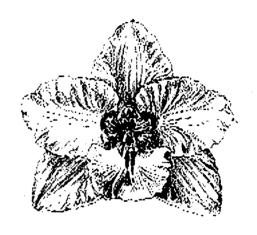
Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5 Novembert 2014

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OA Meeting February 2015 Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting to be Held in San Francisco 19-22 February 2015

The next meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance will be held in San Francisco at the time of the San Francisco Orchid Show 19-22 February 2015. The Preview Party for the orchid show is on Thursday night, 19 February 2013. We are having a joint meeting with the Pluerothalid Alliance on Friday 20 February.

On Friday February 20 we will be having a tour of the Orchid Zone at the invitation of John Chant, the new owner. We have arranged to have a bus to take us to the Orchid Zone. We will be joining the Pluerothalid Alliance. The bus will seat 40 people and we have allocated 20 seats to the Odontoglossum Alliance and 20 to the Pluerothalid Alliance. The cost is \$30.00 per person. If one alliance does not use it allocation of seats it will then be opened to the other alliance. The bus will leave San Francisco at 9:00 AM and expect to arrive at the Orchid Zone at approximately 11:00 AM. John has both mature and seedling odontoglossums and welcomes our business. We will provide box lunches; the cost of those has not yet been set. This will make it possible to not impose on the OZ while there. We expect to leave about 2:00 PM returning to San Francisco about 4:00 PM. This will be plenty of time to rest, sight see, visit the show at Fort Mason, etc before the pot luck supper, meeting and auction of both alliances at Fort Mason starting at 6:00 PM.

If you want to go on the tour to the Orchid Zone, you need to email Robert Hamilton at roberthamilton@berkeley.edu in order to reserve your seat or seats. Please send Robert Hamilton the names of those that at reserving seats. You can pay when you start the tour. Please send your request for seat or seats and enclose your email address so we can give you the details of where to meet the bus. Both alliances will keep account of their requests for seats and after 16 February if one of the allocations is not filled it will be available to the other alliance. So if you want to go on this tour I urge you to email

Bob Hamilton as soon as possible.

The Friday night pot luck supper will be held in a building adjacent to the San Francisco Orchid show in the Fort Mason complex starting at 6:00 PM. Please plan to attend that. We will have two half hour talks, one by each of the alliances. This will be followed by an auction of fine odontoglossum and Pluerothalid material.

The meeting will be held in the Firehouse at the Fort Mason Center. I have included some material on the location in this newsletter. The joint Cool Growers Dinner, lectures and auction will be held in the Fort Mason room C362 (building C third floor). This is the same floor as previous meetings, but a different room. The room is available for setup at 5:00 PM. Featured wines will be served with dinner following. The menu will include choices of roast beef, turkey and vegetarian lasagna. Members of both Alliances living in the area will contribute by providing a variety of specialty dishes. All in recognition of the economic climate to make it as attractive as possible for members to attend. Two talks are planned: One by each of the Alliances (OA and PA). As usual there will be an auction of fine material from both alliances. I expect to see some premium Odont divisions available in the auction.

On 21 February we will have open greenhouses to tour at a number of places including Pacifica with the collections of John Leathers, Tim Brydon and Bob Hamilton and in Berkeley for the collection of Steve Beckendorf Several venues were considered and the overriding factor was the current economic climate. It is hoped this decision will be attractive to many of our members and that we will have a good turnout.

Tickets to the Preview Party and the show can be obtained over the internet. The address for the web site where these can be ordered is found is:

http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html

We expect the cost of the dinner at the meeting to be reasonable. We look forward to a good crowd. In this February newsletter are some details on the meeting. This includes suggestions as to hotel locations close to the show.

The San Francisco Orchid Show is the best show in North America to see Odontoglossum alliance material in the show. The sales area is huge with many opportunities to acquire high quality material.

A good web site to look for hotels is: www.sftravel.com. The specific page is http://www.sanfranciscovisitor.com/bgt.html. A selection of hotels picked from the web site follows.

