

❖Odontoglossum Alliance❖

Newsletter

May 2000

ODONTOGLOSSUMS

by L. Duval

CHAPTER SEVEN CULTURE IN WINTER (october to may)

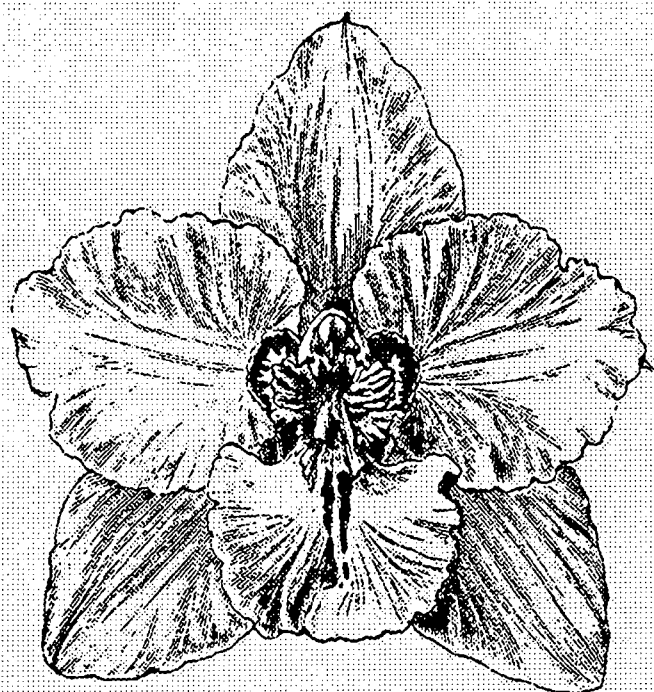
There are numerous and very beautiful cultures of Odontoglossums. This plant is so elegant, so generous, so prodigal of beautiful varieties that there is nothing astonishing that the number of growers increases every year, that the process of culture becomes more simplified, all in the interest of conserving a rational character from which it would be hazardous to depart. We have, above all, as the goal of this book, to speak for those who, not being familiar with the culture of these plants, are a bit afraid and assume - quite wrongly, that it entails huge difficulties. This is why we have believed it necessary to subdivide these chapters, and discuss, first of all, the culture during winter, then that of summer, thinking that this subdivision will greatly help our readers in permitting them. in the case where they would be embarrassed to ask a special question, to find the response in their research.

In spite of the fact that we try diligently to enter into numerous details; in spite of the fact that we attempt to write in the simplest possible manner it may be that the reader still does not find everything which he desires in our explanations.

As for that, our response is that it is absolutely impossible to dream of creating a culture such that there would be nothing except what was in the book; that the indications would be of mathematical precision. No, it is necessary that the amateur, and the horticulturist, must learn to supply by their own initiative, their perspicacity, the love for their plants, finally, by practice, their knowledge to all the explanations of the author without which they will never accomplish anything worthwhile.

It is necessary that they have confidence in the writings which indicate to them the manner in which to cultivate their plants, and that they attentively follow the general indications.

But, if there is one bad thing above all, it is to continuously change the manner of treating the plants, to listen to and to follow every suggestion. If, at the beginning of experience



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one may wish to see what occurs with such or such a method, that one tries to follow certain examples, nevertheless, for the majority of plants, to adhere to a single method and to follow it with careful attention; That is the sole method by which to arrive at a good result.

We must refer to Chapter three where we have dealt with the establishment of imported plants during the good season, and suppose that these plants, already separated, have formed a bulb provided with leaves; and that they are surrounded with other Odontoglossums which are sufficiently established, that is to say, for a year or more.

If we suppose that the month of october is normally good, which happens quite often in a large portion of the centre and the north of France, we shall explain what one must do.

Keep the greenhouses closed at night, maintaining the lowering of the temperature between 8 to 10 degrees, 12 at most; Opening the greenhouse widely during the day will provide ventilation each time that the weather is fine and mild, but never completely if the wind is hot and dry. (See Chapter Six).

If, on the other hand, it is very mild; the weather is a bit misty, and the atmosphere is humid, it is necessary to allow the air to circulate, but to close the fanlights around four o'clock in the afternoon; never allow the plants to endure air which is hot and dry; This is why, if the sun is hot, it will be necessary during the hottest hours of the day, to shade the Odontoglossums, but to remove the shading when the sun ceases to show itself.

It is necessary to pursue this question, that the Odontoglossums, having been subjected to great heat from june to september, heat from which they are protected by artificial means, are very tired, enervated; As a result, they need to be accustomed, little by little to the return of plenty of light, air, and a temperature more in keeping with their temperament. October is therefore the month most favourable to the delivery of this state if one knows how to profit from the advantages which it offers.

