



Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



*Bunochilus  
smaragdinus*

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

**NEXT MEETING 25 MAY 2010**

**Tuesday, 25 May**, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.  
Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and trading table.

**The speaker will be Paul Harvey on the River Murray.**

**DIARY DATES**

<b>Sunday May 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Mt Billy CP
<b>Monday June 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Aldinga coastal walk. <i>Urochilus</i>
<b>Wed June 23rd</b>	Morialta. <i>Diplodium</i>
<b>September 18-19</b>	NOSSA Spring Show

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tues, 1<sup>st</sup> June at the home of Bodo Jensen. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.**

## APRIL MEETING

### Plants Benched

**Epiphyte Species:** *Bulbophyllum exiguum*; *Dendrobium bigibbum* (16 plants benched); *Dendrobium lithocola*; *Den. schneiderae*; *Dockrillia. cucumerina*.

**Epiphyte Hybrids:** *Dendrobium* Angellene x Ellen x Ku-Ring-Gai.

**Terrestrial Species:** *Acianthus pusillus*; *Diplodium laxum*; *Diplodium reflexum*; *Diplodium truncatum* (2 plants); *Diplodium torquatum*; *Eriochilus cucullatus* (2 plants).

**Terrestrial Hybrids:** none benched

### Judging Results

#### Open Division Epiphyte Species

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium biggibum* #21

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

3<sup>rd</sup> *Dendrobium bigibbum* #13

#### Grower

Bodo Jensen

Russel Job & Edda Viskic

Bodo Jensen

#### Second Division Epiphyte Species

1<sup>st</sup> *Dockrillia. cucumerina*

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

No 3<sup>rd</sup>

Bill Dear

Kris Kopicki

#### Open Division Epiphyte Hybrids

1<sup>st</sup> *Dendrobium* Angellene x Ellen x Ku-Ringi

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

Bodo Jensen

#### Second Division Epiphyte Hybrids

None benched

#### Open Division Terrestrial species

1<sup>st</sup> *Diplodium truncatum*.

2<sup>nd</sup> *Eriochilus cucullatus*

3<sup>rd</sup> *Diplodium laxum*

Les Burgess

Les Nesbitt

Les Nesbitt

#### Second Division Terrestrial Species

1<sup>st</sup> *Acianthus pusillus*

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

Steve Howlett

There were no terrestrial hybrids in the Open Division or in 2<sup>nd</sup> Division

### Popular vote results

#### Terrestrial species Open Division

*Diplodium truncatum*.

Les Burgess

#### Terrestrial species 2<sup>nd</sup> Division

*Acianthus pusillus*

Steve Howlett

#### Epiphyte species Open Division

*Dendrobium biggibum* #21

Bodo Jensen

#### Epiphyte hybrids Open Division

*Dendrobium* Angellene x Ellen x Ku-Ringi

Bodo Jensen

#### Epiphyte species 2<sup>nd</sup> Division

*Dockrillia. cucumerina*

Bill Dear

#### Orchid of the night

*Dendrobium biggibum* #21

Bodo Jensen

Commentaries on terrestrials given by Les Burgess & on epiphytes by Bodo Jensen

## April Speakers

John Bartram presented the 3-year plan for members to consider. Members were divided into groups headed by committee members and gave their comments towards refining the plan. Later in the evening **Bodo Jensen** gave a talk on how to successfully grow *Dendrobium bigibbum*.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

#### 2010 SAROC ORCHID FAIR

Hosted by the member clubs of the South Australian Regional Orchid Council Inc.

Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 5:00pm

Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 4:00pm

At the Wyatt Hall Pulteney Grammar School, 190 South Terrace, Adelaide

Orchid plants, Display competitions, Orchid raffles. Orchid sales from leading South Australian Commercial growers. Orchid workshop & potting demonstrations.

Sausage sizzle & refreshments all weekend

\$2.00 admission (includes complementary cup of tea-coffee)

Orchid club members:- Please wear your club badge

**A new NOSSA website is in the process of being developed. Please have a look and feel free to comment on its progress.**

#### FIELD TRIPS

**Sunday May 30th** Mt Billy and Myponga. Meet Myponga Shops at 10am, bring lunch as we will do a walk by Myponga Reservoir before reassembling at lower gate in Mt Billy CP off Myponga/Victor Harbor road to look at rare greenhoods. Lunch may be by the Myponga Reservoir.