Lombard Motor Inn (415) 441-6000

1475 Lombard St.

1501 Lombard St.

Redwood Inn (415) 776-3800

1530 Lombard St.

Town House Motel (415) 885-5163

1650 Lombard St.

Star Motel (415) 346-8250

1727 Lombard St.

Cow Hollow Motor Inn* (415)-921-5800

Lombard Street

S F Motor Inn (415) 921-1842

1750 Lombard St.

Coventry Motor Inn (415) 567-1200

1901 Lombard St.

Ramada Limited (415) 775-8116

1940 Lombard St.

Buena Vista Motor Inn* (415) 923-9600

PO Box 475517 San Francisco, CA 94147

Chelsea Motor Inn (415) 563-5600

2095 Lombard St San Francisco, CA 94123

Motel Capri (415) 346-4667

2015 Greenwich St.

Hotel Del Sol (415) 921-5520

3100 Webster St.

These hotels are within a couple of blocks of Fort Mason. These appear to be clean and comfortable, but not elegant. The web site offers reviews of the hotels. The ones marked with an * I have stayed at for previous meetings and shows. They are clean, neat, not elegant, reasonably priced and with parking. I often walked to the show from these hotels.

The meeting to be held on Friday evening will be in the three stories building which is the second one down from the show in the Fort Mason Complex. The address is:

Fort Mason Center

Landmark Building C

Room C362 3rd Floor

San Francisco, CA 94123

Phone 415-345-7500

Request for Auction Material

One of the more interesting and entertaining events at our Odontoglossum Alliance meeting is the auction of fine odontoglossum material. We have had many donators who have brought in fine material. Much of this material has been of plants that are awarded, hard to find species or well know hybrids. Occasionally we have some of the Nellie Roberts watercolors or other fine old orchid illustrations. The results of our OA auction have been used to keep our dues down and provide resources that allow us to increase the size and color content of our newsletters. This newsletter is typical of what can and is being done. I urge all our members whether you plan on attending or not to donate to the auction. If you are not coming so you could bring the material to the dinner, you can mail it to Steve Beckendorf, Steve will get it to the meeting and auction.

So look over your material and find something or if possible a couple of things and get them to the auction and meeting.

Mailing address

Steve Beckendorf

576 Vistamont

Berkeley, CA 98704

ODONTOGLOSSUM HARRYANUM AND ITS RELATIVES

Stig Dalström
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The discovery of *Odontoglossum harryanum* Rchb.f., in 1886 created quite a stir in the already *Odontoglossum* 'crazed' European orchid world. The Orchid King himself, Frederick Sander wrote about this in Reichenbachia 1890:

"Surprises in the orchid world will never cease. For a generation past the orchid region of South America, and particularly those where Odontoglossa abound, have been constantly explored by collector after collector, all bent upon finding "something new," yet not until 1886 was this extraordinary plant discovered, though many an enthusiastic collector has been within touch of it. It is a very long time since an *Odontoglossum* so distinct and so beautiful has reached our gardens, and the credit of first introducing it is due to Rodriguez Pantocha, who sent a few plants to messrs. Horsman, of Colchester, in whose nursery it first flowered. Subsequently Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea, purchased the plants, and the novelty was named after Mr. Harry Veitch, Professor Reichenbach having been kept in ignorance of the name of the discoverer. We have ourselves been very successful in importing it in quantity, so that it will not we hope remain a rarity.

The imported plants show to what a large size they grow in a wild state. Some have spikes upwards of a yard in length, many of them branched and carrying from twelve to twenty flowers. In growth and habit it resembles *O. hastilabium*; the leaves are broad and of a pale green, while the rather large bulbs are compressed. The flowers cannot be compared with those of any other *Odontoglossum*, being different both in form and colour. The rich brown of the broad sepals pencilled with yellow lines, and the yellow tipped petals act as a foil to the splendour of the labellum, which is large and heart shaped, adorned with a bright purple mauve around the golden yellow crest, and broadly margined with white. The species appears to be a spring and summer flowerer and continues a long time in beauty.

