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ORCHIDS OF NEW ZEALAND

Volume 5, No. 3

Published bi-monthly.

November — December

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND — ISSN 0110-5256

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Annual Subscriptions, including postage:

New Zealand \$5.50.

Surface rate: All overseas countries \$NZ6.00.

Advertising Rates: Available on request.

All manuscripts, photographs, news items, etc. to reach Editor six weeks prior to publication.

Views and opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Orchid Council of N.Z.

The Orchid Council does not assume responsibility for any transaction between advertisers and readers.

COVER PHOTO:

Cattleya guttata 'Alba' x *Laelia purpurata* 'Carnea'. This lovely photo supplied by Cyril Pritchard of Whakatane. Cyril writes "This seedling flowered for the first time on the 10th May 1979, I since have three more plants of the same cross bloom and there is some variance in them. I took the seedlings out of their flask on 2nd October 1976, so they flowered in just under two and a half years."

Council Essay Award

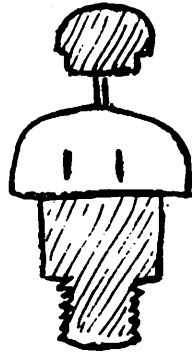
Magazine subscribers are invited to enter the COUNCIL ESSAY AWARD which will commence on the 1st November 1979 and extend till 30th April 1980. The winner will be announced at the AGM of the Orchid Council of New Zealand in May 1980.

The aim of the competition shall be to stimulate the submission of original contributions to the Council's Magazine. The subject matter shall therefore be confined to the study, history and culture of all fields pertaining to orchids. No form of advertising is admissible. Entries should be between 2000 and 3500 words in length. No limit is set on the number of entries which a competitor may submit.

All entries will be judged by the Council's Essay Award Subcommittee. Members of the Council Executive, Editorial Committee, Competition Judges and their immediate families shall not be eligible to compete.

Two cash prizes will be awarded, one of \$100 and one of \$50.

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CYMBIDIUM COMPANIONS

Ros Bickerstaff, 12 Enfield Road, Napier

I have been approached by quite a number of readers to honour the statement that I made in my last article upon the cool-growing companions for Cymbidiums, to supply a few cultural hints and information about those plants that I listed.

Firstly, I must repeat that all of the plants listed I grow cool, that is without any heat other than that supplies naturally by the sun and weather. I have two sarlon cloth (72%) shade-houses, one 2m x 2.5m unheated glass-house, and many deciduous fruit-trees suitable for hanging baskets on the lower branches. The glass-house and one of the shade-houses has trickle irrigation that can be adjusted at will. This was installed to allow me to go away for extended holidays, as well as for increasing the humidity in our dry summer conditions. Because of this, I seldom have to hose my plants; the rain and the irrigation system take care of this for me. My main worry is when we have too much rain as we have had this March. I then have to erect plastic covers to protect the plants that are outside, which is almost all of them.

Whenever I get a new plant (in my case it is usually a species) I try to find out as much about the plant as I can; in which part of the World does it grow? — at what altitude? — is it epiphytic or terrestrial? — is it from a monsoon area? — what growing conditions have other growers found most conducive to get the best results? (Sander, Hawke, Curtis, Williams, Ritterhaussens, Northen, Richter etc, and articles in orchid bulletins and reviews). With this information, it is now possible to make a reasoned approach as to

how to grow it and where I should try it out first among my collection. It is quite possible that it may need more protection from the wind, more light or more shade, but I must have some "reasoned" place to commence its new habitat. (Remember that Quito Colombia on the Equator, does not have a hot climate but a temperate one because of its altitude — likewise, some orchids from the tropical regions can be cool-growing if they come from high altitudes).

I have built up my collection from many sources. Many have been bought from NZ growers (or swapped), and quite a large number from firms that have collectors obtaining specimens from the "wild." These overseas firms send the plants to me by Air Freight Forward. (One consignment cost me almost six times the cost of the plants to have them sent this way, but the plants usually arrive in reasonably good condition). Remember, to receive plants from Overseas, you will need to obtain the necessary permits from the local Agriculture and Fisheries Department, and have satisfactory, isolated, quarantine housing for your importations that will enable them to survive for at least three months after arrival.

ANGULOA, Ruiz and Pavon.

This genus was named after a Peruvian senior civil servant, Don

F. de Angule. It is often known as the "tulip" or "boat" orchid. It is mainly terrestrial, and grows at quite high altitudes in the Andes from Peru to Colombia. Grow in an open, fibrous mix, containing well-dried cow manure. Keep the compost moist except for about a couple of months in winter, after growth is completed when water is withheld. This will encourage the plant to flower in late spring, early summer. Give plenty of protection during growth, away from cool draughts, and a cool, shady spot in summer. The soft, plicate leaves must be kept dry at all times. I grow *A. clowesii* and *A. unifolia*, both are fragrant.

