

**NEWSLETTER**  
**DECEMBER 2000**



## From the Editor

Hi there all,

Wow! My fourth edition! And believe it or not, I'm still managing to come up with some fresh ideas for the newsletters. I'm ever hopeful, though, that a few more of you will contribute articles, etc. You will see some of my newer ideas in this edition and I hope that these ideas become a little bit contagious.

Ross and I have just recently been over in Melbourne on a buying trip - mostly cymbidiums but you will see some more Odontoglossums coming through. These were purchased from Philip Altmann who has gone astray and is growing Phalaenopsis of all things! He says he will still keep a few of his Odonts. just in case. The imports are in quarantine at the moment so you won't be able to see any for a little while, but keep your watchful eyes out for them.

Ross and I have just invested in a new piece of hardware for our computer. It is a scanner that scans negatives as well as slides. We're having one or two technical glitches in setting it up but hope to have it up and running in the next month. So now, all you photo enthusiasts, you can start sending up those slides of your prize beauties. I will, of course, return all slides to their rightful owners.

I hope to see a lot of you at the Taranaki show in a couple of weeks' time. Details of when and where are outlined further later on. I know that I'm looking forward to it and I hope you are too. Don't forget to bring something for the silent auction.

'Til next time,

Susan Tucker

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the two of them, we had some extremely animated and interesting conversations.

What started out as a silent auction ended up not being so silent. Howard was able to give us a good description of the plants and flasks on auction - so much so that there was quite a bidding war at times. I wondered if I would need to use a bucket of water to diffuse the situation! Thanks, though, go to the six people who won out in the end. We raised over \$200 towards the colour fund. Thanks also goes to the couple of individuals who donated goods towards the auction.

## **The Lectures**

Milton Carpenter gave a very interesting talk mostly about the orchids he specialises in - warm-growing Cymbidiums and Oncidiums. Milton has been creating some very interesting crosses with the Oncidiums and Cymbidiums. Unfortunately, they may not do so well here due to the slight difference in climates. He showed us slides of his home and nursery in Florida - flash, very flash. Being president of the AOS, he couldn't bypass the opportunity to talk about the new AOS headquarters opening soon in Florida.

Howard Liebman's talk gave a very complete overview of his years of hybridizing experience including the use of the *Cyrtorchilus*, *Oncidiums* and the Mexican *Odontoglossums*. His efforts are to produce heat tolerant *Odontoglossums* with a pot plant type of display. He explained that *odontoglossums* and *Odontiodas* were generally very much harder to grow in the USA than in New Zealand and that many grown today do not survive. The introduction of *Odm*, *maculatum* and *Onc. leucochilum* into his program is producing some spectacular results.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Taranaki Summer Show**  
**13th - 14th January, 2001**  
**Central School Hall**  
**New Plymouth**

I have been to this show two or three times now and I can say that this is a 'must attend' event in the orchid calendar. It is such a fun, relaxed weekend that is enjoyed by numerous people around the country. The Odontoglossum Alliance will be holding their regular meeting. We hope to discuss the future activities for the group as well as hold another silent auction raising money towards the colour fund. There will be the boot sale which we can all enjoy hunting out those bargains and finds. Also, you can feast on the sumptuous meal the society puts on, and then walk it off in the evening during the guided walk through Pukekura Park. The costs are \$35 for the whole weekend, \$30 for Saturday only and \$22 for Saturday night only. Please ask your local society's secretary or the Taranaki Orchid Society (Box 635, NP) for full details and a registration form. Deadline is 31 December 2000.

## **Book Review**

Sorry, no book review this time. Please feel free to enlighten us on any books you may have. Of course, they would need to have some connection to the Odont. Alliance.

## Subscriptions

This is of course the last issue for this year. I have enclosed a subscription form for those who paid for one year only (one or two people paid for the coming year in advance).

Please return the form together with your subs as soon as possible. You will see that I have maintained the subs at the same low price for another year absorbing the increase in postage.



### **Benedict Roezl (1823-1885)**

Benedict Roezl is known as perhaps the most intrepid orchid collector who ever lived. Born in Prague, Bohemia, he became interested in horticulture at twelve years of age.