**Monday June 14th**, coastal walk Aldinga Beach. Meet by the Aldinga Hotel at 10am; *Urochilus* special

**Wed June 23rd** annual Morialta midweek ramble, meet 10am by main carpark adjacent the creek, *Diplodinium* special:

#### JUDGES MEETING

**The next NOSSA judges meeting will be on Saturday 5th June commencing at 9.30 am at 18 Cambridge St, Vale Park.**

The judging panel is looking for volunteers who would like to be pencillers at meetings and shows. This entails filling in the results sheets as the judges make decisions. It is not difficult yet gives a chance to observe the plants closely and learn more about orchids and why they have the names they bear.

Anyone interested in how Australian orchids are judged can read the ANOS judging rules on the ANOS website. The rules were last revised in 2009 and have recently been added to the website.

### **How the best are grown**

We all like to know how the best growers produce outstanding flowering plants so from next meeting the grower of the plant of the night will be asked to provide some details for the journal. A form has been devised with a number of headings to make this easy and quick. The Registrar Les Nesbitt has the form and will tidy up the comments ready for the journal.

### **Trading Table**

NOSSA has 80mm tubes of mixed greenhoods for the trading table. Each tube contains 2-3 plants of the same clone. Bring them back for the display when in flower so they can be identified.

There will also be some very small, very cheap, seedlings of *Dendrobium kingianum* having 'Corrigans Red' as one parent available for \$1.50 each. All proceeds to NOSSA.

NOSSA has purchased 2 flasks of *Dendrobium* seedlings from Trevor Garrard for trading table plants. They have been deflasked and will be made available as they get established and make new growths. The cross is *Dendrobium* (Brinawa Charm x Aussie Quest) x (June Mack 'Black' x Lawrose 'Electric Musk').

### **Raffle**

A *Dendrobium* and a *Sarcochilus* seedling will be monthly meeting raffle prizes for the rest of the year. These seedlings were purchased by NOSSA from Tinonee Orchids, a leading native orchid nursery in NSW.

## **2010 Midge Orchid Field Trip to Mylor CP: report by R. Bates**

This morning walk in Mylor Conservation Park took place in late March while the drought was still on, yet a dozen members and friends were treated to over 200 midge orchids in varied colours and several tiny Parsons bands orchids, conveniently scattered along all tracks in the Park.

We had a few special guests including Dr Tracey Stokes who is an Australian Flora botanist and author living at Mylor; as well as our leader's nonagenarian mother and dog Banjo also from Mylor.

The orchid species seen in flower were mostly undescribed ie the midges *Corunastylis* sp. aff. *rufa* and *Eriochilus* aff. *cucullata* sp. 'Hills' noted for their tiny size and brilliant colours. Also present was a *Corunastylis tepperi* look-alike, which was unusual as this species was/is, not known for the Adelaide Hills.

Eventually we found a midge orchid flower spike with a red eyed, pollinia bearing, vinegar fly pollinator which Peter McCauley captured beautifully as a digital image, see images later.

Our quarry were found early in the walk on a burned patch near the main south gate, first a midge orchid, then just as our leader was suggesting it might have been too early and too dry for *Eriochilus* Pauline found one in flower to prove him wrong!

There were seed pods of various sun orchids but no pods of hyacinth orchids were seen despite flowers being seen in flower here in January.

The burn here may be useful later in the year for finding the mysterious *Prasophyllum* species 'Bushfires'.

The Society is offering more local orchid walks this year as well as the usual camping adventures and just to prove it the leader and Peter Mc, were both on a NOSSA working expedition to Mt Gambier on the Friday yet made it back to Mylor early Saturday morning. See later report on the latter.

