

Calochilus
robertsonii

NATIVE
ORCHID
SOCIETY
of
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA
INC.

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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.

Except with documented official representation from the Management Committee of the native orchid society of South Australia, no person is authorised to represent the society on any matter.

All native orchids are protected plants in the wild Their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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CONTENTS

- 41. Next Meeting
- 41. New Members
- 41. Field Trip - Echunga Geoff Edwards
- 42. Plants Benched May Meeting
- 42. Australian Orchid Research, Vols. 1 and 2
- 43. Orchid of the Month -
 Dendrobium jonesii R.T. Robjohns
- 44. New Members Group - Next Meeting G. Burford
- 44. New Members Group - Report on Last Function
- 45. New Names for Some Well Known South
 Australian Orchids R. Bates
- 48. Port Pirie Visit
- 48. NOSSA Annual Spring Show
- 48. NOSSA Annual Dinner
- 48. NOSSA Trading Table
- 49. Notes on the Photographs in Orchids of
 South Australia, Part 2. R. Bates
- 50. Forthcoming Field Trip
- 50. N.E.D.O.S. Winter Show
- 50. Quote for the Month Roger Rankin

NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 25 June, 1991, 8.00 p.m.
 Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.
 Why: "Portraits of Native Orchids - the Weird and Wonderful". Participation is invited from all members.
 Bring your favourite 35mm slides. Emphasis is placed on orchid oddities; insects associated with orchids; and on photographers photographing orchids. Contact Gerry Carne (phone 332 7730) if you have slides you would like to be shown.

New Members

Mrs B. Carpenter, Torrens Park
 Mr D. Edgecombe, Summertown
 Ms P. Robinson, Summertown

FIELD TRIP

Arrangements have been completed for another "orchid hunt" at the Echunga Police Training Reserve on Sunday 27 October, 1991.

Those who attended last year will recall the wide range of lovely flowers. Controlled burning in some previously inaccessible areas should ensure display this year. Please book the day.
 More information to follow. Geoff Edwards

Plants Benched May Meeting

Terrestrials

Eriochilus cucullatus
Pterostylis alata (x 2)
P. alveata
P. angustata
P. fischii
P. pulchella
P. rogoff
P. robusta (x 4)
P. truncata
P. x toveyana (x 2)
P. vittata

Epiphytes

Cadetia taylori
Dendrobium Liparus reflexa (x 3)
D. Gloucester Sands (discolor
 x *canaliculatum*)
D. Hilda Poxon (x 2)
D. mortii
D. prenticii
 (Plant of the Month) *Sarcochilus*
falcatus (x 2)

RESULTS OF JUDGING

JUDGES - Bob Markwick (Terrestrials); Don Wells (Epiphytes).

Terrestrial Species - *Pterostylis truncata*, grown by W. Wallascheck.
 Epiphyte Hybrid - *Dendrobium Gloucester Sands*, grown by B. and G. Hawkins.

POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials - *Pterostylis truncata*, grown by W. Walloscheck.
 Epiphytes - *Dendrobium Gloucester Sands*, grown by B. and G. Hawkins.

Australian Orchid Research,
 Vols. 1 and 2

Both of these important publications providing an up-to-date "catalogue of Australian Orchidaceae" will be available through the Society at the following prices:

