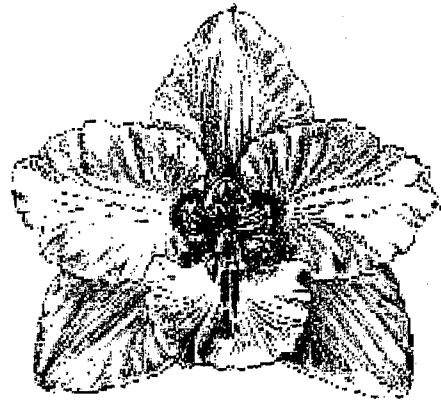


Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

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WHEN ONE AND ONE BECOME THREE, AT LEAST

By
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Part three

Cochlioda chasei was described by Bennett and Christenson in Brittonia, 1994. It is a modest plant in itself, with fairly small flowers on a short few-flowered raceme, very similar to *Cochlioda rosea*. A nice addition, however, for growers of cool-house orchids, particularly in the *Odontoglossum* alliance. The color of the flower is described as "dark rose-purple, the labellum white with lilac blotches on callus teeth,...". At first glance it appears to be a standard description of a smallish, typical *Cochlioda* looking plant, but when we analyze the description and the accompanying illustration by Pastorelli, in detail, the question marks start to line up. In the original description it is mentioned that the illustrated type plant was not fully developed and had increased in size 3 to 4 times in cultivation since then. Apparently Mark Chase submitted the information to the authors through personal communication. I asked Mark about this and the surprising answer was that he never had any plants in cultivation. He explained that during a trip to Peru in 1987, he spent some time with David Bennett. At one point they received three or four plants of a small *Cochlioda* with rose purple flowers from Manuel Arias. They did not recognize it and in the case that it might be a new species, Bennett supposedly made a herbarium specimen of one plant and Mark intended to bring the others to North Carolina for cultivation (this collection represents Chase 4080, Chase pers. comm.). Unfortunately these plants were all lost in

the transport and were never seen again. Mark did not know where the information about cultivated plants of increased size came from. Slightly puzzled but intrigued I examined the drawing again and realized that certain features really did not fit in *Cochlioda* but rather in the genus *Solenidiopsis*. The bifoliate and slightly pyriform pseudobulbs looked like *Solenidiopsis tigroides* (slide 19), (bifoliate pseudobulbs are very rare in *Cochlioda*). The hoodless stubby column with large wings and dark apical spots on each side were also typical *Solenidiopsis* features (slide 20). The more I looked the more convinced I became that the drawing actually was a *Solenidiopsis*, although the color description clearly suggested *Cochlioda* (*Solenidiopsis* generally have flowers in shades of yellow and brown). The holotype was collected by Manuel Arias somewhere along Rio Nieva, in the Dept. of Amazonas, above 1700 m. The specimen was labeled *M. Arias ex D. Bennett & M. Chase 4080*, where the number represents Chase's collection. Confused by the information provided by Mark, I decided to write Christenson in May of 2001, and ask him for an explanation. The reply did not contain any useful information about *Cochlioda chasei* except that Christenson stated that "the plant of *C. chasei* subsequently produced significantly longer branched (!) inflorescences - ...". It seemed that there indeed had existed a cultivated plant at some point. But where was it? The description says that the illustrated type plant had increased in size in cultivation. Perhaps Bennett still had a piece of the supposedly pressed and illustrated plant growing somewhere? In order to legitimate a description of a new species a holotype must be designated, and according to the description of *Cochlioda chasei* it was deposited at USM, which is the herbarium of the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru (the herbarium is actually a part of the Museum of Natural History). The only solution seemed to be a visit at the herbarium and a trip to Peru. In November of 2001 I was invited to speak at the orchid show in Lima and I had the opportunity and pleasure to visit USM and to meet Ricardo Fernández who is the curator of the orchid herbarium there. No holotype or other specimens of *Cochlioda chasei* could be located, however. In fact, no type specimens of any species described by Bennett and Christenson could be found, despite their official statements that they were deposited there. The curator was quite displeased by this, and I realized that I had entered another dead end.