BIFRENARIA, Lindley.

Named from the Latin bis = two; frenum = brake, because the pollinia are connected to the disc by a double caudicle as if they were brakes. All the species of this genus come from Brazil. They are epiphytic or lithophitic (grow on trees or rocks). Grow in an open Cymbidium mix in a bright sunny spot with plenty of water and humidity while in active growth. When growth is completed, give shade and cooler conditions. Flowers, produced from the base, are large, fragrant and handsome, lasting a long time. *B. harrisoniae*, which I grow, is the easiest to obtain, and makes a wonderful show when in flower in spring-summer.

BLETILLA, Reichenbach, filius (= the son).

This terrestrial genus originates in the East, — China, Japan, Taiwan — and is very readily obtainable from local seedmerchants and nurseries. It grows easily in open conditions in one's garden with a minimum of care; just plant a bulb

or two in an open, sunny spot and in a few years, without any special care, you will have a large clump of flowering orchids to show your friends. This genus is often wrongly called *Bletia*, a completely different genus which bears little resemblance to *Bletilla*. *Bletilla striata* is the correct name for *Bletilla hyacinthina*. *B. striata* has an alba (white) form, and a double white variety, too. I grow *B. striata* in the garden, but prefer the other two to be grown in pots so that I can take them indoors when in bloom.

BRASSIA, R. Brown.

Named in honour of William Brass, a botanist famous for his botanical illustrations made close to the beginning of the 19th Century. These epiphytes are often called "spider" orchids, and come from the Central American regions stretching from South Florida to Peru. Many of this genus need warm conditions, but some, including *B. brachiata* and *B. verrucosa*, which I grow, will succeed if grown in pots or baskets in a warm, sunny, sheltered spot in the open. The compost I use is mainly fibre, pine bark, a little pumice, and sphagnum moss to give good drainage and yet keep the roots moist. Brassias like plenty of fresh, moving air. The spikes come from a leaf axil at the base of the pseudobulb and bear numerous, large, fragrant, spidery looking flowers, during the early summer.



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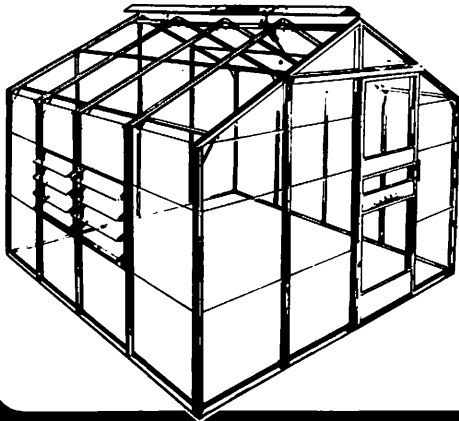
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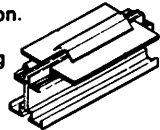
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ORCHID IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

A.F. Rainbow and A.J. McCully
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Levin

Many orchid growers will now be aware that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has suspended the issuing of permits to import orchids, except for those grown in tissue culture in sterile flasks. This suspension was introduced early in August and is expected to last for at least three months. There are a number of reasons that led to this decision including the increase in the number and size of orchids being imported with consequent inspection problems, and recent interceptions of harmful pests and diseases.

