



NZ ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Number 3
September 1996

From the Editor:

All going well I should have this newsletter to you on time !! No overseas trip this month ! Several of our members have booked on the Brazilian World Conference tours and this newsletter will be a reminder to them to take notes and photos of *Oncidiinae* at nurseries and the Conference Show. We look forward hearing about your time away in the December issue.

Alf and Mona Day are in the UK and Jane Frear received a card from Mona saying that they had a great time at the Eric Young Foundation in Jersey. I hope Alf is saving his writing for an article about his impressions of the E.Y.F. for us.

Jane is doing a sterling job around Auckland 'blackmailing' growers into joining the Odont Alliance — with free odont seedlings! Many thanks to Jane for organising our display at the Botanic Gardens.

The Summer Display in New Plymouth is fast approaching. Make sure you book now for that fun weekend in early January. More details in the December issue or ask your society secretary for an enrolment form.

My thanks to Paul Cable, Jane Frear and Jim and Rae James for articles. More required from the other hundred or so of you !

Ron Maunder, Editor
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Deflasking — have you tried this one?

Getting very small deflasked seedlings properly positioned in a community pot with bark medium can often be a finicky and frustrating procedure. Try filling the pot with bark medium and then inserting the pot in a bowl of water up to the level of the medium. The seedlings can be then simply and easily pushed down and positioned precisely in the medium. Lift the pot out, drain off the water and there you have it.

BREEDERS CORNER

RECESSIVE CHARACTERISTICS:

The photograph in our last newsletter of *Odm.* Panise x *Oda.* Echanson reminded me once again of the headaches *Oda.* Echanson has caused over the years with its persistent colour recessions in seedlings. I registered the cross *Oda.* Ebury Count 'So Long' (a highly coloured clone) x *Oda.* Echanson 'Operetta' as *Oda.* Cup Bearer, and sure enough, out of a total of some 40 or so flowered only 6 or so have good colour and the rest, good shape and placement on the spike but drab as to colour.

I did a full parentage chart (by hand) trying to pick up unusual pointers and had no luck until now when the albino photograph shows a factor that could not be picked up in the parentage simply because none of the known albino family lines are shown there and that means there is some pretty powerful undetected lines in Echanson to produce an albino from such a highly coloured clone as Echanson 'Operetta' even when crossed with *Odm.* Panise. I suggest it should be crossed with every albino line so far known, then perhaps we might get some clues from the seedlings which reflect most the characteristics of their ancestors.

Odm. harryanum is another one that plagues me. You can have several infusions close up and confidently expect the *Odm. harryanum* lip will shine forth. Not a bit of it ! Instead you get some squinty little narrow lips that came from heavens knows where or how far back in the past ! Not recognisable anyway. Makes you wonder just how many species that didn't survive to the present day, nonetheless left their mark in the genes of the species that did! We might need D.N.A. to do some sorting out.

Jane Frear, Auckland.

14th WOC and more — Final

It was a traumatic departure from San Francisco for me. The taxi was late arriving at the motel and I just got to the Greyhound bus by the skin of my teeth! The route was east to Livermore through barren hills covered with rows of windmills and then south beside low hills with irrigated plains on the eastern side for miles eastward and almost from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The road was full of transports and buses and we travelled for hours (it seemed) with no towns or bends on the road. At one spot we passed a "dairy" — large roofs beneath which hundreds of cattle were being fed and milked. After a stop for lunch at a roadside oasis and fastfood place we continued on again down Highway 5. I read somewhere these fertile plains were one huge swamp when settlers first arrived in California. Now they are drained and irrigated and grow a wide variety of crops and fruit trees. The desolate coastal Sierra Madre range drew closer on our right and we climbed up over the Tejon Pass at over 4,000ft through an area which was probably a skiing ground in winter, past a funpark and then descended towards Los Angeles. First stop was San Fernando, then Hollywood where I got off to change buses for Santa Barbara. Hollywood appears to be virtually a slum from what I saw of it.