Sprinklings will be much more numerous when the weather is very fine; This should be carried out in the morning around nine or ten o'clock, and, above all, in the evening around four o'clock. It is not a bad thing to provide a little heat early in the day, and to leave the fanlights and the hatches partly open, even during the night.

Everything which has just been said applies to perfectly healthy plants and not to plants which have been freshly repotted; Of these we must, in addition, explain their special state. Watering in october depends on the temperature. If it is very hot, the plants will need to be watered heavily; if it is cold, and one is obliged to use heat, there is a tendency for the compost to be dry; It is necessary, therefore, to behave accordingly, but always taking into account the state of health of the plants.

Besides, the month of october and part of november decide, more or less, the state of the Odontoglossums for the remainder of the winter; It is important therefore, to keep a close observation of the plants, and to not allow insects to take hold; One must use frequent nicotine vaporizations; and washing or soaking in insecticides if one sees the slightest appearance of shoots. In november, december, and january, care consists of keeping watch on the heating; It is one of the most essential things. At night, whatever the outside temperature, the thermometer must not descend, in the coldest parts of the greenhouse, to below six or seven degrees. I am well aware that the temperature may descend to five degrees, as I have often seen it; That alone is not too inconvenient, but it is also necessary to greatly decrease the watering and the sprinkling, and treat the plants with the same regularity which recalls our saying that if the decision has been made to drop the temperature in the Odontoglossum greenhouse, it is necessary to continue to do so and to deal with the consequences.

Let us recapitulate what we have said: six to seven degrees at night; the day - between twelve to fourteen, not more, and not much less, unless the case is quite extraordinary and the weather does not permit increased heat from the burner. But these cases are rare, and the best one can do, in these conditions, is to leave the greenhouse covered, and the plants undisturbed. Given the conditions enumerated above, one must carefully survey the watering, and not give copiously, except on fixed days. (see chapter six); One sprinkles, but very lightly, and only when the weather is clear, and one has a little ray of sunshine. This will be a very light

sprinkling, it is understood, and one will carry it out around two or three o'clock in the afternoon; One is busy with turning the plants so that they obtain the light; One surveys for insects, which always develop very quickly, given that one is heating the greenhouse,

One throws the water on the paths and under the benches, but in a small quantity, *and never on the heating pipes*, because this mist, at first lukewarm, falls on the plants and cools them, which is bad; Then they must wait, uselessly, while, on the contrary, they need to utilize all their energy and solidarity to resist the bad months of winter.

The ventilation, we have observed, must be given very moderately. However, if, after a period, more or less long, of bad weather, the beautiful sun appears, we are of the opinion that one may profit from this by ventilating the greenhouse for two or three hours; One may then allow the pipes to heat up, and throw water in the pathways, then close the trapdoors at bottom and top, but never completely (see chapter six).

In reality, except in rare cases, where one is obliged to leave the Odontoglossums in the greenhouse covered with straw or cloth because of extreme frost or snow, these plants survive the winter season very well from the moment when one is forced to maintain an absolutely regular temperature, provided that one waters judiciously, and that one protects them from insects.

Vegetation continues perfectly well during the winter; february, march and april must see the Odontoglossums provided with their strong growths already transformed into pseudobulbs, and carrying branches of flowers, because the most beautiful and most abundant flowers will be always in april and may.,

As soon as the bad times have passed, that is to say, toward the first days of february, one must provide more ventilation each time that the weather is good and the sun appears (See chapter six).

Concerning the question of shading the plants, one cannot do this very much in february, the sun having no other action than to colour and to support the new growths. If one can observe the progress of things, one will see these vegetate with vigour, turn a darker green, then adopt violet and red colours which will submit themselves to the benefit of the plentiful light.

Watering must be copious, but always, as much as possible, on fixed days.

One may begin afternoon sprinkling, a little more abundantly, but always taking into account the hygrometric state of the atmosphere.

One may survey the heating, because at this time of the year, the sun alone may serve already to accumulate warmth, which will cut down the ventilation quite early; The less one must heat with heating pipes, the better; However, we must always maintain from seven to eight or ten degrees during the night, always allowing a breath of air from the hatches of aeration.

One must throw water on the pathways. but in somewhat restrained quantities.

It is only in march - april that one may treat the Odontoglossum completely in the conditions in which they find themselves in their own country at this time. If the weather is beautiful, having both heat and light, with air pure and calm, we are of the opinion that it behoves us to supply plenty of air, to open the doors, to shade with cloth when the sun has attained his strength, that is to say, from eleven o'clock to two o'clock, to sprinkle the plants, two or three times per day, to moisten the paths, the benches, the walls, and in a word, to ensure that the atmosphere be always in a state of complete saturation. (See chapter Six).

Watering must be abundant; never a single plant must be dry, but, however, it is not necessary to transform the root clump into a sponge.

The vegetation becomes very active from march to may; The plants produce more in three months than they have produced previously in six months, but this does not mean that they do not need surveillance concerning insects, and the same care we have indicated must always be applied.

