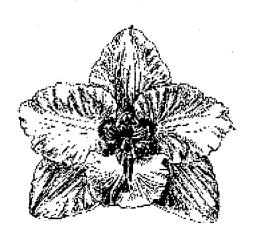
## Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5 August 2014

#### In This Issue

Medellin Show	Page 6
Cytr. triphyllum	Page 11
OA Member Survey	Page 14
Dues and OA Meeting	Page 16
Newsletter Delivery	Page 17



#### ODONTOGLOSSUM CULTURE DOWN UNDER

Some thoughts on my experience of odontoglossum culture in two different climatic regions in Eastern Australia; firstly in an inland location which experiences a dry summer, with low humidity and generally cool nights, then in a coastal location of about the same latitude (35° South) which experiences about the same daytime maximum temperatures but with much higher humidity in the summer and warmer night minimums.

I began growing them in Canberra in 1988 with my first purchases from Warrnambool Orchids (they no longer supply Odonts) and these still comprise approximately 60% of my collection. As a novice grower I achieved some success with the genus, enough to encourage me. The Canberra climate was very good for odont culture with the application of some heat in winter and a nice dry inland summer which enabled very effective use of evaporative cooling. The collection was housed in two 12' x8' glasshouses. In 2001 I retired and, with my wife Lynne, moved to the south coast of NSW not far from Jervis Bay. This is about 100km south of Sydney, NSW.

Moving to the coast caused quite a few problems. The prevailing summer winds are from the north east. With our proximity to the coast (about 5 kms) these winds are quite humid so not much benefit is obtained from evaporative cooling. When occasionally the dry inland winds blow from the west the glasshouse will maintain about 10°C lower than outside air temperature but with a typical N.E. wind blowing a 2°C drop is about all the cooler will achieve.

Changes to the appearance of the foliage became noticeable after the first 12 months with the leaves becoming thinner in texture and adopting a sort of tubular shape with the leaf margins curling back. At first I thought there might be a problem with the quality of our water supply so I installed a rainwater tank but this made no difference.

Over the next few years I lost quite a few plants. Eventually I have the collection growing OK again, not as good as in Canberra, but OK. The problem with the appearance of the leaves I now attribute to the plants endeavouring to reduce their surface area and transpiration due to the higher temperatures.

Some of the cultural changes I have made since the change in location have been:

Plants are not allowed to flower in summer; any spikes that appear that would mature in the summer are removed. Due to the less than 12 month flowering cycle of most odonts flowering will hopefully occur earlier the next year. (I find there are some plants that refuse to co-operate with this strategy, mostly the species eg. hallii, ure-skinnerii, harryanum.)

One of the most useful changes I have made is to my potting technique. Prior to our move from Canberra I was using a potting media of chopped Tasmanian sphagnum moss and styrene granules. This mix allowed me to knock a plant out of its pot and examine its root system with out much disturbance to the plant. Post Canberra I was having difficulties obtaining sphagnum moss and began using other potting media, some of it bark based. Obviously it is not possible to upend a pot full of bark- based media to examine the root system without the whole lot falling apart. To get around this problem I came up with a system of using transparent disposable drink cups. I drill a few drainage holes in the bottom, pot the plant in the transparent cup then insert the transparent cup into a normal opaque black plastic outer cover pot. Now I am able to easily lift a plant out of its outer pot and inspect the state of its root system without any disturbance at all to the plant. The transparent pot needs the opaque outer pot, other wise algae will soon grow on the inside of the transparent pot and you won't see anything. It also, of course, shields the root system from light. If you are interested in trying this technique, commercial catering supply stores keep a good range of different sizes of the disposable plastic cups. You then need to find a range of pots to serve as the outer sheath pot but the commonly available pots will usually do the job. This potting technique has proven popular with growers of other genera in our local orchid society (Shoalhaven).

Another benefit of growing in transparent pots is observing the development of the root system as you can watch the roots emerging from the new lead and entering the media (watering to keep just moist at this stage) then, as the new pseudobulb begins to develop the roots are reaching their maximum rate of growth and vigour, (pour on the water and fertilizer; you can't over do it at this stage). At the completion of flowering watch the roots decrease in vigour and the green growing tips reduce in length (I now allow the media to become drier). You will also notice a reduction in root vigour if you intentionally abort a flowering due to a plant's attempt to flower in the summer. The development of yellowing of the oldest pseudo bulb (often the precursor of rot) is also associated with a halt of root growth. I find this back bulb yellowing a warning signal as the plant growth immediately stalls and the bad bulb needs to be removed urgently.

