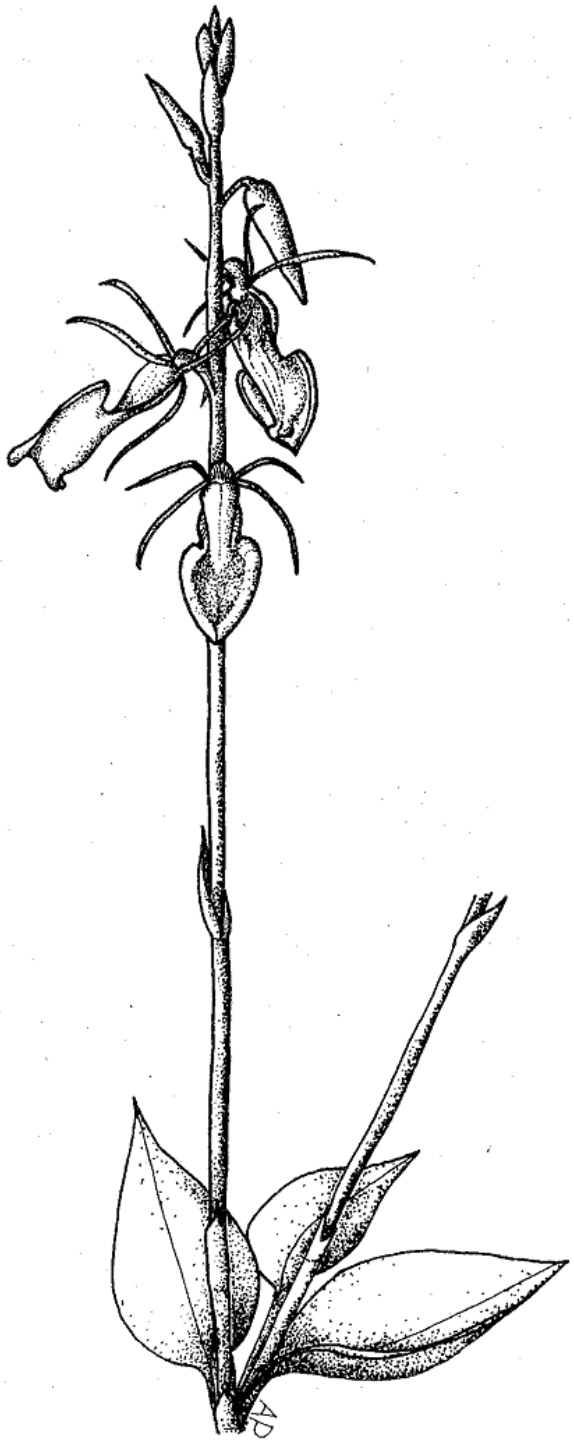
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

of

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Incorporated
JOURNAL



Cryptostylis ovata

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

JOURNAL

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NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 27 August 1985, 8.00pm

VENUE: St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington

SUBJECT: Dr Kingsley Dixon,

"The Propagation of best Australian Native Terrestrial Orchids"

This Presentation will be by tape and slides.

We wish to thank Mrs Chris Butler for her tireless dedication in typing up our journal. She has now resigned for this position, and our new typist is Miss Sofia Tassis.

We therefore wish a fond farewell and many thanks yet again, to Mrs Chris Butler and a warm welcome to Sofia.

TO ALL N.O.S.S.A. MEMBERS

From the 27th to the 29th of September, the A.N.O.S. Victoria Group, will be visiting our fair City. They will be staying at the Gatehouse Motel, 737 Glen Osmond Road, Glen Osmond. We have therefore organised field trips for them during this time.

On Friday a trip has been organised to the N.E. Hills (e.g. Kersbrook). Other field trips have also been arranged on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September. All N.O.S.S.A. members are invited to attend. We will be departing at 9.00 am from the Gateway Motel.

On Saturday night, N.O.S.S.A. will put on a 'slide show' for our visitors at the Conference room at the motel. Suitable slides of both epiphytes and terrestrial Orchids would be much appreciated. Finer details will be discussed at the next meeting.

If you have any queries or slides, please contact Mr George Nieuwenhoven on 264 5825,

NEXT FIELD TRIP

WHEN: Saturday 14 September 1985

WHERE: Belair Recreation Park

MEET: Woods & Forest Department, Nursery (within the park) at 2.00 pm

WHAT TO SEE: *Diuris* and *Pterostylis hybrids, Acianthus caudatus* var*. pallidus; Pterostylis cucullata*, and much more.

Check List of Australian Terrestrial Orchid Hybrids

Published by the Native Orchid Society of South Australia is now available from the society at $1 per copy ($2 Post included). This 30 page mimeographed booklet, lists natural and man-made hybrids (both registered and unregistered) and gives a few brief notes on each, with illustrations of some.

