

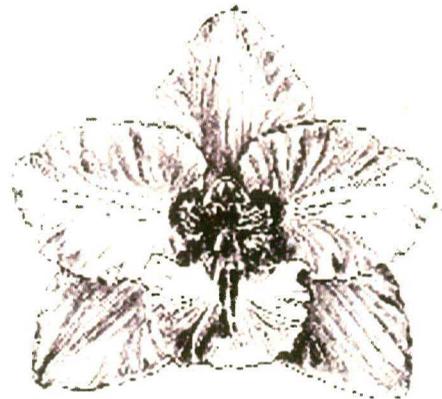
# Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 6

August 2013

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### The Medellin Show 2013: Orquideas, Pajaros y Flores

In early August Howard Liebman and I went to the spectacular orchid show in Medellin, Colombia. There are many reasons to go to this particular show – the dazzling array of native Colombian orchid species interspersed with lavish cut-flower exhibits; the chance to see how smoothly this astonishingly successful show, now the third largest in the world, runs; and most important the chance to visit old friends, make new ones and enjoy Colombians' characteristically warm hospitality.

For this report, however, I want to focus on three things: on the odontoglossum alliance plants and their close relatives that were awarded at the show, on the three FCC award winners even though they are from other genera, and on a few notable flowers I saw at Colomborquideas, Juan Felipe Posada's orchid nursery. Nicolas Gómez, the photographer for the Colombian Orchid Society, took all the photos of awarded plants.

First, let me mention the FCCs, in part because it is unusual to have so many of them at a single show. The first is *Pescatorea coelestis* fma. *quasialba* 'San Isidro', owned by Daniel Piedrahita. This species, formerly known as *Bollea coelestis*, is usually characterized by its deep, almost midnight, blue flowers. None of the judges had ever seen a light form like this. It's not an albino; the column is light pink. The combination of the large, full flower and its rare color led to its 91 point score.



The next of the FCCs was *Laelia schultzei* 'Colombo', owned by Colomborquideas. This dramatic species with tall inflorescences topped with a cluster of richly colored flowers used to be included in the genus *Schomburgkia*, but along with 13 other species it was transferred to *Laelia* in 2008.



The third FCC went to *Stanhopea tigrina* var *nigroviolacea* 'Carlos Sanin', owned by Maria Victoria Arango. The AOS has awarded this variety of *Stanhopea tigrina* eight times including this one and half of those awards have been FCCs! The flowers are massive and the strong contrast between the very dark markings on the petals and sepals and the spotted ivory of the rest of the flowers is irresistible.



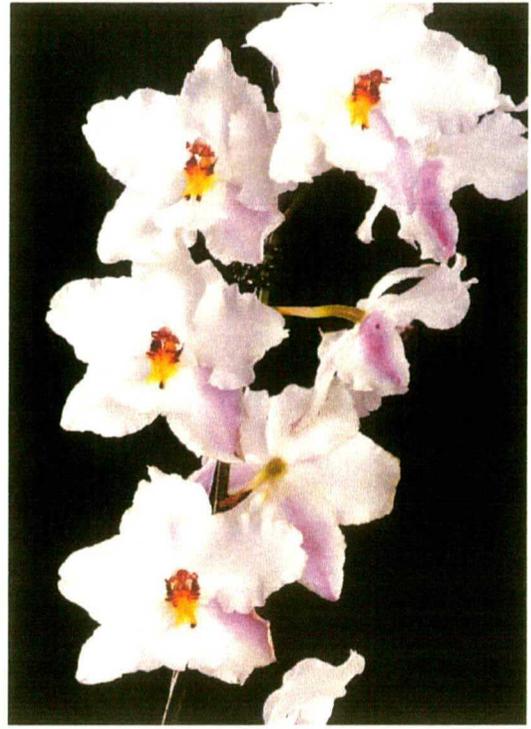
Including the FCCs, there were 27 awards at the show and 8 of them went to species or hybrids in the Oncidiinae. First of these was *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* 'San Isidro', owned by Daniel Piedrahita, that earned a rare CCE of 90 points for its cultural excellence and abundance of flowers.



