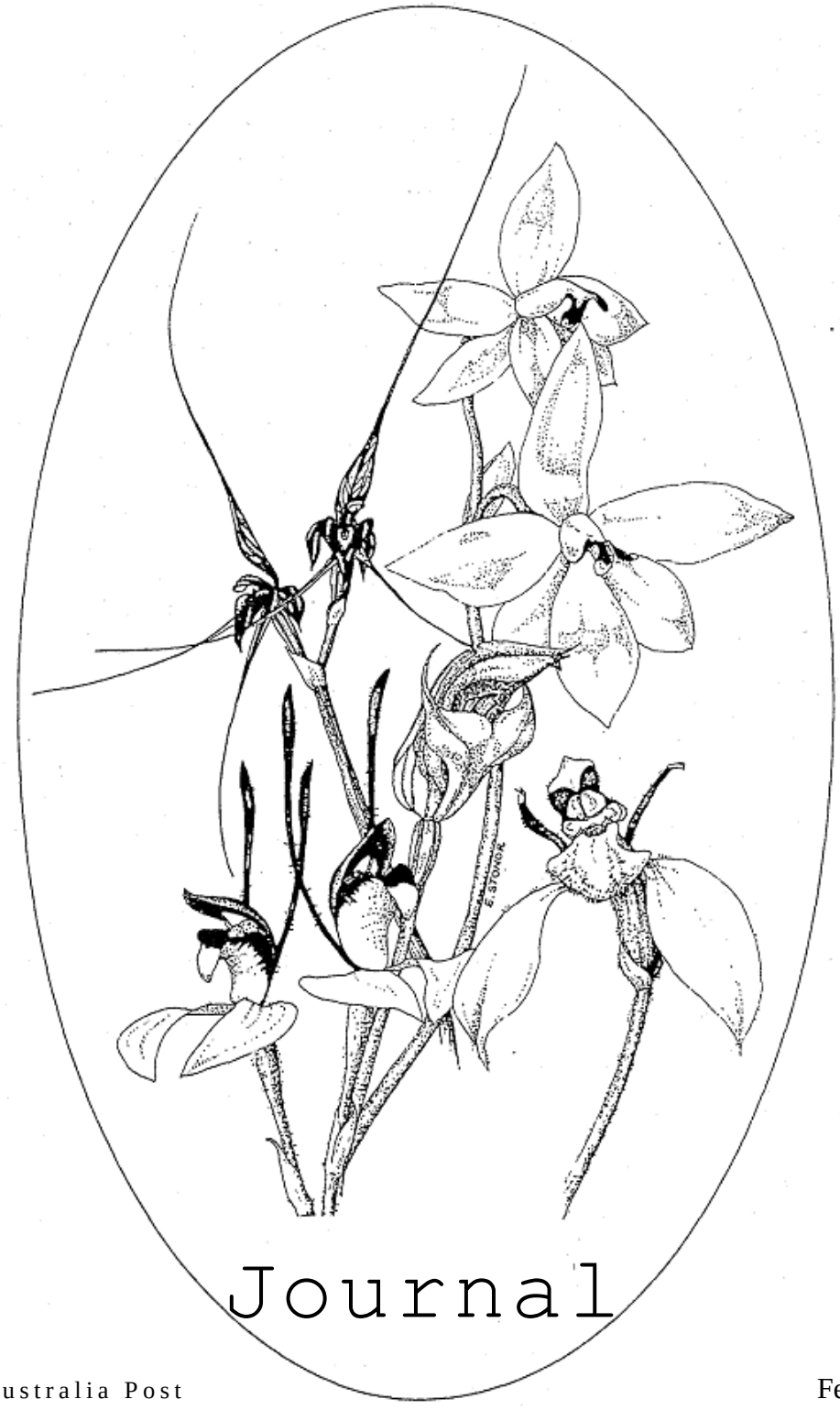
Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc.



Journal

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N A T I V E O R C H I D S O C I E T Y
O F S O U T H A U S T R A L I A I N C .

P.O Box 565,
UNLEY S.A 5061

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.

Views and opinions expressed by the authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the N.O.S.S.A Management Committee

Price 60¢.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL

January/February 1992
Vol. 16, No. 1.

FEBRUARY MEETING

When: Tuesday, 25 February, 1992, 8.00 p.m.
Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.
Why: Look forward to hearing Les Nesbitt (a well known and respected expert) address the meeting on the topic of Australia's terrestrial orchidaceae.

