

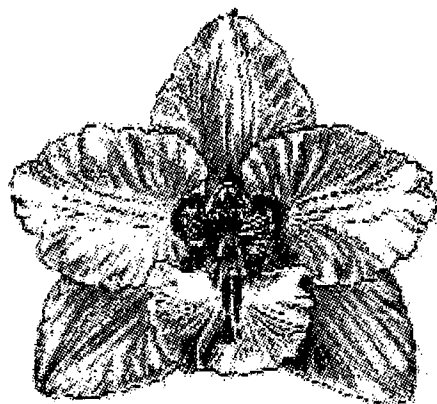
Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

2008

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Medellin Orchid Show Update

This is the last newsletter to contain information about the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting in Medellin, Colombia on 8 August 2008 in conjunction with the XV Show "Orchids, Birds and Flowers" and Handicrafts Show, This is XXXII International Orchid Show 6-10 August 2008.

According to my list on the Fast Response Email list we have 25 singles or couples planning to attend the show and meeting. The preview party is the evening of 6 August and is called the Inaugural Cocktail Party. The Joint meeting of the Pluerothallid Alliance and the Odontoglossum Alliance is being held on 8 August at the Intercontinental Hotel. This is preceded by a tour in the afternoon of the Juan Felipe Posada orchid nursery, Colomborquideas.

Generous arrangements have been made to provide many special things for our group. This includes transportation to and from the airport for arrival and departure to and from the Intercontinental Hotel. Reservations for the Inaugural Cocktail Party (US\$30.00), Show ID for all show days (US\$15.00), Transportation for the tour of Colomborquideas Orchid Nursery (US\$15.00) and the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting and dinner (US\$35.00). All this may be paid for upon arrival in Medellin. However we must notify Victoria before coming by 1 July 2008 for all this to happen.

I am maintaining a database of information for all these events and ask each of you planning to attend to fill out the information sheet enclosed in this newsletter and send it to:

John E. Miller
PO Box 38
Westport Point, MA 02791
Or Email to
Jemiller49@aol.com
With Subject "Medellin"

I am also sending out this same message and form in the Rapid Response E Mail procedure established previously. I will collect all this information and transmit it to Victoria (vduquef@une.net.co).

We are still working on the process for bringing plants into Colombia and bringing plants out of Colombia. When this information is available it will be transmitted via the rapid response Email system previously set-up.

The show people in Colombia generously supply all these accommodations. I urge your prompt cooperation in providing the necessary information. It should be a great time.

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE RAPID RESPONSE LIST AND DESIRE TO DO SO, SEND AN EMAIL TO jemiller49@aol.com, WITH SUBJECT "MEDELLIN"

Remember to partake of the services being offered you must send me the information no later than 1 July

Why I Love The Odontoglossum Alliance

By Mario Ferrusi

I started growing orchids in March of 1980 on a dare from my wife, Conni. She hails from Los Angeles, California. She said her aunt grew orchids so I should be able to. She didn't like the cacti that I had on the kitchen window sill. In the beginning, I purchased a phalaenopsis seedling at a local nursery, (it was from Zuma Canyon Orchids). I checked out all the orchid books at our local library, 3 books total, and then went out and purchased more books. About a month later, I read in the local paper For Sale-Orchid Collection-\$60. It included 23 plants and a fluorescent fixture. I was well on my way. I guess the first exposure I had to the Odontoglossum family was from an old American Orchid Society Bulletin, where I saw a photo of a display put on by Artur Elle. The wonderful colors and patterns and the large frilly flowers were simply amazing! I just had to have some of these! Of course, when I asked older more experienced growers in our local society, the answer was, You can't grow them here! The gauntlet was dropped! Eventually, (I don't remember how), I came to know someone who was ordering plants from Dr. Wally Thomas of British Columbia. They gave me a 2 or 3 page listing which, to my delight, included Odontiodas and even pure line bred Odontoglossum. I believe I ordered 3 plants. I couldn't wait for their arrival. > They were just seedlings, but still they were Odontoglossum types. Soon after this, I came across Bob Dugger's address and immediately wrote him. He responded and sent a flask list. As it turned out Conni and I, along with our 2 year old daughter, were going to visit family in Los Angeles. So I arranged a trip to Bob's home near San Diego. I was awestruck. He had just a small greenhouse, but had produced so many fine hybrids. I visited for about 3 hours. I left with 3 purchased flasks and 2 gift flasks (Bob was always very generous). One of these flasks was Wilsonara Comitan. These were wonderful growers and earned me 2 AMs and 1 HCC. I was reeled in, hook line and sinker! I purchased many, many more flasks from Bob over the years and he would always include a freebie or two. But my very first Odontoglossum Alliance award came from a plant that I purchased at a local orchid show around 1983. It was a Wilsonara Hamburgh Stern (Onc. Tigrinum x Oda. Lippestern), a cross registered by Artur Elle in 1976. I selected this blooming size plant from a group of about 25 plants. When it received its AM of 85 points on April 2, 1988, it had 17 flowers and 3 buds on 3 inflorescences. That was an inflorescence from each side of the lead bulb and one from the top of the bulb! I've never been able to repeat this with any plant since. I currently have, (a wild guess), 1500 blooming size Odontoglossum types and about 500 seedlings, (many of my own hybridizing). To this day the many colors and patterns continue to amaze and intrigue me. I just love the plants of the Odontoglossum Alliance.

