

# Odontoglossum Alliance

## Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting a Success

The Odontoglossum Alliance held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Eastern Orchid Congress in Boston, Massachusetts on 23 October. Bob Dugger, Program Chairman, introduced each of the four speakers. Allan Moon, Curator, Eric Young Orchid Foundation described their efforts to create albino odontoglossums. This work had started under Mr. Charlesworth, but had lain in neglect following his death in 1920. The Foundation had pursued a course of producing albino flowers using the original Charlesworth progress and combining it with recent chromosome count work of Don Wimber producing amazing and beautiful results. Allan showed slides of large pure white odontoglossums, white with yellow markings, and clear yellows. Allan demonstrated what could be done using the latest scientific breeding information. The results produced praise from the audience.

Dr. Richard Kaufman gave a most informative discussion on the odontoglossum species. Richard had organized the species into logical groups that made it easy to group plants and understand their relationships. His colored slides of the species provided everyone an opportunity to know these lovely flowers.

The 'Odontoglossum Pipeline' was presented by Robert Hamilton of Berkley California. Bob has done extensive work with sowing alliance seeds. His techniques are of a high scientific caliber, yet useable within a home environment. Bob gave a clear explanation with many details and fine points to achieve high yield success with a

shortened cross to flower cycle. He illustrated his techniques with excellent visual material including many suggestions for proceeding from the flask through community pot to flowering. Bob has promised to write up his talk to be printed in a future newsletter.

The John Day scrapbooks were a monumental achievement produced in the period of mid to late 1800's. Mr. Michael Tibbs of Stonehurst Nurseries had completed a study of these books now located at Kew Gardens. Michael extracted a large amount of interesting material on odontoglossums produced by Day. Michael's illustrations and talk was interesting and informative. Day produced colored flowers, in water color with great detail, but often left the rest of the plant vaguely sketched. Day also included letters, comments, and clippings from gardeners publications.

The meeting was attended by about 150 people who were very enthusiastic about the high quality of the program. Following the lecture series, the Alliance held an auction of fine odontoglossum alliance material. Dr. Howard Leibman ably held the audience with his detailed knowledge of each item. Several awarded plants, 8 flasks and a reprint of Veitch's Manual of Orchidaceous Plants 1887 - The Oncidiinae. (donated by the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance) were rapidly sold. Preceding the afternoon lecture series the Alliance had a luncheon. The dining room held only 50 people which was rapidly filled. It provided an opportunity for informal discussion. These activities generated new interest in the Odontoglossum Alliance and eleven new members were added to the current membership, which now exceeds 100. During the luncheon the plans for the November letter were described as well as the plans for the Alliance meeting at the 14th WOC.

## Flower Show

October is not a great month for odontoglossums. However some excellent displays were in the Eastern Orchid Congress Flower show. Best Odontoglossum of Show was awarded to Odm. Anne Gripp #2 displayed by Pat Petit of Chieri Orchids. It was a beautiful classic odontoglossum white with red markings. Norman's Orchids, Ontario, California had a lovely Miltassia Aztec 'Nala' HCC/AOS which took a first place ribbon in its class. Stonehurst Orchids had a display of paphilopedilums, miltonias, and odontoglossums. Included with the odontoglossums was a lovely Odm La Hougue Bie and Oda. La Fosse. The later won third place for best odontoglossum. It was a maroon well marked flower with many flowers on a stem that was well held. The later was illustrated in Allan Moon's talk on albino odontoglossums. Kaoru Oka Orchids, Honolulu showed Odcdm. Tiger Butter x Odm Pierebeck Gold. This was well flowered with flat yellow flowers attractively marked with reddish brown. It won a blue ribbon in its class. Odcdm. Tiger Hamburhren x Oda Remembrance won a second place ribbon. The flowers were reddish brown with a yellow background. Both of these plants were particularly well grown. In the South Eastern Pennsylvania display was a very nice yellow Bellara Tahoma Glacier. It held fourteen flowers and buds and won a third place ribbon. The New Hampshire Orchid Society display held a Vuyl. Cambria 'Lensings Favorite' The flowers were white with a red background and won a second place ribbon. Strawberry Creek Orchids of McKinleyville, CA produced a lovely display of both cut flowers and flowering plants. Within the display was a Odm Pumistor x Rebecca which won a second place ribbon. These plants were grown in peat pots and in a peat and perlite mixture. The plants showed excellent vigor. Silva Orchids, Neptune, New Jersey also had a lovely Bellara Tahoma Glacier 'Wilma' with 14 flowers.