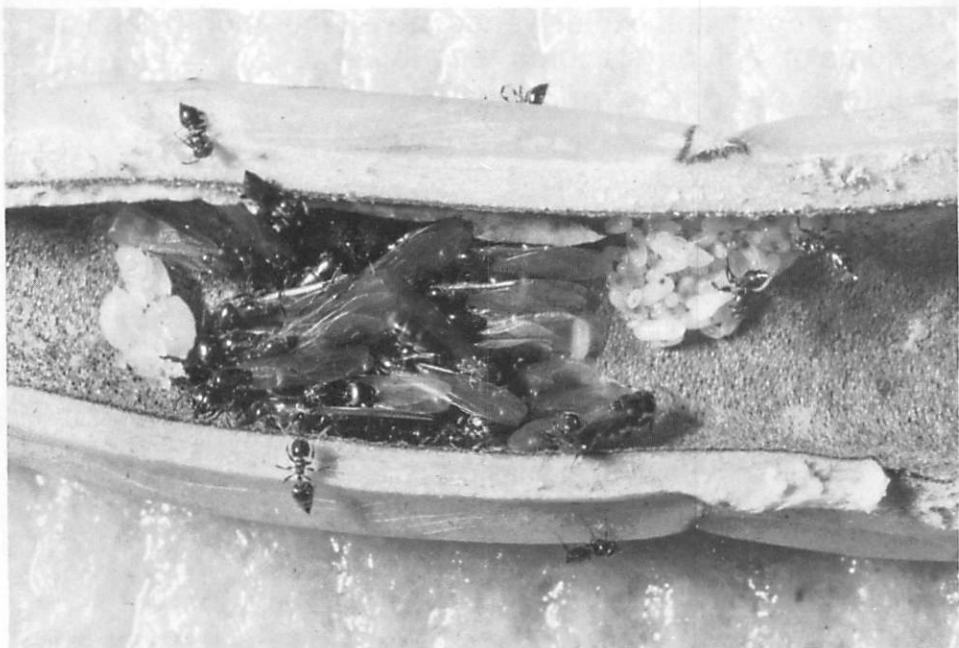


Photo: J.I. Townsend.

A colony of acrobat ants, *Crematogaster* sp, found inside the hollow pseudobulb of a *Laelia* plant imported from Central America. Winged queens, workers, pupae, larvae and eggs were present.

Since 1973 Ministry policy has allowed each importer a maximum of 2,000 orchid plants a year (Lund 1975) but few imported their full quota until recently. The limit was

increased in 1978 by a further 2,000 cymbidium pseudobulbs for those wishing to produce flowers for export. During 1979 numerous applications were received for 1,000 — 2,000 plants or pseudobulbs and permits have been issued for approximately 30,000 orchid plants and 69,000 cymbidium pseudobulbs between 1 January and 1 August 1979.

In spite of the Ministry's recommendation that only small young plants be imported it was found that large mature plants were frequently introduced, with the consequent increased chances of harbouring pests and disease. In a recent shipment from Central America the hollow pseudobulbs of *Laelia* plants were found to contain colonies of termites and several species of ants (see photograph). One of the ant species is a potential pest to agricultural crops, and to people because of its sting.

In the same shipment the Port Agriculture Service also intercepted a rust disease caused by a fungus *Uredo* sp — the third such interception in recent years. Instead of the usual discrete yellow or brown pustules 1—2 mm in diameter this orchid rust (also on *Laelia* sp) had the appearance of a faint 'dusting' with a yellow powder. Little is known about the rust diseases of orchids but none occur in New Zealand and so every precaution must be taken to exclude their introduction.

A third recent interception was tomato ring spot virus (TomRSV) found on a cymbidium plant imported from Australia and submitted to the Port Agriculture Service at the request of the importer. Further enquiries revealed that the variety was Snowbird 'Jayhurst'. In 1977 Goff and Corbett in the USA had recorded TomRSV from Snowbird 'Jayhurst' obtained from a parent plant in Australia by tissue culture techniques. As far as we know these are the only records of TomRSV in orchids.

TomRSV is a potentially serious virus causing diseases of grapes, pipfruit, stonefruit, berryfruit and

other horticultural crops overseas. It is carried in the soil by a nematode vector *Xiphinema americanum* which is already established in New Zealand. If the virus became associated with the nematode vector it would be difficult and expensive to control. It is also known to be pollen and seed transmitted in several plants including some common weeds.

The significance of TomRSV to commercial orchid growers and hobbyists is not known; in Snowbird 'Jayhurst' symptoms were either obscure or non-existent. It is undoubtedly a threat to many other horticultural crops.

In view of these interceptions it would have been irresponsible for the Ministry to continue issuing permits for large numbers of orchid plants and cymbidium pseudobulbs. Permits issued prior to the suspension remain valid unless additional information becomes available to warrant their cancellation. Importers who hold such permits are therefore advised not to proceed with them in the meantime unless orders have already been placed.

During the suspension period the Ministry will be testing samples of recently imported orchids, reviewing the literature and seeking up to date information from overseas. It may then be possible, when the risks are more fully understood, to relax the restriction but it is unlikely there will be a return to the scale of importing that has occurred recently. The risks are not only to orchids but to other important horticultural crops are too great.

Acknowledgements

To Mr J B Keall who identified the ants; to Mrs G F Laundon who identified the rust and to Mr B R Young who identified tomato ring spot virus.

References

GEOFF, L.M. and CORBETT, M.K. 1977. Association of Tomato Ringspot Virus with a Chlorotic Leaf Streak of Cymbidium Orchids. *Phytopathology* 67: 1096—1100.

LUND, C.N. 1975. Importing Orchids. *Orchids in New Zealand* 1: 36-38.

FOR SALE: 1980 CONFERENCE

There have been times during the last twelve months when the Steering Committee for the 1980 Conference would have given the whole thing away — far less put it up for sale! However, such moments have only been fleeting, and rapidly dispelled by the enthusiasm and interest surrounding this event.