Mario Ferrusi

Starting To Grow Orchids

By Dr. Wally Thomas

In 1955 we had just purchased our home, and without enough money left over to go for a summer holiday I suggested to my wife, Shirley, that we should purchase a couple of orchids. I had always been intrigued by orchids but never owned one, so we purchased a *Dendrobium Nobile* and a *Catt. Percivalliana*, and placed them in the bathroom window. To our surprise and delight they both bloomed, and it was not long before not only the window was filled then the kitchen window, and then a greenhouse and another. The plants came from Gordon Hoyt and Daniel Ryerson. The next ten years were devoted to growing this group and making a few hybrids, one being registered in 1967. However by this time I had seen some *Odonts* and was smitten so not too long after I sold the *Catts* and started to travel and visit *Odont* growers.

TRAVEL On a trip to Seattle I arranged to visit Fergie Beall on Vashon island. He kindly walked me down the aisles of *Odonts*, telling me about his collecting trips to the Andes—all in all a memorable experience. As I read about this group, however, the name Charlesworth seemed to be outstanding—by then Charlesworth/McBeans under Ray Bilton. Later I was able to visit England, met Ray, saw their greenhouses and helped them put up a display at an RHS Show. I was also able to visit Alan Moon at The Eric Young Foundation. At so many meetings it was a delight to meet other *Odont* enthusiasts—. I was also fortunate to be at the meeting in California where the *Odontoglossum* Alliance was conceived. We thank you John Miller for the wonderful job you have done to keep The Alliance vital and all of us in touch through the newsletter and addresses.

COLLECTION - In the 1970's continuing to 1993, each spring I imported a shipment of seedlings from Charlesworth/McBeans. A few others came from The Eric Young Foundation and elsewhere. I began searching for 'the ideal growing media'. Finally, at a hydroponic meeting in Europe I met a chap who was presenting a paper on growing tomatoes in Perlite, and so for the many years I have been exploring the various mixes, pot sizes and shapes, fertilizers and watering regimes using this material.

CHARLES ISLAND.- In 1965 we purchased a pristine 7 acre island lying in the mouth of a narrow 2 mile long inlet lying about 50 miles north of Vancouver. Access is by a 1 hour ferry ride and a 1 hour drive followed by a 100 yard crossing. When I retired in 1982 my desire was to spend a lot of time there and to establish a small business growing *Odonts* there. Two greenhouses—about 1500 sq. ft.—were built—rainwater was collected off the roof and pumping it up the hillside to a 600 gal. unit—extra went to a 21 ft. diameter 'above ground' swimming pool—the pressure ran 2 Dosmatic fertilizing units. Each greenhouse had a large fan at the inner harbour end—run by a large solar panel. Despite heavy insulation and many under bench blackened water containers facing the sun, considerable propane was needed. Hybridizing was the most interesting, after the first blooms and I have given particular interest to the reds looking for size and colour.

