

Group Facilitator—Allan Watson

aj.watson@xtra.co.nz

Group Editor—Alan Locke

lochaven999@gmail.com 8 Grey Street, Kihikihi Te Awamutu 3800 Ph 078713721 Vol 1 no 2 September 2018

Message from the Group Facilitator: Allan Watson

It has been great to see the facebook group grow to 104 over the last few months. We now can almost say we are a small but global group flying the NZ Miltoniopsis Growers banner.

Over recent months there has been a good flow of info across the group and some amazing photos have been shared.

Despite the global interest our prime objective is the promotion and culture associated with Miltoniopsis in New Zealand.



To start the ball rolling as has been commented, we created a facebook page, followed by a Newsletter edited by Alan Locke and I was lucky enough to have an article selected for the 2017 Orchid Council of New Zealand Year book titled "Miltoniopsis gets a rebirth. "

It should also be noted that in 2017 only one Miltoniopsis received and OCNZ award. I was lucky, it was one of mine and I was also fortunate to be able to name and register it.

Mps Taranaki Pride OCNZ/ AM (Mps. Jules Hye de Crom x Mps. Elizabeth Castle)

During the process I found that this plant had the original label indicating Mps Charlesworthii was in the cross but according to the RHS this was a cultivar name for Mps Jules Hye de Crom and the cross was indeed as the above text indicates. RHS is currently via the aid of a computer program re addressing all past crosses to minimise the current

double ups and cultivar mistakes within the current register.

We are also wish to establish a pollen bank this year as part of the NZ Miltoniopsis development program. Find out how you can participate by contacting me at aj.watson@xtra.co.nz

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and please feel free to copy it for others you feel may have an interest in Miltoniopsis. Also please give some thought about presenting either photos or a story about your involvement with the genera Miltoniopsis. Let's get more Mps awarded in 2018 -19 and if we get enough interest we can set up a Miltoniopsis only display at the 2019 show in Palmerston North.

Editor's Ramble.

The first issue seemed to be well received in a number of countries besides New Zealand. The interest in Miltoniopsis is continuing to grow, the NZ Miltoniopsis Growers Facebook page has now got 118 members—up from 90 just 3 months ago. Here in New Zealand, we are just coming out of a Winter that has been rather dull and wet. Although the night temperatures have not been as low as normal, the day temps. have not been so high—no sun, so resulting in a Winter that has been rather harsh on this genera with a lot of new growth rot.

On another subject, thank you to people like Jeana who have contributed to this issue. There is only a limited amount of archived material available to me, so the future of this publication will depend on the contributions of you, the readers. So please share your ideas, successes and failures—it is by sharing that we learn, and the more we can find out about our chosen orchid genera, the better we will succeed.

Good luck, good growing and breeding ;-) ...Alan



Something to aim for Lucho Beltan's Miltoniopsis vexillaria



3

Miltoniopsis [Mps.] roezlii (syn. Miltonia roezlii)

ORIGIN/HABITAT: Colombia and Panama. This orchid is found in the Dagua River Valley of northwest Colombia. Plants grow in warm, humid habitats at 1000-3300 ft. (300-1000 m). Miltoniopsis rozellii also grows in the coastal mountains of extreme southwest Panama. This is the warmest growing Miltoniopsis species.

PLANT SIZE AND TYPE: An 11-14 in. (27-36 cm) sympodial epiphyte.

PSEUDOBULB/STEM: 2.0-2.5 in. (5.0-6.5 cm) tall. The oblong to egg-shaped pseudobulbs are laterally compressed with rather sharp edges. They are almost hidden by several pairs of distichous, overlapping, longitudinally folded sheaths, of which the upper ones bear leaflike blades. Growths are closely spaced on a short rhizome.



LEAVES: 9-12 in. (22-30 cm) long by 0.6 in. (1.5 cm) wide. A single sharply pointed, pale bluish green, linear to strap-shaped leaf is carried at the apex of the pseudobulb. The blades on the basal sheaths are similar to the apical leaf in shape and color but may be somewhat smaller.

INFLORESCENCE: Up to 12 in. (30 cm) long. The slender, erect to slightly arching flower spike emerges from the base of a recently matured pseudobulb along the axil of an upper basal sheath. 1-2 inflorescences may be produced by each flowering growth.