Now that we possess such a treasure, how to grow it successfully is the question. From our collectors' notes and from our own observations of the plants we possess, we conclude that they require a cool and moist treatment in summer, keeping them somewhat drier after flowering, and repotting them when the new growths appear. As stagnant moisture is injurious to the foliage care should be taken to prevent water lodging in the leaf axils. In October the plants should be removed to a slightly warmer house and there remain until April, giving the same winter temperature as for *O. vexillarium* [Miltoniopsis vexillaria; authors' note], viz, from 57 deg. To 60 deg. F., and this treatment must be strictly adhered to."(Sander, 1890).

Odontoglossum harryanum is a very distinct orchid indeed, and yet has been the source of considerable taxonomic confusion and controversy (Boyle, 1901). At some time after the second "in quantity" import by Sander, this showy species seems to have vanished from horticulture and was not seen again until the early nineteen sixties when it was rediscovered growing in isolated trees on the finca owned by Señora Ana Fonnegra de Isaza, near La Carolina, Antioquia (Fowlie, 1973). About a decade later, plants were also found along the eastern slopes of the Andes in central Ecuador by Angel Andreetta, and later again in the same area by others. Odontoglossum harryanum is a variable species in terms of coloration and in the way the sepals and petals are presented. But the general flower morphology is rather constant, and flowers of the Ecuadorean form differ only slightly from the Colombian form and I consider them to be conspecific. Leonore Bockemühl, however,

treats the Ecuadorean form as "Odontoglossum wyattianum" (Bockemühl, 1989), which is a Peruvian species not known from Ecuador and morphologically quite distinct from O. harryanum, primarily in the shape of the column. Charles Schweinfurth, on the other hand, treats plants of O. wyattianum A.G.Wilson ex Dalström as "Odontoglossum harryanum" in Orchids of Peru (Schweinfurth, 1961).

In "The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium", published by Harry Zelenko in 1997, Odontoglossum harryanum and O. wyattianum [as O. harryanum var. wyattianum; author's note], together with what later became O. deburghgraeveanum [as "O. harryanum" center bottom; author's note] and O. nevadense are included as members of a loosely defined "Hastatum Group" by Mark Chase (in Zelenko, 1997). This group includes species from genera Odontoglossum, Oncidium and Miltonia. It is argued by Chase that: "The principle feature that can be used to identify them [The Hastatum Group; author's note] is the similar pattern of the lip and tepals. Some of the species we include here do not exhibit this combination (e.g. Oncidium trilobum [= Odontoglossum aurarium; author's note] and Oncidium leucochilum), but these are obvious close relatives of species that do relate here" (Chase, in Zelenko 1997).

Placing the various species mentioned above in the "Hastatum Group" should by no means be seen as a scientific treatment, but it was an unfortunate decision by Chase nevertheless because it was premature and misleading. Any attempt to base natural groups in the Oncidiinae on color markings of the sepals and petals is unreliable. Chase refers to "DNA studies" as a confirmation of his decisions (in Zelenko, 1997), but referring to molecular evidence as a justification for taxonomic decisions and 'grouping' was premature at the time, and proven by the following statement: "Many species traditionally placed in *Miltonia* have in recent years been transferred to *Oncidium* (e.g. *Miltonia clowesii* and *Miltonia cuneata*). With the removal of these species [treated as oncidiums by Chase and included in the Hastatum Group together with several other *Miltonia* species; authors note], there are no characteristics remaining to hold together the species left in *Miltonia*." (Chase, in Zelenko, 1997). According to current classification based on more recent molecular evidence, however, *Miltonia* remains a valid genus, and includes *M. clowesii* and *M. cuneata*, as well as all other traditional *Miltonia* species that were treated as oncidiums by Chase in 1997 (Pridgeon et al., 2009). It is also demonstrated in the same treatment that species in the *Odontoglossum harryanum* clade are not closely related to *Oncidium hastatum* or to any of the *Miltonia* species.