Flowering occurs gradually generally. as we have said, in april and may. Flowering plants must, as much as possible, be placed separately; It is not in the least inconvenient that they receive sprinkling from the moment when the water becomes very clean, but they will need to be watered more abundantly than the others, the branches, and the branches of flowers which they carry will necessarily fatigue the plant. It will be very useful to closely observe whether greenfly have attacked the buds and whether they have hidden on the

underside of the flowers, because they will compromise the flower and will not delay in spoiling it. (See chapter on Insects)

We have not spoken any further about the topic of heating at this time of the year, since the temperature at night is already gentle, and that of the day is sufficiently elevated; If the weather were to be very hot, and the sun very broiling, it would be necessary to prepare the plants to support such heat, which is prejudicial to them, and, therefore, to strongly shade and to not let the dry heat penetrate into the Odontoglossum greenhouse.

It is already in April and may that very small insects invade these plants, and it is necessary to know in advance the damage of which they are capable. One must therefore prepare nicotine vaporizations at least two times per week if the weather is hot and dry; one time only, if the weather is otherwise, but, again, one time it is prudent to equip oneself with a good lens, and assure oneself that the operation has been effective, since when one recognizes the damage, it is often too late to remedy the problem. (See chapter of Insects).

CHAPTER EIGHT CULTURE IN SUMMER (may to october)

During the preceding chapters we have examined the conditions in which one finds the Odontoglossums during the winter months, and those of the springtime, towards june. Is it necessary to say that it is difficult if not impossible, to fix absolute limits, and that it will be understood that the grower must always supply, of his own initiative, the indications which will have escaped the writer, who can only indicate things of a general fashion, without being able to foresee the little unknown quantities which can produce, above all in the central regions of France, the heat, and in the north, the cold, since one has seen ice in june? On the other hand, it is possible to reach the month of september and even october, with temperatures which may often be warmer than the month of july.

Since the month of june begins with heat which seems to wish to be persistent, and to persist, it is necessary, therefore, to take the following precautions:

Initially, ensure that the screens, or the shade cloth are functioning very well; Then obtain light matting, such that one may make it or that it makes of itself, matting which will approximate at least half the thickness required for a winter cover.

One will be able to dig the pathways of the greenhouse, if they have become hard and water resistant, and difficult to walk on. One will have to carefully manage the rain water, which one will carefully employ for purposes other than sprinkling of the plants, and their watering.

One will make provision for nicotine juice for spraying, or for other insecticide. All these precautions having been taken, one is ready to combat the bad effects of great heat, and above all, of great dry heat, which is so prejudicial to the Odontoglossum.

Summer culture will be easier if the growers wish to face, above all, that the plants which have had, during seven months, (if they have been well looked after), conditions close to those of their native country, that these plants are going to have to live with torrid temperatures. which lack continual saturation, and that these plants with an origin in the mountains, living in the mists, and in a very pure atmosphere will find themselves transported into a furnace, because this is the fate of most of the Odontoglossums, above all in the towns, by those who obstinately treat them against all the laws of common sense and without studying their nature.

The only objective which one must seek is therefore that which will consist of restoring the temperature of the greenhouse to a low enough level, and to saturate the atmosphere with the greatest humidity possible.

But, it is not necessary, for that, to fall into the opposite excess and to transform Odontoglossum greenhouses into mushroom houses; One must therefore follow attentively our mode of operation if one wishes to obtain good results.

As soon as the thermometer rises to 22 to 25 degrees in the shade; and that there is no freshening during the night; and that consequently the days will become hot and dry, it will be necessary to moisten the paths of the greenhouses very abundantly, especially in the evening, towards 4 or 5 o'clock.

If the air should be very dry, there is nothing to prevent again watering the paths around 7 or 8 o'clock; It is understood, that the water, which serves to drench the pathways, and even under the benches and on the terraces, will be, without any inconvenience whatever, some of the rain water which is being kept for watering and sprinkling...

As soon as the sun is strong enough to heat the glass, that is to say, around 8 to 9 o'clock in the morning, one will sprinkle the racks and the cloths; Then, from 1 o'clock in the afternoon to 4 o'clock, that is to say, during the hottest hours of the day, one will close the greenhouse completely, including the small areas and the under frames of ventilation; If one judges that the temperature is still too high, one throws water very abundantly on the ground.; Finally, if the fanlights being closed, the racks or the shade cloth well sprinkled, the heat penetrates even so, it is then that one unrolls the light straw of which we have spoken, which one puts in place from 1 to 6 o'clock, and one may also need to moisten, if the heat becomes very intense (32 or 35 degrees in the shade).

In taking these precautions, one is able to bring the temperature of the greenhouse down 5 or 6 degrees below that of the exterior, which is enormous.

One must, therefore, in entering into the Odontoglossum greenhouse experience a feeling of well-being, and of freshness, in which the plants, themselves, find themselves perfectly well.