One of the most beneficial changes to my culture recently has been to the use of Orchiata bark in my potting media. I am using a mix of three parts (by volume) of Orchiata bark to one part coarse Perlite. I tried out Orchiata bark after reading Bob Hamilton's article in the Odontoglossum Alliance news letter. If I had not seen it for myself, I would not have believed a change in media could have made such an improvement in plant vigour; even some sickly plants that have been trying to die for years have started to look like taking off. The Miltoniopsis I grow have always struggled through winter with not quite enough heat for their liking, often losing their roots but since the changing to Orchiata they have retained all their roots and what's more, the thickness of the roots has almost doubled.

The few times I have given talks on my method of Odont culture I can sense people thinking, this sounds like too much trouble to me! I have to admit, my method is very labour intensive. Watering the collection of approximately four hundred Odonts and about sixty Miltoniopsis takes about seven hours and is done once a week. It takes this long because each plant is picked up and assessed as to whether it needs watering, or can wait until the next week's watering. It would be interesting to hear from other growers as to how they go about watering their collections. Growers with large collections obviously would not be examining each plant to determine if it needs watering or not on a weekly basis. How do they accommodate plants that are not in active growth?

Repotting is done annually I try to repot when the roots just begin to appear from the new growth. Often the advice given on Odont culture is to repot when the new lead is a couple of inches long. This is plain wrong in my experience as there are lots of Odonts that do not begin to develop their new roots until the new growth is almost mature. If the plant is disturbed by repotting and there is no developing new roots to support the new growth the plant will often go into decline. If possible, repotting is restricted to the cooler months, but sometimes a plant will require urgent repotting due to some problem such as rot. A different problem sometimes occurs if the new lead is sitting on media which has

become sour; it seems to deter the emergence of the new roots and the plant needs to be put into fresh media to get it moving again.

Growing Odonts under my less than ideal conditions I find I often need to deal with a plant which is in a poor state of health. Usually the plant has lost its root system and the lead bulb shows signs of shrivelling. The bad roots are all trimmed off and any leafless backbulbs are removed. I also employ a technique that was described to me by a local cymbidium grower, and that entails a drastic reduction in the leaf area by trimming back the existing leaves by about two-thirds. The intention is to reduce the transpiration area of the rootless plant. Live sphagnum moss is then wrapped around the base of the plant, especially the area that the new lead will emerge from. The plant is then potted up as usual in my Orchiata bark – Perlite mix. It is essential to stake the plant securely until a new root system develops. The plant will not develop new roots if it is wobbling about in its pot and only water (no fertilizer) is applied to keep just the moss and surrounding base of the plant barely moist until roots become visible and begin to enter the media.

Speaking of live sphagnum moss, I find it this stuff harder to grow than Odonts! Just down the road from our place is one of Australia's best growers/hybridizer of Sarcochilus, and sphagnum moss grows over the tops of his pots like weeds. When I put it in my conditions it stays green for a couple of months then always dies. I have tried watering with tap water, rain water, tank water, fertilizer, no fertilizer ... always the same result. Any suggestions?

#### Brian Phelan





001 002









005 006





007 008

4







## Information From the Orchid Show Medellin August 2014 Andy Easton

When I see trays and trays of beautiful young Odont seedlings like these at Colomborquideas in Medellin in August 2014, I know that the Odontoglossum Alliance is headed for exciting times again. Away from all the boring re-proliferated junk that has emanated from Taiwan and various other non-original sources, things are about to get very interesting again. I cannot wait to see what appears in the coming decade!



Part of the four-sided Colomborquideas display in Medellin. A mass of Mtps. vexiillaria selections but it has been a warm three weeks preceding the show so no individual plants were awardworthy this year. For any Odont lover, this is a show not to be missed and the hospitality of Colombians is legendary



This is an unusual color form of Odm. harryanum that I saw in Medellin. Not awardable in my opinion (the culture was mediocre), it was quite a bit darker in its segments than we normally see. The lip started out quite yellow and then cleared to white. The whole harryanum-wyattianum complex deserves serious study. By that, I do not mean that anyone should pay any attention to the Kew rubbish but I would like to hear what Stig Dahlstrom might say about them!



