



This presentation, without a title for the moment, can be divided in two main chapters:

- Species Selection or Improvement
- Hybrids in Colombia

But before starting I have to tell you that today, I will use the old traditional and what I think is the only understandable "Taxonomic nomenclature". For me *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium* are two different things. Relations between groups can be studied and are very valuable, but not any further. Call me old fashioned or antiquated, but at this age and with my experience growing orchids, I see differences, I cannot change. For those that think different, my sincere apologies.

A) Basic *Odontoglossum* and *Miltoniopsis* Species Selection.

One of the main objectives that I have had in mind in the past is to select and reproduce good clones of the *Odontoglossum* species specially: *nobile*, *crispum* and *spectabilissimum*.

1) *Odontoglossum crispum*.

This species, the cornerstone in *Odontoglossum* hybridizing, was abundant in the past years when European collectors travelled all over our than undisturbed forests. The evidence has been profusely documented in the old literature and watercolors reproduced and published specially by the RHS, Lindenla, Reichenbachia and others. After reviewing all these articles and pictures you can only *morir de envidia y suspirar*.

Except for different colors and patterns seen in the modern hybrids, not great improvements have been achieved in years of hybridizing. Let us see some of these original collected clones in the late 1700 and early 1800:



Unfortunately, in these so called modern days, none of these beauties exist anymore. Or at least have not been found again. The recent collections of *Oden crispum* in native habitats are really poor. All the plants that we receive now are nice but nothing to do with what we ambition or saw in the past. The following pictures illustrate what I mean:



Some of the clones that I have personally admired in the last years are some with beautiful red markings, even if the forms are not the best. I have been crossing these new found "red marked crispums", but the seed is still in pods or recently sown.



Nevertheless we have tried to cross many of these regular and recently collected clones but only few extraordinary have yet come out.



As a conclusion for the moment we have to be happy with the old hybrids that have the blood or the genetic background of those marvelous old crispum clones.

## 2) Odontoglossum nobile:

The history of *Odontoglossum nobile* is quite different. Even if some old records show extraordinary clones, apparently this species was not as abundant as *Odontoglossum crispum*. Here are some of those old clones for you to admire:



Collected *Odontoglossum crispum* plants have been available all the time, but *Odontoglossum nobile* was lost for years in Colombia and for a very long time this species was scarce and rare in our collections. The only *Odontoglossum nobile* that we could get here in Colombia had to be imported from Europe, with the surprise that all turned out to be *Ode: Acanthopapilion (nobile x crispum)* and not true *nobile*. Here are pictures of the so called "nobile" that came from England:



To prove the above statement several years ago I remade Odm Ardentissimum (1898 by E. Rothschild) and here is what I got. Needless to say that these first flowers obtained confirmed my doubts about the English noble being Ardentissimum. As you can see they are extraordinary flowers that show the hybrid vigor:



Coming back to straight Odm noble here are some new arrivals of these recently collected plants:



With the best plants we have made crosses that have produced beautiful flowers: fully round, some pure white and others with well branched spikes. All these plants from the different crosses are still young and not completely developed, hence I expect extraordinary specimens when they become fully adult. These pictures illustrate what I mean:





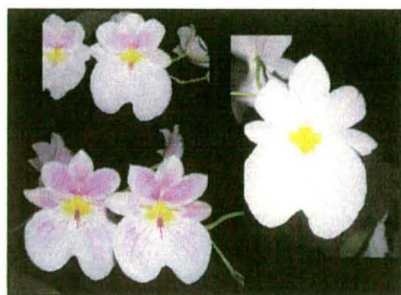
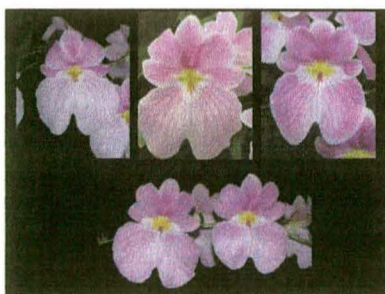
### 3) *Odontoglossum spectatissimum*:

With this species the story is relatively similar to the crispum one. No real magnificent clones have appeared in these last years. Not even at the national shows have I seen very desirable or unseen before flowered plants. The only great and outstanding clones that I have received in the recent past is a division of *Odontoglossum spectatissimum* "Forte" 4N that Bob Hamilton very kindly gave me and plants that arrived to Francisco's nursery. I have crossed this "Forte" clone with some of my regular ones, but seed is still in pods.