*Miltoniopsis vexillaria* 'San Isidro' CCE/AOS



*Cyrtorchilum* Juliann 'Colombo' HCC/AOS



*Odontoglossum nobile* 'Colombo' AM/AOS

*Cyrtorchilum* Juliann 'Colombo' owned by Colomborquideas received a 79 point HCC. This grex, made by Bob Hamilton, is an inspired combination of *Cyrt. ramosissimum* and *Cyrt. villenaorum*. Both parents contribute to the purple color that is emphasized by the broad and deeply colored lip contributed by *villenaorum*. On the other hand, *ramosissimum* shortens the inflorescence and influences the pleasing wavy outline of the flowers.

*Odontoglossum nobile* 'Colombo' AM 82 is the result of several generations of line breeding by Juan Felipe Posada of Colomborquideas. Because there was some concern that many of the previously shown nobiles were actually hybrids that had some contribution from *crispum*, Juan Felipe started with wild-collected nobiles and chose the best at each generation to breed on. The results are wonderful to see.

Oncidesa Gower Ramsey 'Naranja', owned by Francisco Villegas of Orquifollajes, was awarded an AM of 83 points. It combines a Mexican oncidium, *sphacelatum*, with two Brazilian gomesas, *varicosa* and *flexuosa*. Because of their floriferousness and bright yellow color, plants of this grex have been meristemmed many times and have become a staple of the florist trade. This particular plant is part of Francisco Villegas' multiple-generation breeding program to look for plants with novel colors and patterning. Its strong orange color distinguishes it from all previous awards.



*Odontoglossum* [(Coupe Point x Pesky) x *nobile*] 'Colombo' was awarded a 77 point HCC and belongs to Juan Felipe Posada of Colomborquideas. In addition to its full shape and clean burgundy markings on a white background, it had 24 flowers on a single branched inflorescence.





Miltoniopsis (Romance x *vexillaria*) 'Katia', owned by Gustavo Aguirre, received an AM of 82. This complex hybrid has the shape and soft pink color of an outstanding vexillaria with the addition of a beautiful sunburst mask.



*Odontoglossum sceptrum* fma. *xanthinum*  
'Orquifollajes', owned by Francisco Villegas of Orquifollajes, received an 82 point AM. This was the third award to this floriferous species, but the first award for a xanthic clone.



This unusual hybrid, *Otostele* (*Rhyn. hortensiae* x *Oto. candelabrum*) 'Colombo', owned by Juan Felipe Posada, received an AM of 85. The flowers retained much of the flower shape, bright yellow lip, and compact inflorescence of the *Otoglossum* parent, but the *rhynchostele* broke up the color in a pleasing way and reduced the plant size. An interesting new direction for hybridizing.



When I visited Colomborquideas after the show, there were lots more orchids to enjoy. I'll just show a few.

This is a hybrid of *Cyrtochilum orgyale* and *Odontoglossum nobile*. It kept the vining inflorescence of *orgyale* with these large flat flowers, mostly showing color from *orgyale*. Howard loved it!



A xanthic *Odm. Ardentissimum*  
(*crispum* x *nobile*)



Another of Juan Felipe's line bred *Odm. nobiles*



A 4N Odm. Rolfeae (crispum 4N x harryanum 4N) along with its hybridizer, Juan Felipe Posada. Where did the 4N parents come from? Of course, Bob Hamilton's relentless pursuit of increased ploidy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Beckendorf

## HOW MANY ORCHID SPECIES EXIST ON EARTH?

Stig Dalström

2304 Ringling Boulevard, unit 119, Sarasota FL 34237, U.S.A.

Lankester Botanical Garden, University of Costa Rica, Cartago, Costa Rica.

National Biodiversity Centre, Serbithang, Bhutan.