(continued on page 10)

## Odontoglossum Alliance Species Description

*Leonore Bockemuhl*

*Aspasia* Lindl. 1832

The genus was created by Dr. Lindley in Gen. et Spec. Orch. Pl. 1832. *Aspasia epidendroides*, the type species was collected by CUMING in Panama and western Columbia and was described in HOOKER's Journal of Botany 1834 by LINDLEY.

The genus contains several species, SCHLECHTER 1922 mentions 8, and Williams 1974 only agrees with 5 species. They are distributed in Middle- and South America from Guatemala to Brazil.

Typical features, which distinguish *Aspasia* from other genera are the column, partly connated with the lip and sometimes with the base of the petals and are the large fleshy anthera. The plants are said to flower freely in culture. Artificially produced hybrid genus:

*Aspoglossum* (*Aspasia* x *Odontoglossum*)

*Aspasia epidendroides* Lindl. 1834

The medium-sized plants grow epiphytic, the stalked bulbs are surrounded by 2-3 foliaceous sheaths and bear two rather leathery lanceolate leaves; the few-flowered inflorescens arises from the base of pseudobulbs, covered with several bracts and bearing about 4-6 faintly fragrant flowers; the sepals oblongate, 20mm long greenish with broad transverse braun-purple bands; the petals similar, somewhat shorter, violett coloured; lip basal adnate to the column, then detached forming a broad blade, white with purple blotches in its center; disc consisting in 4 yellow lamellae; column 20mm long, tinged with lavender.

Habitat: Epiphytic on distichious trees at an altitude about 700 m in hot climate.

Distribution: From Guatemala to Columbia in dry forest of the Pacific region.

Comparettia Poepp. & Endl. 1836

This well known genus, established by POEPPIG and ENDLICH in November Gen. et Sp. 1836, contains about five species, distributed about Middle and South America from Mexico to Brazil. The type species, *Comp. falcata* was collected by POEPPIG in Peru, near Cassapi. The chief character that distinguishes *Comparettia* from other genera is the slender spur, consisting in two tail-like prolongations, produced from the lip base, which are wrapped by the long tubular mentum of the lateral sepals. The plants are rather small, the dwarf bulbs bear a single leathery leaf, the slender pendulous floral scape bears brightly coloured flowers, decorated with the typical kidney-shaped lip and the long spur.

Hybridization with *Comparettia* is often used in case of their bright colour.

Artificially produced hybrid genus:  
*Odontorettia* (*Lemboglossum* (*Odontoglossum*) x *Comparettia*

Comparettia falcata

Poepp. & Endl. 1836

The plant dwarf with short stems, pseudobulbs small, swathed in small foliaceous sheaths, clustered with a single leathery leaf, green, purplish beneath, 12 cm long. Scape arising from the base of bulb, nodding, up to 20 cm long, 5-7 flowered (or more), bracts small. The bright coloured purple-lilac flowers 15 mm across; Sepals and Petals alike in size, 8x5 mm, the lateral sepals connate, prolonged into an elongate tubular spur. Lip obcordate, 10 mm long, bicalcarate at the base. Column wingless.

Habitat: Epiphytic growing, with long thin roots very loosely attached to the twigs of solitary, small trees like Guavas, Oranges, Oaks, Crescentias in the savannah region. At altitudes from 700-1500 m in warm-temperate areas.

Distribution: Mexico, Karibik Islands, Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru.

Comparettia macroplectrum

Rchb.f. & Triana 1878

Plant dwarf, bulbs cylindrical, unifoliate, surrounded at base by non-foliaceous sheaths;

leaf fleshy. Inflorescence from the base of bulb, arching, 25 cm long, with up to 12 flowers. Flower mauve-lilac spots; dorsal sepalum and petals alike in size and shape 15 x 5 mm; lateral sepals connate, forming a spur 50 mm long. Lip obcordate 25 x 30 mm, bicalcarate. Column 10 mm long, wingless, with an infrastigmatic plate at base.

