



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.

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.

PRESIDENT

Geoffrey Borg:

Email: geo34g@gmail.com

SECRETARY

John Bartram

Email: nossaorchids@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Kris Kopicki

COMMITTEE

Bob Bates

Robert Lawrence

EDITOR

David Hirst

14 Beaverdale Avenue

Windsor Gardens SA 5087

Telephone 8261 7998

Email: david.hirst2@bigpond.com

TREASURER

Gordon Ninnies

Telephone

mob.

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr R. Hargreaves†

Mr H. Goldsack†

Mr R. Robjohns†

Mr J. Simmons†

Mr D. Wells†

Mrs C Houston

Mr. L. Nesbitt

Mr G. Carne

Mr R Bates

Mr R Shooter

Mr W Dear

Conservation Officer: Thelma Bridle / Bob Bates

Field Trips Coordinator: Wendy Hudson. Ph: 8251 2762, Email: wendyudson2@bigpond.com

Trading Table: Judy Penney

Show Marshall: vacant

Registrar of Judges: Les Nesbitt

Tuber bank Coordinator:

Jane Higgs ph. 8558 6247; email: jhiggs@activ8.net.au

New Members Coordinator:

Vacant

PATRON Mr L. Nesbitt

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia, while taking all due care, take no responsibility for loss or damage to any plants whether at shows, meetings or exhibits.

Views or opinions expressed by authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the management committee. We condone the reprint of any articles if acknowledgment is given

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

Front cover from an original drawing of *Prasophyllum elatum* by Robert Lawrence. Used with his kind permission.



JOURNAL OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

APRIL 2013 VOL. 37 NO 3

CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL

Title	Author	Page
Diary Dates		24
March Meeting		25
For Your Information – NOSSA News		25
Culture Notes April – May-	Les Nesbitt	27
Why the genus <i>Speculantha</i> Jones & Clem does not belong in <i>Pterostylis</i>	Bob Bates	28
One Year Later - The story of an orchid website	Helen Lawrence	29
NOSSA walk in Jupiter Creek Gold Diggings	Bob Bates	31
Winners March 2013 Picture Competition	Rosalie Lawrence	33

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

NEXT MEETING 23 APRIL 2013

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 23 April at 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 at the April Meeting will be Graham Zerbe on "Australian Native Epiphytes".

DIARY DATES

Saturday 19 May

Parsons Beach

Diplodium, Acianthus

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

April 30th – At the home of David Hirst. 14 Beaverdale Ave Windsor Gdns 5087

Judging results for March Meeting

Epiphytes benched

Species: *Dendrobium lithicola*; *Den. schneiderae*; *Dockrillia cucumerina*; *Sarcochilus hirticalcar*.

Hybrids: *Dendrobium* Annes Rainbow Surprise; *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon; *Dockrillia* [(lingiforme x racemosa) x pugioniform]

Terrestrials

None benched

March Speakers

The meeting was a question & answer night with Les Nesbitt, Kris Kopicki, John Gay, Noel Oliver & Bodo Jensen taking the questions. All the questions were answered well.

John Gay described some novel ways of potting kiki's or young epiphytes. Place several small pots inside a larger pot to stop them from being knocked over and this also helps to retain moisture in the small pots longer. Drill a hole in a block of wood and place the plant in the hole and suspend over a container of fine gravel and filled with water into which the roots will grow.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

Upcoming Field Trips

All field trips commence at 10:00 AM

Field Trip Co-ordinator, Wendy Hudson can be contacted on 8251 2762 or 0434 863 969.

