

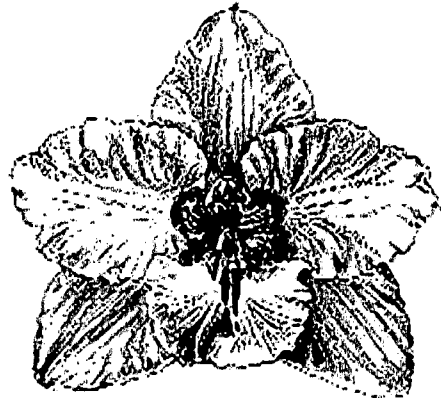
Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

August 2012

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Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting 2012 to be held in Portland, Oregon

The 2012 meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance (OA) meeting will be held in Portland Oregon November 13-18, 2012. The meeting is hosted by the Portland Oregon Orchid Society. The AOS Trustees will hold their meeting there at the same time. The meetings will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel at 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland Oregon. Their phone numbers are Tel 1-503-281-611 and Fax 1-503-284-8553. The hotel web site is www.doubletree.com.

The web site for the show is: www.portlandorchidsociety.org.

The show chairman is Susan Heuer, susanheuer1@gmail.com. Jim Rassmann (rassmann541@msn.com) and Tom Etheridge (Tomandluanne@rollyridge.com) are our representatives on site for organizing the Odontoglossum Alliance event. The website for the Portland Orchid Society Show and AOS Trustees meeting is www.portlandorchidsociety.org.

Please see the overall meeting, show and sale schedule in this issue. We are holding the Odontoglossum Alliance activities in conjunction with the Pluerothalid Alliance (PA). Juan Felipe Posada will be speaking twice during the show. He will speak on Friday, November 16, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM sponsored by the OA in the AOS lecture series.

The main OA and PA activities are on Saturday 17 November 2012 beginning at 1:00 PM with a second and different topic by Juan Felipe Posada. His presentation will be several short topics and each well illustrated.

Selection of the main *Odontoglossum* species *nobile* and *crispum* by crossing recently jungle collected plants.

Selected clones of *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* that have appeared in the new arrivals of this species.

Recent breeding in *Odontoglossum* and allied efforts done in Colombia

The presentation will be well illustrated with many examples from both Francisco Villegas at Orquifollajes as well as at Colomborquideas.

Dr. Howard A. Liebman will speak from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM on the history of *Odontoglossum* breeding, the names behind the historical genera that the RHS threw away, and who is breeding today. Howards extensive and wonder some ability to recall is very impressive.

Then follows PA activities until 3:30 PM with the OA meeting, the auction review and auction concluding at 6:00 PM. During this period the PA and the OA will host wine and nibbles to enhance the enjoyment of all those attending. Plan to come and enjoy the fun.

For all members planning to attend please bring along your auction material. If you are not attending please e mail Jim Rassmann concerning the way to send auction material for the OA auction.

The *Odontoglossum* Alliance will be entering a display of *Odontoglossum* Alliance material. This display will be supported by our members. Anyone who would like to contribute to supporting this display with plant material should contact either Jim Rassmann or Tom Etheridge. Steve Beckendorf, our OA President, will be coordinating this activity with the local San Francisco members.

The Portland Orchid Society is planning to have a booth for the US Fish and Wild Life Department where they will be in attendance to issue CITES certificates to enable members to ship plant material outside of the US borders. In addition the Federal Express will also have a booth where they can take your shipment to be sent either within or outside the US. The show organization is going to great lengths to make it a pleasant and cooperative time, with amenities to make it a welcome meeting accommodating all the usual hurdles of moving plant material in and out of the US.

The Double Tree hotel web site is www.doubletree.com. To travel from the airport to the hotel is a train ride. The train goes from the airport to the hotel and is about a 30 minute ride with a cost of \$2.40/person. The information for the AOS Fall Member's meeting, including information you'll need to make hotel reservations, can be found at <http://www.portlandorchidsociety.org/calendar/2012AOS.php?sub=Location>. Jim Rassmann urges you to make your reservation as soon as possible. Tell the hotel reservations clerk that your there for the AOS meeting. I have enclosed with the newsletter the hotel note including the rates and cutoff dates for the special rates.

So put this notice on your calendar and plan to attend. Future newsletters will add more details to this meeting announcement in the May, August and November newsletters.