The question how many orchid species exist in the world is something that often comes up during meetings or lectures, and at orchid shows. We sometimes hear numbers like 15,000 to 30,000, but the truth is that nobody really knows. It is possible to find out how many orchid species that have been scientifically described by using some of the available services online, such as the Kew Monocot Checklist. But the listed taxa are really nothing but just names. The reason for this is that an astounding number of what we call 'species' have been described several times, either by different authors or by the same author at different occasions. It also depends on whether the author/scientist who describes a particular taxon (species) is a 'splitter' (someone who has a narrow species concept and often relies on minor differences in the morphology, molecular patterns or chemistry in separating species from each other), or a 'lumper' (someone who prefers a wider and more generous species concept). Then of course we have the 'splimper' who lumps groups of orchids that he/she is not familiar with, but splits his/her particular orchid complex of interest. Orchid taxonomy in reality, however, is often a sequence of all three approaches in various orders. We learn as we go, so to speak. With only a single dried flower to base your opinion on, which often happens, it may be safer to be a 'lumper', and when we learn more about this species' natural habitat, natural variation etc., we can make a more educated decision and, perhaps, become a 'splitter'. The trick to become a decent taxonomist seems to be about finding a good balance between the three approaches, admit when you are wrong, and adopt a fairly consistent view.

Another reason why we don't know how many orchid species that exist in the world is because we have not found them all, and probably never will, regardless if they (or we) become extinct due to deforestation, climate change, nuclear war, viral pandemics or any other factor. Basic plant science in general and alpha taxonomy in particular, also has a low status in the academic, commercial and political world, resulting in frugal or no financial support. Complicated regulations and expensive paperwork, and authorities that sometimes are downright unwilling to assist do not help either.

So how easy or difficult is it to find a new orchid species then? It depends! Some areas, like Europe, which has been inventoried, explored and classified by botanists for many centuries, over and over again, have species complexes (or 'superspecies') that have been split into an amazing number of difficult to define 'new' species, subspecies, varieties, forms etc. Remote areas in the Andes or New Guinea, on the other hand, may have been very poorly explored, if at all, and those are the regions where most distinctly new species are found. One may say that Europe has too few orchids and too many botanists, while the regions where most orchid species occur have too few botanists. Sweden, as an example, is the country where modern plant classification was born due to the work of Linnaeus in the mid eighteenth century, and who has many followers (yours truly is one!). About 45 orchid species are currently recognized from that country, with a number of subspecies, varieties and forms. The tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan has been briefly explored by botanists in the past and can boast with approximately 450 orchid species at this time (but the number is growing every year), while Peru is likely to have around 4000 to 5000 species in the future, if we can find them all before they disappear forever.

Consequently, if you want to find new orchid species you should visit remote cloud forests in Peru. And thanks to some very fortuitous personal events in the recent past, I have been invited by governmental authorities in both Bhutan and Peru to collaborate and participate in ongoing inventories and classifications of the orchid flora. And this has been quite successful in terms of finding new taxa, particularly in Peru. But other Andean countries, like Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela have also revealed new taxa recently. Some of which are quite extraordinary. In any case, there is still a number of unknown species awaiting discovery, and recently found species waiting in line to receive a scientific name, which shows that the work by retired professors and farmers, busy physicians, miscellaneous researchers, young students and native orchid workers

alike must go on.

Here are a few examples of recently described orchids resulting from collaborative efforts in Peru (not all Oncidiinae).

Note: “(in publication)” means that the description is accepted and scheduled for publication but not yet published.