The 16th World Orchid Conference was reasonably successful and through the Canadian National Research Council we established a small yearly orchid scholarship with the interest from the \$200,000 profit. Despite having a wonderful committee I was rather exhausted and decided to close down Charles Island. When one gets to be 80 one has not quite the same capabilities and energy needed to grow orchids on an island. Recently however, I am again actively growing at my home with a particularly interest in the oranges and yellows.

Orchid growing needs patience and equally, an interested understanding wife.

SOME THOUGHTS ON GROWING ONCIDIINAE

By Dr. Helmut Rohrl

The first time I grew orchids was in the mid-1960s. I had bought some phalaenopsis and cattleyas from a local (San Diego) nursery and started to grow them in a small, overheated enclosure – with the predictable results. Few years later I became acquainted with Bob Dugger who urged me to grow his brand of orchids and gave me some hints of how to do it successfully. At the same time I saw that Bob not only grow odonts beautifully, but was growing next to his odonts other orchids, such as phalaenopsis, very well. Under his tutelage I began cultivating seedling that I obtained from him and from Beall Orchid Comp. After few starts I became reasonably adept at taking care of the plants and enjoyed seeing them grow and flower in a self-built, single-section 10 x 12' greenhouse. Bob connected me to Goodale Moir, and I became interested, in addition to cool growing oncidiinae, in growing intermediate and warm growing species and hybrids of the subtribe. That called for extending the greenhouse to ultimately 8 sections that allowed me to arrange for various micro climates to accommodate these plants. By the time I got in touch with Goodale I had already started my breeding program in oncidiinae and laeliinae. I communicated 2 – 3 times a months with Goodale and saw Bob few times monthly, and studied with both the art and science of hybridizing. Through Goodale I got in touch with Milton Carpenter and later with George Black.

The major part of my odont collection came (initially) from Beall and Bob Dugger, later from Arthur Elle and Lemfoeder O., M & H and Stead O., Glenwood O. Acres, Golden Gates O., Okika Ltd., Rod McLellan CO., and Strawberry Creek O. And more.

I grow these cool growing plants outdoors under a plastic roof. My location is within ½ m. of the Pacific Ocean in San Diego. There is always good air movement, about 60% humidity, plenty of sunshine, temperatures normally between 5° – 14° Celsius (except when there are Santa Ana winds with very dry and hot conditions). What are, in my opinion, the cultural requirements one should follow? I believe they can be gleaned from nature. The most important ones are those that are most narrowly defined. Number one is

clean water. Except for the rather recent contamination of the air (and consequently precipitation), rain has been free of pollutants. This means that epiphytic plants are used to clean water and their genetic make-up was not challenged to encounter changing or broadly fluctuating water conditions. Hence species and hybrids such as *oncidinae* must to given clean water. Next on the list is air movement. Plants growing at higher and more exposed habitats are exposed to often strong air movements. Even at lower altitudes, open environments witness almost constant air movements. Hence air circulation in the greenhouse is an important issue for growing odonts. Another important point is light level. At intermediate, and even more at high altitudes light levels are high as the air is cleaner and trees and bushes are less densely set. Indeed our species and hybrids should be exposed to light levels short of burning the leaves (a red sheen on the leaves indicates proximity to over-exposure to light). Since the root system of epiphytes dries out fairly quickly, the potting medium has to be rather open and draining, and capable of maintaining an adequate pH-level. Other than that, any medium will do. Indeed I have seen well-growing plants sitting in glass baubles, in beach pebbles, and many more 'mediums' (I personally would prefer to grow my plants in gold nuggets – does anyone know a cheap source??). There is one more item that is crucial for good odonts culture. In their natural habitat there is a marked diurnal temperature difference. Again, this is a continuing phenomenon, and both species and hybrids must be exposed to it. What else? Pest control. There are many products out there, and availability depends on the state you live in, and on the permits you have. For the best choice, talk to other growers and –cautiously – to distributors of these products. The main issue here is to regularly and unfailingly apply these substances, and to use products that are safe –for you and your plants.

Of all orchids: why odontoglossum?

By Dr. Guido Deburghgraeve

It is not so evident to indicate why we love or adore something. Sometimes pheromones can do the trick but mostly we do not have a clue.