But that is not all; It is also necessary to have saturated the atmosphere, and given to the plants, in the form of drenchings and sprinklings, the water necessary for their vegetation; For this, when it is very hot, it is necessary to water with great care each plant; each plant must be examined and abundantly moistened; This operation must be carried out, when the screens and the matting have been picked up, between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening.

Sprinklings must also be carried out very abundantly, with very clean water, rain water, it is understood; But it is always necessary to do this after having carried out watering, because it would be impossible to recognize the plants which would have been dry, if one had already sprinkled them.

As one will have, as we have already said, around 6 o'clock, returned the ventilation to the greenhouse, closed the vents and the cloths, the evaporation of water thrown into the paths, the water of drenching and of sprinkling occurs very rapidly; The plants breathe and take on a joyful aspect...

One will find, the next day, on the leaves, a fine dew, and, if one wishes to carry out a detailed study, one will be able to find on the spongy surfaces of the aerial roots carrying, at their extremity, a pretty droplet of water, a certain sign of a good state of the plants.

All the precautions which we have previously indicated must be taken as long as the great heat continues; The least negligence may give rise to accidents; also, if the weather changes suddenly and becomes very rainy, one must, it is understood, once again give the plants the ventilation and light in large amounts; But it is very important to make the observation that, Odontoglossums which have submitted to great heat, and then having been treated as we have indicated, it is not necessary to abruptly give them, when the temperature again becomes hot and sunny, ventilation and light under the pretext that during the hot dry period and the resumption of the least heat, it is necessary to pass some days under cover.

The reason is simple to understand. The plants, having been very shaded and deprived of air, are attenuated, a little wilted perhaps; It is necessary therefore, to take precautions and progressively rehabilitate the plants in order to submit them once again to ordinary treatment.

All these observations seem lengthy, and one may be tempted to see in them difficulties created at will; But, it is a question of, as we have said, plants which hold aridity in horror, and, as often occurs, heat in summer, that is to say, from June to September, is extreme, at which point even men suffer horribly. It is therefore urgent to express in great detail the means of avoiding such attacks to plants of the nature of Odontoglossums.

The details of the care to give to greenhouses during the hot period will not be complete if we do not speak of, in addition to all the precautions that we have indicated, it is necessary to add as absolutely essential those which consist of spraying with nicotine at least once per week, and up to even two or three times, because this is the period in which plants may be overrun by insects of every kind. (See chapter of *Insects*) It is agreed, that, as long as the weather is very hot, not a single plant should be repotted nor resurfaced; In reality, short or long, the period of great heat and aridity, should concern the grower with one thing only; That is, to give his plants the illusion that this heat does not exist, by the artificial means which we have indicated, and to protect against insects. (See chapter of *Insects*). Being given all the precautions which we have indicated, the *Odontoglossums* will have comparatively little to suffer from the state of things which one cannot avoid, at least to be in special conditions, which then greatly decrease the annoyances which we have retraced; But we do not write only for those who, truly, do not always have the wished for conditions to have good results; it is therefore natural that we try hard to improve these conditions from our own experience, knowing, by ourselves, how difficult it is to fight against the enemies of orchids in a cold greenhouse, which are, chiefly: heat, aridity, and insects, which are the result of these conditions.

CHAPTER NINE MEXICAN ODONTOGLOSSUMS

Odontoglossum grande, *Insleayi*, *Schlipierianum*, *Rossi majus*, *Citrosium*, *Erembergi*, *Maculatum*, *Cordatum*, etc., etc.

The two preceding chapters are concerned above all with *Odontoglossums* of the type *Crispum*. It seems to us necessary to say a few words concerning the culture of mexican species, and of those which require the same care, also the short indications contained in the *tables* at the end of the book. These species, in effect, are not of quite the same nature as the *Odontoglossum crispum*. They do not grow at the same altitude and in the same conditions: they are also more succulent and more rustic; They seem to require a treatment which departs considerably from that which is indicated for the Colombian *Odontoglossums*. We will take, therefore, the *Odontoglossum grande*, as the type of species which we shall discuss here. These plants must always be kept very clean; They are subject to being infested by a small white insect of the kind which lodges in the folds and re-folds of the bulbs, and of the leaves at the base of these same bulbs. They must be repotted, according to whichever method one prefers, in ordinary compost, or in leaf mould, but large enough, if they have good roots, so that one is not obliged to do this too often, which could always damage the vegetation.

They will be maintained in a very healthy state in winter, in the temperate greenhouse, where the temperature will be able to drop to 8 or 9 degrees, but no further, and will not rise above 18 to 20 degrees.

The majority of mexican species, and those which resemble them, like to have a definite resting period; this rest starts, generally, after flowering. It is therefore necessary to keep an eye of the watering, and not stimulate a hasty vegetation by an excess of humidity, which is poorly understood.