NEW MEMBERS GROUP

When: Sunday, 1 March, 1992 - 2.00 p.m.
Where: the home of Jan and Graham Burford. 25 David Avenue, Findon.
Activity: Potting tubers and experiencing the difficulties of repotting too late!
Enquiries: Jan and Graham Burford telephone 45 3085

NEW MEMBER
Rudolf Jenny, Moosweg, Switzerland

PAGE CONTENTS

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE VACANCIES

These positions will become vacant this year and will need to be filled —
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

and a number of committee vacancies, including
Conservation Officer
Trading Table Convener
Librarian

The Society will also require a new Editor and Journal typist.

FORWARD NOTICE - MARCH MEETING

Please note that, as well as having the opportunity to hear a speaker, the March meeting will also be the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Plan to attend and enjoy the meetings of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was received from one of our members and is published in its entirety.

NOT ALL TERRESTRIALS ARE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES

NOSSA stands for Native Orchid Society of South Australia and our charter states: "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." This is clearly spelled out in each issue of our Journal.

There are numerous orchids native to other countries of the world but NOSSA was formed specifically to promote and protect our own native orchids. The recent disaster of the spread of the South African orchid *Monadenia bracteata* in South Australia must be a lesson to us of what can happen when an orchid from another country becomes adapted to and enjoys our conditions.

Hence it is disappointing to me to find European orchids being tabled at our NOSSA meetings. In NOSSA Journal for October 1991 Sandy Phillips reports on the European 'spectacular' *Serapias neglecta* and *Orchis longicornia* from Sicily is listed as being benched at the September meeting. The November Journal reports that another European orchiD, *0. morio*, was benched at the October meeting.

Just because they are terrestrial, these orchids must not be confused with native terrestrial species. The Orchid Club of South Australia grows, shows and promotes orchids from all countries — both epiphytes and terrestrials. That is where European terrestrials such as *Orchis* and *Serapias* should be shown.

NOSSA, as its name and charter indicate, is for Australian native species.

Enid L. Robertson

UNDERSTANDING ORCHID DEFINITIONS

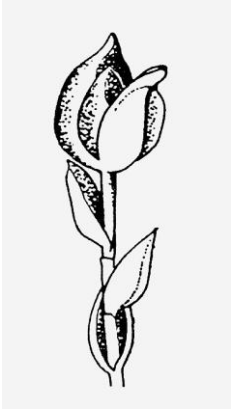
(The following article was published in the ANOS — Gold Coast Group Newsletter of November, 1991.)

Many times when reading books on orchids we come across words that are strange or specific to plant description and the meaning of which we do not understand.

This month let me run through a selection of these that I consider you "need to know" to better understand your orchids.

INFLORESCENCE TYPES
Orchids bear their flowers in a number of ways:

(a) as single flowers, described as uniflorate.



Uniflorate or single flower type

(Anguloa)

(b) as a spike - consisting of a group of orchid flowers growing directly from from the plant stem or axis but without individual stems or pedicels.

Spike arrangement
(No flower stem or pedicel)

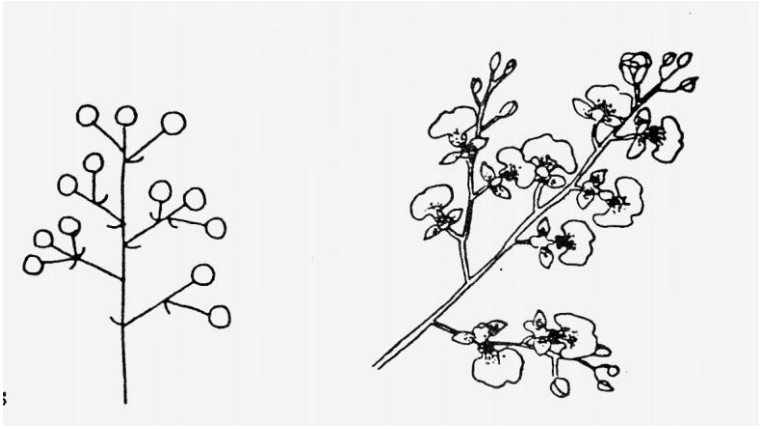
Spike
(Spiranthes)

Understanding Orchid Definitions (contd.)

(c) as a panicle or spray.

With a panicle or spray, flowers are borne on individual stems and form a compound, more or less open inflorescence where the lower branches are longer and open sooner than the upper ones.

Note also the arrangements of flower stems along the main axis.