## Bridgewater Autumn Orchid walk: Report

Rob Bates

After an earthquake on Friday night and an electrical storm on Saturday conditions were perfect for a pleasant 10 minute walk from Bridgewater Hotel to the Old still working Water Mill, past restaurant fern gardens, up rustic hewn steps along the old aqueduct, through a tunnel with waterfalls at both ends and along a pleasant greenery lined creek thru the Deanery Bush we reached some dry woodland of messmate and brown stringy barks where the sparkling white parsons bands orchid flowers appeared in scores. The first specimen, a double header growing in a crack on a sandstone rock was twice the size of all the others. We noted that these *Eriochilus* had quite hairy stems and small but colourful flowers. They are thought to be an undescribed taxon. Close by, and actually mixed with the *Eriochilus* was a group of thirty midge orchids, again thought to be an undescribed species related to *Corunastylis rufa* from coastal NSW and *C. tasmanica* from of course Tasmania.



RB, *Eriochilus* group in April

Our leader pointed out that the flowers start out red, brown and green and fade to all green when pollinated and that although stems with flowers averaged just 4-5 cm those which had spent flowers and seed capsules were 6-15cm tall; a good example of scape elongation to aid dispersal of seeds.

Unlike our visit last month to Mylor no insects were seen on any of the orchids. We continued on to Rudd Parade with still more groups of *Eriochilus*, the 18 people present gradually dispersing as some photographed and others pushed ahead. At times it looked as if our numbers had swelled as we ran into other walkers including a group of twenty who engaged us in lively orchid conversation.

All along the track were dried seed pods of last year's orchids, *Thelymitra* species by the dozen, *Disa*, *Diuris*, *Microtis* and the like. There were still green pods on a clump of Hyacinth orchids. At the same time hundreds of fresh sun orchid leaves on slashed firebreaks showed promise of a great display in spring. Altogether we estimated as many as a thousand *Eriochilus* flowers spread across the Deanery Hill.

It was great to see a handful of new faces, young and old, some members attending their first NOSSA function, others just visitors who hopefully may join the club; thanks to Bodo for sending them along.



It was great to see our walks so far this year being so well attended, and such lively company too.



**NOSSA excursion starting at Bridgewater Mill, 18<sup>th</sup> April. Photo RB**

## **eBay For The Orchid Seller**

**By Kris Kopicki**

There's a very good chance, that somewhere in the last fifteen years you've heard the name eBay. That's right, eBay has been around for fifteen years! If you are not familiar with eBay, it's an internet auction website. It's the digital equivalent to the TradingPost, only a lot more sophisticated.

eBay has become a very useful tool for selling orchids by offering you a national, or potentially international market. While eBay has made its name as an auction site, other formats are available, such as fixed price. eBay provides all the infrastructure necessary to conduct online business, such as communicating with buyers, notification of purchases and most importantly the running of auctions or item listings. Through PayPal, a company purchased by eBay in 2002, you can even accept credit card payments. But most importantly, eBay tends to achieve higher than average prices for sellers.

As a seller, generally your goal is to get the highest possible price for your orchid. In an auction, the best way to achieve this is get as many bidders as possible. This article will give you a good overview of various strategies you can use when creating auctions.

### **Be Visible: Titles**

To reach as many buyers as possible, you have to get your orchids noticed. People won't



bid on your orchids if they can't find them. First you need to understand the way buyers search for items. Typically, buyers will use the quick search field, always visible at the top of the eBay site. It's very fast and convenient, but has some caveats for the seller. This type of search only searches within an item's title, and not the item's description. The search only matches whole words, so for example a search for 'Tuber' would not find items containing 'Tubers'. Titles are currently limited to 55 characters, this makes every word vitally important. You should put a lot of thought into it.

Knowing what people are likely to search for can be a bit of an art form, but there are some very obvious cases. Someone that is interested in *Thelymitra* is almost certainly going to try a search for '*Thelymitra*'. So if you are selling *Thelymitra*'s, it would be wise to include the full species name in the title. For example, '*Thelymitra rubra*' would be much more appropriate than 'T. rubra', or 'Thel. rubra'. It is unlikely people will search for abbreviations, as they are not specific enough. Remember people don't just sell orchids on eBay, a search for 'T' is likely to bring up thousands of items. While it's true there are advanced searches that will help people find obscure names, if your items can't be found easily in a quick search, you are likely to lose bidders. Sometimes less specific words can be good, such as 'Orchid'. It's reasonable to assume there will be many searches for that word. Be careful not to include words that are not related to your orchid though, as you may be in breach of eBay's terms and conditions for inaccurately describing an item.