Fortunately, I met David Bennett during the orchid show in Lima and I asked him about the whereabouts of their type specimens in general and of *C. chasei* in particular. He admitted that he never put any specimens at USM for "personal reasons", but he did not elaborate on what those personal reasons might be. He also mentioned that if there is no specimen then the drawing becomes the type. In reality it is not that simple because the drawings have to be officially designated as lecto-types, and this is only done on rare and unfortunate occasions when the original specimens have disappeared or been destroyed. In the cases of the many species described by Bennett and Christenson, which have holotypes officially deposited at USM, it appears that they simply have not ended up there yet but are kept somewhere else, if they really exist. I also asked Bennett about any living plants of *Cochlioda chasei* and he informed me that they grew really well in the greenhouses up in North Carolina. When asked if he had seen the plants himself, he admitted that he had not. Back to square one again.

As a final attempt to solve the riddle, I asked Manuel Arias about this enigmatic species and the answers filled a couple of holes but also created new ones. He remembered collecting a single plant out of flower that did not look like a *Cochlioda* but actually more like a *Solenidiopsis* (!), which is common in that area. He never saw any flowers before giving the plant to David Bennett, and he never heard from it again. With other words, a single plant without flowers from Arias and not three or four plants in flower as documented by Chase as "4080". The date of the "collection" of the type specimen is November 20, 1987, to be compared with the date on the accompanying illustration, which is November 17, 1987. When I analyze this information I come to the conclusion that we probably deal with two different collections, a single non-*Cochlioda* looking plant from Rio Nieva mixed up with several blooming *Cochliodas* that were documented by Chase as 4080. This would explain the contradictions in the original description where a drawing of a

Solenidiopsis appears to have been used to illustrate the description of a flowering *Cochlioda* (which probably was a small *C. rosea*, hence the color notes). This was as far as I could get while in Peru, but it still did not satisfy my need to know for sure.

In my treatment of *Cochlioda*, published in Selbyana, December of 2001, I include *C. chasei* as a valid species in lack of definite evidence that it is not (theoretically, it should rather be a *Solenidiopsis*). In Christenson's treatment in Orchids, February of 2002, the case suddenly takes another twist. The information about the cultivated plant that had increased in size is dropped altogether. It is also stated that only a single clone of this species has ever been found which has never been outside of Peru. Christenson mentions that he has re-examined *C. chasei* (which I assume means the type specimen and not just the dubious drawing), and insists that it is a typical species of *Cochlioda*. No information was provided about where the specimen is located or how the examination was done.

This is as far as I have been able to get in my quest for the identity of this "species". It is definitely not the end of the story but I will have to return another time to reveal the solution to this mystery.

Printed in Part One

Odontoglossum epidendroides, Peru.

Odontoglossum epidendroides, drawing of the type.

Odontoglossum epidendroides (as lacerum), drawing of the type.

Odontoglossum lindleyanum, Colombia (**photo: Lee Kuhn**).

Odontoglossum epidendroides (as "triumphans polyxanthum"). Peru.

Odontoglossum epidendroides (as kegeljanii), Ecuador.

Odontoglossum epidendroides (as spectatissimum), Ecuador.

Odontoglossum epidendroides (as spectatissimum), Colombia.

Odontoglossum subuligerum, Bolivia.

Printed in Part Two

Cochlioda densiflora, Peru.

Cochlioda densiflora in Manuel Arias' greenhouse, Peru.

Cochlioda vulcanica, Ecuador.

Cochlioda densiflora (as noezliana), illustration of the type.

Cochlioda densiflora (as miniata), illustration of the type.

Cochlioda mixtura, Bolivia.

Cochlioda densiflora (as beyrodtiana), illustration of the type.

Cochlioda rosea, Ecuador.

Cochlioda chasei, Peru.

Printed in this Issue

Solenidiopsis tigroides, habit.

Solenidiopsis tigroides, flowers (**photo: Steve Beckendorf**).

All other photographs by Stig Dalström

Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting

The annual meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance will be held on 21 March 2003 in Hilo, Hawaii. This is conjunction with the Hilo Orchid Society's 51st Annual Show and AOS Trustees meeting 19-23 March 2003. The Alliance meeting will be held in the afternoon of 21 March and the program is listed below.

Odontoglossum Alliance Program
1:00 PM 21 March 2003
Nanihoa Resort Hotel
Hilo Hawaii

Program Chairperson: James McCully

1:15 PM –2:00 PM Dr. Helmut Rohrl

Title: **ODONTOGLOSSUM INTERGENERICS**

Many Odontoglossum intergenerics crosses tend to be temperature tolerant. They are usually easy to grow and often have fairly long, branched spikes with many colorful flowers. The flowers are often long lasting and hold well as cut flowers. This talk will be on the hybridizing program and illustrated with results.

