

THE NZ ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE



NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Our fourth year draws to a close. For me this year has brought a resurgence of enthusiasm. The opportunity to attend the 14th WOC in Glasgow and meet keen growers from around the world there and later on their home territories was a real thrill. To leave the doom and gloom of our depressed orchid scene behind for a few weeks certainly got me out of my "groove"! The generosity I met with was unbelievable. Being an orchid enthusiast from overseas was like being a part of an extended family. I was entertained to meals, barbecues, taken hundreds of miles to judging or orchid meetings, given pollen and flasks and provided with accommodation. One could not but come home enthusiastic.

Our politicians and economists tell us every day that things are improving, business is expanding and unemployment is getting better! Sooner or later they will brainwash us into believing it and we will start spending money on orchids again, nurseries will get new stocks of orchids to sell, societies will start increasing their membership and the orchid cult will take off again.

I am certain that in temperate climates the next orchid craze will be for *Miltoniopsis*, *Odonts* and the intergenerics - with the latter also becoming more popular in the warmer climates. Don't be left behind. Start sourcing your new plants now.

Several crosses were made at last years Summer Display in Taranaki by Alf Day and myself for members. Other pods have been donated. When we get a report on viability we will be offering flasks of several crosses and species to members. We may do the same again at New Plymouth this year if suitable plants are tabled. Any surplus goes towards colour and keeping subs down. Finances remain healthy and unless postage is increased no increases are envisaged. Our membership for 1993 was 146.

I thank you all for contributing to this newsletter with your subscriptions. Unfortunately you will find another notice pinned to your newsletter for 1994. Thanks also to those who contributed articles, notes or photos and special thanks to Jim and Rae James, Alan Locke and my young daughter for helping to get each issue in the mail. Please if you have any stories or ideas to make your newsletter more interesting, let us have them!

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS.

Ron Maunder
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Cochlioda noezliana

After the comments in previous newsletters, on why this plant is so hard to flower I shifted my three plants to much shadier spots in the greenhouse. All plants are in spike at present and one flower has just opened. Jim and Rae James pointed out their 5 or 6 plants during a recent visit. Those in under the cymbidium leaves all had multiple spikes while those in higher light had none. So it seems that for us at least high light retards flowering of this species. Have any other members had similar results?

Ron Maunder, Tauranga

ODONTOGLOSSUMS — PART 3 — COLOMBIAN SPECIES & HYBRIDS

by Phil Mayhead

This part is about one of the most difficult of all orchid groups to cultivate successfully, and if it wasn't for the beauty of such splendid species as *Odm. crispum*, *hallii*, *luteo-purpureum* and *harryanum* etc. then it would be a very neglected group indeed. These species and the hybrids bred from them, have won many orchidists hearts the world over, and more and more people are succeeding with them, with the aid of modern innovations, and the new breeding trends.

These "Colombian" species are found in the high Andes mountain chain of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, always in high altitudes and approaching the permanent snow line in some cases. These forests, are perpetually swept by rain, mists and fogs, and are known as the "Andean Mist Forests". The temperature is remarkably even; the low being about 10°C and the highest at midday during the 'Summer' being only 21 – 25°C. There is no wet and dry season, in sharp contrast to the Mexican group which have very distinct seasons.

It is this temperature and humidity requirement that makes them difficult, as the plants will not stand temperatures above 27°C during the day or over 16°C at night for any prolonged period. This has meant that they have only been grown with reasonable success in England, Belgium, parts of Germany and France, northern parts of the USA, Tasmania and Southern Australia, Japan and in New Zealand. The heatwave that the U.K. experienced in 1976 affected the odonts dramatically. Hot summers here also affect the plants with smaller bulbs, fewer flowers per spike etc. especially if they are grown in glasshouses. This, then is one of the few groups of plants affected by heat in summer rather than the more common fault of being killed by the cold in winter.

In the following discussion on growing them, the species, conventional hybrids and Odontiodas (made by crossing Odonoglossums with Cochliodas) will be called just 'odonts' as their culture is identical.

