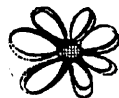


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COVER PHOTO: Standard Cymbidium La Belle 'Wild Rose'



— NATIONAL SHOW — ELLERSLIE, OCTOBER 1980

PRIZE WINNERS

Grand Champion: Paphiopedilum

Kay Rinaman 'Golden Touch',
Adelaide Orchids, Australia.

Champion Cymbidium: Ivy Fung

'Radiance,' Mrs B. Stevens, Auckland

Best Display by an Affiliated Society — 8 squares:

Manawatu Orchid Society

Best Display, Joint or Individual:

Blackmore, Turnbull, Harding and
Arrowsmith, Auckland

Best Floral Art Display:

Mrs C. Mills, Lower Hutt

Best Cymbidium Seedling:

Sleeping Cathy (Sleeping Dream x Kathy
Lovell), Burke's Orchids, Whakatane

Best Paphiopedilum: Kay

Rinaman 'Golden Touch,' Adelaide Orchids

Best Odontoglossum Alliance:

Odontioda Aloette, F. Askin, Wellington

Best Dendrobium: Kingianum

silcockii, G & K White, New Plymouth

Best Miniature Cymbidium:

Pat Ann, F. Brjlevich, Auckland

Best Speciman Orchid — Other than Cymbidium:

Coelogyne cristata alba, A. Blackmore,
Auckland

Reserve Champion: Novelty

Cymbidium Ivy Fung 'Radiance,'
Mrs B. Stevens, Auckland

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N.Z. Orchid Society

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Adelaide Orchids.

Best Coloured Cymbidium:

Tapestry 'Red Duke,' Smithers & O'Dowda,
Auckland

Best Cattleya:

Slc. Hazel Boyd 'Flamenco,'
C. & S. Brindle, Auckland

Best Phalaenopsis: Lipperot,

H. Piechl. Paekakariki

Best Vandaceous Orchid:

Ascocenda Phaiyot, L. Arrowsmith,
Auckland

Best Any Other Orchid: Angulocaste

Olympus, R. Smith (Victoria).

Best Novelty Cymbidium:

Ivy Fung 'Radiance,' B. Stevens, Auckland

Best Species:

Paphiopedilum delenatii, F. Askin,
Wellington

O.C.N.Z. AWARDS

The following awards were granted at the National Show held at Ellerslie, October, 1980.

A.M. Paphiopedilum Kay Rinaman 'Golden Touch' grown by Adelaide Orchids of Australia.

H.C.C. Cymbidium Levis Duke 'Bella Vista' grown by Adelaide Orchids of Australia

H.C.C. Odontocidium Tiger Sun 'Paradise' grown by Mr R. Maunder of Tauranga.

A.D. Display of New Zealand native orchids grown by Mr and Mrs B. McKay of New Plymouth. (This display also won the American Orchid Society's Show Trophy Certificate for 'Most outstanding orchid exhibit')

A Question of Pride — RATCLIFFE'S PAPHS

BY Paul Phillips, R & E. Ratcliffe (Orchids) Ltd, Chilton, England

For a great many years now, the name of Ratcliffe, and top quality Paphiopedilums have been synonymous in the orchid world, and the Ratcliffe glasshouses at Chilton, England, have long been a Mecca for anyone with our own particular complaint — Paphio-itis!

Although the Company has expanded tenfold since the days when my father-in-law's hobby became a commercial business, we at R & E Ratcliffe (Orchids) Limited still have for our plants the same drive and interest that all ardent enthusiasts have. We are often asked "What is your secret?" — but there is no secret, as such, only an intense and overwhelming interest and pleasure in everything to do with our nursery, so that it has become our Way of Life. The results speak for themselves, for the recognition that has been, and still is, consistently heaped upon plants from this stud, is too widespread to mention in one article. Nevertheless, during the course of these lines, I wish to discuss and comment upon some of the attempted and achieved results of the long campaign to attain that

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most elusive of qualities — perfection.

How far back one must go is not definite, but one extremely important starting point was the flowering in the year 1955 of the famous Paeony 'Regency' AM/RHS. This clone has done as much, if not more than, any other in the Ratcliffe stud. Since that first flowering, it has been responsible for numerous progeny which have won international Awards for themselves, not to mention the countless other clones of extremely high quality, all of which made worthwhile Show plants and excellent parents of future champions.

Orchilla 'Chilton' AM/RHS & GMM, AM/AOS, FCC/AOS, SM/DOG, and so on, has undoubtedly gained much prestige for us and our stock, Award-wise. This clone has received recognition from every Continent and almost all Orchid Society Awards available — although, on this count, I am probably preaching to the converted.

Orchilla serves to underline the fact that good, strong colours have always been at the top of the scale in our breeding programme — even, on occasion, to the detriment of size of flower and stem length in former years. However, for some time now, this has not been the case, and with our huge stock to work on, I make sure that the stem length dominates on one side of the cross, at least. These days, therefore, our seedlings are flowering with not only superior colouring, but extra long stems combined with the first class form and texture which is expected from a Ratcliffe flower.