As advertised in the last issue of 'Orchids in New Zealand,' we are now accepting reservations for commercial stands for the duration of the Show. It is envisaged that as well as commercial orchid growers, those dealing in any commodity associated with orchids, such as pots, sprays, fertilisers, glasshouse equipment and so on, could well be interested in taking space. The area set aside for commercial stands comprises virtually the entire first floor of the public grandstand at Ellerslie: it is the Doncaster Room

— 160ft long — directly above the Show venue on the ground floor, it is linked to it by stairs and an escalator at the Southern end.

There will also be space available for outside static displays.

It is clear that we will have several hundred registrants at the Conference, and thousands visiting the Show.

Basic staging will be supplied, but you will be free to dress and operate your stand as you wish. No commission will be taken on sales.

The North Shore Orchid Society will be operating a trading table in the Doncaster Room on behalf of smaller growers.

Space rental on application to The Conference Secretary, P.O. Box 33-493, Takapuna, Auckland, 9.

SOCIETY NEWS

HAWKE'S BAY ORCHID SOCIETY NEWS

The Hawke's Bay Orchid Society is slowly recovering from a whirlwind visit from one of their Overseas Members, Andrew Easton, who is currently Manager of Dos Pueblos Orchids, and is co-owner of Featherhill Exotic Plants, USA.

Andrew, an Honorary Life Member of the HBOS, was home for a few days to see his mother, who lives in Hastings. While here, he managed to find time to give a well-attended Special Meeting of our Society a talk upon some of the orchids he grows or breeds, or had seen in his trips around the world. These were ably illustrated with slides he had brought with him. What a feast of colour! And, the genera he grows has such delightful growth habits, and flowers, that it made many a grower "drool!"

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Heating Without Power

Phil Mayhead, 360 Carrington St., New Plymouth

Continued from last issue

The next "batch" used the same bags, one with fowl manure added, the other nothing except clippings. These two bags were leant against each other, with the tops open. Next day I found the bags were warmish to touch between them, where they were touching, but the rest of the surfaces were cold. Here was the answer — heat was being generated but was lost so quickly to the ambient temperature around the bags that the next range of "bacteria" couldn't start.

Some spare concrete blocks were made into a three sided structure, three blocks high, and the bags were put in this. Within hours they were very hot all round, 130°C in the bags, and 120°C between the bags.

The next day showed up a basic fault in my glasshouse. I have always been bothered with condensation drips from the Novarroof but this was ridiculous. It was as though I had hosed all night. It proved the "heaters" though!

Plastic polybubble was purchased and was stretched along on top of the rafters, as Norm Wood suggests in the May—June 1979 issue on page 122. This gave me an air gap of 50mm between purlin thickness and the roof, and completely solved the condensation problem. I am in the process of putting a further layer of clear polythene under the rafters, giving another air gap of 100mm which will be even better still with two air gaps.

I am completely sold on the efficiency of the plastic lining. The bags meantime last 10—14 days, with no additives. I have lined the blocks with some old sheets of polystyrene which materially helps to hold the heat. The next phase will be to try and transfer this heat to water. Ideas here are to have a tank of water in the glasshouse, with the bags pressed up tight, or else have a copper pipe coming from the bottom of the tank, around the bags, and back near the top of the tank, so water flows by the thermosyphon principle of hot water rising. This water container would have to be large, at least a square meter I should think, and would act much like an electrical night-store unit.

Over the top of this "compost bin" I have a wire mesh, and a slatted bench which is about 25cm higher than this. Les Taylor covers his with polystyrene sheeting (I use newspaper) in the day, the bags heat right to the top and we uncover them at night.

Here are some minimum temperatures recorded, comparing with Brad Lambert's glasshouse, similar in construction but with a polythene lining: Before grass heaters — May 18, Mine 2½°C, Brad's 4°C; Grass heaters — May 26, mine 7°C, Brad's 5°C; After roof lining and grass heaters — June 12, mine 11½°C, Brad's 7°C.

Brad's plastic sheeting had gone brittle and was falling down at this stage, he has since renewed it.

Here are some figures of Les Taylor's grass heater without any nitrogen additives:

	Grass Bag Temp.	Glasshouse Minimum
2nd day	87°C	10°C
3rd day	136°C	6°C
4th day	130°C	4°C
5th day	118°C	8°C
6th day	89°C	8°C
7th day	90°C	8°C

The 4th day that recorded 4°C minimum was a very heavy frost and normally this would have recorded 0°C or even -0°C. We feel that higher temperatures can be obtained by the addition of a Nitrogenous material such as dried blood, fowl manure, etc, and that perhaps they would last longer.

Advantages of grass heaters — NO COST!!! You have to cut the grass in any case. The grass, when the heat is exhausted, is very suitable for tipping out on the garden as a mulch.

