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Message from the Group Facilitator: Allan Watson

Where did that last year go? What an incredible time for Miltoniopsis growers. We now have 140 members following our face book page from all around the world along with the same number if not more waiting for our next newsletter. Certainly, the outcome is quite humbling to say the least.

Some highlights to note:

We appear to have attracted interest from around the world and maintaining the closed site approach means that only those interested in Mps are posting info. The conversations and outcomes providing an excellent resource of info for us all to use. Alan Locke and I thank you all for your input.

I was asked to do a presentation on the rebirth of Miltoniopsis at the Taranaki Orchid Society Summer Show. It must have been okay as I have now been asked to speak at a number of orchid societies around New Zealand. If you are attending any of these presentations please make your self-known.

The Mps breeding program seems to be moving full steam ahead with 4 of us now involved and some 69 crosses having been attempted (some 19 have failed to date) The first of these seed pods due to be harvested ANZAC weekend so fingers crossed. While flasks may not be available for the big show in Palmerston North we will certainly have an indication of success or failure.

We often have discussion on what fertilizer to use and as we all know we have different preferences. I have been asked to try a particular product and as such I have set up a formal test program. Once underway proper I will provide some updates via our facebook page and in the next newsletter.

As with all newsletters their continued success is reliant on input from as many practical sources as possible. Please help us with content no matter how trivial you will always present something some one was not aware of and that has to be a positive for the group. Or Ask a question. This will help us build a resource for all. Send info to Alan Locke at : lochaven999@gmail.com

Editor's Ramble.

As we approach the Autumn (In New Zealand) and the Miltoniopsis flowering season is all but over, now is a good time to look back over the past 12 months and take stock of the "Good, the Bad and the Ugly". In other words, what went well, not so well and hope never to be repeated at any cost.

Personally, I had a reasonably good flowering season, except that I had hoped for a higher flower count on the more mature plants and a slightly earlier flowering season.

Through out the Winter—May to September—I was able to maintain a minimum of 12 to 13 degrees C. on all but the coldest nights and even then it didn't go below 10. However, as per past years, I turned the heat off on the 1st of October. This season, that was a mistake as there was a number of nights where the minimum temperatures were in the low single figures and this checked growth and delayed flowering.

I have been using 3 different growing mediums, Sphagnum Moss, Soft Tree fern substrate, and some that were bought in late Winter/Early Spring which were left in the mix that they came in.

I have used Sphagnum on its own for 30 years and in most of that time I have been more than happy with its performance but for some reason of late, some plants are not performing in it. Some of the more mature plants did well while others appeared to stress

Soft Tree fern substrate is a relatively new product here. It is made from a particularly fibrous higher altitude Tree Fern harvested in a completely sustainable way. It has a very low rate of decay in fact some that have been cut down and left 30 to 50 years ago are still sound. Because of this, the interval between re-potting can be extended so saving time and money. I have done trials on Paphiopedilums, Phalaenopsis and Odontoglossums and have found improved flowering and growth. Unfortunately my work with Miltoniopsis has been mainly limited to those in the poorest condition but the fact is, these plants have improved.

The plants in the mix that they came generally did not perform as well as those in the 2 other mediums.

This Autumn I will repot those plants that are performing in the moss back into it, but the rest will be potted in the Fern Fibre.

Another thing that I discovered—which I should have known from many years of growing Odontoglossums—if a growth has not flowered by the time it starts a new growth, then it is unlikely to flower.

Now, looking forward, Winter is just a few months away, how are you going to maintain the 12 degrees C. minimum that these plants need. Yes, you can go lower, but the results of this tend to result in poorer performance. So what is the cheapest and easiest method of heating. This is the same as in your house i.e. Heat Pumps. There is of course, a high installation cost even if installing a second hand unit and also you will need an external thermostat to get below the 16 degree minimum these units are set at, but having done all that you are going to get 3 dollars of heat for every dollar of cost.

A cheaper option which is still a heat pump is the 'through the wall' office one piece unit often called 'window rattlers'. To install you make a hole in the wall where you want it, push it in so that it protrudes both inside and out and plug it in—no need for a refrigeration technician—and you still get same 3 to 1 cost ratio as the other heat pumps. These units can be purchased new for about \$650 (2.4 kw output) to \$800 (4 kw output) or second hand for less than \$100—I recently bought 2 in good working order for \$56 total.

So till the next issue, treat your plants well and they will reward you handsomely,

Alan

Have your Miltoniopsis got PDV? (Pests, Disease, Virus)

Compiled by Allan Watson

How many times have you heard that orchid has a Virus or Disease? More often than one can remember I suspect.