Finally I will delay the usual early November *Odontoglossum* Alliance newsletter until after this meeting. This will permit a timely report on the meeting and show

2012 American Orchid Society Member Meeting, Show, and Sale November 13-18, 2012

Home | Registration | **Location** | Agenda | Speakers | Vendors | Displays | Show Schedule

Location:

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Portland

1000 NE Multnomah Street
Portland, Oregon, United States 97232

To register, call: (503) 281-6111
or visit their website here

American Orchid Society Fall Meeting Special Meeting Rates

ROOM
SINGLE RATE
DOUBLE RATE

Standard
\$119.00
\$119.00

Premium
\$129.00
\$129.00

*Cut-off for special rates: October 1, 2012

The Doubletree Hotel has on-site parking and would like to extend **complimentary parking** to American Orchid Society attendees.

Directions:

The hotel is located in the Lloyd District, accessible from downtown Portland via the Steel Bridge, and from other areas via Interstate 5 and 84. Ride TriMet's Blue, Red or Green Line trains to Lloyd Center MAX station or bus lines 8, 70 or 73. Bicycles are welcome on trains and buses.

WHERE DO PEOPLE GROW THE ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE?

Hopefully this is not a silly question! I have been quietly amused by some comments that the upcoming AOS Members' Meetings in Portland will give visiting orchidists the opportunity to see some wonderful plants in the Odontoglossum Alliance. Grown by whom? Hillsvew are well-known for their Miltoniopsis, when I last checked, most of the genus bloom in late Spring. The Etheridges and Jim Rassmann grow the Odont. Alliance but few plants are likely to be blooming at their best in the months right after Summer heat. Just where are these wonderful Odonts going to come from? Bealls are sadly long-gone just as surely as are any significant numbers of Odont. Alliance plants in the Pacific Northwest.

When I was visiting Bob Hamilton last week, we talked about how many AOS judges had been to the Hawk Hill greenhouses in Pacifica in the last six months. Never mind that they might see some of the best Masdevallias and Odontoglossum Alliance specimens anywhere in the world. Bob confirmed that fewer than five had bothered to make a Sunday visit in all that time. I find it quite staggering that in such a lovely climate for cooler-growing genera, so few folk in the greater San Francisco area bother with Odonts.

Now Salinas is a usually favorable climate but we have lousy water necessitating use of RO product constantly. When I repotted my collection last month, I dumped nearly 50% of the plants. An old Oda. Flamingo had grown into five pots with not one old flower spike in evidence. Adios Flamingo, I never knew you. Anything that had twitchy leaves or irregular growth was gone. Even some duplicates of nice things have parted from my company. Give them to someone...to whom? I asked my local orchid-growing friend if he was interested. He accepted only an Odm. bicktoniense 'San Elijo' and a bunch of Cattleyas but emphatically, no other Odonts!

Where will the new Odont enthusiasts come from? Hell, will we even be able to hold the enthusiasts that currently are members? I remember when people used to be challenged to grow certain orchids well. When I finally grew a specimen plant of *C. warszewiczii* I felt very proud of myself. Do you feel a sense of accomplishment when you grow and bloom an *Odm. crispum* well? Do you even try and grow the species?

We harvested maybe fifteen OA pods in the past two months. Already some are germinating but who really cares? I was moderately excited about the crossing of my favorite Vuyls. Mem. Mary Kavanaugh X Oda. Charlesworthii 4n. Should give some intensely colored reds on medium-length, upright spikes I imagined. But will anyone have any interest in growing them??? Does the Odontoglossum Alliance have a future or will we fade away in the face of Phalaenopsis in every corner of this land?

Andy Easton

Salinas, July 2012

I would like you to please consider this for the newsletter: Dick Odders

As I looked at the May *Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter* (OAN) and read Andy Easton's questions, I thought "what do I know about breeding in the alliance?" I have never crossed plant A to plant B, having joined the Alliance because of the plants' beauty, challenge in culture and to better inform myself. I think it is difficult for non-breeders to offer suggestions as to how to proceed in various lines of breeding.