FLOWERS: 2-5 per inflorescence. The flowers all open at about the same time, last for several weeks, and are delightfully fragrant. The petals and lateral sepals are widely spread and open very flat, producing a flower that measures up to 3-4 in. (8-10 cm) across. The dorsal sepal and lip, however may be spreading or curve forward from the base. Sepals and petals are white, usually with a purple blotch at the base. of each petal. The lip is also white but has an orange-yellow disc at its base. The egg shaped to oblong sepals have narrow bases, rather sharply pointed tips, and are up to 2 in. (5 cm) long by 0.8 in. (2 cm) wide. The petals are similar in shape and length to the sepals but are up to 1 in. (2.5 cm) wide. The broadly heart-shaped lip widens from a narrow, wedge-shaped base to a broadly rounded apex with notch in the center



of the apical margin which has a small, sharply pointed, triangular projection at its center. Overall, the lip is 1.2-2.0 in. (3-5 cm) long by 1.4-2.2 in. (3.5-5.5 cm) wide. There is a small, erect, hornlike projection on each side at the base. The callus at the base of the lip is made up of 3 raised ridges with 2 small teeth in front of them. The small, erect column has obsolete wings.

Miltoniopsis roezlii —— illustrated by Lindenia

ROEZLI man, r.

The Species Heritage

Miltoniopsis roezlii

This species has been the second most used in hybridizing with 88 F1 crosses and a total of 2472 progeny

When crossed with Mps. Vexillaria (right) producted Mps. Bleuana—reg. in 1889—far right

The clone illustrated is Mps. Bleuana 'New Tetraploid Alba Strain'

Photo by Andy Easton

Mps. Bleuana illustrated by Dictionnare Icon. des Orchidees (1889)









Some of our modern –day hybrids that have a large percentage of Mps. Roezlii in their background. Left—Mps. Rouge

49.6% Mps. Roezlii

Left—Mps. Red Tide 39.9% Mps. roezlii



Mps. Breathless 'From Love' 51.3% Mps. roezlii



Mps. Newton Falls 37.5% mps. roezlii

Miltoniopsis

by Poul Hansen

(from notes taken by Jean Ikeson at SOOS in May 2013 and written up for COC by Inge Poot)

Poul first fell in love with this genus of orchids in 1977 when he visited Beall's Orchids and was wowed by a whole greenhouse section dedicated to this genus and was dazzled by their gorgeous blooms. The three most spectacular species are found mostly along the



ocean facing slopes of the mountains along the northern Columbian coast resemble giant pansies and hence carry the common name of pansy orchids, while the whole genus may also be called Columbian Miltonias. This genus used to be included in the genus Miltonia, a genus now restricted to the smaller flowered and drier, brighter growing pansy orchids found further south and east in Brazil. The two genera can only be crossed with great difficulty and thus provide an empirical confirmation of the findings of DNA analysis. There appear to be 6 species in the genus. The map shows the places where the six species are found. Note that Mps bismarkii is found on the eastern foothills of the Andes in Peru, about as far south of the equator as the rest of the species are north of it. Mps santanaei is found a bit inland along the Venezuelan coast and Mps warscewiczii is found along the western coast Costa Rica and in Panama, Central America.

Miltoniopsis in New Zealand







Miltoniopsis santanaei

LH: 'Snowflake' AM-AOS AQ+ 4.9

RH: photo by Brian Monk, OW 10.0

Habitat - Northeast Venezuela, and possibly a few also in Colombia(?) and northern Ecuador(?) in humid forests at an elevation of 1100-3300 ft. (325-1000 m). Daytime tem-

peratures in its habitat are 82-87F (28-30C) and drop to 64-67F (18-19C) at night. The flowers are white, about 2 in (5 cm) across and much like Mps.

roezlii but minus the dark eye patches on the petals and it has a kidney-shaped disc on the lip. There is a greenish tinge at the base of the sepals and petals. The lip has kidney shaped yellow patch near its base. According to Ivan Komoda the flowers have a lovely distinct perfume. A caution: many plants labeled Mps roezlii 'alba' are really Mps santanaei.



Miltoniopsis roezlii

Photo F. Talamo,

J. Portillo,

RH: Soc. Colomb. de Orchid., OW 10.0

This species is found in northwest Colombia and extreme southwest Panama. It is found at an elevation of 1000- 3300 ft (300-1000 m). It is humid at all times where it grows. Daytime temperature is 77- 80F (25-27C) dropping at night to Night 67-68F (19-20C). It is the warmest growing species of the group but it will tolerate cooler temperatures. Inflorescences will carry from 2 to 5 flowers per inflorescence. Flowers are 3-4 in (7-10 cm) across and are highly variable in colour intensity and form. To repeat: many plants labeled Mps roezlii 'alba' are really Mps santanaei



Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis

LH photo: Art Vogel OW10.0

RH photo: Judith Higham AQ+4.9 COCNews September 2013 - 5 -

Grows in North East Colombia in humid temperate forests at an elevation of 4000-5000ft

(1200-1500m). Day time temperatures are 74-76F (23-25C). Night

time temperatures drop to 63-65F (17-18C). Inflorescences carry 2-4 lovely dainty flowers per inflorescence. Flowers have a delightful scent. This species is responsible for the waterfall patterns in the beautiful hybrids.