Panicle or Spray Type (Oncidium)

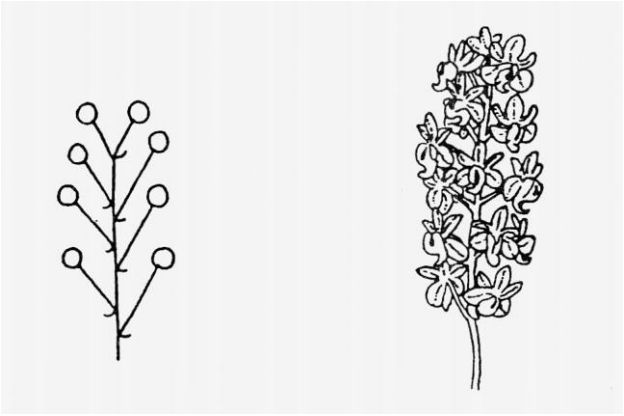
(d) in an umbel or head type of growth.

In an umbel type growth, flowers cluster around in a tight group from a single item.

Umbel or Head Type (Bulbophyllum)

(e) in a raceme inflorescence, in which the flowers are formed on individual stems or pedicles on the main axis or stem.

Many Vandaceous orchids exhibit this type of growth, flowering on short individual stems around the full length of the inflorescence.



Raceme Type (Acrides)

(continued on page 9)

For the information of members we present the revised By—Laws on Conservation which form part of the NOSSA Constitution.

BY-LAW No.13 — CONSERVATION
CONSERVATION POLICY

1. To promote and protect native orchid populations from illegal collection, destruction by urban and rural development and habitat degradation.

2. To educate members and the general public in the need for, and the value of, conservation, and its role in preserving native orchids both in their natural habitat and in cultivation.

3. To promote propagation of threatened, rare and endangered orchids with the aim of preventing collection of plants from the wild.

4. To promote awareness of the conservation of native orchids within educational organisations.

5. To maintain a register of rare and endangered orchids with the aim of preventing collection of plants from the wild.

6. To encourage growers to record the original rescue sites of native orchids in their collections so that, where the habitat has been destroyed, local clones may be reintroduced to protected sites in the same area.

7. To promote collection of field data in order to better understand orchid ecology, biology, distribution and population status.

8. To emphasise the importance of keeping records of cultivation techniques so as to maximise survival potential of cultivated orchids.

9. To liaise with other organisations having compatible aims to exchange information, maximise available resources and avoid duplication of effort.

10. To achieve these objects the Committee shall appoint a Conservation Officer.

11. Form a Conservation Group.

BY-LAW No. l3A - CONSERVATION OFFICER
DUTIES OF CONSERVATION OFFICER

1. Convene the Conservation Group and organise regular meetings.

2. Organise and sign letters on behalf of the Society regarding conservation issues of interest to the Society.

3. Organise the representation of the Society at relevant meetings on conservation issues.

4. Collate information regarding proposed land developments.

5. Liaise with other organisations with compatible aims.

6. Contact relevant authorities to obtain permission to remove orchids from endangered areas housing developments, etc.

7. Organise projects to rescue, relocate and grow on rescued native orchids.

8. Keep a list of volunteers who are willing to assist in rescuing, relocating and growing on plants.

9. Provide assistance to local municipalities and other organisations carry in out re—vegetation and conservation programmes.

10. Keep records on the dispersal of rescued orchids and monitor progress to determine the success of relocation projects.

11. Make regular reports on the progress of Conservation Group projects to the Committee and to members through the Journal.

BY—LAW No. 13B - CONSERVATION GROUP
The Conservation Group is a group of members of the Society who meet to develop and co—ordinate the activities to achieve the objectives of the Conservation Policy. The meetings of the Conservation Group shall be convened by the Conservation Officer.

GUIDELINES— GENERAL
L The group is open to any interested member of the Society.
2. Meetings will be held as organised by the Conservation Officer.
3. The Conservation Officer chairs meetings and is responsible to the Management Committee for the activities of the Group.
4. The Group should maintain records and provide reports for the Journal.
5. Field trips to implement the Group's objectives will be held from time to time.
6. The Conservation Group shall not incur financial or other responsibilities on behalf of the Society without the express permission of the Management Committee.

GUIDELINES - GROUP ACTIVITIES
The following is a general framework for the Group's activities:
1. Formulate an Action Plan setting out priorities for achieving the objectives of the Conservation Policy.

2. Promote the activities of the Conservation Group within the membership of the Society and encourage member participation.

3. Undertake ongoing education of members and the general public in the need for and the value of conservation, and its role in preserving native orchids both in their natural habitat and in cultivation.

4. Devise a program to promote awareness of the vital importance of preserving natural habitats for all native flora and fauna.