As I look at the OA membership list, there are approximately 60 members after discounting the institutional members. Of these, I could identify approximately 20 as being definitely, or possibly, involved in active alliance breeding, either commercially or as a "semi-professional." It did strike me that the "gene pool" for alliance breeding is quite small. Unfortunately, this is likely to lead to "species" extinction due to "species" weakness from inbreeding and lack of an adequate number of progeny. It is not clear to me that there are many new breeders. This lack of new breeders has many causes, such as a general decline in horticultural interest in "Western societies," various economic pressures, as well as alliance species/hybrids having a reputation of being "difficult." Certainly, there are many other factors. Sharing breeding ideas and information could help to ensure the continuation of the "species."

"Breeders" are concentrated in areas where cultural needs are more easily met, and this does allow them to communicate more easily and to see more plant material in bloom. This communication and availability of plants in bloom is more difficult in areas where there are few "breeders." For the two-thirds of non-breeding Alliance members, information on breeding might be helpful to induce them to enter the "breeding scene." Information as to what was hoped for in making various crosses, as well as what were the results, would be helpful in their education. For example, in the May OAN, John Miller offered unneeded replant flasks at cost of crosses he had done exploring *Odm. trilobium*'s potential. Why in the world did he make those crosses? I don't grow *trilobium*. When I investigated *trilobium*, it appeared to me it was used mostly for its' peduncle length in an attempt to increase the number of flowers. Were there other reasons for using it, such as temperature tolerance/vigor/ploidy/color/bloom season/peduncle structure or strength/floriferousness, etc.? How does one best utilize historical information, such as in *Orchid Whiz*, in making crosses? Unfortunately, it takes a few years to see the results of crosses, so it will be difficult to disseminate that information other than what might be seen from various awards information.

The Alliance members can't support alliance breeding on their shoulders alone. Showing plants at the local society meetings and helping others learn how to grow alliance plants successfully, should help create interest in and demand for alliance plants. Presumably, the other two-thirds of the Alliance would make "hobby" crosses of a very speculative nature yielding small numbers of plants or selfing of species. Are commercial and semi-professional growers willing to make available pollen of select plants for these attempts? There are financial and other issues in their making superior plants available. Having superior material available would help achieve superior results. Commercial growers would need to continue breeding larger numbers of plants that would be "salable." I would hope some brief discussion by these "knowledgeable" commercial and semi-professional breeders in the OAN of the pros and cons of previous, present and future crosses would help stimulate the rest of us to try to "breed."

Comments by Russ Vernon

I have been breeding Odonts for about ten years, not nearly as long as Andy Easton or Bob Hamilton. I have been doing some close observing though for many years. I wish more growers/hobbyists would experience the fun of seeing Odont seedlings bloom for the first time. Surprises abound and astound! Here are some responses to Andy's "This and That" in the previous issue.

Russ Vernon

New Vision Orchids

Oda Bellozanne 'Hawk Hill'

This represents what I call the mystery of Odont breeding. There are lots of factors to consider: The background color which is white or blush pink. The suffusion which is pink/magenta. The picotee which is dark magenta. The mandarine orange marks and the pattern of the marks. All these factors are often independantly inherited which is why seedlings of the same cross vary so much and make predictions dicey. Andy says he wants to advance the type so I suggest: Oda (Roymar x Drummer Joe)'Hot Babe'. Another way to go to blast more "spots color" could be: Oda Susan Preston Richard 'Larry's' which has a large amount of mandarine color in marks that cover a large area of the surface.

Oda Vuystekeae

Prince Vultan would be fun to put on this guy. We'd have to avoid a 4N unless colchicine treatment would produce breedable offspring. Another fun possibility would be Odm Amulet breed by Bob Burkey.

Oda Castle de Noez 4N

For this I would suggest a 4N with lots of color. My bent is for color.

Oda Bradshawiae 4N

Impressive what 4N can do for a primary hybrid. You wonder though, for "modern breeding", how is this better than other 4N's of similar color characteristics? Vigor?

Odm Splendidum

Very nice but what would happen if we remade the cross with 4N parents? I have a 4N Ardentissimum that came as a seedling from Golden Gate Orchids.

Odm nobile 4N

This species has made some great hybrids as 2N. I wonder what a 4N will do? Bob Hamilton sent me a division of Odm (Quistrum x nobile). I wonder if the nobile used was a 4N as this hybrid has produced seedlings so it is not a 3N.