Helmut Rohrl started growing and hybridizing Odontoglossums and their intergenerics about 25 years ago. By now he has made close to 7000 (attempted) Oncidiinae and has registered over 200 Oncidiinae crosses. Much of the hybridizing knowledge came from contacts with George Black, Robert Dugger, and Goodale Moir and from material in the Orchid Review and other journals from 1900 to the present. The main goals of the hybridizing effort are: temperature tolerance; vigorous growth; floriferousness; good color and patterns, fairly long, branched inflorescences.

2:00 PM –2:45 PM Dr. Steven Beckendorf

Title: **ODONTOGLOSSUMS IN VENEZUELA: IS THERE A THERE THERE?**

In both 2000 and 2001 Steve went to Venezuela to seek some of the more elusive Odontoglossum species. This talk will report on what was found, a vibrant culture, friendly people and lots of wild orchids, including several Odontoglossums. Steve will talk some about the species that may still be lurking in the mountains.

Steve Beckendorf started growing orchids about 25 years ago and quickly became fascinated by Odontoglossums and their close relatives because of their variety and beauty, because excellent plants were available from growers and hybridizers on the West Coast, and because of their glamorous past as the most sought after plants in the orchid frenzy that gripped Europe in the 19th century. He soon realized that few of the Odontoglossums species were readily available. He began collecting them for propagation and use in hybridizing. In his attempts to find unusual or lost species he has led several trips to the cloud forests of Mexico and South America. He currently grows about 50 Odontoglossum species and another 30-40 of their near relatives along with many Odont hybrids and a smattering of other cool growing genera

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM **Break. Soft Drinks, coffee and cookies**

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM James Rassmann

Title: **ORCHIDS IN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR**

Jim chronicles several trips made recently to Colombia and Ecuador to judge shows and photograph orchids in the wild. Exhibitors were enthusiastic and took the time and effort to prepare exceptional displays showcasing many Andean species not often seen outside their native countries. Many unique clones of extraordinary beauty were seen and often awarded. These trips also offered the opportunity for side travel to forest reserves and private fincas with exceptional and extensive collections.

Jose Vasquez, the older brother of Amando Vasquez, owner of Zuma Canyon Orchids, introduced Jim Rassmann to orchids in 1973. Jose set the hook firmly and Jim has not been able to get free since. Early association with Don Herman via the Orchid Society of Southern California instilled an interest in Cattleyas and he grew a large hybrid collection for nearly twenty years in Los Angeles. After retiring and moving to the Oregon coast the opportunity to concentrate on cool growing genera presented itself and he now grows primarily Odontoglossums, and a lesser number of Masdevallias, Draculas, Lycastes, Pleurothalids and Miltoniopsis.

Jim has served as President of the Orchid Society of Southern California, American Orchid Society trustee, Vice President and Chair of the Judging Committee.

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM Andrew Easton

Title: **WHITHER THE ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE**

Do growers need to defend the “faith”, succumb to commercial pressures or try to make a hybrid approach to the often-conflicting requirements of two very different areas of interest?

Andy Easton has been a professional orchid grower since graduating from Colorado State University in 1972. He was introduced to the Alliance by the late Martin Orenstein and Howard Liebman in the late 1970's when he ran Featherhill Exotic Plants in Santa Barbara. He acquired quality plants from Dr. Orenstein's collection prior to his death and these combined with plants from Keith Andrew and Dr. Howard Liebman provided the nucleus of a breeding program at Geyserland Orchids in New Zealand from the 1980's. By 1990 Geyserland Orchids was a major supplier of new Odontoglossum Alliance varieties to Floricultura in Holland and Mukoyama Orchids in Japan. Andy came to the American Orchid Society as Director of Education and Orchid Operations in mid 2000.

Odontoglossum Alliance Dinner and Auction

The Odontoglossum Alliance dinner will be held at the Hilo Yacht Club in Hilo. Cocktails at a cash bar are from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Dinner follows. The cost of the dinner is \$30.00 per person and includes the dinner and tip. Cocktails are available from the cash bar. Reservations and payment for the dinner may be made with your registration for the Show and Conference.