SPRING, SHOW 1985. (Les Nesbitt - Registrar)

COMPETITIVE SECTIONS

To be staged on trestles in the hall separated from the rest Of the orchid exhibits. All Plants to be benched by 12.30 am on Saturday, 14 September. Plants in displays also eligible. If you do not want your plant judged, place a card on the plant saying 'Do NOT Judge".

Exhibitor's number to be written on each exhibit. Exhibitors numbers available from REGISTRAR. Correct name of plant to be written by exhibitor on label attached to exhibit.

Judging will take place between 10.30 am and noon on Saturday 14th. Plants must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least six months before the show. A.O.C. judging standards will be used. NOSSA By-Laws will apply. Hybrids include natural hybrids.

Any applications for NOSSA awards will be judged by the Committee. No prize money will be awarded, but class winners will be acknowledged in the Journal. Champions will receive a card.

The Society accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage or infection suffered by any plant exhibited at the Show. All possible precautions against these happenings are taken. Stewards may remove from the Hall, plants suspected of carrying disease.

Schedule

Class	Description
1	Dendrobium kingianum
2	Dendrobium speciosum
3	Dendrobium species other than class 1 or 2
4	Epiphytic species other than Dendrobium
5	Dendrobium hybrid having D. kingianum in parentage
G	Dendrobium hybrid other than class 5
7	Epiphytic hybrid other than Dendrobium
8	Caladenia species
9	Diuris species
10	Glossodia species
11	Prasophyllum species
12	Pterostylis species
13	Terrestrial species other than classes 8-12
14	Terrestrial hybrid

Champion Epiphytic species (from classes l-4)
Champion Epiphytic hybrid (from classes 5-7)
Champion Terrestrial species (from classes 8-13
Champion Terrestrial hybrid (from class 14)

Champion Native Orchid of the Show (from Previous four champions)

A.N.O.S. Silver Medal

Ira Butler award to best hybrid orchid

All orchids will remain on display to the public on Saturday 14 September, and Sunday 15 September.

Plants are to be removed at 5.00 pm on Sunday 15 September.

PLANT COMMENTARY

(June '85 Meeting)

Terrestrials

Commentary was given by Mrs M. Fuller.

Plants benched;

Pterostylis	Robusta
"	Concinna
"	Alata
"	Curta
"	Nutans (now a named crossing)
"	Rogersii
"	Grandiflora
"	(Affin) Decurva
"	Vittata
"	Longifolia
"	Daintreana
"	Un-named Diminutive
Acianthus	Fornicatus
"	Exsertus
Caladenia	Alba
Corybas	Unquiculatus

Mrs Fuller's commentary departed from the usual more scientifically oriented pattern, discussing more broad aspects and attributes of the orchids benched. She outlined how the genus Pterostylis, so prominent at this meeting was purely an Australasian one and how it ranged from Queensland to Western Australia and Tasmania, occupying regions ranging from desert to swamp, plains to alpine and full sun to heavy shade. She went on to say that as a genus it provided the first and last flowers of the season and that many species made excellent material for beginners to introduce themselves to terrestrial orchid culture.

With respect to Corybas and Acianthus, Mrs Fuller suggested that it was possible to provide the degree of protection and humidity desired by these genera by placing the plant pot in turn in another larger and deeper pot. This reduces air movement and drying and enhances the chance of successfully cultivating these genera at home.

Epiphytes

Commentary was provided by Mr L. Nesbitt.

Plants benched:

3 x Dendrobium Hilda Poxon
Dendrobium Speciosum
Dendrobium Bigibbum Var Superbum
Dendrobium Peewee (D bigibbum x D tetragonum).

JUNE 1985

The Speaker for the evening was Mr Malcolm Campbell. In introducing him, Mr Shooter told of how, just prior to NOSSA's first public orchid show, Mr Campbell, who was in charge of the ABC Channel 2 "Your Garden" program, included a segment regarding native orchids and gave details of the forthcoming NOSSA show. The resulting public awareness and interest made the trading table at that show a resounding success and probably formed, the basis of our clubs' comfortable financial situation.

Mr Campbell responded saying how welcome the copies of the NOSSA journals which he received during his NEPAL trip were, and how much he had enjoyed the fresh reading. He went on to say that he had apent four years in Nepal in the Himalayas and that there were some 140 species of orchids there, mostly dendrobiums and epiphytes with a few terrestrials. Unfortunately, most of his orchid slides were with a publisher. His topic, "Plant Hunting In The Himalayas" was absolutely fascinating. Lessons to be learned from the Nepal situation, were 1) the value and importance of preservation by cultivation and 2) that by comparison, Australia is lucky to still have some fairly extensive wild areas of flora and fauna.

