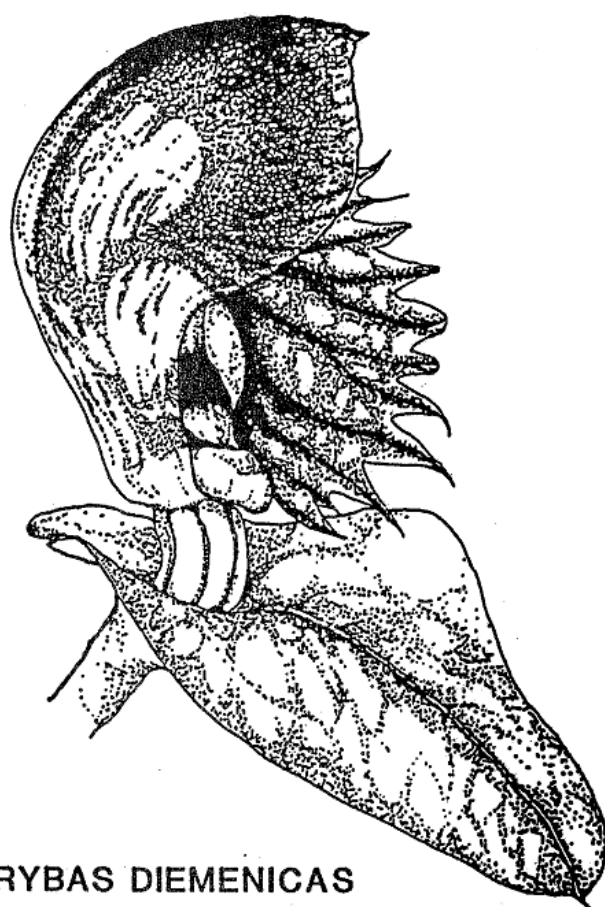
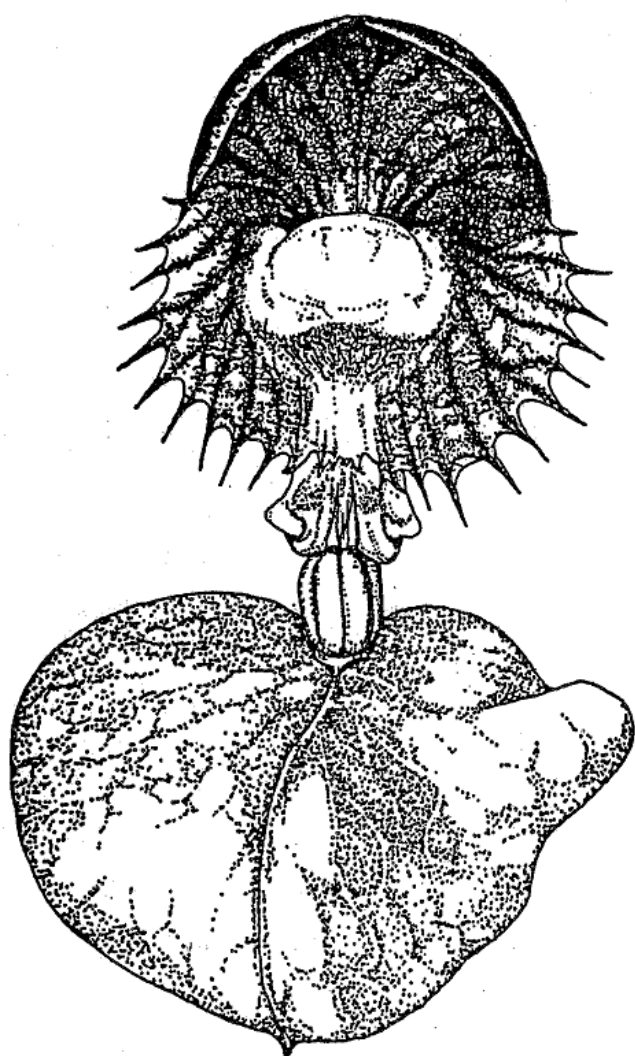


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
JOURNAL



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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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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 25th April 1989 at 8.00 pm, St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

Bruce Mules a country member from Port Pirie will speak on Dendrobiums. (Bruce's Dendrobium Aussie utmost won the best hybrid award at last years NOSSA show.)

