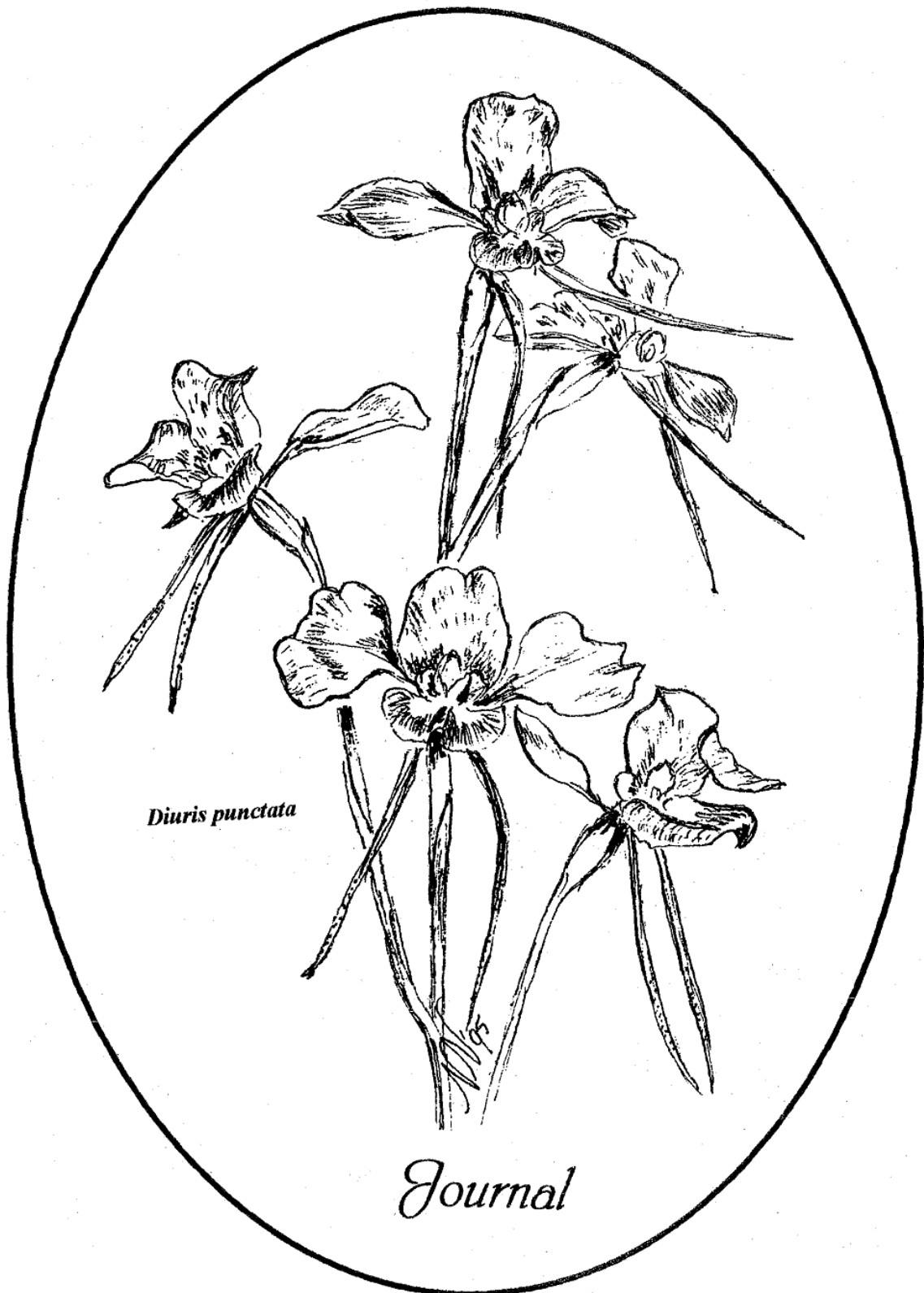


Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc.



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SEPTEMBER 1995

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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 the 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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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC

SEPTEMBER 1995 VOL. 19. NO. 8 JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, 26th September, 8.00 pm: at St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Past President Gerry Came will talk on pollination strategies in native orchids. Doors to the hall will be open at 7.15 pm for those wishing to borrow books from the library or take in items for the trading table.

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COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held at 7.30 pm Friday 29th September at the home of Ron Robjohns 71 Edmund Street, Unley.