#### Vuylstekeara Wyatt's Torch

This registration is another of those stupid Pommie mishmashes due to Chase and his silly sycophants. The RHS is mixing up Odm. harryanum and Odm. wyattianum and not understanding any of what we hybridizers know. The registration may be in our name but I know that the plant pictured in the sole award to date is a diploid Cambria X a diploid Odm. wyattianum. The plant pictured here was in bloom in Medellin in July 2014 and as you can see, is remarkably like Vuyls Cambria 'Plush' except it has a distinct lilac overlay on the flower segments. This is a first bloom seedling in a 2.25" pot. Perfectly flat with large size (bigger than Cambria) and very heavy substance. I do not know the ploidy and would not be brave enough to speculate what it might be. But I do know that we have remade the crossing with both Odm. harryanaum and Odm. wyattianum crossed onto Vuyls Cambria 'Plush' and also treated the same combinations with oryzalin. I'm sure some amazingly interesting and useful progeny will result from these crossings and that Vuyls Cambria 'Plush' will go on to be one of the greatest parents of the entire Odontoglossum Alliance!



### Mtps Bleuana alba form.

This is the first plant to bloom from our alba remake of Mtps Bleuana (Mtps vexillaria alba X Mtps roezlii alba). Based on substance and root diameter, we believe it is an oryzalin-converted tetraploid. Most interesting that the two distinctinve roezlii "eyes' do not appear as yellow blotches in the alba strain. All part of the next stage of our goal to create genetic alba Vuylstekearas, Vuylsteke would be so happy!

Time to also clear up the long-mislabelled Mtps. vexillaria 'Arctic Moon' which is in fact a Mtps Bleauana. This McLellan mislabel also occurs in a tetraploid iteration and will be a most useful future parent for the few smart breeders who know its value!



Firstly, I need to make a small correction to my comments about Maclellanara Pagan Lovesong in the last O A Newsletter.

Tom Perlite kindly corrected me about who made the actual first Maclellanara, it was Tom Easton (no relation) who was the long-time species and Odont Alliance grower at Rod McLellan Orchids. Tom commented that he used a special form of Brassia verrucosa in the crossing, one that was given a varietal name of 'gigantea'. The plant was apparently a natural tetraploid which explains why all the Pagan Lovesong grex were 3n. Tom recalled looking at the seedlings in 4" pots with Tom and being very impressed with their vigor. Tom Easton was justifiably very proud of his creation and I believe there are more good things to come out of this line, possibly through our hybrid of (McIlnra Pagan Lovesong X Odm Hallio-crispum) which is a fertile tetraploid itself, carrying sixty chromosome from an unreduced Pagan Lovesong gamete. Some of the original Alexanderaras were very large and showy so we look for more in the future with the added advantage of clean tetraploidy.

Thanks to Tom Perlite who kindly corrected my error in the last Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter. Always good to be able to draw on the wisdom of another old-timer but why does he look so much younger than the rest of us???

#### COMMENT:

Tom corrected me about Maclellanara Pagan Lovesong. He confirmed that the hybrid was actually made by Tom Easton at McLellans, using a special form of Brassia verrucosa that they called 'gigantea' which was crossed to one of their Odcdm Tiger Butter selections. Obviously it was a chance tetraploid which explains why all the McIlnra Pagan Lovesong seedlings were triploids and hard to get seed from. I might predict that most of the Alexanderara hybrids were pentaploids which explains their sterility.

We feel so lucky to have one McIlnra that appears to be tetraploid and which is quite fertile. Hopefully some fertile tetraploid Alexanderaras will be in its future......



(McIlnra Pagan Lovesong X Odm Hallio-crispum) 'NH' 4n

### CYRTOCHILUM TRIPHYLLUM- an old name gets a new face

By Stig Dalström

Many years ago, I visited my orchid friends Monica and Fernando Navarro in Quito, Ecuador, together with Juan del Hierro, a noble gentleman and local orchid enthusiast. I had already been working with the genus *Cyrtochilum* for many years and thought I had a decent grip on the subject (little did I know!). In one of the pots in Navarro's garden I discovered some large flowers of something entirely unfamiliar (Fig. 1).

