



Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 5061**

[www.nossa.org.au](http://www.nossa.org.au).

*The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.*

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**Journal Cost \$2. per issue. Family or Single Membership with subscription \$20.00\***

\*Postal Mail full year \$20.00. Email full year \$15.00.

Pro-rata rates for third quarter \$10.00 and last quarter \$5.00

Students \$10.00 per year. Juniors \$5.00

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**JOURNAL OF THE  
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY  
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**SEPTEMBER 2009      VOL. 33 NO 8**

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**The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the months February -November**

**NEXT MEETING 22 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Tuesday, 22 September**, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and the trading table.

**The speaker for the meeting will be Lesley Gunn who will present "Orchids of Western Australia".** (Apologies for this being as last month's item-Ed.)

**DIARY DATES**

<b>September 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Ngarkat
<b>19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Spring Show</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>ANNUAL ACTION &amp; XMAS RAFFLE</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Annual BBQ</b>

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thurs, 24<sup>th</sup> September** at the home of Bodo Jensen. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

## AUGUST MEETING

### Plants Benched

**Epiphyte Species:** *Bulbophyllum elisae*; *Dendrobium aemulum* (2 plants); *Den. puginiforme*; *Den. speciosum* (3 plants); *Den. tetragonum* (2 plants); *Dockrillia lichenastrum*.

**Epiphyte Hybrids:** *Dendrobium* Anne's Rainbow Surprise; *Den.* Awesome; *Den.* Bardo Rose; *Den.* Brolga; *Den.* Burgandy Cream(2 plants); *Den.* Cheeky; *Den.* Cobber; *Den.* Crooky; *Den.* Donavan Opalescence (3 plants); *Den.* Elegant Glow; *Den.* Elegant Heart 'Cheeky'; *Den.* Gillieston Gem x Gai Ellen; *Den.* Glenn Star; *Den.* Gloucester Sands; *Den.* Jack McMillan; *Den.* Jonothons Glory; *Den.* Mem Alicia; *Den.* PeeWee x Brellon; *Den.* Zip.

**Terrestrial Species:** *Caladenia latifolia* (3 plants); *Chiloglottis trapeziformis*; *Diuris conspicullata* (WA); *Leptoceras menziesii*; *Pterostylis hildae*; *Pterostylis pedunculata*; *Thelymitra x macmillanii*.

**Terrestrial Hybrids:** *Pterostylis* Dusky Duke; *Pterostylis* Hoodwink; *Pterostylis* Ruckman.

### Judging Results

#### Open div epiphyte species

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium speciosum*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium speciosum*

3<sup>rd</sup> *Dendrobium speciosum*

#### Second div epiphyte species

1st *Dendrobium tetragonum*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Bulbophyllum elisae*

3<sup>rd</sup> *Dockrillia puginiforme*

#### Open division Hybrids

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium* Gloucester Sands

2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium* Cheeky

3<sup>rd</sup> *Dendrobium* ( PeeWee x Brellon)

#### Second division Epiphyte Hybrids

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium* Donavon 'Opalescence'

2<sup>nd</sup> *Dendrobium* Zip

3<sup>rd</sup> *Dendrobium* Elegant Glow

#### Open division Terrestrial species

1<sup>st</sup> *Diuris conspicullata*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Caladenia latifolia* 'Pink'

3<sup>rd</sup> *Caladenia latifolia*

#### Second division Terrestrial species

1<sup>st</sup> *Leptacerus menziesii*

2<sup>nd</sup> *Chiloglottis trapeziformis*

No 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Open division Terrestrial Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> *Pterostylis* Dusky Duke

No 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Second division Terrestrial Hybrid