The best guide is to examine the base of the pseudo-bulbs, and, when one sees a well defined growth, one may start to moisten once again; Without this, one may repot the plant if its need is apparent, or one may resurface it.

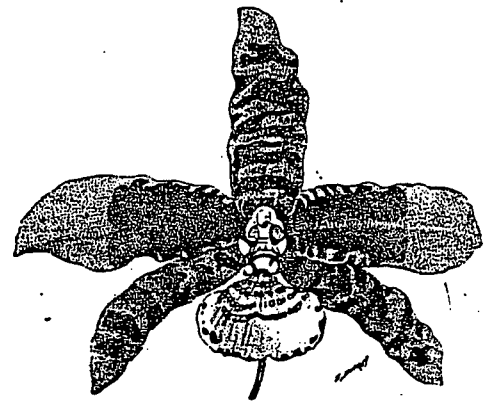


Fig.16 *Odontoglossum grande*
very greatly reduced

In general, *Odontoglossums* of the grande type, that is to say, the *Schliperianum*, the *Insleayi*, and the other species like *Cordatum*, the *Maculatum*, and the *Nebulosum* (Fig. 17) do not like to have their compost too disturbed. It is preferable, therefore, to repot them every two years, or even three, rather than to shake and damage their roots every year.

These plants like plenty of light and do not dread the sun, except, however, in the very hot months, and during the days when the atmosphere is lacking; It is, therefore, prudent to shade during the days when the sun is very strong, but to raise the blinds as soon as the sun no longer strikes the plants directly.

We have seen excellent results obtained in the Paris climate, in keeping the mexican species outside under a kind of shelter with slats or cloth; these plants have carried themselves marvellously, and their flowering was always copious

However, it seems to us that this procedure is most successful with *Odontoglossum grande*, to the *Insleayi* and to the *Schliperianum*.

Concerning the small species, such as *Odontoglossum Rossi major* and *Cervantese*, not only that which we have already said concerning repotting must be applied, but one must place them in good light, and suspend them, because their pretty flowers, in clusters, will thus find the desired conditions for opening, and will, around the plant, form a little collar which is so enchanting to contemplate.

We shall have but one more word to add about the *Odontoglossum*, so pretty, which demands a little more heat. It is the *Odontoglossum Citrosum*. It is absolutely necessary to suspend this plant if one wishes to conserve the allure and the appearance of the natural flowering; Its long clusters falling gracefully around the plant lose their cachet if one attempts to train them.

This plant has a very marked rest period which extends from september to february, and sometimes march; It necessary to leave it absolutely dry, without a single drop of water, and to not let it soften because of poor ventilation. It often happens that the pseudo-bulbs become wrinkled, drying out to the point where the two walls seem to touch each other; It is not necessary to moisten these plants until the new growth coming from the base of the pseudo-bulbs has not reached 2 or 3 centimeters in length, and also, one must not do this (moisten) unless one sees a little point coming out of the growth, which one recognizes as the tip of a future flower branch.

When one is truly certain that this branch exists, one may drench the entire plant in rain water, in this manner, that all the parts of the root ball are submerged; and continue thence the waterings and sprinklings necessary for the good development of the flowers, Then, essential point, place the plant well into the light and in the hottest area of the temperate greenhouse. The *Odontoglossum*

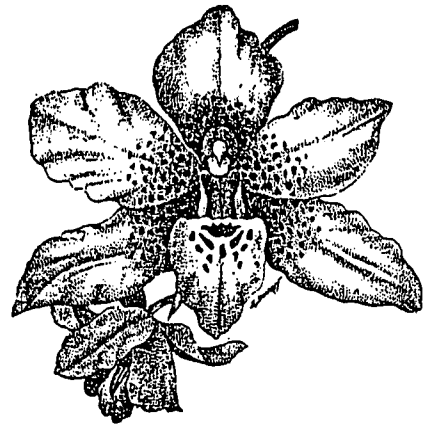


Fig. 17 *Odontoglossum nebulosum*, reduced by one third

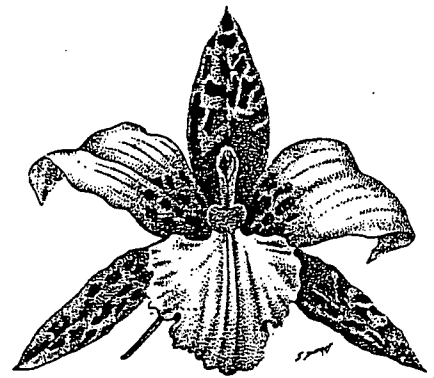


Fig. 18 *Odontoglossum Rossi major*, life size

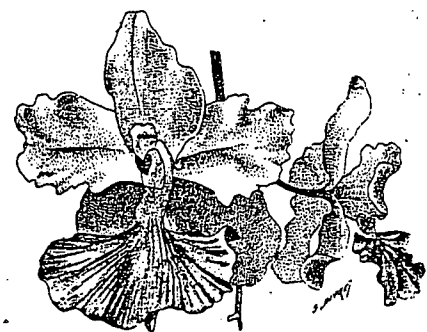


Fig. 19 *Citrosum*, Life size (fragment of branch)