Yet most of that comment is coming from people whom do not really know. I am certainly not suggesting I know either. Just because a plant does not look right or flower the same as it did last year does not necessarily mean it has become virused. I decided to do some research and see what I could find out about the impact of PDV on my Miltoniopsis collection.

Thank goodness we are able to access Google. I found this info below contained within a document on the following site. http://www.robert-bedard.com/orchids/miltoniopsis_culture.html I found its contents to be presented plain and simple which suited me. I present un edited and hope it provides some value. It is certainly making me re-think some of my growing practices.

Excerpt from an Article by Wood Carlson on Miltoniopsis Culture.

Pests

Miltoniopsis are susceptible to the pests that afflict most other orchids, although to a much lesser extent. These include spider mites, scale, slugs and snails, caterpillars, mealybugs, thrips and grasshoppers to name a few. Chewed leaves or flowers can indicate damage done by slugs, snails, grasshoppers or caterpillars. Disfigured or chlorotic leaves or flowers that are browning on the edge or wilting can indicate damage done by sucking or rasping pests such as thrips, scale, spider mites and mealybugs.

There are many fine insecticides on the market nowadays that are available to eradicate these nasty little intruders. A few of the products that I use are Know-Out Aerosol insect spray, (this is Micro-encapsulated Diazinon), Schultz-instant insect spray, (made with botanical Pyrethrins), and Metaldehyde granules 3.5 for slugs and snails.

It is especially important before applying any insecticide to read the label carefully. After doing so, handle and apply the insecticide in strict accordance with the directions on the label. Check with your local supplier or agriculture department for further information.

Always maintain a consistent spray program. By doing so you can prevent disease caused by insect damage from getting a start and being a source of infection to your entire collection.

Disease

Fungal and bacterial diseases that infect your plants usually do so because of poor cultural practices such as over-watering, low temperatures, excessively high humidity, insect damage and unsanitary conditions.

These diseases can be recognized by symptoms such as purplish brown or black areas of rot on the leaves and/or pseudobulbs that can spread throughout the entire plant. Root rot can also spread upward and attack pseudobulbs and rhizomes. Other symptoms of disease are water-soaked lesions on the leaves, usually on the leaf tips or by small slightly sunken brown, yellow or black spots on the underside and/or top side of the leaves and on the pseudobulbs.

The flowers can also be attacked by Botrytis, also known as petal blight. This fungal disease is caused by either low temperatures, poor air circulation or high humidity, and causes tiny black spots to develop over the entire surface of the flowers. What fungicide or bactericide should be used will depend on the type of disease your plant has.

If you are unsure as to what the problem is, check with your local commercial orchid growers or orchid society for help in identifying your plant's particular disease. The American Orchid Society, Inc., has published an excellent handbook on pests and disease, called "Orchid Pests and Diseases" which contains

priceless information on these subjects.

Some of the products on the market for the specific control of fungal and bacterial diseases are RD-20, Phyton 27, Aliette, Physan 20, and Subdue. The important thing to do when your plant or plants are affected by disease is to isolate them immediately from your healthy plants. If possible, cut out all diseased plant tissue, making sure that the cutting tool has been sterilized so the virus, if present, is not passed on to your healthy plants. Cut areas can be dusted with garden sulfur.

Decreasing the amount of water regularly given your plant while it recuperates is essential in order to prevent the disease from spreading. By maintaining good cultural practices such as watering early in the day so that the plants are dry by evening, keeping debris, weeds and pests under control, and periodically treating your plants with good fungicide/bactericide as a preventative measure will pay dividends in the long run.

Virus

When it comes to virus, *Miltoniopsis* are just as prone to this infectious microscopic disease as any other orchid genera. Virus can be transmitted to the plants by mechanical means such as unsterilized cutting tools, contaminated pots, stakes, or by hands that previously handled a virused plant. Virus can also be spread by aphids and by pollen transmission when hybridizing. There are a number of different viruses that can infect the plants.

Plants can be tested for virus in a lab by electro-microscopy or by serological testing. Indicator plants are another method used for virus testing. This type of test for virus is called bioassay. Because no special skill is required to perform this type of testing, it can be done in your home.

The seeds for growing these indicator plants are inexpensive and the plants are easy to grow. Other material needed for this type of testing is also very reasonable. The names of some of the indicator plants are *Cassia occidentalis*, *Chenopodium amaranticolor*, or *Datura stramonium*, which is commonly called Jimson Weed. Symptoms that appear on *Miltoniopsis* plants are spots, rings, and streaks that can be chlorotic in appearance or necrotic in later stages.

Be aware that viral symptoms are not always visible; therefore, it is important to work with sterilized tools, pots, stakes and washed and cleaned hands.