DIARY DATES

Sep 23-24 Spring Show
 Oct 7 -8 South East Adventure
 Oct 15 Loftia Park bushfire orchids and Kate Hoskins
 Oct 22 Kyeema excursion
 Oct 29 Belair Conservation Group Meeting
 Nov 5 Kuitpo Field Trip, *Monadenia* threat
 Nov 26 Christmas Barbecue

FIELD TRIPS

Loftia Park and Kate Hoskins'. Meet 10am Sunday October 15 at the gates to Loftia Park. We will look at rare orchids which flower after bushfires and compare burnt and unburnt woodland sites.

CULTURAL CERTIFICATE: A cultural certificate has been awarded for the pot of *Glossodia major* grown by Les McHugh and exhibited at the July meeting.

Still Missing: And desperately needed - Orchids of South-Western Australia by Hoffmann & Brown 2nd edition (1990). If you have it please drop it back!

Thankyou to Dr. J. Warcup who donated the new book Orchids at Kew (Ed. Joyce Stewart) to our Society Library recently.

NEW MEMBERS: The society welcomes
Peter Penney of Mt Gambier
Rick Penkoke of Warradale

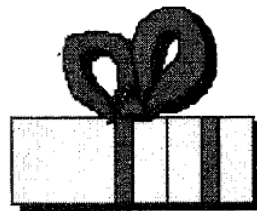
XMAS RAFFLE

Tickets available at the September & October meetings.

Prizes: Hand crafted wicker pram & Teddy bear.

Hand crafted by 2 NOSSA members.

Cost: \$1.00 per ticket.



SOUTHEAST ADVENTURE

by WINSOME & LES MCHUGH

It's time for those members wishing to visit the Southeast in October to start considering booking accommodation which this year is up to the individual.

But firstly a brief run down on the trip.

Saturday October 7th meet at Christmas Rocks 10am Those who are early can have a quick look at the Rocks, First stop JipJip Conservation Park, then we will be proceeding south along the Avenue Range stopping at different private scrub blocks finishing at Lucindale Saturday night. We suggest staying at Naracoorte. Details below.

Sunday October 8th. Meet at Naracoorte 10am same spot as last year. We will be heading north along the Cadgee Road visiting two or three private blocks finishing at the Gap in the afternoon. One of the blocks on the Cadgee Road suffered a large bush fire in February this year and it could be interesting to see the effect the fire has had. If anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 087 622952

Naracoorte Accommodation

Belvedere Motel 087 623655 Greenline Motel 087 622599 Commercial Hotel 087 622100 Kincaig Hotel 087 622200 Country Roads Motor Inn 087 623900 William Macintosh Motor Inn 087 621644 Naracoorte Hotel Motel 087 622400 Naracoorte Caravan Park 087 622128

ON THE BENCH

Terrestrials: *Acianthus caudatus* (2), *Caladenia* ? *arenaria*, *C. latifolia*, *C. Fairy Floss*, *Chiloglottis platyptera*, *C. truncata*, *Cyrtostylis robusta*, *C. reniformis*, *Diuris abbreviata*, *D. spectabilis*, *D. pardina*, *D. x palachila*, *D. Pioneer*, *Glossodia major*, *G. minor*, *Lyperanthus suaveolens*, *Pterostylis arenaria*, *P. baptistii*, *P. concinna* (yellow), *P. erecta*, *P. foliata*, *P. nutans*, *P. plumosa*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. aff. pyramidalis*, *P. Elegance*, *P. Nodding Grace*, *P. curta x pedunculata*, *Thelymitra antennifera*, *T. nuda*, *T. nuda x rubra*.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium aemulum* (2), *D. Aussie Charm*, *D. Aussie Merit*, *D. Aussie Quest x Ku-Rin-Gai*, *D. Bright Spark x kingianum*, *D. Ellen*, *D. Ellen*, *D. gracilicaule*, *D. Jesmond Glitter*, *D. K R Bobin x falcorostrum*, *D. Kathryn Banks x Rutherford Surprise*, *D. kestevenii x tetragonum x suffusum* (exhibited 3rd month in succession), *D. Red River x Zip*, *D. speciosum* 'Windermere', *D. speciosum* (3), *D. speciosum* var. *speciosum*, *D. speciosum* var. *grandiflora*, *D. Telekon* (2), *D. Unknown*, *D. x gracillimum*, *Sarcochilus* Zip.

Over 30 different Terrestrials were displayed! Rarely displayed species included *Acianthus caudatus* from the Kuitpo rescue dig and for the first time *Chiloglottis platyptera* from the Barrington Tops. We had the chance to compare the two similar species *Pterostylis pedunculata* from the Adelaide Hills and *Pterostylis erecta* from New South Wales. These can be regarded as sister species as also could the *Glossodia major* and *G. minor* on display. It was a worry to see epiphytes at the meeting which normally flower at the Spring Show but were already blooming due to unseasonably warm sunny weather. Another surprise was a pot of *Thelymitra antennifera* fully open at the meeting in Winter! The pot was in a humidicrib with a hot water bottle.