Or, perhaps not! Had I not seen something like that before...? I recalled seeing a similar flower from an old color slide by Alex Hirtz, and a flower in alcohol at Selby Gardens (OIC 6460). The broad segments of the flower were the same and the tuberous callus on the lip as well. I recognized the plant in front of me as a *Cyrtochilum* for sure, but which one? And where did it come from? I had placed Alex's specimen in "auropurpureum" with a question mark. But the flower in front of me really looked 'different' from the typical *Cyrtochilum auropurpureum*, a species described from Venezuela by Reichenbach, based on a collection by Nicholas Funck and Louis-Joseph Schlim while working for Jean Linden. The typical *Cyrtochilum auropurpureum* has a rather simple flower with a smooth edge of the lip, and without the tuberous and irregular callus structures that are commonly seen in plants from Ecuador. The Ecuadorean form was also considered different by Reichenbach who described it as "*Odontoglossum compactum*", and later again as "*O. orientale*". I had so far preferred to lump them together and treat them as synonyms of *C. auropurpureum*, but as it happened, a revision of that decision was going to be necessary.

Back to Quito and the Navarro orchid collection. It turned out that the plant with the unusual flower had recently been collected on the western slopes of mount Pichincha, not far from Quito and at a rather high altitude. Juan and I looked at each other and the decision was made instantly to visit the place.

With Juan's knowledge of his country we soon found the place (Fig. 2), which was a cool, misty and rocky area only a couple of hours drive from downtown Quito. We immediately found several dripping wet plants in bloom, which grew very exposed among the rocks (Fig. 3). We also noted that plants out in the open had a compact growth habit with aggregated pseudobulbs while a few plants in shadier and darker places produced long rhizomes between the growths. A phenomenon I have noticed in other *Cyrtochilum* species as well. The inflorescences were surprisingly short and compact and the showy flowers almost flat (Fig. 4) and rather different from *Cyrtochilum auropurpureum*, both the typical form from Venezuela and the Ecuadorean "compactum-orientale" form (Fig. 5). But was it different enough to justify bearing a separate name? I hesitated, and kept doing so for many years despite some suggestions from various directions to recognize it as a valid species.

It turns out that I was right in waiting. Not long ago, Franco Pupulin published an article about the missing orchid specimens and illustrations from the Ruíz and Pavón Peruvian expedition (Pupulin, 2012). Franco had asked what I thought about some of them beforehand and offered me to become involved in transferring some of the names concerned. It was obvious that some of the more traditional names described by later authors appeared to be synonyms and a transfer of names seemed necessary. Tempting as the offer was, however, I also realized that this impressive and most valuable publication was Franco's, and he should get the credit as the sole author since he had done all the work. Besides, I needed time to think and evaluate what I saw, not rushing into decisions that I might regret later. This philosophy has saved me some trouble and embarrassments in the past and I realize today that it was wise to decline Franco's offer. I will get back to this another time but focus here on one plate in particular. In Franco's article, a very interesting illustration appears on page 46 (Fig. 6). I also include a copy of it here made by Andrew Mathews sometime around 1832, (Fig. 7), when he visited Lima and found a stack of specimens and illustrations of "superior quality" left there either by Ruíz and Pavón or by people who worked for them.

It seems logical that the illustrations were finished after Ruíz and Pavón left Lima in 1788, otherwise they would certainly have brought the plates with them when they returned to Spain. The particular plate of interest here has the number 195, and is labeled "13 Maxillaria triphylla" (Fig. 6).

The illustration depicts an obvious *Cyrtochilum* plant with an erect, compact inflorescence having carried five flowers and with two additional buds. The pseudobulb has three apical leaves, but it seems that one or two of these really belong to the leaf bearing sheaths instead. When Ruíz and Pavón later published the description of this species in "Flora Peruviana et Chilensis" (1798), they based it on a collection by Tafalla and Pulgar, allegedly from along the river Maraniyoc, which, by the way, is located near Palca in central Peru. A trip to this area is planned but what is so amazing is the similarity with the plant from west of Quito in Ecuador. Nothing similar to the illustrated Tafalla and Pulgar plant has ever been reported from Peru, to my knowledge, so the question is if this locality really is the true one or if some kind of mix-up may have happened? What really thickens the plot is the fact that Tafalla and others spent two years collecting in Ecuador, particularly in the "Audiencia of Quito", after Ruíz and Pavón left Peru. It seems very possible that the plant depicted as "Maxillaria triphylla" very well could have been collected on the western slopes of mount Pichincha instead and that the real collection information was mixed-up or lost (which is not unheard of to this day!). Tafalla and his illustrators sent many specimens and illustrations back to Spain after Ruíz and Pavón's departure, but it seems possible that some may have remained in Lima as well after Tafalla's death. This particular plate of interest, or a copy of "superior quality" of it, obviously was there when Mathews visited Lima around 1832.