The new route was out through Thousand Oaks to the coast and north to Santa Barbara. I had phoned my Glasgow judging mate Jerry Rehfield and he collected me and took me back to Carpenteria where he lives. Jerry and his wife, Luella had been national ice skating champs and owned several rinks before retiring to the coast. That night I managed to wheedle a few flasks from Jerry who enjoys making his own hybrids. Next day we inspected his hillside property on the edge of a large scrub covered valley which ran right back to the Sierra Madre ranges. It looked fairly barren and he explained that in the past huge forest fires had burnt to the hills yonder and that coyotes hang around habitation at night so that cats and dogs have to be locked up. Down amongst his orchard of fruiting 'dwarf' avocados we came to his sizeable orchid house where he grew a very wide range of genera. I don't think I have ever seen such crowded plants doing so well! There were species, cattleyas and a strong representation of Oncidiinae there.

As the sun rose the house temperature rose and I wondered how it was kept cool enough. He pointed out his 'swamp cooler' at one end where pads of wood shavings could be seen. A thermostat clicked, water started running down the shavings and then several large fans cut in behind. A strong wind of air came in our faces from that end of the house and in about 30 seconds I was almost shivering! This method of cooling was very effective and if I remember right it carried a spray of atomised moisture with it — or so it seemed. I was very impressed. Jerry said that a chap had just put in new pads the day before so his cooler was working very efficiently.

He suggested that we go for a drive down to Royale Orchids nearby. This is owned by the Burkey's and they grow for pot plant sales — *Cymbidium*, *Miltoniopsis* and *Odontoglossum*. The owner was on the phone yarning and waved us in. He obviously knew and trusted Jerry. There were large benches of *Miltoniopsis* in one house and roped off areas of breeding plants. *Milt.* Jean Carlson which are lovely bright pinks were in blocks. This cross was being grown by a lot of the nurseries I visited and would be remakes of the original successful cross. Jerry and I fell for a lovely *Vuy.* Cambria hybrid and he nearly took it back to see if we could take it to be judged in Long Beach that night. It was almost identical to *Vuy.* Cambria x Esteemed seedlings which Andy Easton sold a few years back. Can't find my notes but it may have been the same cross.

We went back to Starbeck Orchids (Jerry's place) and he tidied up a couple of plants for judging. I packed up my extra flasks and in the mid afternoon we drove in to Los Angeles where I found an airport hotel, booked into a room and left my gear. We drove to Long Beach where the AOS judging was held and dined in a nearby cheap restaurant with such well known judges as George Vasquez, John Miller, Pat Rowlands, Nerito Hasegawa and Harold Koopowitz. I was put in a judging panel and spent an interesting evening taking part and comparing my scores with the others. Yellow *Phalaenopsis* were the 'in thing',

and several were awarded as well as Jerry's *Trichopilia*. Like here, there seemed to be a desire to award anything new or different whether it was attractive or not! Several plants were obviously first flowerings and could have waited another year. I guess judging is the same the world over.

Later I discovered that in an adjoining room a society meeting was being held but unfortunately they were packing up when I walked in. A badge swapper bailed me up smartly! Jerry dropped me off at my hotel on his way home that night and I spent the next day around the area and flew out to NZ late at night. It was going to be great to get home again and drive my own vehicle again — on the left or 'wrong side of the road'!

It had been a long 'working holiday' in UK, Europe, Canada and the USA. I met some wonderful people. In fact everyone couldn't do enough for me and I know I could have brought back free divisions of many plants if I had been able. I have kept up correspondence with some but eventually it dries up. I am sure that if we meet again somewhere then our common interest will rekindle our friendship. Perhaps they will come and stay with me — I hope not all at once!

I thank all those orchid people for their kindness to me and hope I can repay them some day. I thank my wife for 'holding the fort' those seven long weeks and for not divorcing me when I flew to Japan 10 days later!

R. Maunder.

Vale Brian Spencer Mooney, OBE

17 July 1930 - 9 August 1996

Brian Mooney, Orchid grower, friend and fellow Odont Alliance member passed away on 9 August 1996 after a short illness.

Brian was a very accomplished orchid grower who was free with his advice to anyone who asked. His words of wisdom 'Ask your plants what they want and they will tell you the answer' will always hold true.

