

Calochilus
robertsonii

NATIVE
ORCHID
SOCIETY
of
SOUTH
AUSTRALIA
INC.

JOURNAL

JULY 1991

Volume 15, No. 6.

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No SBH 1344

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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Price 60¢.

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Next Meeting

When: Tuesday 23 July, 1991, 8.00 p.m.
Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.
Why: Dr Oliver Fuller will provide members with an insight
into "Bird Banding at Lake Eyre and South Australia's
Offshore Islands".

Forthcoming Field Trips

CORYBAS SPECIAL

hopefully to see *Corybas despectans* and the recently named *Corybas dentatus* and maybe even *Corybas x miscellus*, a cross between *C. diemenicus* and *C. incurvus*.

Meet at Cockatoo Valley Post Office at 12.30 p.m., Saturday, July 27.

MONARTO CONSERVATION PARK

combined Field Naturalists/NOSSA excursion.

Meet at Callington turnoff at 9.30 a.m., Sunday, August 18,

BELAIR NATIONAL PARK CENTENARY PICNIC

Sunday, 17 November.

Plants Benched June Meeting

Terrestrials

Caladenia alba
Corybas hispidus
Pterostylis alveata
P. angusta
P. baptista
P. baptista x *P. cucullatus*
P. concinna
P. grandiflora
P. nana
P. nutans
P. scabra
P. Sentinel
P. taurus
P. vittata

Pterostylis
vittata



Epiphytes

Dendrobium atrovioleaceum
D. bigibbum x self
D. Ellen
D. Essie Banks
D. Graham Hewitt
D. Helix "Imp" x *D. canaliculatum*
D. Hilda Poxon (x 2)
D. Kim Heinz
D. rigidum (x
D. Star of Gold
Sarcochilus Mavis x *S. australis*

RESULTS OF JUDGING

JUDGES G. Nieuwenhoven (Terrestrials); R. Shooter (Epiphytes).

Terrestrial Species *Pterostylis grandiflora*, grown by G. and J. Burford.

Terrestrial Hybrid - *Pterostylis Sentinel*, grown by L. and K. Nesbitt.

Epiphyte Species *Dendrobium atrovioleaceum*, grown by G. Nieuwenhoven.

Epiphyte Hybrid *Dendrobium Hilda Poxon*, grown by G. and B. Hawkins.

POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials - *Pterostylis Sentinel*, grown by L. and K. Nesbitt

Epiphytes - *Dendrobium Kim Heinz*, grown by R. Shooter.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr S. Carpenter, Torrens Park, S.A.
 Mr E. Smith, Springwood, N.S.W.
 Mr A. Ermutlu, Istanbul, Turkey.

ORCHID OF THE MONTH

Dendrobium kingianum J.C. Bidwell
(Pink Rock Lily)

R.T.