Miltoniopsis bismarckii, ('Pink Doll' CBR, photo: Ivan Komoda, AQ+ 4.9)

Its habitat is in the centre of Peru, in tropical moist forests at 3300ft (1000m) elevation. It grows at daytime temperatures of 81-84F (27-29C) and nights of 59- 62F (15-17C). This species was not discovered until 1985. Flowers are 1.6in (4cm) across, dark to light pink and rarely white, 3 to 5 flowers per inflorescence. The inflorescence looks somewhat like a small version of Mps. vexillaria with a low flower count. Poul Hansen finds it a little more difficult to grow but charming. The slide presentation showed a white and a purple clone that were owned by Dr McGregor and they have now died. Unfortunately no seed was obtained from them.



Miltoniopsis warscewiczii also known as Mps endresii 'Gloria Mia' CHM-AOS AQ+ 4.9, unnamed clone; Art Vogel OW 10.0

Habitat: found in Costa Rica and Panama at quite high elevation of 4600- 6550ft. (1400-2000m). It is much cooler growing and takes a little more shade than the other species. Daytime temperatures are 66-70F (18-22C). Night-time 49-51F (10-12C) The species produces larger pale green plants with several inflorescences

per growth. There are 3 to 5 white flowers per inflorescence. It is somewhat difficult to grow but produces strong easy to grow hybrids, but the hybrids tend to be huge plants!



Miltoniopsis vexillaria:

Colour close to the clone 'Memoria G. D. Owen'

LH photo by P. Harding OW 10.0,

RH photo: The Orchid Album, Warner OW 10.0

Habitat is in Colombia and northern Ecuador at 4250-7050 ft. (1300-2150m) Temperatures are 78-82F (25-28C) during the day and 57-59F (14-15C) at night. They are found in isolated patches along the edges of dense rain forest. Characterizing the environment are lots of thick mists and air movement and very little seasonal weather change. Plants have characteristic blue-green leaves. Flowers are variable in colour, from white to dark pink Inflorescences may have as few flowers as three and as many as fourteen flowers per inflorescence. The clone Mps vexillaria 'Memoria G. D. Owen' had a black mask and is said to have originated from a small section of Colombia. All black-masked cultivars in cultivation originated from this plant. Such plants are used to hybridize blackmasked hybrids with Mps roezlii. Some

authors feel that the 'Mem. G.D. Owen' clone is actually a man-made hybrid with a now extinct unknown species. Alba forms of the species come from Colombia. The clone 'Susana' FCC-AOS had huge light rose-pink flowers 10.2 X 13.1 cm in natural spread.

8

Hybridizing:

Crossing Mps vexillaria with Mps. roezlii creates the hybrid Mps Venus which sports wonderful waterfall patterns on the lip. It has been remade with the Mps vexillaria clone 'Poul's Super Obscuro' AM-AOS, a very dark pink, full clone and the results were very nice! Poul Hansen's remake of Venus garnered Marie Riopelle four awards from one flask, from 1991 to 2001!



Miltoniopsis Venus 'Eugene' HCC-AOS AQ+, 4.9

Mps Carl Withner a cross of roezlii X phalaenopsis produced nice plants with the petal spots of roezlii and the waterfall lip pattern of phalaenopsis. The clone 'Doc' earned an HCC-AOS for Ingrid Ostrander from Brentwood, BC.

From the cross Mps Kennie, Venus X vexillaria Poul got three good clones out of one flask, which is what you should expect to get on average from today's crosses. The clone 'Diana' was just magnificent! It was shown by Poul with 10 inflorescences with 62 flowers and buds! The flowers were a medium pink with dark pink veins and stipples on the lip. The stingy judges gave it only an HCC but no cultural award, maybe because so many inflorescences were still in bud....





Mps Mario Van Peebles, Mps Goodhope Bay X Mps Hajime Ono produced stunning reds

with striking white-outline waterfall patterns. Even the unawarded clone grown by Poul from seed was very lovely.

Mps Jean Inouye, Maui Sunset X Tropical Punch did not get any awards, but has produced nice full yellows. The clones 'Dandy Lion' and 'Sunrise' were very round and full and had pretty contrasting deep yellow masks with faint red lines

and a darker red central spot with darker lines radiating from it in the center. 'Sunrise' had deeper red markings.