For example: I'm fascinated by the music of J.S.Bach and his Matthäuspassion in particular. So I studied this music and the score more in detail to find out why my hair rises by hearing this wonder of the world in music. The more details I learn, the more I enjoy it but it gives me no clue why I'm so impressed by it. I believe the same is the case with orchids.

But for me, the odontoglossum fascination strictu sensu has undoubtedly a trigger point.

Every member of the odontoglossum alliance will have of course his own story.

Like most of us it started with one plant, for me in 1981, a cymbidium. Against all rules of the layman the plant flowered again the following year. Very rapidly more orchids came into the house and after a short period of growing under artificial lights I finally decided to buy a small greenhouse with more space for plants.

In 1983 I visited with our local society a small nursery in the Netherlands and there I bought a small plant with the exotic name "*cochlioda sanguinea*". At that time I didn't know anything of *cochlioda* but the name was exotic and sounded like music in my ears.

(By extrapolation I learned afterward that the plant had been imported from Mrs.Ströbel, obviously from Ecuador.)

That little thing was happy in my greenhouse, grew well and flowered for the first time. It appeared to be anything but a *cochlioda* but quite obviously an odontoglossum, but what species?

I went with my plant to all known to me "connoisseurs" and professionals but the more heads the more opinions; everybody presented another name and identification. So far no solution.

To my hand I had a copy of the odontoglossum part of *Orchids of Peru* by Schweinfurth. There I found something that could match my plant: *odontoglossum hennisii*. Up to the library of the national botanical garden in Meise (by Brussels, Belgium by the way) to look for the original description, what I found in the gardeners' chronicle. Till now all went well and I was proud I found the possible solution myself. An attentive reader of the description by Schweinfurth will remark that the plant was located in Peru: valley of Lloa. This is Ecuador at this moment, borders were not so strict and well defined at that time. Even Belgium existed only 60 years in those years!

Around that time Mrs. Bockemühl published her series of articles about odontoglossum in *Die Orchidee*. She was very friendly and helpful, so I did send her a flower for identification with a comment that I had done all the detective work up until then, it was a kind of a disappointment when her answer came that my attempt was very courageous but incorrect. My plant was a possible natural hybrid and odontoglossum *hennisii* should be something else. Nevertheless the plant was very interesting and possibly a natural cross of *odm. kegeljani* or *epidendroides (lacerum)* with *odm. tenue*. To my great astonishment when I bought her odontoglossum book: there was my flower page 324 labelled: *odontoglossum x hennisii*. It seemed I was right after all.

There is a photo of another plant in native Ecuadorian orchids. Padre Andreetta told me he has seen that plant somewhere around Amaluza which is at the southern border of Ecuador. Is it a species or indeed a natural hybrid? In any way it seems to be rare, certainly in cultivation. I'm proud to say that the plant is still living and doing well. A nice division is growing in the botanical garden of Heidelberg (Germany) and I gave here and there a small division to various people, I hope they survive somewhere.

Odontoglossums (x) *hennisii* is a nice small *odontoglossum* with bulbs like an oversized *odontoglossum tenue*. The spike bears up to 6 flowers but I did not notice any fragrance until now. Stig Dalström drew my attention to the fact that there is a new *odontoglossum* in Colombia that is possibly closely related to this plant: *odontoglossum alberti*.

This taxonomic problem should be studied by comparing both plants and flowers.

In the *Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter* Vol 4 Nov.2006 p.4 is stated that the plant has been rediscovered. Is the species mentioned here *odm. alberti* and considered synonymous of *odm.hennisii* or is it *hennisii* itself? Unfortunately till now I do not have any information about that.

This was the start of my *odontoglossum* rage.

With some divisions I could make exchanges for other rare *odontoglossums*.

Today I have established almost a complete collection of *odontoglossums* with some *cyrtorchilums* filling the rest of my greenhouse. Now I am trying to remake some of the more spectacular natural hybrids, as they are very rare these days or even not available in living collections.

With that plant I learned also to dig in the library here, one never has to believe a label, and that taxonomy never ends.

