# ❖Odontoglossum Alliance❖

Newsletter November 2000

## ODONTOGLOSSUMS

by L. Duval

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### SOME DISEASES OF ODONTOGLOSSUMS

Although the title of this chapter indicates the word diseases, it is not true to say of the Odontoglossum that they must truly occur; They are the result of poor culture, of a milieu completely foreign to these plants, leading to a state coming from continual negligence, in which they wither and die.

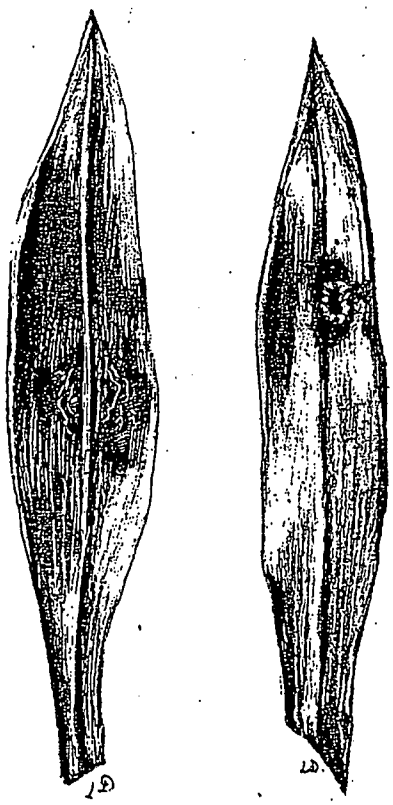
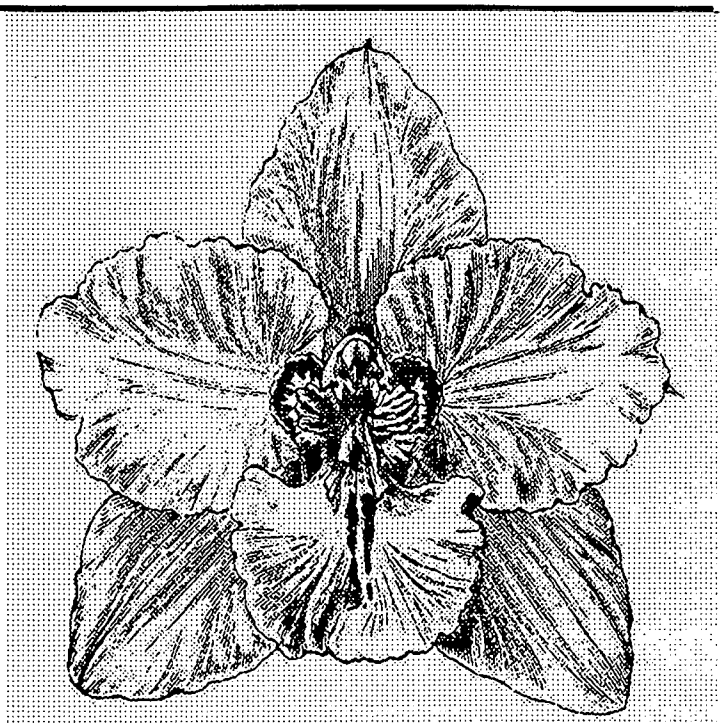


Figure 21
Leaf attacked by fungus
first stage

Figure 22
Leaf attacked by fungus
second stage



However, in the best cared for greenhouses, and without knowing the cause, one occasionally sees very healthy plants on whose leaves a powdery brown patch occurs, which is easily removed by rubbing with the finger.

This dust leaves behind more or less accentuated outlines which become at a certain moment, reddish, and circled with yellow. It is a fungus whose scientific name does not matter very much, but of which the appearance, often very unexpected and very rapid, must be watched.

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Since, if one allows the fungus to overrun the greenhouse of Odontoglossums, these will not be long in being covered; The appearance of their leaves becomes deplorable. Then it is necessary to cut them off, and it happens that the more one cuts, the more it (the fungus) descends. Then it is not only the leaves... One has tried, indeed, many procedures to get rid of this cryptogam. The best is still that which consists of drenching the contaminated leaves very gently, with very clean water containing two grams of pûre copper sulphate (in one litre).

There is not the slightest danger in employing this water at different times; But, however, the plants are to be put to one side, and examined with the loupe.

It will be easy to see that the powdery material has changed its appearance if the operation has been well carried out...

One may then, with a little sponge and very clean water, remove, at a single move and without rubbing, every trace of the fungus, and replace the plants in their respective positions, but without, at the same time, losing sight of them.

If we point out drenching in copper sulphate water, and not washing, it is because we have observed that in washing one risks carrying the spores from the cryptogams onto other parts of the leaves, and thus creating a painting of fungus, as has been said wittily by a knowledgeable micrographer who had been consulted to find out what action should be taken...

It is appropriate to say that these blemishes occur in certain seasons only, even in very well tended greenhouses, but, above all, when it is difficult to renew the air or when the air is unwholesome. Besides, one must check at once if one carefully examines the plants, that one treats them and that one isolates them...

There are certainly other cryptogams with complicated names which sometimes attack the leaves of Odontoglossums, staining them with black or brown concentric marks. Their appearance is, happily, quite rare, and it will always be easy to touch them with a soft brush dipped in copper sulphate water, and repeating the procedure several times to lead to the complete disappearance of the cryptogam. But the operation will leave a little hole. There is no way to avoid this, and, in reality, it is not a great misfortune.

If the growers know to carefully look at their plants, to make a tour every morning and examine them attentively, it will be much easier for them to stop, right away, all trace of disease or contamination, particularly since Odontoglossums, as we have said at the beginning of this chapter, are not very subject to true diseases.

One group which causes a lot of trouble and multiplies in the greenhouse, makes its appearance, at one time or other, on pots of newly established Odontoglossums, on those which are too wet and deprived of ventilation; This is the toile (web), fungus filaments which burn and rapidly destroy all living vegetative material. One has pots of Odontoglossums whose growths are fresh and tender. They develop from one day to the next, a transparent appearance, and if one pulls on the little leaf at the heart (of the growth), it becomes sticky to the fingers, decomposed, and enveloped by filaments which denote the presence of a terrible cryptogam.

What is one to do? Take the loupe, look realistically as to whether the young growth is completely lost, and, in this case, it is necessary to cut it off. One must not hesitate. It is necessary to cut level with the pseudo-bulb with a very sharp instrument (see fig. 14), then to dust the wound with charcoal, remove the compost, and put the plant under observation so as to not moisten it too much until a new growth appears, not without replacing the compost from underneath when carefully lifting it (the plant). But, if it appears to be necessary, one may replace it (the compost) completely.