I have been keeping daily minimum – maximum temperature readings all year in my unheated glasshouse and have been quite surprised at how low it drops on cold nights. Readings of 6 – 9°C are not uncommon. These readings are of course below the minimum for cool growing orchids. Maximums have been 30 – 31°C in January, February and March, good for *Phalaenopsis* but no good for odonts. It would seem that the ideal is – Bush house or similar in summer, unheated glasshouse in spring and autumn, and heated glasshouse in winter. By heated I mean with the thermostat set to turn the heating system on at 10°C and off at 13°C. This way the plants would grow continuously as they should do. At present my plants, and most others I have seen grow well in spring and autumn, virtually mark time over winter and survive summer.

One rule is constant – the higher the temperature goes the higher the humidity. This means damping down the benches, the paths, under the benches daily during hot weather, in the morning, lunch time and again late afternoon. I even hose over the plants in very hot weather in an effort to keep the leaf temperature down. I like the late afternoon damping down in the summer, it gets the glasshouse into good shape for the evening and next morning there is a fresh feel about it that is hard to describe.

If there is a secret about growing odonts it would be fresh air. A leading U.K. grower has a fan by the gable ventilator pulling in outside air day and night, straight down the centre path with a wide blade 20cm oscillating fan over the door at the far end pushing it back over the plants. The bottom vents are continuously open. Of course in frosty weather the house is shut up. Most commercial firms in the U.K. run very large fans continuously.

In Southern California Mr. R.B. Dugger writes - 'Some years we started collecting a few orchids in Mexico. At locations where we found large colonies of odonts growing vigorously, almost always there was a lot of air movement. After several trips this finally began to sink in!!!'

He also now has large fans installed along with evaporative coolers and humidifiers (necessary in such a hot dry climate). He also states that with this increased air movement it is possible to materially increase the amount of light with increased plant growth.

Use your prevailing wind if possible. Some growers maintain that as long as the plants don't blow over it is impossible to have too much air movement.

The mix is as mentioned in Part Two for the Mexican group, i.e. bark, the small particles sieved out and sphagnum moss and charcoal added. It doesn't really matter at all what mix is used provided it drains immediately and yet retains moisture while allowing air movement around the roots. To aid all this my plants are placed on the slat bench so the drainage holes of the pots are over the gaps, thus letting the water pour out and getting air movement from under the bench up through the pot.

Watering and fertilising is as listed in Part Two, remembering that the fertiliser requirement is not high so weak and often is best, also bark mixes need higher nitrogen content. Two variations on watering can be used to advantage. The first is to pot soak the plants in the bucket of water (with the addition of liquid fertiliser). The pots are placed in up to the rims, left a few seconds, then lifted out (there could be some risk of spreading disease. Ed.) This is the most economical way of using the fertiliser mixture. I also use plain water now and then to flush any build up of salts out of the pots. The second way of watering is to put the plants outside in the rain. This is done on those days of soft warm rain. Not on windy days naturally and remember to put the plants back in the glasshouse before the sun becomes hot if it fines up. This is a good chance to clean the benches and rearrange the plants. It is time consuming but the plants look 100% better for it. Always remember to put the plants back with the growing portion to the light.

Both of these ways of watering gives you a chance to handle the plants, to find new growths, snails, flower spikes and to observe what the plants are trying to tell you, if you know what I mean. Twisted, curled leaves means the atmosphere is too dry and probably too bright, excessive reddening of bulbs and leaves is too much light, soft floppy growth is not enough light etc. Remember to use your eyes to see as well as look. Plants grown correctly will have a nice grass green colour with a little red pigment on the leaves, the leaves flat and not curled, the bulbs fat and shiny, with just marginal wrinkling on the surface if the plant is putting up spikes or new growths.