Disadvantages — No thermostatic control but the heat given off is not fierce and is not likely to do any damage. Every now and again one bag smells slightly — not really sure why. And of course in the Winter, when you want the most grass, growth is at a standstill. Les Taylor is mowing his neighbours lawns, and I rotate my lawns with my sisters. Mr Tom French, your President, wanted me to write about this experiment as others of you may find it practical to supplement your own heating, which would result in a lower power bill, and others may have done even more in this, or other fields, such as Solar heating. The Editor would welcome any comments, discussion or suggestions as heating and costs concern a large number of growers. Finally, all those interested MUST

read the American Orchid Society Bulletin of October 1978 for the article on the brilliant glasshouse design of the firm of J and L Orchids (Janet and Lee Kuhn), based basically on the Rutgers University concept evidently, and shows the research that the Americans particularly are involved with in energy conservation.

Two Exquisite Orchids

Keith Goodwin

Everybody has preferences in their choice of orchids. Admittedly, they change with time, but then most of us are continually making new acquisitions. In a few months I will probably be enthusing about something entirely different, but there are two plants in particular that I have grown to appreciate over this last summer.

From most unlikely beginnings, BARKERIA LINDLEYANA materialised. Having the appearance of a few pieces of dry twigs about 75 mm long and a few meagre roots, it could have so easily been overlooked and discarded when it arrived with other larger plants. Surprisingly, the new growth appeared and grew to maturity in a relatively short time, elongating to form a flower spike in early summer. The gently nodding flowers form a loose cluster above the plant in shades of lilac and white. The dominant feature is the lip which hangs vertically, being basically white, margined and

spotted with lilac, and infiltrated with lemon. The overall impression is one of delicacy (although the flowers are long-lasting), and is very pleasing. Some advocate growing these plants on slabs or cork as the root system prefers to remain free, and soon forms a tangled mat.

The other plant is *GALEANDRA BAUERII*. This has fleshy spindle-shaped pseudobulbs with pairs of soft leaf bracts growing from the upper half. I treat it as a semi-terrestrial keeping the mixture moist. It is also a gross feeder. A short arching flower stem from the apex of the new growth produces numerous 25mm flowers. Again, the lip is dominant, being horn-shaped with a short spur. Colour is subdued shades of brown suffused with pink, and semi-transparent in effect, not unlike some of our seashells. The flowering period is extended as individual flowers appear in succession over several months.

Both of these species require intermediate temperatures, are compact growers, and have particularly desirable flowers.

SAVE YOUR SPECIES

by John Campbell, Prebbleton

I have seen a large number of orchids in the Christchurch area and quite a few collections in various other parts of the country. It is unfortunately common to see large specimens of orchids with masses of 'backbulbs' shrivelling away in various stages of decline. What many people don't realise is

that by letting old pseudobulbs shrivel and die, they lose the opportunity to reproduce the plant.

This to me is a sad state of affairs as many plants are slowly dwindling away. I make this remark with special emphasis towards species orchids as many of these are becoming rare in their natural habitat and quite a few governments are placing bans on their export.

Practically every book on orchid culture has a section on dividing and re-potting and most of the ones I have read suggest leaving at least three pseudobulbs on the lead division. I have taken this to mean that pseudobulbs in excess of this number are not doing much towards the production of flowers or growth. This statement is generally applied to those orchids with large pseudobulbs, though in my experience, any well established plant (and I have even applied this to small seedlings), can be cleanly cut back behind the third pseudobulb.

With the advent of the longer lasting bark potting mixtures, this system of multiplication can soon build up a large specimen plant with many leads. Because you 'back-cut' a plant in this manner, it does not mean that you need to divide it into several pots. Often in fact, the old pseudobulbs shoot away into new growth quickly if left exactly where they are. I always take the precaution of prying the cut open and wedging in a thin chip of charcoal to allow the cut to dry and apply sulphur or fungicide to the new surfaces. Some of the divisions I have made have remained in the pot with the main growing pieces for several years and were separated only when the whole plant needed repotting.

I purchased a plant of *Cattleya trianae* 'The Premier' some years ago. This is a beautiful species orchid much more robust than the usual type, probably a tetraploid and certainly equal to many of the exquisite modern hybrids. This specimen had five growths and a mass of old pseudobulbs spread across a fern slab. I put the secateurs through all the growths, three pseudobulbs back and was able to remove three divisions. I potted two which I retain for my collection, swapped one for something I really wanted and still have two for exchange or sale. There are four new growths coming away on the old slab and I would not be surprised to see others later. In a matter of a few years nine plants will have been obtained, and seven other people are going to enjoy seeing this flower, which is what orchid growing is about. I get much more satisfaction out of swapping plants rather than selling them and most of the people I have visited were only too willing to exchange pieces of plants so it's always a good policy to have divisions on hand.