Robjohns

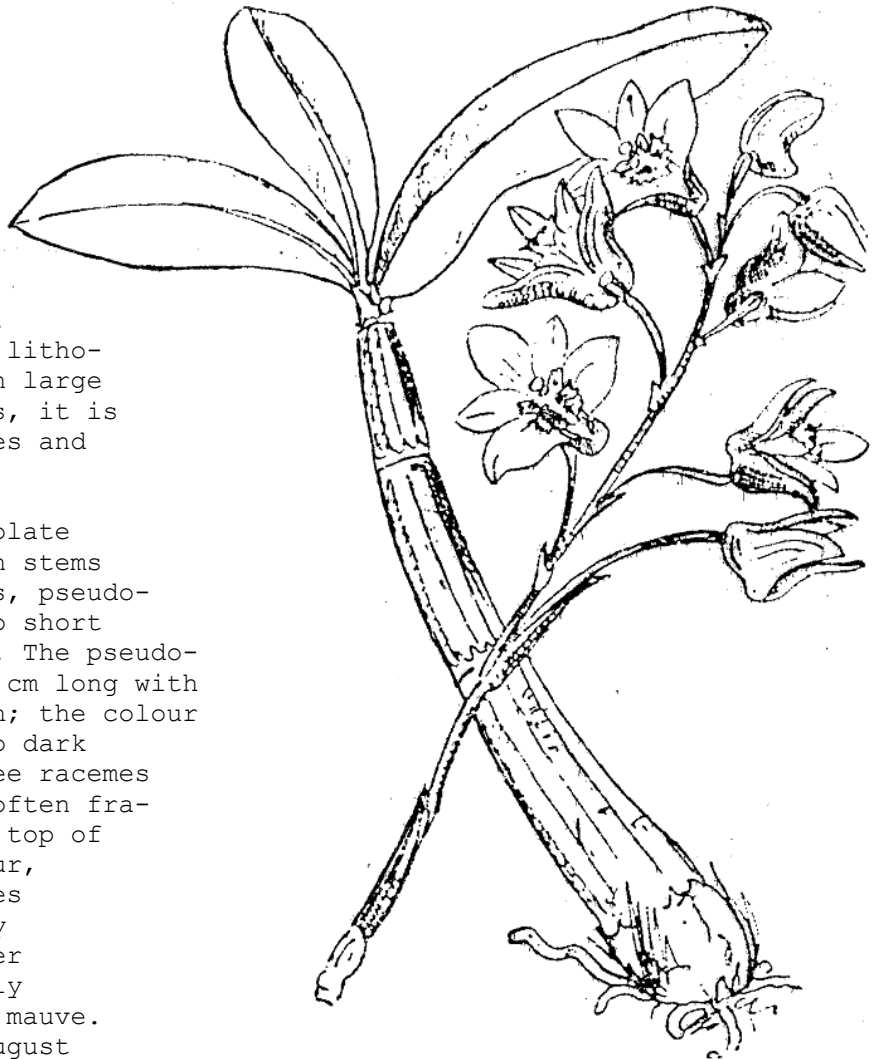
Dendrobium kingianum is possibly the best known and most variable of our native epiphytic orchids. Its range is along the coastal strip from the Hunter River in New South Wales to Rockhampton in Queensland. While it is principally a lithophyte and found growing in large mats on exposed rock faces, it is also found in shady gullies and on trees.

It has three to six lanceolate leaves up to 13 cm long on stems varying from slender stems, pseudobulbs only at the base, to short stout pseudobulbous stems. The pseudobulbs are usually 8 to 10 cm long with some up to 30 cm in length; the colour varying from pale green to dark reddish green. One to three racemes of up to twelve flowers, often fragrant, are borne from the top of the pseudobulbs. The colour, while commonly pink, varies from white to purple. They are up to 25 cm in diameter having the labellum usually spotted and blotched with mauve. The flowering season is August to November.

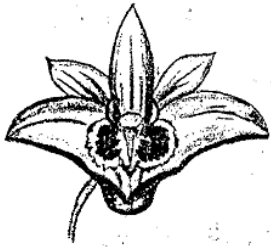
D. kingianum can be grown on slabs or trees (e.g. Jacaranda or Melaleuca) but locally, best results are obtained from pot culture - rafts or hanging baskets, using an open mix. Some growers use a commercial cymbidium mixture.

I have had good results by lining wire baskets with a thick layer of live sphagnum moss and filling them with small pieces of seasoned pine bark and charcoal. I find that the plant not only grows up but also out of the sides of the basket. Good drainage is essential.

Some shade is required in our summer - I have had success using 50% shade cloth. Protection from our winter frosts is also necessary. Fertilise lightly in the growing season using commercial fertilisers at half strength.



Orchid of the Month (contd.)



Being hardy *D. kingianum* is well suited to cultivation and hybridisation. *D. x delicatum* is a natural hybrid of *D. speciosum* and *D. kingianum*, also *D. x suffusum* is a natural hybrid of *D. gracilicaule* and *D. kingianum*.

