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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 5061

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 OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

SEPTEMBER 2010 VOL. 34 NO 8

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The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every 4th Tuesday of the months February -November

NEXT MEETING 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

Tuesday, 28 September, 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 meeting will be a 'Culture Night' including a presentation on growing native orchids.

DIARY DATES

September 29	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens 'Walk with NOSSA'
October 2nd	near Myponga - meet at shops 10am. **NOTE: changed date.**
October 9th	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens 'Walk with NOSSA'
October Sunday 17	Wittunga Botanic Gardens
October 23rd	All day Sunday, Christmas Tree Hill, donkey orchids & others
October 30th	Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens 'Walk with NOSSA'
November 6	Chookarloo and Blackfellow Creek for Cinnamon Bells

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tues, 5th October at the home of Bodo Jensen. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

Plants Benched AUGUST MEETING

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium speciosum*
Epiphyte Hybrids: *Dendrobium* Awesome; *Dendrobium* Ellen Star x Gai Ellen; *Dendrobium* Glen Star (3 plants); *Dendrobium* Star Imp x Jesmond Sparkler; *Dendrobium* unknown; *Dockrillia* [Duffy x (Fuliginosa x Convoluta)].
Terrestrial Species: *Pterostylis curta* (2 plants)
Terrestrial Hybrids: *Chiloglottis* x *Pescottiana*; *Pterostylis* Ruckman (2 plants); *Pterostylis* nodding grace; *Pterostylis* x *conoglossa*.

Judging Results	**Grower**
Open Division Epiphyte Hybrids	
1st *Dendrobium* Glen Star	Bodo Jensen
2nd *Dendrobium* Glen Star	Bodo Jensen
3rd *Dendrobium* Glen Star	Bodo Jensen
Second Division Epiphyte Hybrids	
1st *Dendrobium* Star Imp x Jesmond Sparkler	Bill Dear
2nd *Dockrillia* [Duffy x (Fuliginosa x Convoluta)]	Bill Dear
3rd *Dendrobium* Awesome	Bill Dear
Second Division Epiphyte Species	
1st *Dendrobium speciosum*	Kris Kopicki
No 2nd or 3rd	
Open Division Terrestrial species	
None benched	
Open Division Terrestrial Hybrids	
1st *Pterostylis* Dusky Duke	D & J Higgs
No 2nd or 3rd	
Terrestrial species 2nd Division	
1st *Pterostylis curta*	J Adams
2nd *Pterostylis curta*	Kris Kopicki
No 3rd	
Terrestrial hybrid 2nd Division	
1st *Chiloglottis* x *Pescottiana*	Kris Kopicki
No 2nd or 3rd	
Popular vote results	
Terrestrial Hybrids	
Pterostylis Ruckman	D & J Higgs
Terrestrial species 2nd Division	
Pterostylis curta	Kris Kopicki
Terrestrial hybrid 2nd Division	
Chiloglottis x *Pescottiana*	Kris Kopicki
Epiphyte hybrids Open Division	
Dendrobium Glen Star	Bodo Jensen
Epiphyte hybrid 2nd Division	
Dendrobium Star Imp x Jesmond Sparkler	Bill Dear
Epiphyte Species 2nd Division	
1st *Dendrobium speciosum*	Kris Kopicki
Orchid of the night	
Pterostylis Dusky Duke	D & J Higgs

Commentaries on terrestrials given by Malcolm Guy & on epiphytes by Noel Oliver

August Speaker.

Our Speaker for August was Robert Lawrence with a talk on his work in conservation over recent years demonstrated with a power-point slide show. Most interesting I thought was the comparative photos of weed removal in the Mount Lofty Ranges with the time of the day superimposed that showed how quickly a large invasive patch of weeds such as broom or boneseed can be removed (cut & poisoned) and some of the surviving orchids they shaded.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

Friends of the Botanic Gardens are holding a Community Day at **Wittunga Botanic Gardens on Sunday 17 October**, from 10 am to 3 pm, as part of National Water Week. NOSSA has been invited to set up tables and to sell orchids.
There are to be Guided Walks, Plants, Information, Activities, Food, Devonshire Teas.