One of the joys of working with such a fine nucleus is the ability to make a few forays into the unknown. A certain amount of selective work goes on all the time

to obtain new breaks, and part of this theme is line-breeding. Paeony 'Regency' is again an example of this. In 1959, we crossed this clone with a sister clone, Paeony 'Rufus,' and many of the resulting progeny have been well above expectations. So far, Paeony 'Debonair' AM/RHS is the only one to have received any recognition, and very fine it is for its deeper red colouring and good length of stem — both qualities which it hands on to its progeny. However, I personally prefer Paeony 'Mulberry'. The overall quality of this lovely plant is good in all its aspects, and I am looking forward to what develops from it and from future sibling crosses of yet further in-breeding. At the time of writing, a sudden upsurge of interest in Paeony 'Regency' has arisen, and after several decades it seems that its breeding potential has been realised. In places like Japan, prices of three times its current value are being obtained, owing to the world acclaim which its good progeny are receiving, and now other breeders also wish to get on the "band wagon." As a list of all the achievements in this line would fill several articles, and as I currently wish to cover several different aspects of Ratcliffe breeding, maybe I should wind up the Paeony saga by referring to the best child, to my mind, that this famous hybrid has produced, that being Amanda 'Joyance' AM/RHS. Here we have a superlative clone of top potential and already we have flowered seedlings from it that put its position at the top beyond a doubt. The cross Amanda x Lyric = Song Bird, and Amanda x Letozia = Downland Pride, are two good examples. So is the cross Amanda x Lucid = Mandy-Lu. All these, and many others, prove how the strong, broad shape and excellent vigour

are unfaillingly passed on to its progeny. One more ideal characteristic that Amanda has is that its colour is recessive, and we are able to use this to advantage in our breeding programme to either deepen the reds or introduce spots into future generations. We can even, as in the case of Amanda x Dusty Miller = Rosy Prospect, approach the pink shades.

Having just referred to Dusty Miller (Chardmoore 'Mrs Cowburn' FCC/RHS x F.C. Puddle FCC/RHS), the obvious progression along our breeding pattern is to the white group. This range has provided us with more challenges than most other Paph. groups, and the main problem is in getting both size and clarity of colour. Also, until recently, the restrictive size of the seed-pod has made quantity a problem too. So many of the original white crosses gave low percentage fertilisation and germination which, together with the small pod factor, made the availability of white crosses on the market very scarce and therefore costly.

Selective work has been steadily progressing over the years and this work has given us our goal in that the white parents from which we now breed are as productive and vigorous as any other type. For example, many of the F.C. Puddle second-generation crosses have not only the colour but size of flower, length of stem and vigour of the desired callbre.

Colour, or the lack of it, has not been as easy to attain as one might have hoped. Although the clarity has been superb in some cases, so many flowers produce the colour pigment in their background in the form of spots or freckles on the bloom. Very attractive, of course, but the challenge was always to obtain a good "concolor" in the true

sense of the word. The nearest we have produced, to date, is Silvara 'Snow White' — a flower of complete purity, unblemished by any markings, and a worthwhile breeding plant with long stem and vigour. We are using several of the albino and semi-albino species with Silvara, and others, in anticipation of even better pure whites, although it will naturally take more than one generation to reach our target. Intensive selection is still going on in an effort to develop a truly large, commercial pure white, and although the universally famous Miller's Daughters are indeed the largest "whites" in existence, (measuring about 15cms across the flowers, and 30 cms from leaf to bloom), they are not unblemished in purity of colour as most are freckled and spotted, and several are varying shades of pink. One clone, cv. 'Ballerina' AM/RHS & GMM is free of spots or freckles, but it is more ivory-cream in colour. However, the Miller's Daughters have their generous proportions and extreme vigour for a head-start, and through several generations of breeding their spots will be weakened, so given the extra large seed pods which all of them possess, and the modern techniques of seed raising which enable us to achieve quantity as well as quality, the truly large, commercial pure white is just around the corner.

To continue with the white group for one more point, there is a place for a multi-flowering commercial type in this category, and by using the species *P. primulinum* and *P. haynaldianum album* with our white hybrids and other species, an attempt is being made to achieve sprays of white Paphs. Maybe these will not achieve much popularity with the florist growers, but certainly the pot plant producers

should find plenty of opportunities to use such plants, if they materialise!

Akin to the whites are the yellows and greens. We at Ratcliffe's have had great success in this field also, with such clones as Gaymaid 'Tranquillity' AM/RHS and Chianti 'Chilton' AM/RHS in the yellow group, and Lemon Grove 'Citrus' and Honey Gorse 'Sunshine' in the greens. I know that fellow Paphanatics in the United States refer to all in these two categories as "greens" — but we in Europe make a distinction between them, thinking of the yellows as just that, and using the adjective "green" for only the really deep colours. One of the strange situations in Paph. breeding has been the difference in the results on both sides of the Atlantic. It would appear that vigour and size have been the two main criteria States-side, and colour and texture (substance), which add up to quality, having been the quest for us. This is apparent, of course, not only in the yellow group, but in all colour ranges — however, I believe that this has changed of late with the world-wide demand for quality first and foremost.

How much further we can develop the field of yellow breeding is debatable, especially when one considers the serene and beautiful Chianti 'Chilton.' In our opinion, this is the unbeatable one which, in addition to its good looks and vigour, size of bloom and long, strong stem, has that rare quality, dependability, without which nothing can really be voted a first-class hybrid. If an extra bonus is needed, each successive Chianti cross we flower only serves to prove that one can expect a far greater than usual proportion of high quality seedlings to result.