*I started in my horticulture career in my thirteenth year - in 1836. I was apprenticed in the gardens of the Count of Thun at Tötschen, in Bohemia, from which, after three years, I went to the gardens of the Count Paulikowsky, at Medica, Galicia. At that time these gardens contained the largest collection of plants in Europe, and I was there enabled to gain most of my botanical knowledge of plants. After staying three years I went to the far-famed gardens of Baron Von Hugel; from there I went to Telsch, in Moravia, to Count Lichtenstein, and from there to Ghent, to M. Van Houtte, where I stayed five years. I was chef de culture in the School of Horticulture of the Belgian Government.*

*After this I served for two years, but I could no longer restrain my ardent wish to see the tropics, and I proceeded via New Orleans to Mexico - this was in 1854. In Mexico I started a nursery for European fruit trees; there also I collected a large number of Mexican Pines.'*

Roezl, though a large, self-possessed man, was conspicuously noticeable because of an iron hook in place of his missing left hand. This feature was a source of wonder to the many primitive tribes with whom he spent a great portion of his life. Speculation existed for many years as to how the hand was lost, for Roezl himself seldom mentioned it. In a rare interview he admitted:

*'I invented a machine for extracting and cleaning the fibre of Ramie and Hemp, and took out a patent for my machine from the Government of the United States on September 17, 1867. The Agricultural Exhibition awarded a diploma for it in February, 1868. This discovery was the cause in 1868 of the loss of one of my arms. Many people in Havana solicited me to exhibit my machine there, and I was asked by some gentlemen to try if the machine would extract the fibre from Agave americana. The result of the trial proved my assertion, that the fibre would come out green, was correct; but in endeavouring to show that they were right in their assertions they managed in some way or the other to fasten some screws tighter, so as to get the cylinders closer together, and I, not knowing this, in putting a leaf between the cylinders (making 360 revolutions per minute) lost my left arm.'*

Shortly afterward he began an incredible life of plant collecting. Employed by Messrs. Sander & Co., for forty years he criss-crossed the American continent, doing practically all his travelling by horse or on foot. A full account of his travels (he was robbed seventeen times), and plant discoveries would require

volumes. In brief, his travels encompassed the following: from Mexico to Cuba; to California via New York, traversing the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada; to Panama and Columbia, from whence he forwarded 10,000 orchids to Europe; to Santa Martha and Río Hacha, where he collected 3000 odontoglossums; to Panama, San Francisco, and Washington Territory, collecting conifer seeds in the latter; back to Southern California, Panama and Buenaventura; through the state of Cauca to Antioquia, collecting large quantities of *Masdevallia*, *Miltonia vexillaria*, and *Cattleya warscewiczii*; thence down the Magdalena River to Colon and Panama; to North Peru and across the Andes; Back to Payta and Buenaventura; then to Europe for four months to see his parents. On 3 August 1872, he went from Liverpool to New York and Colorado Territory; then to New Mexico and the Central American Sierra Madre, sending back 3500 more odontoglossums; again to Panama and into Venezuela, from whence he forwarded eight tons of orchids to London; from there to St. Thomas and to Havana and Vera Cruz, then to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and into the state of Oaxaca, in Mexico, sending back, in all, ten tons of cacti, agave, and orchids; from Mexico City to Vera Cruz, and onto New York; Back to Panama and Peru; across the Andes to Tarma and Chanchamayo, bringing back 10,000 various plants; thence back to Lima and southern Peru, to Morienda, Arigipa, and Lake Titicaca; across the Illimani Mountains to the province of Yungas; back to Lima and Payta, and again across the Andes to Guayaquil and the Valley of Cauca; and, finally, back to London. He discovered about 800 species of flowering plants and trees entirely new to horticulture. Among the orchids named in his honour are *Selenipedium roezlii*, *Bletia roezlii*, *Pleurothallis roezlii*, *Masdevallia roezlii*, *Miltonia roezlii*, *Pescatorea roezlii*, and the genus *Roezliella*, besides many other valued hardy and greenhouse plants.

On his infrequent visits to London, Roezl particularly enjoyed stopping in at the auction rooms where his shipments were eagerly purchased by enthusiasts ever alert to obtain strange new offerings. A popular man with the wealthy estate owners and their growers, he relished discussing the various aspects of orchidology with them. His uncanny "sixth sense" about orchids delighted his employer; when a new orchid appeared in London during one of his visits, he and Mr. Sander would study it carefully and, if it had originated in an area where he had travelled, Roezl could usually deduce its place of origin. On his return to that particular area, more often than not he would relocate the plant in question.

During his last years he resided in his beloved Prague. There he died in October 1885. Among those eminent persons who attended the funeral was the kaiser himself. A statue was later erected to his memory in Prague - evidence of the high esteem accorded a native son.

