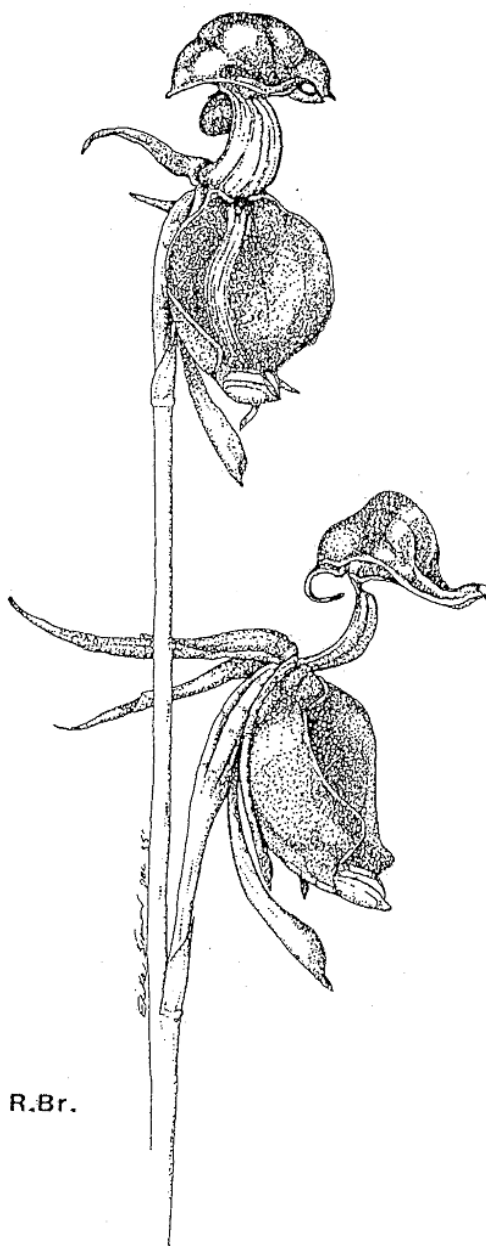


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
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JOURNAL



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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA PROMOTES THE CONSERVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS THROUGH CULTIVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS, THROUGH PRESERVATION OF NATURALLY-OCCURRING ORCHID PLANTS AND NATURAL HABITAT.

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PAGE No:	CONTENTS:	AUTHOR
71	Next Meeting and Item of Evening	
71	Last Meeting	
71	N.O.S.S.A. Show & S.G.A.P. Show	
72	New Members	
72	Help Table/Plant Commentary	
72	Popular Vote/Plant Judging	
72-73	Plants on Display August Meeting	
73	New Australian Orchid Hybrids	George Nieuwenhoven
73	Autumn Flowered Bird Orchids	Bob Bates
73	Next Field Trip & October Field Trip	
74-75	Shadehouse and Glasshouse Visit	Malcolm & Fay Maxwell
75-76	Secrets of Roachdale Nature Trail	Edda Viskic
77	Cultivation of <i>Pterostylis Curta</i>	Margaret Fuller
77-78	Recently named Australian Orchid Spec.	Bob Bates

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 22nd September, 1987 at 8 p.m.
St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington

ITEM OF THE EVENING:

Culture and demonstration night: various people will be demonstrating the techniques of potting, mounting etc. Please get your questions ready now and put the experts on the spot.

LAST MEETING:

Colin Jennings, our inaugural meeting chairman spoke to us on some of the diverse Orchid flora of Papua New Guinea. Species orchid grower of some note, Colin spent some time in Milne Bay region where he taught science.

We were treated to a fine selection of *Dendrobium* and *Bulbophyllum* species slides, taken mostly during the first two years of his stay there. It quickly became obvious what an orchid paradise this country is with its multitude of *Dendrobium* and *Bulbophyllum* species not to mention the other Genera indigenous to Papua New Guinea with many species still to be discovered and named.