Chianti is also helping in the search for good green hybrids. Although it is strictly a golden Paph., when paired with a green hybrid this latter colour comes through, and we have this year flowered some interesting crosses in the green group, notably the recently registered Impression (Chianti x Whimsey Green), and there were many excellent seedlings to be seen from this cross. Another of our new crosses is that of Major Green (Jocelyn 'Prasine' x Lemon Grove 'Citrus'). Several seedlings of this deep green cross have already flowered and the stability in the colour is very noticeable, although the size and form of some of the blooms leave room for improvement. It is this kind of success that makes a hybridiser's life so worthwhile, and I now look onward to further exciting work in this colour section.

To be continued

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The Red Dendrobium of Vanuatu

by Ron Maunder

Your Editor must be short of articles again as the pressure is on me to write another, about my return trip to the New Hebrides or Vanuatu as it is now called. For those who are interested the first trip was written up in the first three 1977 issues of Orchids in NZ.

In June 1977 I left once more for the New Hebrides for another three week working holiday. I had applied for and been given a job back at the leprosy hospital on Epi Is. The job this time — supervise the interior painting of the hospital and other buildings. Time limit — 3 weeks! There wouldn't be much time for botanizing!

I was to travel via New Caledonia so obtained an import permit for New Caledonia as well as New Hebrides. I had always wanted to get hold of the three or four Earina species found in New Caledonia.

Arriving at Port Vila Airport I felt as though I was coming home, for I had made many friends on my previous trip. Nothing seemed to have changed. The French and British customs and police were still there, the same dusty road with people walking along it led into the town. A few more multistorey buildings, a new hotel or two and perhaps a few more shops were in evidence. A great sail-like structure on the waterfront caught my eye. The new open air market I was told! The locals were shunning it however and their produce still lay all over the footpaths nearby.

I headed for the Ag. Department to get permission to collect orchids and enquire about Herr Bregulla who had not replied to my letters. The British officer told me Bregulla had a "price on his head." Seems he had absconded with the considerable funds of the Malapoa Project. The Botanical Gardens had

gone back to jungle with rusting bird cages the only sign of man's labours.

Mr Bick then asked me if I would like to come round to his house to see his orchids. An interesting hour was spent discussing his epiphytic plants which he collected on weekend tramps around the island. He promised to try and arrange for me to visit a sawmill on my return, so I could gather orchids more easily from the felled trees.

I got back to the local hall in time to see the majority of the party preparing to sail up to Epi overnight on an island launch. My previous experiences had led me to elect to fly up with several women the next day — a decision which caused me a lot of ribbing from the jovial would-be sailors.

Next day I visited the local market early in the morning and later in the morning flew up to Epi on an Air Melansia Norman Brittan Islander plane. The new airstrip beside the shore at Lamar Bay was a pretty sight with the sandy beach and coral reef alongside. We were met by the Matron from Vaemali Hospital in her new Toyota Land

Cruiser and after loading up set off along the beautiful white coral road past the British School. Soon we turned inland through coconut plantations and began to climb up to the hospital, some two kilometres away up on a ridge 170m above sea level. Out of the jungle we crawled, into daylight again. The two acre grounds with five or six hospital buildings scattered down the slope seemed unchanged. The grass was neatly cut; the frangipani, crotons and hibiscus bushes were as beautiful as ever; the pineapple garden, the sugarcane and pawpaw trees were still there and down at the hospital the washing was spread on the grass to dry as always. In the background stood the breadfruit trees with their huge fruit and leaves and the mango trees with their bronze new leaves and over the whole towered the gigantic banyan tree from which I had photographed the area four years before. It was great to be back!

"Lunch time, go and see if the others want anything" I was told. Down at the Doctor's house the "sailors" lay on their bunks. I'm sure some were still holding on! Groans met my call. No work today I could tell! After lunch I set about assembling paint, brushes, paint pots, toners and went on an inspection to see if enough preparation and cleaning had been done. The days passed with "volunteers" from the nearby villages (selected by the elders!) turning up everyday for work. During the midday two hour siesta and after work, I used to head off down the various overgrown trails looking for anything of interest. Luckily the heat seemed to give me enthusiasm, as most of the others "flaked out" at siesta time. One

chap had a butterfly net which a DSIR scientist had given him to catch specimens with. He gave it to me to use and although the natives thought I was mad, I enjoyed myself and managed to collect a dozen or so of the highly coloured insects.

After several days a Suzuki trail bike was brought up from a shed for us to overhaul. A pastor had used it until transferred and likely as not the oil had never been changed! Two of us used to ride it up and down to the school where others in our party were staying and to meet the twice weekly plane for mail etc. I soon decided that I would use the Suzuki on my return trip to Mt Pomare.

Paul, the other rider set off to Tavio village one Saturday and I sent a message to my old guide Daniel. I had it translated into Pidgin by one of the nurses. It read: "Ron, man we i paintem Vaemali Hospital long 1973. Emi i cum back bilong wok long ples ia. Hem i wantem uy, uy takem hem i go antap long big fella mountain. Baembae em i cum long Suzuki long Saturday".

The day finally dawned and I was ready with pack on my back at 6 am. The "roads" to the S.E. side of Epi were often impassable and Paul told of a rough ride to the end of the road the Saturday previously. Out of the clearing and down the first hill I went. This was better than last time! Double concrete strips down the hill to the bottom! On passed vege gardens, a paddock with a couple of horses, and then down the big hill. The concrete strips here only went a few metres and stopped. Nearby stood a Condominium concrete mixer and a heap of coral gravel. Obviously the villagers who volunteered to construct the concrete strips had

not come back to complete the job. They would be sorry when the "wet" came! I skidded my way down what remained of the road — two ridges with dry water courses down the middle and either side.