FIELD TRIPS

September 29 Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens 'Walk with NOSSA' see back cover.

October 2nd near Myponga. This excursion was originally planned for 9 October but has been moved to 2 October (during the long weekend). This will be led by local landholders and is being changed to fit in with them. Contact Bob Bates for further details

October 23rd All day Sunday Christmas Tree Hill donkey orchids & others

November 6th Chookarloo and Blackfellow Creek for Cinnamon Bells

XMAS RAFFLE

Faye Eaton has again volunteered to help with the Christmas raffle.
Please bring in to the September and October meetings any items that can be added to Christmas Stocking/Basket Raffle prize. Please check that the use by dates on the products will still be current into 2011.

ANNUAL BBQ VENUE

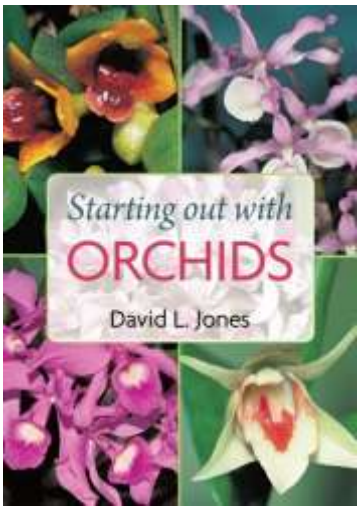
This year Wally & Shirley are unable to host the BBQ as usual. The venue for the Annual BBQ in November [28th] has still not been decided upon. A decision needs to be made soon, so if any members have any suggestions or would like to host the BBQ please contact Robert Lawrence or Bodo ASAP.

Readers of the email edition of last month's journal may have noticed that the close-up photos of *ophioglossa* and *concinna* have their captions transposed. My apologies. Ed.

JUDGES MEETING

Next judges meeting is on Saturday 2nd October starting 9.30 am at 18 Cambridge St Vale Park

NEW BOOK
Starting Out With Orchids
By David L Jones
Some 256 species, including 27 easy-to-grow species, are fully described in simple straightforward language. The growing requirements of each orchid is given and accompanied by a colour photograph.
This book introduces the new grower to practical growing information and a range of native and exotic tree-dwelling and ground-hugging species grouped according to their climatic needs. Within each group the orchids are arranged alphabetically to provide an easy reference for the enthusiast.
A glossary is also included to explain unfamiliar terms.



Released: June 2010
New Holland Publishers
RRP: $29.95
ISBN: 9781877069680
Size: 207mm x 151mm; Format: Soft Cover; Pages: 352.

Epiphytic Species No. 4 - *Dendrobium falcorostrum* **Les Nesbitt**

Common name: Beech Orchid,
Distribution: From the Hunter River NSW to SE Queensland.

Den. falcorostrum grows at high elevation along the top of the Great Dividing Range on Antarctic beech trees above 800m elevation. Branches can be covered with plants including some large specimens. Much loved for the masses of pristine white flowers which are produced simultaneously in spring. I like its powerful perfume but not everyone agrees. The end of the lip is upturned to a point resembling a falcon's beak.

The plants need a cold winter to ensure flower spikes are produced. The buds appear in late winter and develop rapidly until opening in September. These plants love the winter rain but hate Adelaide's hot dry summer. I find it grows best for me in my shade-house in the Hills at 500m elevation. My plants are in pots containing a composted bark mix including marble chips. New growths are produced in summer.

Although often used by early hybridists in has little influence on the resulting flowers. Some well known primary hybrids are Bardo Rose (with *kingianum*), Susan (with *gracilicaule*), Star of Gold (with *tetragonum*) and Andrew Persson (with *speciosum*).

Very difficult to self pollinate a single plant to get seed to perpetuate the species. Pods form every time if you have 3 plants and take pollen from 2 plants and place that pollinia on the stigmatic surface of the third plant.