Extracted from A History of the Orchid

by Merle a Reinikka

Timber Press, Portland, Oregon 1995

## NOMECULTURE UPDATE

(provided for the book by Gustavo A. Romero)

### In this extract

Miltonia vexillaria

Selenipedium roezlii

Masdevallia roezlii

Miltonia roezlii

Pescatorea roezlii

Roezliella

### Now called

Miltonopsis vexillaria

Phragmipedium roezlii

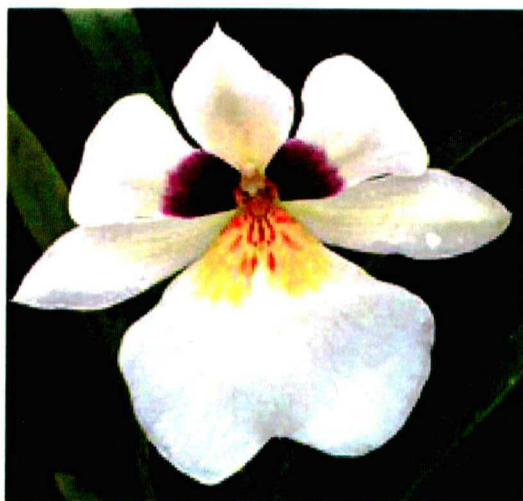
Dracula roezlii

Miltonopsis roezlii

Pescatorea wallisii

Stigmatostalix





**Miltonopsis roezlii**

**Odontoglossum lindleyanum**

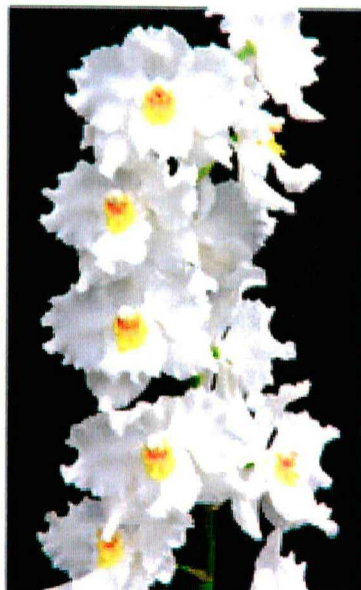


**Odontoglossum hallii**  
**'Verutu' HCC/OCNZ**





**Odontoglossum Mount Diablo  
'Target' HCC/NZOS**



**Odontoglossum Augres  
'Bayswater' HCC/NZOS  
HCC/OCNZ**

**Display at Hamilton Show  
September 2000**





## Book Review

Sorry, no book review this time. Please feel free to enlighten us on any books you may have. Of course, they would need to have some connection to the Odont. Alliance.

I'm currently reading the book *Orchid Fever* and hope to give a review of this book shortly.

## Didya' Know?

### THE ORCHID RESOURCE

#### Highlights of Orchid History.

1851 - 1899 AD

1890: *Odontoglossum wilckeanum*: Natural Hybrid from *O. crispum* x *O. luteopurpureum*. Also raised by Baron E de Rothschild of Arman-villiers, Paris. Possibly the first hybrid of the genus known to science. Despite massive importations of *Odontoglossum* species into the U.K. during the period 1876 - 1896; as many as 100,000 per annum of *O. crispum* alone; hybridisation between the species was slow to start. Species used in the earliest hybrids were *Odm. crispum*; *harryanum*; *triumphs*; *pescatorei*; *luteo-purpureum* & *halli*. Almost as soon as crosses between the species of the genus appeared successful hybrids between other genera with *Odontoglossum* were brought about; the first being *Odopetalum*: (*Odontoglossum* x *Zygopetalum* in 1895.) Following a period of nine years other intergenerics began to appear:

*Odontioda* - (*Odontoglossum* x *Cochlioda*) 1904.

*Odontonia* - ( " x *Miltonia* ) 1905.

*Odontocidium*( " x *Oncidium* ) 1911.

After 1911 when the first tri-generic between *Odontoglossum* x *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* was created steady progress was made using *Odontoglossum* with many other genera. We now have bi; tri; quad; quin; and hex. genera in the make up of complex hybrids. How far can this go? *Odontoglossum* have in fact been used more than forty times during the present century and continues along the hybrid trail with vigour.

## Corrigendum

Paul Cable wrote to me just after I'd posted out the last issue. He tells me that there were a couple of errors in the text he sent me. Firstly, the parents of Odm. Anna Clare should read Odm. maculatum x Odm. Geyser Gold - not Geyser Goldmine as stated. The second is in the Answer section. The parents of the unregistered Oda. Elsry Arnesmore should read Oda. Michie Donning x Oda. Aviemore. He apologises for the mistakes and has learnt a valuable lesson - not to believe what's written on the labels until they've been checked.

## WebOrchids

Internet Orchid Photo Encyclopaedia  
<http://www.orchidspecies.com/>

Not a bad site, this one. There's probably two down sides to it. Firstly, each of the pages are too long. You're scrolling for far too long to find what you're looking for. A more comprehensive index would be ideal. In it's favour though, there

is a search engine - you just have to scroll about half way down the home page to find it.

Secondly, at this stage it's a wee bit biased towards the author's location (Key West, Florida). An example - there are 119 photos of *Oncidium* species and only 20 photos of *Odontoglossum* species. Maybe that is something that some of our readers can correct. The site invites people to submit photos of their species so maybe we should be doing something about it.

Something I really like about the site is its summaries on the growing conditions of each of the plants as well as a brief comment on the plant's floriferousness and what part of the world it originates from.