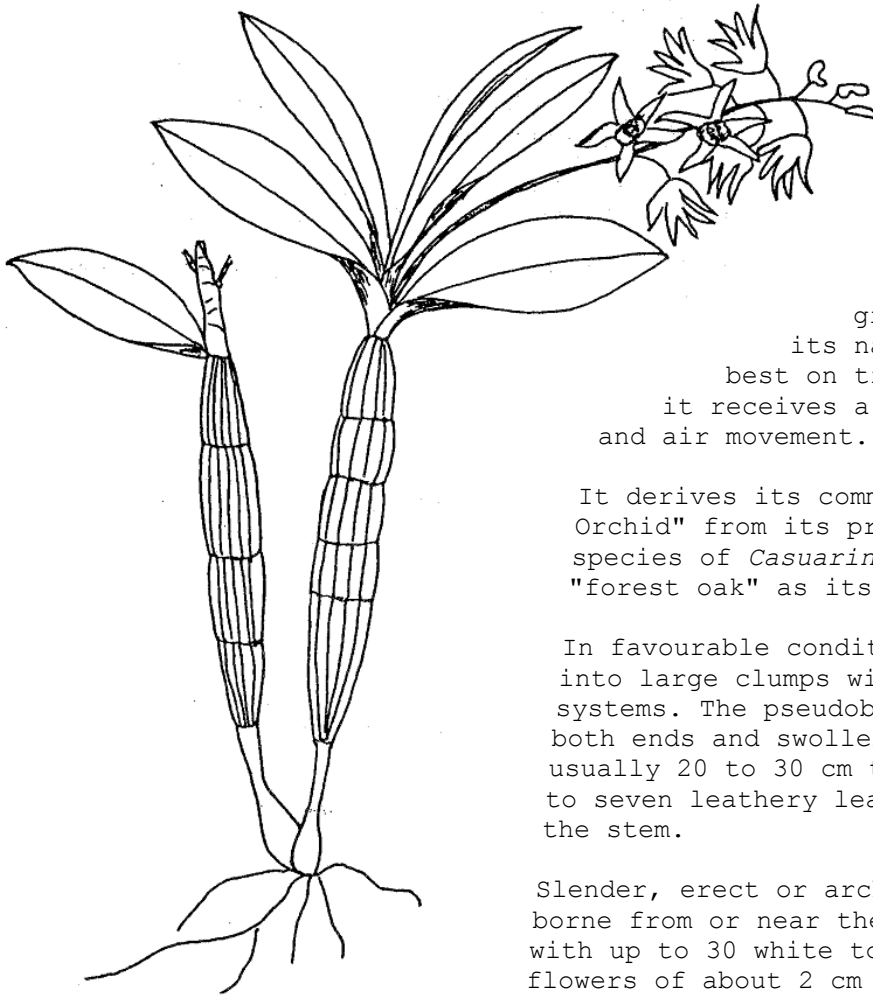
Australian Orchid Research, Volume 1 - \$19.50 each
 Australian Orchid Research, Volume 2 - \$25.50 each

If you would like to order either of these publications please notify Roy Hargreaves at the June meeting. Payment at the time of order would be appreciated.

Orchid of the Month

Dendrobium jonesii (A. Rendle)Formerly known as *D. ruppianum* (A. Hawkes)

R.T. Robjohns



This orchid has a range from the Burdekin River in north-east Queensland to the tip of Cape York Peninsula and into New Guinea. It is usually found on living or dead trees but it also grows on rocks, however, in its natural habitat it grows best on trees fairly high up where it receives a lot of light, humidity and air movement.

It derives its common name of the "Oak Orchid" from its preference for a species of *Casuarina* known as the "forest oak" as its host.

In favourable conditions it will grow into large clumps with extensive root systems. The pseudobulbs are slender at both ends and swollen in the middle and usually 20 to 30 cm tall. They have up to seven leathery leaves at the apex of the stem.

Slender, erect or arching spikes are borne from or near the apex of the stem with up to 30 white to cream fragrant flowers of about 2 cm in diameter with purple markings on the labellum.

It grows reasonably well here in a shadehouse under 70% shade cloth both on mounts and in pots using an open mix. As it does not like "wet feet" keep it on the dry side during winter but provide it with humidity in summer. It needs light and air movement and protect it from frosts which will ruin any new growths. Fertilise regularly using half strength fertiliser.

There are two sub-species of *D. jonesii*, namely:

ssp bancroftianum - formerly known as *D. ruppianum* var *magnificum* - usually a more robust plant having larger flowers which are white when first open but like *D. jonesii* *ssp jonesii* they turn yellow with age. The flowers are numerous and crowded on the stem. It is found from the Burdekin to the Annan Rivers in Queensland, and is seldom seen below around 900 metres.

Orchid of the Month (contd.)

ssp blackburnii differs from *D. jonesii ssp jonesii* in its more robust pseudobulbs (to 22 centimetres x 8 centimetres) and pendulous racemes of pale primrose yellow flowers - it is endemic to north-eastern Queensland.

Hybridising

There is one natural hybrid - *D. x ruppiosum* which is a cross between *D. jonesii* and *D. pedunculatum* (formerly known as *D. ruppianum* and *D. speciosum*). There are about 50 registered hybrids, however, it is not a very dominant species though it has passed on its floriferous habit to many of its progeny.

REFERENCES:

Australian Indigenous Orchids, Dockerill; *Dendrobium* Orchids of Australia, Upton; Native Orchids of Australia, Jones, Australian Orchid Review, Clements.

NEW MEMBERS GROUP

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the new members group will be as follows:

When Sunday, June 30.

Where - the home of Gordon Brooks,
47 Flinders Parade, Flinders Park.

Time - 2.00 p.m.

This meeting is another must for members of this group - extensive shade and glasshouses for inspection and the opportunity to buy plants. Please wear name tags.