Apart from these obvious benefits there is also the much wider and far reaching aspect of conservation to be considered. People with species orchids in their collection should do their best to reproduce their plants and spread them round as much as possible. Some countries are now trying to get rarer plants on a register so that people who wish to breed them can obtain pollen from other un-related plants.

These notes come as a plea to New Zealand growers to take great care of the species in their collections and to reproduce them where possible.

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B The Showbench Grower — If you are relying on what you have in June or July now — think again!!! In Adelaide alone June Cymbidiums have already flowered comparable to many mid-season varieties — Let alone what is to come now that we have the parents to produce the June/July results.

C The Hobbyist — Don't "miss the boat!" It's just as easy to grow good plants rather than "has beens." Share a flask or two with your friends.

It is now common knowledge that unflowered seedlings in bud using Fanfare 'St Frances' 4N as one of the parents have been selling in Sydney this year for prices up to \$500 per plant. We expect orders to be heavy — so early ordering is recommended.

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Fred Stewart 'Polaris' (4N) — Flowers mid-June.

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PUKEKURA CORNER

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



Lycaste deppei (Lodd.) Ldl.

I place the *Lycastes* in a special grouping of orchids which I categorize as 'those which some enthusiasts strive to cultivate but can't whereas others who don't try (and don't deserve), do!' I do not think I have made myself very clear so I will try again. Cultural advice tends to appear somewhat daunting, yet some growers with the minimum of facilities and relatively little experience have had success whereas experts have failed and gone a little sour in the process. It would be misleading to say that

they are easy to cultivate but at the same time experience indicates that there is a good chance of beginners succeeding from the outset.

Most literature advises starting with *L. aromatica* or *L. virginalis* (syn. *L. skinneri*) and whereas I would agree that the former is probably the easiest species to cultivate, I feel that *L. deppei* would come next. Besides, it is basically green and therefore has special attractions. I have to concede, however, that *L. virginalis* is

invincible for sheer beauty. The reason I have not chosen it is that I am one of those who has tried hard with only mediocre success and I'm suffering from the after-effects of sour grapes!

L. deppei is native to Mexico and Guatemala and was introduced into cultivation in 1828. The plant is deciduous and when not in flower is hardly recognizable from *L. virginalis*. Leaves are up to 50cm tall and 10cm wide — so-called 'plicate,' typical of the genus. The flowers on 15 — 20cm stems are produced in numbers from the base of each defoliated bulb produced over the previous growing season. The sepals predominate, having a basic colour of pale green overlaid with irregular fine spotting of dull red, perhaps best described as dusting. Petals are pure white and labellum rich yellow spotted with red. The flower is approximately 10cm across, long lasting and attractive to florists because of its fresh appearance. Our plants flower in Nov, Dec, Jan. Depending on cultural methods, new growths may overtake flowers.

Intermediate to cool growing conditions are adequate with every effort to accelerate growth while size increase is evident, then termination of any feeding and severe restrictions on watering when it ceases. During defoliation watering can be almost dispensed with until new growths appear, usually during flowering.

Warnings are often given about the dangers of getting water down the 'funnel' of young leaves where it can cause rot. We take no special precautions and get no rot, but it is wisest to complete watering before noon. If your conditions don't allow

for rapid drying of foliage it may be prudent to carefully avoid water collecting.

Cymbidium-type mixes are satisfactory and propagation from backbulbs usually successful. If all else fails, some produce shoots from the spiny top, so lay older bulbs on their sides in case lower 'eyes' have deteriorated. Plants should be repotted immediately after flowering while shoots are in rapid growth. If handled during dormancy and before flowering, damage could result.

For anyone venturing into *Lycastes*, this is a most rewarding species and will always hold appeal, making a very impressive specimen.

MORE CYMBIDIUM COMPANIONS

by Ros Bickerstaff

BULBOPHYLLUM, du Petit-Thouars.

Bulbophyllum is made from two Greek words — *bolbos* = bulb; *phyllon* = leaf. The bulb has usually one leaf attached to its top. This genus is wide-spread throughout the world; we have two species growing here in our New Zealand bush — *B.pygmaeum* and *B.tuberculatum*. The genus, *Cirrhopetalum*, is often grouped with *Bulbophyllum* and causes confusion. (If you cannot find a certain *Cirrhopetalum* species listed, try looking for it under

Bulbophyllum species). Both these genera need similar growing conditions, even though they look quite different and have many varying habits. Both prefer to grow on fibre blocks, or in shallow pans or baskets, using fibre and sphagnum moss with good drainage. Give plenty of water while in active growth, high humidity, bright light, and plenty of fresh air. Many species have an unpleasant scent when in flower. Some of the species are highly-coloured. Flower size ranges from quite large to very small — we need a powerful magnifying-glass to be able to see the beautiful flowers of our NZ species. When flowering has finished, move to a shady spot. Rest only those plants that come from a monsoon area (i.e. hot, wet summer; cool, dry winter) such as in India. Many flower in autumn, while some flower in spring or summer. I prefer the intriguing structure of the *Cirrhopetalum* flowers, although the *Bulbophyllums* have a fascination of their own.