Brian retired from the NZ Police, as Deputy Assistant Commissioner in 1989 after 31 years service during which time he was awarded the OBE.

Brian did not suffer fools easily and always spoke his mind and as a result at times could upset some. However, those who managed to breach this gruff exterior found a very kind, loving and faithful friend. His funeral service which was attended by his large family, ex-police colleagues, fellow orchid growers and many friends bear testimony to his popularity.

Brian, the world is a better place for your having been here and your friendship will be sorely missed. We will always remember you.

Trevor Gillbanks

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Vuylstekeara Cambria hybrid seen at Royale Orchids. The substance was heavier than normal and would indicate a tetraploid or higher. Similar to Vuyl Cambria x Oda Esteemed which member Lee Ducker had awarded in Auckland several years ago. Could be a Vuyl Timeless Treasure (Vuyl Cambria x Oda Concade) which Royale Orchids registered in 1987. Unfortunately it was not named - or I lost the name!
2. Miltoniopsis Jean Carlson (Meadowdale x Dearest) A cross registered by Woody Carlson in 1984 and remade everywhere because of its lovely candy pinks. These were first flowering seedlings in a sizeable block at Royale Orchids.

SPECIES PROJECT — FOUR YEARS ON

It is almost four years since the distribution of plants from the importation of species initiated by the Odontoglossum Alliance, perhaps our members would like to know the fate of these plants. I'm sure that many of us would be interested to know if they all survived or if for some reason they failed, if any have been used in hybridizing, selfed or won any awards of any kind. It also occurred to me that there should be some divisions available for sale or exchange, thus increasing the gene pool and the countrywide distribution of these species as was part of the original plan when the importation was first mooted.

I'm pleased to report that both of the plants that I received are flourishing and are among the 25 Odont. species that I have in my collection. (These include *Lemboglossum* etc.)

The *Odm.lindleyana* is a very attractive little plant with very long lasting flowers, very dainty and not so robust as the *Odm.cristatellum* which sends up multiple spikes of 12 - 14 flowers quite regularly. I removed two spent spikes in May and since then have two new growths and a spike about to flower with 12 buds. A little research uncovered a few interesting details concerning *Odm.cristatellum*. It was from Loja in Ecuador in 1867 by Reichenbach as *Odm.cristatum*, this was later changed to *Odm.cristatellum* in 1878. Veitch described it as *Odm.cristatum* var *cristatellum* and Sanders has it listed as a hybrid between *Odm.cristatum* and *polyxanthum* or *kejeljanii* as it is now known, it still remains as such for registration purposes.

It is rather interesting to note that nearly all plants regarded as natural hybrids have a 'birthday' as 1856 in Sander's List, the year the book was first published. It is difficult to reconcile this with the date that *Odm.cristatellum* was introduced which was 1867. It must also have been an assumption that it was a natural hybrid as the means of testing these theories without considerable trouble had yet to be discovered.

More recently a contemporary taxonomist, Leonore Bockemühl, has classified it as a separate species, a description relates that *Odm.cristatellum* is found in Ecuador and Colombia at elevations of 2,000 to 3,200 metres. It is variable in size and colour with three distinct varieties, *canari*, *argus* and *dayanum*, and with a sub-species known as *Odm.cristatellum* ssp. *lehmannii*. Sepals, petals and lip are described as dull yellow with rich cinnamon markings. The size is variable and the lip varies from cordate to narrowly deltoid, always pointed.

The latest thoughts on this species by taxonomist Stig Dalström has suggested that all the Odonts. in the section Epidendroides are in fact all varieties of the species *Odm.epidendroides*. One of these days these things will be resolved but in the meantime one wonders what mayhem could be caused to the 'family trees' of just about every orchid ever registered.

I am still adding to my species collection and if anyone has pieces of *Odm.pescatorei*, *triumphans*, *luteo-purpureum* or *hastilabium* that they would like to swap I have *Odm.hallii* (NFS), a small division of *Odm.cristatellum*, a small division of *Odm.bictoniense* var *Album*, *Odm.egertonii* (seedlings ex Glasgow. NFS), *Onc.forbesii* (small, mounted NFS) and *Onc.blanchettii* (NFS).