If, on the other hand, there is only one leaf at the heart of the growth which has been touched, one may drench the plant in copper sulphate water, let it rest, and, replacing all the compost as we have already seen, attentively follow the appearance of the growth. Generally, if the web has been destroyed, the growth continues to vegetate; If, on the contrary, it takes over again, do not hesitate to carry out the immediate operation, because we have seen these pseudo-bulbs succumb also, and it becomes necessary to cut them off completely. This fungus absolutely burns everything which it touches.

We must place sudden decomposition or, at least, breakdown of pseudo-bulbs, among the diseases which may afflict the Odontoglossums. This accident may be produced by sunburn; The bulb becomes stained just as it is making a knob, the part attached becoming reddened and spongy, and it does not delay in becoming decomposed. It is necessary, in this case, to remove the pseudo-bulb, powder the wound with charcoal, and, it is well understood, not over dampen the plant.

Chlorosis is also a disease, certainly. It attacks the plants which are held too moist, without efficient drainage, or those which are watered without roots sufficient to absorb the watering procedure.

We know of no remedy other than removing the plant from its pot changing the compost, and keeping it very healthy for several weeks.

From everything above, one may deduce that true diseases of Odontoglossums do not really exist; It is the insects or the cryptogams which are the cause of the better or worse appearance of the plants in the greenhouses of the growers who do not sufficiently exert themselves concerning the state of their plants. Also, and not only, we do not cease to repeat that it is urgent to perform, very often, a serious inspection in the greenhouse, but it is also good to not hesitate to depot - with precautions, however, - certain plants, in order to observe the state of their roots, to observe which are good and white, very healthy; that the compost is not decomposed, if the water from sprinkling is draining well etc.

If, to these precautions, we add the use of the loupe, of which we have spoken. we think we have given to our readers sufficient information to keep them on guard against accidents so that they will not be of the kind to discourage future growers of Odontoglossums.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

## PRESENTATION ON THE STATE OF PLANTS TOO OLD OR TOO DISEASED, AND MULTIPLICATION OF RARE VARIETIES

It may be that an amateur or an horticulturalist buys Odontoglossums which have already been cultivated for quite a while and whose dimensions have become such that they wish to decrease this by subdividing the plants, or even, it may also happen that the Odontoglossums finish by aging in the same pots, and, therefore, giving rise to only mediocre vegetation, and branches poorly furnished with flowers. It seems to be up to us to indicate how one may treat these sorts of plants in order to start them up again ; that is to say, to give them a new vigour, and to thence cultivate them as if they were imported plants.. It suffices, for that, to rescue them completely in the proper season, that is to say, towards february- march, if they do not have branches with flowers and if all parts of the plant have come to the same point.

One cuts the roots sufficiently short, and one exposes the plants, always in shadow, to a little current of air, in such a fashion that they encounter this in a manner similar to that of their own country; then one watches intently for the moment when it (the plant) forms pseudo-bulbs at the base, new growths which will, besides, have exactly the same appearance as have those of the importations.

One next proceeds in the following manner; If the tuft has several points of departure, one sections it in such a manner as to allow only one growth to each separated piece; then one proceeds exactly as for the importations, except, however, for the sprinklings, which will have no goal except to reinflate the pseudo-bulbs. because these, in spite of the rest and the species of the importation that one has removed, will never empty themselves like those of the plants of the country of origin. Once these plants have established themselves anew, they will then give forth a period of vegetation so perfect that one would never suppose that they had been treated as we have just said. It does happen, however, that the mass decomposes and dies. for that, there is nothing to be done; It is one of the unknown quantities which one has to dread when one undertakes such a radical operation. There is another similar situation, but which offers less chance of success although it is used quite often; This consists, when repotting strong plants of Odontoglossum, of not leaving more than three or four healthy pseudo-bulbs in front, and separating those behind, to put them, as nearly as possible, in the same conditions of which we have just been speaking, and to await their putting out growths which permit the reconstruction of

new plants. To speak truly, these old pseudo-bulbs, having not produced growths at their base for a long time, are often very slow to show any trace of new vegetation. It is necessary to wait many months, and, often enough, one comes to throw out most of the backbulbs which decompose, or that one has exhausted oneself watching the resting, without there being any trace of vegetation; But, on the whole, what one attempts is completely beneficial. It sometimes happens that one recovers twenty-five or thirty per cent; That is what one gains; Also, the operation is very easy to do and carries no cost to the grower.

It remain to us to speak of the multiplication properly done by sectioning the Odontoglossums of which one wishes to increase the disposable numbers.

This is a question which is a little delicate to treat because it sometimes concerns cutting very precious varieties, of which one might provoke the loss if one did not take the wished for precautions.

Let us suppose, then, that we have to multiply a plant which will have two or three or more starting points; From the moment when this plant is in perfect condition, that it has leaves, that each bulb is provided with the growing point in question, and that one is certain that vegetation will continue, one may, at the time of repotting, that is to say, in september, operate on this section of the plant using a grafting tool which cuts very well

Now, after the section has been freshly cut, one powders the wound with a little charcoal; Then one repots the plant exactly as one does for the others, but, paying close attention to not moisten too much for several days, and only at the appearance of the new roots; because these plants, having been cut, always experience a bit of fatigue, due to the bruised roots being detached from the compost etc., etc. But the operation becomes more delicate when one has in front of him a very precious plant having (it is a supposition) three or four pseudo-bulbes, of which one only, that which is in front, carries a growth which will itself form a bulb later.

Every grower who knows his business will be able very easily to take note of the state of his plant; A simple inspection will suffice to show him how he should operate and what he must do. He will begin with delicately passing the cutting instrument between the first and second bulb, and with one dry cut he will accomplish the separation, taking great care to injure neither the one nor the other.; Then he will slide a very tiny pinch of good, living sphagnum between the two bulbs, in a manner which separates them a few millimetres. It is understood he will have to demonstrate great prudence in watering his plant, since an excess of humidity can lead to rotting, not on the side of the bulb which carries the growth, but on the side of that which is resting at the back.

Nine times out of ten, several months pass during which, nourished by their roots and their leaves, the back bulbs have sufficient vigour to enable a growth to form, develop, and become sufficiently obvious that one may be quite certain that the sectioned portion is in a state to be lifted from the plant.

The operation can be carried out in this manner in the best conditions if one has operated in the above mentioned fashion so that the separation of the two sections occurs just at the time of repotting. - but, if, due to cirumstances independent of the wish of the grower, it is necessary to section a plant, no matter what season, this operation can be done, but with the condition of leaving the two parts together in the same pot, in order to not fatigue the roots... We have seen also,the multiplication of Odontoglossums carried out in a very audacious fashion, and, if we cite this, it is a headline of curiosity, because it offers a good chance of not succeeding if it is not carried out by a grower who is very prudent and very expert.