Odontoglossum Alliance Informal Meeting

The Odontoglossum Alliance held an informal meeting at the time of the San Francisco Show 24-27 February 2000 at Fort Mason along the waterfront. An informal meeting was held in lieu of a regular meeting. Our Alliance holds its regular meetings in the spring in conjunction with the American Orchid Society's Trustees meeting. This years Trustees meeting is in Tampa, Florida where the growing of the Alliance is virtually non-existent. So instead we held this get-together where there are lots of Alliance growers, many displays and lots of sales tables. The San Francisco show is THE place to see Odonts, and all the rest of the Alliance. The preview of the show was on Thursday evening, 24 February and was well attended. The displays were numerous and for the most part gracefully done. Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids provided the three entrance displays. As you passed the entrance, Tom's Golden Gate Orchid display greeted you. While there were numerous Alliance plants including a collection of Odm. George MaMahon's golden yellows, the plant that was eye catching was Odcdm. Ice Mountain. The white flowers were about the size of Odm. nobile flowers. The spike was erect and the display that of a beautiful odont.

The pictures were taken with a disposable camera and I regret that they were not always in focus and clear. Next time I will take my Nikon and see if we can do better.

Boomer Orchid Ark display was mostly paphiopediums but there was one Odont that caught everyone's eyes. It was an Odm. Ardentissimum. The Rod McClellan Valerie Henderson) display had amassed a number of Beallaras named Tahoma Glacier var, Ithan. These had good color and excellent form. Sunset Orchids, (Steve Gettel) display had a well grown Odm. Bruce Cobbledick. Bruce was our first President, but a number of years ago he gave up growing orchids, but he attends this show every year. The Odontoglossum Alliance misses Bruce. Perhaps he will return one day and work his magic with the Alliance plants.

The San Francisco Orchid Society was assembled by members of The Odontoglossum Alliance and as usual there were some stunning plants. Steve Beckendorf, President of the Odontoglossum Alliance, had an Oda. Startrek with a very tall and branched spike that towered over the display gracefully. Tim Brydon had contributed a cross of Oda. Harrod's Forever by Oda. St. Clement. Bob Hamilton displayed an Oda. Aviemore var. Hawks Hill which had earned an FCC.

Valerie Henderson was the Plant Doctor for the show. She had many patients with a variety of problems. The plant owners went home knowing the treatment for their patients.

Steve Beckendorf had arranged a tour of a few of the local Odontoglossum Alliance greenhouses for Saturday. A caravan of cars departed the show at noon and drove to Pacifica where there are the greenhouses of Bob Hamilton and Tim Brydon, each with large collections of mature and seedling Odonts. The touring group immediately started collecting plants from them for their own collection. John Leathers, an expert on Dracualls and Masdevallias also had his collection in the same large greenhouse. That was very exciting to a number of our members, who found things they couldn't live without. Jim Rassmussen always seemed to find multiple needs. Tom Perlite has a greenhouse in the same location and that was opened for our group to tour and select plants. Some pretty good business was done with Tom. The group then toured Tim Brydon's home in the city where he has a small greenhouse that was filled with plants. (See the picture of Tim with his red Odontioda) People really appreciated the tour and thanks go to the organizers and the greenhouse owners.

Saturday evening was a dinner at The Buchanon Grill, located near Fort Mason. Twenty two people attended the dinner. It was an opportunity to greet and talk with odont members. Our President, Steve, gave a short talk on the Alliance and introduced two new programs to be initiated this year. One is a Mentor program to help Alliance growers and the other is a New Growers Award Program. There are articles on both these programs in this newsletter. All in all it was a fun time and we regretted that more people could not attend. Next year the Spring Trustees meeting of the AOS is again in Florida, so we will be looking closely at what our alliance will do. So if you have suggestions - send them in.

sum Citrosmum will not open its beautiful clusters well except in these conditions. If one takes care to moisten

the plants before the rest period, vegetation occurs too quickly; An enormous bulb is formed, without a single flower appearing. Like many of these species which require a long rest period, the *Odontoglossum Citrosmum* does not need to be repotted every year.

Mexican and Guatemalan *Odontoglossums* have the same tendencies toward variability as do *Odontoglossum crispum*, but with, however, much less richness.

One has, however, been able to classify certain superior varieties. In the Grande, the *Citrosnum*, the Rossi major etc., etc., these varieties are well researched, truly because of their relative rarity. There are not many hybrids among these species, and one of them, the *Odontoglossum Humeanum*, presumed to be a product of *Odontoglossum Rossi* and *Odontoglossum Chordatum*, is a rare example of what nature has produced as a natural hybrid for of the mexican *Odontoglossum*.

