

NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2000



From the Editor

Well, here we are! My second edition. I hope everyone enjoyed the first edition. So far, I have received a lot of excellent feedback. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

In this edition you can look forward to a few improvements as I learn how to manipulate my software. The most significant is my newest ability to include the names of plants next to their photos. An addition I'm sure everyone will appreciate.

Ross and I have just recently invested in a digital camera - supposedly to capture the orchids but I'm a cat fiend and I have an 8 month old model to photograph. Technology is wonderful when you no longer have to finish your film before you can get the photos developed. Also, you no longer have to wait until the film has been processed and in the meanwhile forget what photos you have taken. So, if anyone has something in flower that they would like published in the newsletter, please feel free to get in touch with me and I will be only too happy to come round and take a few snaps. Sorry, this offer is of course restricted to Aucklanders.

'Til next time,

Susan Tucker

email: tuckersorchidnursery@clear.net.nz

Ph/Fax: (09) 489-2689

Taxonomy

If, like myself, you have at times been confused and often bewildered by the ever changing generic names especially with in the Odont. Alliance, you may have some empathy with this story.

Many years ago I had a section of my glasshouse devoted to species of *Odontoglossum*. As time went by I was informed that many of these were no longer *Odontoglossum* but *Osmoglossum*, *Rossioglossum*, *Otoglossum*, *Ticoglossum*, *Lemboglossum* - sorry *Rhyncostele* and several other designations. Being someone who likes to have everything up to date I changed all my labels accordingly, however I did not put the pencil away as I'm sure there are more to come.

A couple of years ago I had the temerity to make a cross with an *Odontoglossum* now *Osmoglossum* and *Odontoglossum* then *Lemboglossum* nor *Rhyncostele*. The offspring of this union are now happily growing in their compots with good secondary growths and I can reasonably expect to see some flowers later this year. Now guess what they will be called, yes you're right, they will be *Odontoglossum*.

I often think of the chaos that would be caused if these names were carried onto the many hundreds of hybrids that are already in existence and those yet to come.

While we are on the subject, does anyone have the official abbreviations for these generic names? I have in front of me at this time two reputable American orchid magazines, in both are several different abbreviations of the same genera, i.e. Lembo. Lmbgm. Lemb. and Lbgm. which I presume is *Lemboglossum*, there are others which defy recognition.

Perhaps someone can enlighten us, preferably through the media of this newsletter, as to the correct abbreviations of all these 'new' genera.

Paul Cable
(Johnsonville)