We in South Australia could not hope to emulate the perfection in growth and flowering obtained there, however it will spur many of us on to try harder in our efforts at culture of these gems.

Thank you Colin for your enjoyable evening.

SPRING SHOW:

Saturday 19th to Sunday 20th September, 1987 is our Annual Spring Show time at our new venue: Urrbrae Agricultural High School corner of Cross Road and Fullarton Road, enter from Cross Road. Times open to the public are 12 - 5 p.m. both days. Display should preferably be put in on Friday 18th September after 5 p.m.. All displays must be finished by 10 a.m. Saturday. Please bring all your plants in flower no matter how small or large, we want to really show Adelaide how native orchids can be grown, so please join in and enjoy the fellowship created by our common interest. Some foliage plants should be useful to fill gaps - ferns are preferred. We also need more people to staff the show. Please volunteer early.

S.G.A.P. SHOW:

Saturday 26th to Sunday 27th September. This popular show at the Walter Duncan Hall is on again a week after our own. N.O.S.S.A. always puts on a good display and is one of the most popular exhibits. Once again plants may be entered on Friday evening or early Saturday morning. Participation is recommended. You will love the magnificent wildflower displays.

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr P Kearney
Mr P Fellenberg

HELP TABLE:

Two pots of *Pterostylis* were identified as being *Pterostylis pedunculata*.

A pot of *Pterostylis nutans* with a "ring in" plant was identified as a natural cross of *Pterostylis nutans* x *cucullata*.

One unidentified *Pterostylis* turned out to be *Pterostylis curta* Flinders Ranges form.

A yellow and brown *Diuris* affinity *longifolia* is an as yet unnamed species from W.A. We also had a *Dendrobium ruppianum* with sick looking leaves giving anxious moments to its owner. This plant appeared to have had too much exposure to the sun.

PLANT COMMENTARY:

Plant commentary on Epiphytes was given by Margaret Fuller while Bob Bates did the Terrestrials.

A good early display of Epiphytes was on display with the hybrids outnumbering the species. Our Anniversary gift plant of *Dendrobium* x *delicatum* was displayed in flower for the first time. Congratulations to Les Nesbitt.

A big display of terrestrials filled the benches to overflowing, including several large pots of hybrid *Pterostylis*. A number of these are beginning to look very alike giving some food for thought to the hybridisers where to turn next. Although many of these are easily grown and robust will they beat a pot full of a species grown to perfection? What do you think? Comment from our members is encouraged.

POPULAR VOTE:

Epiphytes : *Dendrobium* Kathryn Banks - grown by Peter Barnes
Terrestrial : *Diuris* Pioneer - grown by Les and Kay Nesbitt

PLANT JUDGING:

EPIPHYTES: judged by Margaret Fuller.

TERRESTRIALS : Bob Bates

EPIPHYTES : Species *Dendrobium aemulum* grown by T & L Braddock

EPIPHYTE : Hybrid *Dendrobium* Peter grown by Peter Barnes

TERRESTRIAL: Species *Pterostylis cycnocephala* and *Pterostylis curta* grown by L & K Nesbitt and Margaret Fuller respectively.

TERRESTRIAL: Hybrid - no decision

PLANTS ON DISPLAY: (August Meeting)

TERRESTRIALS:

PTEROSTYLIS nutans, *cucullata*, *pedunculata*, *baptistii*, *nana* (syn *pyramidalis*), *allantoidea*, *furcata*, *erecta*, *recurva*, *curta*, *hildae*, *cycnocephala*, *plumosa*, *cucullata* x *nutans*, x *ingens* x *nutans*, x *ingens*, Cutie, Nodding Grace, *curta* x *pedunculata*.

CALADENIA reptans, *carnea*, *rigida*, aff. *patersonii*, *patersonii*, *cearulea*, *alba*, *deformis*, *menziesii*, *hirta*, *ceasarea*, Fairy Floss.

GLOSSODIA major, *minor*.