Propagation is usually either by division or cultivation of "keikies".

Hybridisation - Over 150 hybrids have been registered that have *D. kingianum* in their parentage. The plant forms, flower shape, size and colour all show the influence of *D. kingianum*. Some of the best known are *D. Bardo Rose* (*D. kingianum* x *D. falcorostrum*), *D. Ella Victoria Leaney* (*D. kingianum* x *D. tetragonum*), all of which respond well to pot culture and flower freely.

NEW MEMBERS GROUP NEXT MEETING

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

When Sunday, 28 July.
Where the home of Bev and Gerald Hawkins.
243 Midway Road, Elizabeth Downs.
Time 2.00 p.m.

What promises to be another interesting meeting. Bev and Gerald have basically a native orchid interest but also many other genera - a large shadehouse, cold and heated glasshouse, cottage garden and an interest in bonsai. Please wear name tags.

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

NEW MEMBERS GROUP

REPORT ON LAST FUNCTION

Only a small group turned out on the afternoon of June 2 at the home of Joan and John Peace. Initially we gathered in John's newly-completed shadehouse, already surprisingly well stocked with plants, and then looked at the site of a proposed glasshouse. Members compared the progress growth of earlier potted terrestrials, and shared some concerns over some of their terrestrials and epiphytes. John had mounted some orchids onto a Jacaranda tree and these had established themselves well. Over afternoon tea members discussed ideas for future meetings. Our thanks go to Joan and John for an enjoyable afternoon.

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID Foundation

SEED LIST - MAY, 1991
(replaces October, 1990 issue)

Subject to its availability, the following seed can be supplied by the Australian Orchid Foundation. Cost is A\$1.00 for the first sample and A\$0.50 for each additional. Currency is Australian dollars. Orders for seed should be sent to the

Seed Bank Curator
Mr Erhard Husted
66 Ethel Street
SANCTUARY POINT NSW 2540

Persons ordering seed are requested to list alternates in case some supplies are depleted. Alternatively, it can be left to the Curator to substitute.

All moneys should be made payable to:
Australian Orchid Foundation.

Donations of seed are always welcome; your donation assists us to have a wide variety of seeds available, thus hopefully reducing the drain on wild plants.

All seed offered is from reliable donors and is believed to be true to name. We regret that we cannot guarantee that all seed is viable.

Important: Please allow 4-6 weeks for despatch of seed.

AUSTRALIAN SPECIES

Bulbophyllum elisae, *B. globuliforme*
Cadetia sp.
Calanthe triplicata.
Cymbidium canaliculatum, *C. madidum*, *C. suave*.
Dendrobium kingianum, *D. speciosum*, *D. discolor*, *D. antennatum*,
D. mirbelianum, *D. beckeri*, *D. bigibbum*, *D. johannis*, *D.*
falcorostrum, *D. linguiforme*, *D. tetragonum*.
Phaius tankervilleae, *P. bernaysii*.
Pomatocalpa macphersonii.
Sarcochilus hartmannii, *S. falcatus*, *S. ceciliae*.
Spathoglottis plicata.
Vanda hindsii. (new items in italics)

The following is very limited supply:

<i>Eria queenslandia</i>	<i>Cymbidium sanderæ</i>
<i>Pleurothallis species</i>	<i>Vandopsis lissochiloides</i>
<i>Miltonia regnellii</i>	* <i>Goodyera tesseleta</i>
<i>Warrea warreana</i>	<i>Cynoglottis cymbidioides</i>
<i>Cattleya maxima</i>	<i>Cattleya</i> species ex Brazil (yellow)

Species marked are from a natural source and have yet to be verified (ex reliable reputable donor ex U.K.).

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.

AUSTRALIAN ORCHID RESEARCH, VOLUMES 1 and 2

Both of these important publications providing an up-to-date "catalogue of Australian Orchidaceae" are still 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 either of these publications please advise Roy Hargreaves at the July meeting and finalise payments at that time.