Vuyi Cambria 'Plush'

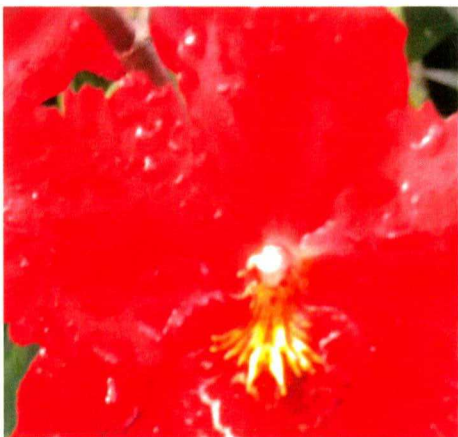
I confess that I have never been all that impressed with this plant.
Maybe I need to see a 4N version.



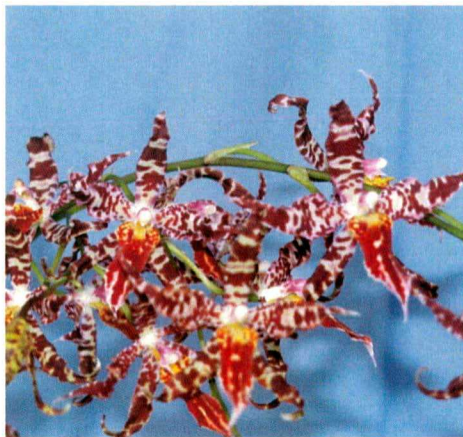
ODA. Royal Drummer Joe 'Hot Babe'



Oda. Prince Vultan 'Bob's Vision' HCC



Oda Susan Preston Richards
'Larrys'



Odm Amulet 'Lucky Vision' HCC



Odm Quistrum
'Lyoth Angela' x
nobile 'Posada's 2N

WHY GROW ODONTS? (ESPECIALLY SEEDLINGS)

Russ Vernon

This is a question that has been bouncing around in my head for some time now. Particularly the sub title! You can buy clones of various Odont genera via Hawaii or Continental U.S., of known identity, and usually on well grown plants. So why bother with anything else?

Here are some reasons I began growing Odonts:

When I started growing orchids in 1963, the English growers were considered the standard of innovation and quality. You could infer this by reading their ads in the AOS Bulletin. And when it came to Odontoglossums, there was no mistaking it. Of course, we couldn't exclude Vacherot and Lecouffe of France in this category. That was the standard I wanted to shoot for.

Also in the Bulletin, there were reports of orchid shows around the world and Chelsea was the proof of this perception! That was the standard I wanted to shoot for.

There was also the implied challenge of growing these fussy, COLD growing plants from the high altitudes of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. They could only be treated one way or disaster would ensue. Ground up oak leaves, sharp and green sand, live sphagnum moss and all the other exotic materials to grow them in! That was the standard Odontoglossum medium of the time, 1890-1950. Ha! What a challenge that was, to find a different and better way. Finally, there was the incredible variety of colors, patterns and even shapes. Often this variety came from just one cross! Oh to hybridize these incredible plants and journey through the genetic maze to who knows what outcome. Now there was a real challenge!

Maybe the first point is not of much consequence, especially to growers more recent than the late '70's, so let's develop the second two more fully.

Culture and Growing Challenges

Culture is always more of an individual thing but certain things are basic. Odontoglossums and many related genera, grow at higher altitudes in cloud forests. This means they like cool nights and lots of humidity at certain times of the day. During the day, they are mak-

ing food and using food for growth and other processes. At night, they are only using food. As a grower, you need to maximize food production during the day and minimize food usage during nighttime. Thus, cool temps and high humidity at night, and bright light and temps not above 80 during the day. "Why," you might ask? To build up excess food (sugar/starch) so that flowering can take place. If this is done on a consistent basis, Odonts can bloom three times in two years! I find that with good air movement and humidity during the day, Odonts can easily handle 85 degrees in the summer and tolerate upper 60's to 74 at night for short periods of time (a week or two).

A curious thing to me though: Odontoglossums grow in the cloud forest with lots of moisture available to them, year 'round. Why then do they have large pseudobulbs? There seems to be no reason to store water for a dry period. Could they be a remnant from a past climate different from what they enjoy now? A mystery!

What about the support environment? (medium to grow in) It appears that a "slow to break down", airy medium is called for. One that resists compaction yet delivers moisture and nutrients on a consistent basis. There are many to try. From bark/peat/perlite, to sphagnum/Styrofoam, to coir/perlite/charcoal, to spun rock to the English mix of the 1890's. If it meets the above criteria, it should work.