How often to repot? More and more I am coming to think of annual repotting. The mix has just got to be fresh. With odonts more than most orchids, with the continual watering and fertilising the composts, bark mixes particularly, 'break down' rapidly. Certainly at 18 months one should give a very close examination, and definitely repot at 2 years. I agree with the man who said "should any plant not be absolutely on top form do not hesitate at any stage of growth to get rid of all the old compost and repot immediately". Time has knocked into my head that, with me at any rate, if an odont has bulbs that are all shrivelled and which does not respond to a good watering (in case it has been missed), then it is of little use waiting for a new growth to appear - repot immediately".

The period of flowering is variable as the plants should flower every nine months if they are grown without undue holdups, with perhaps a flush of flowers in late spring and again in late autumn. The phases of growth in adult plants generally are - the new growth develops until the leaves reach their limit of growth, then the bulb starts to swell and shows itself between the side bracts. This is the '4 bulb stage' and this is when the flower spikes are initiated. The bulb now matures quite rapidly and reaches its full size. The flower spike should now be visible between the bulb and the longest side bract or one each side and one or two from the top of the bulb in superbly grown plants! The bulb fat and shiny wrinkles ever so slightly when made up. The spikes should be trained up a wire or thin stake until the buds appear when it is allowed to arch out if it is of that habit or, if it is a branched spike, then vertical staking is the only answer. How often do we see plants spoiled by poor or non-existent staking, not only *Odonts* either but many other genera.

When the flowers are open the new growth (or preferably growths) should have appeared. If not the plant is not growing strongly in which case inspect the bulb closely and if excessive wrinkling of the last bulb is evident cut off the spike. If the new growth appears on a large plant with no spike then that bulb won't flower - if that happens too often with your plants more light is probably required or your fertiliser programme is unbalanced. Sometimes too as the bulb swells it can't 'jam' the spike in the side bracts and to prevent this I hold the bulb between thumb and fingers of the left hand and gently ease the longest side bracts (leaves) away from the bulb with the right hand when I see the bulb maturing. Small seedlings and mericlones often flower on the first or second made up bulb but if you want strong plants in the long run these are best nipped out when they first appear.

(reprinted from the Taranaki Orchid Society 1979 Newsletter)

To be continued

ODONTOGLOSSUM CULTURE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

With temperatures warming up shading should now be in place. A good indicator is the reddening of the leaves which means the plants are getting too much light. Put on more shade or shift to a shadier spot.

Watering is important during the summer months. I water twice a week with a hand held rose directed at the top of the pot. The liberal use of water under the benches and on pathways will help keep humidity up on hot days.

Repotting - *Odonts* and intergenerics flower almost any time of the year so repotting can be done whenever the new growths are about 150mm high which is when new roots should be in abundance. I use polystyrene chunks at the bottom of the pot, then a thin layer of larger bark. Set the plant in on top and fill with 1/2 inch bark. This mix lasts 18 - 24 months under my growing conditions.

My potting mix is not treated with fertiliser beforehand. In recent times I have used Nitrosol (liquid blood and bone) about every second week with very good results.

Ventilation is very important during summer as temperatures rise very fast if the house is closed up when the sun comes out. I leave all louvres and doors open during the day. If this is not possible a cooling fan should be run 24 hours a day.

Last year my plant of *Odm. majale* produced single flowers from five new growths. This year it produced nine flowers from four growths. I'm pleased with the way it and my other plants are doing. Incidentally I recommend a minimum of 10°C in winter to get better results.

Kevin Schollum
Papamoa

Taranaki Summer Display Weekend

See last issue for details. 7/8/9th January in New Plymouth. Venue this year will be Central School, Pendarves Str. New Plymouth. Bring plants for display and making crosses. Remember our meeting 8am Sunday and the Boot Sale Saturday afternoon. Cost is \$30 for all meals for the weekend. Contact Taranaki O.S. Treasurer before Dec. 31st Christine Webster, Box 635, New Plymouth.

14th WOC and more

Part 3

It was great to attend a conference and not be involved directly in setting up or selling! I enjoyed every minute of it – and those huge Magnum icecreams from the kiosk!