Down on the coast the going was good except for the occasional gate made of lashed branches which had to be opened. The villagers at Moriou were just rousing as I swept through, sending roosters and hens flying and setting dogs barking. This was great! I didn't have to explain to everyone where I was going or shake hands with the entire village as on the previous trip! Around the various points and through Niverou then the large village of Nikaoura and into the bush to dodge a fallen coconut palm, past Nouvi with children lining the roads shouting "Suzuki! Suzuki!" Then it was some real trail bike work — over rock outcrops, down through streams and up steep banks until the end of the road at Tavio village. I'd come 32 km by motorcycle and now I had five km to go — mostly through thick jungle.

Daniel seemed surprised to see me but was ready to leave in 20 minutes or so. Away we went with dogs following and soon were out on the black sand of Drummond Bay striding along silently side by side. This time he had no rattley single barrel shotgun, only his pandarus bag and bush knife and wearing a tattered pair of shorts. There would be no pig hunt this trip and even the dogs seemed to know this and turned back after a mile along the beach. Up the cliffs we zigzagged and soon we were heading across the island on the Votlo track. The old

huts at the deserted village of Leman were gone — just the graves and overgrown coconut plantation to be seen. Half an hour later we left the track and Daniel headed towards "big fella mountain." At one stage we heard cattle bellowing in the distance and Daniel explained "plenty wild cattle." They even went up on top of Mt Pomare he explained and it was obvious that the cattle were increasing and starting to eat out the undergrowth in places. Soon the "gutters" where the water pours down the slopes during the "wet" were encountered. They reminded me of Maori trenches. We were now starting the climb. The jungle was dark, with terrestrial orchids to be seen occasionally in flower. There were malaxis, goodyera, jewel orchids and habernaria-like varieties. The tree trunks were covered in hoyas, ferns and unusual climbers. I collected several umbrella-like palms but could find no seed. At about 150m above sea level we came to where the *Calanthe veratrifolia* grew. Some stood a metre high with their pyramid-shaped spikes of white flowers, but many had been chewed by cattle which must have found their large plicate leaves rather palatable. We passed several large banyan trees with their grotesque trunks made up of masses of intertangled roots. At one point we stood beneath a monster casurina tree on a spur and looked down to the coast with its reef and breakers and the volcanic island of Lopevi 15 kms out to sea, under a dark cloud. Then we were in the land of epiphytes.

To be continued

Cymbidium Orchids from the Flask

By Mrs P.L. Greenfield — Auckland

A lot of misconceptions have arisen concerning growing orchids from the flask. I have read that they need heating, misting and constant attention if they are to survive. After reading this kind of information I was almost put off from trying to grow from the flask. However, my curiosity got the better of me and I duly ordered some flasks. One of these was a red cross, namely, Cymbidium Bexley Radiance "Bexley" x Sensation "No. 1". At a cost of \$60 for the flask I HAD to be successful!

I have a 2.5m x 2.5m slightly tattered plastic greenhouse which I was planning to grow my flasks in. This is well ventilated with a maximum summer temperature not exceeding 28°C. I thought if I can grow a healthy, fruiting pineapple plant then why not orchids from the flask, especially if I could establish them over the warmer summer months. Incidentally, my greenhouse is not heated nor do I have heating cables or misting equipment. The minimum winter temperature experienced (on rare occasions) has been 4°C and the pineapple has grown throughout the winter months albeit slowly. I live in Takapuna, Auckland by the way. The key to success in greenhouse growing is to keep the daytime and night-time temperature as close as possible. This is achieved by first-class VENTILATION.

Back to orchids from the flask and my recipe for success. First, wash a 12cm plant pot in very hot water. Get some newspaper ready and potting mix. I used Smith's Orchid mix for all of my seedlings with nothing else being added to it. I would like to point out here that liquid manures MUST NOT be used if your mix has nutrients already present in it. Too much fertiliser is not good during the early stages of growth. Wrap the flask in

newspaper and carefully break it with a hammer. Remove plants and gently loosen apart. Take off the bottom layer of agar mix. Gently hose plants to make separation easier if the root mass is well and truly entangled. Place plants on newspaper again until you are ready for them. Fill pot to roughly half way or three quarters from the rim, depending on the roots of the plants you are going to pot. Some have quite massive root systems whereas others won't have so much root. Try to position each plant individually in the community pot. Any plants which look like they are obviously not going to do well (seedling crosses), discard so they won't take up valuable growing room from plants which should grow away for you. Water lightly with the hose, trying to wash away bits of dirt and agar from the leaves of your plants. Now place in the greenhouse and wait.

Plants straight from the flask will initially be dull green in colour. If all is well, after about two weeks or so, the foliage should get more shiny in appearance and start making growth.

I would like to stress now that if at all possible, obtain your flasks about November/December time so as to get the full benefit of a warm growing season. If this is not

possible, and you don't have glasshouse facilities, place the community pot inside the house in say the kitchen or bathroom, but don't place in direct sunlight. They should come away for you but growth may be slower. Also, do not place too close to a window because the heat loss at night can be quite dramatic.

After about two months or when you think the plants are getting a little overcrowded, remove from community pot and plant up in a seed tray, preferably plastic for hygiene purposes, placing the larger plants (in the case of seedlings) at one end and work your way down to the smallest plants at the other end.