1<sup>st</sup> Ptst Hoodwink

2<sup>nd</sup> *Thelymitra x macmillanii*

No 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Grower

Bodo Jensen

Malcolm Tiggerman

Malcolm Tiggerman

Kris Kopiki

Kris Kopiki

Kris Kopiki

Steve Howard

Bodo Jensen

Bodo Jensen

Ray Haese

Ray Haese

143

Malcolm Guy

Malcolm Guy

Malcolm Guy

Kris Kopiki

Janet Adams

Malcolm Tiggerman

Janet Adams

Kris Kopiki

## Popular vote results

### Open division Epiphyte species

*Dendrobium speciosum*

Bodo Jensen

### Open division Epiphyte hybrid

*Dendrobium* Glen Star

Bodo Jensen

### Second division epiphyte species

*Dendrobium tetragonum*

Kris Kopiki

### Second division Epiphyte Hybrids

*Dendrobium* Donavan 'Opalescence'

Ray Haese

### Open Division Terrestrial species

*Diuris conspicillata*

Malcolm Guy

### Second division Terrestrial species

*Leptocerus menziesii*

Kris Kopiki

### Open division Terrestrial Hybrid

*Pterostylis* Ruckman

Les Nesbitt

### Second division terrestrial hybrid

*Thelymitra* McMillanii

Kris Kopiki

### Plant of the night

*Dendrobium* Gloucester Sands

Steve Howard

Plant commentary on Terrestrials given by Les Burgess & on Epiphytes by Noel Oliver

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

### N.O.S.S.A. FIELD TRIPS

#### September Field Trips

2: Ngarkat Wild Adventures from **September 19<sup>th</sup>**: Contact Peter McCauley for details as this will involve some 4WD travel and accommodation needs to be booked.

3: *Oligochaetochilus arenicolus* and *O. exallus* special to Strathalbyn area **September 27<sup>th</sup>**. Meet 10am at the Strathalbyn Post Office and bring a picnic lunch. The following day we will be looking for *Oligochaetochilus psammophilus* and *O. pusillus* together with their hybrid at Sandy Creek, meet 10am at Lyndoch bakery.

There is also an *Oligochaetochilus* working bee at Halbury in September and a *Oligochaetochilus* sp Rock Ledges special to Cherry Gardens in October so all up we should see six species of Rufous hoods in a month.

Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 and Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> 2009

NOSSA has arranged with the Botanic Gardens to conduct two public tours of the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens. The purpose is to raise awareness of our local orchids and to introduce families to them. To do this we require the assistance of several members to go on a gentle walk, pointing out the different orchids that will be in flower. In-depth knowledge will not be necessary and information will be provided. The walks will be held on two different weekends.

*Location:* Lower Carpark, Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens

*Time:* 11am – 12noon

If interested please contact Cathy Houston (Ph 8356 7356) or Rosalie Lawrence (Ph 8294 8014)

NOSSA will be placing orders for copies of  
Australian Journal of Botany Volume 57(4) 2009  
Special Issue: Biology and Conservation of *Caladenia*  
(Details of contents were in the August journal)  
Don't miss out. Orders can be placed with the Secretary, Cathy Houston.

## **XMAS RAFFLE – VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Please bring in to the September and October meetings any items that can be added to Christmas Stocking/Basket Raffle prize. Please note the use-by dates on the products to ensure they are still current into 2010. **However a volunteer is required to look after these items.** Please see Bill Dear if you are able to help.

**NOSSA SPRING SHOW 19-20 SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**St Bernadettes Hall, South Road, St Marys**  
**See the August Journal**

The Next NOSSA Judges Meeting will be **Saturday 3 October** at 18  
Cambridge St Vale Park at 9.30am.

## **IRA BUTLER AWARDS**

The Ira Butler Committee Report for 2008 is finalised with entries of Australasian Native Orchids Australia wide being nominated.

Those successfully being entered by NOSSA Members were as follows;

***Pterostylis* Goblin** owned by **Les & Marie Burgess** (bred by Nesbitt Orchids) received a **Silver Ira Butler Trophy**.

The **2008 Bill Murdoch Trophy** was awarded to **Bodo Jensen** for the Champion Terrestrial Species, *Diuris orientis*.

A **Bill Murdoch Certificate** was also awarded to **Steve Howard** for *Dendrobium bigibbum* 'Jenna'.