Using the previous example of *Thelymitra rubra*, a good title to use might be '*Thelymitra rubra* native terrestrial orchid tubers'. These are all good search terms that people may use to find your item, with the exception of 'rubra'. Species names aren't usually useful search terms, as there are simply too many of them. That said, they can be useful for highly desirable species that people may search for by species name. So why include details in the title that are not useful for searching?

### **Be Visible: Listings**

When your orchid comes up in a search, it's very unlikely it will be the only one listed. By default, items are listed with a small picture and title. So the title now has another purpose, it needs to distinguish your orchid from other people's orchids. Continuing the *Thelymitra* example, let's assume for a moment that *Thelymitra* are very popular on eBay. If you omitted the species name, your item would be listed as '*Thelymitra* native terrestrial orchid tubers'. It's not very specific, and so it's quite possible some people may not click on your item to read more about it, hence losing a potential bidder. You need to find the right balance between terms that people will search for, and words that will encourage people to click on your item for more information.

A golden rule when selling anything is to make your orchid stand out from the crowd. A photo is an excellent way to do this. The nicer the photo, the more people are going to view your orchid, it really is that simple. A professional looking photo is not the only consideration though. When your orchid appears in search listings, only a very small preview of the photo is shown, 80 pixels by 80 pixels to be precise. You want to make sure that your photo has an impact at this very small size. Perhaps try tighter cropping of your photos to get that little bit of extra detail. Needless to say though, image editing is well outside of the scope of this article, so if you didn't understand a word, find someone that can show you what to do.

### **Be Visible: Timing**

Unlike traditional auctions that finish when bidding stops, eBay auctions end at a specific

time. The time of day is determined by when you created the item listing. It's a good idea for your auctions to end when most people are likely to be on the internet. This is typically between 6pm and 9pm. Keep in mind that not all buyers will be in your time zone, so you may want to target the time zone that most of your buyers will come from.

The length of the auction is another important aspect. You can choose from 1 to 10 days. Typically the longer the auction, the more likely additional buyers are to discover your orchid. The downside to a long auction is that the entire process from listing to receiving payment can take up to two weeks. There is also a danger that someone selling the same orchid may create a shorter auction in that time frame, taking the highest bidder out of the market. You will find that once you become known to regular buyers, your items will be discovered quite quickly, so even quite short auction times of 2-3 days will still receive a lot of interest.

When dealing with live plants, you need to be mindful of postage. Typically Mondays and Tuesdays are the best days to send parcels, so it may be helpful to have your auctions end either just before or on a weekend. This way, orchids can be posted safely within a few days of payment being received. Ensuring your orchids arrive healthy is definitely a good thing if you want repeat business. It is a good idea to plan your auctions around holidays, as people may be away during those periods, and they can be a nuisance for parcel deliveries.

Probably the most important and overlooked aspect of timing is when to list your orchid in relation to other auctions. If you're wanting to sell *Sarcochilus falcatus*, but there are currently 3 other sellers offering this species, then the bidders will likely be spread out across the auctions, and so the overall price each receives will be less. Therefore the best strategy is to be the only one offering a particular orchid. There are a lot of advantages in being aware of what others are selling. It will give you a good indication of what price you can expect for your item. You can use the 'buzz' created around another seller's orchid to your advantage by selling your orchid just after their auction ends, since the buyers that missed out will likely be searching for the same orchid a short time after the auction.

### **Listing Options: Categories**

When you list your orchid, you will be asked to choose a category to display it in. In my view, categories are not all that useful, since they are not specific enough for orchids. The majority of buyers use searches rather than browsing categories. The 'Home > Gardening > Plants, Seeds, Bulbs > Flowers > Plants' category will be fine for the majority of your items.