DIURIS palustris, *maculata*, *citrina* x *lanceolata*, Pioneer sp. W.A., *sulphurea* x *corymbosa*

CHILOGLOTTIS trapeziformis

CYRTOSTYLIS huegelii

PHAIUS tancarvilliae

EPIPHYTES : cont. page 73

PLANTS ON DISPLAY : (August Meeting) cont.

EPIPHYTES:

DENDROBIUM teretifolium, *speciosum*, *speciosum* var. *pedunculatum*, *kingianum*, *beckleri*, *tetragonum*, *aemulum*, Ellen x *falcorostrum*, Golden Fleck, Wonga, *kingianum* x Ellen, Hilda Poxon, Nukumbil x *suffusum* 'Midge', Ellen, Aussie Ira x *falcorostrum*, Blushing Sun, Eureka x (Aussie Ira x *speciosum*), Star of Riverdene, *Delicatum*, Kathryn Banks, Graham Hewit, Peter, Hastings.
SARCOCHILUS Melba, *Mobilatum hamatum*.

NEW AUSTRALIAN ORCHID HYBRIDS:

HYBRID NAME	PARENTS	REGISTRANT
Den. Aussie Choice	Den monophyllum x <i>speciosum</i>	P Spence
Den. Aussie Ember	Aussie Ira x Peter	"
Den. Aussie Flame	Aussie Bonanza x Aussie Freckles	"
Den. Aussie Jewel	Aussie Bonanza x Aussie Mist	"
Den. Aussie Luck	Star of Gold x Aussie Mist	"
Den. Aussie Lust	Aussie Ira x Kingrose	"
Den. Aussie Merit	Ella Victoria Leaney x <i>ruppianum</i>	"
Den. Aussie Nave	Aussie Ira x <i>ruppianum</i>	"
Den. Aussie Parade	Aussie Ira x Star of Gold	"
Den. Aussie Wonder	Ella Victoria Leaney x Ellen	"
Den. Aussie Springtime	Aussie Starlight x Gillian Leaney	"
Sarcochilus Aussie Dawn	<i>S. hartmannii</i> x <i>dilatatus</i>	"

AUTUMN FLOWERED BIRD ORCHIDS: (continued from page 70)

by Bob Bates

I would not be surprised if each of the other dozen *C. reflexa* were pollinated by a different species of wasp. It would be a marvellous challenge for someone to go out and capture wasps on flowers of different populations of *C. reflexa* throughout its range and test for specified specificity of wasp to orchid throughout the range of both the orchid and wasp complexes.

Oh yes, if there is a dozen different *Chiloglottis* affinity *reflexa* there may be as many *Neozeleboria* aff. *proxima*.

We really are still at the pioneering stage of taxonomy.

REFERENCES:

Clements, M.A. "Preliminary Checklist of Australian Orchidaceae" 1982

Stoutamire, W. "Pseudocopulation in Australian Terrestrial Orchids" American Orchid Society Bulletin 44:229 (1975)

NEXT FIELD TRIP:

Saturday 19th September, 1987: Traditional N.O.S.S.A. Spring Show visit to Belair Recreational Park. Meet at the Information Centre in the park at 1.30 p.m. We hope to see the usual range of *Diuris* and *Pterostylis* hybrids and this year will look for *Caladenia patersonii* and *Glossadenia* x *tutelata*.

The park is only 15 minutes drive from the Orchid Show so it is an easy matter to attend the show and field trip to see both cultivated and wild orchids!

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP:

October 25th Para Wirra - Sandy Creek area.

Meet at gates of Para Wirra Recreation Park at 10.00 a.m.

General exploration trip to scrub adjacent Wongalere Girl Guide Camp.

Picnic lunch and visit to Sandy Creek Conservation Park.

N.O.S.S.A. SHADEHOUSE AND GLASSHOUSE VISIT: by Malcolm and Fay Maxwell

Along with some twenty other members, we joined a group on 22nd August, 1987 and visited the properties of Gordon and Jan Brooks, Les and Kay Nesbitt and George and Nancy Nieuwenhoven to see just how they obtained the success they have achieved in growing epiphytic and terrestrial native orchids.