**ARTICLES/ITEMS FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL**  
Closing date is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October

Flowering will be coming to an end this month for the majority of species. Only the winter wet swamp species are still to come. Enjoy the flowers and take photos so the enjoyment can last all year.

Pollinate a few flowers on non-multiplying species to get seed for sowing next year. Pods develop and mature rapidly in Oct-Nov and could be ripe in as little as 3 weeks. Pick the pods as they turn brown just before they split open. Wait one day too long and the seed will be gone unless an empty tea bag is tied over the pod. The seed can be sprinkled around adult plants immediately however I prefer to store seed in paper seed envelopes inside the house for the summer.

Pots dry out rapidly on warm windy days so hand watering is required as needed. Some species, such as *Pterostylis*, normally go dormant in October. Others will go dormant prematurely if the pots dry out. Taper off the watering for pots with yellowing leaves and let the pots dry out completely once the leaves have turned brown. Sort and separate the pots still requiring water to make life easier.

Late seedlings of *Glossodia major* and *Caladenia* may appear in pots of that species. It is tempting to keep watering them but the mother plants can rot if too wet for too long. It is better to ease off on the watering and lose a few seedlings that may be too small to survive the summer anyway.

### **Field Trip report: Morialta Gorge July 15<sup>th</sup>** **R Bates**

After a week of rain the Morialta Falls were all the more spectacular than they had been for years and the orchids were better than the last two years. We did the complete circuit via the lookout track to the top of the hills and found ten species of orchid in flower: helmet orchids, three different *Diplodium* including an undescribed one and its hybrid with *D. robusta*, mosquito orchids, gnat orchids including a semi albino *Cyrtostylis robusta*, the tall green hoods *Bunochilus viriosus*, dark banded orchids *Urochilus vittatus*, dwarf greenhoods *Linguella* 'Hills' *nana* and a cluster of *Corunastylis*, the flowers somewhat shrivelled and not able to be determined. There were also plenty of leaves of *Caladenia*, *Arachnorchis*, *Microtis*, *Diuris*, *Pterostylis*, *Pyrorchis*, *Eriochilus*, *Glossodia* and *Thelymitra* promising a wealth of orchid flowers for the next few months.

We returned past the upper falls, crossing and recrossing the creek, passed the lower falls, looking eerie in the fog, passed Outlaws Cave and arrived back just in time to beat a heavy shower. Due to the rain we did not proceed on to Waterfall Gully but visited a local pub with its wood fire and enjoyed a hot lunch.

Let's hope this traditional winter excursion is better attended next year after all, the venue is only 15 minutes from the City Centre.

# ORCHID AILMENTS

## Thrips By Susan Jones

Orchid Buds and New Growths are Especially Susceptible to These Sucking Insects

MANY SPECIES OF THRIPS FEED on orchids; some of the most common include western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*), Cuban laurel thrips (*Gynaikothrips ficorum*), greenhouse thrips (*Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis*) and flower thrips (*Frankliniella bispinosa*).

Thrips are a common problem on vandaceous plants, dendrobiums and to a lesser extent, cattleyas and phalaenopsis. Because they are quite small (about 1/16 to 3/8 inch [1 to 5 mm] long), they are difficult to see with the naked eye. Much more easily detected is the damage to plants, deformed foliage and injured floral tissues caused by their feeding. They most often attack buds and new growths with their rasping mouthparts, sucking the plant sap.

**SYMPTOMS** Much like aphids, thrips feed in buds and flowers by using their mouthparts to pierce the surface of the plant tissues and suck up juices from leaves, stems and flowers. Blooms may become prematurely brown, and their petals spotted, streaked, silvery or discolored. Damage to leaves appears as chlorotic spots, wilting and eventually dropping. Plant growth can be stunted, and a severe thrips infestation will kill an orchid. If you suspect that thrips are present, gently blow into an open flower and watch for the insects crawling around inside the blossom.

Because of their method of feeding and ability to travel from plant to plant, thrips, like aphids, may introduce and spread virus through an orchid collection.