Mps Hoover and Dolly Willis, Saffron Surprise X Maui Kiss is a wonderful Ivan Komodo cross. The clone 'Sun Goddess' was a very full, flat pale yellow with a stunning black-red flying-bat-shaped mask! The clone 'Summer Heat' had the same shape and colour as 'Sun Goddess' but also had a wide medium red band along the middle of the lip and a deep red overlay on the petals leaving only a narrow pale yellow picotee. This clone has an unpublished AM-AOS.

The flower shown of the cross Mps Lemon Drop (Lila Feameyhough X Maui Sunset) was much yummier than a lemon drop! It was yellow with a light rust mask and deep red overlay at the proximal half of the

petals.

Some of the next slides shown illustrated what can be had in stunning waterfalls in today's hybrids. One of the most dramatic flowers were two clones of **Mps Hajime Ono** with deep red sepals and petals with a white picotee, a white-edged central red vein, a white lip with a very large "dripping" redblack mask and irregular rose flushing along the margin.



Another lovely cross, illustrated with two clones was **Mps Tome Yokoyama**. The clone 'Black Swallow' was similar to Hajime Ono, but with wider picotees on the sepals and a smaller mask. The other clone 'Maui Spice' also lacked the rose flushing along the lip margin of the Hajime Onos shown.

The **Mps Steve Skoien** 'Lavender Ice' was very pretty. The sepals and petals were an even vi-

brant rose-pink, with a central line of deep red dashes outlined in white, a white lip with a red-black mask with irregular dashes extending from it almost to the faintly blushed margin.

Mps Adele was also illustrated with two clones, one pink with a white picotee and on the lip a white area on the proximal half that has a black-red mask superimposed onto it. The other clone had white flowers, the petals had a large lilac flush on the proximal half and the lip had an almost black "dripping" mask. Lovely!

Mps Maui Spring 'Happy Valley' AM-AOS has a full, very flat white flower. The petals had a deep red overlay leaving a white picotee. The sepals had the proximal half flushed red. The lip had a light red overlay leaving a fairly wide picotee and on top of the flush was a small black-red mask with irregular-ly interrupted extensions that were outlined in white. COCNews September 2013 - 7 -

Mps Elle Ronis had full white flowers; the petals had a deep red dash along the mid-vein. The lip had a deep red mask with spider-leg like extensions!

Mps Tiger Wood is a new cross illustrated with a very colourful flower – perhaps a bit thin of substance, but the pale yellow flowers with the deep red overlay on the proximal half of the petals, light pink overlay on the rest of the petals resulting in peachy overtones. The lip has a ragged black mask and after leaving a band of yellow under the mask, the rest of the lip has a peachy-pink overlay!

Culture:

The genus requires the day-night temperature indicated for the species, even when in flask. The plants in flask will not proliferate, but grow properly if they get a day temperature of about 70-75F and a night temperature of about 60F. Miltoniopsis should never dry out. Do not over-pot the plants.

Re-Pot yearly! This is very important. Do it after flowering. Poul pots his plants in what he calls the "Mario" (Ferrusi) mix. It consists of sphagnum with Styrofoam chips, a little charcoal and a little bark. He puts Styrofoam chips in the bottom of his pots for drainage and air access. He pots into plastic pots, but may slip a clay pot over it for stability. In the wild this genus grows on moss in trees.

The type of fertilizer you use is not critical. He fertilizes every time he waters, using a Syphonex to meter the fertilizer. Victoria water is very soft. The pH is 7 and the hardness is 26 ppm. Toronto has a

pH adjusted to close to 8 and its water contains about 150ppm. Maybe rain-water would be a better choice for Torontonians, or use very dilute fertilizer.

Use massive amounts of air movement! The native habitat is windy! Poul uses an evaporative cooler, because where he lives, near Victoria, he does not get the famous constant rain of BC!! He only gets 28 inches per year (Toronto gets about 20 inches per year). Poul adjusts his humidity to be between 50-70% in his greenhouse.

For flasking, Poul uses canning jars with metal lids that have a hole in them through which a stainlesssteel tube packed with non-absorbent cotton batten is inserted. He injects seed, plus 3% hydrogen peroxide to sterilize the seed, using a syringe with a #18 needle through the tube, into sterile jars with medium already jelled on the bottom. The medium for compots is Pro-Mix and Styrofoam.