CYPERORCHIS, Blume. This is a group of orchids that used to be grown under the name of *Cymbidium*. Name is derived from Greek — *kypeiros*-sedge; orchis (L) orchid. They resemble *Cymbidiums* in most respects, except that their flowers are usually pendent or semi-pendent and seldom open fully; they often are clustered at the end of the spike and mostly look like little hanging bells. Compost and culture is as for *cymbidiums*. I grow *C. elegans*, *C. cochleare* and *C. mastersii*.

COELOGYNE, Lindley. (Pron. see-lo-jin-ee). Because this genus has a hollow pistil, it was named after two Greek words — *Koilos*-hollow; *gune*-woman, female. This is a large genus which has a wide distribution from India, to South East Asia, South China, and out to many of the Pacific Islands. Most of these are epiphytes and are relatively easy to grow. I have most success when the cool varieties are grown in baskets suspended under shadecloth with full air movement. The plants multiply rapidly and soon grow into specimen size, especially *C. cristata* and *C. cristata alba*, which flower profusely, when they are overflowing from their baskets or rafts. This genus is one of my favourites. I grow, in addition to those mentioned, *C. corymbosa*, *C. elata*, *C. flaccida*, *C. flavida*, *C. ochracea*, *C. ovalis*, and *C. corrugata* in open conditions, but in more sheltered conditions — *C. massangeana*, *C. mooreana*, *C. fuscescens* and *C. uniflora*. For most of these plants, except the sheltered ones, I use a compost that is moisture retentive. A mixture of old compost, peat, fine pumice and a little pine bark seems to suit my conditions. For those needing more warmth I use a more open mix of coarser ingredients — pumice, bark, fibre and a little moss, to retain the moisture. Bracken fern broken into small pieces can be added to this mix.

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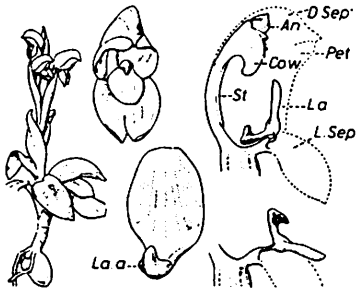
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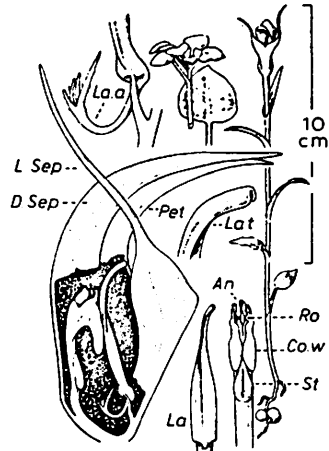
R.D. 3, Te Puke
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NEW ZEALAND INDIGENOUS ORCHIDS

by Albert H. Blackmore
(Continued from last issue)



P. cycnocephala

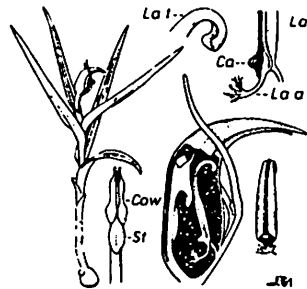


P. alobula

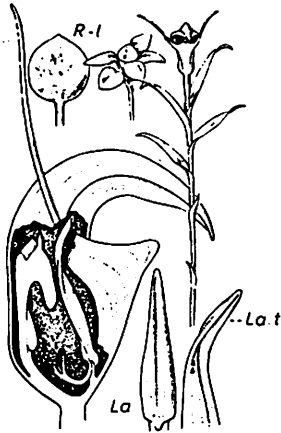
PTEROSTYLIS a terrestrial has nineteen species identified in New Zealand and over sixty in Australia. Those in New Zealand are *alobula*, *areolata*, *australis*, *banksii*, *barbata*, *brumalis*, *cycnocephala*, *foliata*, *gaminea*, *humilis*, *micromga*, *mutica*, *irsoniana*, *montana*, *nana*, *nutans*, *oliveri*, *rubricaulis*, *trullifolia* and *venosa*. Space will not allow each having a separate description, but the drawings will help to identify each species. A general statement given of the genus will help. Generally known as green hoods with a Maori name of Tutukiwi. Plants are found in both Islands, but mostly north of 41° latitude. They grow from sea-level to high lands in open bush and scrub, from clayland on hillsides to damp places. Flower colours are bluish, yellowish and brownish green, with pale stripes. Flowering starts in October.