ARTICLES / ITEMS FOR NEXT JOURNAL

Articles / items for the October journal need to reach the Editor by Friday Oct 8th

Corysanthes special trip to Newland Head, August 11th 2010

Report by R. Bates

This excursion was unusual in many ways: it was a rare mid week event, a working survey of helmet orchids to count populations of rare and new species.
This was a 'bush bashing' expedition as the helmet orchids did not grow along tracks.
It was an unusually windy day to be on such an exposed headland in cold weather and it was an all day trip… dawn to dusk for some of us.

We were looking for late flowered taxa of tiny flowered helmets and a surprising total of fifteen people attended.

The first species found was *Corysanthes expansus,* so late flowered that many were not fully opened, in fact at first our leader thought they were a different species. This species does not start flowering until the second week of August. It was poorly known for the SL region and this year for the first time was located in good numbers. An estimated 2000 plants occur in Newland Head CP. It is an out-crossing species with flared labellum. The flowers are larger than *C. despectans*.

The next species seen, also under coastal or soap mallee was *Corysanthes* sp. Red-eyed ghost, with curious pale green flowers only one cm across with a red spot in the centre. Despite its flowers being tiny they are well displayed. Flowering starts in mid July and extends to mid August. It is probably a self perpetuating ssp. of *C. despectans*.

The third species located was *C. despectans,* present at Newland head in many thousands and growing right to the tops of the sea cliffs in heath, mallee and scrub. This self pollinating species is remarkably constant throughout its range and it is the most common helmet orchid in SA. The flowers are trumpet shaped being much longer than broad and with a tiny dorsal sepal which does not hood the flower. It opens only in late July-early August and most flowers were finished on our visit.

The fourth species located was *Corysanthes diemenicus* which flowers here from late June and consequently mostly spent. Those still open had very wide maroon dorsal sepals to 2cm across, the exact opposite to *C. despectans.* There were only a handful of colonies found.

We then stopped for lunch in rough mallee and after our break headed straight into rough tangled scrub using GPS to locate the largest known colony of *Corysanthes* sp. Fat dwarf which had only been discovered in 2009. There were many found but the species is so late flowered there were still none open. Some of us vowed to return a week later to get pictures and specimens. Estimated population size of this un-named late species is only 2000 plants.

We then perhaps foolishly headed to the cliffs with raging seas crashing well below us and icy polar winds, having to lean forward to make any headway at times. We did find a patch of *Diplodium* mallee *robusta* in full flower, a new record for the Park as well as spent flowers of *D.* species Newland Head. Also present were two *Linguella* species both undescribed as well as remains of *Corunastylis tepperi* and *Corunastylis* spp. un-named.

Other species seen in large numbers include *Acianthus, Nemacianthus, Cyrtostylis robusta*, all in flower and *Caladenia latifolia* in bud. Leaves were seen of Arachnorchis valida, *Diuris, Pyrorchis, Microtis, Jonesiopsis, Thelymitra alcockiae* etc.
Another very successful working excursion.

Scott Creek Field Trip August 2010: Greenhood-walk

R. Bates

This biennial NOSSA walk held in winter every two years or so was well attended as usual with 14 members and friends. We met at the Almanda mine and walked to the top near the old quarry, a fairly steep walk but worth the effort to see the tall green banded orchids (*Bunochilus viriosus*) endemic to South Australia and some years up to fifty cm tall but smaller this year due to a dry autumn and early winter. Also here were the maroon banded greenhoods (*Urochilus sanguineus*). Numbers have continued to decline over the years and no natural pollination has occurred for several years. This is a really bad sign so we did hand pollinate a few flowers this year.

Many greenhoods have apparently disappeared from the Park in the last twenty years including *Oligochaetochilus* (*Pterostylis*) *bisetus, Hymenochilus nemoralis* (was *Pterostylis cycnocephala*), *Pterostylis cucullata, Pterostylis falcata, Pterostylis* x *ingens* and perhaps *Pterostylis curta* (none could be located on our visit). Other species have been thought lost but rediscovered ie *Oligochaetochilus* sp. Rock ledges found by NOSSA last year, so there is still the chance of others re-appearing.