Variety and Hybridizing

On to point three, the incredible variety of Odontoglossum hybrids: This is the major reason why I find them so fascinating. I will demonstrate this point by using two hybrids I made. I crossed Odcdm Tiger Crow 'Golden Girl' HCC/AOS with Odm Michael Newman 'Mt Vernon'. Tiger Crow is a no fade yellow with dark brown marks and a yellow lip also with brown marks. Michael Newman is also a no fade yellow with brown marks but with a white lip with some marks. The results were as expected, yellow with brown marks however, several had gold/orange background color. From where did this background color come? And if the lip came white, it was lightly marked and there were no brown marks on the segments! A different cross was putting Oda Joe's Drum (F3) on Odm Michael Newman. Joe's Drum is a bright magenta with darker marks. The variation in this cross was much more pronounced.

Examples of each cross are included for your pleasure. Note the variation in each cross.

Final thoughts:

Why grow clones when you can have this much fun seeing what arrives with first bloom seedlings? Besides the fun, you will be the only one to have that flower when it comes to society show table time or orchid show exhibition time. It makes the judges actually exer-

cise their judgment rather than just counting flowers to see who gets the blue ribbon or trophy. (think Onc Sharry Baby!) I suggest growing two or three seedlings of one cross so you can enjoy seeing how variable they can be. Better yet, a compot or flask to share with your friends or orchid society to really see the variety of a cross, and also, establish some bragging rights. Who wins the lottery ticket!? (of course, I am a commercial Odont hybridizer!) ☺



Oda Joe's Drum (F3) x Odm Michael Newman three seedlings:



Odcdm (Tiger Crow x Odm Michael Newman) three seedlings:

IT NEVER ENDS, FORTUNATELY

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The flow of orchid information never ends. Plants are discovered and described as new species by some taxonomists, which in many cases are treated as synonyms of older species by others. And sometimes species that have been considered as synonyms turn out to be distinct enough to stand on their own when we learn more about them. This can be challenging and frustrating but also encouraging, and a healthy lesson for taxonomists to stay alert and keep the ego under control. Many nomenclatural complications can be avoided, of course, if people work together and inform each other what they are involved with, but this will probably never happen for a plethora of reasons. Fortunately, some exceptional collaborations do occur.

One such example is what Steve Beckendorf, Guido Deburghgraeve, Juan-Felipe Posada, Jan Sönnemark, myself and others have been doing for some years now. We are currently focusing on the growing, identification and classification of *Cyrtorchilum* and *Odontoglossum* species. As soon as somebody finds something 'different' or unknown, photos, drawings or specimens are sent to concerned members in the group. Since I have been working on the taxonomic aspects of these orchids for many years, I have accumulated a large collection of photos and illustrations of type specimens, which come handy, but also a growing collection of photos of live plants and flowers, often taken in their natural habitats. Our group also works well with Manolo Arias and his staff, and annual field expeditions are organized in the mountains of Peru, in agreement with Peruvian plant officials.

What is so useful with this collaboration is that we focus on all species, not just the larger and showy ones. Even the tiniest and most insignificant member of these genera are of scientific interest. Thanks to this project we have been able to solve many taxonomic problems and enigmas, but also discovered new ones. In addition, I have caught some of my old mistakes, which unfortunately have misled other taxonomists to make new errors. A couple of these dawned on me recently.

The type specimen of *Cyrtorchilum viminale* at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna is like so many other orchid types of poor quality. There is a drawing of the flower by Reichenbach, however, which helps getting a fairly good idea what the species looks like. During the early work with *Cyrtorchilum* and *Odontoglossum* for Flora of Ecuador, I came across a small-flowered species that is frequently encountered in several herbaria, but always from relatively recent collections. For some reason there are virtually no older specimens represented anywhere. I thought this was strange since it's a rather common orchid along the roadsides in central Ecuador. When trying to identify this species, the only available name I could find was what Reichenbach described as '*Odontoglossum viminale*' in *Gardeners Chronicle* 2(23): 108, 1885. The drawing of this species shows a flower that has spreading dark brown sepals and petals, and a yellowish lip. Although most of the plants of the particular Ecuadorian species that needed a name have yellow flowers with a purple column and frequently with forward projecting petals, brownish flowers do occur. I therefore named the Ecuadorian plant '*Odontoglossum viminale*', which later became *Cyrtorchilum viminale*. I was never completely happy with this identification though and actually considered describing it as a new species for some time.