Important Dues Notice for Some Members

The payment of dues notice for some of our members is enclosed with this newsletter. If you do not find a notice with this mailing, your dues have been paid at least through 2009. For those receiving a notice, payment is requested before August 2008. Notice that if you pay for 2 years we will send you a copy of the book "Les *Odontoglossums*" by Leon Duval. Should you be paying for 2 years and already have a copy please indicate so on the notice. Please indicate if you want the book. If you already have the book, forgive taking it and leave it for our new members.

Please examine the status of your membership and make any corrections needed. It is very important that you verify your e-mail address and/or add your email address. We have occasions where special notices need to be sent out. It is far more cost effective and much faster to email such notices. So please check that item especially.

ODONTOGLOSSUM HENNISII

This is a very elegant and pretty little odontoglossum sent to Messrs. Charlesworth Shuttleworth & Co, of Heaton, Bradford, and of Clapham, by their collector, Mr. W. Hennis, from the southern part of the andes, either Peru or Ecuador. In size and in colour it closely resembles *Odontoglossum odoratum* Lindl., but its real affinity is with *Odontoglossum crinitum* Rchb., as the shape of the lip is very similar in the two, while both possess a peculiar bearded crest, consisting of numerous filiform or thread-like hairs. *Odontoglossum crinitum* is a native of New Granada, and has a very zigzag rachis with very rigid spreading distichous bracts, and the flowers rather crowded, while in our novelty the rachis is nearly straight, the flowers larger, and far more distant, and the bracts different. In *Odontoglossum crinitum* also the crest is more densely bearded. It is a very interesting and attractive little plant.

Gardeners' cronicle. ser. 3, 10:158 1891 R.A. Rolfe.

ODONTOGLOSSUM HENNISII n.sp.

Pseudobulbs densely trifid, ovoid-oblong, subcompressed, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Leaves oblanceolate-linear, acute, 4-6 inches long, 6-10 lines broad. Scape 8 inches high, 6-flowered. Bracts lanceolate, acute, 2 lines long. Pedicels 1 inch long. Sepals spreading, lanceolate, acuminate, a little more than 1 inch long, yellow, with a large brown area near the base and another about the middle. Petals rather smaller, yellow with several brown spots in the middle and three or four brown lines near the base. Lip free, unguis 2 lines long, limb spreading, three-lobed, 10 lines long by 8 lines broad; side lobes rounded, denticulate; front lobe triangular-ovate, very acuminate; disc with numerous slender somewhat branched filaments from 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines long; ground colour white, the front lobe reddish-brown, also the basal part of the disc and a few spots of the same colour on the margin of the side lobes. Column clavate, 7 lines long, yellowishwhite, wings brown, nearly entire, the triangular acute apex slightly denticulate. Native of Peru or Ecuador. R.A. Rolfe.

Blüte Nr. 1 nun ist eine sehr interessante Sache. Schon als ich das Alkohol-Präparat erhielt, mutmaßte ich, daß dies eine Naturhybride sein müsse, und das Dia bestätigte die Annahme : Ein Elternteil ist sicherlich *Odm. saphiratum* Rchb. (wird im nächsten Orchideenheft behandelt) aus der Section der *Erectolobata*.

der zweite Elternteil muß aus der Section (Eu)*Odontoglossum* sein, und da vermute ich *Odm. kegeljani* oder *Odm. lacerum*.

Wissen Sie die Herkunft der Pflanze ? Peru oder Südl.

Ecuador würde ich vermuten.

Ihre Idee mit *Odm. henistii* ist nicht ganz schlecht, aber dort sind die Kallusfäden über die ganze Lippenplatte verteilt, und die Blüte hat einen ganz anderen Aspect, ist möglicherweise nur eine Syn. zu *Odm. crinitum*, mit außerordentlich großen Blüten.

Ihre Zeichnung ist gut, Sie haben die wichtigsten Merkmale erfaßt, sodaß man gut danach bestimmen kann :

1. Section *Erectolobata* läßt sich aus folgenden Merkmalen ableiten : hochgestellte Seitenlappen d. Lippe, Säulenknien unterhalb der Narbe, Verwachsungsfünfeck, außerdem der Kallus und die Säulenflügelform die auf die Art *Sapphiratum* schließen lassen.
2. Section *Odontoglossum* läßt sich ableiten aus der Antherenform, den Seitenflanken der Säule dazu die Lippenplattenform, die Tepalenbreite, Die Bulbenform und die Farbgebung der Blüte, die auf *Odm. kegeljani* schließen lassen.