TRADING TABLE

Members are reminded that the Trading Table provides an opportunity for you to sell unwanted plants and accessories. Plants, not necessarily orchids, will always be welcome.

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"Half the failures in flowering orchids arise from putting the plant in a better place."

"There is no orchid grower so irritating as one with less equipment and better flowers."

from Orchid Wiser by Roger Rankin.

THE FLASKING OF ORCHIDS

Kevin Western

INTRODUCTION

My experience with orchid culture dates back to about 1963 with the purchase of a backbulb of a *Cymbidium* cultivar called "Ramley". Initially I accepted that there were certain orchids available and did not ponder their origins.

A demonstration of orchid seed sowing at a spring show in 1970 was too fascinating to resist. I obtained the medium formula and basic concepts by further discussions with the demonstrator (Rex Thompson), found someone with a seed pod and some dry seed and the rest is history.

In 1971 or 1972 cloning was attempted with success but this was not repeated again for another 10 or 11 years: I did very little flasking work from 1972 to about 1977 or 1978 at which time my interest in orchid flasking was revived by a new interest, namely the "native orchid" area and in June of 1980 I presented "Flasking" as the NOSSA evening topic.

I expanded flasking activities in 1982 to include some commercial seed sowing and replating as well as my own work. In 1983 another NOSSA member, Gordon Brooks, wanted a number of remakes of Australian native *Dendrobium* crosses sown. This was done with somewhat limited success.

Gordon and I joined forces in 1984 and began producing native *Dendrobium*, *Sarcochilus* and *Cymbidium* crosses and cultivar *Cymbidiums* from seed. Our joint commercial venture is certainly not showering us with riches but it is generating two sizeable collections of orchid crosses and clones which we hope will give us some almost unique potential in the near future.

MY AIMS

Maintain and improve (from a horticultural view-point) all native (and non-native) species which I can cultivate and breed.

Produce cold-growing, year-round flowering, long lasting, floriferous, crosses by selective breeding for the hobbyist, cut flower and showbench market.

To cross native *Cymbidiums* and their offspring selectively with like and cultivar *Cymbidiums* to produce novel miniatures and to extend the late-flowering season of *Cymbidiums*.

To more actively move into the Vandaceous alliance with *Sarcochilus* hybrids (hopefully fertile) with a view to producing robust, marketable, cold-growing Vandaceous intergeneric hybrids - maybe even with cut flower potential.

Whatever the case, I am going to need to live to a ripe old age to get around to it all.

The Flasking of Orchids (contd.)

WHAT IS FLASKING

I define "flasking" as the reliable replication and reproduction of orchids by cloning and seed-sowing using sterile processing technique.

SOME FEATURES OF FLASKING

- It promotes some of NOSSA's aims -
 - conservation
 - promotion of orchid cultivation
- It has been responsible for the course which the orchid keeping hobby is on today.
- It has provided the basis for the very considerable increases in cultural skills; more growers; more active enthusiasts; more options explored; more information and experience gained and shared.
- It has resulted in a very large primary industry with employment and export aspects.

Flasking has therefore contributed hours of entertainment and/or income for the vast numbers of people engaged in all aspects of orchid culture throughout the world.

FLASKING AND NOSSA's AIMS

One of NOSSA's aims is to promote the conservation of native orchids. Flasking promotes conservation by providing seedlings or clones - in flask, in community pots, as semi-advanced to advanced plants produced or derived from quality mature plants already in cultivation thus making it unnecessary to poach plants from the wild.

A potential bonus here is that generally only the best horticultural specimens tend to be bred with and so plants produced from such crossings are likely to produce horticulturally superior offspring compared with plants poached at random from the wild.

Another potential bonus is that raising seedlings in flask selects those best suited to prosper in flask and thereafter under artificial "hobby" culture and thus the consumer (hobbyist) benefits.

Another of N.O.S.S.A.'s aims is to promote orchid culture. This can only be done, given the increasing numbers of hobbyists, by the assured availability of new and re-makes of existing crosses which the flasking process makes possible.