Here is what this procedure consists of: One pays regard that the forward pseudo-bulbs half formed, well supplied with leaves, and, above all, with roots which are very much alive; One detaches this alone from the plant by a clean cut; One lifts it from the pot; One then repots it and naturally renewal occurs; One manages the waterings and surveillance very closely. One does the same with the other parts of the Odontoglossum at rest in the pot; Those which are deprived of their front bulb previously must restore a new growth, which, besides, has a good chance of producing this in a more or less long time.

As for a soft section, it may be that it will do well, but it also may soften completely from the cut. We cannot very well recommend this procedure which offers many unknown quantities. It is up to amateurs to try out what interests them, choosing first of all the varieties without value.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

## POLLINATION AND SOWING OF SEED

There are certain species of orchid which adapt admirably to artificial pollination and hence to hybridization. In this regard one has only to consult specialized works, the catalogues, and, above all, the lists of collections of the great amateurs to be convinced of the very great abundance of hybrids in the genus cypripedium, the genera cattleya and laelia, to cite only these species.

There is one source of profit which is inexhaustible, because each time that a smart sower obtains a beautiful plant it will always be certain to have a good price. But, if superb and numerous results are obtained in the genera cited above, it is not the same for Odontoglossums. Many attempts have been made; many pollinations have been carried out, and seeds obtained, but, in comparison to the efforts attempted on all sides, the results have not been as numerous as for other species. The best sowers have proved, more or less, the disappointments. We know more than one of them who, having fertilized many dozens of Odontoglossums themselves, have perfectly matured the seed, have sown them, and have seen nothing come up, nothing good for them, without taking into account the fatigue of the plants which have carried the seeds. From whence arises this difficulty in carrying out the sowing of Odontoglossums?, since, in reality, the pollination itself may be done quite easily, and the maturation of the seeds, although lengthy, proceeds very well?

Is it the nature, itself, of the plants, living in their country in an atmosphere which is always saturated, without, in spite of that, being drowned in water? Is it because the air is not sufficiently pure? Or might it not be the treatment to which we submit the other plants which are not carrying seed, such that the anti-insect spraying may have more or less strong odours? All of these questions are useful to pose, but cannot easily be resolved because they are in the domain of absolute uncertainty. If one were to pose them (these questions), that is, what we have done, to the best sowers, they would all tell us that they cannot give us a response because they themselves cannot make head nor tail of it.....

However, one has been able to lift the Odontoglossums; one has brought them up, one has obtained flowering.....We shall see presently who are the happy sowers who have been able to realize this charming dream of obtaining in Europe the varieties whose origin has been presented by botanists.

Before going further, let us reveal to future sowers what we have learned on the manner of carrying out pollination, and also the manner of sowing seed to have some chance of seeing them come up.

First of all it matters to know whether one wishes to obtain varieties which would be the product of two distinct plants; In the first case it will suffice to pollinate a plant with its own pollen; In the second it would be necessary to be concerned about something else altogether.

Whether one is concerned about Odontoglossums or all other sorts of orchid, it is quite evident that it is necessary at all times to ensure having two very lovely varieties on which to carry out the cross. It is certain that, if we take, for example, Odontoglossum Wilkeanum

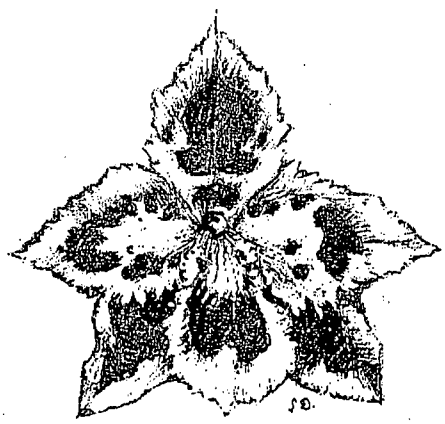


Figure 23
Odontoglossum Wilkeanum superbum

whose origin is the result of Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum fertilized by an Odontoglossum crispum, or vice-versa, we will have a significant chance of obtaining a beautiful variety of Wilkeanum (fig. 23). If, on the one hand. the Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum is large, well made, well coloured, if it is, in resume, a very beautiful variety, and if, on the other hand, the Odontoglossum crispum is a variety of perfect form, well marked, heavy substance, etc. it is a bet of 100 to 1 that the product of these two plants will be very good, while, if one is content with first luteo-purpureum to come, and a poor Odontoglossum crispum, it is almost certain that one will have nothing but a mediocre product..... It is useful to be precise about these things, because the experience is there to support what we are saying. But the sowers, do not always maintain a sufficiently rigorous record of these rules which they may treat as fatuous remarks.... and, however, nature has furnished them in this regard with precious information. There are, in effect, some Odontoglossum-wilkeanum, to not cite anything but these, which are absolutely superb and whose price has attained a height in proportion to their beauty, while others are so bad that they have never found buyers... Is this not proof that these beautiful children are the offspring of parents which themselves are very beautiful, while the others are products of inferior plant and even bad plants?

In the countries where the Odontoglossums are crossed, there are insects whose job is the pollination. From that there are astonishing results. These admirable plants are found and collected and almost always are unique in their kind, because, even given that certain very beautiful Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum and also crispum are in a district, nothing authorizes us to believe that since the insects will go from one to the other of these species in a regular fashion, that it will be similarly easy for an horticulturalist to do this when he has, it is understood, all together, the quantity and quality for his arrangement.

It is not only Odontoglossum Wilkeanum which may serve us as an example. It is the same for the excellent product of cirrhosum with cristatum, Odontoglossum Elegans and Eugenes, son of Pescatorei, by Triumphans.....so many superb others as many as man can reproduce, and reproduce hybrids more perfect to which one must attribute all the care in the