Hybriden zwischen den beiden genannten Sectionen sind durchaus bekannt, allerdings nicht zwischen diesen beiden Arten, das ist für mich ein Novum.

Wenn Sie mir die Herkunft oder den Sammler nennen könnten, wäre das interessant, weil aus dem Standort mit noch größerer Sicherheit auf die Eltern geschlossen werden kann.

Odontoglossum Hennisii Rolfe, Gard. Chron. ser. 3, 10: 158. 1891.

Pseudobulbs densely aggregated, oblong-ovoid, subcompressed, about 4 cm. long. Leaves oblanceolate-linear, acute, 10.2–15.2 cm. long, up to 2.1 cm. wide. Scape about 20 cm. long, loosely 6-flowered. Pedicellate ovary about 2.5 cm. long, five times as long as the subtending bract. Flowers rather large, with spreading segments. Sepals similar, lanceolate, acuminate, about 2.6 cm. long, yellow with a large brown area near the base and also about the middle. Petals somewhat smaller, yellow with brown spots and lines. Lip free, white with red-brown spots and blotches; claw about 4 mm. long; lamina spreading, 3-lobed, about 2.1 cm. long and 1.7 cm. broad; lateral lobes rounded, denticulate; mid-lobe triangular-ovate, long-acuminate; disc with numerous slender, somewhat branched filaments from 2 to 5 mm. long. Column clavate, about 1.5 cm. high, yellowish-white with brown wings, denticulate at the triangular, acute apex.

Peru or Ecuador, *Hennis s.n.* (sent to Messrs. Charlesworth, Shuttleworth & Co. of Heaton, Bradford and Clapham).

No record of this species was available.

(Orchids of Peru Fieldiana: Botany, Volume 30 p.816 + p.818)