Date	Site	Orchids	Meeting Place
Saturday 19 May	Parsons Beach	Diplodium, Acianthus	Meet at Urimbirra Wildlife Park, cnr. Adelaide & Welch Roads, Victor Harbor.
Saturday 22 June	Hale CP	Diplodium spp. Acianthus Urochilus	Meet at Victoria Creek Reserve, cnr. South Para Road & Mt Crawford Road. * Please note this may be cancelled if the drought continues into May.
Saturday 22 June		TBA	
Wednesday 3 July		Morialta CP	<i>Bunochilus</i> , <i>Diplodium</i> , <i>Urochilus</i> , <i>Cyrtostylis</i> , <i>Corysanthes</i>
Sunday 18 August		Belair NP	<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>
Saturday 31 August or Sunday 1 September		Private property, Victor Harbor	
Friday 6 & Saturday 7 September		Camp: Halbury	<i>Oligochaetochilus lepidus</i>
Saturday 14 September		Mambray Creek	<i>Oligochaetochilus</i> <i>Arachnorchis</i> <i>Prasophyllum</i>
Sunday 20 October		Scott CP - Kuitpo	Sun orchids
Sunday 16 November		Kuitpo	Duck orchids

Leaders required: If you are able and would like to lead any of the above field-trips, please email wendyHUDSON2@bigpond.com or telephone 8251 2762. Thank you.

Note: Tours will be led by Bodo Jensen, NOSSA Member and Botanical Gardens Guide, in the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens on Wednesday 2 October, Monday 7 October (long-weekend) and Saturday 2 November. We have been fortunate to have Bodo's support in the past and we appreciate his ongoing help.

NEXT JUDGES MEETING

Next judges meeting will be at Les Nesbitt's place on Saturday 4th May commencing at 9.30am.

THREATENED PLANT ACTION GROUP (TPAG) WEEDING DATES

NOSSA members are invited to assist TPAG members with weeding. It is advisable to check with Tim Jury just prior to the date, or ask him to send you an email, in case weather or other factors change the event.

Tim Jury – ph 7127 4166 or tpag@ncssa.asn.au

Thelma Bridle – ph 8384 4174 or t.p.bridle@bigpond.com

As there are 2 sites in Belair where weeding takes place, contact either Tim or Thelma Bridle for meeting place. Entry to Belair is free for this event.

Sat May 11th 9.30am Weeding of *Pterostylis cucullata* in Belair NP.

Sat June 8th 9.30am Weeding of *Pterostylis cucullata* in Belair NP.

Wed Sept 18th 9.30am Weeding of *Pterostylis arenicola* on Grange Golf Course.

Sat Oct 5th 9.30am Weeding of *Pterostylis cucullata* in Belair NP.

TPAG always greatly appreciates the assistance provided by NOSSA members.

Orchids for Sale

Australian natives including *Sarcs*, *Dens speciosum*;

Also benching, pots etc

Must sell due to moving house (end of month) **BUT BE QUICK!**

Ring Noel Oliver on 8443 4945 or mob. 0418 854 945

APS Plant Sale

The APS plant sale at the Adelaide Showgrounds, **Saturday 20th April & Sunday 21st April**, clashes with the Festival of Flowers at Enfield this year. Some of our usual APS supporters have commitments at Enfield. Who is prepared to set up and staff a NOSSA stand at APS? A decision will need to be made at the March NOSSA meeting.

Entry to the Plant Sales is via Rose Terrace Entrance. There is a gold coin donation

2013 MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Members who wish to pay 2013 Membership Fees electronically should e-mail NOSSA Treasurer on

nossatreasurer@hotmail.com

You will receive banking details so that you can complete your subscription. Please remember to include in your e-mail any change of address details.

Marj Sheppard, Treasurer

Terrestrials

Day length is down to less than 11 hours now and the sun is much lower in the sky. Shadows from buildings and fences are longer. All extra shading should have been removed weeks ago. Some pots may need moving into brighter light. All pots should be in their growing positions for the coming winter. Real rain at Easter wet pots through to the bottom and put tubers into their annual growth phase. Weeds are germinating and need to be pulled out while still small. Top up the needle layer on pots if necessary and fill any holes with soil mix. Shift the pot if drips off the roof are boring holes in the mix. Greenhoods are appearing so apply a little weak soluble fertiliser over their new leaves.

Some early *Diplodinium*'s will be in flower. Move the pots under cover before the flowers open or the weight of rain drops on the flowers will make the tall thin stems bend over. Sprinkle seed on mother pots in April-May. This task is especially important for fungus dependent orchids as they may not multiply if left alone. April is the optimum month for deflasking terrestrials. Any not done by month end should be left until September. Autumn is an exciting time as terrestrials wake up after the summer dormancy.