Bob Bates gave the commentary on the Terrestrials

Kevin Western spoke on the Epiphytes.



POPULAR VOTE:

Terrestrials: *Diuris pardina* grown by Wally Walloscheck.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium* Kathryn Banks (Rutherford Surprise) grown by Bev & Gerald Hawkins.

COMMENTATORS CHOICE:

Terrestrial Species: *Diuris pardina* grown by Peter Barnes.

Terrestrial Hybrid: *Caladenia* Fairy Floss grown by Les Nesbitt.

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Peter Barnes.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *Dendrobium* Zip Amethyst grown by Peter Barnes



AUGUST MEETING

NOSSA Foundation president Les Nesbitt spoke on preparing for and setting up displays at Spring Shows.

He reminded us to look closely at the show schedule in the last journal including the classes, special conditions etc.

Don't forget this year we have a new venue - St Peters Town Hall on Payneham Road, which was selected because of its central location, reputation for drawing crowds, good access and parking.

Les then demonstrated how to set up an aesthetic display in quick time and showed slides of exhibits at the Wollongong Orchid Show a few years ago.

Indemnity Clause: This clause, printed in the July journal, was voted in unanimously at the August meeting.

1995 N.O.S.S.A. PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION RESULTS

106 colour prints and 75 colour slides were entered.

PRINT SECTION WINNERS

FIRST	P. Dannat, Vie
SECOND	R. Biddell
THIRD	P. Penny
FOURTH	R. Biddell
FIFTH	R. Biddell
1 MERIT	B. Edge D. Williams P. Penny
2 MERITS	R. Biddell

SLIDE SECTION WINNERS

FIRST	K. Wiese
SECOND	A. Winkler
THIRD	P. Penny
5 MERITS	P. Penny
1 MERIT	K. Wiese A. Winkler D. Hirst

OPEN DAY SUNDAY August 27th.

by THELMA BRIDLE

The open day for August was held at the home of Gary Brooks. About 12 NOSSA members were met in Strathalbyn by Gary who took us to visit his lovely garden. He specialises in growing indigenous plants of the Strathalbyn area, and is successfully propagating a number of rare species, some of which will be planted in the Nurragi Conservation Park.

After a welcome cup of coffee we drove on to the Nurragi reserve situated on the Old Sandergrove/Milang railway. A good deal of effort will be required to remove the rampant bridal creeper. A plant list of 404 species has been prepared for the area, which includes some rare plants and several orchid species. Searching for orchids, leaves of *Glossodia major* were identified and *Caladenia carnea* was flowering - neither of which appeared on the list.

After lunch we walked through a fenced off native bush area, Andrew Black's property. Unfortunately we attracted a huge following of very annoying mosquitoes. The mallee-type vegetation was very colourful and we identified 12 of the known 22 orchid species in the area.

Orchids in flower: *Diuris pardina*, *Burnettia nigricans*, *Thelymitra antennifera*, *Glossodia major*, *Cyanicula deformis*, *Caladenia carnea*, *C. latifolia*, *Pterostylis nana*.

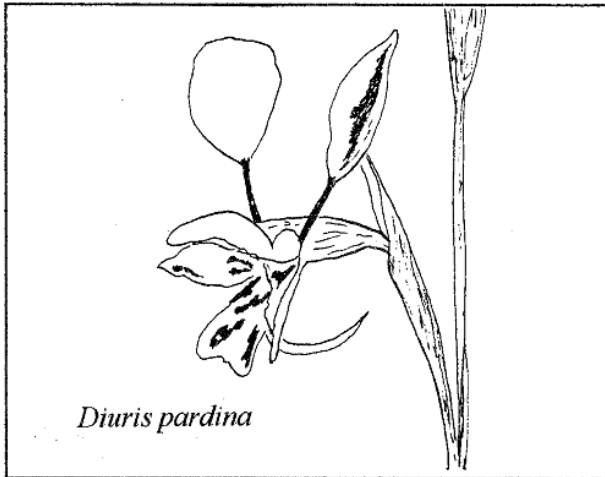
Orchid leaves: *Leporella fimbriata*.

Orchids in bud: *Thelymitra* sp., *Cyrtostylis robusta*.

Orchid flowers over: *Acianthus pusillus*.