Habitat: epiphytic growing on thin twigs in valleys, very humid during night, pretty dry during daytime. Altitude 1000-1600 meters.

Distribution: Columbia (Cundinamarca) Triana has discovered the little interesting plant in the vicinity of Bogota in 1878. He had described it in collaboration with Reichenbach f. in Gard. Chron./II p. 524.

Artificial hybrid genus: *Odontorettia* = *Lemboglossum* (*Odm.*) *bictoniense* x *Comparettia macroplectrum*

Comparettia Speciosa\*

An epiphytic plant with very short, subcylindric stems sheathed with pale, membranous, acute scales. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, acute, 10-25 cm long, up to 4.2 cm broad. Inflorescences up to 50 cm long, racemose or branching, laxly 7- to many-flowered towards apex. Flowers about 3.5 cm high, bright orange-scarlet; column-wings green, anther white. Dorsal sepal ovate, acuminate, 1.4 cm long, 0.4 cm broad: lateral sepals connate, concave, acute; spur slender, obscurely pubescent, up to 3.5 cm long, longer than the pedicel and ovary. Petals ovate, acuminate, 1.2 cm long, 0.6 cm broad. Lip shortly, narrowly clawed, 3-lobed, up to 2.4 cm long, 3 cm broad; side lobes auriculate; mid-lobe subquadrate to transversely oblong, emarginate, 1.7 cm long. Column short, winged, 0.8 cm long; anther beaked

Distribution Ecuador.

History Discovered on the Eastern Cordillera of Ecuador in 1877 by Edward Klaboch who introduced it into cultivation in Europe. H.G. Reichenbach described it the following year in the Gardners' Chronicle

\* From: The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species by Bechtel, Cribb, & Launert

OSMOGLOSSUM Schltr. 1923

The genus was established by Schlecter 1923

when he started separating several related groups, which were described as *Odontoglossums* but did not show the characteristic features of this genus. The genus *Osmoglossum* consists of four species which are rather similar in plant habit and flower shape. Their main distinct characteristic are the narrow grassy leaves and the non-resupinate white flowers which show an upside-down bearing. All species of this genus are distributed in Mexico and Central America.

The best know species, several times used for artificial breeding is:

**Osmoglossum pulchellum**

(Batem.ex Lindl.) Schltr.1923

Bulbs ovoid, flattened, two-leaved, surrounded by nonfoliaceous sheaths. Leaves narrow-linear, grassy, 30 cm long. Inflorescence lateral, 30 cm long. with up to 10 flowers of heavy texture, 4 cm across, non-resupinate, white. Sepals and petals ovoid-apiculate, the petals somewhat broader. Lip pandurate, white, the lower half deflexed; callosity yellow covered with redish spots, boat-shaped, clasping a median keel. The stout column winged.

U. Skinner discovered this species in 1840 and sent plants to Mr. Bateman. They flowered in 1841 and were described by LINDLEY in Bot. Reg. as *Odontoglossum pulchellum*. Schlechter transferred the taxon to the new established genus *Osmoglossum*, 1923.

Habitation; epiphytic and litophytic in humid places of the mountain forest region.

Distribution: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador at altitudes about 1600 to 2500 m.

Artificially produced hybrids with *Osmgl. pulchellum*:

x *Odm. edwardii* = *Odm. Junora*

X *Oda. Laurette* = *Oda. Shelter Rock*

X *Onc. macranthum* = *Odcdm. Surprise*

X *Onc. montanum* = *Odcdm. Dainty*

## Thanks to Woody Carlson

Elwood J. "Woody" Carlson has generously contributed copies of his "Miltonopsis Culture" sufficient in numbers to distribute to every member of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance. These are enclosed with your newsletter.