NEXT FIELD TRIP

There will be no trip in May, the next excursion will be to Kuitpo on June 25th (*Corybas unguiculatus* special) Details will appear in the May journal.

NOSSA NOTICES

NOSSA DINNER

Wednesday 10th May 7.30 pm. Walkers Arms Hotel, North East Road, Collinswood. Cost \$15 per head. Deposit \$10 per head payable at April meeting to treasurer.

HELP TABLE

Have you a problem plant? Bring it in to the monthly meeting and put it on the help table. Other growers will comment and in this way we all learn something.

LIBRARIAN.

Wally Walloscheck is our new librarian. Please help the librarian by returning and borrowing books before the meeting. The wearing of NOSSA name badges is recommended as the librarian may refuse to lend books to unfamiliar members without badges.

TUBERBANK REPORT. 1988-89.

This years Tuberbank was once again successful although 13 peoples orders could not be fulfilled, 349 lots of tubers were made up into 40 orders.

A total of \$338-03 was made for the society, but it would not be possible without the generosity of the people who do donate tubers. To these donors on behalf of the members who have benefited I wish to wholeheartedly thank you. To those members who assisted me in making up the bank I also thank you, my task was made a lot easier for your assistance.

LAST MEETING.

Les Nesbitt showed some of the societies' slides of last years shows - from the Royal Adelaide to the S.G.A.P. show. These slides clearly showed that the standard of culture has continued to improve. It was interesting to note that members are now able to exhibit considerably more (often very large) specimen plants, a contrast to our early shows which were often made up of numerous small plants.

Plants on Display March meeting.

Terrestrials *Pterostylis truncata*, *Spiranthes sinensis* (on the trading table.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium bigibbum* (subvar. *compactum*)

Russell Job enlightened us as to the lineage of the various epiphyte hybrids. In some cases this was quite complicated and some members were astounded at the details Russell provided. Russell admitted later that most of the plants were his and he had looked up this detail before leaving home to attend the meeting.

Les Nesbitt had an easy job commenting on the single terrestrial benched. Les pointed out that Adelaide's drought (7 mm of rain since before Christmas) and the record heatwave early in March was the probable reason for the non appearance of terrestrials.

COMMENTATORS CHOICE.

Epiphyte species: *Dendrobium* Debbie McFarlane

hybrid

Terrestrial species: *Pterostylis truncata* grown by Don Wells (won by forfeit!)

Popular vote:

Epiphyte: *Dendrobium bifalce* x *tetragonum*

Terrestrial: as above *Pterostylis truncata* D. Wells.

Scott Creek Conservation Park survey reports. This booklet published by the society will be available at the next meeting for \$2 per copy.

Botanists of the Orchids.

Archer, William H. (1820-1874)

Archer was born at Launceston, Tasmania. He qualified as an architect in England but returned to practice in Tasmania where he became a member of parliament in 1850.

On the death of his father he became a member of the landed gentry where upon he devoted his time to botanical interests, collecting numerous Tasmanian plants and working later with J.D. Hooker at Kew from 1856-58. Hooker dedicated his "Flora Tasmaniae" to Archer and R.C. Gunn.

Hooker wrote of Archer.

"I am indebted to this gentleman for many of the plants described and much of the information in this book as well as to his thirty additional plates of Orchidaceae".

Archer was a fellow of the Linnean Society and the Royal Society. He became in 1860 President of the Royal Society of Tasmania. Hooker named the orchid *Prasophyllum archeri* in honour of this keen orchidologist who was in fact one of the very first Australian-born orchidologists.

Sandy Philips.

Terrestrial Orchid Culture.

By now you will have given all pots a thorough soaking. Most *Pterostylis* and *Diuris* species will be in vigorous growth but many other genera such as *Caladenia* and *Corybas* will not yet have emerged. Some growers may have made the mistake of using the Melbourne culture notes and watering thoroughly in February. Those who did would have brought some species up too early and the two weeks of near 40°C temperatures in March would have burnt off or rotted the tender new growths. Autumn flowered species would have aborted their blooms or had them sucked dry by thrips. Meanwhile, below ground hot wet tubers may have rotted off. The best way to deal with very hot weather is to damp down the tops of pots and cover with hessian bags or similar.

If you have pots under roofing it is a good idea to place these outside during heavy rain as nothing gets terrestrials going so well as a cold natural shower.