A: *Cyrtochilum deburghgraeveanum*; photo by Guido Deburghgraeve

B: *Cyrtochilum ruizii*; photo by Saúl Ruíz

C: *Cyrtochilum russellianum*; photo by Stig Dalström

D: *Cyrtochilum sharoniae*; photo by Stig Dalström

E: *Cyrtochilum tricornis*; photo by Jan Sönnemark

F: *Cyrtochilum xanthocinctum*; photo by Stig Dalström

G1: *Epidendrum septipartitum* with Guido Deburghgraeve and Steve Beckendorf helping out; photo by Stig Dalström

G2: *Epidendrum septipartitum*

H1: *Masdevallia 'comasensis'* (in publication); photo by Stig Dalström

H2 *Masdevallia 'comasensis'* (in publication); photo by Stig Dalström

I: *Masdevallia 'karelii'* (in publication); photo by Stig Dalström

J: *Odontoglossum 'auroincarum'* (in publication); photo by Stig Dalström

K: *Odontoglossum crassidactylum*; photo by Saúl Ruíz



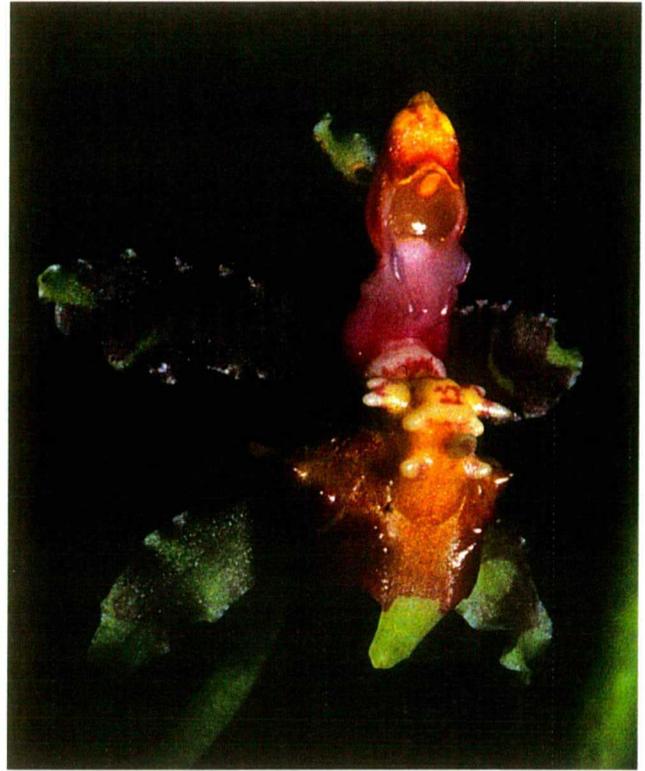
A: *Cyrtochilum deburghgraeveanum*  
photo by Guido Deburghgraeve



B: *Cyrtochilum ruizii*  
photo by Saul Ruiz



C: *Cyrtorchilum russellianum*  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



D: *Cyrtorchilum sharoniae*  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



E: *Cyrtorchilum tricornis*  
photo by Jan Sonnemark



F: *Cyrtorchilum xanthocinctum*  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



G1: *Epidendrum septipartitum*  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