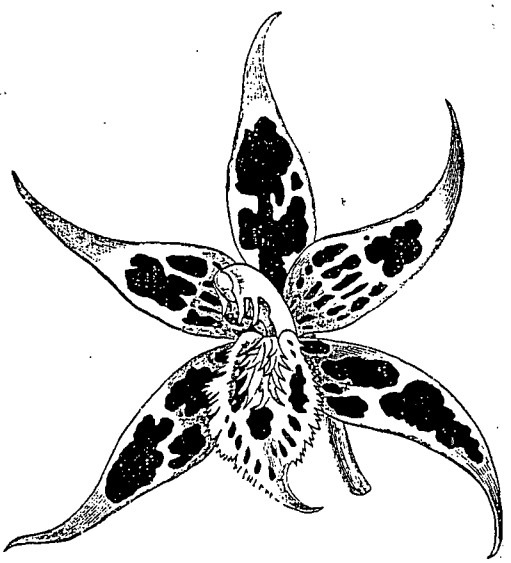


Figure 24
Odontoglossum halli

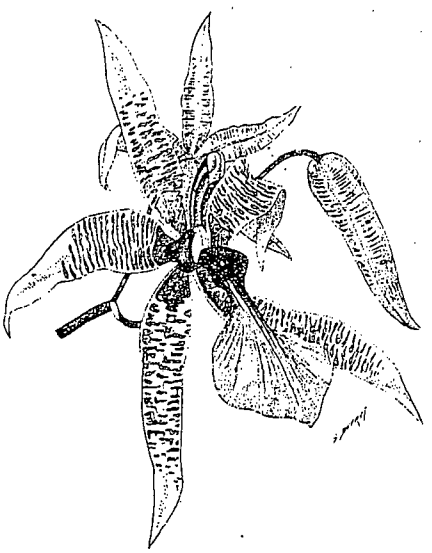


Figure 25
Odontoglossum Hastilabium reduced by 1/3

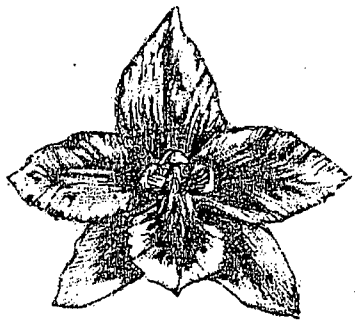


Figure 26
Odontoglossum Pescatorei

choice of the parents....
Therefore, let us observe what is shown; we choose always, for crossing between them, the best plants of our collections.

May one carry out crosses between Odontoglossums which are very different, for example between Odontoglossum crispum and Odontoglossum grande? Between Odontoglossum Rossi majus and Odontoglossum Triumphans or Pescatorei or even between Odontoglossum Halli (fig., 24) and Hastilabium (fig. 25). We, being instructed by the most competent sowers respond to this question to the best of our ability; But, we are obliged to say that it is necessary, most of the time, to retain, to bring back to the qualities of plants to be pollinated, to cross between those of the species which have much in common, if one does not wish to run the risk of having lost his time, and even his plants, because we know from good sources that certain pollinations which seem to have succeeded since the pod with the seeds has all the appearance of maturity, have ended up as nothing. The seeds were infertile, and the plants, fatigued by carrying the pod, have finished by dying. On the other hand, it has been said in London, in a conference which remains celebrated, by a notable horticulturalist, the honourable M. H. Veitch, that in spite of all the efforts of the experienced sower Seden, he who has always failed in his attempts to cross Odontoglossum crispum and the mexican species of the Grande type, and for whom plenty of other species appear to be also alienated, (note that we speak of appearance), the results have been the same, that is to say , nothing!

Is it therefore necessary to abandon the idea of crossing species which are quite different? We do not believe that this is so, because there have been pollinations so unusual, by certain breeders that, in spite of the apparent distance between the species, it is necessary to believe that the thing is possible, since it has succeeded. It is thus that, in the remarkable cultures of Veitch, of Sanders, one has been able to see hybrids so bizarre that, in truth, it is very disconcerting. Only, it seems to us that one will always have an interest to not be too adventurous, as we have said recently, in the operations which compromise the health of the plants themselves which one wishes to retain; Prudence seems to us, therefore, to be indicated.

Now that we have examined the questions we are going to see how and when the operation may be carried out. It is first of all important to say that it is necessary to choose the moment when the flowers are completely opened out and to take the most perfect of them in the middle part of the stem, this to serve as the seed carrier.. Nothing will prevent pollinating two or three times if one carries a pollen mass in sufficient quantities. It is not to keep two or three pollinated flowers on the stem, but to choose which will have the certain coup, because it may be that they will not all take; similarly, that it will be possible to choose which appears to offer the best conditions of attachment and soundness.

The operation done, like all pollinations, as much as possible in good weather, the fertilized flower will soon wilt . In Odontoglossums, the colour is rapidly transformed. the petals and sepals close, but remain attached to the ovary for a sufficiently long time. It is thus very useful, at this time, to leave only the fertilized flower; to cut just above the rest of the branch and to suppress the flowers below the one which has been fertilized. One must not suppress the parts of the flower resting fixed against the ovary; One could injure this, and the scar could lead to rotting. One therefore pays close attention that these parts detach themselves and fall; Then one sustains the capsule with a little support so that it will not be bruised or crumpled, because it will not delay in becoming fairly large and heavy, according to its species, and, when it is close to ripening, which can be require from 12 to 15

months (more or less), one can envelop it in wax paper, of a sufficiently large size, with the goal of preserving first of all the inadvertent surrounding attachments, and, above all, to prevent the escape of seeds. which may appear abruptly with a day of beautiful sun.....

The seeds harvested must be sown right away, according to the advice of certain sowers, in a cool greenhouse, a little damp, with Northern exposure, and on the compost of plants which are in a perfect state.

According to other sowers, place on the compost of the Odontoglossum, but it does not matter which cool greenhouse, nor in what position....

According to other sowers, notably M. Bert, place on the very clean sawdust of white fir.

We are obliged, in this regard, to report excellent results which we have been given by very experience horticulturalists, where we have seen young seeds of Odontoglossums in perfect health; But the manner of sowing has been so different that it is for that reason that we do not believe that we can be dogmatic.

One sows them in the same greenhouse and on plants which are doing well, where one has not changed the compost. One keeps the seeds in a state of constant saturation (perhaps this is the most essential part), and one awaits the lifting, which occurs very irregularly, and capriciously (from 12 to 16 months), since we have seen seeds on the same pots, on the same day as seeds already quite strong, others quite microscopic, and some in an embryonic state; We have seen old branches with flowers, on the summit of their bulbs, having in addition there where they have seeds; which proves that, the seed being very fine, the waterings and sprinkings contribute to the transportation outside the place where they have spread on their own.

The young plants grow fairly quickly, and, curiously, they have a very strong herbaceous vegetation which makes them resemble a young flat dracoena; Then the bulb forms and, from the first year, it is also sufficiently strong; Vegetation continues and rapidly enough since one may see plants flower at the end of three and one-half years, four years at the most.