Culture

Odont. Alliance in Sphagnum Moss

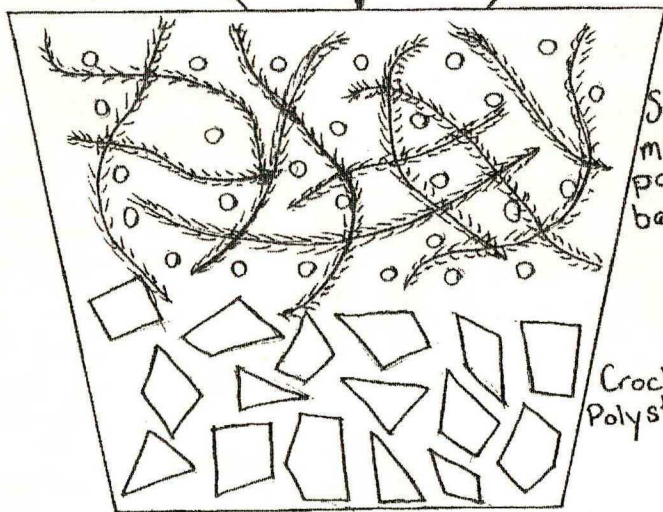
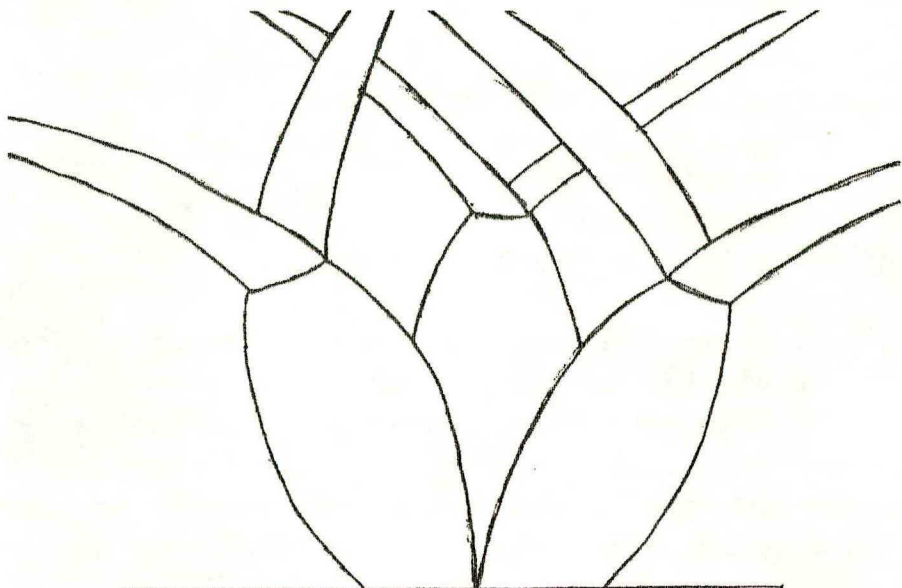
I have been experimenting with mixes in the Odont. alliance for about 25 years. I started with peat/pumice with moss on top, into bark, and now into what is proving to be a successful mix. I first noticed that Clive Halls of Australia was using out NZ sphagnum moss. I came home and had one of Alf Day's plants which needed resuscitating after a hard winter in Papatoetoe, Auckland. So I was kind and put it into straight sphagnum moss.

What a result! In just six months it had pumped itself up to 2 fist size bulbs almost splitting and produced a magnificent spike good enough to beat Alf's car load of exhibits down at the Hamilton show. I then transferred most of the remainder into moss and have had a very good spiking on most plants.

Since the first few have outgrown their original pots and have been repotted I have again adjusted the mix on Jersey's Alan Moon's recommendation and old-fashioned common sense. I now crock the bottom 1/3 to 1/2 of the pot with 1/2" to 1" chunks of polystyrene and would even consider including polystyrene balls to the moss just to lessen the amount of moss used and lighten the mix.

I also have the plants on a trickle irrigation system so the plants never dry out and are continually fertilised. The root system is now fantastic, very even. I believe this mix is very user friendly and most people throughout New Zealand will be able to use it. The watering is easy, wet the moss and keep it wet - no drying out - keep feeding during every watering with liquid food and keep tying those spikes up.

Ross Tucker
(Auckland)



Sphagnum
moss and
polystyrene
beads

Crooked
Polystyrene

Upcoming Events

4th International Orchid Expo
6th - 10th September, 2000
Waikato Events Centre, Hamilton

Things are progressing well. This should be a really good show from what I've heard and I'm really looking forward to it.