Enquiries to Graham and Jan Burford (telephone 45 3084).

NEW MEMBERS GROUP

REPORT ON LAST FUNCTION

A lovely autumn day again enhanced the joy of visiting Oliver and Margaret Fuller where the practical application of mounting Australian native epiphytic orchids was carried out. Hardwood paling slabs had been prepared by Oliver and Margaret helped the members tie on their plants that were available on the day.

A trip around the garden was an eye-opener. Plants everywhere - all in different places to simulate correct growing and flowering conditions.

Margaret's "bird hospital" was fascinating. Full marks for a job well done. The members were grateful for the time and expertise given to them. Many thanks to the Fullers.

New Names for Some Well Known
South Australian Orchids

David Jones, in Volume 2 of Australian Orchid Research, introduces 108 new names for Australian orchids - 28 of these occur in South Australia.

The most significant changes are:

1. *Acianthus pusillus* is the name given to what was previously known as *A. exsertus* in South Australia. True *A. exsertus* occurs along the east coast of Australia and we have seen it in cultivation in South Australia as "large form of *A. exsertus*".
2. *Caladenia flaccida* is a new name to replace *C. filamentosa* (or at least the large drooping red-flowered Flinders Range and Monarto plants - the Kangaroo Island plants and those previously known as *C. filamentosa* var *tentaculata* are temporarily without a name!). An illustration of *C. flaccida* appears in Orchids of South Australia (Plate 42).
3. *Caladenia stellata* is the name given to the red-lipped spider orchid previously known as *C. fitzgeraldii*. It is illustrated in Orchids of South Australia (Plate 44).
4. *Dipodium roseum* replaces *D. punctatum* as the name of the common Adelaide Hills Hyacinth orchid!

In addition to these changes twenty-four new species are described.

Caladenia dilatata has been further divided into 5 new species so that we now have -

1. *C. dilatata* R.Br. in the strict sense is an uncommon short-stemmed early-flowered species from fertile flats in the South-east (there is no illustration of it in Orchids of South Australia). Also New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.
2. *C. tentaculata* is the common large falcate sepal "king spider" of the Adelaide Hills (Plate 65 in Orchids of South Australia). Also Victoria, New South Wales.
3. *C. stricta* is the rigid wheatbelt species without clubs (Plate 64 in Orchids of South Australia). Also Victoria.
4. *C. rigens* is the little mallee species with yellow clubs (i.e. Sandy Creek, Tailem Bend) (Plate 33 in Orchids of South Australia). Also New South Wales, Victoria.
5. *C. septuosa* is the large red labellum species so common on Eyre Peninsula (Plate 39 in Orchids of South Australia).
6. *C. macroclavia* is the rare brown bayonet clubbed species (Plate 41 in Orchids of South Australia).
7. *C. clavula* is the short-stemmed mallee species with small brown clubs. Variation in this species has not yet been fully studied. (Plate 40 in Orchids of South Australia may be a form of *C. clavula*.)
8. *C. necrophylla* is the late flowered species from the South-east which flowers after the leaf has shrivelled (not illustrated).

There is still work to be done on this complex in South Australia!

New Names for some well known S.A. Orchids (contd.)

Caladenia conferta is a new species previously confused with *C. toxochila* - in fact it has been treated as a coastal variant of that species. *C. conferta* is not illustrated in Orchids of South Australia. We have seen it on NOSSA field trips to Yorke Peninsula.

Caladenia patersonii has been divided into 10 species in South Australia -

1. The tall Adelaide Hills species with the red lip and musky odour is *C. behrii* (Plate 60 in Orchids of South Australia).
2. The large "White Beauty" of the Mt Lofty Ranges with thick textured, short fringed labellum is *C. argocalla* (Plate 59 large flower in Orchids of South Australia.)
3. The small variously coloured mallee species with flat labellum is *C. colorata*. (Plate 59 small flower in Orchids of South Australia.)
4. The large creamy, scented, thick sepalled coastal species is *C. fragrantissima*. (Plate 45 in Orchids of South Australia.)
5. The winter flowered small cream or white flowered unscented species, i.e. on Yorke Peninsula is *C. brumalis*. (Plate 57 in Orchids of South Australia.)
6. The blood red thick textured drooping sepalled species previously confused with *C. concolor* in South Australia becomes *C. haemantha* (not illustrated in orchids of South Australia).
7. The drooping variable pale inland species, i.e. Flinders Ranges is retained as *C. arenaria* (not illustrated in Orchids of South Australia).
8. *C. woolcockiorum* is the rare early flowered rock ledge spider orchid from the Mt. Remarkable area (not illustrated).
9. The long fringed, large white, fire stimulated spider orchid of the lower South-east with drooping sepals is *C. floribunda*. (Plate 58 in Orchids of South Australia may be this species - in which case the caption "photographed at Moonta" is incorrect!)
10. The tiny narrow-lipped species with pink and white, often striped flowers from wet places in the South-east and Victoria (i.e. Lake Fyans) is *C. aerochila* (not illustrated).
11. *C. patersonii* may occur in our South-east as there are pink and white flowered forms from there which do not fit any of the named species. *C. concolor* may occur in South Australia but this is not verified.