Paul Cable
Johnsonville

For further reading about the *Odm.cristatum* complex see the illustrated article by Stig Dalström in the July 1996 American Orchid Society Bulletin — or whatever that publication is now called. — Ed.

OUR SUCCESS AT THE CHARITY ORCHID SPECTACULAR

First and foremost! Thank heaven the weather stayed fine for both Sat 27th and Sunday (the day) 28th. At 2pm Saturday Val Warren and I ferried over plants and gear to the Botanical Gardens and because the gate was locked across the interior service lane it meant we had to carry everything a considerable distance to the actual venue and most of that was done by Val despite pain in her hands with Lupus. I picked up six plants from Alf Day's collection in his absence and for which I thank him sincerely. Without them we would have had a 'skinny' display to say the least! We only had 26 plants many of them my species which are quite small but seemed, as it turned out, to fascinate the public as they were not used to seeing these quaint little gems.

Val's *Odm. cirrhosum* had just finished flowering otherwise I could have shown *Odm. Fowlerianum* plus both parents. We were given 2 long tables which came to more than the 2.4 metres that I expected, so my satin backed cloth was short and I had to borrow 2 short pieces of black to cover the ends. While Val arranged the plants and finished the whole off with skilful use of her Spanish Moss (incidentally the healthiest and brightest Moss I have ever seen). I, as befitted my age and health, got to sit and write up the cards. Val then left for another engagement while I got on with the computer master sheets of the ones we wanted judged, in our case, 24 plants. Suddenly I realised — our label hadn't been done and my grateful thanks to Margaret Emery of the South Auckland O.S. who took the white strip and calligraphy pen home that night to do the job for us. If we can cover it with clear plastic for protection, we can use it permanently as it is very light and easy to carry and it is obvious to me at any rate, that most of our future displays will be small. No offers of help or plants eventuated — I had twelve plants (thanks to Phillips heat lamps) and Val and Alf Day provided the rest. Alan Cooper helped carry the boxes etc. back to my car as I was fairly well 'bushed' by then.

Sunday 2pm, I arrived at the Gardens to be met by cars and people everywhere and I had to wait until one reversed out to get a park and that was a heck of a distance from the venue. On the way I met with Peter and Diane Elfleet leaving and stopped to chat. When they said we had a cup on our stand I got moving and just as well as the officials were going through the preliminaries before the trophy presentations. I then found that I had won 'best in show' with my *Oda*. Sleeping Parade 'Max', that our display got 2nd. and we had a large card of appreciation of N.Z. Odontoglossum Alliance support for the event. Mr. Phillip Warren of the A.R.C. and Mr. Birch, President of South Auckland O.S. did the honours.

I was quite amused to think that I had been listening to 'Open Country' from 5am to 8am that morning, hosted by Phillip Warren and here I was shaking hands with him in the afternoon! Mr. Ray Dix very kindly agreed when I asked him, to take a few slides of the best of the Alliance material and one of the centre area of the display (his C.S.A. stand of Cymbidiums was superb as usual). Val not being available, sister Rose Mountfort helped break down and safely pack the orchids and this time we were able to get the car close to the exit and Tris Wakelin kindly assisted their transport to the car and everyone of them landed back at their owners in perfect order. I mention this in case there are some reluctant to trust their precious plants to our care on these occasions.

Jane Frear, Auckland

ILLUSTRATIONS

3. Part of a Royale Orchids house where you can see a large area of odonts with breeding plants on far left. In the end behind me was their miltoniopsis seedling growing area.
4. Jerry Reyfield of Starbek Orchids prepares a *Trichopilia* plant for judging (later awarded). In case you didn't know it, *Trichopilia* is a genus belonging to the Odont alliance or Oncidiinae and has been crossed to make *Helpilia* (x *Helcia*), *Milpilia* (x *Miltonia*), *Odontopilia* (x *Odm*) and *Oncidpilia* (x *Onc*). Does anyone have a story and photo of these intergenerics?

Plant Quarantine Control in NZ

I often get phone calls from people wanting to bring flasks back to NZ or I hear about their bad experiences ! Also I recently had a letter from a US reader enquiring about swapping plants.