Some people asked whether the Glasgow Conference was as good as Auckland. Because of the above reasons I'd have to go for Glasgow. There wasn't the politics of 1990, the battle to get the Odont Alliance dinner off the ground or the battle to try and get 140 PNG orchids in flower out of airport red tape to set up a display!

There were the usual frustrations of lectures clashing or not being advertised properly and there not being enough time to talk to everyone you wanted to, but all in all it was an excellent conference and no arguments or scenes that I heard of.

Of course there were probably only two truckloads of cymbidiums – not 50 like here. Other genera such as *Miltoniopsis*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Phragmipedium* and the Odont Alliance made up a larger part of the conference than here. Cymbidiums you must remember were mainly over by May (November equivalent in Southern Hemisphere).

Like Joe Vance I helped to judge the Odont Alliance plants in the show. Our team was 33 – judging Oncidiinae, Brassia and Miltonia alliances. Team leader was Juan Felipe Posada (Colombia) with Jan Post (Holland), Gerd Rölke (Germany), Carol Baughman and Jerry Rehfield (USA), Kevin Butler (Australia) and Max Thompson (UK). An excellent judges breakfast fortified us for the task ahead and with little dissent we quickly worked our way through the 12 sections round and round the huge building.

I won't go into any detail as Joe has previously written of his experiences with judging odonts – many of which were in the magnificent Eric Young Foundation display which took up the huge centre part with lake, rocks and festooned branches. My only comments are that the English are masters at displays. You could see all the plants. There were no masses of crammed plants! I think we could learn a lot from them. Everyone seemed happy with the judging and no "tooth fairy" had changed the order of prizes overnight in the sections we judged!

The South American exhibits contained some interesting Odont Alliance genera – well grown species we rarely see. The German and Dutch displays showed arrays of interesting intergenerics or masses of cloned plants such as *Odcdm*. Susan Kaufman 'Butterfly' or 'Red'. Vacherot and Lecoufle had some of their patented clones and local society stands all had something in the alliance of interest.

As I have said the lectures and forums clashed badly – especially if you have a wide interest of genera as I do. I missed a lot but got to the Odont, Writers, Terrestrial and *Masdevallia* Forums. My main complaint was that the lecture programme for each day was scattered through several pages under heading 'Horticultural' or Science /Conservation' – instead of being on facing pages with forums and their times listed there also.

The Odont papers began on Thursday at 1.45pm with John Miller (US Alliance editor) speaking on "Aspects of the Odontoglossum Alliance" a review of the world scene (we got a mention). As John had faxed me a copy of his speech I was able to attend the concurrent paper by Frederico Halbinger (Mexico) entitled 'Mexican Odontoglossum Allies'. Unfortunately many odont alliance people missed this excellent paper on such rare Mexican genera and their habitat as *Amparoa*, *Dignathe*, *Rhynchostele*, *Mesoglossum* and *Ticoglossum*.

Before the *Catasetum* man got started I rushed back to hear Alan Long (Mansell & Hatcher UK) speak on '*Cochlioda noezliana* and its contribution in breeding'. Unfortunately he had recently covered this subject in print but we were treated to some slides of old RHS paintings of awarded hybrids to show the *Cochlioda noezliana* blood lines.

At 2.50pm Alan Moon (Eric Young Foundation - Jersey Is.) gave his talk entitled 'New Vistas in Odontoglossum Breeding'. There were excellent slides of their breeding plants and progeny and of converted tetraploids which Donald Wimber (USA) has been involved in producing and isolating. Alan believes that too many poor growing aneuploids, triploids etc are being produced today which are erratic growers - sometimes producing awardable flowers once and never again. These come from using triploids and parents of unknown ploidy. Sadly he showed very little, if any evidence to prove his point. Still, it is an interesting observation which could show up here when we import plants with the super big breeders being used overseas. I have seen no signs here as yet. He received an extra round of applause for the wonderful display the Foundation had prepared which included Grand Champion, Reserve Champion and many other cups and prizes.