**LIFE CYCLE** The majority of the pest thrips belong to the family Thripidae. The adults of most species are brown or black. The winged adults (males and females) are found mainly on flowers and developing growths. Females deposit their eggs beneath the surface of the plant tissue. Often the only visible evidence of this is the callus tissue formed by the orchid in response to the wound. The nymphal (immature) stages are creamy yellow to pale orange and resemble adults without any wings. The nymphs feed on the tender young plant growths, then drop to the medium to pupate. The pupae are a darker orange color than the nymphs. As they are generally below the surface of the medium, they are unlikely to be spotted and more difficult to control with pesticides. When they emerge as winged adults, they fly back up to the plant to feed, lay eggs and begin the cycle once again.

Each female is capable of producing 25 to 50 eggs at a time, and many species reproduce at a rate of three to five generations per year. Their reproduction rate is more rapid in warmer temperatures, making thrips a more difficult pest to control in southern climates.

**PREVENTION** Thrips are among the more difficult insect pests to prevent and control, but some measures that help include covering all vents and doorways with insect-proof netting, segregation of infested plants and disposal of all affected loose plant material, and overall good general sanitation — removal of all weeds and plant debris from the growing area.

Thrips can be monitored using blue or yellow sticky traps, which should be checked weekly. Thrips will appear as small dark specks on the traps. This will allow the application of pesticides while populations are small, so as to minimize chances of damage and infestation.



**CONTROLS** The nature of the thrips' life cycle places their eggs and pupal stages fairly well out of the reach of most pesticides. Therefore, multiple applications of the chosen control method or pesticide at weekly intervals are needed to control successive generations of these pests.

As with many unwanted insects, monthly rotation of control measures is also recommended, especially when using chemical pesticides. Alternating between at least two different chemicals helps to avoid raising resistance to control measures in the insect pest.

Insecticides such as insecticidal soap, malathion and acephate (Orthene) are all recommended for use on thrips, and are listed as safe for use on orchids as well.

If your growing area is enclosed and is not part of your living space, such as a greenhouse, biological control with a predatory mite is an option. The female *Amblyseius cucumeris* deposits eggs in thrips. When the young hatch, they parasitize their hosts, killing them.

The use of insecticides is not compatible with employing predatory mites for control, as the insecticides are harmful to the mites as well as the thrips. As always, adhere strictly to the manufacturer's instructions for safe application and use of chemical pesticides.

As with any spray-on pest control measure, any orchid plants infested with thrips should be managed to allow easy and thorough pesticide application. Arrange the plants in the growing area so that they have adequate space for air circulation and ease of spraying, and be sure to cover all plant surfaces, such as those between and on the undersides of leaves, to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment.

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*Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor for Orchids magazine and an avid orchid hobbyist. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446.*

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Previous names *Cleisostoma tridentata* Lindley 1838  
*Saccolabium calcoratum* F.Muell. 1859  
*Sarcochilus tridentatus* (Lindley) H.G.Reichb. 1861  
*Sarcochilus calcaratus* (F.Muell) F.Muell. 1861  
*Thixpermum tridentatum* (Lindley) H.G.Reichb. 1874  
*Cleistoma cornutum* Rupp 1941  
*Thixpermum tridentatum* (Lindley) Hunt 1958

The Genus is named from the Greek plektos twisted, braided or platted and rhiza meaning root while the species name is from the Latin tridentatus meaning 3 toothed.

A genus of 3 species that was created by Alex. Dockrill in 1967, which up to that time this species, was known as *Cleisostoma tridentata*. This species is the most common of the genus and can be found much further south than the other members and can be found in a wide range on the eastern coast from S.E. Victoria up to N. Queensland growing in a large range of habitats where it can become locally very abundant. In its southern areas it prefers deep shaded gullies growing almost always near creeks and watercourses but as it travels northward it extends into the ranges.