## Upcoming Events

Taranaki Summer Show  
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The *Odontoglossum* Alliance will be holding their regular meeting. We hope to discuss the future activities for the group as well as hold another silent auction raising money towards the colour fund.

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## PhotoFile

*Odontoglossum hallii* 'Verutu' HCC/OCNZ

Grown by Paul Cable

One of the showiest of the *Odontoglossums*, it is found in Columbia, Peru and Ecuador at elevations of 2000 to 3000 metres. The inflorescences usually two per pseudobulb are slightly pendulous up to 30cms. long and with up to 20 flowers. The flowers are somewhat variable both in size and in colour, the background either white or yellow with reddish-brown blotches.

This clone at it's last flowering produced 45 x 82mm. blooms on 4 flowering spikes. This is the only plant that I have had awarded and with 78 points I felt that the Judges were somewhat mean.

*Odontoglossum lindleyanum*

Grown by Paul Cable

Sometimes known as *Odontoglossum epidendroides*, this species is to be found in Columbia and Ecuador at elevations between 1800 and 2500 metres. The unbranched inflorescences have up to 12 flowers of between 6 and 8cms. This species grows well in our conditions as long as the humidity is at a high level during the summer months.

## Questions & Answers

*Question:* There is an unregistered plant 'doing the rounds' bearing the name Oda. Sweet Jane, if anyone knows the parentage of this register it or make the cross known. Paul Cable

*Answer:* Another unregistered plant that is available is Oda. Elsry Arnesmore, I have been able to track this one down to its breeder and the parents are, (Oda. Florence Stirling x Oda. Janis Andrew). Paul Cable

## PhotoFile

Sorry, the quality of the photos is not quite there this time round. My only excuse is that I scanned them in to the computer at a resolution that I thought would be okay but once I printed the first draft out, I saw that each image was a bit blocky. By the time I found time to start working on the PhotoFile I was already a couple of weeks late in getting this issue out and thought it best to stick with what I had rather than spend a couple more days working on it.

Also, I have not put labels beside each photo as a few are a tad on the large size (as you can see) and I didn't have enough room for labels. I would have to rescan the pictures to make them smaller. Any way, starting from the left page, working clockwise, and then moving onto the right page, here are the descriptions:

### *Odontocidium Tigersun*

On display at the South Auckland Orchid Society Charity Show at the Auckland Botanical Gardens. Parentage is *Onc. tigrinum* x *Odm. Sunmar* hybridised by Mansell and Hatcher. A. Day imported this from Keith Andrews.

### *Odontocidium Grace Cobbledick*

On display at the South Auckland Orchid Society Charity Show at the Auckland Botanical Gardens. Parentage is *Odcdm. Tiger Hambuhren* x *Odm. Stonehurst Yellow*, hybridised by Bruce Cobbledick who brought in flasks during a visit around 1990.

### *Odontoglossum Mellow Yellow*

On display at the South Auckland Orchid Society Charity Show at the Auckland Botanical Gardens. Parentage is *Odm. Goldrausch* x *Odm. Goldmose*. This is a Geyserland crossing grown by Alf Day.

### *Odontioda Jan's Pride*

On display at the South Auckland Orchid Society Charity Show at the Auckland Botanical Gardens. Parentage is *Oda. Drumstick* x *Oda. Aviemore*. Grown by Nick Symes, this plant was recently awarded an HCC/OCNZ. Another Mansell and Hatcher seedling:

*Miltonopsis roezlii*

Flower size 7 to 10cms. A cold to warm growing, small epiphytic orchid that needs even watering and fertilising year round and will bloom in the fall on a racemose, to 30cms. long, 2 to 5 flowered inflorescence that has lanceolate bracts and is found in Colombia, Ecuador and Panama at altitudes ranging from 200 to 700 metres. Synonyms *Miltonia roezlii* (Rchb. f.) G. Nicholson 1886; \**Odontoglossum roezlii* Rchb. f. ?

*Odontoglossum Mount Diablo 'Target' HCC/NZOS*

Grown by Ross Tucker

The parents are Odm. *Stropheon* x Odm. *Crutordo*, a Mansell and Hatcher cross imported into New Zealand. It is a newly awarded seedling. A white flower heavily overlaid with red spots arranged in a target-like pattern - very distinctive. 16 flowers on a branching spike. This cross has produced some consistent patterned results. This plant was grown in sphagnum moss.

*Odontoglossum Augres 'Bayswater' HCC/OCNZ/NZOS*

Grown by Ross Tucker

The parents are Odm. *Mont Sohier* x Odm. *Pumistor*, an Eric Young Orchid Foundation cross. It was awarded recently. It is one of the pure colour breed, a now famous line of breeding. Full shaped and 16 flowers over 10cms. The plant has been grown in sphagnum moss.

**SENDER:**

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