A large colony of *Pterostylis nutans* by the car park was wiped out last year when workers heaped cut branches on it. Nevertheless as we continued our walk we added numerous little greenhoods (*Linguella* sp. 'Hills *nana'*), nodding greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans*) and *P. pedunculata* as well as a large colony of green striated greenhoods *Diplodium robustum* and eventually *Diplodium* sp. 'Adelaide Hills' past flowering and *Pterostylis foliata* in bud. Wherever we went there were also rosettes of yellow plumed greenhoods *Plumatichilos* sp. 'Woodland' so we were not totally disappointed.

Other orchids seen on our walk included helmet orchids *Corysanthes* leaves of many sun orchid species, *Glossodia* and *Arachnorchis* in bud, *Acianthus* in seed, *Cyrtostylis i*n bud, *Nemacianthus* in bud, *Eriochilus* and *Corunastylis* in seed with many *Diuris, Leptoceras* and *Microtis* leaves.

We will make another visit to Scott Creek in October as part of our leek orchid outing.

RB, Corysanthes sp Fat dwarf, Waitpinga, SL
Note the slender petals

Growing Epiphytes in a Dry Climate

Kris Kopicki

Adelaide has the reputation of being Australia's driest city, and with good reason. Despite our record setting weather, it's not uncommon to see subtropical plants surviving our vicious summers if watering can be maintained. This got me thinking about how much extreme weather our subtropical orchids could survive, provided they were kept reasonably hydrated. That was back in 2008, and at that point, I had no experience growing epiphytes, with my collection comprising solely terrestrial species. Having just moved into a new house, I also had no orchid housing, so my epiphytic experiment was going to need to take place under our easterly facing veranda and surrounding trees. The veranda has a few clear sheets that provide some light throughout the day.

To explore lighting, I used a large piece of weld mesh curved to form a cylinder. A makeshift tree if you will. The idea being that plants favouring higher light can be placed on the north east, and plants favouring shade on the south west. Being quite portable, I could move it around as the seasons change. Species were placed according to my research on their favoured lighting conditions. This seemed like a reasonable starting point.

I chose to grow the majority of my plants on mounts, even though many local growers use pots culture for better water retention. The plan was to eventually construct a shade house for my terrestrial collection, and so any epiphytes were going to need to occupy the only remaining space, the roof and walls. Terrestrial orchids are the top dogs in my collection, so rather than adapting my conditions to suit epiphytes, I was investigating if they could fit in with my plans.

Water was always going to be the big problem with this setup, particularly in summer when the temperatures can be relentless. One of the things that kept coming up in literature was to avoid frequent watering in winter, and particularly to keep plants away from winter rain. I was most puzzled by the last statement, as research on the climate of central and northern NSW revealed that winter rains far exceed an Adelaide winter. Also notable were the temperature averages, which showed that while coastal areas were slightly warmer than Adelaide, temperatures in the hills were often much less. This was great news, as it meant many plants would easily withstand Adelaide winter minimums. I decided the best strategy was to water as frequently as possible, so long as the media was dry between watering. The drying was very important to avoid fungal problems and to avoid saturation of the roots. My watering strategy was going to need to make up for the total absence of humidity during summer, so watering 2-3 times a day would likely be a minimum.

Realising that summer would be the breaking point for my plants, fertilising became a key strategy. The idea being that plants with large healthy root systems could make better use of any available water to get them through our hot days. My search for the best way to fertilise lead me to the decision of feeding a little and often. The reasons cited seemed logical enough. Plants are only able to absorb a small amount of nutrients at a time, so infrequent applications of large amounts of fertiliser would lead to waste, so plants would essentially be starved. I chose to alternate between fertilisers which avoids any nutrient deficiencies that one brand may have over another. Applications were made daily, except one day a week where plain water was used. I used 10% of the recommended dose. The first mix was Manutec Orchid Food, replaced with Manutec Orchid Bloom Booster during spike development. The second mix was a combination of Seasol and Powerfeed. Rainwater was always used to avoid build up of salts, which could potentially be a problem with such a high watering frequency.