There are several ways cutting tools can be sterilized. The most effective are flaming by propane torch, alcohol lamp, kitchen stove burner or by baking in the oven for thirty minutes at 350°F. Knives blades, and metal stakes can also be dipped into alcohol and then flamed. Some strains of virus can also be inactivated by using a 10 percent solution of liquid bleach or by using a three to four percent solution of sodium hydroxide. It is strongly recommended that any plant found to have a virus be destroyed as it is a source of infection to the entire collection and also to the collection of anyone else to whom you may give a division.

I hope to get the next issue out in early June 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 can this publication survive.

Please send your contributions to me at lochaven999@gmail.com by or before mid May

Come-on now, don't be shy, people want to hear about what you have to say.

Get the thrill of seeing yourself in print

Plant labels

Question:

How often have you been given or seen a plant without a label and been asked to identify it?

Or;

How often have you seen a plant and you know it has the wrong label?

I don't know about you but these two questions tend to generate a level of frustration within me. While I know and understand that some times things just happen it's the putting right that matters. I recall the advice from two well respected orchid growers (The Late Bill Fransen and Malcolm Campbell) who said to me the apart for the plant its self the label was the next most important thing. Hybrid names in Upper Case and Species in Lower Case. That advice was burned into memory



An example:

Recently I was fortunate to be given a number of plants from the local park to revive, all had labels be they a mixture in appearance and condition. (In my collection I use the label function in Orchid Wiz to Identify my plants)

Replacement new labels were printed and swapped out one by one. Then the anticipated wait for flowering started.

One Plant in question was identified as Mps. Rouge

'California' The photo to the left is as expected from Orchid Wiz. As you can see a strong growing plant producing a burgandy coloured flower.

The plant flowered and this is the flower it produced (right)

As you can see its totally different in fact when compared with another plant in the collection that happened to be in flower, I believe it to be Mps Zorro. (This was also confirmed by another grower)



I am not complaining with the outcome more than happy and yes, the label has been changed.

Not offering excuses but some of our commercial suppliers also get the names wrong. When one looks at their respective operations, the number of plants they are growing and the market they are trying to service it has to be accepted that mistakes can be made. When you are producing plants for the potted plant market labels are usually not provided. As Orchid Collectors we are the Minority of their business.

Another example:

Often when particular plant is believed to be cloned then one tends to expect that it would look the same as shown in a marketing photo. In part it does however confusion can appear with any cultivar name given to the plant.

One that springs to mind recently is Mps Breathless. This particular Mps has a number of clones some

identified by cultivar name and some not. The photo to the left is normally identified as Mps Breathless 'From Love'

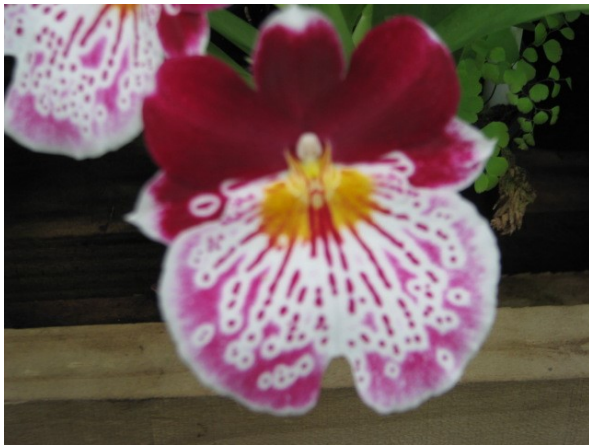


The photo in the centre is also identified as Mps Breathless 'Higo Galaxy' .

Below. We have Mps Breathless 'From Love' as we see it in New Zealand. It looks identical to Mps. Breathless 'Brilliant' except it has

markings on the petals where as 'Brilliant' (below left) doesn't

As you can see with just these three variations of Mps Breathless it can become



quite confusing for any judging group. Hence the importance for correct labels to be attached to our plants.



As said earlier in this article labels are an integral / Important part of our orchid growing practices. This being one of the reasons behind the establishment of this forum and the taking of pictures of our plants. It is hoped that over time we will be able to produce a photographic library of all Mps in New Zealand. This can only be achieved with your help.

Please send any photo of you Miltoniopsis in flower with its identified name to the following email addresses : either Alan Locke lockhaven999@gmail.com or Allan Watson aj.watson@xtra.co.nz We will attempt to confirm its name via Orchid Wiz and some other resources. If there is a difference feedback will be provided to the grower providing the photo. Any reference to a name change will only be identified in the library. Plant names and Photos only are to be recorded in the library.