Mr Campbell went on by means of slides and most interesting commentary to provide a broad view of the Nepalese situation including a description of the characteristics of the seasons, re afforestation programs involving planting some 3 million trees per year. The assistance plan, whereby conservation and regeneration of uncultivated hill tops was managed, and how many species had been decimated in the past 15 years. Slides were shown depicting the terrestrial plicone orchids flowering after being covered with snow. Other slides and witty commentary showed village life, Rhododendrone and other alpine flora and fauna, including a shot taken from the back of an Elephant used as a means of transport during an excursion.

In all, those present were treated to a fascinating evening on aspects of nature we may have been lucky to have witnessed.

PLANT COMMENTARY

(July '85)

Terrestrials by Bob Markwick.

In all, 6 genera were represented with Pterostylis the most heavily represented.

Pterostylis	Nana
"	Concinna
"	Vittata var Vereenae
"	Grandiflora x concinna
"	Scabra var robusta
"	sp, affin Decurva. (thought by Bob to he more closely
"	affin abtusa)
"	nutans - a variegated leaf form
"	nutans - normal form
"	curta
"	baptistii
"	'Cutie' - a magnificent specimen pot
"	x Ingens (furcata x nutans)
"	cucullata specimen pot
"	recurva
Corybas dilatatus	(to become known as C. diemenicus & plant
"	currently diemenicus to be given a new name)
Acianthus	fornicatus
Prasophyllum	parvifolium
Caladenia	alba
Thelymitra	antennifera

Reg Shooter Provided commentary on the epiphytes.

Dendrobium x Grimesii	a natural hybrid of D. leretefolum
	x D. linguiforme
" "	Ellen x tetragonum x falcorostrum
" "	Ellen
" "	tetragonum var giganteum

ORCHID INDEX

What to do in August Terrestrial Study Group.
A.N.O.S. Victoria Group Bulletin Vol. 18, August 1985 p. 3-4.

A. Trip to Papua New Guinea: Ernie Collins
A.N.O.S. Newcastle Group. July 1985 pages 2-4.

Acianthus R. Br. in Australia, by P.R. Lister
The Orchidophile. A.N.O.S. Sydney Group. pages 5-6.

Deflaskinq Seedlings: by B. Friend
A.N.O.S. North Coast Branch. June 1985 pages 4-5.

South western Australian Symbiotic Orchid Fungi. R. R. Ramsay and K.W. Dixon
W.A. Native Orchid Study & Conservation Group. July 1985, pages 5-7.

SUMMARY OF GUEST SPEAKER'S TOPIC

The guest sneaker for the evening, Mr Darryl Kraehenbuhl, of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife spoke on "Rare and Endangered Plants in South Australia".

Darryl commented that, of the 3,300 to 3,400 native plant species recorded in South Australia, at least 25% of the species from our "South Eastern" areas and at least 20% of the Mount Lofty Ranges were at risk. He went on to say that unfortunately, as a result of some inaccurate data Published in 1972, some degree of credibility as to the actual status of endangered species had been lost. Darryl then described how, with the aid of a computer program, computer files and a newly designed data recording sheet for each species considered, in each area in which it had been previously recorded, a more realistic and accurate picture of current frequency of occurrence for the species involved was being generated.

Darryl described how, by assessing the frequency and extent of sightings of species, coupled with actual field trips, a scoring system was beginning to show quite clearly, whether in a given area, a plant species was currently common, rare, endangered or potentially eliminated. He described the scoring system using *Pterostylis cucullata* in the S.E. and *Scutellaria humilis*.

Further it was pointed out that there was a significant need to conserve areas of flora in the S.E. of South Australia even when that flora may be currently quite common in Victoria. This was being proven necessary in view of the extremely extensive and rapid clearing of scrub areas in South Western Victoria - Darryl sighted evidence provided by "LANDSAT" Satellite pictures of clearing in Victoria.

Some interested query and comment during the instructive segment, coupled with an excellent collection of slides and a most interesting commentary rounded off an informative evening.

N.O.S.S.A. SEED AND TUBER BANK

(D. Wells)

N.O.S.S.A. is expanding, gaining new members requiring seed tubers and information of various forms.

The bank has gradually built up over a 6 year period, culminating in last season's record supply of tubers.

Where do the tubers come from? Generous members donate tubers surplus to their requirements. These members are not only from South Australia, but Australia wide. The remainder of the tubers come from rescue excursions and the surplus from a growing on program. In the future the flasking program could be a supplier.

The main functions of the bank area

1. Receive and distribute donations of seed and tubers.
2. Supply seed and tubers for any worthwhile projects.
3. Other related activities, but not necessarily duties of the bank.