The majority of species selected were from central and northern NSW, though species from as far north as Cape York were also trialled. It seemed logical to trial plants that eastern states growers considered easy and progressively move to more difficult species. Some of the species purchased in 2008 include: *Sarcochilus* x Fitzhart, *Sarcochilus falcatus*, *Sarcochilus olivaceous*, *Sarcochilus aequalis*, *Sarcochilus spathulatus* and *Sarcochilus hirticalcar*. These species are quite diverse, some thick and fleshy, others very thin and delicate.

Plants were purchased through winter and spring. Initial results were promising, with good root growth and rapid leaf development once the weather warmed up. A few *Sarcochilus falcatus* and *hirticalcar* received sun burn during early spring. While they do like bright conditions, it seems even a mild spring sun can damage them. The plants were then moved to a more sheltered location where only very early morning sun was received. Most of the plants flowered well, with the exception of x fitzhart and *hirticalcar*, which were too small.

As expected, summer proved to be a challenge. Given that the plants had almost no protection from the record heat of the 2008/2009 summer, they seemed remarkably resilient. Growth came to a standstill, and some root tips burned. During an extended period of temperatures over 40°c, a couple plants of *Sarcochilus olivaceous* and *spathulatus* were found desiccated, and some leaf tips burned on *Sarcochilus falcatus*. I decided that this was probably the limit of what they would handle and brought the plants inside the house during severely hot days.

All things considered, the majority of plants made it through one of our hottest summers with little or no damage. With the onset of cooler weather, leaf growth resumed, albeit a bit slower than during spring. Roots recovered very quickly from the heat damage. With all four seasons now under my belt, my collection of epiphytes rapidly expanded, including species of *Bulbophyllum*, *Dendrobium*, *Dockrillia*, *Sarcochilus*, *Plectorrhiza* and *Schistotylus*.

In August 2009, I purchased a weldmesh shade house from Queensland. It offered a lot of bench space for my terrestrial species, while providing hanging space virtually everywhere. I covered the walls in 50% shade cloth, and 70% shade cloth for the roof. I chose to use white marble chip for the floor. Now at this point you're probably thinking this sounds quite different to the typical structures used for subtropical orchids in a temperate climate. Typically they are designed with a solid roof or walls, keeping humidity high. The downside to that design is air movement is severely restricted, possibly leading to the well documented fungal problems. In my design, humidity is still quite low during summer, but the shade cloth does restrict airflow, offering some protection from hot drying winds.

The shade house offers better light than the veranda, while providing protection from sunburn. It also has the potential to function as a giant evaporative air conditioner by wetting the walls and floor. Summer soon arrived to test out my new growing conditions. Very minimal damage was incurred. Some placement changes were needed to provide more light for some species, and less for others. Most species incurred some root damage, but they quickly recovered after summer. I used a layer of 50% black shade cloth over the top for protection during summer. Terrestrial pots were no warmer than the ambient air, a good indication that the cover was doing its job.

It turns out there may be good reason why such delicate plants with no obvious water storage mechanism can survive such harsh conditions. It has the unfortunate name of Crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM). Plants produce sugars through photosynthesis. To do this, they need energy in the form of light and carbon dioxide from the air. The leaves are covered in tiny pores called stomata that open during the day to acquire carbon dioxide. While the stomata are open, the plant is vulnerable to water loss through the leaves in hot and dry conditions. CAM plants have solved this problem by effectively delaying photosynthesis until night time, when temperatures are more manageable. A number of studies have been done on Australian orchids to show that many species employ CAM photosynthesis. Despite their resilience to day time conditions, CAM plants are still vulnerable to our extreme summer nights, like January 2009's record minimum of 33.9°c. I've found that hosing down the plants and shade house at night helps to prevent or minimise damage.

The vast majority of species I've trialled are still alive and well today. Some are species that experienced growers have told me they find difficult to maintain year after year. Here are some of my observations on a range of species I grow.