Place a few snail baits around or your orchids will be eaten off before you see them. Remove any plants that show virus symptoms of mottled or curled up leaves. Infected diuris leaves will have kinks or thickenings instead of straight parallel sided leaves. A short wire tool with a hook on the end can be inserted alongside a diseased plant and turned so the hook is under the tuber. Then the entire plant can be lifted out and destroyed.

Epiphytes

Stop fertilising dendrobiums after Anzac Day. Ease back on the watering as evaporation rates are low and there will often be dew in the morning. Orchids that need a dry winter rest period must be under cover now. Best example is *Cymbidium canaliculatum* that is not watered at all until spring. Some of the hardcane dendrobiums like *Den. biggibum* and *Den. canaliculatum* are also dried off for the winter. Buds will be appearing on *Den. speciosum*. If green buds have not burst out of the dry sheaths on top of the canes by the end of May then there will be no flowers this year. *Sarcochilus* like the cool weather and will be growing strongly. Weak fertiliser can be applied to them. Keen growers will select their best orchid plants and move them to a sheltered, bright, covered flowering area so the buds can develop without the risk of damage from wind, rain & hail.

Keep a sharp eye out for slugs and snails and grubs that are very hungry now. Examine root tips and flower spikes for damage. We are fortunate that dendrobium beetles do not survive in South Australia. Cut off old flower spikes before the new spikes develop because it is harder to do the night before a show when the new flowers are open.

Why the genus *Speculantha* Jones & Clem does not belong in *Pterostylis*

Number 4 in a series by **R Bates**

The genus *Taurantha* (type species *Pterostylis parviflora*) is a very distinct genus with many features atypical of the true green-hood genus *Pterostylis*.

The classic reference to the genus is *Jones & Clem 2002 in Australian orchid Research vol 4*

Jones & Clem discuss the distinctions between the two genera and the name *Speculantha* itself tells us one as it comes from *speculum* Greek a mirror and *anthos* a flower reminding us that the many flowers of *Speculantha* spp. face each other as in a mirror while in *Pterostylis* this can not happen as there is only one flower per plant in that genus.

The second distinction lies in the multiflowered nature of *Speculantha* compared to the normal single bloom of *Pterostylis*. This leads to another difference between the genera as like many multiflowered orchid species the flowers are very small in *Speculantha* and quite large in *Pterostylis*.

Distinction four is the dimorphic nature of *Speculantha*, ie flowering and non flowering plants look quite different while there is no obvious difference between sterile and flowering plants of *Pterostylis*.

The fifth distinction lies in the labellum of *Speculantha* being completely hidden within the hood whereas that of *Pterostylis* although mostly within the hood is certainly visible at a glance.

The sixth difference lies in the exclusive seminal odour of *Speculantha* flowers compared to the odourless flowers of *Pterostylis*.

That indeed suggests a different pollination strategy for the two genera.

Speculantha differs from most of the *Pterostylidinae* in lacking barrier trichomes within the flower.

Other distinctive features of a *Speculantha* labellum include its basal appendage and its trilobed and or penicillate apex and of course its tiny size.

There are many differences between the choice of habitat and soil type in *Speculantha* and *Pterostylis* spp., the former prefer nitrogen deficient poorly drained swamp soils while all *Pterostylis* require much better soils, often very fertile, well structured soils in forest or woodland.

The tenth difference is one of habit, the pedicels of *Speculantha* elongate markedly after flowering while in *Pterostylis* elongation occurs before flowering.

The geographic range of each is similar in Australia but whereas *Pterostylis* species outside of Australia are numerous and there are no *Speculantha* outside of eastern temperate Australia.

The twelfth main difference is that of flowering season, *Speculantha* in late summer, and autumn while *Pterostylis* are late winter, spring and early summer blooming. This is a very common factor in separating other vaguely similar orchid genera ie *Corunastylis* and *Prasophyllum*, *Caladenia* and *Leporella*



The images above show the features of mirrored and tiny flowers
 With much reduced petals and invisible labellum
 All very un-*Pterostylis* like!
 DNA studies place *Speculantha* well outside true *Pterostylis*

It is now well past the time that *Speculantha* should have been universally accepted. Let's be consistent like the rest of the World and accept that the *Pterostylidinae* is more than one genus.