### 4) *Miltoniopsis vexillaria*

*Miltoniopsis vexillaria* has a different story. Collections as recent as a couple months ago, have contributed with wonderful clones. These *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* are still abundantly found in many different locations in Colombia and extraordinary flowers still appear. In my opinion with these wonderful plants that we can find now, I do not see any real need to cross them, probably only meristematic. Variability of forms and colors are shown in the following pictures of all jungle collected plants:





Colomborquideas, located very near the Medellin airport, at 2250 meters above sea level (7382 ft), has climatic conditions that are very similar to the natural *Miltoniopsis veillaria* habitats. The consequence is that I can grow *Miltoniopsis* very successfully and this fact pushes me, every day, to try to obtain more and more of these beauties. The percentage of very good clones in a batch of collected plants that comes from certain areas is very high.



5) Other Species:

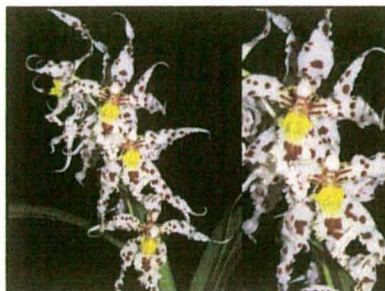
Many other species are grown in Colomborquideas but due to the limited time of this presentation I will rapidly pass through some of them:

- *Odontoglossum nevadense*, recently reproduced in the lab and now available in quantity, after more than 50 or 60 years of being disappeared.





- *Odontoglossum naevium*, surely most of you have heard or read Steve Beckendorf's chronicle about the rediscovery of this long lost species. Now we have abundant plantlets being replanted in the laboratories for rejoice of all.



- *Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis*, this small and variable beauty is still abundant and is actually being crossed with standard advanced hybrid *Miltoniopsis* to produce a new line of plants, multflowered with small but very showy patterns.



At Orquifolajes, Francisco's nursery, he has added to his species collection some wonderful clones that are worth seeing:



B) Hybrids done in Colombia:

Now let us take a look at some hybrids that both Francisco Villagas at Orquifolajes and myself at Colombrorquideas have made in our 'quijolesco' effort to keep the Odonoglossum trend still moving.

I am using noble for crosses with advanced modern Odm hybrids for a couple reasons that as Tom Parilla wrote in his wonderful article in the Orchid Digest Vol. 75-4-2011, "intensifies the white color giving sparkling texture to its hybrids, and producing up to 15 flowers which open gradually on a multibranched spike".

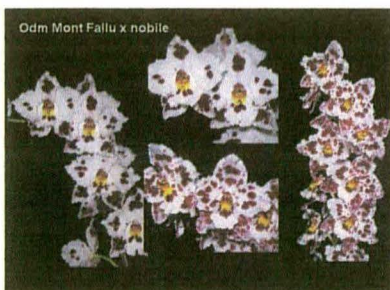
One of the parents that I have used in some of these crosses is Odm Mont Fallu (Nicky Streuss x Stroperry). This seed was given to me by Bob Hamilton several years ago.



Odm Mont Fallu



Odm Mont Fallu x noble



Odm Mont Fallu x noble



Odm Mont Fallu x noble

After the Glasgow WOC, in 1999, I went to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation in Jersey and being there the unforgettable Alan Moon gave me a handful of selected plants: Odm Augres, Ode Eric Young, Ode Samares and Ode Avranches among others.