*Editors Note*

This next article was written by Bob Dugger in 1970. The material is as timely today as it was when first written. Bob had then recently made two visits to Charlesworth and CO. in England, the dean of *odontoglossum* producers for many years. Shortly after this time Charlesworth was acquired by McBean's. Bob Dugger is famous for his hybridization of *odontoglossums*. He began growing orchids in 1952. In the mid sixties he switched over to *odontoglossums* exclusively. Shortly after his 1970 visits to England he began making crosses, and continues to produce new crosses every year. He has registered over two hundred *odontoglossum* alliance hybrids. All of this from the same two greenhouses described in the article. A few of his crosses are *Oda. Robert Dugger*, *Oda. Lillian Dugger*, *Oda. Alstair*, *Odcdm. Solona*, and *Wils. Kendrick Williams*.

## Odontoglossum Culture in Southern California

*by Robert B. Dugger*

Success in growing the warmer intergeneric *odontoglossum* hybrids enticed me about five years ago into trying again to grow straight *odontoglossums* and their so-called cool hybrids. Also an added incentive was the knowledge acquired while collecting Mexican *odontoglossums* and seeing their actual growing conditions.

Over some thirty odd years I had tried unsuccessfully to grow odonts in several California locations mainly because I was trying to use the same procedures that are so successful in England.

In most of California our weather conditions are quite different from those in England. They certainly are here in Solana Beach, some 22 miles north of San Diego, on a hill about one half mile from the Pacific Ocean and about 400 feet above it.

Here normally we have a year round on-shore breeze, however, several times a year we do get strong, hot winds from the interior that are very dry but they seldom last for more than two or three days.

If you follow the temperature as reported for San Diego, it is practically the same as ours year round. Generally our winter low temperatures are in the mid thirties while our summer highs are in the low eighties. There are exceptions, of course, for both highs and lows.

Following is a description of the house where the odonts are now growing successfully. It is a 12' x 18' lean-to glass house lined with 6 mil polyethylene. The house on the low side is a 6 1/2 feet high while the high side is 8 feet, so the house has a cubic foot content of about 1700. It is located on the east side of the garage. About two feet over the glass, which in summer has light shading on it, is saran shading which allow 65% light transfer when the sun is at right angles to it. Due to the angle of the roof and shading from the garage, the light intensity is quite reduced in the afternoon, which, of course, reduces the heat during the hottest part of the day.

The end result is about the following light intensities in the house:

Foot Candles

	Outside house	Inside house
9 a.m.	6800	1000
12 noon	7800	1400
3 p.m.	7500	650
5 p.m.	4000	500

Another good indicator of the amount of light is

the color of the leaves and psuedobulbs. If the light on the new growths have a light bronze or purple cast they are getting probably all the light they can stand.

There are two small vents, each 8 inches by 60 inches, on the high side of the house controlled by a damper motor, that open at 65 deg F and close at 62 deg F. I also have a 20 x 20 inch bottom vent which is manually controlled. From about 15 May to 15 October, both the bottom and top vents are blocked open 24 hours a day. In addition I have a 20" fan blowing air into the house through the bottom vent when the large blower cuts off. I have used the 20" bottom fan this year to keep the air moving during the cooler night periods, so there is no excess humidity buildup which can cause bud drop due to mold forming on the pollen. Of course, this fan is off in the winter months.

There is a small 10" fan overhead that runs constantly moving about 750 cubic feet of air acting as a circulator. The main air mover is an evaporative cooler with a high speed output of about 3400 cubic feet per minute which is set to come on at 68 deg F. and off about 65 deg F. Controls on this fan can reduce the speed about half and controls the water on the pads which makes a very flexible setup.

Normally the blower is set on high speed and the pads are wet, which results in the air being changed about twice a minute and with the small vents the house is still under some pressure.

On very warm days I manually turn the water off the pads around 4:00 o'clock p.m., to partially dry out the house before dark. If the temperature after dark remains above 68 deg F the main blower continues to operate.

The benches are redwood 1 x 1 inch slats and the bench is about 24 inches high. The floor of the house is covered with lava roofing rock which is extremely porous and holds moisture very well. There are no sub-benches.

There are three fine sprays under the benches, one directly in front of the blower output into the house. They are controlled by a humidistat set to turn on when the humidity drops below 50%.

With this combination of fans and sprays I have been able to control the temperature in the house

pretty well and keep it below 80 deg F except on very hot days or very humid days when the pads don't really cool the incoming air.