Next morning the International Odont Alliance Forum programme was held. Howard Leibman (USA) gave an excellent talk on breeding with *Miltoniopsis*. Chris Channon (UK) outlined the fascinating intergeneric breeding of not so well known George Black - who he is working with. Phil Altmann (Australia) outlined 'Odont Growing in Australia' where they are being isolated from the rest of the world with savage quarantine requirements and inspection fees. Lastly we were treated to a wonderful kaleidoscope of colour by Gerde Röhlke (Germany). This was a fast delivery of large sized slides from several special projectors showing Odont Alliance breeding in Germany with many examples of each. He gave few names and left lots of unanswered questions as to who was making these crosses and what they were! I was very impressed. When I questioned him later he said few crosses get outside Germany but if I wrote he would reply. I recommend anyone going to Germany to try and visit him. I have his address.

That evening the Odont Alliance dinner was held with 53 attending. After a good meal and talk from Alan Moon an auction of orchid memorabilia etc. took place. We gave a copy of 'Veitch's Manual - The Oncidiinae' and some flasks and managed to outbid the "world" on about 4 or 5 flasks for members. It was good to have the encouragement of fellow Kiwis and our corner made themselves known! Those attending were Cliff and Ruth Coles(NP), Bob McCulloch & Paul Cable (Wgtn), Trevor & Pearl Martin (Waikato), Joe & Betty Vance (Auck) and myself. Over £700 was raised for the UK Odont Alliance. No opportunity to discuss an international magazine for the Odont Alliance came up, but we all enjoyed the social occasion and made new friends.

Ron Maunder, Tauranga

THE SPECIES PROJECT.

It has now been just over a year since the imported species plants were distributed. From what little we have heard things seem to be going well. Most of the plants have flowered and most appear to be correctly named. We really need to hear from more of you to assess just how successful the project has been. So how about dropping us a line and telling us how you have got on even if you have had the misfortune to lose one or two. It will give us an idea which species could be difficult to grow. After all, there has to be a reason why some of these species have not been readily available in the past.

Of the four that I have, three have flowered; these are *Odm. gloriosum*, *sceptrum* and *praestans*. The fourth one, *Odm. crinitum*, has proved to be more difficult. Twice it has put up a spike, but it has withered before the buds formed. It is now spiking for the third time, and this time is looking good; in fact it has just opened today. I can confirm that it is correctly named although it appears, at this stage, to be a poorer colour form than I had hoped for. *Odm. praestans* died remarkably quickly during the winter; it just seemed to dry up and that was the end of it.

The imported species seem to cross well with modern hybrids. Ron reports that he has successfully set pods on *Odm. Summit* and *Odm. Midnight Miracles* - both are difficult to breed with. Paul Cable has used *Oda. Honiton Lace* and *Wils.* (*Onc. Tiger Wyld* x *Glen Affric*) as pod parents. Ron has just received a pod of a *Odm. harryanum* selfing, so we hope to see lots of little harrys around shortly (This is a genuine harryanum)

I have had a bit of success flowering a couple of Mexican type odonts. The first is *Lemboglossum majale* (syn. *Odm. platycheilum*) which I have had for about eight years and now is a large plant - for the species - with ten or twelve lead growths. It flowered the first year and not again until this year when it produced five spikes with a total of twelve flowers. I had put it in a brighter dryer situation this past winter and I believe this may have helped. The other species is *Cuitlauzinia pendula* (syn *Odm. citrosmum*). I have had this plant also about eight years, but had never flowered it. I knew that it required a dry period, but it wasn't until last year that I found that I had it slightly wrong. The secret is to water it sparingly through the winter and at the first sign of a new growth, stop altogether. The spike should then emerge from the new growth and once this happens, it is safe to start light watering again. So this year I did exactly this and, hey presto, it is now in flower. It is scented but I would have great difficulty in describing it, although it is not unpleasant.

I note that a number of you have *Odm. subcruciforme*. The accepted name for this is now *Oncidium maculatum*, not to be confused with *Odm. maculatum* which is a different species altogether and is now called *Lemboglossum maculatum*.