Perhaps an explanation will help both local and overseas readers. Without a lot of research I cannot give the full story. It would take many more pages !

Bare root Plants: These can come into NZ only if you have an Import Permit issued by MAF in NZ and have made arrangements with a licensed quarantine house here to grow them for you.

If the plants are brought in without an Import Permit they can be either held until you get one, destroyed or shipped back to the country of origin at your expense. A permit costs around \$80, plus a fast track fee of \$45 if you want the permit in a couple of days. Your permit specifies what treatment the plants need in the country of origin and you must get a Phytosanitary or Health Permit from the authorities in the country of origin — stating that the approved treatment (spray, dip etc.) has been done there.

A quarantine greenhouse has to be approved before your Import Permit is given. This inspection and subsequent inspections will cost you \$51.20 plus GST per hour, and 48¢ per kilometre travelling for the inspector to come. Requirements for the quarantine house include lock-systems (door, passage, door), internal services (water, electricity) and special fine stainless mesh of approved size — not shade cloth. If Border Control (was MAF Qual) finds reason to treat plants on arrival you are charged for time taken and chemicals and even a facility fee for the use of tanks, tables and lights ! And recently introduced — your permit must name the genera you are importing. This means you cannot take an open permit, for “up to 200 orchid plants” with you on your trip anymore ! The use of a “fastrack” permit is required on your return to NZ if you want to see before you buy at a show, conference or nursery overseas. And now the ultimate regulation designed to keep the country clear of pests ! If the genus of orchids you import is not on a list of genera already in NZ, then there is a fee of \$150 per genus to cover the cost of research of literature, faxes etc. to find out what pests (insect and disease) the plant hosts in its country of origin. This latest rule encourages plants to be brought in under false names !!

I am not sure whether “rust host genera” restrictions still apply. These are practically all South American genera. A special permit limited to twelve plants from South America could once be purchased. All leaves and new growths had to be removed ! A plant coming from the Northern Hemisphere (Colombia, Ecuador etc.) with all growth removed often died when taken to the Southern Hemisphere. Quarantine takes at least three months and incurs monthly travel and hourly charges.

Export of bareroot Plants from NZ: To Australia the costs are even higher with annual quarantine house registration fees of hundreds of dollars over there whether used or not, plus more and more fees. So far the US quarantine authorities just inspect, treat and release I believe. A green and yellow sticker is required by the shipper to put on the container. UK is not quite so easy.

Flasks — Import: If you come into NZ with flasks via airports other than Auckland there can be problems or delays. Somewhere in the regulations a border control officer once in a while finds a clause which says a Phytosanitary certificate is required. It isn't. It is a waste of money ! However to those landing in southern airports it may save a delay if you get one. Your flasks will often have to be sent by courier to you next day if they insist on a permit. If challenged, you should offer to pay for a phone call to Lynfield in Auckland to prove a Phytosanitary certificate is not required.

Flasks — Export: Australia requires an Australian Import Permit from an Australian resident. Cost can be around \$A42. You cannot take gift flasks into Australia. These are held at MAF until a permit is paid for in a local resident's name and presented. An inspection fee of \$A42 per 30min or part thereof applies ! Some states have their own interpretation of these fees and can be more or less strict. A Phytosanitary Certificate for flasks (\$25) can be obtained at a NZ airport or at your local MafQual office. I am not sure whether the Australian MAF demand it — but I took one anyway when

I was there a few weeks ago. I collected my flasks next day. Restrictions are virtually non-existent in UK, US and now Canada on sterile flasks and providing no infection is found in the flask. A Phytosanitary Certificate before you go may help or may not.

Then there is CITES !!! I won't go into that as this is no longer brief — probably boring. Paphs and Phrags species in flasks are often delayed needlessly because of CITES but that doesn't concern us.

The above is enough to send you to sleep or not want to bring in or send flasks or plants. For the hobby grower it is obvious that flasks are the only way. And just in case you are tempted to smuggle a plant down your bra or underpants, don't !! They have plant sniffing dogs at the customs area now !! Funny though they didn't sniff my flasks of plants even though the sign said that their noses were a thousand times more sensitive than yours or mine.