Of course the temperature could be reduced by additional shade but with the air movement I have, and it's a real key, I believe, in growing odonts successfully, they can take more light and temperature with improved growths. I just hope if we ever lose our power on a hot day, I'm home to fan them!

My source of heat for cold weather is a small 1750 watt electric heater with a fan. Except on very cold nights this provides enough heat to keep the temperature above 50 deg F. The plants seem happier when the low temperature is 55 deg F and the heater keeps the temperature that high most of the time. I believe this covers the housing.

Now about growing . . .

All my pots are plastic and I prefer the dark colors - white pots for white crosses was a good way of locating white plants but under my conditions they grow algae as well as plants. The growing media is white or red fir bark seedling size that has not been kiln dried. If there is a lot of fines in the bark I sift out the fines smaller than 1/8 inch for the mature plants. I have used the straight bark, used bark with 20% chopped sphagnum, used bark with 20% perlite, and they all seem to work satisfactorily.

Odonts seem to be in growth year round but the best time to repot them is when the new growths are about 2 to 3 inches in length - normally this is in the spring or fall after the heat is over - the plants seem to recover more quickly if they are potted at these times. Don't overpot -- they don't like it. Give about 18 months to 24 months growing space. Using bark as the potting media the plants can be repotted without too much root damage so there isn't a setback and if careful you could probably get by repotting almost any time. When potting have your mix moist but not too damp - this enables you to bounce the mix into the mass of roots without damaging them. I use only slight thumb pressure in packing in the mix. As with most orchids, provide additional shade for a period after potting.

Water, good water, is a key in successful culture

of odonts. Like most thin leaved orchids poor water shows up quickly in tip burn, etc. One of my reasons for using plastic pots is that chemicals do not build up in them and can be flushed through more easily.

I never let my plants dry out entirely. I fertilize them every other watering with half the recommended strength. I have been using a 3-1-2 type fertilizer.

One thing you will notice -- during summer your plants will practically stop growing. When fall with lower temperature arrives the plants respond immediately. We need to know more about temperature differentials. It's my current belief that when the differential is less than about 10 deg F, they almost stop growing, especially if the low temperature is above 60 deg F. This year, 1971, there were about three weeks where the night temperature did not fall below 70 deg F, so the main blower was operating 24 hours a day. With the pads wet during the day hours the temperature never was above 84 deg F. I did notice the plants practically stopped growing and, on plants carrying flower spikes, some of the pseudobulbs actually shriveled.

Pests? Yes, odonts have them too. Slugs and bush snails can really set plants back if they get the new roots. The plants have thin leaves, red spider and spider mites damage shows up quickly, so set up a preventative spray program on a periodic basis.

Flowering season - the main flowering season for straight odontoglossums is the spring months, but they bloom throughout the year and quite a number more than once a year. Like some other orchids, there are differences between winter and summer flowers. Also, like other orchids, light intensity effects color. Crispums whose spikes have matured under heavy shade will have pure white sepals and petals while the same plants will show a pink cast to the sepals if grown under normal light. Odontiodas seem to peak their flowering season in the late fall and winter months but again bloom year round.

By most orchid standards odonts are quite fast growers. Some seedlings will bloom when they are 2 to 2 1/2 years old; but, a word of caution: don't let your small seedlings bloom. It sets most

of them back badly. It is a temptation, but the flowers won't be up to par and the plant will suffer.

I have not been able to tell any difference in cultural requirements between odontoglossums and odontiodas but the English say odontonias are warmer growers. I only have a few odontonias but I notice that they seem to resent lower night temperatures more than odonts or odontiodas.

Of course when you get into the trigeneric crosses like Wilsonara, Colmanara and Vuylstekearas and the bigeneric odontocidium differences do begin to appear. Some of these hybrids because of the introduction of warm blood can be grown well under cattleya conditions. A lot of work is going on in this field at this time and many more hybrids of this type will soon be available.

A word about modern odont type hybrids - you all know there is quite a variation in cattleya seedlings but they are nothing like the variation in odonts - everything varies - size, color, petal markings, blooming time, and even the number of flowers on the spike.

What size plants should you buy? Unless you are pretty confident of your ability I wouldn't buy anything smaller than 3-inch seedlings and preferably mature plants.