Following dinner will be a very short business meeting followed by our auction of fine Odontoglossum Alliance material. Included with this auction will be two six packs of the wine glasses from the 16th World Orchid Conference in Vancouver. These glasses are monogrammed with The Odontoglossum Alliance and the

16th WOC. There will be three fine watercolors of Odontoglossums, at least one of which was done by Nellie Roberts in her 50 years of painting the award plants of the RHS. There will also be a significant number of fine plants, seedlings and flasks.

Also available at the dinner will be the complete reprint of the book printed in 1900 – “**The Odontoglossums**” by Léon Duval. This re-printing has been done by your Alliance. It includes the original French material as copied in its original form, a complete English translation, forwards by Marcel Lecoufle and Carl Withner and some interesting biographical material on Duval. This book will be offered by our Alliance for sale at the show and dinner. It will later be available through the American Orchid Society bookstore.

This will be an interesting and informative set of lectures followed by a fun dinner and auction. Hawaii is a great place to visit. There are many orchid nurseries in the vicinity and they will be represented at the sales area of the show.

The conference hotel, The Hawaii Naniloa resort has a splendid location overlooking Hilo Bay, and is just over a mile to the show location. They have obtained a special block of rooms at a discounted room rate of \$65.00 standard/superior (plus tax) per night and the rate is available for three days before and after the meetings as well. Please note this room rate can be guaranteed until 30 days prior to the event. A form will be sent with the registration material to be used for making reservations. (**The Odontoglossum Alliance members will be mailed registration material**). A ‘room and car’ package is also offered through the hotel. The car can be claimed at either Hilo or Kona Airport with return to the same location. Parking is free at the hotel. There will be transportation between the hotel and the Show. Most registrants will want the use of a car to facilitate their activities.

Hilo International Airport is approximately three miles from the hotel and has no direct scheduled air service except inter island within Hawaii. The taxi to the hotel is about \$7.00. **Kona International Air Port**, 95 miles east in the leeward side of Hawaii, has good frequencies from California via United, plus numerous flights to Honolulu with connections on Aloha. United is the “Official carrier” to Hawaii. Ask for the ‘**Orchids in Paradise**’ rate UT 500 WI which offers ‘zone fares’ or 15% off your best fare until January 18. After that, the discount is 10% off best fare until 18 February. Phone 1-800-521-4041.

There is a special rate at the **Outrigger Waikoloa Resort**, valid five days before and after the conference at \$145.00 per night plus tax. The Waikoloa can be called at 1-800-922-5533. Ask for the Orchids in Paradise special. The Outrigger is about 22 miles north of Kailua-Kona and is a neighbor of the Hilton Waikoloa. Call for Kona hotels. Hilo is in the Tropic zone. In March, day-night temperatures are mild: 78 to 65. We suggest a windbreaker as it can be chilly on the volcano, and bring a small umbrella for those passing daytime showers. Neckties are optional, and not often seen on the island.

Bringing Plants to the Auction

Bringing plants into Hawaii is like bringing them in from a foreign country. You need an import permit and an agricultural inspection. Taking them out is a similar process. Through the generosity of Jim McCully and Glen Barfield they have simplified the process and made it easy to bring in your plants for the auction and after you buy them, get them home.

To Bring Plants into Hawaii

Send you plants to Steve Beckendorf. He will collect all of them together and arrange with Glen Barfield to have the necessary permits and send them to Glen in Hawaii. Glen will bring them to the Auction and Dinner.

**Steven K. Beckendorf
576 Vistamont Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94708**

To Bring Your Plant Purchases Home

Glen Barfield will take care of sending your plants to you. He will take care of obtaining the necessary permits and inspections so they can be sent out of Hawaii. He will do this at cost. This is a very generous offer on Glen's part. So taking plants in and out of Hawaii has been simplified and made easy. Whether you are coming to the Meeting and Show or not, please find a few special things and get them to our auction.

Odontoglossum Alliance Dinner and Auction

Through the generosity of Jim McCully our Odontoglossum Alliance dinner will be held at the Hilo Yacht Club. This is about 15 minutes or less from the hotel. Tickets to the dinner are \$30.00 per person. The menu is as follows:

Tossed Green Salad
Or
Spinach Salad
Entrée Choice
Shrimp Scampi
Baked or Broiled Fish of the Day
Spencer Roast
Surf and Turf
Rack of Lamb

Rice or Baked Potato
Breads

Special Dessert
Wine with Dinner
Coffee and Tea

Cocktails begin at 6:00 PM with a cash bar. Dinner follows at 7:00 PM. After dinner is the Odontoglossum Alliance auction. Tickets to the dinner can be purchased with your registration material or at the registration desk.