It is difficult to be precise concerning the care to be given to the young plants; Everything depends on their situation; If they remain on the pots, among the living sphagnum, they will absorb most of their humidity; There is not much to fear for the health of the young plants; - But, if one has lifted them from the milieu where they have lived, it is also necessary to take precautions; to plant them in little well drained pots, in a milieu of compost made up of good living sphagnum and fibres of polypodium; Then one must oversee the sprinklings and place the young plants where they

Figure 27
Harryanum reduced by one third

will be seen, with six or eight per pot, in a basket suspended in the middle portion of the greenhouse. It is necessary to observe very carefully that they (the plants) are not attacked by thrips, since this would kill them in short order; These terrible insects eat the young leaves at such a point that they stop all vegetation. The best is to spray often, and, if one perceives some light traces of thrips or of a gray tint, to lightly powder the suffering flowers on the young seedlings.

It is also necessary to constantly keep an eye on these young plants, and one must
give them meticulous care. Repotting, surfacing, light sprinkling, etc. will be largely rewarded by the pretty picture which they will make; Their vegetation, as we have said, shows itself to be most active during the first three years.
Besides, from the second year, the care given to them will be exactly the same as we have indicated for the other Odontoglossums.

One has already obtained superb things - although not numerous - in sowing Odontoglossum seed. We know that in England there have already been very pretty gains; We do not have the details in this regard. But in France, it is M. Leroy d'Armainvilliers who has had the honour to present, at the national Society of horticulture of France, the first Odontoglossums obtained by artificial crossing, flowering for the first time in France. This was in 1886 that seeds were sown from the pollination of Odontoglossum crispum by Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum. The first plant flowered three years and one half after the sowing, the others at the end of five years.

One of the most beautiful was named Leroyanum. In reality, these were one or other of Wilkeanum, more or less coloured....but very remarkable... Next was presented an Odontoglossum plant, self fertilized, in 1898. M. Jacob, head of culture in the same estate of Armainvilliers presented to the national Society of horticulture of France an Odontoglossum which proved the fertilization of a Pescatorei by a crispum. The pollination date was 1892; The seed was sown in 1893; It is therefore about six years until the plant flowered. It held, at the same time, the Pescatorei (fig. 26) for the general form, and the Odontoglossum crispum for the markings.; It is a very nice gain whose name is Odontoglossum Armainvilliense.

Figure 28
Lip of Odontoglossum Harrayanum. Ordinary variety

Some other breeders have obtained very lovely plants; Among the most successful we can cite M..Wuylsteke, Loochrysty (Belgium), who has had the advantage of being the first to pollinate Odontoglossum Harryanum (fig. 27) by Odontoglossum Pescatorei and the crispum, and to see Odontoglossum his tentative crowning of success by obtaining superb hybrids recalling the qualities of both parents. One of the most characteristic and one of the first which flowered is Odontoglossum Rolfeae (Rolfe) which is the product of Pescatorei pollinated by Harryanum (see Dictionary of Orchids, pl. 7, october, 1898): Since then, very nice gains have been obtained by the happy breeder; They have been represented with honour at the Exposition of horticulture of Mont-Saint-Amand (Gand) in april 1898.

Among these gains, certain ones were quite curious; They were the product of Odontoglossum Alexandrae (crispum) and Triumphans (fig. 29)

One may, therefore, move forward without fear that M. Wuylsteke is the first which has had the advantage of being able to present a very beautiful series of sowings of Odontoglossums, proving its fertility.

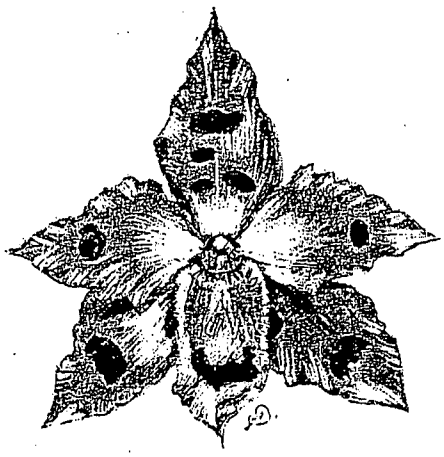


Figure 29
Odontoglossum bred by M. Wuylsteke
Triumphans x Crispum

We must cite to our readers the most beautiful varieties obtained by this skilful breeder, who, at our request, has been willing that we communicate them, and has graciously put in our hands the remarkable water colours which have served us in drawing the lips for our study on this subject:

Odontoglossum Loochristiense (fig. 30). Od. Crispum x Triumphans. Od. Mme Wuylsteke (same parents)

Odontoglossum Vivicans.....}
-- Spectabile.....}
-- Urophilium.....}
-- Eximium.....}
-- Grandiceps.....}
-- Hirsutum.....}
-- Bellatulum.....}
-- Salmoneum.....}
-- Prestans.....}
-- Zebrinum.....}

All hybrids of Harryanum x Crispum or Crispum X Harryanum (fig. 31)

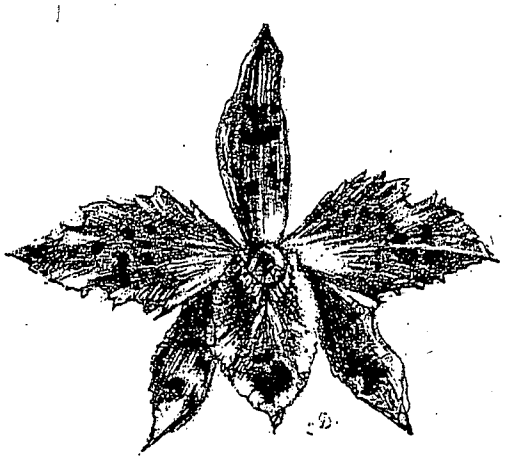


Figure 30
Odontoglossum Loochrystiense
Variety Berti Crispum x Triumphans
reduced by one third

Odontoglossum
Corallinum.....}
Gratiosum.....}
Supremum.....}

Hybrides of Harraynum x Pescatorei and vice-versa

We will soon also see the flowering of our french breeders, because we have noted at the establishment of our colleague M. Bert, who has, besides, given us excellent references for this chapter, the seedlings in a perfect state, proving that fertilization operates between Odontoglossum crispum

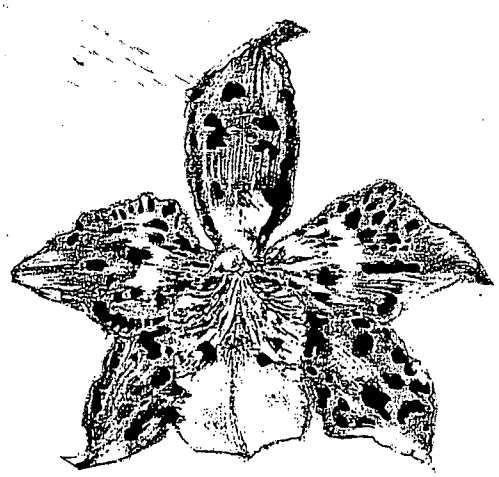


Figure 31
Odontoglossum hybrids of Crispum x Harryanum
reduced by one third

and Odontoglossum Harryanum, Odontoglossum crispum and Odontoglossum Polyxantum, Odontoglossum crispum, and Triumphans; Which proves that great ideas meet each other. We are also aware that M. Vacherot, our colleague, possesses pretty subjects which are promising.