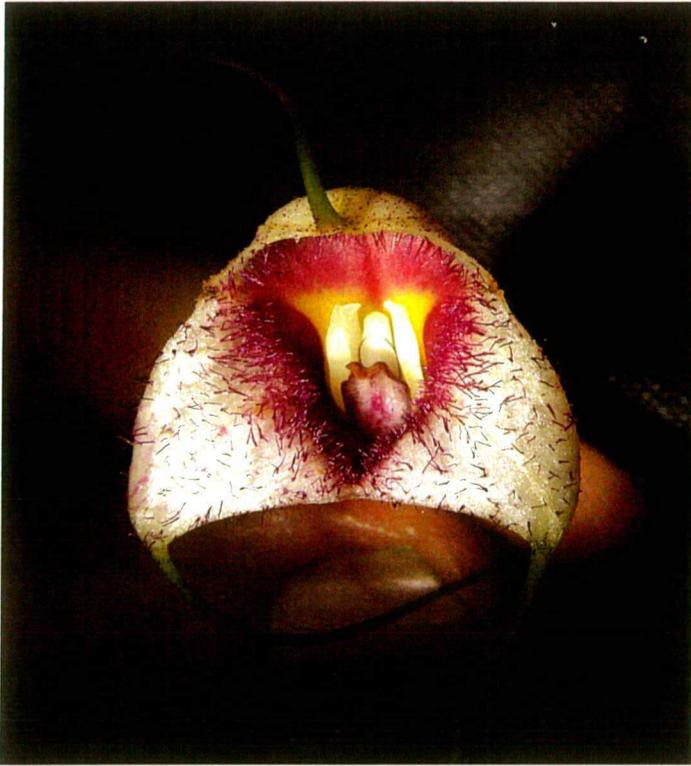
G2: *Epidendrum septipartitum*



H1: *Masdevallia* 'comasensis'  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



H2: *Masdevallia* 'comasensis'  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



I: *Masdevallia* 'kareli'i'  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



J: *Odontoglossum* 'auroincarum'  
photo by Stig Dalstrom



K: *Odontoglossum crassidactylum*  
photo by Saul Ruiz

SelectedFlowers  
by Andy Easton

Well it takes a pretty fair flower to stop me in my tracks and this is it. Congratulations John, I have bloomed the first seedling from a flask you gave me in just under a year and it's a real winner. Both parents bred by Bob Hamilton but you have taken them to another level. I have no idea of the ploidy but you can be sure I have used pollen here and there. The flowers are about 2" in diameter and there are six on a baby spike. I have no idea what the inflorescence will ultimately top out at but I'm looking forward to finding out. And always being one to look at the commercial prospects, I note two nice growths emerging from the seedling bulb. Now, John, just in case you get too enthusiastic, I have also bloomed the first Oda Trish X Oda Prince Vultan and I'm kindling sparing you a photo of it! But joking aside, I am sure Prince Vultan and Tribbles will change Odont history. Take a well deserved bow!



Odcdm Tribbles x Oda Prince Vultan #1

I was in Medellin recently and saw what I consider to be an exceptionally fine and large *Mtps. vexillaria* at Colomborguideas. It is encouraging to see plants of this quality still being collected from the wild and most importantly, propagated for future enthusiasts. I measured the flower across the lip and it was 10.1 cm in diameter, pretty much meeting the definition of huge. Yes, I made a couple of hybridizing attempts with this plant, it was only a small piece in a 4" pot so it should have a beautiful future.



*Miltoniopsis vexillaria* 'Beatriz'



Mtps. vexillaria leucoglossa type #1

On the vexillaria bandwagon, another superlative form, also collected. I

have always enjoyed the "leucoglossa type" and this is easily the darkest and best marked form I have encountered in my life. Naturally smaller than the selected forms like 'Beatriz', this gem was also self-ed in the hope that if successful, Colomborquideas may treat the result with oryzalin and produce a super strain for the future. I did not dare risk more than one selfing because the plant was from a recent collection but it is a solid FCC of the future for judges who actually know anything about the genus!

A new and inspired hybrid from Bob Hamilton. Who would have thought that *Cochlioda sanguinea* would be such a useful parent and in my opinion, every bit as useful as *Cda. noezliana*? This plant is a very vigorous grower, produces 2-3 self-erect stems on each mature bulb and has carried a seed pod on both its two previous bloomings. I may lash out this year and make three pods on it because the bulb size is optimal and likely fully mature. Plus the flowers last extremely well, far better than any Mtps.



Odtna Lauris x *Cda sanguinea* 'NH'

Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting to be Held in San Francisco

20-23 February 2013

The next meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance will be held in San Francisco at the time of the San Francisco Orchid Show 20-23 February 2013. Economic conditions have shortened this show to 3 days with the Preview Party on Thursday night, 20 February 2013. We are having a joint meeting with the Pluerothalid Alliance on Friday 21 February.