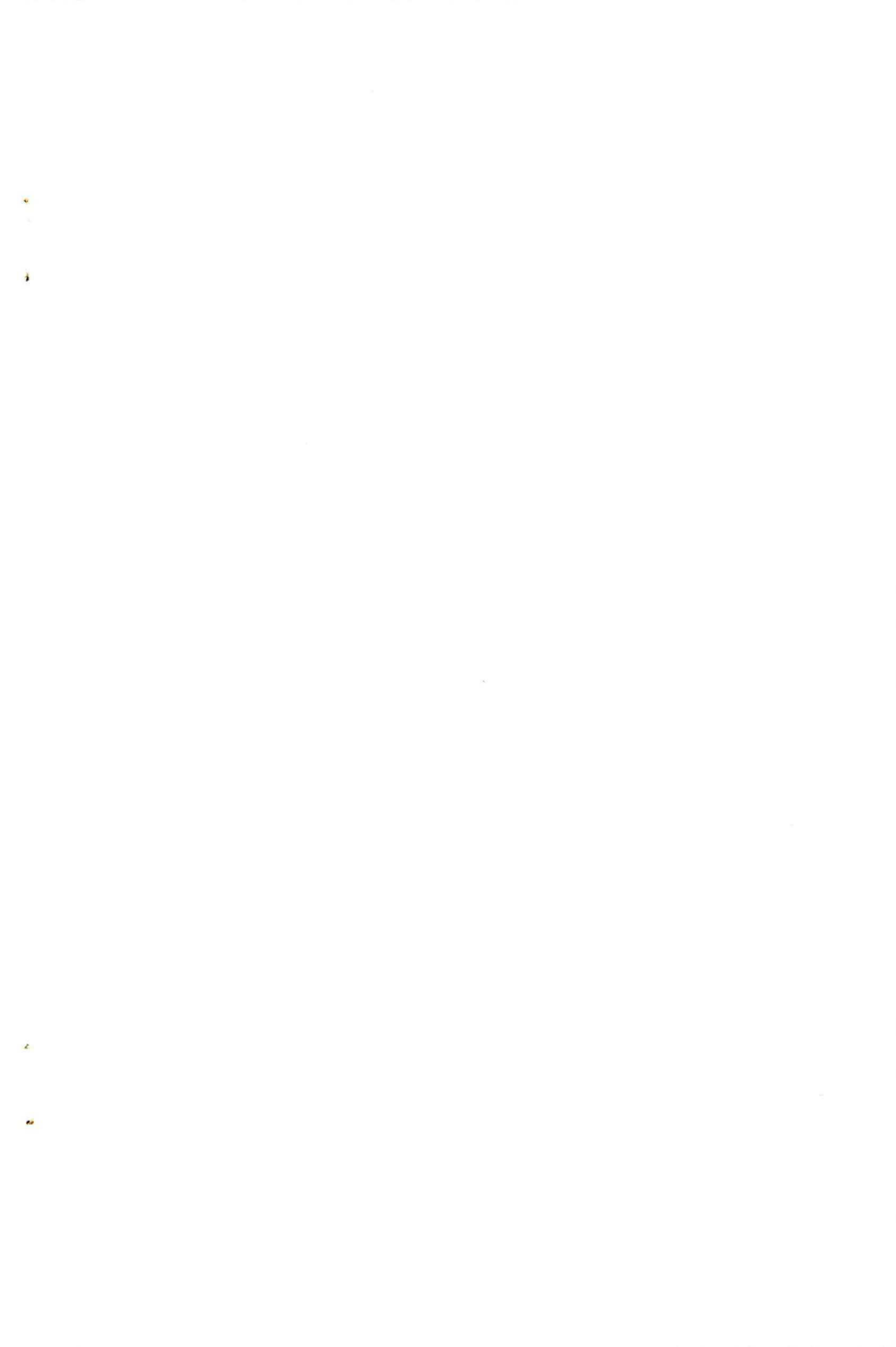
Don't forget to bring something along for the silent auction on Friday morning. This is being held in conjunction with our breakfast meeting at 7am where we hope to raise funds for more colour in the newsletter. Howard Liebman has offered to give us a talk on Odontoglossums in the USA. Ross Tucker will be chairing the meeting and I will be taking notes. We hope that people attending will be current paid up members of the Odont. Alliance. If not, please bring your subs with you.

Book Review

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

Questions & Answers

Sorry, no one has come forth with any questions they would like answered. Please help me fill in the blanks. Questions can be something really simple, or a bit more complex.





Odontoglossum nobile. syn. pescatorei



**Odontiota Renton Purity
x Odontoglossum crispum**

Oda. Mem. Len Page



Odm. uro skinerii x vexatium





Odontoglossum wyattianum

Odm. coronarium x uro skinerii





PhotoFile

Odontiota Renton Purity x Odontoglossum crispum

Grown by Peter Bradley

This first full flowering has produced a long arching spike with 12 blooms, each a crisp white tinged with pink, slightly ruffled edges and a bright red spot on the lip. Last season I removed a rather weak spike and it seems to have helped the plant to become more robust.