Sarcochilus spathulatus
Climate Tolerance: Can be vulnerable to extreme heat, but once a good strong root system is established they seem to be quite hardy. They will show heat stress by dropping older leaves. Some root tip damage can occur in extreme heat, but is harmless.
Lighting: A northerly aspect suits them well. Keep them a good metre or more from the shade cloth to avoid sun damage to the leaves.
Watering & Feeding: They relish my feeding and watering scheme, producing roots twice the width of existing roots prior to purchase.
Growing Medium: Cork produces good results. I have also used *Melaleuca* species for their slightly better water holding properties and rough bark. Some sparse moss around the roots is helpful to protect them while they establish on the mount.
Growth Habit: Slow root and leaf growth over the coldest part of winter. Leaf growth is quite vigorous once temperatures start moving into the 20's. Growth slows during very hot weather, usually sometime in January. Growth resumes again in autumn, with a burst of new root growth. Spikes appear around April and flowering occurs during September.
Comments: A fantastic miniature species with small sprays of beautifully fragrant flowers. Once established they are easy to care for if watering is kept up over summer.

Sarcochilus hirticalcar
Climate Tolerance: This species does not seem to adapt to our dry climate. I have achieved good results using a cheap mini hot house inside my shade house. I kept the door closed, but not zipped up to allow minimal ventilation. The temperatures get very hot during summer, but they seem fine with it as long as the humidity is maintained. They will show heat stress by dropping older leaves, and will die very quickly. Root damage can occur if the humidity is too low, even in cool weather.
Lighting: A northerly aspect suits them well. Keep them a good metre or more from the shade cloth to avoid sun damage to the leaves.
Watering & Feeding: They relish my feeding and watering scheme, producing good strong roots.
Growing Medium: Cork produces good results. I have also used *Melaleuca* species for their slightly better water holding properties and rough bark.
Growth Habit: Growth occurs over the whole year due to the warm conditions of the mini hot house. It is slower over winter, but still quite active compared to other species. My plants were too small to flower last year.
Comments: A challenging species to maintain in Adelaide. Once conditions are favourable, growth is vigorous.

Sarcochilus falcatus
Climate Tolerance: One of the most heat tolerant of the small Sarcs. They will show heat stress by dropping older leaves. Some root tip damage can occur in extreme heat, but is harmless.
Lighting: I have grown them successfully in a range of lighting conditions, even with a southerly aspect. Even lighting over the course of the day will keep them from moving towards the strongest light. Keep them a good metre or more from the shade cloth to avoid sun damage to the leaves.
Watering & Feeding: They relish my feeding and watering scheme, producing roots twice the width of existing roots prior to purchase.
Growing Medium: Cork and *Callistemon* produce good results, but *Melaleuca* species seem to encourage an extensive root system. Some sparse moss around the roots is helpful to protect them while they establish on the mount.
Growth Habit: Slow root and leaf growth over the coldest part of winter. Leaf growth is quite vigorous once temperatures start moving into the 20's. Growth slows during very hot weather, usually sometime in January. Growth resumes again in autumn, with a burst of new root growth. Spikes appear around February-March and flowering occurs during September.
Comments: My favourite *Sarc*. species, I can't seem to stop collecting different forms. One of the hardiest species, they can be grown outdoors if watering is regular over summer. Regular feeding produces a vigorous root system and masses of sweet smelling flowers.

Sarcochilus olivaceous
Climate Tolerance: Can be vulnerable to extreme heat, but once a good strong root system is established and provided with a shady location, they are surprisingly resilient for a rainforest species. They will show heat stress by dropping older leaves. They can be nursed back to health from quite extensive heat damage, even from loss of the growth tip. Some root tip damage usually occurs in hot weather, but is harmless.
Lighting: A southerly aspect suits them well during summer, however brighter conditions may be needed in winter. Keep them a good metre or more from the shade cloth to avoid sun damage to the leaves.
Watering & Feeding: They relish my feeding and watering scheme.
Growing Medium: Cork produces good results. Moss around the roots is helpful to protect them.
Growth Habit: Slow root and leaf growth over the coldest part of winter. Leaf growth is quite vigorous once temperatures start moving into the 20's. Growth slows during very hot weather, usually sometime in January. Growth resumes again in autumn, with a burst of new root growth. Spikes appear around April and flowering occurs during September.
Comments: An interesting little rainforest species that adapts well to our climate with minimal protection. Plants are commonly sold and cheap, definitely worth a go.