I hope to bring you more news of the species project in the near future, always providing that you tell me about it first. So please put pen to paper and share your experiences with us all.

Alan Locke, R.D.7. Te Awamutu.

THE GERMAN CONNECTION

It all began for me when I was innocently selling a customer some odonts. Charlotte Stone fronted up with a small flask of odonts and asked if I would like to buy a flask of her cross — back in the 1980's. I have to admit to being suspicious of the parents — Oda. Trixon I knew was red but the other I had never heard of. Sounded like some shady deal to me! She insisted it was a small bright orange. It sounded interesting so not wanting to upset a good customer we did a trade. I could raise them up and sell them off I thought and that is what I did.

The scene next shifts forward several years. Just after the 13th WOC in 1990 I set off south on a tour of members enroute to Wellington. One day I lunched with Peter Hawkins and family on their sheep farm in the Wairarapa — about 15 miles into the Tararua Mountain foothills from Eketahuna. After lunch Peter and daughter Sian walked down to the woolshed through the swirling misty cloud, to view his collection in the attached greenhouse. Just inside the door my eyes lit on a fabulous velvety red odont with 5 or 6 flowers. Sure they were smallish but it had a something that made me want a piece. You know what I mean? It was the forgotten Oda. Trixon x Oda. Maharanee in flower. The first I'd seen. Beside it was another of the cross with red buds so I asked Sian to please send me a colour picture and pollen when she had them both out (see Vol.2 No.1).

Back home I found my plants all sold except two. A check of Oda. Maharanee in Sanders drew a blank but I did find an Odm. Maharanee had been registered by Sander in 1925. The parentage was Odm. Eximium x Odm. Majesticum which when broken down to species gave (crispum x pescatorei) x crispum on one side and the same with (crispum x pescatorei) x (harryanum x pescatorei) on the other. It seemed to me that a small orange flower labelled Odm. Maharanee must have Cochlioda in it — therefore it was obviously misnamed. I decided to do a little detective work here to find out the source of Odm. Maharanee and soon came up with more and more German names! I wrote to Charlotte with a list of questions next time I sent her newsletter. She had shifted to Caloundra on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. Soon, back came the information that she had bought it from a lady who bought it from the clearing sale of Sir Frank Mappin's orchids. Now Sir Frank Mappin had had a beautiful home and 12½ acres of grounds in Auckland with orchid houses and several gardeners (see Vol.2 No.4). His property is now the Vice Regal (Governor General) residence.

The owner of Trixon was Val Warren. Charlotte owned the Maharanee and the cross was instigated by Jane Frear. These Three Musketeers were Judges and Odont Alliance members together in Auckland. The cross was made after a North Shore Spring Show where they appeared together sometime in the 1980's. Charlotte (German born) said she had sold the plant to Wolfgang Grausch before she left for Australia. I asked Jane and Val to follow that lead with Wolf and they assured me that the flower wasn't orange but red, white and yellow! I decided to check another lead with our member Bert Blumhardt who had been Sir Frank Mappin's last gardener.

Sure Bert remembered the flower. It was a small patterned flower. He racked his brains and searched his old colour slides. His old Ilford slides were faded away however he still owned Sir Frank's old orchid stock book and found Maharanee (Oda) was imported from UK in 1929 — meanwhile poor Wolf was being hounded for a plant by the womenfolk. He'd sold a piece to Heine Belin who now lived on one of the gulf islands off Auckland. Bert turned out to be Heine's cousin so it wasn't long before Bert had a piece. The cross with Trixon had been made both ways. Ross Tucker raised a few of the Maharanee x Trixon pod but by far the most seed had come the other pod and been

raised by Lyall Mitchell at Montessa Orchids. She had sold lots of plants off and these were starting to flower all over NZ. House of Orchids had sold them also. Lyall had also owned a piece of the Maharanee parent and remembered selling a piece down here in Tauranga. I started a search of likely growers but quickly drew a blank - a few had the hybrids that's all (since that time Audrey Hewson flowered it here).