We will stop our explanations, thinking that they have been sufficient to well demonstrate the differences in the culture of columbian *Odontoglossums*, and mexican species, but repeating what we have already said: It will be always necessary that the growers themselves know to attend to the needs of their plants and give a little effort to studying them a bit. The principle point to observe is that the *Odontoglossums* of which we have just been speaking need a period of rest, more or less marked which one must give them, paying attention to their state, whereas the columbian *Odontoglossums* and those which are similar to them, never rest, or very little, and only after flowering.

Odontoglossum Alliance Mentoring Program

The *Odontoglossum Alliance* is establishing a mentoring program with the objective of helping beginning growers who have questions or problems with *Odontoglossum Alliance* plants. The program will be operated as an e-mail exchange with the mentors. We are asking experienced growers to volunteer as mentors by sending John Miller a statement that includes their e-mail address. Additionally this is the time of year for dues renewal. On the dues renewal form a box to check if you will volunteer to be a mentor. John will maintain a data base of mentors, requests and requesters. John's e-mail address is: jemiller49@aol.com.

Growers who wish to be matched with a mentor, ask questions or receive advice can notify John, and he will match them up with a volunteer mentor. Once a contact is made, further communication will only be between the questioner and the mentor. This will reduce the time required on both sides and distribute the work load. It is hoped that questions and answers of broad interest will be relayed to John for publication in the newsletter.

Again on the dues notice is a box to check if you would like to be assigned a mentor.

The first thing is to assemble an experienced list of volunteer mentors. So, if you consider yourself an experienced grower and would volunteer to help an individual, send you willingness to John or check the box on your dues notice. When we have a few volunteers, we will advertise the program and start the ball rolling.

New Growers Award Program

The *Odontoglossum Alliance* is establishing a New Growers award program. The award will be given annually at the time of the Annual meeting of the *Odontoglossum Alliance*. To be eligible for consideration the grower must have been growing *Odontoglossum Alliance* plants for less than five years. To be judged, a plant must have *Odontoglossum* in its parentage or be an *Odontoglossum* species. The plant must have been displayed within the past year at a public orchid show or garden show. To be considered, provide a photo (35mm slide) of the plant flower and complete the form enclosed with this newsletter. (The form is also available via e-mail. Send you request to jemiller49@aol.com). The plant must have been grown for twelve months by the submitting grower. The form and slide is to be sent to:

elmut Rohrl
93222 La Jolla Farms road
La Jolla, CA 92037-1125

Helmut Rohrl is the Chairman of the Board of the Odontoglossum Alliance. He will convene a committee of three to five members of the Alliance to determine the winner and their decision will be final. The winner will be awarded a one years membership in the Odontoglossum Alliance, inclusion on the mailing of the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter, an award certificate and a certificate redeemable for \$50.00 worth of odontoglossum alliance plants from a list of Odontoglossum Alliance commercial members.

Dues Announcement

May is the time of renewing your membership in the Odontoglossum Alliance. Enclosed with this newsletter is a dues form. Some of our members have already paid dues through the year May 2000 - February 2001. The dues renewable form included with this newsletter gives the status of your membership. The form also contains an opportunity to indicate your interest in the Mentor Program. Should your dues be paid through the coming year please return the form if there are any changes in your mailing address and your indication of interest in the Mentor Program. Please return the dues form with any payment due prior to August 2000.

John E. Miller
Treasurer/Secretary

The Odontoglossum Compendium

The Odontoglossum Compendium has been re-printed and is available for sale. This was first offered in the February 2000 newsletter and to date of the 60 copies re-printed, thirty three have been sold and shipped. Copies of The Compendium will continue to be offered until August 2000. After that any remaining copies will be available through the American Orchid Society Book Store. The best way to describe the book is to re-print the foreword.

Foreword

The Odontoglossum Alliance is an organization devoted to the exchange of information of and about the orchid plants in the *Odontoglossum* Alliance. A meeting of the Alliance is held annually and announced in the newsletter. The newsletter is published quarterly containing information on plants in the *Odontoglossum* Alliance, notices of upcoming meetings and reports on events of interest to the Alliance organization members. Since the initial organization of the Alliance in 1988 there have been 30 newsletters from 1988 through February 1999. In celebration of the 16th World Orchid Conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada it was thought appropriate and fitting that a Compendium of material on the *Odontoglossum* Alliance be assembled from the newsletters. The Compendium contains material assumed to have some archival substance. Deliberately left out of the Compendium is the color material, probably some of the most valuable information. The inclusion of

color would have escalated the Compendium costs by a factor of ten. It is hoped that a future professional and quality publication devoted to the *Odontoglossum* Alliance will contain such material. Perhaps this Compendium will fill a void in the literature on aspects of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance as well as an incentive for someone to write and publish such a book. This material may be a reference and reminder to a future author.