It is unfortunate when taxonomic decisions and subsequent transfers are based on molecular analysis of some of the species in a particular group/genus, while other members of the same group/genus are transferred only because they happen to taxonomically linger there. It is understandable that some species may not be available for molecular analysis for whatever reasons, but when this happens it is important to clarify that they are in fact transferred based on 'nomenclatural features' alone.

The plant originally named *Odontoglossum wyattianum* by Gurney Wilson (1928), was exhibited by Frederick Sander at a meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society (R.H.S.) on January 3, 1928. Later the same day it received a Botanical Certificate from the R.H.S. Scientific Committee. The plant was obtained by Sander from Reverend Paul Wyatt, Bedford, England, who in turn had received it from a friend in Peru (Wilson 1928). In the original Orchid Review article Wilson writes: "The appearance of *Odontoglossum Wyattianum* at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society held on January 3rd, created some interest, for it must be several years since a new *Odontoglossum* species of horticultural value has been recorded." Wilson continues: "The flowers are much like those of *O. Harryanum*, but smaller and not to so highly coloured. Individually, they have a vertical diameter of 2 to 3 inches. The sepals 1 ½ to 1 ½ inches long, golden brown; at the base is a triangular white blotch, margined with light purple-brown. The petals are equal to the sepals, but more pointed, marked basally with white and purple, which merges into the golden brown. The labellum is about 1 ½ inches long, broadly ventricose, trumpet-like in profile, contracted at its base; side lobes large, rounded, erect; front lobe spreading, bi-lobed, side lobes and mesochile of the labellum purple, broken and veined with white. Column white, with red-brown lines, and yellow pointed wings above the stigma."

Since then this 'species' became a taxonomic 'ghost'. No subsequent formal and more complete description was ever published and no type specimen has ever been found. It also seems to have vanished from cultivation shortly after its introduction together with *Odontoglossum harryanum* Rchb.f., which appears to be its closest relative.

It can be questioned whether the type-less orchid that Wilson described really is the same as what today is generally known as *Odontoglossum wyattianum* by collectors, growers and taxonomists alike. The Peruvian origin of the plant, the comparison with *O. harryanum*, which was known in cultivation at the time *O. wyattianum* was introduced, and the description of the coloration of the flower, however, clearly supports the conclusion that what Wilson saw at the R.H.S. meeting is the same species as what is called *O. wyattianum* today. It has therefore been necessary to validate this scientific taxon by using the well-known name introduced by Wilson, and to select an existing and complete specimen that corresponds with Wilson's original, albeit brief, description as a holotype. This has now been done (Dalström, 2014).

Due to the earlier rarity of *Odontoglossum wyattianum* in cultivation, in addition to its close visual resemblance to O. harryanum, these species have been mixed-up in both literature and horticulture. Charles Schweinfurth (1961) included a collection of O. wyattianum by the Polish collector Felix Woytkowski (Woytkowski 35352, UC) from the Tarma area in Junín, central Peru, as "O. harryanum" in Orchids of Peru (this specimen is now designated as the holotype of O. wyattianum). This was probably the reason why plants of O. wyattianum subsequently and for years were imported from Peru under the name of "Odontoglossum" harryanum". An attempt to clarify the situation was made by Jack Fowlie, who explained that the imports were made prior to the re-discovery of the long lost O. harryanum in Colombia (Fowlie, 1973). Another reason for the continuation of this confusion was Leonore Bockemühl's treatment of the Ecuadorean form of O. harryanum as being the same as the true O. wyattianum from Peru (Bockemühl, 1989). Mark Chase added to the taxonomic confusion by treating O. wyattianum as a variety of O. harryanum in The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium (Chase, in Zelenko 1997). When placing flowers of O. wyattianum next to the other species in the 'O. harryanum complex', however, it is easy to recognize the consistent morphological differences in the column shape of the former, which displays a more distinct curve, and with larger and distinctly developed serrated wings versus straighter columns with forward projecting minute winglets for other and closely related species, such as O. deburghgraeveanum Dalström & G.Merino, O. harryanum, O. helgae Königer, and O. velleum Rchb.f.