As we build the library, we will publish a reference in the NZ Miltoniopsis Growers web site.

Allan Watson.

Creating the elusive “Yellow” Mps

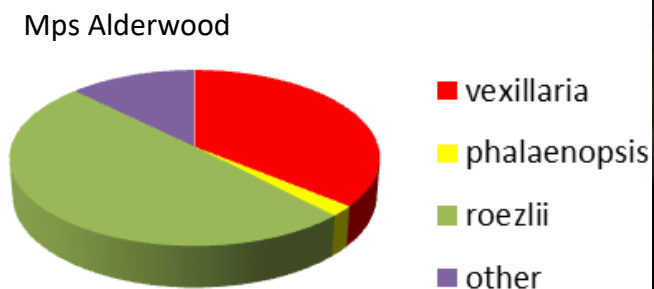
Orchid growing history provides us with knowledge and if we choose right, that knowledge helps us shape the future without making as many of the mistakes from the past.

Allan Watson

I was fortunate to be lent a copy of the “Proceedings of the 13th World Orchid Conference 1990”. This conference was held in Auckland at the time we had just shifted to Hamilton and growing orchids was not even on our radar. However it was not long (1991) and this interest was ignited.

Now after some 28 years of mishaps and learning I have gained a passion for Miltoniopsis. The “Proceedings of the 13th World Orchid Conference 1990” devote some 4 pages around the genus Miltoniopsis including some 41 photos of some the Miltoniopsis that were part of a hybridization program were included a paper presented by Howard Liebman from USA who had been hybridizing Miltoniopsis for some 11 years. Comment within his paper referred to the frustration of hybridizers to produce strong yellows and indicated that this end result from a quality perspective may be a dream. Sadly I suspect Howard Liebman did not have access to Orchid Wiz which I personally find to be an excellent resource.

In his paper Howard Liebman references **Mps Alderwood** (Mps. Solfatari x Mps. Wych Cross) as being the most prominent yellow around. *This particular Mps providing both size and flower shape. The outcome is interesting to say the least when you look at the percentage background in the breeding chain.*



With **Mps roezlii** and **Mps vexillaria** generating the greatest influence one can only suspect the strength of the roezlii leaning towards the ‘xanthina’ form. Provided the yellow colour.

Wanting to either collect strong Mps yellows or indeed attempt to create a suitable hybrid and with the use of Orchid Wiz as a reference I started my research.



Current Known Mps Yellows available in New Zealand.

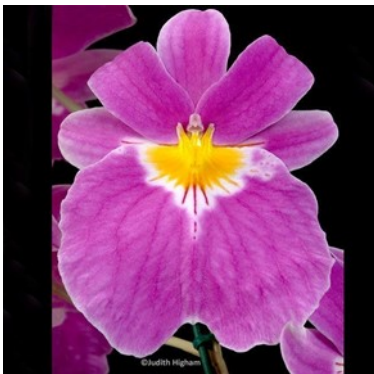
One feels as soon as you publish a heading like the one above some one will say but I have a Mps???? Which is a strong yellow. To those people I say a big thankyou as this helps us legitimise our NZ Mps data base. If you have a yellow Mps please lets us know as we are very keen to either pollinate or tissue culture it so others can also enjoy.

The examples I present are currently commercially available in New Zealand :

Mps Maui Sunset (Mps. Mary Anderson Phillips x Mps. Linda Marie Sellon). This has been one of the strongest yellows I have seen to date and it tends to follow the size and shape formula describe by Howard Liebman. This Mps was registered in 2001 by I. M. Komoda from the USA who has also undertaken several other crosses. The interesting issue with this cross is the high percentage of Mps vexillaria which is a strong pink as per below photo.



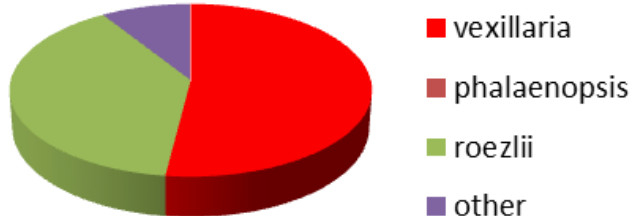
Mps Maui Sunset



Mps Zorro (Mps. Yarrow Bay x Mps. Ambre). This Mps is one of the older varieties that have been lucky enough to stand the test of time. It was originally registered in 1989 by a P. Pettit from Australia. Brought in the NZ when there was reasonable border controls (personal view)



Mps Zorro



Again there is strong influence of Mps vexillaria in this cross. To get the yellow one can only suspect that a very strong yellow from **Mps roezlii f. xanthina** use in the background

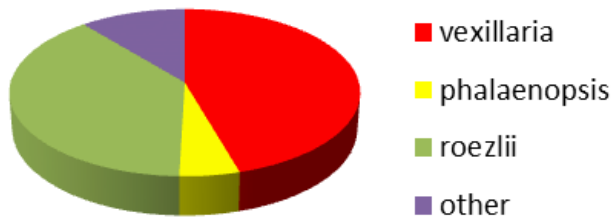
Mps Andrea West (Mps. Capitola x Mps. Doctor Ruth Ono)

This Mps was hybridized in 2001 by Okika. The flowers present a strong yellow but have a pink tinge on the upper petals. These flowers present in the opinion of the writer a nice to be open appearance.