REGISTRATION FOR THE SHOW, INFORMATION PACKAGE, HOTEL RESERVATION FORM AND TRANSPORTATION

All of this material is available on the WEB at www.hiloorchidsociety.org.

You are strongly urged to use this method for the planning and execution of your trip to Hilo. It is convenient, quick and reliable. It also saves mailing and allows you immediate access to the information need to attend the meeting and show. Please note the dates for registration and hotel reservations to obtain the lowest cost.

Early Show registration Ends on 31 January 2003.

Airline rates escalate after 18 January 2003 and escalate further after 18 February 2003.

Room rates at the Naniloa Resort Hotel can only be obtained for reservations made prior to 30 days before the show.

The Message: Use the Web for information. Register early and make your travel plans in time to take advantage of the discounts.

Les Odontoglossums

by Léon Duval

Léon Duval wrote the first published work devoted solely to Odontoglossums in 1900. This little French publication is now rare and difficult to obtain. Dr. Carl Withner provided both the book and idea of republishing to The Odontoglossum Alliance. The English translation by provided by Dr. Shirley Baker-Thomas and our newsletter carried this material over a number of issues. Your Alliance has now combined the complete translation along with the original French into a single publication. Mr. Marcel Lecoufle of the French Orchid Society provided the background material on Duval that is included in the publication. He was most instrumental in finding a photograph of Duval and a copy of the inside cover of a volume where Duval dedicated it to his son in his own handwriting. We have included this in the publication All three, Dr.'s Baker-Thomas, Withner and Marcel did a superb job of editing and correcting through two draft attempts. Both Marcel Lecoufle and Carl Withner have provided forwards for the text in both French and English.

The original book contained black and white illustrations of many of the Odontoglossum species and a number of hybrids then current. The cultural material for the most part is very current. The Odontoglossum Alliance is pleased to have completed this effort and copies will first be available at the European Orchid Conference in London and the Hawaii Orchid Show and AOS Trustees meeting, both occurring in March of this year. There will be an announcement in the May 2003 Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter concerning the further availability of the book. It is planned to have it for sale to our members directly from the Alliance for a period of time. Following that time, it will become available in the American Orchid Society Bookstore. For orchid lovers and especially Odontoglossum enthusiasts this is an opportunity to obtain a very historic publication. The table of contents follows.

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Illustrations for Stig Dalstrom's article

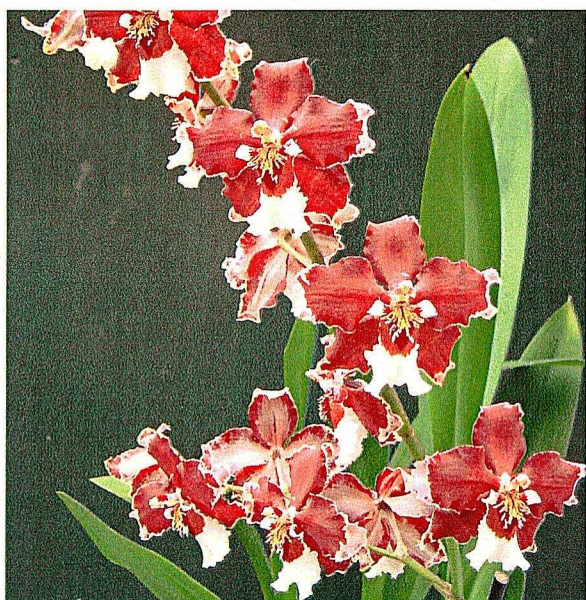


Solenidiopsis tigroides, habit
Slide 19



Solenidiopsis tigroides, flowers
photo: Steve Beckendorf
Slide 20

Illustrations of Intergeneic Hybrides from Everglades Orchids and shown at the 12 April 2002
Odontoglossum Alliance meeting in Illinois, by Milton Carpenter



Left:
Wils. Flaming
Space
'Flash Gordon'3



Right: Colm.
Jungle Cat
'Burma Ruby'



Top Left: Mtssa Sparkling Burgundy 'Shive Island'
Top Right: Odtna. Tropical Heat Wave 'Everglades AM/AOS'
Bottom Left: Mtssa Aztec 'Toni' HCC/AOS
Bottom Right: My Quest 'Impossible'