We had grown just over a hundred cymbidiums and a few of the more common native epiphyte species for many years, but with retirement and the acquisition of a cold glasshouse and an additional shadehouse, we found our interests and collections widening to include exotics, other epiphytic species and latterly, terrestrials. Despite advice to the contrary we are attempting to maintain a composite collection and - by trial and error - are achieving some success but with more knowledge and experience could certainly do better. For us, therefore, the visits were a "made to measure" opportunity to see other glasshouse and shadehouse arrangements, growing techniques and to provide pointers for improvement of our own.

Being allocated to Group 1, our first visit was to Gordon and Jan Brooks. It is obvious that Gordon has been interested in native plants for many years because at the side of his drive he has two of the best specimens I have seen on the Adelaide Plains of *Banksia praemorsa* and *Hakea francisiana*, the latter in full bloom.

Gordon grows native epiphytes and hybrids commercially and is extending into the *cattleya* alliance.

Some of the features of the shadehouse that we noted were the division into two sections - heavy and light shade - with plants sorted according to requirements, support of pots from the roof by wire hangers to give vertical adjustment of light, preference for terracotta pots, the use of isolite chunks to give free drainage and the insistence on strict weed control to help delay the breakdown of potting mix. In the heated glasshouse, items of interest were the maintenance of humidity by bottom level misting sprays on metal screenings, the need to hand water the various genera according to individual requirements, the disadvantage of a flat roofed hothouse in the summer and the number of young hybrids in process where Kevin Western and Gordon had co-operated in the fertilization and flasking.

Our second visit was to Les and Kay Nesbitt's, where we found the flower garden a blaze of colour with Les's various coloured lachenalias worthy of particular mention. Les and Kay, besides growing terrestrial orchids commercially, have a heated glasshouse and a shadehouse area.

Probably one of the things that impresses you most, early in your visit to the terrestrial area, is the great number of varieties being grown and the obvious insistence on maintaining stocks of species as well as hybrids. Another interesting thing was that some of the terrestrial orchids collected on a rescue mission some seven years ago were still in the original soil and probably will remain that way for some years to come.

In the heated glasshouse we noted a *Phaius tancarvilliae* in flower, several warm growing native Dendrobiums, some soft cane Dendrobiums and Cattleyas. Of interest too, was the use of New Zealand moss to build up humidity.

Les's pride in the shadehouse area was a large *Dendrobium delicatum* "Apple Blossom" which has been in the family for forty years - what a beauty! Of particular interest too, was the rapid growth made by a piece of this plant put into a tree fern log a couple of years ago. The root had spread right through the log and I think every cane was going to flower.

N.O.S.S.A. SHADEHOUSE & GLASSHOUSE VISIT: cont.

And so to George and Nancy Nieuwenhoven. Not to be outdone by the other two growers, the showpiece of their native garden was a beautiful dark red Kangaroo paw hybrid which made us all envious. George and Nancy have both a shadehouse and a glasshouse. The glasshouse is divided into a warm section and a cold section. In the glasshouse their interest in orchids is shared with that in carnivorous plants. They must be completely compatible because we have never seen such beautiful sprays of *Dendrobium canaliculatum*. Surprisingly the most and best sprays were on a plant growing on a piece of wood no more than an inch in diameter. Their *Dendrobium johannis* was also quite outstanding and we found ourselves wishing we had a warm section too.

Obviously their special interest is in terrestrial orchids and from the number of varieties they have, which include some from overseas, and their healthy condition there is plenty of scope for hybridising. Like many others, I guess, we fell into the trap of asking George why he had a tulip bulb in his collection. After stringing us along for a bit, he told us the plant was really a South African terrestrial of the *Satyrium* species. Well, I guess there always have to be suckers!