Thanks to John Peace and Gary Brooks for organising a most enjoyable day and to Andrew Black for allowing us to visit his property.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: SANDY CREEK - BAROSSA GOLDFIELDS August 20th. by GARY GUIDE

*Diuris pardina*

On a day with the temperature approaching 30°C, about 25 people met at Cockatoo Valley at 10am. After a week of warm dry weather such as we couldn't remember in winter before it was obvious the promised *Corybas* would be desiccated and they were.

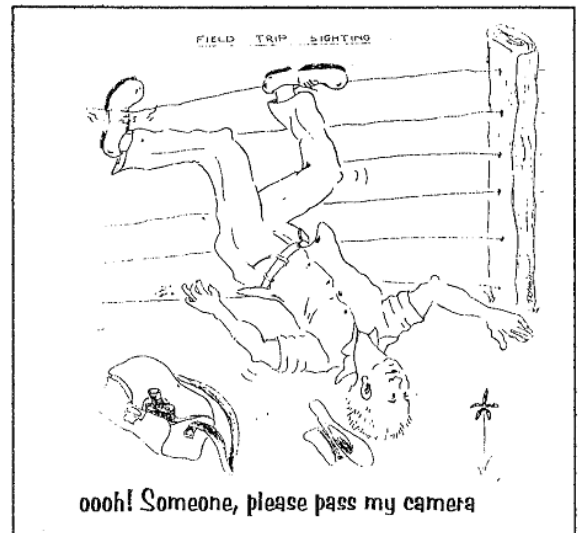
We began our morning walk at the new section of Sandy Creek Conservation Park. Despite years of overgrazing we found lots of orchids right by the carpark. Especially common were *Caladenia* (*Cyanicula*) *deformis* and *Diuris pardina* but we couldn't find the *Diuris behrii* and *D. X palachila* which once occurred here.

A leisurely walk through *Callitris* woodland filled with wildflowers took us to the old section of Sandy Creek.

Many areas which had been badly grazed had no orchids at all but usually there was the ubiquitous *Pterostylis* 'Hills' *nana* and we were excited to find some dense colonies of *Pterostylis* 'mallee' *nana*. When one compares the two species in detail some 20 differences can be noted. The hairy stems of Hills *nana* hint that perhaps this species is *P. puberula*. The mallee *nana* does not have hairy stems. To the untrained eye however the two species are difficult to separate.

There were huge colonies of *Corybas despectans* but despite the fact that the flowers were just opening three weeks ago they had all collapsed in the heat and the seedpods were already swelling, *Corybas despectans* is self pollinated and so every flower was producing a capsule.

It was too early of course for *Prasophyllum* but we saw many leaves (some with buds) of *P. fecundum* (this is the only Southern Lofty location of this species); *P. pallidum*; *P. fitzgeraldii* and *P. pruinsum*.



After a picnic lunch under the pines we drove about 10km to the Barossa Goldfields heritage trail. This was another area heavily grazed until recently. Your guide promptly got lost and our plan to look at a huge colony of *Pterostylis curia* by the Para River was altered. We did see some nice colonies of *Cyrtostylis reniformis* but orchids were scarce here amid the 100 mine shafts and we were restricted by fences to the pathways. We were shown around the goldfields museum and though it was still early headed off our separate ways, some to seek *Acianthus caudatus*, others to work on the endangered species *Caladenia behrii*. Although not much special had been seen I'm sure we all enjoyed the fresh air and sunshine.

Orchids seen: S = Sandy Creek G = Goldfields

In Flower: *Caladenia deformis* S,G; *Cyrtostylis reniformis* G; *Diuris pardina* S,G; *Pterostylis nana* (Hills) S,G; *P. nana* (mallee)S; *P. pedunculata* S,G; *P. sanguinea* S.

In Bud: *Caladenia latifolia* S; *Caladenia* sp. S,G; *Glossodia major* S, G; *Pterostylis* aff. *biseta* S; *Prasophyllum fecundum* S; *Thelymitra antennifera* S, G; *T. luteocilium* S, G; *T. nuda* S; *T. pauciflora* S, G.

In Seed: *Acianthus pusillus* S, G; *Corybas despectans* S.

Leaves: *Lyperanthus*, *Microtis*, *Eriochilus*, *Prasophyllum pallidum*, *P. fitzgeraldii*, *P. pruinsum*.

SPRING SHOW

EXHIBITOR NUMBERS FOR THE SPRING SHOW: Members exhibiting at the show this weekend will find their Exhibition number on the wrapper of this journal!

NEEDED FOR THE SHOW: Exhibitors of Floral Art. We need your support for this category.

