban, Republic of South Africa, 4056.

Seedlings & Mericlones of Interest

Pot. Gordon Sul' Red Radlance AM/AOS. Fine Red of good shape. Medium size flowers. Only a few of these. \$6.00

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Phal. BARBARA MOLER 'TOPNOTCH' X BARBARA MOLER 'KISMET' 4" Yellows spotted Red. Very select inbreeding. \$4.50

All plants ex 3" — 4" pots. Post free on orders \$15.00 or more. Lesser orders, airmail & South Island add 50c. Descriptions are expectation only.

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HOW I GOT STARTED IN ORCHIDS

(Being copy of an article contributed to the Australian Orchid Review, many years ago, by Percy H. Sheaffe, 38 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads, NSW Australia.) No copyrights reserved.

"What, grow sticks? Not me."

I was replying to a friend's repeated suggestions that I take up the hobby of growing orchids. In those days in the late 1940's, I was neither impressed with his arguments in favour of the subject, nor at the sight of his bush-house full of Indian Dendrobium species, which to me resembled sticks.

Why should I want to change my hobby, anyway?

Hadn't I already won the North Coast Championship for gladioli?

What reason would I need to induce me to forsake these lovely flowers to grow orchids?

Hadn't I, in my younger days, as an enthusiastic vegetable grower in my local Junior Farmers Club, worked my way up to the top few in the state, and hadn't I continued to exhibit my vegetables successfully for many years. And wasn't it a fact that right now in 1940-odd, my whole arable area was chock full of vegetables and gladioli beds.

I ask you, what good reason was there for me to want to grow orchids?

This was the situation, when one day, about 1950, my new father-in-law suggested that I accompany him on a brief visit to one of his neighbours who "Grew a few orchids."

Well, I went.....

This man lived in a Sydney suburb, and his few orchids turned out to be a few bush-houses full of flowering plants which I later discovered were known as

cymbidiums. What a terrible name — but oh yes, what lovely flowers. These were orchids such as I had never seen before, and far removed from friends "sticks."

Either through pity for my ignorance, or some blind faith in the future, our host sent me home with an orchid plant to grow — something to practise on.

Well, I practised all right. This Cymbidium lowianum was repotted into a 8-inch pot full of red soil, that being the "stuff" which made my other plants grow so well. And would you believe it, the thing thrived. For a couple of years it just raced ahead, and bore many green flowers, just like many more favoured lowianums would do for their masters.

So the foundation was laid. Later on I visited the N.S.W.O.S. town hall show, and really saw orchid blooms at their best. From then on it just became a steady progress of getting more and more plants, with the development of that terrible, inevitable lust to own the rarest — the best.

During my 20-odd years of growing orchids I recognise, in retrospect, two milestones. First was the chance meeting with the late Jim Mackinney Senr. of Epping who taught me so many of the finer points of growing orchids, and who, to me, proved to be a true orchid growing friend.

Second was what I call my first real acceptance as a grower. It was my first meeting with Mrs Rene

Mahony, who had come from Macksville to judge our local show. I recall her first question to me. It was "What is your best orchid, young man?" when I answered Girrahween Enid, I gathered from her expression that I had really joined the ranks.

So I became an orchid grower.

And what became of those gladioli, you may ask.

Well, last year I sat down and wrote to a well known Southern grower;

Dear Sir — After a break of about 20 years, I would like to grow a few more gl.....

Wellington Orchid Society Show

by Dorothy Cooper

A large range of genera was on display at the Wellington Orchid Society's October (Labour Weekend) Show — 1978.

The members' display around the outer area of the hall featured a fine Phalaenopsis display arranged around a series of cascading pools, a large group of Cattleyas and a corner devoted to native orchids arranged as in their natural habitat. A separate area was devoted to Odontoglossums and they made a dazzling display. An innovation was a display of stamps from around the world featuring orchids, from the private collection of Jean Mowbray. During the Show, several potting demonstrations and discussions on culture were given in an adjacent hall. Public interest in orchids in this district seems to be insatiable.

A sales table did brisk business as did two commercial stands. About 1900 people visited the show during the three days.

Asked to select a few plants that 'caught ones eye' we have listed the following, but hasten to add that many fine plants were present and any such choice is inevitably a personal one.