5. Develop and implement a program promoting propagation of threatened, rare and endangered orchids.

6. Assist in maintaining a register of rare and endangered orchids.

7. Identify at risk and endangered sites.

8. Survey significant sites to identify species and their status.

9. Take appropriate action to ensure the preservation of sites where threatened, rare and endangered orchids exist.

10. Lobby Ministers, and other responsible authorities concerning threatened, rare and endangered orchids and significant sites facing destruction.

11. Develop a list of volunteers to monitor the well being of threatened, rare, endangered and relocated orchids and the safety of significant sites.

12. Co—ordinate and conduct projects to rescue, relocate and grow on orchids from sites facing destruction and establish a list of volunteers to facilitate such projects.

13. Establish and maintain a resister of rescued orchids of significance and monitor numbers on a regular/annual basis.

14. Develop strict guidelines for field trips; for rescuing, relocating and growing on plants; for the development of information data—bases and for the release of information from them.

15. Encourage growers to record the original rescue sites of native orchids in their collections.

16. Collect field data on orchid ecology, biology, distribution and population status.

17. Emphasise to growers the importance of keeping records of cultivation techniques.

18. Provide educational organisations with information to enable the study of habitats and their importance in the preservation of indigenous orchids.

19. Encourage conservation orientated projects by bodies such as Botanic Gardens, Australian Orchid Foundation, Universities, etc.

20. Liaise with other organisations having compatible aims.

21. Support the activities of the Tuber Bank.

UNDERSTANDING ORCHID DEFINITIONS
(Continued from page 4.)

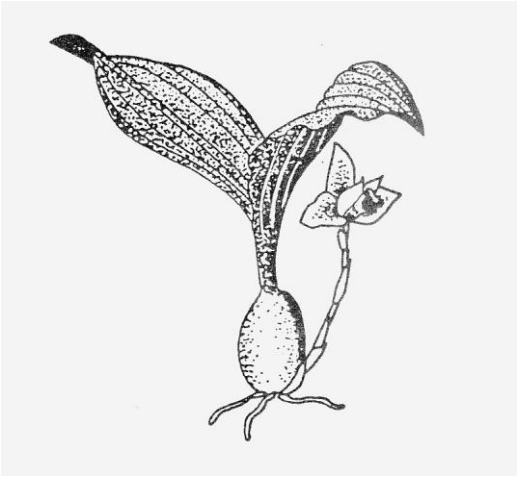
SOURCES AND METHOD OF FLOWERING

(a) Auxiliary Growth.
An axil is the area occupied by the upper angle formed by the junction of a branch, a leaf or a flower stem with the main stem.

Organs in the axil, such as flowers, inflorescences, meristem and buds are termed auxiliary or lateral.

Dendrobium

(b) Basal Source.



In this type of growth, the flower inflorescence originates from the base of the pseudobulb.

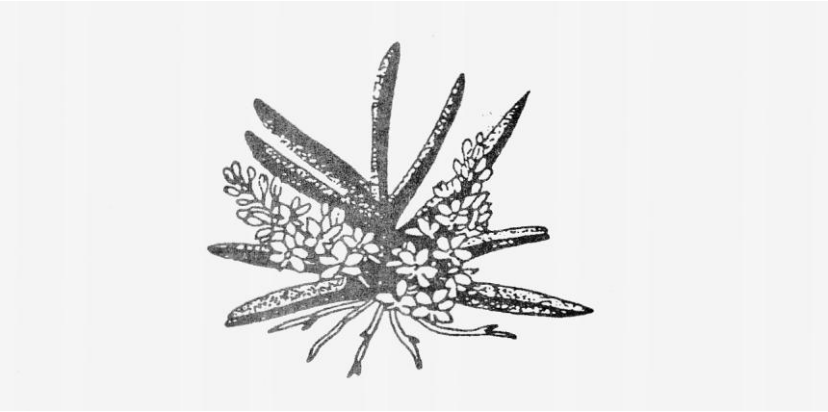
Examples include
Lycaste, *Cymbidium*, etc.

(c) Determinate Flowering.

If the end flower furthest from the plant opens first, the flowering is said to be determinate. The inflorescence ceases to grow when the first flower opens.

Understanding Orchid Definitions (contd.)