Now to dispel some myths about growing from the flask. You DON'T need to be with your plants constantly. I work full time away from home and the plants are left all day to "fend for themselves," being watered just once a day or when they need it in the evening. Try and let the surface dry out between waterings and this should reduce the incidence of fungous disease. Plants don't need to be constantly misted but if you can give them one misting a day when it is hot, then all well and good. Do this at midday. A small misting spray can be bought for under \$5.

Heating is NOT required if plants can be grown initially through the summer months. If not, heating should still not be required if grown indoors, unless it is very cold. Contrary to belief, orchids from the flask are much tougher than you and I would be led to believe. Good ventilation is a MUST and this helps to harden the plants off and reduces the risk of soft, sappy growth.

To harken back to my \$60 flask of Bexley Radiance "Bexley" x Sensation "No. 1." I obtained this flask from Australia on the 25th November 1979. Two months later I planted the seedlings up into a seed tray and now, just over four months later, some of the plants have an eight inch leaf length and some are just beginning to throw their first leads. Some plants from the same batch are slower in growth, but are still making good growth and are healthy. It is a good policy if your plants are grown in a greenhouse to spray say once a month with a combination insecticide/fungicide.



Extra humid conditions are conducive to fungous and this is why I like to let the surface of the potting mix just dry out a little in between waterings. Also, if you can spray your plants (under leaves if at all possible!) once a day, this helps to reduce red spider as they like dry conditions.

My plants are all making good growth, even though the night temperatures are quite cool at this time of the year. (April).

Not all plants will grow so well from the flask, some will make rapid growth and others will be slower in

pace. This is due to genetics and has nothing to do with the surrounding environment unless of course conditions are really adverse to good growth.

All of the growing methods in this article have and are being used by myself so I can assure you that this information comes from first-hand experience and is not gleaned from books.

Well, I hope I have helped to dispel some so-called "myths" in regards to growing orchids from the flask and that you like me, will "have a go."

Cymbidium tracyanum

by Ron Maunder

Origin and History

First flowered in England in 1980 by a Mr Tracy, after it turned up in a shipment of *C. lowianum*. Mr Tracy's clone received a FCC and shortly afterwards he sold it to Baron Schroeder for over three hundred pounds. It wasn't until 1911 that *tracyanum* was discovered to come from the hills of Northern Thailand and Burma.

Description

A strong growing species with broad leaves and tall pseudobulbs. The bulbs and leaf bases are yellow below the abscission scar and yellow veined above — much more pronounced than *lowianum* or *grandiflorum*. *Tracyanum* flowers during late autumn to early winter on low arching spikes of up to 25,11cm flowers. It comes in two colour variations. The most common form is a red-brown overlaid with stripes or veining and a yellowish ground colour. The rarer one is greenish and was used by

McBean many years ago to make early green hybrids. The shape is likewise difficult to describe — a droopy, hooded, reflexed and furled flower of muddy colouration with a large hairy cream lip with red dots and a central line on the lip itself would be a modern description of colour and shape of the common form.

Other features

Tracyanum has poor keeping qualities when cut, the poor texture of its flowers probably being partly responsible. Often it sends its roots above the potting mix like mangrove roots — similar to *C. dayanum*, the miniature species. *Tracyanum* would probably have the strongest scent of all *Cymbidium* species — even the better known *grandiflorum*.

Culture

In normal potting mixes, but seems to like a little warmer conditions. I have often seen it growing around Tauranga planted in the soil, where if left undivided it flowers regularly. It resents division and often takes many years to re-establish and flower again.

Breeding

Its better points for breeding purposes were its early flowering, good number and size of flowers, plus its strong growth and possibly its lovely scent. Bad points are the poor vase life, muddy, veined colouring and poor shape. Its best known hybrid *Doris* is still seen today and is somewhat reminiscent in colour and shape but its spike habit has been greatly improved by the *C. insigne* blood.

General

A striking and handsome species, *tracyanum* is still relatively common in older collections but in this area at least, is not as common as its hybrid *Doris*.

ONCIDIUMS

By Mrs B. Cardwell — Cumberland Orchid Circle, Australia

Oncidium comes from a wide area ranging from Florida to the West Indies down to Central America and Brazil. There are over 300 species and all are thoroughly delightful, but when we talk of the genus in Sydney I think we all have a mental picture of those "Dancing Lady" types, like 'varicosum' for instance. These are almost exclusively the Brazilian species, so I think we will talk about these first.

More than any other genera, Oncidium that we grow are mostly species or primary hybrids. So it is always more important, it seems to me, to know something of where and how they grow in nature, more so than it does with any other genus, where hybridising has been going on for so long that the present day hybrid is far removed from its species ancestors.

Oncidium forbesii grows at the highest elevation, on moss on tree trunks, so it would not get very strong light but would be kept moist.

Oncidium crispum gets more light, but no direct sun. It has to withstand strong winds and a winter drought, when it relies only on the dew at night.

Oncidium marshallianum and *Oncidium gardneri* on the other hand, growing as they do on top of the coastal mountains, are drenched with rain daily, especially from spring through to autumn.

Oncidium flexuosum, *sarcodes*, the small growing concolour and *longipes* and the very well known *varicosum* like good light and ample water until growth is completed, but don't like to be ever really dry. *Oncidium varicosum* is never found further than 50 metres from a stream, so it likes humidity.