Then there was another Ecuadorian orchid that I once collected near Cuenca (Dalström 292). It had flowers with spreading brown sepals and petals, and a whitish lip. For some unfathomable reason, I never compared this plant with the type of *C. viminale*, probably because I already had ‘identified’ it to be something else. I did compare the Cuenca plant with *Cyrtochilum melanthes*, however, which grows in the same general area and southwards to northern Peru, and hesitantly concluded that they probably were the same. I made a drawing of the Cuenca plant, which was published in *Icones Plantarum Tropicarum* (IPT) ser. 1: pl. 959 (1984), as ‘*Odontoglossum melanthes*’.

Cyrtochilum (“*Odontoglossum*”) *melanthes* was originally described as having “black purple” sepals and petals, and a “whitish yellow” lip, and the color of the lip is described either as yellow or white on subsequent herbarium specimens. There are also some other differing features that muddy the water, such as spreading petals for the Cuenca plant versus forward projecting petals for *C. melanthes* that made me question the “292” identification. Based on the differences I decided to keep these species separate in my synopsis of the genus *Cyrtochilum* (Lindleyana 16(2), 2001), calling the Cuenca plant *Cyrtochilum prasinum* instead.

Cyrtochilum (“*Odontoglossum*”) *prasinum* was described by Reichenbach together with Linden in Gardener’s Chronicle 1(5): 987 (1870), based on a collection from the Loja area in southern Ecuador by Gustave Wallis. The dried specimen and the type description together with an obscure drawing by Reichenbach show some distinct features, so I originally accepted *C. prasinum*, as a valid species, considering it to be the same as the Cuenca plant (Dalström 292). But then I changed my mind again, due to a lack of sufficient plant material, and in the subsequent treatment for Flora of Ecuador (2010), I treated the Cuenca plant (*C. prasinum*) as a slightly deviating form, and synonym, of *C. melanthes*.

Then I received a photo from Gary Yong, of an unknown *Cyrtochilum* species that looked strangely familiar, but I could not put my finger on why at first. I concluded that it fit the description of *O. prasinum* very well, however, and also that it was quite different from the forms of *C. melanthes* that I have seen in the wild. Gary had no further information about the origin of the plant, only that he had seen it at a show somewhere, probably in Ecuador. There was no longer any doubt that *C. melanthes*, and what I now thought was *Cyrtochilum prasinum* represented different species, and that Gary’s plant and my Cuenca plant were the same.

Meanwhile, David Bennett and Eric Christenson had been busy putting names on Peruvian orchids and publishing them in their *Icones Orchidacearum Peruvianarum* (IOP). Among many of the plants that received new names was one called ‘*Odontoglossum pseudomelanthes*’ (IOP: pl. 733, 2001). The authors reasoned that their plant represented a new species and that it was similar to but yet different from ‘*Odontoglossum melanthes*’, which was published in *Icones Plantarum Tropicarum* (1984) by Cal Dodson (based on the Cuenca plant, which I eventually had concluded was not *melanthes*). The name ‘*pseudomelanthes*’ means ‘false *melanthes*’, but as it turns out, their plant almost certainly represents the true *C. melanthes*, which then ironically gets ‘*pseudomelanthes*’ as a synonym. For this reason I have never bothered to transfer this latter name to *Cyrtochilum*.

Unfortunately, this fact led Mark Chase and others to transfer ‘*Odontoglossum pseudomelanthes*’ to *Oncidium* in Lindleyana (Chase and others, 2008), which could not have been based on any DNA evidence, but rather on the name ‘*Odontoglossum*’ only.