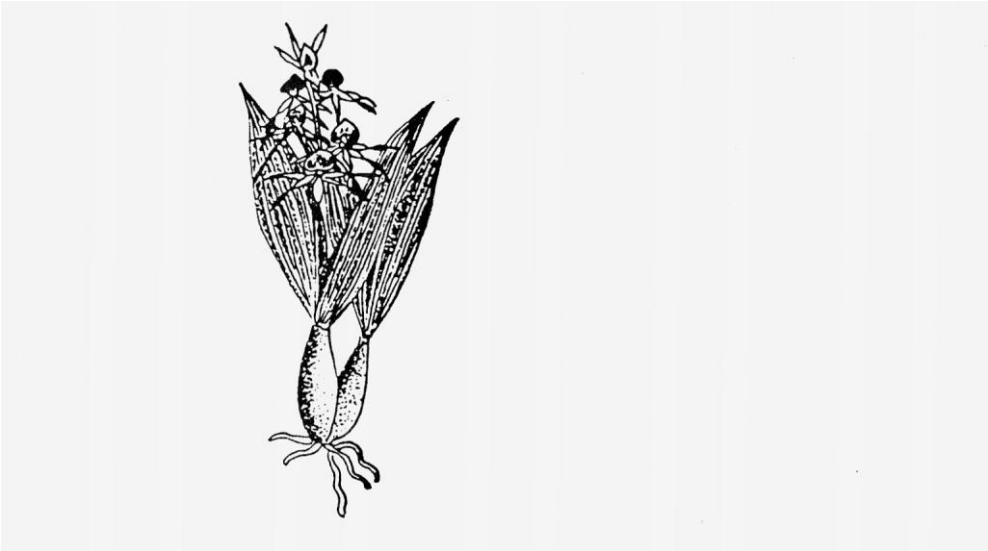
(d) Indeterminate Flowering.



Most orchid inflorescences open from the flower nearest to the plant and then on in sequence towards the tip of the inflorescence. In this type of indeterminate flowering, the inflorescence continues to grow until the last flower has opened at the tip.

(e) Terminal flowering

Terminal flowering occurs when the inflorescences originate from the apex of the pseudobulb, from the centre of the leaf growth. The *Epidendrum* is an excellent example of terminal flowering.



FOR SALE

The Society still has a number of orchid books available for sale as follows:

D. Jones, Australian Orchid Research, Vol. 2. ($24.50)
R. Bates and J. Weber, Orchids of South Australia. ($24)
Australian Native Hybrid Guide. ($12.50)

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

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

"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 Orchidwise by Roger Rankin.

NOTES ON THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN *ORCHIDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA*

PART 6 Bob Bates

Continued from NOSSA Journal, December, 1991, page 116.

PLATE 48 *Caladenia volida*. This is a very variable species which may include one or two species mimics in South Australia. Populations often include probable hybrids with members of the *C. patersonii* complex. Photographed in Newland Head Conservation Park at Waitpinga in August.

PLATE 49 A lump of limestone, a fallen she-oak branch and clumps of irongrass (*Lomardra*) show the favoured habitat of *C. latifolia*.

PLATE 50 *C. latifolia* close up with the bright colouring captured by flash. The pale tips to sepals are a feature of some clones.

PLATE 51 Although over 50 different hybrids have been recorded between South Australian orchids only a few could be fitted into this book. *C. latifolia* makes an excellent parent in the breeding of *Caladenia* hybrids — this is a natural cross between *C. brumalis* and *C. latifolia* and one likely to be given a name of its own! Flowers in August.

PLATE 52 A natural sunshine shot of *C. leptochila* showing the narrow, smooth—edged labellum.

PLATE 53 Note the differences in this Mambray Creek form of *C. leptochila* which has a broad, fringed labella and wholly red flowers. Perhaps another species no longer present crossed with “normal” *C. leptochila* to produce this largely stabilised form. A flash held well back was used to highlight the flowers in this shot.

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

PLATE 54 *Caladenia (Leptoceras) menziesii*, dense colonies like this one in Deep Creek Conservation Park are not unusual after bushfires.

PLATE 55 By Paul Reece - this shot was chosen for its natural aesthetic appeal.

PLATE 56 *C. ovata* photographed at Deep Creek Conservation Park with flash used to bring the flowers out of the background. Compare this with plates 52 and 53 of *C. leptochila.* A study of the pollinators in this complex would be interesting!

PLATE 57 *C. brunolis*, the winter spider orchid, commonly occurs in much denser populations of other members of the *C. patersonii* complex. The white flowers stand out well in this shot because they are photographed in shade.

PLATE 58 *C. floribunda* photographed near Penola - a last minute change of slides resulted in the caption for this plate being incorrect. C. floribunda is easily recognised by its long red and white labellum margins and very droopy segments.

PLATE 59 Very similar to *C. argocalla* but has a broad labellum and short fringe and different calli. It was photographed with a flower of *C. colorata* to accentuate the differences between the many members of the *C. patersonii* complex. Each species has its specific habitat but they do seem to share some pollinators which makes intergrades likely wherever two species occur together (this rarely happens because of the habitat specificity).

(to be continued)