All of these plants grow quite happily in Sydney in a bush-house with 52% sarlon cover. By a little judicious placement, those which require less light can be accommodated where they are shaded by their more light-loving

relatives. The Mexican species can also be grown in the same way but we have found that *Oncidium tigrinum* and *leucochilum* require more shade than most as their leaves burn more readily.

Oncidium cheirophorum a yellow flowered dwarf from Columbia likes a sunny bush-house.

The rosy-purple "ornithorhynchum" from Mexico, is, however, different to all those mentioned and does best if grown as you would *Odontoglossums* and in the same compost.

Because of the way most of these plants climb, they are best attached to slabs of tree-fern fibre. Nylon fishing line can be used to bind them on firmly so that newly emerging roots will not be damaged before they have penetrated the fibre. Tree-fern slabs do have their disadvantages too, for it is rather difficult to get them really wet by just hosing. If you have time, soak the slabs in a tub of water.

All *Oncidium*s respond to fertilising in their growing period. Always done when the plant is wet of course. Organic fertilisers are recommended as the slabs dry

quickly and the liquid fertilisers leave a salt residue that can harm the roots.

The effort of producing such large displays of bloom common to this genus is evident in shrivelling of the bulbs especially if flower spikes remain on the plant too long. I've read that *Oncidiums* should only be allowed to flower every second year but I doubt if there are many of us who would pinch out a developing spike on a mature plant in cold blood. However, cut the spike after it has been out for a while and let the plant have the rest it takes in its natural habitat. There is no sense in commencing to fertilise until the plant shows evidence of starting into growth again anyway.

Nature may have designed these plants to have flexible flower spikes to withstand the wind and not break, but don't just hang the plants where the slab they are growing on blows about in the wind. You will never be able to keep them moist enough.

A sloping frame of A.R.C. mesh against a wall of the bush-house is a good position and allows plants to be hung so that they do not move.

Only for a relatively short time has there been any hybridising done with *Oncidiums* although it is gaining momentum. Already, however its effect is apparent in the plants exhibited. Where at one time the main flowering period was autumn and early winter for various types, we are now likely to see *Oncidiums* most months of the year. More and more is being learnt of the features which are passed on by using certain parents, such as gold lace markings on the edges of the segments which seems to be dominant in *Oncidium gardneri* crosses, the dominance of the yellow lip from *Oncidium varicosum*

and the ability of the *Oncidium leucochilum* and *flexuosum* to flower at different times of the year. Just think of all the other things we would like to know.

To keep a plant attractive and tidy it is a good idea to back-cut them. This will keep older bulbs working producing new growths and in this way a good specimen can be built up and dividing when necessary is much easier.

CYMBIDIUM COMPANION

by Ros Bickerstaff

DENDROCHILUM, Blume.

This epiphytic genus was, and often still is, called *Platyclinis* in many books and on old labels. In Greek, *dendron* means a tree, and *cheilos* — a lip; this alludes to its epiphytic habit and its distinctive lip. (*Platys* = wide, broad; *kline* = a bed — there is a wide membranous edging at the base of the anther). This genus is quite abundant on the islands of South East Asia.

D. glumaceum, which I grow, seems to prefer a sheltered spot at the warm end of my cool greenhouse. It likes an open mix of fibre, small bark, and a little rubbed moss to retain moisture. As it has no rest period, it must not dry out, needing light shade, and plenty of fresh, moving air.

Its flowers are quite small, but its inflorescences are crowded with them, daintily arranged in arching spikes. They are often known as "chain orchids."

PUKEKURA CORNER

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

***Barkeria lindleyana* Batem. ex Ldl.**

It seems to me upon reading references to early orchid collecting that one time a great many of the orchids we grow were once classed as Epidendrums.

Perhaps this is not surprising when we consider that interest in the introduction to cultivation of newly discovered orchid species developed a tremendous momentum at a time when botanical classification was still a relatively new science and transportation and communication were time consuming factors. It is not surprising therefore that the genus Epidendrum became the convenient repository for a wide range of orchids looking in some way as if they were Cattleyas yet in other respects they could not be.

The passage of time has seen the tidying up of most of the initial confusion over naming of so many orchids yet the dainty little species which is the subject of this article seems to have completed the full cycle for often appearing for many years under the above name (or *B. spectabilis*) I note that Hawkes' now lists it as *Epidendrum lindleyanum* (batem ex Ldl.) Rchb.f.

Until a plant recently came into the collection from a person specialising in the importation of South and Central American species, I had only ever seen it in



flower once at Sanders near London in the early 1950's but I was so taken by its unusual shape, pendant flower habit and delicate pink colouring that the memory is quite vivid and I was not in the least disappointed upon re-aquaintance. In fact it is a strong feeling of nostalgia which tempts me to be unscientific and retain the name I first knew it by — how can one re-name an old love?

Enough of this nonsense, lets get down to detail. The plant is basically Cattleya like but slender in stem and leaf, growing somewhat as a cluster of canes up to 15cm long, often marked with purplish streaks or spots.

Originating from Mexico and countries to the immediate south, it shares the requirement of many other orchids from that region in needing a decided rest period with reduced water while dormant, but copious

supplies when in growth. Reddish striping of the leaves suggests an appreciation for reasonably strong light and, climate wise, intermediate to warm conditions associated with Cattleyas should be suitable. Growth is slender and over-potting should be avoided.

Our plant has flowered in December with the blooms about 5cm across, distinctly two-planed and of a very delicate pink. The broad labellum is flushed deeper at its tip and is delicately spotted with amethyst. In every way this is well described as a 'dainty' orchid.