The interesting thing about this cross is the balance of influence from the two key species showing through in shape and colour tinge.



Mps Andrea West



I have also noted the while not apparent in any of the examples I have presented I have found where **Mps phalaenopsis** has a greater than 15% interest in the background that the waterfall pattern starts to emerge in the end result.

What crosses would make a good Yellow?

While I am still flipping a coin, some may have already made up their mind, if so please let's know.

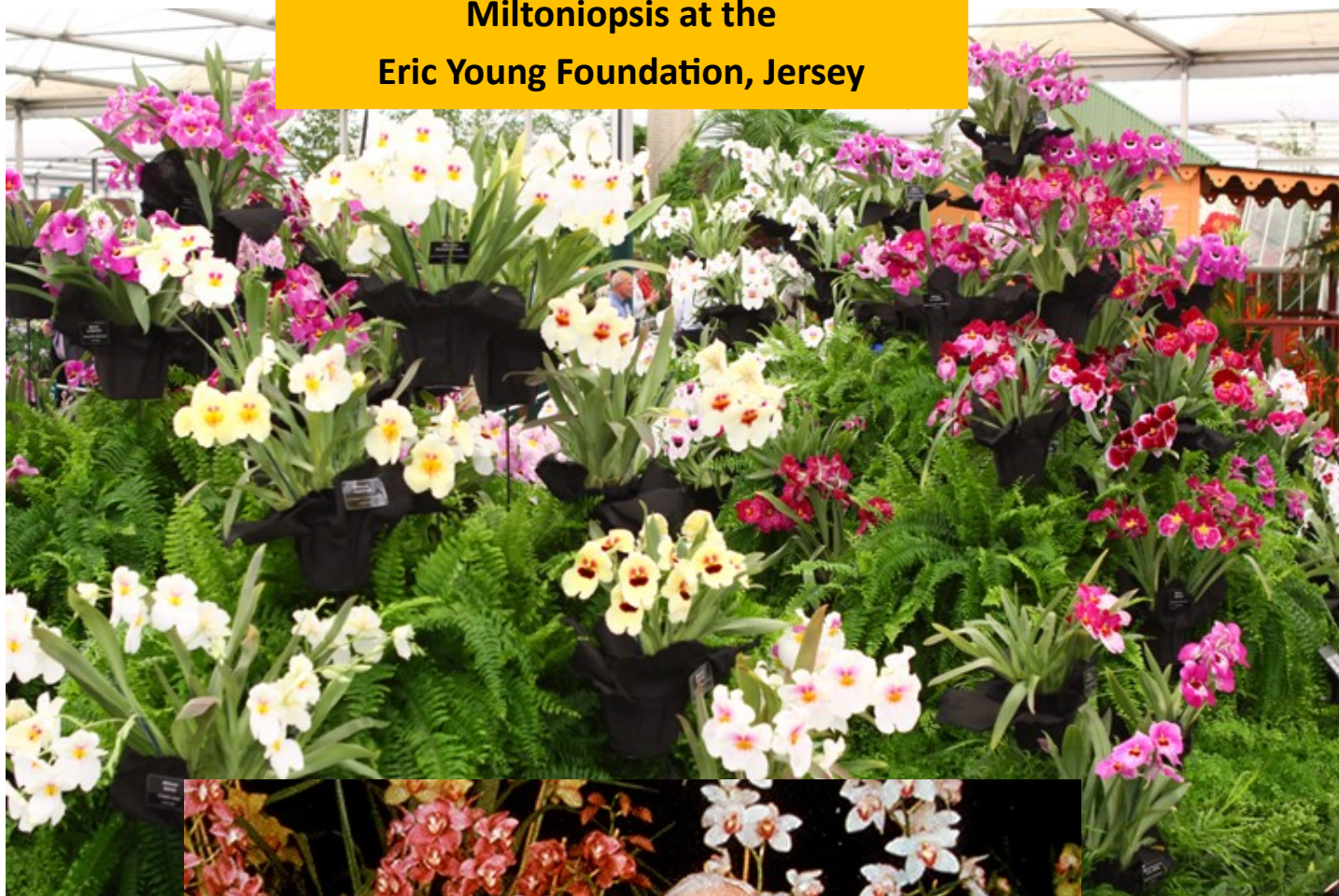
But based on the above information it is looking from my perspective like **Mps Maui Sunset** and **Mps Andrea West** should provide the best outcome for colour. Once that initial cross has been proven and registered, follow up the outcome cross with **Mps Zorro** for shape improvement.