So far I have not had too much success dividing plants - the back bulbs don't seem to grow for me but I have a few that seem to be on their way now. The English divide their mature plants so they have four or five front bulbs and they cut the back bulbs prior to repotting so a new growth on the back of the plant has been initiated prior to repotting.

Last year in May again this year in September we visited with Charlesworth's people and compared our growing procedures. Needless to say, there is quite a difference in our methods. The numerous awards for individual plants from the R.H.S. and the gold medal awards received for their show displays certainly are proof that their procedures are correct for their location. These marked differences in growing just illustrate the adaptability of odonts to different conditions.

If you are really interested in growing these beautiful orchids, why not see how versatile they really are and adapt them to your particular situation.

1970

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## A Partial History of Odontoglossums in Great Britain (Part II)

*by Brian Ritterhausen*

### The Dawn of Hybrids

By the turn of the century a number of large orchid nurseries were giving their attention entirely to the culture of odontoglossums or "Odontoglots" as they preferred to call them. They included Sanders of St. Albans, Stuart Low & Co., James Veitch and Sons, Charlesworth & Co., Mansell & Hatcher and McBeans Orchids. While many other orchids were being hybridised, the odontoglots remained elusive, the plants were slow to propagate and the only way of increasing stock was to perfect the raising of seedlings, an attractive proposition to any nurseryman.

A few amateur growers were having some success in this field. William Thompson from Stone in Staffordshire produced many fine healthy seedlings from a wide variety of crosses, using odontoglossum crispum in the parentage. He had built up his seedling collection to several thousand plants when his heating system broke down and the whole stock of young plants was lost during the winter. Others who were making a name for themselves by growing odontoglossums included Mr. Thwaites of Streatham, London, Mr. de Barri Crawshay from Sevenoaks in Kent and Mr. R. A. Rolfe, editor

of the *Orchid Review* at that time. Mr. J. Bradshaw from Southgate, London was an enthusiastic *odontoglossum* hybridiser and also had several plants named after him. In 1907 Charlesworth & Co. produced the sensational cross *Cochlioda noezliana* x *Odontoglossum crispum*. It was one of the first intergeneric *Odontoglossum* hybrids, and they named it *Odontioda Bradshawiae*. The habit of latinising grex names was popular and nomenclature changes had not yet taken place. Sir Jeremiah Colman, founder of Colmans Mustard, acquired several plants of the newly raised and sensational *Odontioda Bradshawiae* which became known as the "scarlet *crispum*". In 1913 Sir Jeremiah exhibited his plant of *Odontioda Bradshawiae* 'New York Triumph' in New York where it won first prize and best in show at an international orchid exhibition. He was presented with a special silver trophy to commemorate the occasion and recorded in his memoirs "Yachtsman please note, I took the Americas cup the first time".

Sir James Chamberlain from Birmingham made his fortune out of screws. He had a large orchid collection and was extremely interested in the genus *Odontoglossum*. He was never seen without a fresh buttonhole of one of his prize specimens, and the flower he was wearing on the day he died is still preserved along with other of his memorabilia.

The early hybridisers had to be content with sowing their seed around the base of the mother plant where, if they were lucky, a few seeds would germinate, or in pots containing specially cultivated sphagnum moss. With the realization that orchid seed germinates in association with a microscopic fungus, and the discovery that this could be cultured in flasks when the seed sown in direct contact with the fungus would germinate, Charlesworth & Co. were one of the first to take advantage of the new technique. By the time the first World War was over and normality had returned Charlesworth had moved from Bradford and established themselves at Haywards Heath, south of London. Here the raising of orchids by artificial methods was perfected and enormous quantities were grown to flowering size. It was

during this era that many of the orchids still enjoyed today were raised.