SHOW TIMES: Exhibitors should set up their displays from 5pm on Friday evening as judging begins at 8am on Saturday morning. The show begins at 10am (not 12 noon) on Saturday. Members bringing plants for the trading table can take them in between 8 & 10am on Saturday morning.

NOTES TO EXHIBITORS

1. All exhibits & nomination forms must be completed by 8am Saturday.
2. Please leave your completed nomination form attached to the front of your exhibit.
3. Ensure that you are completing the correct coloured nomination form for your orchids: Epiphyte species - blue; Epiphyte Hybrid - pink; Terrestrials - yellow; Australasian - green.
4. Members exhibiting in the Society composite display or on benches must hand their nomination forms to the Show Marshall.
5. Each member of a combined exhibit must complete a separate nomination form.
6. Please PRINT all information when completing your form.
7. All plants nominated for judging must have been owned & grown by the exhibitor for at least SIX MONTHS prior to the opening of the show.
8. All plants that you wish to be considered for judging must be listed on the nomination form.
9. The same plant may be nominated in more than one class, eg Dendrobium hybrid - pink and specimen hybrid epiphyte.
10. More than one plant can be nominated for the same class. If insufficient space, use an additional form.
11. All plants to be judged must have plant labels attached, showing name of plant and exhibitor's number.
12. Seedlings shall mean the whole clone in its FIRST FLOWERING (not the first showing). Seedlings must be marked with a blue ribbon by the exhibitor.
13. Flowers or buds damaged or detached on the way to the show should be placed in the pot. Notify the show Marshall and place a red ribbon on the plant which will still be judged.
14. Supporting of flowers. Epiphytes will be disqualified from judging if they are tied and/or supported by a stake above the top of the pseudobulb.

CONSERVATION NEWS

by R. BATES

Recently as part of a study funded by the ESU (Endangered Species Unit) in Canberra the writer together with Pat and Peter Clark made an intensive survey of suitable habitats in E&WS land near Millbrook (Adelaide Hills) to assess populations of *Caladenia rigida* which had previously been seen there in small numbers.

We were delighted with the results. It seems to have been a perfect season for *C. rigida*! In areas where hand pollination had been done (from 1980-1994) numbers had about doubled thereby indicating the value of this technique!

Many plants this year had two flowers although some 20% of stems were bent, probably because the warm sunny weather had pushed flowering ahead earlier than usual (75% of flowers had opened before the end of August). As plants with bent over flower stems are rarely pollinated naturally these were the first to be selected for hand pollination. Other plants selected for hand pollination were the sturdy and the two-flowered ones as it was felt these were the likeliest to produce large healthy pods without too much drain on the tuber. Smaller plants were not touched but left for the insect pollinators (mostly native bees

We noted black thynnid wasps near some flowers but shifted flowers did not attract wasps so there is still no real evidence of sexual attraction of wasps in *C. rigida*.

The best news of all was the discovery that *C. rigida* is more common at Millbrook than previously thought. Plants were found at several new sites including the *Diuris behrii* rehabilitation site being managed by the Clarks as part of the "Adopt an Endangered Species" program. Hopefully the flowers here will produce seed and allow *C. rigida* to spread throughout the *Diuris behrii* patch!

The study clearly showed an association between *Caladenia rigida* and the Adelaide Hills endemic 'hair grass' *Lomandra filifolia*. I suspect that the reason *C. rigida* grows with the *L. filifolia* is because the hair grass sites are more open and, because hair grass is not grazed, the leaves of *C. rigida* are afforded some protection!

The observation was made that most regeneration in areas where hand pollination had been done occurred on the disturbed edges of tracks or in sites where hand raking had been trialled!

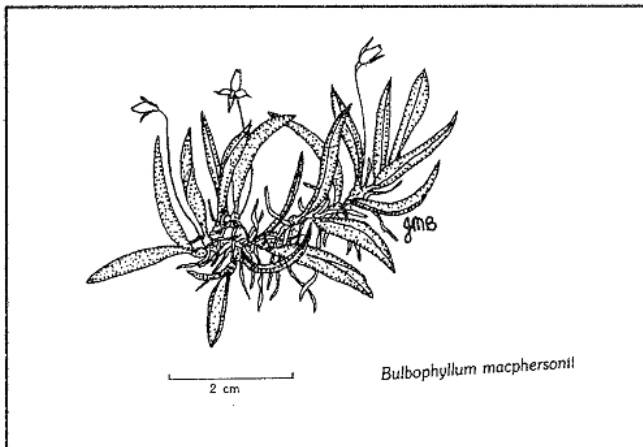
Pat and Peter Clark are about to form a Friends of Millbrook group.