The New Zealand Miltoniopsis Breeding Program

The program is proceeding very well and the first pods should be ready for harvest on Anzac Day (25th April). At this stage, there are 4 people involved and they have attempted around 70 crosses using, in the main, plants that brought into the country to service the pot plant industry. These plants have most of the characteristics that we are looking for i.e. vigorous growth, free flowering, good colour, shape, size, form and disease resistance. At this stage about one third have failed (which we expected) and we will be very pleased if half of the rest get to the flasking stage. This will give us a magnificent range as the crosses attempted should give a good range of colours from white and yellow through pink to red with and without waterfall patterns. I note from OrchidWiz that many crosses exhibit a wide range of colours within each cross so we will be expecting great things so watch this space. If you want to become involved in the breeding program, please have a chat with Allan Watson.

As our Border Control will not let anymore Miltoniopsis into this country, it is very important that we make this work to ensure the continuing availability of Miltoniopsis in this country.

Miltoniopsis at the Eric Young Foundation, Jersey



The Founder,
Mr Eric Young



Miltoniopsis in New Zealand





Left

Mps. Andrea West



Right

Mps. Roszlil

f. xanthena



Left

Mps. Ambre's
Charm



Above Mps. Beauvallet

Left Mps. ?

Below Mps. Lillian Nakamoto 'Tanto'



News and Views from Colombia *by Andy Easton*

1. *Mps. vexillaria* tipo and *Mps. vexillaria* alba

Well, living in Antioquia province, I am literally in the heart of *Mps. vexillaria* country. In NZ think of *Phormium tenax* country and you'll understand what it's like. The species is endemic to the area and grows easily in the prevailing environment. But some points to remember..... the species is very variable on different bloomings. I've seen a plant that was FCC quality and then six months later, you would sell it as a medio-cre pot plant. I suspect the superior blooming takes a lot of oomph out of the plant and that results in variability from flowering to flowering.

Another aspect of the species is that the alba form of *vexillaria* is always much smaller than the normal colored types. This is unusual as say an alba form of *C. trianae* or *C. warscewiczii*, both Colombian species, are pretty much on a par size-wise with their colored counterparts. So if you buy a flask of an alba form and you are disappointed because it is small, relax. That's the way nature made it!



Unfortunately Alan asked for this small piece in a hurry so I had to scurry around today and all the colored forms of *Mps. vexillaria* were very ordinary. So please be aware that the size differential between these two flowers shown would have been more pronounced if a decent colored form had been in bloom. Even in this equinoctial environment there is some seasonality in the *vexillaria* blooming season or maybe I should say some cyclic pattern. It may just be the growth cycle from blooming through growth initiation to bulb maturity and flowering but to my eye it's a case of feast or famine as far as a *vexillaria* blooming goes! And this month is a very light month for flowers.

2. *Mps. Bleuana* alba 4n & *Mps. vexillaria* alba

We made the first crossing of *Mps. Bleuana* alba (*Mps. roezlii* alba X *Mps. vexillaria* alba) some years ago and took the pod to California where Bob Hamilton kindly germinated the seed and treated the seedlings with oryzalin. About 25% have been converted and bloomed as tetraploids. We have used the tetraploid *Bleuana* for further crossings but no progeny have yet bloomed. When I paired the two flowers up for a photo, what was immediately obvious was that *Bleuana* is intensely fragrant whereas *vexillaria* is only minimally fragrant.

Alan asked me to comment about a little registration issue in the 1950's where the Registrar of new hybrids took it upon himself to refuse *Mps* registrations because they were essentially 90% + *Mps. vexillaria*. The Registrar of that time was David Sander. The next generation of an orchid dynasty and a truly



great orchidist. Keith Andrew used to tell me that David's displays at the RHS or Chelsea had to be seen to be believed. Every plant superbly cultured and exquisitely displayed. Not a strand of moss out of place. But David loved his plants too much to part with him and his business struggled. When he died, the person who wrote his obituary for *The Orchid Review* made this comment.... "If Frederick-Sander was the "Orchid King" then surely David was the Orchid Prince". Fitting words for a lovely man. But in the registration matter, David was wrong, so after a bit of back and forth, *Miltoniopsis* hybrids (or *Miltonias* as we called them then) were once again accepted for registration. All one can say today is that if the current hybrids represent the tenth or whatever generation from the species *vexillaria*, the hybridizers have done a marvellous job in selecting for the features they wish to dominate the phenotype!