An epiphyte that has the common name of tangle root orchid or just tangle root due to its long and numerous roots that grow into a huge tangled mess. This plant produces more roots for its size than any other comparable plant and its these roots that indirectly cause a high mortality rate due to the plants habit of just hanging suspended by one or two roots from very small twigs that break easy and let the plant drop to the forest floor or into a water course that it likes to suspend itself over. The plant itself rarely attaches itself to any host but prefers to suspend from its roots, almost a true air plant. This is not so in the tropics as the tropical plants are usually smaller and do not tangle as much as the more southern types.

While the plant closely resembles *Plectorrhiza brevilabris* it has narrower leaves and smaller flowers. An epiphyte that has long pendulous stems up to 300mm long but usually shorter with leaves 50 to 60mm long and 8 to 13mm broad. The plant will grow very quickly to a large size (for the species) and can have 3 to 12 flowers that open widely on short racemes. These flowers are about 5 to 10mm in diameter, coloured brown and green or are a darker green with reddish brown markings. While these flowers are small and modest in colour they really excel in the smell of their perfume which is one of the most fragrant of all our orchids and on a hot day is a pleasure to behold. Flowering period is from September to January.

Cultivation. One of the easier orchids to grow and in cultivation can last for some time. Slab culture would be best or better still attached to a garden tree, but wherever it is grown it needs humid conditions with ample air movement and plenty of shade during summer also frequent watering or misting as it depends on constant moisture for its existence. While it is cool growing it will not stand temperature much below 10° C so it needs to be grown in a frost-free area.



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Thank you for your interest in the beautiful orchids of South Australia and Western Australia.



*Leptoceras menziesii*



*Caladenia latifolia*



*Thelymitra x macmillanii*

Above and Below;  
*Chiloglottis trapeziformis*





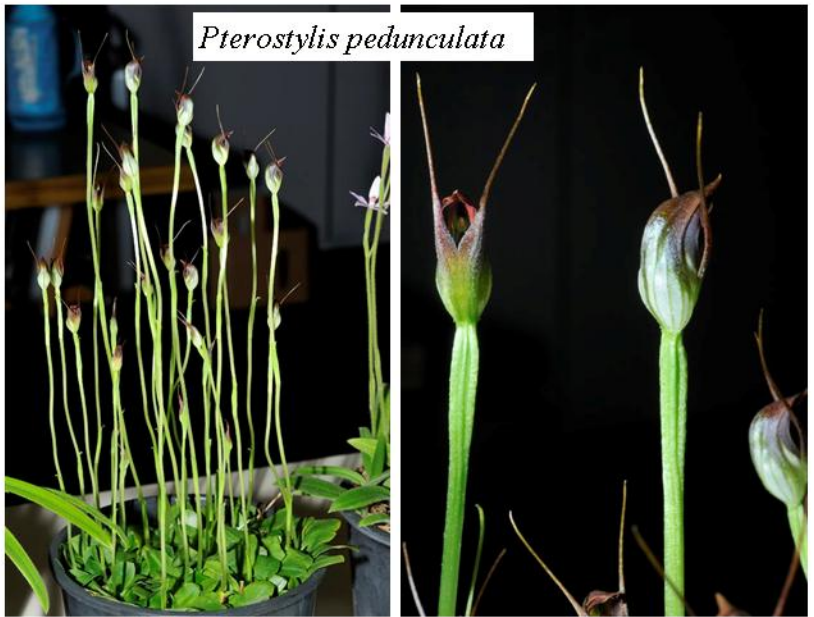
*Diuris conspicillatum*



*Pterostylis Dusky Duke*



*Pterostylis pedunculata*



Above and Below;  
*Pterostylis hildae*



*Dockrillia pugioniformis*





*Dendrobium aemulum*



*Bulbophyllum elisae*



Above & below; *Dendrobium tetragonum*



Above & below; *Dendrobium lichenastrum*







*Dendrobium* Donovan Opalescence



*Dendrobium* Crooky



*Dendrobium* Brolga



*Dendrobium* Cobber



*Dendrobium* Glenn Star



*Dendrobium* Jonathons Glory



*Dendrobium* Gloucester Sands