One Year Later

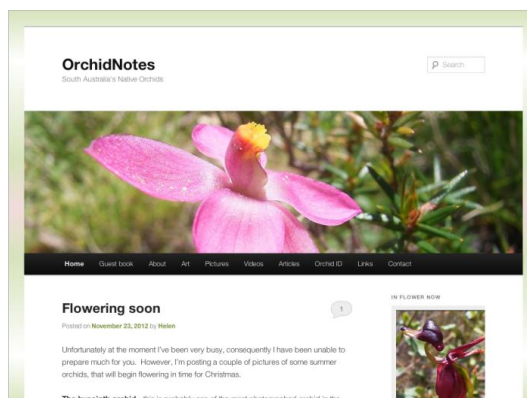
The story of an orchid website

By Helen Lawrence

Through OrchidNotes, our personal website, (established by my family) I have discovered the joys of meeting an online community, and sharing my experiences about orchids, from photographing them while being attacked by mosquitoes, to some of my success at growing orchids, and the excitement I experienced when I first saw and photographed the *Jonesiopsis* or Wispy Spider Orchids. It has provided me the opportunity to share my love for orchids with others, while juggling a busy study schedule.

OrchidNotes was launched less than a year ago, as part of an experience to learn about managing a website, and from it I have come to appreciate how much time and devotion is required. However it has been a fun experience, and whenever I publish a post, I'm always

OrchidNotes now has over one hundred subscribers in less than a year.