Hybrids were now being made between the obvious choices of species from the Andes. *Odontoglossum hallii* x *crispum* made *O. Hallio-crispum* and the naturally occurring hybrid *O. pollettianum*, also known as *O.*

*Andersonianum*, was made from *O. crispum* x *gloriosum*. Perhaps the most obvious choice of all was *O. crispum* x *pescatorei* making *O. Ardentissimum*. This plant, raised in 1898, is one of the very first man made hybrids and is still available today. One of the first successful crosses between a South American and Mexican species was *O. Crispo-harryanum* x *rossii* which made *O. Smithii* and received an FCC from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1905. Other intergeneric hybrids using *Cochlioda noezliana* and *Cochlioda sanguinea* were quick to follow. The latter crossed with *Odontoglossum cirrhosum* produced *Oda. Heatonensis* in 1906 and we shall see results of using *Oda.*

*Heatonensis* as a parent nearly seventy years later. *Odontioda Keighleyensis* was made from *Cochlioda noezliana* x *Odontoglossum cirrhosum* in 1908 and remains today one of the most popular orchids in cultivation. Although shy flowering on a small plant it is greatly sought after by collectors of antique orchids. Another unusual cross made between North and South American species is *Odontoglossum Groganiae* made in 1908 between *O. edwardii* and *O. uro-skinneri*. The cross of *Cochlioda noezliana* x *Odontoglossum harryanum* gave *Odontioda Charlesworthii* 'Theodora' which received an FCC/RHS in 1910, this beautiful deep red bloom would be worthy of an award today.

We have already seen one hybrid from *Odontoglossum rossii* but the most famous of all from this period was *O. Queen Alexandra* x *rossii* producing *O. Woodroffeae* in 1912. Strange as it may seem no other *O.rossii* hybrid has produced anything as outstanding; being a pure *Odontoglossum* it is slow to propagate but it is still found in some private collections.

In those days it was possible to register a plant even though the records of its parentage were lost. One example of this was *Odontoglossum*



Goldcrest, a beautiful example of *O. crispum* var. *xanthotes* hybridising where the parents were never recorded. These *O. crispum* type hybrids were extremely popular in the early half of this century but as their popularity waned, lack of interest meant that fewer and fewer of them were grown, we shall hear more about this line of breeding later on. The 1920's and 1930's saw many new bigeneric and quadrigeneric hybrids being raised. Specific lines of breeding which had previously been thought impossible, were surprising the growers every day. Hybrids between odontoglossums and miltonias were producing startling shapes and colours. Such a plant was *Odontonia* Mem. Joseph Charlesworth first flowered in 1920, combining superb colour and a perfectly formed flower.

*Vuylsekearas* had been produced earlier in the century, but the most important *Vuylsekeara* of all time did not appear until 1931. Although it received awards at the time its true benefits were not fully realised until much later when Keith Andrew from Dorset started to grow his orchids in a totally new and revolutionary compost. His success meant that hybrids which had hitherto produced a few flowers were now seen in much greater glory. He received an FCC/RHS for *Vuylsekeara* Cambria 'Plush' in 1970.

A similar plant is *Vuylskeara* Monica 'Burnham' raised in 1932. *Miltonia* William Pitt crossed with the *O. edwardii* hybrid *O. Brugensis* made *Odontonia* Bragelonne in 1937. This gave an interesting and completely new shape of flower in a delicate pink shade.

By 1946 over 3000 hybrids of *Odontoglossum*, *Odontioda* and *Odontonia* including 194 *vuylsekearas* and many other intergeneric hybrids has been recorded in Sander's list of orchid hybrids.

Burnham Nurseries Ltd.  
Kingsteignton,  
Newton Abbot,  
Devon.

Note: This article, 2 of 3 parts, has appeared in the *Orchid Review* and is re-printed here with the permission of the author. Part 3 will be in a future newsletter. Part 1 was printed in the August 1992 newsletter.