Now is the time to sow seeds and cover pots with a layer of leaf litter - chopped leaves or bush litter. Some growers have had more success recently by placing seed adjacent the base of emerging orchid shoots, slightly below soil level where mycorrhizal action is strongest. This works best where only small numbers of seedlings are required and repotting can be done in Summer. It is not recommended for *Caladenia*, where seed should be broadcast evenly over the pot surface.

Growing *Corybas*? Why not try the terrarium method: Take an old fish tank, put 2 cm of gravel in the base, add water. Stand pots on this, replace glass on top of the tank and place in a lightly shaded place. Top water up regularly and allow natural rain to fall on the pots but do tip off excess water. Your *Corybas* flowers will be bigger and better than ever before and will not abort. The blooms should last for 8 weeks in Winter. This method works very well for *C. hispidus* *C. diemenicus*. *C. fimbriatus* and *C. pruinosus*.

Watch for slugs and snails. Some people enjoy going around on damp nights with a torch to squash the beastly critters, but most people use snail bait spread on benches and under them but never on the pots. In Winter baits need to be replaced every 7-10 days.

Mark Phillips

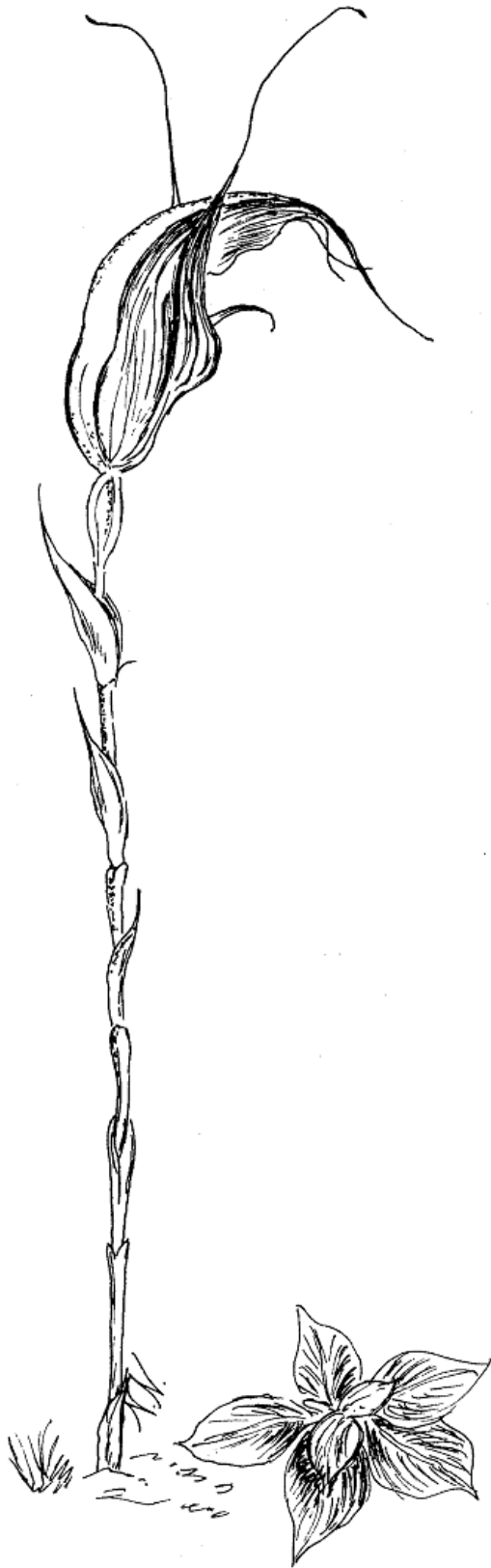
Pterostylis revoluta

The Autumn Greenhood always draws a lot of admiring onlookers when displayed at April and May meetings, and no wonder, it is one of Australia's most spectacular Greenhoods tall and slender up to 250 mm high with a large galea, ending in a long filamentous tip, the lateral sepals stand upright and outwards, colours are in shades of green and white. Flowering plants do not have a rosette of leaves present, although plants that have the flowers broken off by insect bites or wind often produce one at the base of the flower stalk.