Then one day not long ago, Guido Deburghgraeve sent some pictures of a most insignificant *Cyrtochilum* species that had flowered in his collection. This was one of those orchids, which coincidentally are called “Stig orchids” by some and that only a ‘mother’ and a true taxonomy nerd can love. We eventually concluded that it had to be *Cyrtochilum colobium*. It was an exciting discovery since this ‘runtish’ species has been recorded only once prior to Guido’s plant. During the process of confirming the identity I surfed through my collection of

small-flowered ‘odontoglossoid’ *Cyrtochilum* images, when something caught my eye. Reichenbach’s drawing of *Cyrtochilum* (‘*Odontoglossum*’) *viminale* looks just like Gary Yong’s plant, which I thought was *Cyrtochilum prasinum*. After some juggling back and forth with different photos of types, drawings and live flowers, I reached the inevitable conclusion that both Gary’s plant and the Cuenca plant (Dalström 292) must be the true *Cyrtochilum viminale*, and that the later published *C. prasinum* probably is a synonym.

In any case, what I have called ‘*viminale*’ prior to this revelation all of a sudden lacks a name again. But this time I am going to be more careful before jumping to nomenclatural conclusions about what to call it. If there is a humble lesson hidden in all of this then it might be that we need to do our own basic research before we identify orchids and describe new species, and not just trust and copy, or automatically reject, other people’s work.

I include a quote from Flora of Ecuador 225(3): 188, 2010, that may explain why the nameless species, (which is not *C. viminale*!), may be so common along roads in Ecuador, and in herbaria from recent roadside collections, but is virtually absent from times before the modern roads were constructed.

“*Cyrtochilum viminale* represents an enigmatic paradox. It is very common along roads and on road cuts in the south-central Ecuadorian highlands, particularly around the old city of Cuenca. Plants can sometimes be found growing on the road itself, clinging tenaciously to the dirt while the relentless traffic constitutes a permanent threat to crush the plants. Anybody that passes by and has a keen eye for plants and an interest in orchids will sooner or later see the flowers and stop to investigate, and often make herbarium specimens. The peculiar thing, however, is that *Cyrtochilum viminale* is most rarely encountered in herbaria from older collections. The reason for this may have an interesting explanation. It seems plausible that before modern transportation entered the stage (and the Ecuadorian wilderness) this species occurred only as terrestrials in remote, scrubby cloudforest vegetation, and among the Páramo grasses, not seen by anybody except occasional natives passing by. These people were most likely too preoccupied with carrying their livelihood from one village to the next before nightfall, to stop and appreciate the modest beauty of *Cyrtochilum viminale*. Even professional collectors rarely ventured up into this “empty” land that did not seem to host any commercial rewards. As roads began criss-crossing these relatively flat and engineering friendly areas, however, they offered suitable habitats for the orchid. In addition, passing vehicles loaded with livestock, plants and miscellaneous equipment helped dispersing the seeds, with new populations establishing along the roads as a consequence.”

LITERATURE CITED

Chase, M. W., N. H. Williams, K. M. Neubig & W. M. Whitten. 2008. Taxonomic transfers in oncidiinae to accord with *Genera orchidacearum*, vol. 5. *Lindleyana* Dec.: 20-31.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

- A: *Cyrtochilum viminale*; Reichenbach’s drawing of the type specimen in Vienna.
- B: *Cyrtochilum viminale* (from Gary Yong); corresponding well with the type.
- C: Habit of the *Cyrtochilum* sp., formerly called “*viminale*”, near Azogues, Ecuador.
- D: *Cyrtochilum* sp., formerly called “*viminale*”, from Azogues, Ecuador.
- E: *Cyrtochilum* sp., formerly called “*viminale*”, from Cuenca, Ecuador.
- F: *Cyrtochilum melanthes*, SD 3072, Peru.
- G: *Cyrtochilum melanthes*, Hirtz 58, Ecuador.



A. *Cyrtorchilum viminale*;
Reichenbach's drawing of the type specimen in Vienna



B: *Cyrtorchilum viminale* (from Gary Yong)
corresponding well with the type



C: Habit of the *Cyrtorchilum* sp., formerly
called "viminale" near Azogues, Ecuador



D: *Cyrtorchilum* sp. formerly "called viminale"
from Azogues, Ecuador



E: *Cyrtorchilum* sp., formerly called "viminale", from Cuenca, Ecuador



F: *Cyrtorchilum melanthes*, SD , Peru



G: *Cyrtorchilum melanthes*, Hirtz 58, Ecuador

Membership and Dues Notice

We have done pretty well to bring our dues payment for members current. We have only 10 stalwart members where my records indicate dues have not been paid. For those you will find enclosed a note asking you to check your records for payment against my records here. In case you have not paid I enclosed an envelope for you to do so. Again – If my records are wrong please let me know. If my records are correct I look forward to hearing from you.