So ended a wonderful day of friendliness, interest and instruction, and we, and I'm sure all the others who took part, would like our hosts, the organiser - Roy Hargreaves - and the Committee to know that their efforts have been greatly appreciated and that the day was "just what the doctor ordered". We would also especially thank our hosts for the cuppa that helped our lunch on the way.

SECRETS OF THE ROACHDALE NATURE TRAIL: by Edda Viskic September, 87

Nestling in the North Eastern Mt. Lofty Ranges 42.5 km from Adelaide via Kersbrook, is this small sanctuary of native forest. The National Trust has developed and marked numbered walking trails with 15 spots of interest and an accompanying leaflet which can be collected from a box at the entrance. My recent, early September visit took about two hours to cover the loop. The discovery of many terrestrial orchids either in leaf, in bud or flowering confirm the importance of such a reserve for the preservation of natural flora and fauna. Miss Hilda Roach left the land to the people of South Australia in 1957 and so now, 30 years on we can still enjoy this fragment of original forest that has been in the region for thousands of years. The rocks are ancient relics of the oldest range of the Barossa complex, and are more than a thousand million years old. Iron leaches to the surface of the rocks and rusts as it is exposed to the air. These rusty patches of colour contrast with the pale, flaky grey lichens that encrust the rocks and very gradually wear them down into soil.

Eucalypt overstory, *Acacia* and *Leptospermum* mid and understory are able to, survive the dry summer weather conditions. Annual winter rains of 750 mm promote a great variety of terrestrial orchids to grow and flower from tubers that store energy underground and make green leafy growths visible from March to November. In September, amongst the leaf litter under *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* were found the secret leaves and flower buds of *Glossodia major*, the Pink Waxlip orchid and *Thelymitra antennifera*, Rabbit Ears orchid. Some of them seem to have been grazed. Near these clumps of Pink Gum also grew the Greenhood orchids. *Pterostylis alata*, *Pt. curta* and *Pt. nana* abounded contrastingly tall and short. *Themeda australis*, Kangaroo grass and *Acacia myrtifolia* were flowering over the Running Postmen, *Kennedia prostrata*, with its bright red pea shaped flowers formed the protective groundcover layers, keeping the poor soil from eroding into the streamlets which trickled down towards the creek that bubbled its way through the lower regions of the trail.

SECRETS OF THE ROACHDALE NATURE TRAIL: cont.

Scented and climbing sundews, *Drosera* Species, were flowering and glistening with red insect-digesting droplets. Fungi assisting in the decomposition of old trees and the recycling of nutrients grew among the charcoal remnants of a fire. Sometimes moss grew in the old tree stumps and perhaps a solitary leaf of an orchid was found. Termite mounds and fallen black wattles, *Acacia pycnantha*, are some of the homes of insects that live in the forest; the rare *Diminitus* cricket occurs here as do rare Sun orchids, *Thelymitra aristata*, whose thick, fleshy leaf could be found penetrating the litter underneath *Euc. goniocalyx*, the long leaved Box. The heart shaped leaves of *Acianthus* species, Mayfly orchids, and the flowering heads of Nodding greenhoods, *Pt. nutans* were carpeting some areas either side of the walking trail between markers 4 and 6.

Euc. leucoxydon prefers good soil that supports shrubs of the *Grevillea* and *Davesia* genera. The open Blue Gum forest grows on the slopes gently folding towards the creek where liverworts and lichens thrive on the damp conditions. The slender green cylindrical growths of *Microtis unifolia* were piercing the soil and were plentiful in clumps. This Green Onion orchid produces leaves which are thicker than some of the Leek orchids (*Prasophyllum*) also found, in solitary locations.