### **Listing Options: Descriptions**

Since the entire transaction is conducted online, your item description is the only information buyers have to base their purchasing decision on. For this reason, your description must be clear and concise. Try to preempt the things that you think buyers would want to ask you, and include that information in your description. For example if provenance information is known, include it. Try not to make assumptions about the knowledge of your buyers. If you are selling a plant that has won an award, don't just use cryptic abbreviations with the assumption that the buyer knows what they are. Knowledgeable enthusiasts will understand, but remember the goal is to get as many bidders as possible, so you need to appeal to a wider audience. A short explanation of the award would take no time at all and be meaningful to someone that is unfamiliar with them. The majority of listings I come across do not provide enough information, and tend to alienate less experienced growers. Some details that people might want to know are; provenance (i.e. where the plants originally came from in the wild) or clonal name; details of parentage if it's a hybrid; brief description of cultivation requirements to help buyers determine if it is suitable for their climate; if the plant/s are of

flowering size or not, and if not, how far off; will the plant be sent bare root or in pot; an accurate description of the orchid and its characteristics; are cultivation instructions included with the plant; what is your policy on damaged or lost goods; do you have permits to send plants to WA, Tas, or Internationally.

Finally, you need to differentiate your orchids from others. Don't just list *Sarcocylus falcatius* with a standard description. Almost all forms of orchids have some unique characteristics that set them apart from other forms. Tell people what they are. You'll be surprised how many people collect different forms of the same species, as long as they are unique and interesting. If you don't tell them, they won't know.

### **Listing Options: Pictures**

We've covered a number of the important aspects of pictures already, but here are a few useful tips. When you list an item on eBay, the first picture you add is free, but subsequent pictures cost a small fee. One photo is usually not enough to give the buyer an idea of what they are buying. You need at the very least a close-up photo of the flower and a photo of the whole plant. If you are selling terrestrial tubers, a photo of the tuber/s is also advisable. When taking photos of the whole plant or tuber, be sure to include a ruler in your photos so that people can get an idea of the size.

Using simple image editing software, you can easily combine 2 photos into one picture, which will only count for one picture, hence saving you a little bit of money. Do not be tempted to do this for close-ups of flowers. The reason for this is the 'Gallery picture' option. This determines if a picture is displayed in search results or not. You most definitely want to do this, as omitting a picture makes your item very easy to overlook. When you enable this option, you can choose which picture you want to use. Whichever photo you choose, make sure it looks good at 80 x 80 pixels. In most cases, the best photo to choose is of the orchid flower.

### **Listing Options: The Reserve**

Choosing an appropriate reserve price is very important, and will depend upon a few factors. A low reserve price will attract less fees and can sometimes peak more interesting in your orchid. However if there are few bidders, you run the risk of getting a low price. My advice is to set the reserve at the minimum you are prepared to accept for your orchid, even if you are sure that the orchid will sell well. Just as an auctioneer selling a house will try to start the bidding off high, so should you. It generally does result in a better price. Don't forget to factor in eBay and PayPal fees into your reserve price.

Armed with this knowledge, it should be possible to get some good results on eBay. This is of course just the tip of the iceberg, since there is no substitute for experience. So get out there and give it a go.

**IF YOU HAVE NEGLECTED TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION THIS JOURNAL  
WILL BE YOUR LAST**

## ORCHID OF THE MONTH

### Genus *Eriochilus* R. Br., parson's bands.

**Etymology:** from Greek 'erion' wool and 'cheilos' a lip, referring to the texture of the labellum lamina.

**Distribution and habitat:** throughout southern Australia, with the most diversity found in South-west Australia. Habitats range from woodland, to swamp, to rock outcrops inland; from the shore to the Alps.

**Description:** plants arise from a single globular tuber, forming a single ovate leaf and for the South Australian species usually a single flower which emerges straight from the ground in autumn before leaf formation. Some Western species are multi-flowered and others bloom in spring. The flower is easily recognised from the large flat white or pink lateral sepals spreading in front, the felt textured curved labellum without calli and the short erect petals.

Flower appearance, especially in the east, hardly varies from species to species (apart from colour and size) and it is the leaf appearance which must be used to separate the taxa, although habitat and flowering time are very good clues for identifying species. The leaf develops during and after flowering, the filiform flower stem elongates and the seed capsule ripens quickly to release seed early. The scape then shrivels away.