3. A new intergeneric, *Upchaseara Taxidiot*

Allow me a little levity and also some serious comment here. Firstly, some of you will be aware that there is a huge backlog of *Odontoglossum* Alliance hybrid registrations that are not being registered by hybridizers because of the stupid taxonomic contortions that orchidists have allowed Kew to foist upon the orchid world. But plans are afoot to change all this..... if I publish this name in a recognized journal and give the true parentage, as I will do in the next paragraph, the registration is duly valid as of the date of publication. If indeed this preliminary confirmation is accurate, things are about to change, big-time.

You may say, why is this fellow posting a picture of an orchid unrelated to *Miltoniopsis*? Wrong! This is the first blooming of *Gerardusara Golden Emperor* (*Odnata Yellow Parade* X *Bap. echinata*) crossed with *Onc.*



trilobum 4n. So you can see that the shape is indeed quite strongly influenced by a Miltoniopsis. I'm not sure quite where we go from here.... will it be a case of driving the botanists mad?? If so, let me add it will be a very short drive! I have no time for people like Mark Chase or Philip Cribb who have set about destroying over a century of orchid registration history. But as the saying goes, it's a long road that has no turns.

Andy Easton

El Retiro, Colombia

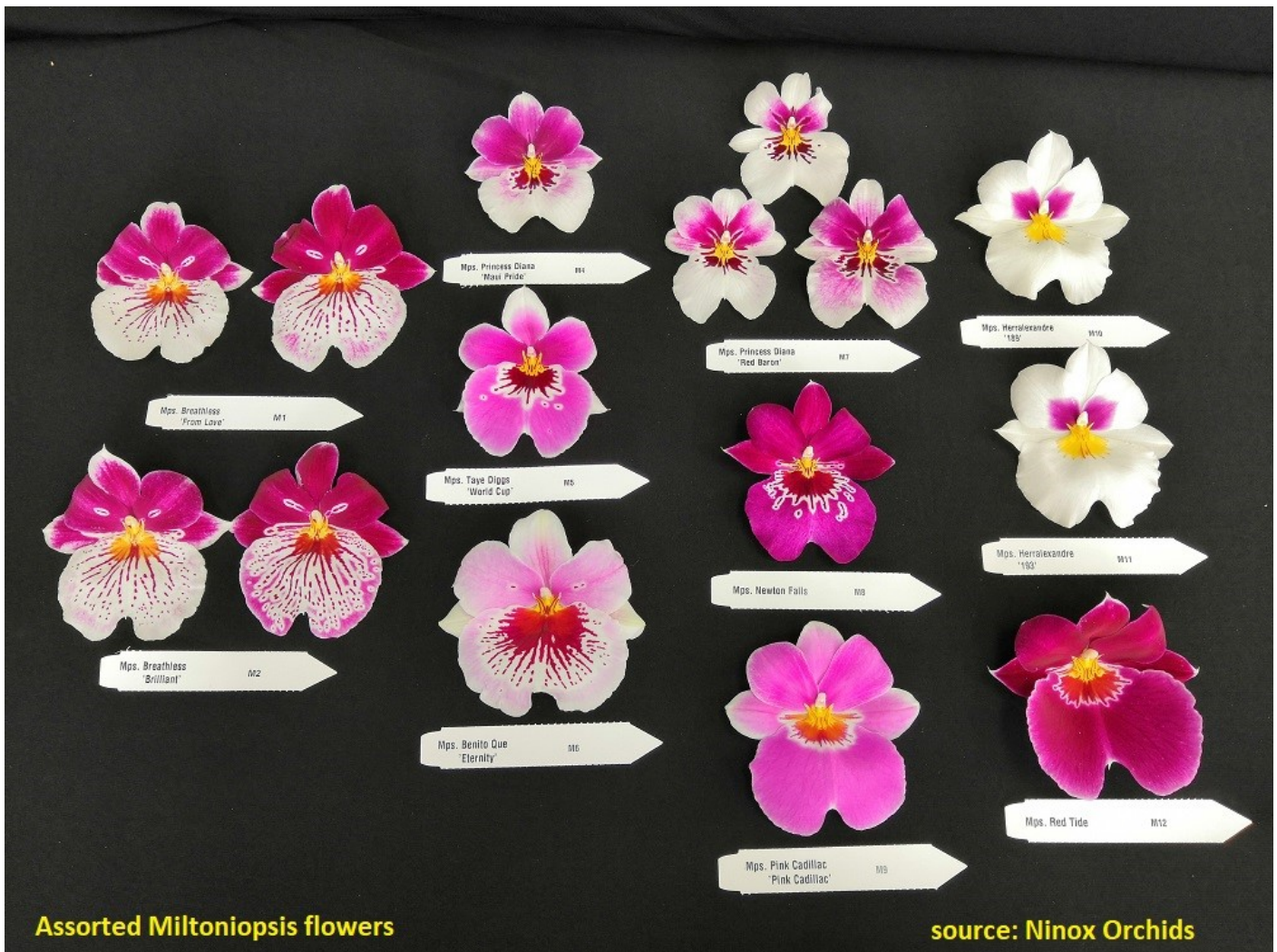
February 7, 2019



Variation within Miltoniopsis clones. By Hubert Muiser—Ninox Orchidx

I would like to take this opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the variation within the clones of a Miltoniopsis variety. Due to the outstanding efforts of a few orchid enthusiasts revitalising the Miltoniopsis as a worthy addition to any orchid collection there is a big increase in popularity. The dilemma this creates is where to get plants. There are only a handful of (commercial) nurseries in New Zealand that are offering Miltoniopsis plants, we being one of them, with only a limited assortment and volume available. To meet this increase in demand or widen the range of varieties we are currently still relying on importing from overseas. However, currently Miltonia can be imported but

sadly Miltoniopsis is not allowed in. A New Zealand based breeding program is set in motion but results will be a few years away.



As most of you will know, bringing in new plants into New Zealand can be let's say an interesting exercise. Most orchid varieties can only be imported in flasks or in many cases not at all. Overseas sources for orchid flasks is limited as well and as soon as you mention New Zealand as destination it's the end of a relationship before it even started. Many suppliers just don't want to know, into the too hard to do basket, as they often easily can sell their flasks into other countries with far less import regulations. This brings the suppliers pool down to only a few. Even if one manages to find a supplier for flasks, New Zealand Border Security is another big hurdle to take. Due to personal experiences over the years I might have to rephrase my previous statement as importing being an *interesting* exercise to more often a *frustrating* exercise. When choosing what flasks to bring in from overseas you are almost completely relying on the information