The River Red Gums, *Euc. camaldulensis* grows along the creek bed and is a great favourite with the many birds that nest and visit its forks and high branch stumps. The leaf litter encourages the Spider orchid, *Caladenia dilatata* to send up its single, hairy leaf enclosing developing flower spike. The toothed Helmet orchid, *Corybas dilatatus* grew secretly hiding close to the ground in the moist soil and its fungi shaped flower mimicked a small brown mushroom so well that the tiny fungus thrips were in attendance. It masses the ground with many more leaves than flowers. In amongst the invading gorse weed were clumps of Maroon greenhood, *Pt. pedunculata* flowering taller than *Pt. nana* close by. Dodder, *Cassytha* sp. was twining up the undergrowth and near the bench at marker 10 was a *Caladenia deformis*, Blue Fairies orchid with its blue flowers past their prime.

A pair of large grey kangaroos suddenly realized that I was in their territory and bounded off up the ridge and stopped to look back down at me scanning the rock faces near the creek. Fresh native ferns spread out from beneath the rocks. A spotted Donkey orchid, *Diuris maculata* was found flowering nearby on the upward slope across from bridge 11. The dwarf greenhood, *Pt. nana* and *Pt. nutans* had colonized the south side of the track now running parallel to the fenced agricultural land that is such a contrast with its regular pasture texture. Signs of rabbit warrens were found near spot 13 and invading pasture weeds had been growing near the entrances. The Tea-tree regrowth was thick from the last bushfire and lots of bark and leaves of the *Messmate stringybark* were lying among the flowering *Astroloma* and *Platylobium*, Native Holly, shrubs and the neat brown Native Currant, *Acrotriche depressa*. *Euc. obliqua* grows on south facing slopes in higher rainfall areas. Its roots support the growth of the Native Cherry, *Exocarpus cupressiformis* which parasitizes the roots, requiring a fungus that lives in stringybark roots. The donkey and greenhood orchids were freely flowering on this hillside that ran parallel to the main road to Williamstown. No doubt there are countless other secret orchids that only appear after a fire or flowered in autumn. They await your discovery, so tread lightly and enjoy our unique flowering heritage.

CULTIVATION OF *PTEROSTYLIS CURTA*: by Margaret Fuller

As long as I have been a member of N.O.S.S.A. (since 1979) Roy Hargreaves has made an annual practice of potting easily cultivated terrestrial orchid species, particularly *Pterostylis* for sale to members and the general public on behalf of N.O.S.S.A. I would estimate that he has provided at least a thousand pots in that time. The number of plants now in cultivation as a result of his effort number many thousands.

In 1984 I was in charge of the trading table at the S.G.A.P. show and duly brought home all unsold plants on the completion of the show. Once dormant the tubers were removed from the pots and those of good size were returned to Roy for replanting. A large foam container was used to plant all the remaining *P. curta* tubers which were allowed to grow on. In 1985 the large tubers from this container were given to the Tuber Bank and the small tubers (less in number) were planted in the foam trough which was at the August meeting. The plants were not replanted in 1986 but the process will be repeated this year when the plants are dormant.

I prefer to grow *P. curta* in a foam container because of its lightness and insulating properties. The soil is friable and gritty, obtained from Stirling in the Mt. Lofty Ranges, and should be similar to that of the plant's natural habitat. I use no fertilizer but put fresh topping on the pot annually. During the dormant period the pot is kept in a cool shady place and receives only natural rainfall.

Once the autumn rains begin the plants are placed on a bench in a defused light and given no protection from wind or rain unless hail is predicted. Snail bait is used at intervals as required.

While some terrestrial species, particularly those from the Eastern States, have shown symptoms of distress caused by the cold wet winter, *P. curta* has thrived under the conditions experienced this year.

RECENTLY NAMED AUSTRALIAN ORCHID SPECIES: by Bob Bates

Seven new orchid species were named in the Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld 98:123-132 (1987) by David Jones and Mark Clements.

Some of these have been in cultivation in Adelaide for many years.