We have also been able to see at the establishment of M. Jules Hye, the celebrated amateur , glove-maker, young seedlings full of promise for the future proving that with well thought out pollinations one may certainly await for some very good things.

If we do not cite other breeders, it is not that they do not exist; It is probable even that there are, in Europe, numerous young plants of Odontoglossums for whom one awaits the flowering. We salute with joy this appearance, because we estimate that there will be a new look at profits for commerce, an enormous attraction for amateurs, and, moreover, perhaps excellent references for botanists, who do not always agree as to the origin of such or such a hybrid.

***Again a note of thanks to Carl Withner for allowing the Odontoglossum Alliance to have a copy of this first book on Odontoglossums. Special thanks to Shirley Thomas who has capably translated the French version into English. We have two more installments to publish. Following the complete publication the Odontoglossum Alliance will publish a complete version of both the original French and the English translation. We will be offering these, first to our members, and after a reasonable period will make them available to the interested orchid enthusiast.***

# Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting

The Odontoglossum Alliance will hold it's annual meeting on 24 March 2001 in Santa Barbara at the Holiday Inn. This is the time of the Santa Barbara Orchid Show 23-25 March 2001. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM with a program of three speakers and a panel discussion on judging the Odontoglossum Alliance. In the evening will be a dinner at a Chinese restaurant. During this time there will be a short business update and our usual auction of some fine Alliance material.

The meeting will be at the Holiday Inn which is two exits South of the County Fairgrounds where the Santa Barbara show is held. Our Alliance members will be able to purchase a ticket to the show for $6.00 which will be good for entrance during the entire show period. There is a block of rooms being held for our members. Reservations at the Holiday Inn may be made by calling 805-964-6241. The block of rooms will be held until 10 March 2001 after which time they will be released back to the hotel. The rate for these rooms is $89.95 per night.

PROGRAM
1:00 PM
Holiday Inn
Mission Room

The Session Chairman for our program is
James Rassmann

1. Russ Vernon
The Influence of Odontoglossum species in hybrids other than crispum

2. Dr. Howard Liebman
Odontiodas: Back to the Future

3. Jerry Rehfield-Breeding
Odontoglossums with other Genera

Following our presentations our speakers will form a panel, moderated by Jim Rassmann addressing the "Judging Criteria and Point Scales" for Odontoglossums in the **AOS Handbook of Judging and Exhibition.** These Criteria, long ago selected to provide a standard of perfection and guide judges, have often been criticized as no longer relevant or too restrictive in evaluating the major orchid genera. The three members of our eminent panel will address the Criteria (below) and invite their audience to comment. Should a valuable proposal for a new Odontoglossum Criteria result, Jim will present it to the Judging Committee for evaluation.

•

**ODONTOGLOSSUM**

The general form of the flower is toward roundness, fullness and flatness, tending to fit within a circumscribed circle as in Cattleya. The color of the flower must be definite and clear, in well defined patterns. Size of the flower should be equal to or greater than the geometric mean of the size of the parents. Substance should be equal to or greater than the average of the parents. Substance should be equal to or greater than the average of the parents. The habit of the inflorescence may be simple or branching with flowers well spaced and well displayed. Floriferousness is closely related to parental background.

The Odontoglossum point scale is designed primarily for the crispum-type odontoglossums, odontiodas, vuylstekearas, oncidiums, miltonias, and similar orchid flowers that have lips approximately equal in size to the petals and sepals. For large-lipped forms, score by the Miltonia point scale.

•

This will be an opportunity for our Alliance to have an impact on the future direction of awards in the AOS. All our speakers are judges as well as the panel chairman. In addition, Jim Rassmann is the Chairman of the AOS Committee on Judging. This should be an informative and constructive panel discussion with the possibility for significant consideration for future awards and the direction of hybridizing.

The evening dinner will be held at The Empress Palace restaurant located at 2251 Las Positas Road, Santa Barbara (805-898-2238) which is a short distance from the hotel. The cost per person is $30.00. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 PM and dinner is at 7:30 PM. During the dinner there will be a short business meeting and update on the status of the Alliance. After dinner we will hold our usual auction of donated high quality Odontoglossum Alliance material. The proceeds of which will go to your Alliance.

The show will have a large number of orchid vendors including several offering Alliance material. The local area has a number of nurseries including Cal Orchids, Galllup and Stribling and Orchids Royale that will be open for visits during the period of the show. Jerry Rehfield will open his green house for tours. At a somewhat greater distance (a two + hour drive) are commercial houses at San Lius Obispo. Several people may wish to team up to drive over. The show preview party is on Friday evening (23 March) for which tickets will be available. This is also the time of the annual meeting of The Cymbidium Society.

# Bolivian Orchid Photographs

Roberto Vasquez Chavez, of Bolivia, was a speaker at the Odontoglossum day of the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver in 1999. He was supported in this be our Odontoglossum Alliance. His remarks on Bolivian odontoglossums were very interesting. It has been most disappointing that Roberto has not provided a written version of his talk for our members who were not able to attend the WOC. However we do have copies of his slides. It should be noted that Bolivia will not issue CITES for the export of orchid species. Thus these species are not available for growing outside of Bolivia. We did discuss with Roberto a program of selfing species and either exporting the seed pods or flasks of the selfed plants. SO far we have not been able to make progress on this program.

The picture ( see pages 17, 18) description follows:

1. Rodriguezia chimorensis *Dodson & Vasquez*

A tropical lowland species (230 m) An endemic species from Bolivia with large white of light colored flowers.

2. Rodriguezia carnea *Lindl.*

with red flower or salmon-red flowers.

3. Onc. stacyi *Garay*

One of the most spectacular endemic species from Bolivia. Its rat tail leaves can reach up to 3 feet long.

4. Onc. sp.

An un identified Oncidium from the Yungas of Bolivia.

5. Odontoglossum lapacense *Vasquez & Dalström*

A newly described Odontoglossum from near the city of La Paz (Bolivia) with purple striped on white lip.

6. Cochlioda noezliana *(Mast.) Rolfe*

7. Otoglossum coronarium

Grows in cool fog covered forests above 2200 meters. The flowers are bright red with yellow lip.