The hobby as we know it today has only been possible because of flasking and the ready availability of new crosses with the potential to offer new and more successful plants.

(to be continued.)

Field Trip Report

WINTER ORCHIDS OF THE HILLS FACE ZONE - June 23

We met at Norton Summit Hotel on a fine windy day, the temperature about 16°C. We walked up to the Church of St. John and checked the quartzite knoll behind the church. From here there is a splendid view over the City.

The Knoll proved so rich in orchids we just sat on the summit and looked at what was around us. Thousands of tiny mosquito orchids *Acianthus pusillus* (note the new name) were all about. Individually plants of this species appear to have no perfume but collectively there was a musty odour in the air. Dozens of tiny ants were supping on the nectar which shone on the labella. The ants are too small to contact the pollinia on this species and are not pollinators, but hovering about were small flies and one bore pollinia on its thorax. Older flowers already bore fat seed pods so we were seeing the action and the results as well as the band of thieves (ants) at work.



Acianthus
pusillus

Plants of *Pterostylis sanguinea* were common here and showed a range of colour from pale orange to deep blood red. Growing with them and in full flower too were the taller *P. aff. longifolia*. These two similar species are what we call "companion species" as they often occur together. A quaint find was a perfect circle of tall *P. aff. longifolia* with a single short *P. sanguinea* in the centre!

There was another pair of companion species here: *Genoplesium rufum* and *Eriochilus cucullatus* both in seed. The *Genoplesium* keep their seed pods green until spring but a close look at the *Eriochilus* told a different story. One or two plants had green pods on others the pods were already splitting open and on a few the seed had been released. On these latter plants the slender green scape had withered and looked like a thread of cotton. This is a feature of this species. The seed is released in early winter and instantly this happens the stem collapses!

Dead remains of *Dipodium roseum* were about (note the new name). Spring orchids were visible only as leaves - *Thelymitra*, *Diuris*, *Caladenia*. There are orchids in flower here every month of the year!

So much was seen - in 15 minutes it was hard to believe this was the off season.

We drove to Moores Road, Montacute Heights (via Colonial Drive) and walked along the fire track past the heritage area. Two more sets of similar companion species were seen here in sandstone outcrops. The tall delicate *Pterostylis* aff. *alata* with its tiny bluish rosettes and blunt flowers the short *P. robusta* with larger dull rosettes and pointed galea. Such similar species one wonders



Pterostylis
robusta

and

Winter Orchids of the Hills Face Zone (contd.)



Cyrtostylis
reniformis

why they only rarely hybridise, they were, after all, in full flower today. The final pair of species (and these are not strictly companion species as they prefer different habitats) were *Cyrtostylis robusta* and *C. reniformis*, the former just coming into flower the latter in tight bud. These two and the previous one are good examples of "sister" or "sibling" species - very similar in appearance and attracting similar pollinators but, for some reason, rarely or never crossing. In the case of the *Cyrtostylis* it would appear that they never cross!

There was a burn on the roadside here: useful for a study of spring flowered orchids!

There were huge carpets of *Lyperanthus* leaves in the sandy patches - what a show would be displayed if they were ever burnt over!

Altogether a delightful area with marvellous views over the city, gorgeous displays of heath - both "flame heath" *Astragaloloma* and "splendid heath" *Epiacris* together. A most successful excursion in terms of knowledge gained in areas not previously visited on NOSSA excursions.

Garry Guide

ORCHIDS SEEN

IN FLOWER

Acianthus pusillus
Cyrtostylis robusta
C. reniformis
Pterostylis aff. *alata*
P. aff. *longifolia*
P. robusta
P. sanguinea

LEAVES

Caladenia
Diuris
Lyperanthus
Thelymitra

SEED

Acianthus pusillis

FINISHED

Dipodium roseum

Eriochilus cucullatus
Genoplesium rufum

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.