1. *Chiloglottis sylvestris*: the rain forest bird orchid of Qld and N.S.W. This species has previously been included in *C. reflexa* (see back page August Journal). It flowers in Adelaide in late Autumn. It differs from *C. reflexa* the Tasmanian autumn bird orchid by having smaller sepals, yellow clubbed tips to the lateral sepals and a more ant-like callus. Several growers received tubers from Lynn Cardiff of Toowoomba in the 1970's.
2. *C. truncata*: This miniature Qld species was exhibited at the July N.O.S.S.A. meeting as *C. formicifera*.
In fact all the "*C. formicifera*" I have seen in cultivation here has apparently been *C. truncata*. It certainly is an easily grown species.
3. *Pterostylis bicornis* is a rare species close to *P. parviflora* and so far only known from the Macpherson Range in Qld.
4. *Pterostylis bicolor* is one of the *P. mutica-cycnocephala* complex. I have seen it at N.O.S.S.A. meetings labelled variously as *P. mutica* or *P. cycnocephala* and as you may guess from this it has characteristics of both. My plants which were sent from Goondiwindi have gradually failed. Unfortunately this is a characteristic of "*rufa* group" *Pterostylis*

RECENTLY NAMED ORCHID SPECIES: cont.

5. This beautiful *Dipodium* species namely *D. variegatum* common on the coast from Qld to N.E. Victoria and *D. pulchellum* from Qld are described. Both have previously been treated as forms of *D. punctatum*.
6. *Diuris chrysantha*: This species from Qld and N.S.W. has been previously referred to as a small form of *D. aurea*. It has been grown in Adelaide but has not been popular nor has it fared well in Adelaide's cold winters.
7. *Diuris parvipetala*: (previously *D. punctata* var.) is another species long cultivated in South Australia. It does quite well in Adelaide especially if kept under cover in midwinter. It is not however as large nor as popular as the similar *D. punctata*.

The recent increase in newly named orchid species is merely the start of a flood of new Taxa (many of which are already well known in cultivation here).

Diuris chrysantha: D Jones & M Clements Proc Roy. Soc. Qld 98-130 (1987). The specific epithet refers to the golden-yellow colour of the flowers. Plant slender and 15 - 30 cm high, tubers obovoid, to 3 cm long occasionally bifid.

Leaves: one or two linear-subulate, conduplicate 12 - 36 cm long.

Flowers: 2 - 7 about 25 mm long, yellow to yellow orange with brown markings on dorsal sepal and labellum.

Dorsal sepal: 7 - 9 mm x 6 - 7 mm ovate, erect, with two prominent brown blotches in the centre.

Lateral sepals: linear - spatulate 12 - 18 mm long, parallel or crossed, green and brown.

Petals: obliquely erect or slightly recurved, unmarked the lamina orbicular 6 - 8 cm across, the claw 7 - 7 mm long, brown.

Labellum: 7 - 9 mm long, projected forwards and downwards, 3-lobed ; the lateral lobes 3 - 4 mm long, obovate, the distal margins entire or crenulate; mid-lobe at first cuneate then expanded into a cordate lamina which is conduplicate, 6 - 8 mm across.

Labellum callus of 2 short thick ridges incurved in the distal part.

Anther: 3.5 - 4mm high, stigma cordate, Column wings linear 4 mm high, irregularly crenulate.

Pollinia: white, the viscidiums 1 mm across.

Distribution: Southeast Qld and northern N.S.W. where common.

Habitat: open forest and woodland on tablelands and slopes.

Flowering: August - November. The blooms may be faintly fragrant.

Affinities: *D. chrysantha* was previously included with *D. aurea* but can be distinguished by its smaller flowers, rounded petals, dark spots on the sepal and flared apices to the lateral sepals.

Cultivation: The flowers are not as long as those of *D. aurea* and plants are not as floriferous at least under cooler southern conditions. Best grown in a fertile mix and kept under shelter during cold wet weather.

EDITORS NOTE: Journal Articles are urgently required. We are attempting to be one month ahead in articles for the Journal to allow more time for editing and Journal preparation. It is difficult to get the Journal out to a deadline when articles are in short supply.