Phalaenopsis RED LIPS x BARBARA MOLLER, bore yellow-green petals and sepals with tessellated red markings and stripes, and red lip. A large thriving plant of DENDROBIUM linguiforme covered in flowers formed an impressive display, as did DENDROBIUM primulinum var. giganteum with four pendant canes each flowering at every node. A fine specimen of VANDA tricolor var. suavis had spotted red-white petals and sepals and bicoloured red lip. A splash of bright colour was provided by three spikes of golden yellow flowers on DENDROBIUM fimbriatum. A huge specimen plant of CYMBIDIUM AFRICAN ADVENTURE with 11 spikes attracted much attention. MILTONIA CELLE WATERFALL provided a fine example of the waterfall Miltonias. ODONTOCIDIUM JACOBERT carried two large branched spikes with numerous brown red flowers bearing yellow and red lips.

The Show provided many examples to demonstrate that well grown and flowered species can provide as colourful and impressive a display as the most elaborate hybrids.

WANTED: Vol. 1. No. 6. and Vol. 3. No. 4. Orchids in NZ.

The Editor would appreciate the return of copies of the aforementioned from Societies surplus stocks.

VALLEY ORCHIDS MINIATURES

Strong well rooted single plants well in excess of minimum 15cm leaf sale size.

MERICLONES

V704 + C SARAH JEAN 'SPARKLE' June flowering, superb as specimen plant. Bountiful and beautiful. (S.J. 'FIRST LADY' HCC/AOS & S.J. 'GOLDILOCKS' pictured in v.o.'s 1979 Catalogue.) Some could be tetraploids. **\$11.00 each.**

V806 + C LUSTROUS x PUMILUM. One of the earliest flowering minis. Has won NSW Royal Easter Show on many occasions. A must to extend the flowering season to its utmost. See v.o. 1979 Catalogue for picture. Plants later — some could be tetraploids. **\$11.00 each.**

V818. OISO 'REYNELLA' August brown. Perfectly straight upright spikes. Promising breeder for straight spikes. Plants later. **\$11.00 each.**

Flasks of above plus other v.o. miniature mericlones available at *A80 equivalent.

SEEDLINGS

(+ c) means flasks were colchicine treated and therefore some plants from each flasking can be expected to be converted to tetraploids. **SINGLE PLANTS \$8.00 each.** Only a few left of the next two listings.

7511 + c SARAH JEAN 'GOLDILOCKS' x WYANGA 'ELANORA' AD/NSW 50% pure colour greens.

7529 + c GIDGET 'ZUMA' x BEXLEY RADIANCE 'BEXLEY' for bright red minis and novelties. Already off v.o.'s listing we are LUCKY to have a few left.

7656 + c SARAH JEAN 'SPARKLE' x MELINGA 'RUM JUNGLE' ultra early yellows — some jade. 50% pure colour. Single plants available shortly.

We will have limited numbers of single plants from the following colchicine treated flasks available later.

7657 + c OISO x IRELAND 'APRIL SHOWERS' ultra early browns and yellows.

7658 + c OISO x MELINGA 'RUM JUNGLE' ultra early browns and yellows.

7660 + c SARAH JEAN 'SPARKLE' x WYANGA 'ELANORA' AD/NSW quality greens.

7661 + c SENSATION 'CHIANTE' x PUMILUM 'ALBUM' mini reds.

7662 + c SLEEPING BEAUTY 'SARAH JEAN' x PUMILUM 'ALBUM' a remake of the famous (Sarah Jeans).

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Sap green, cream lip miniature. **6" pots \$10.00/½ gal. \$12.50**
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Early flowering clear yellow standard tetraploid. An old favorite and a show winner each year. **6" pots \$10.00**
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Bronze yellow miniature. **6" pot \$10.00**
- SHOWGIRL 'MISTINGUETTE'
A good white miniature, good spike habit and heavy producer. **6" pot \$10.00**
- TAPESTRY 'LONG BEACH' B/5WOC
Red standard, good flower producer. **6" pot \$10.00**
- WALLARA 'GOLD NUGGET' AM/VOC
An outstanding yellow standard, a frequent winner at shows in N.Z. and Australia. **6" pot \$10.00/½ gal. \$12.50**

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