Any updated information is solicited so we can inform fellow members.

Ron Maunder

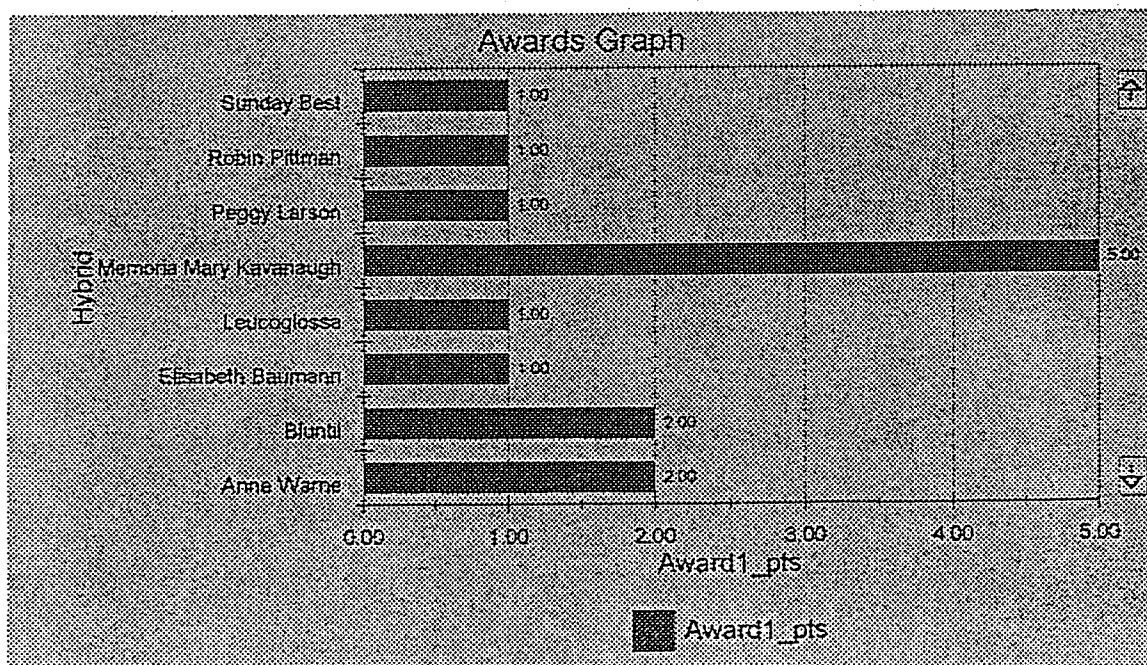
ILLUSTRATIONS

5. An *Odontoglossum* intergeneric - probably *Degarmoara* or *Beallara*, at Starbek Orchids. It shows signs of a *miltonia* lip and *Brassia* shaped petals and sepals, with *Odm* or *Oda* to round it off. Sorry, the name is mislaid.
6. *Odm cristatellum*. One of the species from Colombia and Ecuador which we imported from USA as a group several years ago. This plant and its relations are discussed in a recent AOS "bulletin". This plant is owned by Paul Cable.