THE GENUS *BULBOPHYLLUM*

by Noel Oliver

This is a large genus of more than two thousand species which are widely distributed in most tropical parts of the world. In New Guinea alone more than six hundred occur. All the species are epiphytic or lithophytic (growing on trees or rocks). The flowers in this genus are in general more curious than beautiful. The plants have a creeping rhizome which may or may not branch freely. The pseudobulbs vary shape and size and usually bear one solitary leaf. The leaves are typically rather thick or fleshy and highly diverse in shape and dimension. The leaf can also be very thin. The flowers can be large or so very small that you have to use a magnifying glass to really appreciate the floral features. Often the scent is very strong and sometimes unpleasant. Some of the flowers have a perfume that is rather obnoxious to say the least and can surely put you off. Being such a large genus the cultural habits vary but most species do favour humidity and good air movement. They are common in rain forests and in

situations where it is moist, along banks of creeks or rivers. Many species are found in high altitudes where light rain and mists are frequent. Most species grow in areas of good light where they are also sheltered from direct sunlight, but some species occur in locations where they are exposed to the elements.



According to Andree Millar in her book 'Orchids of Papua New Guinea' plants vary in size. *Bulbophyllum macrobulbum* has a leaf over one metre in length but other species are very minute in *Bulbophyllum macphersonii* both flower and plant structure. Schlechter (1910) acknowledged 569 species and it is certain that more have been found since his day. In New Zealand, six epiphytic orchid species are found, and of

these, two are *Bulbophyllum*s. *Bulbophyllum pygmaeum* is the smallest with the other, *Bulbophyllum tuberculatum* a rarer species, found growing on trees in kauri forests.

*Bulbophyllum*s include a number of small morphologically interesting species not requiring much space in the shade house. Flower stalks grow from the lower side of the shoots and bear one or two or more flowers. New shoots are produced at different intervals and the roots are produced from the base of the new growth. Plants flower only from the mature pseudobulbs. According to David L. Jones pollination is mainly by flies which are attracted to the scent and colour.

Cultivation: This genus seems to adapt very well providing you have the right conditions, but there are a few exceptions which prove difficult. A general rule is that they require plenty of air movement and most species require high humidity and protection from the cold so a heated glass house is essential (with a minimum temperature of 10 - 15 degrees Celsius). Most species because of their creeping habit are best attached to slabs of tree-fern, *Melaleuca*, cork etc. and in a position in the glass house where they are sheltered from the direct sunlight and low to the floor of the house where they receive plenty of humidity. In a glass house, gravel or shavings and possibly growing baby tears or ferns on the floor help to keep the humidity up. Watering of plants should also be regular.

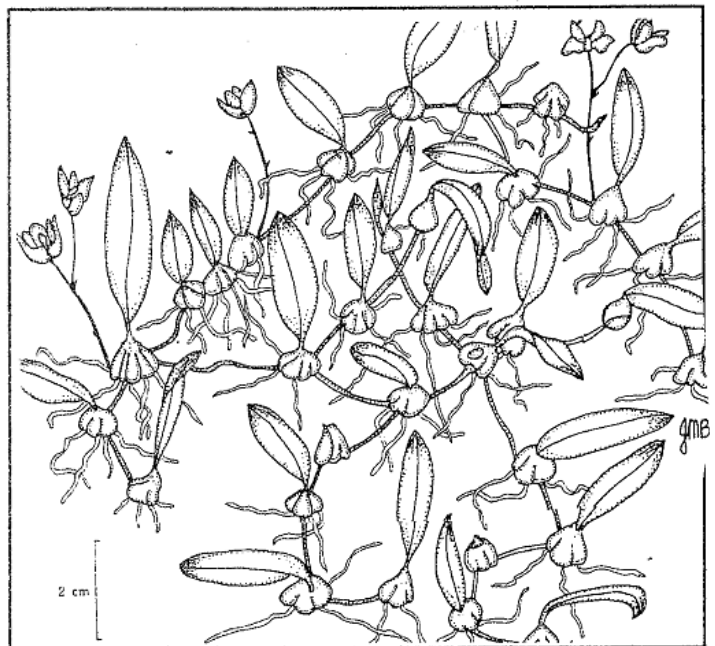
Most of the *Bulbophyllum*s are curiosities and require very little room in the glasshouse. They are propagated by separating the pseudobulbs. Perhaps the smallest orchid in the genus is *Bulbophyllum globuliforme* with flowers only 2mm across. Fertilisers should be used sparingly. Looking at the habit of the plant and the root systems, flat dishes or saucers would be most suitable and the mixture should be coarse bark, knowing that the plants are epiphytic and lithophytic the root systems require very little depth in potting mix. Very few of this genus grow in cool or cold conditions and care should be taken not to over water. In the most commonly seen species the inflorescences arise from the rhizomes at or near the base of the pseudobulbs. In many of these the sepals, particularly the lateral sepals, are more or less joined and considerably larger than the often complicated petals and lip. Colours range from pure white to almost black. Green, brown, red and yellow are particularly frequent in various shades. Their complex flowers are among the most remarkable of all orchids.