Assembling this Compendium would not have been possible without the use of today's computer technology. Never the less assembling the material, even though it was stored on a hard drive, has taken many hours and days to compile. The editing task has been tedious and trying. Help was received from a number of sources who wish to be anonymous, and I am indebted to them for their help and support. While some consistency and uniformity has been attempted, the articles, as written by the various authors, have been taken as their text.

The Odontoglossum Alliance welcomes new members and it is hoped that through this publication more orchid enthusiasts and growers will add the these beautiful flowers to their growing collection. In Section 12, page 12-5 is a membership application.

John E. Miller
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Odontoglossum Alliance
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jemiller@aol.com

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With this newsletter is an order form. The cost of the book per copy, including shipping is \$25.00.

Funds must be in US dollars collectible through US banks. A postal money order may be used. Please use the order form included in this newsletter for clarity of your order.

John Miller
Shipping Clerk

New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Susan Tucker of Tucker Orchid Nurseries has taken over the editorship of the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter. She promises to soon have an issue in our hands. When it arrives I will include it with our next mailing.

Orchid Mania

by Laurence L. McLaughlin

Oh, it's not the wild colors I look for
in Oncidiums that rival the sun
Or Odontiodas bright as the sun,
It's the seedlings that bloom
and light up the room
that I look for when potting is done.

It's the buds that are starting to open
that inhabit my thoughts through the day,
that keeps me enhanced through the day.
They are haunting my dreams
while the moon outside gleams
and keep daytime boredom away!

When familiar Miltonias blossom
and crosses of yore are in bloom
and hybrids I love are in bloom,
all the orchids I know
from the days long ago
can't compare to those seedlings I groom.

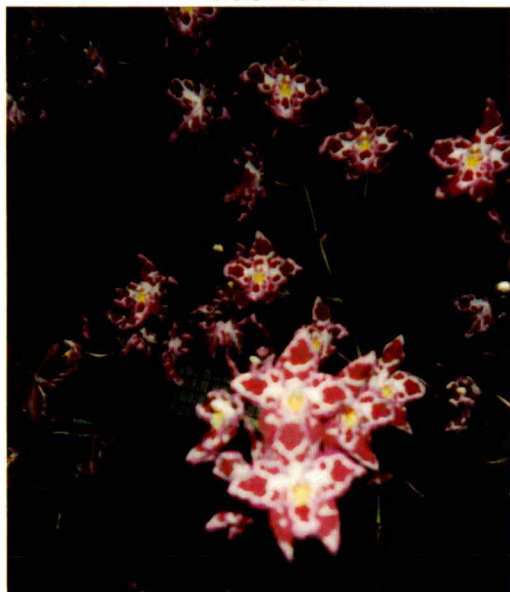
It's the buds that are starting to open
that inhabit my thoughts through the day,
that keeps me enhanced through the day.
they are haunting my dreams
while the moon outside gleams
and keep daytime boredom away!



Oda. Aviemore 'Hawks Hill'
FCC/AOS



Sunset Orchids
Odm. Bruce Cobbledick



Oda. Startrek



Rod McClellan Orchids
Blara. Tahoma Glacier 'Ithan'



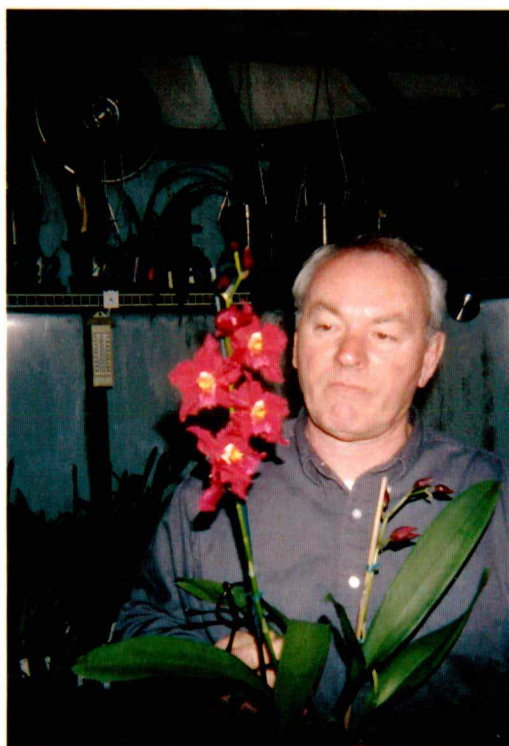
Oda. Harrod's Forever x
Oda. St. Clement



Golden Gate Orchids
Odcdm. Ice Mountain



Boomer Orchids
Odm. Ardentissimum



Tim Brydon



Plant Doctor Valerie Henderson



President Steve Beckendorf (right)
Jerry Rehfield