On frequent but brief visits to see Bert Blumhardt in Auckland I watched his plant spiking and we went over what colour he thought it should be. He told me about his early days working with Sir Frank and how the place had been centre for orchid enthusiasts visiting Auckland in those days. Unfortunately our sessions were short because of Bert's ill health. His caring wife was always very protective of him but despite all her good efforts Bert passed away before Maharanee bloomed.

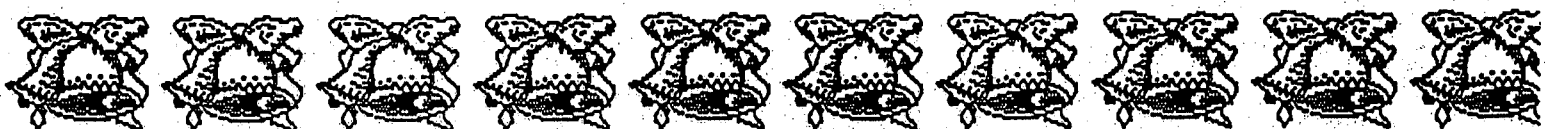
There will always be doubt as to the true parentage of "our" Maharanee. With so much *Odm. pescatorei* and *Odm. crispum* and just one dose of *Odm. harryanum* I believe it is almost certainly not *Odm. Maharanee*. With such small sized blooms (45mm), small growth habit, dark green foliage, pinched lip and bright red markings it seems it must have *Cochlioda* blood and thus be a *Odontioda*. Probably the label was mixed enroute from England or in the Mappin collection before Bert began there in 1945. Maybe the label was mixed at the auction and Bert could have renamed it if he'd lived to see it flower. Strangely though, it was imported or recorded as an *Oda*. It's true name to me almost certainly lies amongst those old clones in Sir Frank's stock book which came from UK between 1929 & 1931. These were such clones as *Oda. Bradshawiae*, *Brugensis* (unregistered), *Lutetia*, *Bella*, *Colmanii*, *Cooksoniae*, *Henryii*, *Latona*, *Madeline*, *Schroderae* or *Seymourii*. It is unlikely that even if a photo was sent to UK that the RHS award paintings could reveal its true identity for sure. So for now the case is closed, unless any reader likes to take it up!

Meanwhile the cross has been named Trixmahnee by Val and Jane. Jane has had a new lease of life and is flowering new Trixmahnee's naming them and hanging pods on them with her 'magic fingers'. A number of crosses are at the lab so in the next few years the progeny will appear.

The Trixmahnee's have a great ability to branch. The plants are small in stature and the flowers can be starry to near award shape and from patterned to solid copper, plum or red and even white with blood red blotches. Size varies considerably from 45mm up to 85mm.

So there the story ends for now except that if you want to breed with your Trixmahnee know that it hangs pods well but is very shy as a male. Anyway who wouldn't want to keep it to themselves if their parentage was in doubt - like Trixmahnee's?

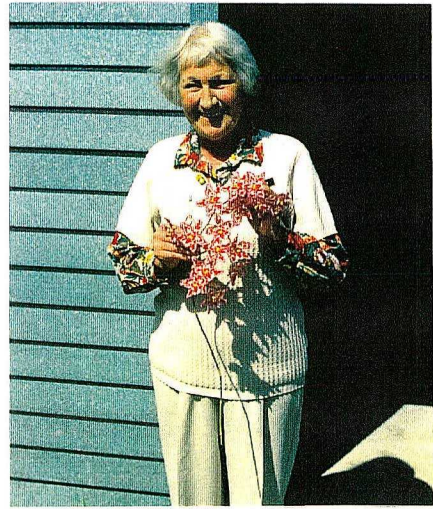
"SEASONS GREETINGS"



Oda Trixmahnee and her creator



1. Oda Maharanee



2. Jane Frear with 'Jix'



3. Oda Trixmahnee 'Pink Dawn'



4. Oda Trixmahnee 'Tantoo'



5. Oda Trixmahnee 'Hedi'



6. Oda Trixmahnee 'Copper Tan'