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Wilson. G.A. 1928. Odontoglossum wyattianum. Orchid Rev. 36: 47.

Zelenko, H. 1997. The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium. ZAI Publications, New York City.

Figure captions:

- Fig. 1: Odontoglossum harryanum, Colombian form. Photo by K. S. Walther
- Fig. 2: Odontoglossum harryanum, Ecuador, habitat near Gualaquiza. Photo by S. Dalström.
- Fig. 3: Odontoglossum harryanum, Ecuador, plant in cut tree, Gualaquiza. Photo by S. Dalström.
- Fig. 4: Odontoglossum harryanum, open flower form from Ecuador. Photo by J. Sönnemark.
- Fig. 5: Odontoglossum harryanum, light colored form from Ecuador. Photo by J. Sönnemark.
- Fig. 6: Odontoglossum deburghgraeveanum, Ecuagenera. Photo by S. Dalström.
- Fig. 7: Odontoglossum helgae, Peru. Photo by S. Dalström.
- Fig. 8: Odontoglossum velleum, Ecuador. Photo by J. Sönnemark.
- Fig. 9: Odontoglossum wyattianum, Peru, pale form. Photo by G. Deburghgraeve.
- Fig. 10: Odontoglossum wyattianum, regular form, Peru. Photo by J. Sönnemark.
- Fig. 11: Odontoglossum wyattianum, dark form, Peru. Photo by J. Sönnemark.
- Fig. 12: Odontoglossum harryanum complex study. Photo by G. Deburghgraeve
- **Fig. 13:** *Odontoglossum wyattianum*, Type specimen, collected by Felix Woytkowski in Peru. Photo by S. Dalstrom



Figure 1
Odontoglossum harryanum Colombia



Figure 2
Odontoglossum harryanum Ecuador



Figure 3
Odontoglossum harryanum Ecuador plpant in cut tree



Figure 4
Odontoglossum harryanum, open flower from Ecuador



Figure 5 Odontoglossum harryanum light colored form from Ecuador



Figure 6 Odontoglossum deburghgraveanum Ecuagenera



Figure 7 Odontoglossum helgae Peru



Figure 8 Odontoglossum vellum Ecuador



Figure 9 Odontoglossum wyattianum Peru, paleform



Figure 10 Odontoglossum wyattianum regular form, Peru



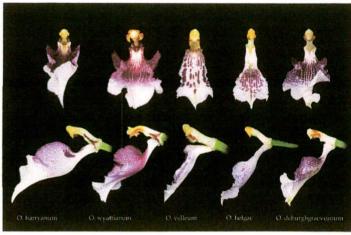


Figure 11 Odontoglossum wyattianum, dark form, Peru

Figue 12 Odontoglossum ahrryanum complex study



Figure 13 Odontoglossum wyattianum
Type specimen

Comments on Special Odonts Andy Easton

The late Dr. Gerardusara Staal certainly travelled on an original orchid hybridizing path. I'm sure he had many misses but hits like the Gerardusara Golden Emperor will keep him in our minds till we all become gaga. Just recently I saw a delightful miniature in bloom at Hawk Hill, in a 3" pot. It caught my eye and when I checked the tag, it was predictably one of Gerardus' creations.

I have tried some hybrids with Neodryas, all failed to make a pod. Obviously others have a more deft touch and this beautiful mating between Neodryas rhodoneura and Cda. noezliana is appropriately very "Halloweenish" and a perky little orange spray, well-branched. I always regret when these genetically disparate hybrids are made and not treated with oryzalin because future fertility is inevitably compromised. When we harvested a pod from an Oda Prince Vultan and Baptistonia echinata, the first request was for Bob Hamilton to treat the seed with oryzalin and hopefully create something fertile to carry the line forward.