The meeting will be held in the Firehouse at the Fort Mason Center. I have included some material on the location in this newsletter. Featured wines will be served with dinner following. The menu will include choices of roast beef, turkey and vegetarian lasagna. Members of both Alliances living in the area will contribute by providing a variety of specialty dishes. All in recognition of the economic climate to make it as attractive as possible for members to attend. Two talks are planned: One by each of the Alliances (OA and PA). The Odontoglossum Alliance talk will be about recent trends in hybridizing. As usual there will be an auction of fine material from both alliances. I expect to see some premium Odont divisions available in the auction.

We will see if several local greenhouses can be available for touring on either or both Saturday and Sunday. Later in the newsletter is some material on local motels close to Fort Mason.

Several venues were considered and the overriding factor was the current economic climate. It is hoped this decision will be attractive to many of our members and that we will have a good turnout.

Tickets to the Preview Party and the show can be obtained over the internet. The address for the web site where these can be ordered is found is:

<http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html>

We expect the cost of the dinner at the meeting to be reasonable. In the November 2013 newsletter we will have firmed up on those costs. In addition we will have information on how to make a reservation.

We look forward to a good crowd. In this November newsletter are some details on the meeting. This includes suggestions as to hotel locations close to the show. More details on the meeting will be in the November newsletter.

The San Francisco Orchid Show is the best show in North America to see Odontoglossum alliance material in the show. The sales area is huge with many opportunities to acquire high quality material.

A good web site to look for hotels is: [www.sftravel.com](http://www.sftravel.com). The specific page is <http://www.sanfranciscovisitor.com/bgt.html>. A selection of hotels picked from the web site follows.

Travelodge by the Bay (415) 673-0691

1450 Lombard St. San Francisco, CA 94123

Lombard Motor Inn (415) 441-6000

1475 Lombard St.

Francisco Bay Motel (415) 474-3030

1501 Lombard St.

Redwood Inn (415) 776-3800

1530 Lombard St.

Town House Motel (415) 885-5163

1650 Lombard St.

Star Motel (415) 346-8250

1727 Lombard St.

Cow Hollow Motor Inn\* (415)-921-5800

Lombard Street

S F Motor Inn (415) 921-1842

1750 Lombard St.

Coventry Motor Inn (415) 567-1200

1901 Lombard St.

Ramada Limited (415) 775-8116

1940 Lombard St.

Buena Vista Motor Inn\* (415) 923-9600

PO Box 475517 San Francisco, CA 94147

Chelsea Motor Inn (415) 563-5600

2095 Lombard St San Francisco, CA 94123

Motel Capri (415) 346-4667

2015 Greenwich St.

Hotel Del Sol (415) 921-5520

3100 Webster St.

Best Inn (415) 776-3220

2850 Van Ness Ave San Francisco, CA 94109

These hotels are within a couple of blocks of Fort Mason. These appear to be clean and comfortable, but not elegant. The web site offers reviews of the hotels. The ones marked with an \* I have stayed at for previous meetings and shows. They are clean, neat, not elegant, reasonably priced and with parking. I often walked to the show from these hotels.

The meeting to be held on Friday evening will be in the Firehouse which is adjacent to the show in the Fort Mason Complex. The address is:

Fort Mason Center

Landmark Building A

San Francisco, CA 94123

Phone 415-345-7500

## Bateman's Orchid Book

Joel Oppenheimer, Inc, Chicago, Illinois is offering for sale prints from this book of Bateman (1811-97). The web site for information is: [www.audubonart.com](http://www.audubonart.com). The phone anumber is 312-642-5300. The sale is July 19th-August 30th 2013.

James Bateman (1811-97) was one of the early developers of orchid culture. He employed the most prolific botanical artist of all time, Walter Hood Fitch (1817-92), to create the paintings for his magnificent orchid books. Fitch also rendered the images on the lithographic stones and his name or initials are found on every hand-colored plate. Exceedingly rare, *A Monograph of Odontoglossums* (1864-74) is composed of thirty large scale hand-colored lithographs.