from the supplier or their website unless you were able to see the actual plant(s). Regarding clone flasks there will most likely be an image of the plant/flower on the website and one must assume that this reflects the colour and the shape of the clone. In some cases however this can be misleading as the image is an indication only. Even so, if the image would represent the original plant, the cloning process can



cause variation/mutation. Taking too much culture from one initiation (over-cloning) or using material from a clone instead from the original plant are two main reasons variation can occur. Even under perfect circumstances cloning doesn't give a 100% results.

Different growing conditions can also effect flower shape and colour.

Selling small plants still a while away from flowering or plants not in flower yet is a bit of a challenge for nurseries. The first and most obvious question you get is *What's the flower gonna look like*.

So what do you do if you haven't seen the mother plant the tissue was taken from. You have a Grex name and in many cases even a Varietal name so it's easy to find an image of this variety one would think. Well often this is not the case. One can use the image from the supplier's website if available but that's just *one* image. Then there's Orchidwiz. A great tool in many cases but what if there is only *one* image of your plant on there as well, is this how it should look? Hang on, we always can ask Uncle Google, he will know. Not sure how many of you got the answer they were looking for once you start Googling images.

Bottom-line here is that if you buy a plant out of a clone flask you only know for 100% what it looks like once it is flowering.

Growing larger numbers of the same variety we find that some lots show a fair bit of variation and others are almost all identical. We do get caught-out sometimes when the flower doesn't even come close to the picture on the suppliers website or on Orchidwiz for that matter. You start to wonder, did I get what I



source: Mike Luong , IOWA USA



source: Orchidwiz



Mps. Breathless 'From Love'

source: Floricultura

ordered or questioning the labelling, was it right or mixed up? I don't even want to go there.

I do understand it can be a bit disappointing, buying a plant on a picture basis only for it to turnout different. Although it might be a beautiful flower in its own rights, it's not what you expected. Avoid disappointment by bearing in mind that although it has the same name it doesn't necessarily mean it will look exactly the same as images with that name or as the one of a fellow grower, it might but then again...

Currently we (Ninox Orchids) can offer 12 different varieties of Miltoniopsis, mainly in 10.5 cm and 13cm pots with some in 5.5 cm as well. All of these varieties have flowered for us so we will be able to supply pictures which represent the actual variety grown.

Hubert Muiser—Ninox Orchids, Whangarei