Caladenia carnea R.Br. has been subdivided into the following species in S.A.

1. *C. carnea* is the Adelaide Hills species with pretty pink or white insect pollinated flowers. (Plate 29 in Orchids of South Australia.)
2. *C. coactilis* is the stocky Flinders Range species with large thick textured flowers. (Plate 30 in Orchids of South Australia is probably an odd form of this species or is perhaps a rare *C. coactilis* x *C. fuscata* hybrid!)
3. The common self pollinated, small flowered species of the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island and South-east, the one with the long leaf and tall stems is *C. prolata* (Plate 31 of Orchids of South Australia). Also Victoria.
4. The very rare white flowered, ledge fairy orchid of the Flinders Ranges is *C. xantholeuca*. (Plate 32 of Orchids of South Australia is this species - note the yellow calli, hence the name xantholeuca meaning white and yellow.)
5. *Caladenia minor* - the little pink flowered, short stemmed species previously called *C. pusilla* (Plate 61 in Orchids of South Australia) Also Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand.
6. The tall small, dull pink flowered self pollinated species of sandy scrub in the South-east is *C. vulgaris* (not illustrated).

New Names for some well known S.A. Orchids (contd.)

7. *C. fuscata* - the application of this name to South Australian plants is unsure but material from the wheatbelt with shiny pink, single flowers has been identified as *C. fuscata* by both D.L. Jones and M. Clements!

8. There are various cleistogamous dwarf forms with flowers which do not open in South Australia which may include *C. cleistantha* (not illustrated).

Another new *Caladenia* from South Australia is *C. richardsiorum* from near Little Dip in the South-East (Plate 69 in Orchids of South Australia).

New Helmet Orchids -

1. *Corybas dentatus* is a species endemic to damp sandy places in the Mt Lofty Ranges, i.e. Sandy Creek, Victor Harbor. This species is similar to *C. incurvus* but has features indicating it may be a hybrid with *C. despectans*. *C. dentatus* has done well in cultivation and may be available on our tuberbank next year.

2. *Corybas expansus* is a fairly common species from coastal sandhills but appears to be endemic to South Australia. (See Plate 85 in Orchids of South Australia.) The very similar *C. limpidus* of Western Australia may also occur in S.A., i.e. Coffin Bay National Park (not Mt. Crawford as suggested in Australian Orchid Research, Vol. 2).

3. *Corybas* x *miscellus* is the name given to the *C. diemenicus* x *C. incurvus* crosses. (Of interest is the fact that this is the first named *Corybas* hybrid!)

A new *Dipodium* in South Australia -

Dipodium campanulata, the spotted bell hyacinth orchid from the old shoreline sandhills from near Naracoorte, has been recognised as distinct for many years by local resident Kath Alcock. It sometimes occurs with *D. roseum*. Kath and I found a very attractive hybrid in 1987. (Plate 96 in Orchids of South Australia is of *Dipodium campanulata*).

A second *Gastrodia* in South Australia

Gastrodia vescula is a tiny, stunted species found in damp sand around *Leptospermum* (silky tea-tree) thickets from Honans scrub across to Portland. A good place to find it is at the Moleside Creek picnic ground in the Glenelg river National Park. All southern *Gastrodia* species look very similar, indeed there is still some doubt as to the identity of the *Gastrodia* species in the Adelaide Hills - true *G. sesamoides* is a self-pollinated species according to D. Jones.

The *Prasophyllum patens-odoratum* complex in South Australia -

It is now, generally accepted that the large-flowered variable, strongly fumed leek orchid with its labellum curved right back and so common in South Australia is a separate species *P. odoratum* (a sister species to *P. patens* unfortunately there is no photograph of this species in the strict sense - in Orchids of South Australia). Sister species or subspecies of *P. odoratum* occur throughout temperate S.A. and include the stocky coastal sandhill species illustrated in Plate 138 in Orchids of South Australia (yet to be officially named) and a new species from heathland in our South-east and in Victoria *P. spicatum*, see illustration in Native Orchids of Australia by D.L. Jones (Plate 260 incorrectly labelled *P. patens*).