Odontoglossum HBK

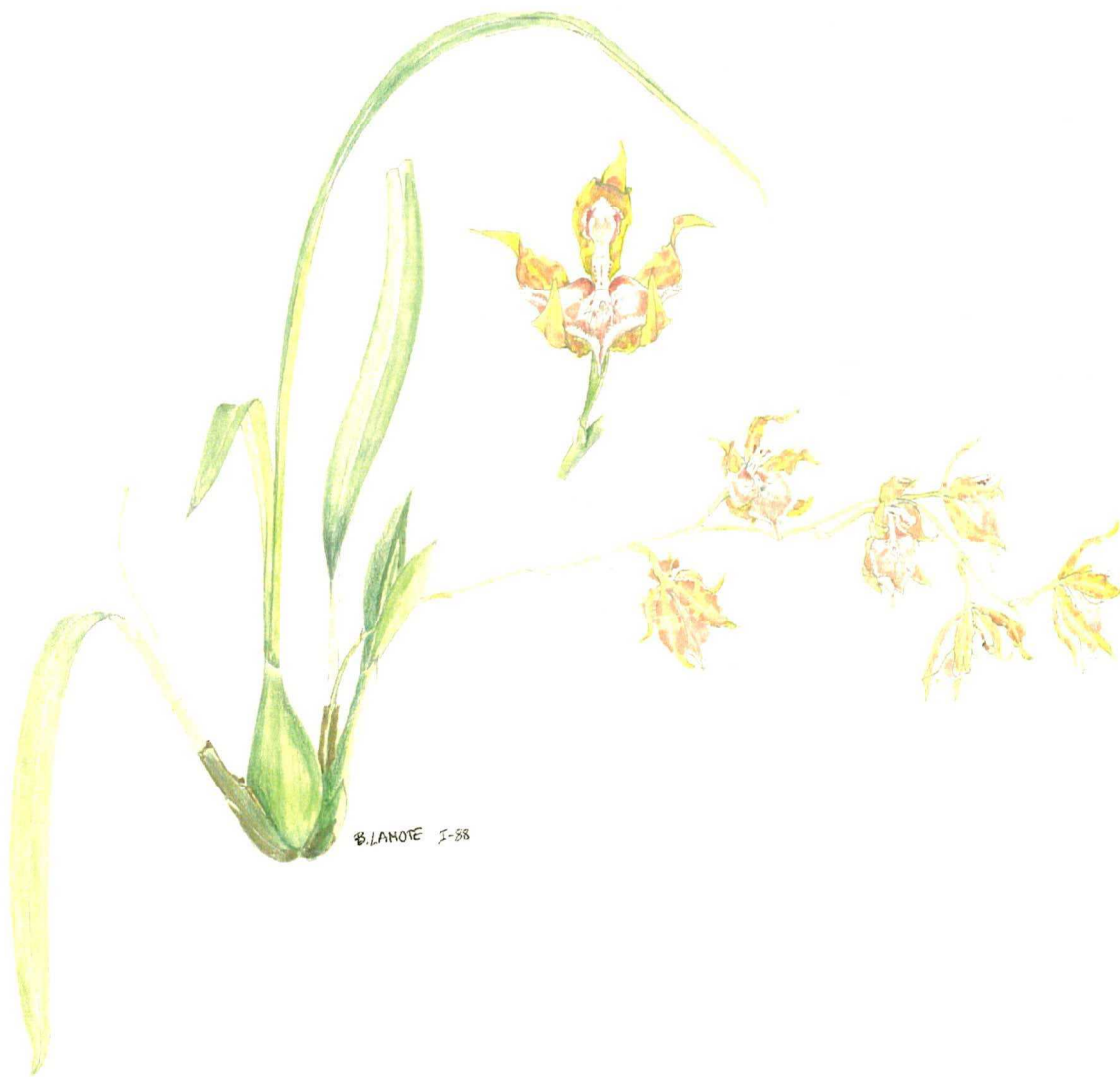
Juan Felipe Posada talk at the San Francisco meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance, 17 February was one of the highlights of the evening. His talk "Odontoglossums HBK" as presented was a shortened version, shortened because of time constraints. His complete talk is a power point presentation with very interesting color illustrations. There are some 114 slides altogether. With Juan Felipe's permission I shall be publishing his complete talk in a series of newsletters commencing with the May 2007 issue. The slides are printed six per page and the sequence order is illustrated in the table below.