SOCIETY NEWS

HELLO TO ROTORUA

The newly formed Rotorua Orchid Society meets on the first Sunday of the month at 1.30 pm. The venue is the Y.M.C.A. rooms in Te Ngae Road. For further details, contact the Secretary, Mrs Glenn Anderson, 421 Pukehangī Road, Rotorua.

N.Z. Orchid Society

The following are the awards given to plants at the National Show.

A.M. Paphiopedilum Kay Rinaman 'Golden Touch' grown by Adelaide Orchids of Australia.

H.C.C. Dendrobium Permos Glory x Sagismusume, grown by Mrs Betty Cullen of Kati Kati.

H.C.C. Odontocidium Tiger Sun 'Paradise,' grown by Mr Ron Maunder of Tauranga.

H.C.C. Paphiopedilum Sparsholt 'Firefly,' grown by Adelaide Orchids of Australia.

H.C.C. Odontocidium Jacobert, grown by Mr Lew Wyatt of Lower Hutt.

H.C.C. Ascocenda Phaiyot, grown by L. Arrowsmith.

C.C. Paphiopedilum delenatii, grown by Mr Frank Askin of Wellington.

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- Mrs Irene Collyns, Auckland*

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NOTICE

Taranaki Orchid Society Inc.
Annual Exhibition 1981
To be held 2—4 October
inclusive
Further particulars later

Plant Selectors Rights for Cymbidium Varieties

The Orchid Council of New Zealand has received advice from the Plant Varieties Office of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries of the coming into force on 21 August of the Plant Varieties Act Extension Order 1980. As a consequence, applications for Plant Selectors Rights for Cymbidiums may now be made.

Plant Varieties Office Circular Letter 1980/3 gives details of the Scheme as follows:

PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS SCHEME

CYMBIDIUM

1 Introduction

A plant selectors rights scheme has been introduced to include protection for Cymbidium orchids under the Plant Varieties act 1973.

2 Applications

Applications for a grant of plant selectors rights should be forwarded to the Registrar of Plant Varieties together with a completed technical questionnaire, on the forms available from the Plant Varieties Office, P.O. Box 24, Lincoln.

3 Inspection of Plant Material

To determine whether a new variety is eligible for Rights, an Advisory Panel appointed by the Minister of Agriculture will inspect a flowering plant supplied by the applicant. The Panel will include two representatives from the Orchid Council of New Zealand and an Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. The Orchid Council representatives will judge whether the variety is distinct from other known varieties. The Ministry representative will prepare a detailed technical description.

Based upon the recommendation of the Advisory Panel the Registrar will decide upon issuing a Grant of Rights.

4 Procedure for Inspection

It is planned that the Advisory Panel will meet in Palmerston North during the last week of August and the third week of October each year. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to present one plant in full bloom, of first quality and visually healthy, to the Panel for inspection.

When applying for Rights the applicant will be asked to indicate at which of the above times he anticipates he will be able to present his plant. After the close of applications the applicant will be notified of the specific day.

5 Closing Dates

The closing dates for the receipt of applications are as follows: 31st March for applications concerning plants to be inspected in August. 31st May for applications concerning plants to be inspected in October.

6 Fees

Fees payable in connection with the application for a grant of Plant Selectors Rights for ornamentals are as follows: Application for Grant \$100; Application for protective direction \$25; Examination fee \$75; Notice of grant \$75; Annual renewal fee \$50.

The granting of 'Rights' to the breeder, his assignee, or successor in title of a particular plant variety entitles him to control the propagation and sales of the variety for a reasonable period of time, thus enabling him to recoup his costs and by this means encouraging the raising of new and better varieties.

A hybridiser may sell unflowered seedlings and retain the right to apply for a 'Grant' for an outstanding clone by written agreement with the purchaser.

A purchaser of unflowered seedlings, provided he has not ceded rights in writing, becomes a

successor in title, and may apply for a 'Grant' for an outstanding clone.

Upon a grant being made, the owner of the variety must make the plants freely available to the public, and by royalty, to the trade.

The holder of the Grant has the sole right to commercial propagation of the variety, but may assign this to another person.

Copies of the Plant Varieties Act 1973 and Plant Varieties Act Extension Order 1980 may be obtained from the Government Printing Office or through the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

NOTICE

New Zealand Export Growers Orchid Association Inc.

After preliminary meetings in May and July this year, orchid exporters formed the NZ Export Growers Orchid Assn. in Auckland on August 5. The constitution allows for representation of three new growers, two established growers, one export company representative and one orchid plant retailer and a chairman, secretary and treasurer on the executive. The association has adopted NE EGO as its abbreviated name and has been incorporated by the registrar of incorporated societies. At present there are 70 financial members. The aims and objects of the new organisation are to promote good fellowship amongst export growers and to promote a co-ordinated orchid industry. Other aims are to communicate grower problems to each other, to act as a representative body for the

industry and to advise growers of changes in the market place.

Mr Bob Cook of Wilson Neill Export Services addressed the meeting on August 5 on the role of the export company, followed by a translated talk by several visiting Italian grower/importers, by courtesy of Turners & Growers on commercial cymbidium and paphiopedilum growing in Italy. Since then, members have heard Professor Joseph Arditti from the Dept. of Developmental & Cell Biology, University of California, Irvine speak on orchid tissue culture at Tauranga and attended a lecture evening addressed by several of the commercial overseas speakers at the 1980 NZ Orchid Conference at Ellerslie Racecourse.