Pterostylis revoluta grows through Victoria, New South Wales, and Southern Queensland, although it grows in mountain areas it also occurs on lowlands. I have personally observed it near Bendigo, Victoria. It definitely prefers cool Autumn conditions, hot Autumn weather will often shrivel the fine filamentous segments and even cause the whole flower to be aborted.

Pterostylis revoluta is easy enough to cultivate in a pot, a soil sand mix 60/40 is quite suitable or the Melbourne mix may be used, it flowers readily during Autumn especially if the pots are kept cool over Summer. Tubers are quite large and multiply 2 or 3 fold although flowering plants reproduce fewer tubers than non flowering ones. Treat them the same as your other greenhoods, with perhaps a wind free spot the preferred place and water pots from mid March onwards.

G. Nieuwenhoven.



ACIANTHUS/CYRTOSTYLIS Les Nesbitt

The 88/89 dormant season has been a disaster at my place for these two genera. Losses of the largest tubers were nearly 100%. It is very very disappointing to knock out a pot and find mouldy holes where the tubers ought to be. The worst affected pots were my 175 mm dia squat pots of specimen plants grown for exhibition.

Acianthus are amongst the most difficult terrestrials to get safely through the dormant season. When we get heavy rain as they are going dormant followed by hot weather, the tubers are very prone to rot. The larger the tubers, the more likely they are to rot. Small tubers seem to be much more resistant to rotting away, but this is only part of the problem. *Acianthus* tubers will shrivel up if kept too dry in Summer. The small tubers are the first to shrivel and go hard. It is just as well that this group are easy to grow in Winter and that they multiply freely.

Acianthus tubers range from small (about match head size) to large (the size of peas.) They are light brown in colour and are usually covered in hair. Because the soil adheres to the hairs the tubers can be hard to find when repotting. You have to feel for them in the mix so it helps to use sieved ingredients with no large stones the size of tubers for a potting mix.

What can be done to keep losses to a minimum?

1. Use small pots, e.g. 125 mm standard plastic pots.
2. Use clay pots which dry out faster.
3. Use a very sandy soil mix or plant the tubers in a layer of pure sand if you use plastic pots.
4. Cover or move pots out of the rain as soon as the plants have gone dormant.
5. Repot early in November as soon as the plants are dormant.
6. Water lightly throughout the Summer and keep pots shaded.

This article applies to the following species which are commonly grown in South Australia.

Acianthus exsertus

Acianthus fornicatus

Cyrtostylis reniformis (syn. *Acianthus reniformis* - late form)

Cyrtostylis robusta (syn. *Acianthus reniformis* - early form)

The ANOS-Vic Group cultivation booklet recommends that you start watering *Acianthus* at the end of January and bring them up early for better flowering displays. It may be worth experimenting on a few spare tubers to judge the effects here. On the other hand this may not be so wise in Adelaide where it is often hot and dry until the end of March.

I don't water my terrestrials heavily until the first week of March. This year (1989), the first week of March was then hottest of the Summer with every day between 34°C and 39°C. Under these conditions evaporation rates are very high and you have to water every day to keep the pots moist. I think that it is better to water very lightly in early March and gradually increase the water towards the end of March as the weather cools down.

Orchid Adventures in the Gold Coast Hinterland.

Midsummer is not the ideal time to visit Southeast Queensland but there is certainly no wrong time to visit. Despite over commercialisation the Gold Coast is still remarkably beautiful, even the skyscrapers of Surfers Paradise, ever visible in the distance, are awe inspiring. The beaches are squeaky clean, the surf magnetic and judging from the laughter and happy faces everyone has a great time.

But after a time the fierce sun, the ever present noise of traffic and the social whirlpool become tiring and one seeks the solitude of the nearby rainforest-covered mountains. What a contrast!

The instant one enters the rainforest, everything else seems irrelevant. It is so cool, the silence so stunning that one is aware of one's own footfall in the carpet of soft leaves. Everything is perfectly still. There are excellent walking track systems throughout the numerous national parks. These meander from exotic waterfalls to tree fern glens to astounding lookouts and for the orchid lover - plenty!

We weren't long out of the Gold Coast before we spotted a colourful *Dipodium variegatum* on the roadside. This leafless species is very similar to our own local *D. punctatum* but is more spotted, the dots extending right down the flower peduncle. We were to see 3 *Dipodium* species. *D. pulchellum*, like the *D. variegatum*, only recently named had, a habit of turning up at lookout carparks. It was even more like *D. punctatum* but slender and with the flowers not drooping and the sepals not turned back. A third species had flowers of a very deep purple, the spots seemed to have taken over the whole flower.