There are at least three other taxa of this complex in South Australia (i.e. the desert rock outcrop taxon) yet to be named and requiring further study.

Port Pirie Visit

The members intending to go on the bus trip to Bruce Mules' nursery at Port Pirie on August 25, should be at the Prospect Oval Gates on the Main North Road, Prospect adjacent to the Northern Community Hospital before 9.00 a.m.. Arrangements have been made for limited off street parking. The bus will be departing at 9.00 a.m. SHARP and our approximate time of return back will be 6.00 p.m.

Please bring your own cut lunch and a cup tea and coffee will be provided. Wear your name tag. For those who have not paid their \$10 deposit to confirm their booking should pay it as soon as possible to Jan or Graham Burford who have the list of names- The \$4 will be collected on the bus.

Please check with Jan or Graham Burford (telephone 45 3085) for the availability of seats.

NOSSA ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

The NOSSA Annual Spring Show will be held on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September, 1991, at the Mitcham Girls High School.

Detail of show classes and exhibits will be published in the August Journal. Please give serious consideration to exhibiting your plants to make this a successful event for the Society.

NOSSA ANNUAL DINNER

The NOSSA Annual Dinner was held in May at the Walkers Arms Hotel.

A record number of members and guests participated and all had a terrific time. There is now no doubt that this has truly become one of the Society's most successful annual events and the Management Committee hopes that even more members will attend in 1992.



NOSSA MONTHLY TRADING TABLE

Members are advised that the Trading Table before each monthly meeting will be available until 8.00 p.m. each meeting. Goods presented for sale should be made available by 7.30 p.m.

Notes on the Photographs in Orchids of
South Australia,

Part 2.

Bob Bates:

Continued from NOSSA journal, May 1991, pages 39 40,

Photo 10 The *Myrmecia urens* (winged mole jumper ant) was photographed on the *Leporella* flower on a sandy track through pine plantation near Kuitpo - note the yellow grains of wind-blown pine pollen on the flower. Note also the raised brown trichomes on the petals. It is these trichomes which produce the phero-hormone s that attract the ant pollinators.

Photo 11 The *Caladenia rigida* flower with bee was photographed (using natural light) on the overlooking Millbrook Reservoir - in fact only a few hundred metres from where photograph 4 was taken!

Photo 12 This photo was taken near Wauchope in New South Wales - a companion shot showing the sawfly on the labellum appeared with my Pollination of *Caleana major* article in the Orchadian in 1989.

Photo 13 This is a "full sunshine" shot, as evidenced by the shadow on the lower *T. antennifera* flower. The photo was taken at Kuitpo.

Photo 14 This flower of the recently described *Dipodium campanulatum* was photographed by the author near Naracoorte, in fact at the type locality. It (like the previous shot and the following three) are incorrectly credited in the book.

Photo 15 This action shot was taken at Peter Creek in the Adelaide Hills using natural light - not the recommended way of photographing fast moving insects but I like the shot as the blurred wings help to tell the story, as does the blob of yellow pollinia on one of the wasps!

Notes on the Photographs in Orchids of South Australia (contd.)

PHOTO 16 A ring flash was used to capture this wasp on a cultivated plant in the author's garden.

PHOTOS 17 and 18 Photos 17 and 18 are by John Fanning, Past President of A.N.O.S Victoria (Plate 18 is, in fact, put in, sideways, not that it is noticeable). What is the egg-shape on the fungus gnat's abdomen - is it perhaps the egg of a parasitic fly? To photograph the gnat inside the flower John cut away part of the galea to form a viewing hole.

PHOTOS 19 to 23 Photos 19 to 23 are all by Jack Warcup of plants grown by him in symbiotic flask culture. The technicians at the Government printers didn't do much of a job with their lettering on these plates.

(to be continued)

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIP

The next Field Trip is to Montacute Heights on Sunday, 23 June, 1991. Meet at Norton Summit Hotel at 12.30 p.m.

N.E.D.O.S. WINTER SHOW

Once again NOSSA has been invited to participate in the NEDOS Annual Winter Show to be held on 18-20 July, 1991. If you are able to assist with flowering plants please contact Les Nesbitt.

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

Most new orchid growers regret the time it takes for them to flower an orchid; old growers know you can make the same mistakes more quickly when you are experienced.

from Orchid Wise, by Roger Rankin.