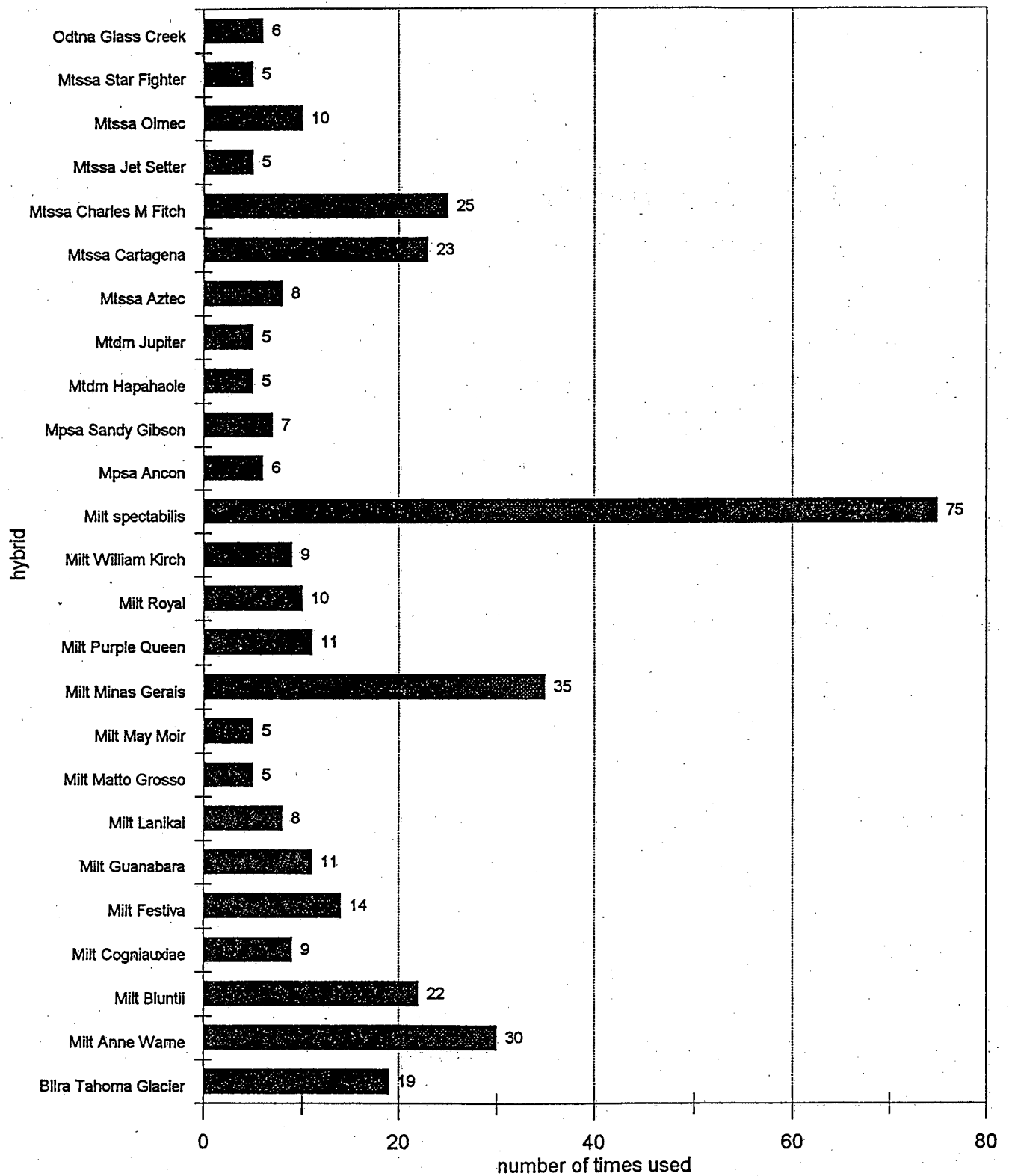
GRAPHS FROM RESEARCH ON *MILT. SPECTABILIS*

Graph showing the number of awards given by the American Orchid Society to first generation hybrids with *Milt. spectabilis* as one parent. Have we seen in N.Z. a cultivar of the *Vuyl. Memoria Mary Kavanaugh* (*Milt. spectabilis* x *Oda. Elpheon*) which received so many awards? Incidentally all the awards for this grex were granted to the same exhibitor.

Graph showing grexes with *Milt. spectabilis* ancestry which have themselves been used as parents of five or more hybrids.