About an hour up from the coast we stopped at Purlingbrook falls. These are like something out of a jungle adventure book as the walking track meanders down to the base of the falls and behind them so that one looks out at a world of palm trees and ferns through a 100 metre long veil of water. Within sight of the carpark and on the edge of the track grows the tiny bird orchid *Chiloglottis sylvestris* with its little red-bodied female-wasp- equivalent labellum decoration. Brilliant purple and green male wasps flitted about the flowers but I do not think they were pollinators as none were seen on the flowers. *C. sylvestris* is easily the most common ground orchid seen in the rainforest at this time of year and favours the edges of walking trails. There were plenty of lithophytic orchids on the cliff tops here i.e. *Dendrobium kingianum* and *D. tarberi* not in flower at this time.

Ten minutes drive from Purlingbrook saw us in Warrie National Park with its many superb lookouts. Around these were numerous rosettes of *Pterostylis* such as *P. hispidula* still in bud and in moist spots two species of lady slipper orchids in bloom, *Cryptostylis subulata* reminded us of home but *C. erecta* was a more exciting find, the erect flowers looking like a Queen Nefertiti head dress. There were tiny *Genoplesium* orchids in moss on the rocks and these were probably our un-named species. After lunch we visited Natural Bridge National Park. This was truly a fun spot as the river here drops boiling and fuming into a hole into the ground and comes out again through a natural arch. We joined tourists from all over the world by swimming under the arch into the maelstrom of ice-cold water. I really do recommend a visit to this spot. While in this area be sure to drive to 'Best of All' lookout. From 1200 metres one gets an unbelievable view of the Gold Coast.

Next day saw us again above 1000 metres in the Lamington Plateau on the walk from Binna Burra to Coomera Falls, where three separate streams drop into an horrific chasm. Not for the faint-hearted is the track from there to the river above the falls. Walking through this fantastic rainforest country one is not aware of the epiphytic orchids until a fallen tree is found. Only then can the tangled mass of ferns, bromeliads and orchids that occur in the upper branches of a rainforest tree be appreciated. This walk through secluded palm and tree fern glades and ancient Gondwanan forests of Antarctic beech is something that will never be forgotten especially if one comes across a group of *Calanthe triplicata* in its pristine glory in a tiny patch of sunlight filtering through the jungle canopy.

In the same area is O'Reilly's guest house and the orchid garden. Here the rainforest orchids are easy to find as they have been planted together with many other beautiful jungle plants to form a smorgasbord of botanical treasures.

For lovers of unique roads I recommend a drive down the Duckhill track from O'Reilly's to Christmas Creek but you'd better hope you don't meet another car coming up.

The following day saw us at Girraween National Park some 50 km west and out of the rainforest into red terrestrial orchid country. The kids love Girraween for its algae slides. One sits in the water at the top of a smooth rock slope and slides at high speed over the algae covered rock to splash into the pools below. On mossy ledges on granite here were *Dipodium* (2 species) the summer beard orchid *Calochilus gracillimus*, *Orthoceras* sp. *Cryptostylis leptochila*, several little *Genoplesiums* and an un-named *Chiloglottis*. Along the creek grew the brilliant pink Queensland form of *Spiranthes* and in a patch of sand, tall duck orchids just finishing their 3 months of flowering. The Stanthorpe area adjacent the park is rich in terrestrials and walks along the railway line from here to Glen Innes revealed (in damp places only) 2 purple *Diuris* probably *D. parvipetala* and *D. punctata* var. *minor*, more *Orthoceras*, *Microtis* and *Prasophyllum* species. Our orchid appetites were sated.

The trip was completed by returning to the Gold Coast via Bald Rock National Park, Woodenbong and the Border Ranges National Park. (This park has one of the finest forest drives in Australia. I recommend the Red Cedar Forest Walk, twenty minutes of super rainforest scenery and the unique Pinnacle lookout not only for the view but because it is smothered with orchids at all times of the year.)

The total area covered during this trip was just a little larger than the Adelaide Hills yet it is jam packed with scenery such as you will never see elsewhere. Amazingly when I asked many of the locals about the places visited, they admitted they had never heard of them.