**Pollination:** pollination is affected by native bees which are attracted by flower colour, scent and nectar provided in a channel at the base of the labellum. See also image in 'gallery' for example of floral mimicry. The genus is unusual in having a deeply recessed stigma with a constricted but elastic border. When a bee bearing pollinia pushes into the tube formed by juxtaposition of column and labellum base, its head will force down the elastic, just as if untying the drawstring on a tiny bag, thus exposing the stigma. The pollinia on the bee's head are at this stage in contact with the sticky stigmatic surface and are pulled away from its head as the insect withdraws, while the elastic fringe returns to its former shape thus holding the pollinia inside. As the bee withdraws further it contacts the overhanging anther flap and catches against the twin viscid discs sitting in two small notches or rostellum, in the upper part of the stigma. These stick to the bee's head and are removed with all or sometimes one half of the pollinia which are soon deflexed from an upright position to a horizontal one. Thus outcrossing is ensured in this genus.

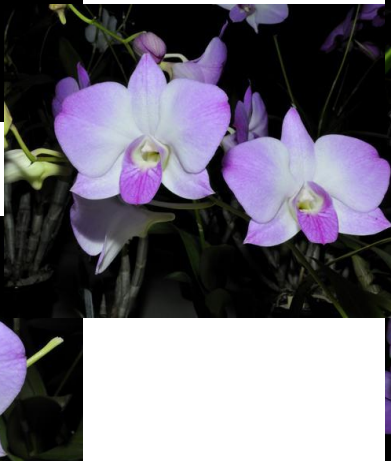
**Taxonomy:** other than description of new Western Australian taxa little has changed in the taxonomy of the genus and the same name: *E. cucullatus* was applied to all the eastern species until recently. The Western species are being revised by Hopper and Brown, with the number of taxa quadrupled. The more cryptic eastern species are still under review but I believe we will have six taxa recognised, three of them in SA.

True *E. cucullatus* is a large pink flowered species with smooth leaf and occurs in Tasmania.

Taken from Orchids of South Australia CD by Bob Bates. Key to species and photos omitted but for email version journal readers a photo is included.



LEFT:  
Bodo Jensen  
giving  
his talk

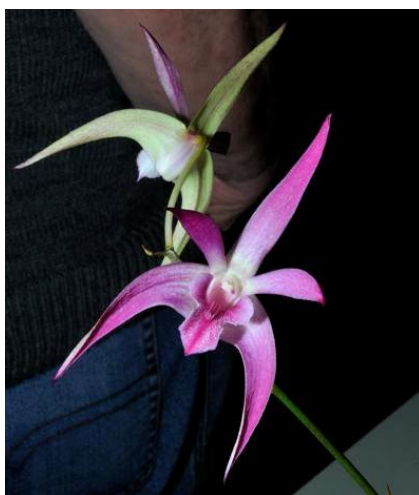


*Dendrobium biggibum*





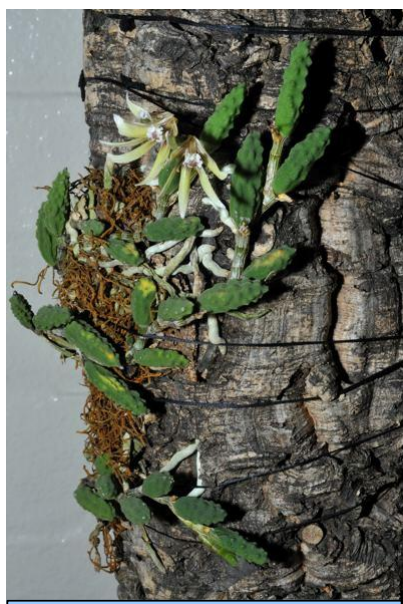
*Dendrobium lithocola*



*Dendrobium Angellene x Ellen x Ku-Ringi*



*Dendrobium schneiderae*



*Dockrillia cucumerina*



*Bulbophyllum exiguum*



*Acianthus pusillus*



*Diplodium truncatum*



*Diplodium reflexum*



*Diplodium truncatum*



*Diplodium torquatum*



*Diplodium laxum*



*Eriochilus cucullatus*