In any case, there seems to be little doubt that the plant from Pichincha really is the same as what is called "Maxillaria triphylla" by Ruíz and Pavón. The similarities are just too great and the circumstances certainly make it possible. This attractive species now bears the name Cyrtochilum triphyllum thanks to Franco Pupulin's industrious work. And yes, I do recognize it as a separate species today!

#### Reference:

Pupulin, F. 2012. The Orchidaceae of Ruíz & Pavón's "Flora Peruviana et Chilensis". A taxonomic study. I. Anales del Jardín Botánico de Madrid 69(1): 21—79.

#### Photo list:

- 1: Cyrtochilum triphyllum, cultivated by the Navarros in Quito, Ecuador.
- 2: Juan del Hierro with a plant of Cyrtochilum triphyllum from the natural habitat.
- 3: Cyrtochilum triphyllum in its natural habitat.
- 4: Cytochilum triphyllum flowers.
- 5: Cyrtochilum compactum (also treated as C. auropurpureum), Ecuador.
- 6: Original plate of Cyrtochilum triphyllum (as "Maxillaria triphylla").
- 7: Copy of a plate of *Cyrtochilum triphyllum*, made by Andrew Mathew.



Figure 1

Cyrtochilum triphyllum, cultivated by the Navarros in Quito,
Ecuado



Figure 2: Juan del Hierro with a plant of *Cyrtochilum triphyllum* from the natural habitat



Fugure3: Cyrtochilum triphyllum in its natural habitat.



4: Cytochilum triphyllum flowers.



Figure 55: *Cyrtochilum compactum* (also treated as *C. auropurpureum*), Ecuador.



6: Original plate of *Cyrtochilum triphyllum* (as "*Maxillaria triphylla*"



7: Copy of a plate of *Cyrtochilum triphyllum*, made by Andrew Mathew.

#### **Odontoglossum Alliance Member Survey**

We are planning to continue the Alliance newsletter via email as a PDF file and wish to update subscriber information. Please read through this questionnaire and let us know what you grow and what you want to see in the newsletter.

Do you grow Odontoglossums and/or their hybrids or simply have an interest in them?

Are you interested in "cool growing" Odm's, intergenerics or both?

What size plants do you typically purchase (mature, seedling)?

How many Odontoglossums do you grow?

The Odm. Alliance newsletter is going digital. Do you want to continue to receive the newsletter via email as a PDF file?

Are you willing to prepare articles for publication in the newsletter? On what subject(s)?

What sort of articles would you like to see published in the newsletter (hybridizing, culture, shows, taxonomy, travel, social, etc.)?

Are you an AOS judge?

## Odontoglossum Alliance Member Survey Results

There was a good response to our Member Survey that provided truly useful information. What follows is a breakdown of our responses to each question posed by the survey.

Do you prefer receiving the newsletter in print or via email?

59% preferred email and 41% preferred to receive it in print. 41% of our respondents would like to have it both ways and receive the newsletter both in print and via email.

Do you grow Odontoglossum's or simply have an interest in them?

Fully 89% of our respondents grow Odontoglossums or related genera while 11% simply have an interest in them.

Are you interested in "cool growing" Odm's, or intergenerics, or both?

63% are interested in cool growers, 26% in interegenerics, and 74% are interested in both. Of the "minor" genera 26% are interested in Tolumnias, 55% in Rhychosteles, and a few in other related

genera.

How many Odontoglossum alliance plants do you grow?

Only 26% of or respondents grow less than 10 plants, 44% grow less than 100 plants, 63% grow more than 100 plants. Of that 63% several are commercial growers growing thousands of plants.