Sarcochilus aequalis
Climate Tolerance: Very tolerant of extreme heat, showing almost no damage.
Lighting: A northerly aspect suits them well. Keep them a good metre or more from the shade cloth to avoid sun damage to the leaves.
Watering & Feeding: They relish my feeding and watering scheme, producing healthy roots.
Growing Medium: *Cyathea* (Tree Fern) mounts give good results. Some moss around the roots is helpful to protect them while they establish on the mount.
Growth Habit: Quite a slow growing species with virtually no leaf growth over the coldest part of winter, and minimal root growth. Leaf growth resumes once temperatures start moving into the 20's. Growth slows during very hot weather, usually sometime in January. Growth resumes again in autumn, with new root growth. Spikes appear around May and flowering occurs during September-October.
Comments: A slow but hardy species. Not the most spectacular of flowers, but the foliage looks great against a black *Cyathea* mount.

Rhinerrhiza divitiflora
Climate Tolerance: Very tolerant of extreme heat. Some root tip damage can occur in extreme heat, but is harmless.
Lighting: I have grown them successfully in a range of lighting conditions, even with a southerly aspect.
Watering & Feeding: They relish my feeding and watering scheme, producing healthy roots.
Growing Medium: *Cyathea* (Tree Fern) mounts give good results. Some moss around the roots is helpful to protect them while they establish on the mount.
Growth Habit: Quite a slow growing species with virtually no leaf growth over the coldest part of winter, however the roots remain active. Leaf growth resumes once temperatures start moving into the 20's. Growth slows during very hot weather, usually sometime in January. Growth resumes again in autumn, with new root growth. Spikes appear around June and flowering occurs during October.
Comments: Not commonly sold or seen in collections, but quite a tough species. It's a reliable flowerer, producing masses of spidery flowers. The only downside is the flowers only last for a few days. They have very unique raspy roots and tough leathery foliage.

Sarcochilus spathulatus showing healthy root growth

NOSSA Three Year Plan

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia inc, Rules of Association (2007) state that:
The objects of The NOSSA are to promote and engage in activities for the promotion and furtherance of: -
(a) the culture, propagation, conservation, knowledge and scientific study of the native orchids of Southern Australia and the Australasian region;
(b) The preservation of orchids as a species and their preservation within their native habitat.

Objective	***What we hope to achieve in the next 3 years***	***Activities***	***Who***
1. Promotion and furtherance of the culture and propagation, of native orchids of SA and Australasia	Members cultivate excellent quality plants	Monthly competitions Commentaries on judged plants Guest speakers Articles in journal and on the web Encourage new growers More extensive trading table Start a propagation interest group Wider publication of NOSSA articles	Show subcommittee
	Bigger brighter and better spring plant shows	Establish committee to plan and publicise show to include: Art and photographic displays Information desks for conservation and cultivation of orchids Potting demonstrations Slide shows/CDs Sale of native orchids Encourage new growers through Novice Grower awards.	
	More growers amongst the membership	Increased numbers of growers prepared to bench flowers Club buy seedlings and resell to members near cost Provide quality plant gifts to every new member Start a propagation interest group Seed bank in addition to tuber bank	Growers subcommittee
	Wider range of plants being grown	Flask, deflask and distribute rare species to members Legally obtain seeds/plants of rare species for propagation trials Expand tuber bank to encourage greater numbers of donors and growers. Field surveys with collection permits for seed to be flasked and seedlings distributed.	
2. The preservation and conservation of orchids as a species and within their native habitat	Encourage government to manage reserves better	Increased lobbying of Government/politicians Provide input to Government Departments in development of management plans for conservation areas	Conservation and Terrestrial study subcommittee
	Improve profile of Terrestrial study group	Establish as a formal sub group of NOSSA Publish reports of activities Undertake survey work for Government and other agencies NOSSA to be involved in scientific studies of native orchids Take part in recovery actions Encourage members to participate in removal of invasive species organised by other groups Provide orchid expertise for groups involved in habitat management Field trips Apply for grants for survey work Report on activities at each meeting	
	Assist private landowners to identify and protect native orchids on their properties	Prepare information package Give talks to landowner organisations Surveys for individual landowners	