# Wally Thomas Flasks by Jim Rassmann

The late Wally Thomas, MD of Vancouver, BC was one of our pioneer enthusiasts in the culture and breeding of Odontoglossums and his recent passing was regrettable. Wally grew much of his collection on a small island off Victoria and made a number of excellent hybrids. His daughter Barbara has kindly made available his remaining crosses in flask to the Alliance. The flasks are in excellent condition although most of which will require replating. Processing these flasks is proving to be a very time intensive task due to distance, border crossing, time availability, etc.

Barbara initially presented the flasks to AOS Judge Poul Hansen of Victoria Island. Poul is primarily a Miltoniopsis enthusiast whose culture of *M. vexillaria* is incredible and many of his clones have received AOS awards including multiple awards for cultural excellence. As an aside, Poul has enthusiastically admitted that he is ready to enter the Big Time and, after considerable urging from Tom Etheridge and I, has started to turn his hand to Odontoglossums. Poul made a serious and ultimately successful effort to shepherd Wally's flasks through the labyrinth of U.S. Customs and brought twelve different crosses to me at the Pacific North West Judging Center's summer Judging Seminar in Seattle in June. We should all be grateful for Poul's efforts as dealing with the U.S. Customs arrogant bureaucracy can be maddening. Poul has retained several flasks that contaminated leaving only one or two plants in the bottles.

I now have the flasks and will take them to Bob Hamilton the first week in September when I have to go south on business. Bob, in turn, will replate them as needed and ultimately we will offer the plants to Alliance members in a scheme yet to be devised.

The contents of the flasks are as follows:

Oda. Le Nez Point x Island Red  
Oda. Savanna x Oda. Red Glow  
(Oda. Island Red x Oda. Act One) x Oda. Savanna  
(Oda. Connero x Oda. Island Red x Odm. Faldouet  
Oda. Classico x Oda. Faldouet  
(Oda. Floresca x Oda. Island Red) x (Oda. Island Red x Oda. Act One)  
Oda. Jack x Oda. Perixon  
(Oda. Floresca x Oda. Island Red) x Oda. Savanna  
Oda. Stan Boutin x Oda. Island Red  
Oda. Island Beauty x Island Delight  
(Oda. Island Red x Oda. Act One) x Oda. Shan  
Oda. Island Red x (Oda. Floresca x Island Red)

## Dues Notice

We have 6 members who have not yet sent in their dues for the year 2013-2014. I have enclosed an additional reminder notice to those members along with the newsletter. I urge those who have not yet sent in their dues payment to do so before 1 November 2013. Dues not received by then will be dropped from further mailings of our newsletter.

John Miller, Treasurer

# Odonts From New Vision Orchids

12661 W SR 32, Yorktown, IN 47396  
765-749-5809 newvisionorchids@aol.com

Flasks: @\$50 each plus S&H

Odm Black Diamond 'Profusion' x Bogong 'Jake' large white with dark marks

Odm Bogong 'Jake' x nobile 'Full Moon' bright white with dark marks

Oda Zormar 'Red Beauty' HCC x Mem Dale Lawless 'Cherry Red'

solid red to maroon flowers

Odm Tribbles 'Leopard' x Doctor Tom 'Leopard' blush to white with dark marks on taller stems more warmth tolerance

Oda Golden Rialto 'Buttercup' x Holiday Gold xanthic yellow with dark egg yolk marks

Seedlings/Compots prices listed plus S&H

Oda Tricolor x (Joe's Drum x Tiffany) warmth tolerant star shaped red x bright magenta standard, hybrid from Bob Hamilton's breeding, two plant compots \$20, larger single plants \$15

Rhyncostele cordata a sibbing of two select dark forms, 6+ plants/compot \$25

Oda Kendrick Williams 'Roseglow' FCC x Opal Ethridge 'Perfection' very limited, dark magenta/maroon to red to orange some with marks, 6+ plants \$50

## Odont Divisions

Oda Electrifying 'Pure Friendship' AM

Recently awarded, first division available \$150 blooming size



Wils Fireglow 'Memory Vision' AM

Recently divided for the first time .

Four bulbs, one new growth \$125

Five back bulbs \$75