Anyone interested in joining the Association contact Anne O'Reilly, P.O. Box 1119, Tauranga.

**Announcing Publication
of a long awaited new book**

Breeding Variegata Oncidiums

W. W. Goodale Moir and May A. Moir

At Lipolani, the authors' garden and home in Honolulu, more new intergeneric genera in orchids have been created and named than at any other spot in the world. When the Moirs first started working with the Variegata Oncidiums, a great many of them rather drab little plants, the growers of large showy orchids in Hawaii dubbed them "Moir Weeds." After 30 years of work by the Moirs the descendants of these little orchids have become prized collectors' items that give much pleasure for the small space they require.

While relating their own experiences, the Moirs tell other orchid breeders the steps to take to insure success. The dominances and recessivenesses of species and how to balance them to bring out the best in the new hybrid is fully explained, including the obstacles and pitfalls and how to avoid them. The Moirs found that what happened with one genus happened with all, so the book is most useful in researching other orchids.

138 pages: 8 pages (18 photos) colour, plus many black and white photos.

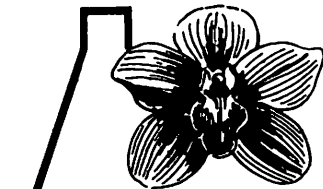
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**The Secretary,
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292	Doris Aurea 'Alana' x Vieux Rose 'Dell Park'	Brown to tan, free flowering	August	\$35.00
310	Doris Aurea 'Alana' x Showgirl 'Glamour Jane'	Expect Apricot to tan	July—August	\$35.00
265	Showgirl 'Glamour Jane' x Earlyana 'Starlight' x Self 'Thompson'	This Earlyana is a proven parent. Erect spike, cream with striking red labellum.	June—July	\$35.00
307	Doris Aurea 'Alana' x Sensation 'Vieux Rose'	Multiple colours. Very free flowering.	July—August	\$35.00
236	Pendragon 'Broadmoor' HCC x Earlyana 'Starlight' x self 'Thompson.'	Over 20 florets per erect spike. Off white, bright red labellum.	June	\$35.00
242	Pendragon 'Broadmoor' HCC/SAOS x ensifolium	Cross made for early erect spikes of multiple colours for cut flower trade.	June	\$35.00
250	Earlyana 'Starlight' x self 'Thompson' x Loch Lomond 'J.B. Russon.'	Early creams & greens. Shapely large lips.	May	\$35.00

The above novelty seedlings have been bred to give the strong erect spikes and nicely spaced, clear coloured flowers required for both the cut flower trade and the showbench.

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295	Loch Lomond 'Mem J.B. Russon' x Vieux Rose 'Dell Park.'	Pastels to pinks of good shape	August	\$35.00
302	Sensation 'Vieux Rose' x Hamsey 'The Globe'	Rose pink to red, strong spikes, good shape.	August—September	\$35.00
325	Vieux Rose 'Dell Park' x Remus FCC/RHS.	Deep pink to red. Large blooms.	September	\$35.00
343	Vieux Rose 'Dell Park' x Joan of Arc 'Olivene May'	Unequaled potential for the show bench. Pale pink.	October	\$35.00
363	Vieux Rose 'Dell Park' x Valley Paradise 'Pale Face.'	Excellent shape. Red labellum	September	\$35.00
279	Remus FCC/RHS x Hamsey 'The Globe'	Outstanding cross. Brick red to polychromes.	September	\$35.00
248	Earlyana 'Starlight' x self 'Thompson' x Tanunda 'Bay View.'	Pastel shades in green to cream.	May	\$35.00
282	Rathel 'Red' x Hamsey 'The Globe.'	Excellent cross for reds.	September	\$35.00
287	Valley Paradise 'Enfield' x Remus FCC/RHS.	Expect 13cm flowers. Pale pink.	July	\$35.00

331	Remus 'Schroeders' x Revelation 'Royal Gem'	Expect up to 20 blooms on enormous erect spikes.	September — October	\$35.00
249	Loch Lomond 'Mem J.B. Russon' x Tanunda 'Bay View'	Early greens for cut flower trade.	June	\$35.00

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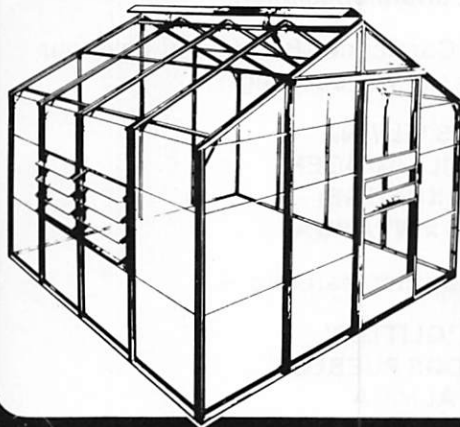
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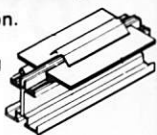
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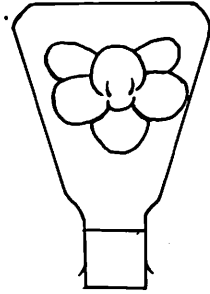
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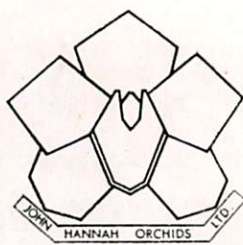
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