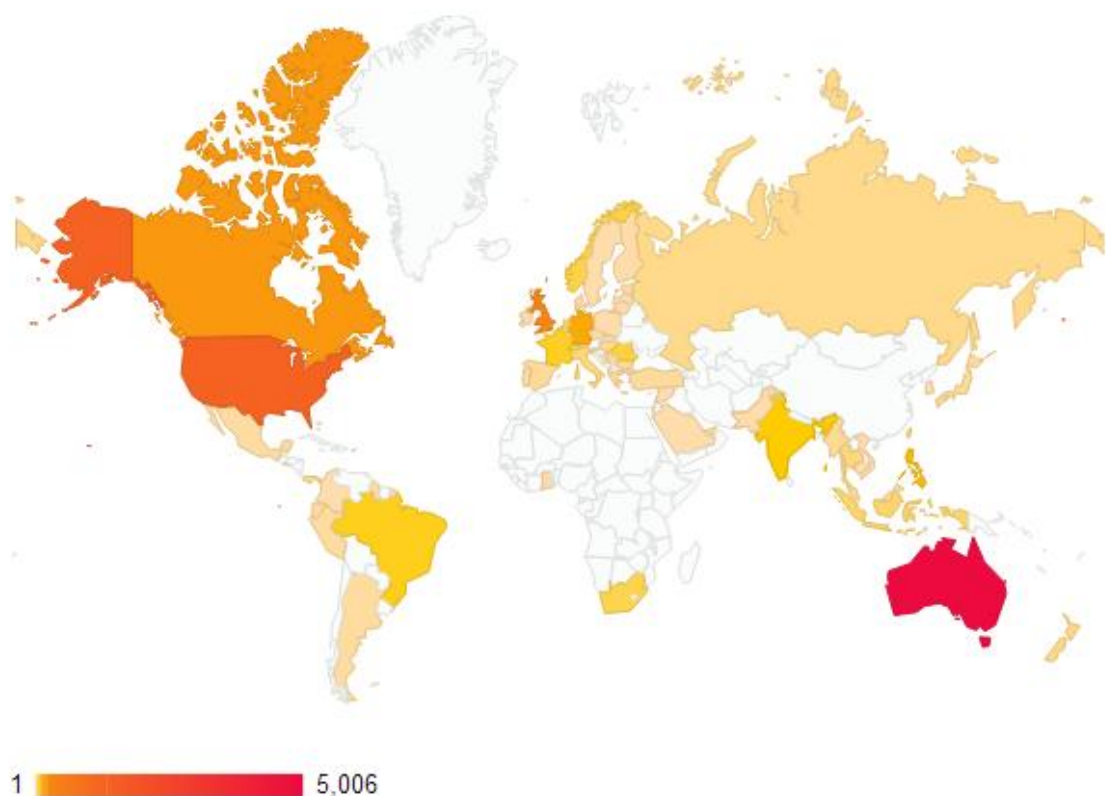


looking forward to hearing what people have to say, and this is what makes the experience most rewarding, receiving instant feedback from readers. Watching OrchidNotes grow has been a fascinating process. Over the last year, the website has gained a following of over one hundred, and they all come from different backgrounds and countries. Most of the views, not surprisingly, are from Australia, but people have visited it from United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Philippines, India, Brazil, France, Romania, Norway... with a total of 75 countries. I've been intrigued that one of my main commenter is actually from Norway, and through them, I've been able to learn a bit about the orchids in Norway, and they have been able to enjoy pictures of our orchids, when the Norwegian orchids are covered in snow! The website on average gains between ten to twenty views every day, and has received a total of 5,000 views since it was launched in May 2012.

The topics covered on OrchidNotes tend to be fairly varied. Most of what I write is informal and chatty, and my observations about orchids. There is a series of posts called "Know Them" where I write about individual species, mainly the common orchids, and tell a bit about their distinctive features and habitat. I've also published videos, and some artwork of orchids. More recently Robert Lawrence began writing for OrchidNotes, and has been exploring the idea of citizen science with respect to orchids, and I highly recommend you check out what he has written as it is quite interesting.



A picture I published of a Jonesiopsis and a mosquito that was annoying me. It was unplanned and only discovered when I returned home!



Fairly recently I started a second website, which is just a gallery of photographs of orchids all listed under species names. This site is more about sharing pictures of orchids rather than writing about orchids. It will be rather static in comparison to OrchidNotes but has the aim of providing a resource for people to compare their photographs of orchids against my pictures, and hopefully be able to give direction in identification. The link is at the end of this article.



There have been others who have websites focused around orchids, including forums where members have an online discussion. OrchidWire is a site that I would highly recommend. It is a directory of all the orchid websites around the world, and it is easy to find any websites site and can be quite interesting browsing through it. It is a fabulous resource for researchers and those just wanting to learn about orchids from growing to identification.

Links:

www.orchidnotes.wordpress.com, www.saorchids.wordpress.com, www.orchidwire.com

NOSSA walk in Jupiter Creek Gold Diggings March 27 2013

R Bates

Twelve members enjoyed the adventure of hiking through a landscape pocked with deep vertical shafts, looking for midge orchids, and yes that is all we expected to find after a very dry summer and early autumn; 25mm of rain since Christmas compared to 125 mm during the same period last year.

Showing the views of OrchidNotes from 75 countries.

That's right, too little rain for *Eriochilus*, no fire to bring on the *Leporella* and too long since rain for the tail end of the hyacinth orchids.

Yet we did find midge orchid plants (*Corunastylis* species Hills) within 20metres of the road at the south gate. This area once had 1,500 residents with shops a pub and shanty town, even in more recent times was home for a dozen families in the desperate days of the 1930's depression. Unlike today people and orchids co-existed as seeds germinated on fresh soil dug out of the shafts. Today there are not as many midge orchids as in years past but a few with tiny red and green flowers prompted much discussion on their biology. All the autumn orchids here have the same ecology, flower spikes straight out of hard ground, more after fires and dependent on rain for onset of flowering.

Our guide mentioned the need for torches up ahead as we were heading underground. After the tiny midge orchids we were promised plants with much taller flower spikes and big pink flowers lay ahead. Was our guide joking? No, we soon spotted them from a distance, and you may have guessed that with Easter just a few days away they would be Easter lilies *Amaryllis belladonna*, a reminder of gardens from the 1930's.

What a contrast they made with the midge orchids, in colour and size, yet both had flower spikes emerging straight from the rock hard soil.

As promised we were soon under ground (ostensibly looking for underground orchids) that's right we needed the torches to follow the Heysen trail along a horizontal mine shaft and up a ladder to the top of a vertical shaft to escape.