Most *Bulbophyllum*s require a rather shaded area as the fleshy foliage and pseudobulbs are very liable to sunburn if given too bright a situation. When new growths appear or flower spikes, you should be very careful not to let the water lodge in the opening leaves or buds as this will cause the buds and leaves to rot.

These orchids should not be frequently repotted as they do not like to be disturbed, however, if the compost breaks down or shows the slightest sign of staleness they should be immediately repotted. Most of this species will do well if allowed to grow into specimen plants but naturally these will require more attention at all times.

Bulbophyllum lobbi

The origin of this species is from Borneo, Indonesia and Thailand. It was named after the original collector Thomas Lobb, a medium size plant with ovoid pseudobulbs spaced well apart on the rhizome, a wonderful orchid valued for its large interesting flowers which have a fragrance of cucumbers. It grows in the mountains at altitudes of 1000 to 5000 metres, some forms have flowers about 10cm across and originate from Indonesia. The sepals and petals are deep tawny yellow, the upper sepal spotted at the back with purple. It produced a solitary flower from the base of the pseudobulb.



Bulbophyllum falcatum

This species comes from tropical Africa. A medium to small plant with visible rhizome. The pseudobulbs are normally ovoid, elongate to about 5 - 6cm long with three to four fairly pronounced points. The basal inflorescence consists of a rachis about eight inches (20cm) long. The small flowers are dark red and orange, numerous but short lived and appear on either side of the rachis (the axis of an inflorescence when somewhat elongated). The orchid flowers from winter to spring. This plant, like many *Bulbophyllum* species, can be grown on a mount of tree-fern or cork-wood etc. or in a shallow saucer of coarse bark. Should be watered frequently in the growing period, less in the cooler months and repotted if the compost has broken down.

Bulbophyllum macphersonii

This plant was named after Ken Macpherson. Clumps of small to medium size pseudobulbs, usually very congested and about 2mm x 1mm, globular. The leaves are very thick with a deep channel section and are also very fleshy. The flower stem comes from the base of the pseudobulb and is very thin and only has one flower per raceme. The colour of the flower is usually a very dark red and looks to be upside down. Very rarely there are white flowers. This species is endemic to north-eastern Queensland around the Cooktown, Rockhampton area. It is a common species and widely spread growing in rainforests above 500 metres altitude. It usually grows on trees in sheltered and humid situations and it is sometimes found on cliff faces and boulders. The cultivation for this species is that it requires some heat and plenty of air movement and humidity. It is very popular with growers because it is relatively easy to grow, with the right conditions, and also popular because of the colour of the flowers.

THE ORCHID NET

A non profit organisation using the computer interact system to aid orchid conservation! Members receive 5 free successful searches per year, including locating rare species, growers and horticultural information and 1 free species flasking and replant per year.

Members only flask sales, version 1 of our orchid Inventory Software for DOS/ windows allowing you to inventory your plants and interact with Net computers, 10% discount on all services and a beautiful orchid pin as well as a Biannual newsletter.

How to join: Write to Orchid Net for more details.

626 Humboldt Street Richmond CA 94805 - 1970 USA

AUSTRALIAN DENDROBIUMS No. 14

Dendrobium x gracillimum

This natural hybrid between *Dendrobium gracilicaule* and *D. speciosum* was named by Rupp in 1929. It occurs in coastal NSW north from the Hunter River and in QLD to as far north as the Eungella Range.

Like most hybrids it is localised to places where both parents occur and sometimes form extensive stands.

D. x gracillimum normally grows on rocks especially damaged lower branches and trunks but does occur on trunks. Like most hybrids *D. x gracillimum* is easy to cultivate, floriferous and increases quickly in size. Flower spikes reach up to 40cm with sometimes 50 flowers which are perfumed, cream or greenish white in colour and about 2cm across. These days it is hard to find in easily accessed places as plants tend to be removed. It has been made in cultivation using superior parents but no special programs have been produced yet.