Odontoglossum nobile. syn. pescatorei

Grown by Paul Cable

This beautiful odontoglossum is from the Subgenus *Odontoglossum*, closely related to *Odm. crispum*. It is found at elevations of between 220 metres and 300 metres in the Andes mountains of Columbia. The inflorescences are branching up to 60 cm. in length and bearing many flowers. The blooms are variable in colour, mostly white with a rose pink tinge and are marked with varying amounts of burgundy spots, some having a faint fragrance.

Odontoglossum wyattianum

Grown by Paul Cable

Odontoglossum wyattianum is from the Subgenus *Nevadensia*. It is very similar to, and often confused with *Odm. harryanum*. It is found in the Peruvian Andes at elevations of 1800 metres to 2400 metres. Inflorescences are up to 25cms. in length and carry 6-8 very striking flowers which have a golden bronze coloration and a lip that is basally white with red-purple

striations. The petals, which are quite open compared to Odm. harryanum, have similar coloration on the basal section and lack the stripes and bars to be found on Odm. harryanum. For many years this species has been known as Odm. harryanum in New Zealand and I suspect that there are a few hybrids around that are wrongly named.

Odontoglossum coronarium x uro skinnerii

Grown by Ross Tucker

This plant was earlier transferred to moss and within six months produced two spikes with over 40 flowers on each spike and a bulb nearing 15 centimetres high. The spike length was over a metre high.

Odontiota Mem. Len Page

Grown by Ross Tucker

This plant was also transferred to moss and produced one spike with 15 flowers. This plant was photographed at the recent NZOS show using our new digital camera.

Odontoglossum uro skinnerii x vexatium

This cross was hybridised by Alf Day who has flowered many of this cross. It has produced a most unusual spotting over the whole flower. This plant was also photographed at the recent NZOS show using our new digital camera.

WebOrchids

What newsletter would be complete in this day and age without some sort of reference to the internet! Here I will list and talk about websites that would be of interest to us.

First of all, and possibly the most well known in the orchid community:

The Orchid Mall

<http://www.orchidmall.com>

This is an extremely extensive site that covers a wide variety of topics including special events, links to suppliers, a reading room, a photo gallery and much, much more.

I managed to spend about half an hour getting sidetracked as I researched the site for this article. A search using the Site Search Engine and the keyword 'Odontoglossum' brought up 29 links to other websites. Another part of the site takes you through to the Speakers Page which links to various speakers' websites. World renowned orchid grower and taxonomist Dr Guido Braem from Germany features on the top of the list with details of lectures on offer. Hey! I just found a link to the Orchid Expo in Hamilton - most informative.

Anyway, as I said, this is a site that you could loose yourself in for hours. Well worth a visit.

Buy, Sell, Exchange

Paul Cable wishes to buy a plant of *Odm spectaticsimum* and *Odm luteo-purpureum*. He is also willing to do a swap. If anyone has plants that they are willing to sell or swap, please get in touch with him.

TUCKERS ORCHID NURSERY

We have a new range of *Odontoglossum* and intergeneric plants becoming available soon. Please ask us for a list. We will also be releasing some new material at the Waikato show, much of it recently imported. Please come and visit our stand.

51 Bayswater Avenue
Bayswater
Auckland
Ph/Fax 09-445-6692

Reminder: Those people who receive newsletters with a coloured dot on the address label have not yet paid their annual subs. This newsletter will be the last one you will receive if you do not pay up immediately.

NZ ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE
SUBSCRIPTION

NAME: _____

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I would like to receive the following:

- ☐ NZ Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter
\$NZ 15.00 per annum (4 issues)
- ☐ US Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter
\$NZ 20.00 per annum (4 issues)

Cheques payable to NZ Odontoglossum Alliance.

Post to: Susan Tucker
30 Pupuke Road, Takapuna
Auckland 1309, New Zealand

**Susan Tucker
30 Pupuke Road
Takapuna
Auckland
New Zealand**