In the old days this would have been called an Odontoglossum though I am quite happy to call edwardii a Cyrtochilum.

It is interesting to see the camera capture the transparent spots whereas the eye does not really discern them. This is a very interesting Bob Hamilton hybrid and one has to wonder where the shape came from? Bob says he has bred on with the cross so the ploidy is uncertain. Many years ago, Norris Powell of The Orchid House used to sell a very dark Odont which he called "Coca Cola". It was actually awarded as a Chanticleer which clearly it was not. Knowing that Norris bought a heap of plants from Stuart Low in England, I did some sleuthing and think it almost certain the plant was actually Oda Meteor, an edwardii hybrid.

Oda Meteor(?) is an amazingly strong grower. Like Vuyls Cambria it has been around forever, seems very resistant to virus and multiplies readily. I have always seen true beauty in Odonts that behave like that. We have made a couple of recent hybrids to things like Odm. harryanum that we plan to treat and grow on just for interest. They will not be commercial in the potted plant sense but something that anyone should be able to grow successfully with just a modicum of a green thumb. That's supposed to be what The Odontoglossum Alliance members should be doing!







Cyrt edwardii x Odm Nicky Strauss

Again a comparison is quite useful. Odm Summit was registered in the late 1970's, a hybrid of Odm. bictoniense X Odm. brevifolium. Bob Hamilton remade the crossing and when I left for New Zealand, he sent ne off with a bottle that in those days had been treated with colchicine. I bloomed out several converted forms and unfortunately never went on with them. A plant of the 4n form that I gave my friend Alf Day was awarded in NZ as Odm Summit 'John'. It is a very superior tetraploid form.

This seedling of Odm Summit X Oda Crystal Palace was hybridized at The Orchid Zone. I have no way of knowing whether their Summit parent was diploid or tetraploid but I am certain the plant of Summit in the comparison shot is diploid. The hybrid has been very showy and I have one that will carry a 4 foot+ spike with several strong branches as well. It tends to not open all the flowers at once but they last for many weeks. I have tried, unsuccessfully, to make pods on it so maybe the plant is indeed triploid. In my opinion it is solid AM quality but then that might require knowledgeable judges to recognize its uniqueness!



Odm Summit x Oda Crystal Palace



Odm Stropheon 'Pacificia FCC/AOS 1960

You know how some flowers just catch your eye, well this is one of them. It is medium-sized but has a strong upright habit and a very nice contrast between the yellow segments and the heavy markings.

Registered in 1996, it is an Odm MacKenzie Mountains (Beall Company) hybrid supposedly made by Gloria Cotton who burst onto the orchid scene in England and disappeared to the Channel Islands almost as quickly as she had arrived. Derek was her long-suffering husband! I am a little suspicious of the origin as recorded and it is more likely to be a Beall product from the late, great Gary Baker. Lots of mysteries in orchid parentages.

This is one of Tim Bryden's plants and I will be interested to ask him if he has been inspired to try and breed on from it. Strong yellow straight Odontoglossums are not that plentiful.



Odm Derek Cotton



Vuyls Cambria Plush 2n&4n

PayPal Account

The Odontoglossum Alliance now has a paypal account which is available for payment of dues or other monies to the Odontoglossum Alliance. To use this account the individual making the payment must have a paypal account. They can set that up on their website. Once that is done to make a payment to the Odontoglossum Alliance they enter their account and make a payment to: jemiller49@aol.com. In the future I will make it known that we have this facility available for payment of dues as an alternative to mailing in checks.

John Miller

Ttreasurer

Electronic Delivery of the Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

I am still working on having the Odont Alliance newsletter available on Dropbox. Dropbox has an update that I have yet to install. I expect to install that in the near future. If you want to read and/or print the newseltter you will need to have me give you permission to access our Dropbox. If you want to do that please send me an email so I can give you permission to access our dropbox. You might also tell me if you want to continue to recieve the written copy.