1	2
3	4
5	6

See Page 16



Odontoglossum hennisii



Odontoglossum hennisii



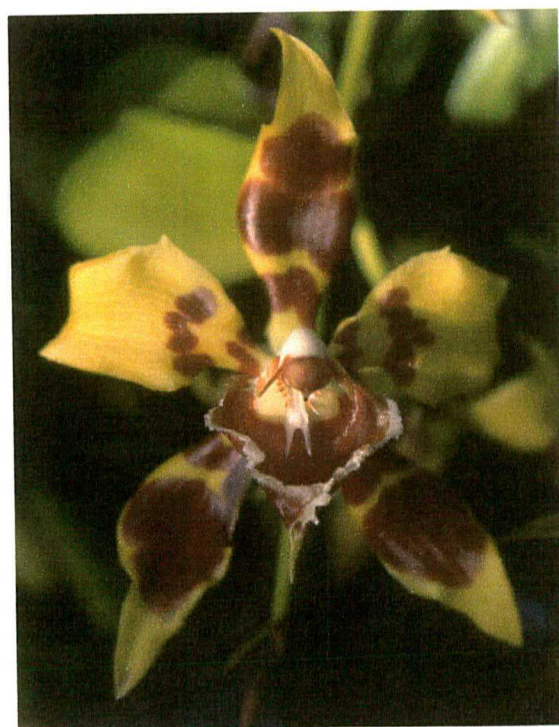
Odm. epidendroides



Odm. alberti



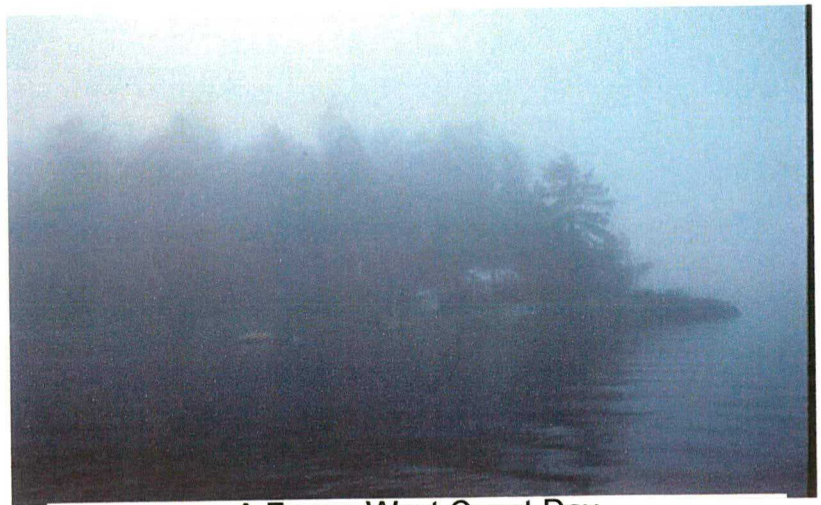
Odm. tenue



Odm. kegeljani



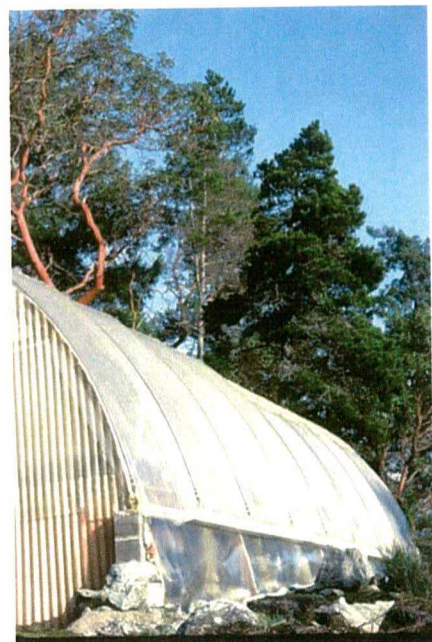
Odm. hennesii



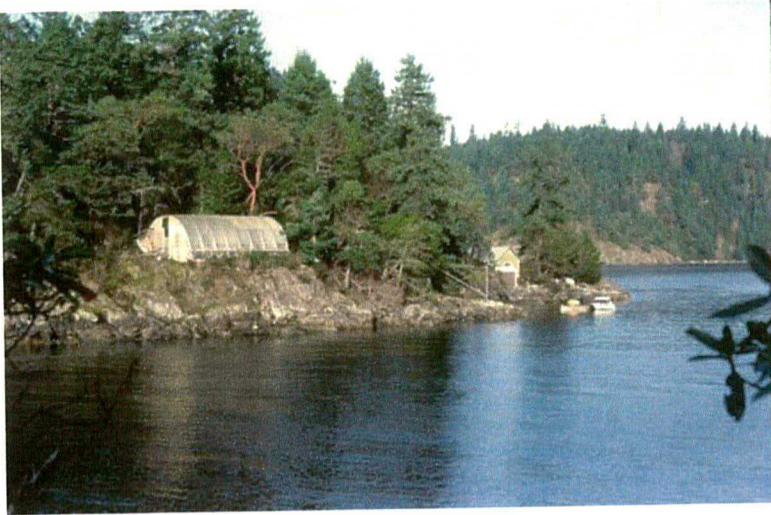
A Foggy West Coast Day
Looking at Charles Island
The cabin and greenhouses location
Dr. and Mrs. Wally Thomas



Dr. Wally Thomas'
Fomous Red Odontioda



The larger of the 2 greenhouses
on Charles Island



The larger greenhouse on the left and the cabin on the right at the point



The larger greenhouse with water tanks for solar heating and 2 Newfy dogs



Looking to Charles Island from the Mainland
2 Greenhouses, boat and Cabin
On the point



Miltoniopsis vexillaria 'Dark' and "Stripes"



Miltoniopsis vexillaria var. *Carolina*



VI. HYBRIDS AT COLOMBORQUIDEAS

Oda Portentosa



Oda Portentosa



Oda Santamaria



Oda Santamaria