## The Importance of a Viable Commercial *Odontoglossum* Industry

Allan Moon, Curator of the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, presented to the *Odontoglossum* Alliance a discussion of the use of chromosome count and polyploidy technology to the development of beautiful new *odontoglossum* progeny. These methods point out the use of current and developing botanical technology to successful hybridization. But the use of these technologies are not without cost. They are expensive to employ and while Allan's results show great success, what we do not see are the failures that produced valuable lessons. These lessons will help avoid failure in the future and, I might add, avoid excess cost. The *Odontoglossum* Alliance world is fortunate to have the Eric Young Orchid Foundation with its endowment fund to support its entire operation. They are further fortunate to have in Allan Moon a man of experience, vision and an applier to practice of scientific knowledge. But one orchid foundation for the *odontoglossum* world is not sufficient. The recent announcement of the receivership of McBean's was a severe blow to amateur growers of *odontoglossums*. McBean's, in the 1970's, acquired Charlesworth & Co. This represented the demise at the time of the premier *odontoglossum* growing establishment in the world. But McBean's suffered severe damage in the hurricane of 1987. Rebuilding with modern technology for greenhouses and automatic control was, I believe, more than could be sustained by the capital resources of the company. Commercial *odontoglossum* establishments are essential to a strong and viable amateur *odontoglossum* community. Without them the development of hybrids and the source of plants would be left to small islands of growers. The cost of designing and growing modern hybrids is increasing. While I believe that the amateur community is a small portion of revenue for the commercial *odontoglossum* establishments, it is never-the-less

a most important part. It is the responsibility of the amateur community to patronize our commercial odontoglossum industry. They must have the resources to create the plants that we so love to grow. Those resources must in some measure come from us, the amateurs.

*John E. Miller*

## Editor's Comments

I have been pleased to receive numerous comments on the excellent quality of the papers given at the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting at the Eastern Orchid Congress in Boston, Massachusetts, 23 October 1992. Now that this meeting is behind us it is time to focus on the 14th World Orchid Congress and the next program for the Odontoglossum Alliance. The organizing committee of Dr. Cedric Maunder, John Hainsworth, Ron Maunder, and myself have been hard at work on the program. We are having a truly International meeting. The theme of the session to be held on 30 April 1993 is "To enlarge the potential for growing the alliance." To that end we shall be concentrating on species of the alliance and those intergeneric hybrids that have a wider environmental tolerance. The session will begin at 9:00 am on 30 April 1993. We shall have four lectures with this part of the program concluding at 12:30 pm. We have scheduled a luncheon following the forum. In the evening we are having an informal dinner with an opportunity to exchange views in a social atmosphere. Mr. Allan Moon, Curator, Eric Young Orchid Foundation, will deliver a few remarks. In addition the news from the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance, this Odontoglossum Alliance, and perhaps a new Alliance in Great Britain will be shared. Formal letters of invitation to speakers for the forum are currently out. This meeting will be a wonderful opportunity for Odontoglossum Alliance members from the world over to meet, get to know each other better and learn more about our plants.

I again ask any member to please send me

articles, letters, or comments that I can use in the Newsletter. I willingly accept articles to be printed and comments to improve the newsletter. If there is a subject or topic that is of interest - let me know and I will do my best.

Our membership is now about a hundred members. Every week I receive at least one new member. Tell your odontoglossum alliance friends.

John E. Miller, Editor  
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## Flower Show

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There was a large sales area and odontoglossum alliance material was well represented and broadly patronized. Sales tables were held by Stonehurst Nurseries, England; Strawberry Creek Orchids, McKinnleyville, California; Beal's Orchids, Auburn, Washington; Chieri Orchids, Tacoma, Washington.

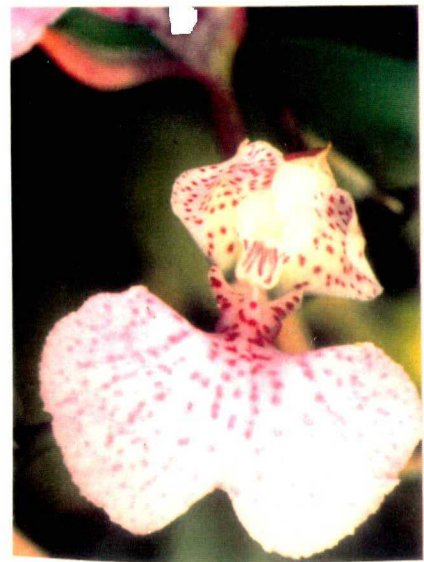
The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting and flower show was a highlight of the Eastern Orchid Congress.



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*Aspasia epidendroides*



*Comparetia macroplectrum*



*Ada aurantica*



*Osmoglossum pulchellum*



*Comparetia falcata*



*Comparetia speciosa*