The biggest problem are spider mites! Poul uses Avid or Azimas (a neem oil derivative - look for it in hydroponic supply stores) to combat them. Eric Lee suggested adding sugar to the pesticide solution at the rate of one teaspoon of sugar to one gallon of solution. The sugar attracts the mites and so they get killed more easily.

If you follow all this advice you should be able to copy Poul's success as illustrated in the picture! COCNews September 2013



Mps. vexillaria 'Poul's Super Oscuro' AM/CCM/AOS

I hope to get the next issue out in early December but that will largely depend on you, the reader. I need your input—your views, comments, questions, photos and ideas. In particular, photos of Miltoniopsis in shows or awarded, also how you grow your plants. Only by sharing will we progress. Please send your contributions to me at lochaven999@gmail.com by or before mid November

Semi Hydroponic culture of Miltoniopsis by Jeana Kaplan Rowa

I haven't been growing miltoniopsis long, as I live in a very dry, hot climate in the States. My natural envi-

ronment would quickly kill them if not for the few tips I have learned. Allow me to share my knowledge with you, just in case this newsletter reaches someone in a similar environment.

Miltoniopsis have been known as a difficult genera to keep without ample amounts of humidity. This is true so we have to do all we can to mimic their natural environment. Using humidifiers, and water treys under your plants helps provide humidity. You are aiming for a percentage of 60-80°. Temperature.... Mps prefer temperatures in the 60's-70's, I have found they can take temps into the mid 80's as long as they have adequate humidity, good air circulation, and a temperature drop at night of at least 10° cooler.

Light.... Very bright indirect, I keep mine in a west facing window.

Air circulation.... A small fan set up in your grow area will limit stale air, and help evaporation.

I grow in a non tradition method. It's called semi hydroponics. What's semi hydroponics you ask? Allow me to explain.

The idea behind semi hydroponics is using an in-organic media that wicks water like lava rock, or leca (expanded clay aka hydroton) to create a moist environment around the roots at all times, but it also leaves enough air pockets that the roots are not wet.

Using an in-organic media means it will never break down and cause root rot from turning acidic. If it needs repotted, pull the plant, (the root ball will be intertwined with media on a mature plant) place it in a larger container and just back fill with more media.

Let's talk planting.... First we need to select the right pot. I tend to use squat, wide, square, or round

upcycled containers. Squat pots increase surface area for the evaporation. A few examples of pots? Ice cream containers, large nut containers, anything that's clear or opaque. Using these containers I can see the roots, and also my moisture content.

Next we make two holes, not on the bottom as you would think, but on the side. These holes have a few purposes. It creates an avenue for us to flush the media, (run water threw to dislodge

any built up fertilizers or deposits), it creates a reservoir of constant water at the bottom, and too also aid in air circulation to the roots. I use a soldering iron to make my holes. If one is not available you can use a drill, or even the hot tip of a glue gun.

How high should holes be?.... The height of these holes will differ depending on your environment. If you are in a dry, hot area your holes should be higher (2-3" from the bottom), in a humid area lower





(About 1-1.5" from the bottom).

Prepping media.... It is very important to rinse your media until the water runs clear. Be careful with leca, some of it floats. Some people boil it for about 10 minutes. This allows you to make sure no bacteria, or fungus is present. Feel free to also soak over night in a root hormone. Best thing about an in-organic media? You can re use it. Just boil it between plants.

Planting.... Same rules apply while potting, do not plant too deep in the media. Trim all dead, squishy, or broken velamen roots. Fill the bottom of your container to the holes, or to a level that the plant is even with the top of the container. While holding your plant at the level you prefer, fill in all open space while gently tapping the sides to settle the media.



When to water.... This will be determined by environment. Hav-



ing your plants in a clear container allows you to see where your moisture line is. When your reservoir is almost dry, or dry, (You will still see moisture in the media) fill the pot with water two to three times and allow it to flow out the holes.

Dry line.... You will notice the very top of the media will look bone dry, this is normal. You can either mist the top line daily, make a moisture barrier, or raise your reservoir a little.

When to transition.... Timing is important with a miltoniopsis. New roots grow along with new growth that will soon turn into a pseudobulb. When you see new growth starting is the time to transition. Roots not adapted to this method may rot with the increased moisture, so you need new roots to soon follow. These new roots will quickly adapt and grow happily into the media.

Take the plunge, try your hand with semi hydroponics and see if it's right for you. HAPPY GROWING!!

Jeana Kaplan Rowa, Arizona, USA

although few of us will experience the severe conditions that Jeana has in Arizona, many of us do have to contend with hotter Summers and lower humidity levels then what Miltoniopsis are happy with, so this method of growing may well suit a lot of our readersEd.