8. Neodryas herogii *Schltr.*

A member of the Oncidiinae subtribe. Its cupped flowers are red with an orange lip. It grows in high fog covered forests.

9. Odontoglossum aureum *(Lindl.) Rchb. f.*

Found at 3200 m above sea level growing in steep grassy slopes.

10. Yungas

A picture of the cloud forest in Bolivia where some very interesting Oncidium and Odontoglossum are found.

11. Rio San Mateo

In the region known as Yungas. It is a place with the richest biodiversity in the world. Also home of more than 500 known orchid species.

# Species and Award Photograph Program

The Odontoglossum Alliance plans try to print in the newsletter as complete a collection as possible of the species of the Odontoglossum Alliance. The following genera are in the Odontoglossum Alliance:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ada | | Amparoa |
| | Antillanorchis | |
| Aspasia | | Binotia |
| | Brachtia | |
| Brassia | | Buesiella |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Capanemia | |
| Caucaea | | Cischweinfia |
| | Cochlioda | |
| Comparettia | | Cuitlauzinia |
| | Cypholoron | |
| Diadenium | | Erycina |
| | Fernandezia | |
| Gomesa | | Helcia |
| | Hybochilus | |
| Ionopsis | | Konantzia |
| | Lemboglossum | |
| Leochilus | | Leucohyle |
| | Lockhartia | |
| Macradenia | | Macroclinium |
| | Mesoglossum | |
| Mesospinidium | | Mexicoa |
| | Miltonia | |
| Miltoniopsis | | Neodryas |
| | Neokoehleria | |
| Notylia | | Odontoglossum |
| | Oliveriana | |
| Oncidium | | Osmoglossum |
| | Otoglossum | |
| Pachyphyllum | | Palumbina |
| | Papperitzia | |
| Plectrophora | | Polytidium |
| | Psychopsiella | |
| Psychopsis | | Psygmorchis |
| | Pterostemma | |
| Quekettia | | Raycadenco |
| | Rodriguezia | |
| Rodrigueziella | | Rodrigueziopsis |
| | Rossioglossum | |
| Rusbyella | | Sanderella |
| | Saundersia | |
| Scelochilus | | Sigmatostalix |
| | Solenidopsis | |
| Solenidium | | Stictophyllum |
| | Suarezia | |
| Sutrina | | Symphyglossum |
| | Systelglossum | |
| Ticoglossum | | Tolumnia |
| | Trichocentrum | |
| Trichopilia | | Trizeuxis |
| | Warmingia | |

We will have an open program to print color photographs of Odontoglossum Alliance species grown by our members. We will print only one photograph of a specie. Here is what to do. If you have bloomed an Alliance specie, take a photograph either a slide or a print. Send it to:

The Odontoglossum Alliance
PO Box 38
Westport Point, MA 02791

If the specie has all ready been printed your photograph will be returned. If it has not been printed a copy of the slide will be made and the slide returned to the sender. Any print sent in will be permanently retained. I have now upgraded my computer system and have included a scanner so that either prints or slides can be scanned into the computer and integrated into the newsletter.

The photograph will be sent to Stig Dalström for possible identification. Then it will be printed and named in the newsletter. It will be more inclusive for the submitter of the material to also give a short description of the plant, flower and growing conditions. The list of Alliance genera was supplied by Stig Dalström and taken from: "Phylogenz and Classification of the Orchid Family" by Dremler.

We hope in this way to build up over a period of time an interesting and useful set of material valuable to our members.

# Odontoglossum Alliance Awards

Any Odontoglossum Alliance flower that is awarded under the local country award procedure would also like to be noted in the newsletter. This will be done by requesting the plant owner of the awarded flower to send in a slide of the flower and the description that accompanies the award. We will copy the slide and return it. In the next available newsletter the photograph and description will be printed in the newsletter. In this way our members can be kept current on the latest awards.

It is hoped that all our members will participate in both of these programs.

# Membership and Meeting

AS advertised in our newsletter members must pay up their dues (due in May) prior to the mailing of the November Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter. Failing to do so will eliminate them from the mailing list and membership. While the majority of our members responded promptly we never-the-less have 26 who failed to respond. I have sent them a final reminder, but NO newsletter. Currently the mailing list sets at 98.

In discussing the possible location for our annual meeting it was brought out that in 2002 the spring AOS Trustees meeting will be held in the Chicago area and that we should plan to have our Odontoglossum Alliance meeting in conjunction with that show and meeting. SO start thinking Chicago for 2002.

# The Odontoglossum Compendium

The Odontoglossum Compendium which your Alliance has been selling to our members has been most successful with sales of 45 copies. (100 copies were sold at the WOC in April 1999) The balance of the printing has been sent to The American Orchid Society Bookstore which will now be the sales location for future copies. Thanks to all our members for this successful transaction. We were able to offer copies at the lowest possible price. We expect to have the same plan for the complete Duval book by first offering it to our members direct and after a reasonable period determine if the AOS bookstore would like to carry it. nws359

Alan Moon receives The Victoria Medal.
This is the highest award a person in England can receive for honors in horticulture. Alan Moon is the curator and director of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. This was formed by Eric Young to be an organization devoted to the raising and displaying of plants of the orchid world. Alan states that the award, being of a high honor, was a thank you for the people in the foundation. Alan has been at the foundation since 1994 and the award came as a large surprise. Currently the orchid houses are undergoing major renovation. There are new growing houses containing the latest technology. There is a new entrance to the Foundation and most impressive is the new show house which is over 5.5 meters high. (18 feet high). The Library has had several advances as well. It is expected that the new Foundation will be open in May 2001.

# Alan Moon Honoured by the Royal Horticultural Society

At the Society's AGM on 20 June last, Alan Moon, curator of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation on Jersey received from the President, Sir Simon Hornby, the Victoria Medal of Honour. This is awarded to British horticulturalists whom the Council consider deserving of special honour. There are never more than 63 recipients holding this award at any one time. This reflects the 63 years of Queen Victoria's reign.

Alan Moon and his work will have been appreciated by thousands of gardeners through his skill with orchids and his exhibits at the Society's shows over the years. Alan Moon met orchid specialist Eric Young in 1958 while working at McBeans Orchid Nursery in Cooksbridge, Sussex. He subsequently went on to work for him at Mont Millais Nurseries in Jersey, growing his *cymbidium* collection and becoming involved in hybridizing orchids.

Alan Moon carries on the late Eric Young's work, continuing to make outstanding contributions to the advancement of orchid hybridizing. The nursery has received the RHS George Moore Medal in nine of the last ten years, including 1999, for hybridization work with *Phyragmipedium* and *Paphiopedilum* hybrids.