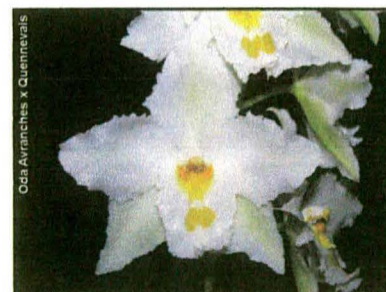
With this extraordinary gene pool I started doing crosses similar to those that also some others like the EYOF continued to do or that the Nichirei Corp in Japan registered with Sanders some years later.



Oda Victoria Village



Oda Avranches

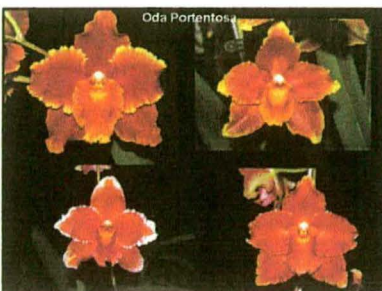


Oda Avranches x Quennovais



Let me now show you some hybrids that I have made in the past.

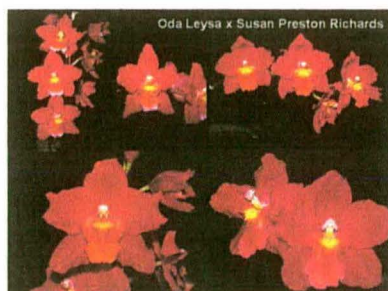
Oda Portentosa came as a combination of Oda Mount Constance, a plant coming from Beal and Oda Don Quichotte from Vacherot & Leconfle.



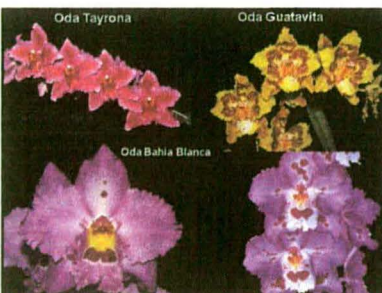
Unfortunately until now and after many failed attempts no seed pods have taken. That I know of, only Francisco Villegas succeeded a couple times by crossing his Portentosa to Odm spectatissimum and to Oda Sanderae x Triton. These crosses are probably the key to open the usage of this rich colored line.



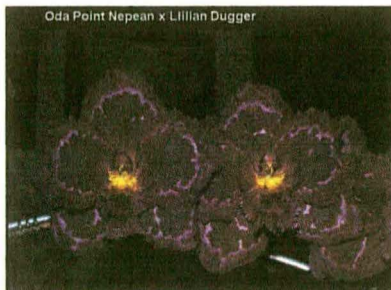
Using plants from flesks that Howard Liebman gave me in the past, I have tried to develop some rads:



Now I will rapidly pass through some other hybrids done at Colomboquides and at Orquifollajes:





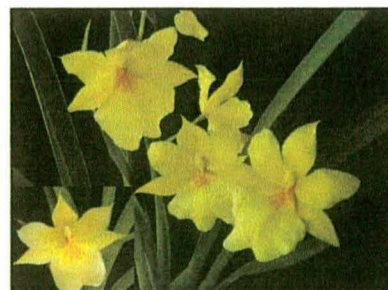


In the Miltonopsis I have done some crosses using vexillaria back to some complex hybrids in the aim of bring 'hybrid vigor' to the new offspring. Only a few have yet flowered but the outcome is promising.



The recently discovered *Milt roezlii* xanthine has become a new tool to produce more yellows and also some warmth tolerance in Miltonopsis hybrids.

I have nice examples of what I mean in crosses with the xanthic roezlii:



But without any doubt the best of these yellows was produced by the Tsubota family in Pereira by crossing the xanthina roezlii with Mill Hudson Bay. Cross that they registered as Mill Eva's Razones Justas:



Now that I come to an end, I think that I have found a good title for this presentation:

"Digressions in the Odontoglossum Alliance"

For your patience THANK YOU very much.

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