What size plants do you purchase?

Many of our members purchase a combination of mature plants, seedlings and flasks with only a few restricting themselves to mature plants.

What sort of articles would you like to see published in the newsletter?

A 74% majority want to see cultural articles published in the newsletter. Other subjects requested in declining order of preference are hybridizing, taxonomy, travel, shows, social, and history.

Are you willing to prepare an article for publication in the newsletter?

Interestingly a number of respondents replied saying they would prepare articles "if asked" and our editor will certainly hold them to their word.

Subjects offered include: Growing Odm. material in Japan, xanthic crosses, update on LED lighting, taxonomy, basic Odm. culture, growing Odm. in the San Francisco area, "why did the hybridizer make that cross?", Colombian species, hybridizing in Colombia, and an article on a recent trip to Colombia. One respondent requested that he be <u>assigned</u> a subject and I'm certain our editor will hold him to his word. There was also a request that those members currently involved in hybridizing Odm. material submit photos of their results for all to see.

Are you an AOS judge?

Exactly one half of our members are AOS judges.



Three lovel Odontoglossum Alliance pictures sent in by Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids Oda (Joe's Drum x Odm Michael Newman

Oda. avranches 'Inspirational Vision'

Oda. Mary Measure 'Happy Vision' HCC

#### **Latent Dues Payments**

I have now 18 members whose dues were to be in by this time since the notices were sent out in May 2014. It is hard to be the Treasurer of this organization when members do not pay any attention to the notice sent out with their May newsletter. I send out the notice, I give you an envelope. I allow you to pay for two years. I don't bug you only once every two years. I would even accept payments that extended your membership longer. With this newsletter I am sending you the final notice in the form of a reminder and an envelope to return to me with your payment. This is the final notice. If I have not received your payment by 1 November you will not receive any future newsletter.

This admonishment would not be complete if I did not acknowledge the prompt payment of so many of our members. Within a couple days of sending out the notice in May, I received a continuing stream of payments as well as their completed survey results. To you I give hearty thanks John Miller

Treasurer

# Odontoglossum Alliance Annual Meeting Meeting Notice for 2015

The 2015 Odontoglossum Alliance meeting will be held in conjunction with the San Francisco Orchid show. We expect this to be a team effort with the Pluerothalid Alliance culminating with a joint pot luck supper. The dates of the show are zzz February. We are planning on an interesting meeting and get together. The show judging is on Thursday. For Friday we are working on a tour to Salinas to visit the Orchid Zone. This was acquired by John Chant, one of our members. For Saturday we plan on several greenhouse tours in the San Francisco area. Potential tours include Tom Perlite's, Pacifica greenhouses of John Leathers, Bob Hamilton and Tim Brydon and in Berkeley the greenhouse of Steve Beckendorf. There is of course the large orchid show at Fort Mason Friday-Sunday. This large show demonstrates the greatest variety of orchids I have seen at any show except for WOC shows. The sales area contains the same large variety. It should be a fun time, so start by putting it on your calendar. In the November newsletter I will have the complete listing of events along with administrative information on lodging. I hope to see many of our members.

The pot luck supper on Friday night will be at Fort Mason. We will have lots of food and wine. There will be one or two speakers followed by the auction of some very lovely Odontoglossum Alliance and Pluerothalid material.

## Update on Internet Delivery of OA Newsletter

We are working on delivery of the Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter via the Internet. This is a beta or early version of what we are doing. We have some more finalization to do and will report on that in the November newsletter. We are using a feature on PC's or Apple Products that is named Dropbox. We will not be making any other delivery means. We have not figured out the notification system. For the short term the notice of delivery of the newsletter will be carried in the newsletter. In the future we hope that we can use the email feature for notification. As you know we have over 70 members and close to that number of email addresses. In the past I have found errors in the email addresses. It will take us some time to get all that straight.

For the August newsletter it is in Dropbox now. Here is how to access this newsletter.

IF you have any problems please send me an email message with Subject DROPBOX. My email address is jemiller49@aol.com

This is the Link to Odont Alliance Folder:

Enter this link to obtain the folder. Find the document you want in the Odonto Alliance folder.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bzl0cculpqedpip/AADtr82SNG8\_O6rr4 SpZT0mDa?dl=0