Alan Moon has staged numerous Gold Medal displays at RHS Flower Shows and won the Williams Memorial Medal in 1990 and 1996 and the Lawrence Medal in 1991.

# Alan Moon Reminisces

On a calm summer evening in 1957 in the Sussex village of Cooksbridge, I met a vivacious young lady. We were both 15, and I made a date to meet Val the following evening. On the same day I had an interview for a job with McBean's of Cooksbridge. Val and I have now been married for 43 years, some evening.

At McBean's I was interviewed by Sydney Rothwell, the managing director. At that time I had no idea of what an orchid was, but left the meeting with the post of trainee grower with the amazing package of 49 1/2 hours a week, with two weeks holiday a year to be taken separately, for £2.10 (£2.50) per week. I was so impressed with the politeness of Mr. Rothwell, who had held the door open for me to pass him, and told me that if I worked hard, one day I would have his job!

I started at McBean's in the summer, and when the *Cymbidium* flowering season arrived, I was captivated by such flowers as the deep red *C.* Rio Rita 'Radiant' FCC/RHS and its hybrids which included *C.* Clarissa and the new *C.* Cooksbridge, (*C.* Kangar x *C.* Alexanderi) in lovely pastel colours. Among regular overseas visitors to the nursery were the top hobbyists of their time, these included Emma and Albert Menninger from the US and George Tossi, with Australian connections. British growers included Sydney Farnes and Cyril Dixon of Harry Dixon & Sons, who, along with his brother, ran their nursery at Wandsworth Common. Deals would be struck, prices often including a pollen or two.

I remember some of my fellow employees were rather eccentric. Albert Miller had worked at McBean's for over 30 years, spending his time in the potting shed without any form of heating, all year round, in a short-sleeved shirt. He would breathe on the window to thaw the thick hoarfrost in order to see who had arrived in the nursery. Gilbert (Bert) Fuller joined McBeans from Stuart Low, a rival nursery. He was employed as a seedling grower, and advised me to start tobacco smoking. He said that unless I did I would never be successful in finding a girl friend! By this time I was already engaged to Val.

Ken Norris joined McBeans from Dorset Orchids and later became manager of Charlesworths. Ken was an exceptional, forward-thinking grower, ahead of his time. He became my friend and confidante, and was a superb teacher. Ken persuaded Sydney Rothwell to put me in charge of No. 13 greenhouse which contained some good plants. Before we began repotting the cymbidiums, we would bet on how many plants we could pot in the day. Time and again Ken would pick up my newly potted specimen by the leaves only for the clay pot to drop and break on the floor, leaving me to repot again. Ken had bought a case of the then new chocolate biscuit, Wagon Wheels, from Val who worked in a grocery store. At the end of each day Ken would give me one Wagon Wheel. The manner of repotting at that time meant that two people working all day could never repot more than 5 plants in 3 in to 5 in pots. Today, such plants would have to be worth their weight in gold to be commercially viable.

In the early 1960's Val and I, and our two children, moved to Jersey where I took charge of Eric Young's cymbidiums. This proved to be the right decision, with for me, momentous results, as history has shown. It has been my privilege to be a part of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, and the great global orchid world, where class disappears and love and care emerge. Like our founder, Eric Young, I would also hope that everyone could experience the pleasures of orchid growing.

**Editor's Note:** *This material was taken from The Orchid Review, November-December 2000, with the permission of Alan Moon.*

# Alan Moon receives The Victoria Medal.

This is the highest award a person in England can receive for honors in horticulture. Alan Moon is the curator and director of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. This was formed by Eric Young to be an organization devoted to the raising, hybridizing and displaying of plants of the orchid world. Alan states that the award, being of a high honor, was a thank you for the people in the foundation. Alan has been at the foundation since the 1960's and the award came as a large surprise. Currently the orchid houses are undergoing major renovation. There are new growing houses containing the latest technology. There is a new en-

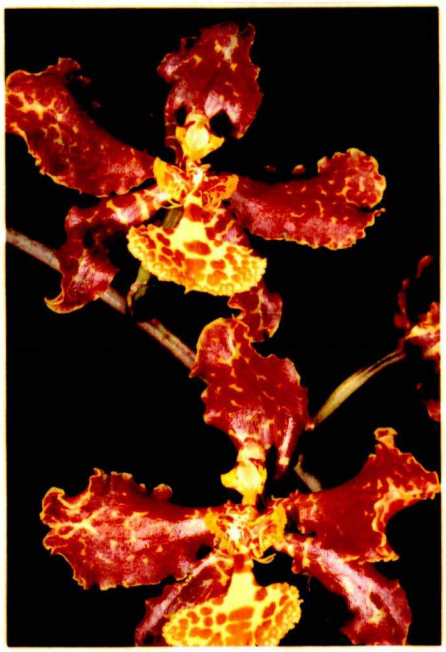
trance to the Foundation and most impressive is the new show house which is over 5.5 meters high. (18 feet high). The Library has had several advances as well. It is expected that the new Foundation will be open in May 2001.

Alan has been a particular friend of The Odontoglossum Alliance. He has regularly made contributions to our auctions. He has created a large number of beautiful and unusual alliance plants, many of which have won awards world wide. The Eric Young Foundation has been most generous in supporting orchid shows with their displays and consistently won awards. Alan's Odontoglossum Alliance hybrids are in many of our collections.

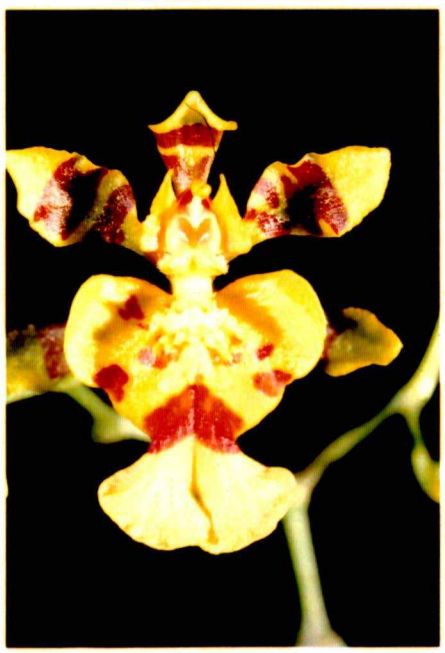
Alan Moon (right) receiving his Victoria Medal of Honour from Sir Simon Hornby

1. Cochlioda Noezliana

2. Odm. Aureum



3. Onc. Stacyi



4. Onc. species

5. Otoglossum coronarium

6. Rodriguezia chimorensis

7. Rodriguezia camea

8. Odontoglossum lapacense

9. Neodryas herzogii

10. Rio San Mateo

11. Yungas