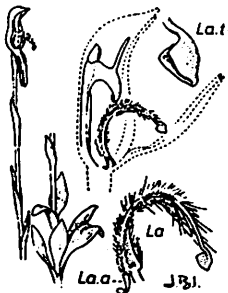
P. montana



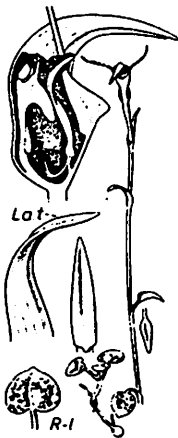
P. irsoniana



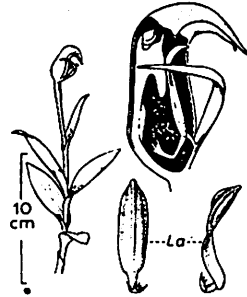
P. brumalis



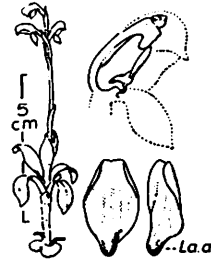
P. barbata



P. trullifolia

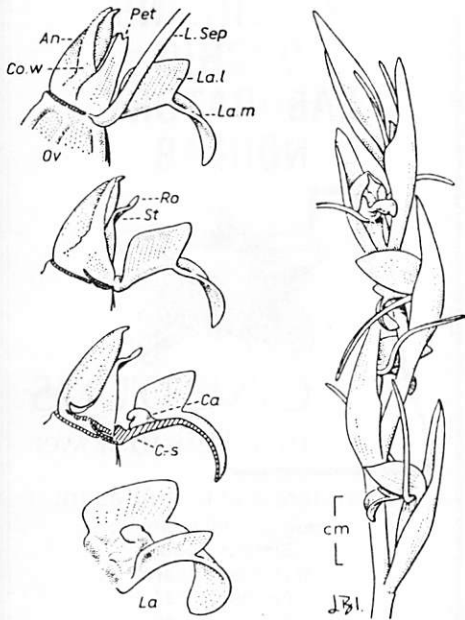


P. areolata



P. mutica

ORTHOCERAS a terrestrial has only one species known in both New Zealand and Australia, namely *strictum*. It has ovoid tubers. A rigid, but slender flower spike, sometimes up to 60cm high. Found in dry open grasslands and tussocklands from North Cape to Nelson between sea-level to 2600 feet altitude. The flowers occur from December to April on spikes consisting of 3 to 12 flowers. They vary considerably in their colours. One in April purple, February yellowish green dorsals and sepals and red tipped lip, January yellow. The flower is small on the top of a rather large ovary, which is usually green.



ORTHO CERAS. *O. strictum*: Flower bisected longitudinally; flower front view; flower with dorsal and one lateral sepal removed; column and labellum; column with wing removed and labellum bisected longitudinally; labellum; T.S. capsule; seed.

In view of the information contained in the article 'Orchid Importing Restrictions,' I would urge all growers who have plants of Cymbidium Snowbird 'Jayhurst' to contact their nearest Agricultural and Fisheries Inspector and have this clone checked.

Ed.

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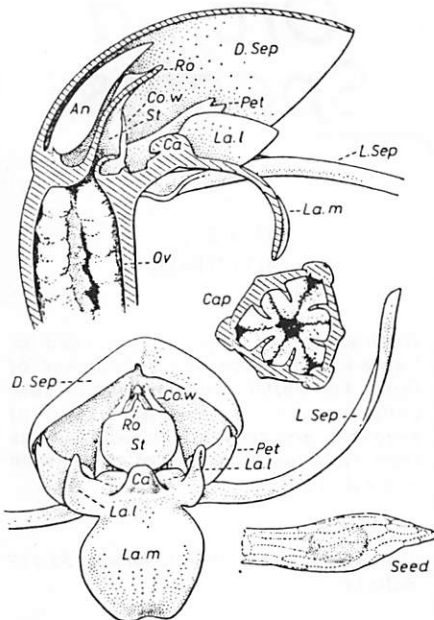
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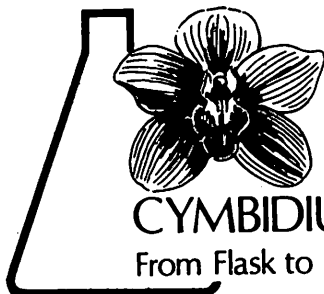
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