3. Promotion and furtherance of NOSSA objectives through education of the community on the importance of Native Orchids in a sustainable environment	Promotion through participation in as many suitable events as possible	Support events like APS, appropriate Garden Shows, talks to interested groups	President
	Roster members to share their knowledge of native orchids	Guest speakers at meetings 10 minute member talks at meetings followed up with an article for the monthly journal	
	Establish a conservation fund	Support research activities of members Support research by Honours and PhD students	
	Undertake activities to encourage NOSSA members and the public to appreciate and value native orchids	Field trips open to public e.g. Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens, Advertise NOSSA activities more widely. Speakers at monthly meetings	Education subcommittee
	Encourage children to appreciate our native flora	Activity/puzzles for children Field trips appropriate for families	
	Support agencies to provide better education on native orchids	Develop a quality power point presentation on 20 most common orchids of SA Set up displays in community areas (libraries, schools) Make information available through handouts at libraries and c.	
	Develop a web site to support all of the above.	Publicise NOSSA activities Reports from Terrestrial group Information on orchids of SA Advertise social activities	Website subcommittee
	Publication of articles on aspects of native orchids	Orchids of SA published in print and on Web Monthly Journal	Editor
	Encourage involvement in National activities	Publicise National activities in meetings, journal and web site	
4.Promotion and furtherance of NOSSA objectives by maintaining an organisation to achieve the above objectives	Increase membership	Better care of new members Present name badges and plants to new members Survey new members to better understand why they are joining NOSSA Applications for membership available on the web and at all events	Members subcommittee
	Encourage participation in social activities	Annual dinner Xmas barbecue	
	Establish and maintain an up to date and active website	Website with application form Establish links with other web sites Meeting dates and speakers Publish articles on native orchids	Website subcommittee
	Maintain NOSSA funds at current levels	Increased membership Fundraising through activities such as plant sales, raffles and trading tables Contracting out NOSSA services. Maintain affordable membership fees	Executive committee
	Publish	Publish regular monthly journal by both hard copy and electronic version Publish reports on NOSSA surveys and similar activities of interest to members Publish CDs and DVDs	Editor

The Wonderful World of Native Orchids: A Family Day Out.

Take a Walk with the Native Orchid Society
to discover the native orchid treasures
of Mt Lofty Botanic Garden.
There are great activities for children
and there is no better place for a picnic!

When:
11am - 12noon
Wednesday 29th September
(School Holidays)
Monday 4th October
(Public Holiday)
and Saturday 30th October

Where:
Meet lower car park,
Mt Lofty Botanic Garden

Cost: Free!

Please book on 8222 9311

Dendrobium speciosum

Dendrobium **Awesome**

Dendrobium **Star Imp x Jesmond Sparkler**

Dendrobium **unknown**

Dendrobium **Ellen Star x Gai Ellen**

Dockrillia **[Duffy x (Fuliginosa x Convoluta)]**

***Dendrobium* Glen Star**

Bodo Jensen benched 3 plants of *Dendrobium* Glen Star that were of the same age and parentage. Despite receiving the same cultural attention they have grown at different rates and even the flowers are of different hues. Photos of flowers below are arranged left to right to correspond with the plants in the photo above

Pterostylis curta

Chiloglottis x Pescottiana

***Pterostylis* Dusky Duke**

Corysanthes diemenicus **and the 'red-eyed ghost'**

Corysanthes expansus **x** ***despectans***

Corysanthes **sp. fat dwarf x** ***expansa***

Corysanthes *from the special trip to Newland Head*
Photos by R Bates