Let us expand the above:

1. The bank is the focal point for all matters pertaining to club seed and tuber distribution.

   a) In the December journal, a list of tubers available is printed, enabling members to purchase tubers obtained from our numerous sources.

   b) The small charge covers packaging and postage with the balance paid into N.O.S.S.A. funds. It is a mail order service only.

   c) The balance of the tubers, if any, after the orders are completed are grown on in readiness for the next year. This helps to correctly identify tubers as from being distributed direct from the suppliers.

2. The bank supplies seed and tubers for any worthwhile conservation projects.

   a) People who have virgin native scrub, are assisted to replant in protected areas, thereby multiplying in natural surroundings, conversely a source of supply should the bank have a failure.

   b) Our local quarries are reclaiming quarry faces and tubers rescued before the quarrying commenced are being held in readiness for replanting when the understorey of grass and bushes have taken hold. In the meantime, the bank grows the tubers on.

   c) Interstate clubs have in the east supplied tubers surplus to their requirements and our bank has reciprocated by supplying some of our surplus, thereby creating a larger selection for both clubs.

d) Other interested clubs, gardens and societies have requested help to enable them to experiment, broadening knowledge of native orchids.

e) Supply what we can to the very successful flasking program at present in full swing.

f) Help our own club by supplying tubers to grow for club activities, i.e. raffle, sale at shows, etc.

3. Other related activities in conjunction with the bank.

a) Several members form a team whenever we hear of orchids to be rescued. The correct legal Permissions are obtained, plants are rescued and grown on to maturity. Any information regarding land clearing, house building over orchids or grazing in native scrub is acted upon. Please let us know before it is too late to take action.

b) The bank has a growing on program that consists of rescued tubers planted in master pots, seeds sown around parent plants endeavouring to raise seedlings for future distribution. These master Pots are mostly hand to multiply plants.

c) Other practises for multiplying, i.e tuber removal on any hand to multiply tubers that do not germinate seeds.

d) The more common, plentiful tubers are grown on and members of the club look after them during the growing season, returning them to the bank at the end of the season,

Owing to the big demand last season, a call is out now for as many donations, at the end of the growing season, as possible. No donation is too small or too large, added together a big call will once again be made this year, your donations will enable satisfaction for most of the orders.

Please send any surplus tuber to the Tuber Bank Convenor,

Mr D. WELLS
86 Pitman Road
Windsor Gdns.

Telephone; 261 6030

SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES FOR SWAMP

OR RIPERION ORCHIDS SITES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

No orchids are as poorly conserved in South Australia as those confined to swampy places. Most sites have been drained and converted to pasture. Those that remain are threatened by overgrazing, weed infestation or damage from fertilizers. Observation of over one hundred of swamp sites during the past twenty years shows that orchids will survive best and even multiply if the following requirements are met.

I Protection from cloven-hoofed animals for at least the greater part of the year, particularly from September to April (I.E. the growing season for most species).

II The site must be prevented from turning into one dense thicket of shrubs (as is happening in the Piccaninny Ponds Conservation Park). This can best be achieved by mowing strips so that areas of low vegetation only 10cm high are interspersed with taller growth as shelter for native fauna. A natural population of kangaroos, wallabies etc, will help to keep open places, but where a site is surrounded by pasture it is to be expected that these marsupials will graze mainly outside the site being preserved!

III Some species require fire for regeneration. Small sections of swamp between the mowed strips should be burned on about an 8 year cycle, preferably in mid Autumn. Some areas should be left unburned to favour species which do not 'like' fire.

IV A weed control program may be necessary. Marshes Swamp Forest Reserve in the South East for example has (by the Woods & Forest Dept.) been well managed to prevent invasion by pines etc. This swamp reserve is in fact, an example of what good management can achieve as orchids are thriving there. In some Mt. Lofty Range swamps, the Coral-fern (*Gleichenia*) can become a problem unless the thickets are mown, burned or pulled up. Blackberries may not be a problem in future if the introduced blackberry rust takes hold; otherwise spraying may required.

V Fertiliser should be kept well away from swamps, but it is difficult to prevent run-off out of nearby paddocks from carrying nitrogen phosphate into swamps and allowing cloves to become rampant without a system of diverting drains. These drains may (although usually they don't) remove too much water from the swamp site.

If the Peter Creek (Woods & Forest Dept.) swamps near Kuitpo, Deep Creek Conservation Park and Yundi Swamps are managed in accordance with the above, we should still be able to find most species of swamp orchid near Adelaide for many years to come!

*Consideration should also be given to protection from unscrupulous orchid collectors and over use of water in nearby areas which may lower water tables!!