D. x gracillimum is often grown in Adelaide in coarse mixes and likes to be root bound. It can be grown cold in a shadehouse.

by Sandy Philips



DENDROBIUM SPECIOSUM

by MALCOLM TIGGEMAN

Those members present at the August meeting would have seen me stagger in with a rather large plant of *Dendrobium speciosum* var *speciosum*. Unfortunately it had only started flowering several days before hand so many flowers were not open and others were looking down rather than at the viewer. However, it only took another three or four days for the remainder to open leaving me to lament, as many others have in the past,

that the meeting hadn't quite been at the right time. Despite this though the perfume in the car on the way to the meeting was the typical overpowering odour the plant is noted for and one which really delights me. In fact I can understand why it is called intoxicating because although it is an hours plus trip each way for me I really did not want it to end purely due to the magnificent aroma. How fortunate those people are who live in the bush where it occurs naturally.

For those members not at the meeting the plant was by no means the biggest or most floriferous specimen I have seen but I could only just fit it in the door (and the car) and it weighed in at 10kg's. It held 13 racemes (unlucky for some and maybe the reason it wasn't right out for the meeting) most with excess of 50 flowers giving it somewhere around 700 altogether. The flowers were up to 50mm by 30mm, off white in colour deepening to a pale yellow after several days and really quite typical of this variety as I know it.

The commentator, Kevin Western, asked where it had originated because many of the outer canes were protruding at close to ninety degrees but I believe this is only due to it being pot bound. It does have an interesting history though because I received it from my father-in-law, John Lamb, in 1984 after he had unsuccessfully tried to flower it for 10 years or so. He had received it from his older brother who I believe had bought it in his home town, Melbourne, many years prior to that and despite being told that it was a local plant ie Victorian he too had failed to flower it.

When I first took possession of the plant it was growing in a semi-spherical wire basket with plenty of sphagnum moss around it but after a couple of years I decided it needed to be divided because it was essentially a sphere itself with no room left for new growth. Dividing it actually ended up a mammoth task but ten pots and many old pseudo-bulbs later it was finally completed, I sold or traded all but three of the pots and the plant seen at the August meeting was the largest of these. Once in the pots the new pseudo-bulbs seemed to grow a little larger but despite experimenting with different positions, eg full sun, it was not until 1993 that I finally flowered it. This means that considering its history it was in cultivation for probably thirty years before it first flowered but it has now done so for the last three years in a row two of the three pots flowering the last two years.

What caused it to finally flower? I don't believe location had anything to do with it because whilst both flowering plants receive high light levels one receives considerably more than the other and as I have already stated I have experimented extensively with this. It does seem to grow better in bark in pots than its previous medium but it had plenty of chance to flower earlier if this was going to make a difference. Maybe it is only climatic changes that have made the difference although I grow it with my cymbidiums and about the time it started to flower I changed from cooling these down on hot nights to initiate flower spikes to doing so first thing in the morning. This incidentally seems to have given a minor increase to cymbidium flower production. Anyway whatever the reason as long as it keeps flowering so that I can enjoy its delightful perfume and exquisite flowers for a few weeks of the year I won't ponder its late start too deeply.

NEW ZEALAND HELMET ORCHIDS

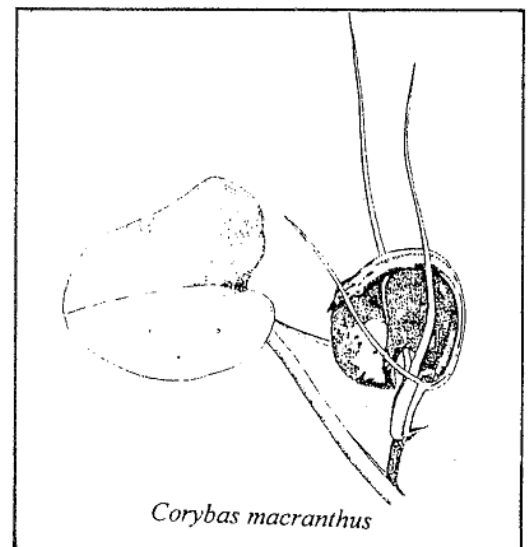
Third in a series adapted from the article - *Corybas* in New Zealand by Dan Hatch (The NZ Native Orchid Group Journal, 1994).

Corybas macranthus (J.D. Hook) H.G. Reichb. = large flower
Syn. *Nematoceras macrantha* J.D. Hook. (1853)

The oblong-orbicular, apiculate leaf is carried on a long petiole which raises it above the flower. The petals are about half the length of the lateral sepals. Plants forming loose colonies (in contrast to the tightly packed groups of *C. acuminatus* and *trilobus*).

Distribution: North South, Stewart, Chatham and Auckland Islands. Previously recorded from Macquarie Island but plants from there are now recognised as a new species.

Flowers: October - December.



Corybas macranthus