John Miller

Editorial

In this issue you will find an interesting article from Dick Odders commenting on an article written by Andy Easton in a previous newsletter. Andy writes for the Alliance in every newsletter on a subject of his choosing. They are characterized by being of hybrids in the Odontoglossum alliance. They are interesting and challenging. Andy, I and our readers appreciate hearing from our members on his articles.

Stig Dalstrom, another of our regular contributors to the newsletter. Stig concentrates on the alliance species. And the nomenclature. Our alliance went to great lengths by Stig and Steve Beckendorf to present a nomenclature grouping that preserved the name and plants of Odontoglossum. You will recall the numerous articles written by both of them to substantiate the logic of their choice using both the DNA results of the work of the group at the University of Florida and the Kew gardens. They also encapsulated the visual appearances, the geographic distribution and plant horticultural aspects to justify their recommendation.

The result was of course the decision to move odontoglossum into Oncidium. This appeared to be disturbing to many of our members for any number of reasons. However we got very few comments from the membership. I would like to note that every comment I did receive, I printed in the newsletter.

Do you want to enhance the newsletter? Do you want to see changes in the newsletter? Do you want other members to know and understand your view point? If so please send me your comments and I will print every one of them for all our readers to have the opportunity to understand your view point. I would like especially to point out that our authors both regular and occasional want and appreciate feedback. So when you read your newsletter and something strikes you write a note to me and all our reads will benefit.

John E. Miller

Editor



AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING, SHOW & SALE
Hosted by: The Portland Orchid Society
November 13-18, 2012
Doubletree Hotel Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Early bird arrival for vendors and exhibitors

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Hospitality Room - Open

Registration / Commercial Sales Set-up / Show Exhibit Installation - Plant Entry end 6:00 p.m.
 AOS Trustee & Committee Chairs Planning Meeting
 AOS Judges Forum - all judges and student judges invited - Open to all members

Thursday, November 15, 2012

* AOS Committee Chairs Breakfast

* Orientation - Judges & Clerks conducting ribbon judging

* Ribbon Judging

AOS Committee Meetings: Affiliated Societies, Conservation, Judging, Library/Archives,
 Publications, Research, Education, Website, Information Management. Membership
 Hospitality Room - Open

* Judges Luncheon open to all members

AOS Judging and Photography

IPA Board Meeting

* Official Ribbon Cutting / Show Opening and Preview Party with commercial sales

Friday, November 16, 2012

* AOS Affiliated Societies Breakfast

Hospitality Room - Open

Show & Sales area open to public

Lecture: Juan Felipe Posada - Keynote Speaker (Sponsored by the Odontoglossum Alliance)

Lecture: Glenn Decker (Sponsored by the Slipper Orchid Alliance)

* AOS Trustees Meeting & Luncheon (open to all members)

Slipper Orchid Alliance Meeting

Lecture: Dr. Glen Lehr

Lecture: Roy Takanaga

Lecture: Alan Koch

AOS Auction Setup

AOS Auction Preview

AOS Auction

* AOS Banquet and Entertainment

Saturday, November 17, 2012

* Judges Forum Breakfast - Open to all members

Hospitality Room - Open

Show & Sales area open to public

ODC Annual Meeting

AOS Town Hall Meeting - Open to all members

Lecture: Frank Smith

* IPA Members Meeting & Lunch

Lecture: Norman Fang (Sponsored by the IPA International Phalaenopsis Alliance)

Lecture: Howard Lieberman, M.D. (Sponsored by the Odontoglossum Alliance)

Lecture: Andy Phillips (Sponsored by the Pleurothallid Alliance)

Pleurothallid Alliance Meeting

Lecture: Juan Felipe Posada (Sponsored by the Odontoglossum Alliance)

Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting

Odontoglossum & Pleurothallis Alliance Auction Preview

Odontoglossum & Pleurothallid Alliance Auction

Sunday, November 18, 2012

PNWJC (Pacific Northwest Judging Center) Meeting

Show & Sales area open to public

* Events requiring reservations - Use Registration Form

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



M. vexillaria var. *albescens* 'Summer Show' HCC-CCE/AOS
shown by Poul Hanson

The plant was shown July 2012 at the Santa Barbara judging
with 92 flowers, eighteen buds on 26 spikes