I had to admire a few ladies who went thru without torches, true troglodytes all.

(Our leader took his nonagenarian mother few a few days later and well done to her climbing the ladder to the top of a deep shaft at her age).

Upon emerging above ground again we were greeted by the call "lots of midge orchids here" and several tall specimens were seen in quartz gravel.

Prior to the 1970's there were three different midge orchids here, still two in the 1970's, but just one today. The *Corunastylis* sp. 'Jupiter Creek' was thought by some to be an indicator of gold near the surface. If that was the case it would explain their disappearance as since the advent of metal detectors there has been massed digging with spades thru the area and the finding of nuggets has a tailed off.

Two of our members declared that they had indeed located small gold nuggets here some thirty years earlier.

We did note lots of sun orchids in seed and at least ten species have been recorded at Jupiter Creek since 1960 including *T benthamiana* the leopard sun orchid after fire. The final orchid species seen was *Disa bracteata* as remarkably tall specimens in seed near the old sluice ponds.



Corunastylis sp Hills with pollinating fruit flies by NOSSA's Ken Bayley

Winners March 2013 Picture Competition

Rosalie Lawrence

There were nine entries this month plus a beautiful petite point by Lorraine Badger which came equal second with her *Thelymitra luteocilium* hybrid (see landscape thumbnail below). The winner was Claire Chesson's *Dipodium roseum* or Common Spotted Hyacinth Orchid.



This common saprophytic orchid is possibly our most photographed species. *D. roseum* stems and flowers are very variable in colour. Stems can be dark red through to light green and the flowers can range from deep pinks through to pale or white where except for the stripe of the labellum they could be mistaken for *D. pardalinum*. The buds of this species resembles asparagus and if the bud does not have spots, then it can be identified as *D. roseum* prior to flowering but as in the case of this picture identification could not be confirmed until the flowers appeared as the buds of *D. pardalinum* are also spotted.

For those who are unable to attend below are thumbnail pictures of the other entries.



More information about our orchids can be found in *South Australia's Native Orchids* DVD-ROM, which can be purchased from NOSSA

Remember entries can be posted to the NOSSA mail box or emailed to nossaorchids@hotmail.com or nossa.enquiries@gmail.com



Dendrobium Hilda Poxon



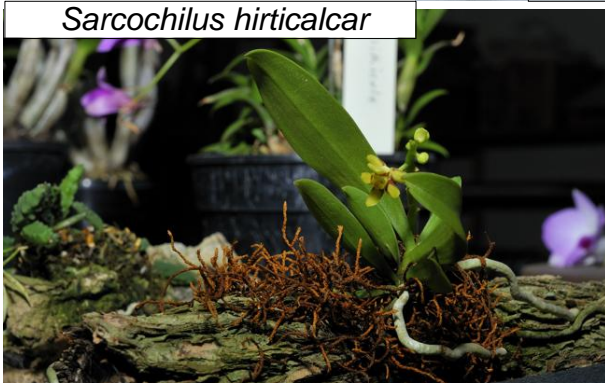
Dendrobium Annes Rainbow Surprise



Dendrobium schneiderae



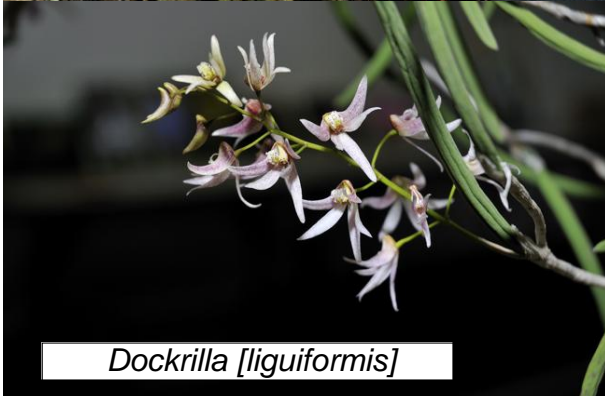
Dockrilla cucumerina



Sarcochilus hirticalcar



Dendrobium lithicola



Dockrilla [liguiformis]