Milt spectabilis and Progeny



M. spectabilis.

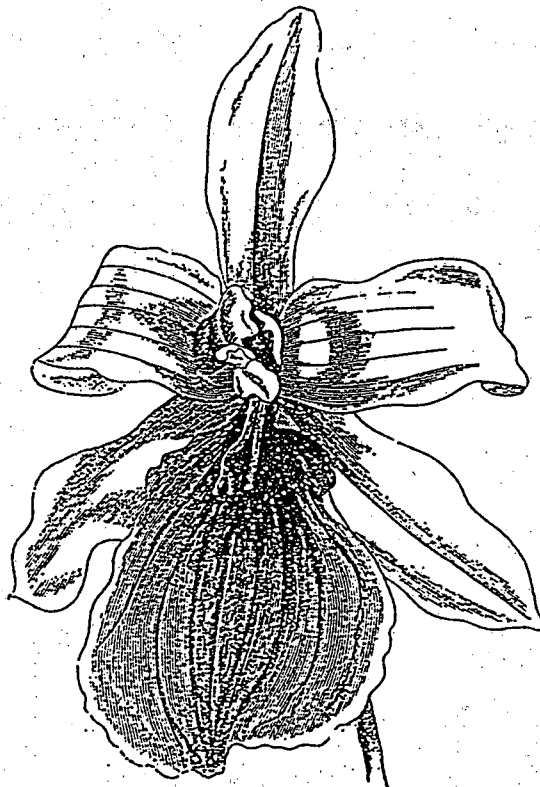
Rhizome stoutish, creeping, scaly, as thick as a goose-quill. Pseudo-bulbs produced from the rhizome at short intervals, ovate-oblong, compressed, 3—4 inches long, diphyllous. Leaves linear-ligulate, 4—6 inches long, both pseudo-bulbs and leaves usually of an ochreous yellow hue. Scapes as long as the pseudo-bulbs and leaves, sheathed by alternate, imbricating ancipitous bracts, and a larger one embracing the ovary, one flowered. Flowers nearly flat, 3 inches in diameter; sepals and petals lanceolate-oblong, acute, the petals a little the broadest, white or cream colour, sometimes tinged with rose towards the base; lip large, spreading, obovate-orbicular, vinous purple with 6—8 longitudinal veins of a deeper shade, the margin white or pale rose; crest tri-lamellate, the lamellæ terminating in small erect plates, usually yellow. Column wings sub-triangular, rose-purple.

Miltonia spectabilis, Lindl. in Bot. Reg. sub. t. 1976 (1837). *Id.* t. 1992. *Id.* 1845, sub. t. 8. *Id.* Fol. Orch. Milt. No. 1. *Bot. Mag.* t. 4206. *Pact. Mag. Bot.* VII. p. 97. *Rchb. Xen. Orch.* I. p. 129. *Illus. hort.* VI. t. 216. *The Garden*, XXXI. (1887), t. 593. *Macrochilus Fryanus*, Knowles and Westc. *Fl. Cab.* II. t. 45 (1837). *Oncidium spectabile*, Rchb. in Walp. Ann. VII. p. 759 (1863).

var.—*Moreliana*.

Flowers usually larger than the type and very distinct in colour; sepals and petals plum-purple; lip bright rose-purple with deeper veins and reticulations.

M. spectabilis Moreliana, Henfrey's Gard. Mag. Bot. III. p. 41, with fig. Van Houtte's *Fl. des Serres*, X. t. 1008. De Puydt, *Les Orch.* t. 27. *Lindenia*, III. t. 105. Williams' *Orch. Alb.* VIII. t. 364. *M. Moreliana*, Warner's *Sel. Orch.* I. t. 32. *Fl. Mag.* N.S. III. t. 143. Jennings' *Orch.* t. 37. *M. spectabilis purpureo-violacea*, *Bot. Mag.* t. 4425.



Miltonia spectabilis.

(extracted from Veitch's "The Oncidiinae" 1887)



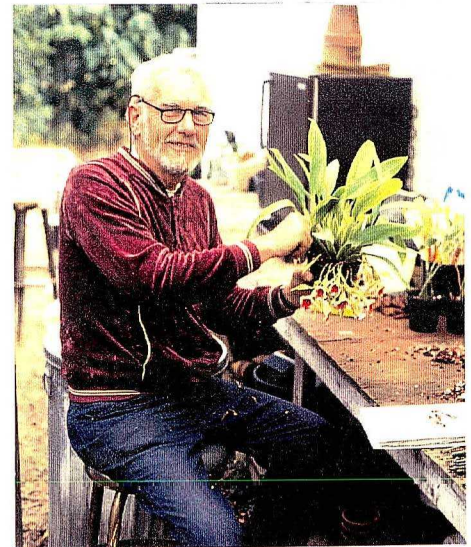
1. Vuyl. Cambria hybrid



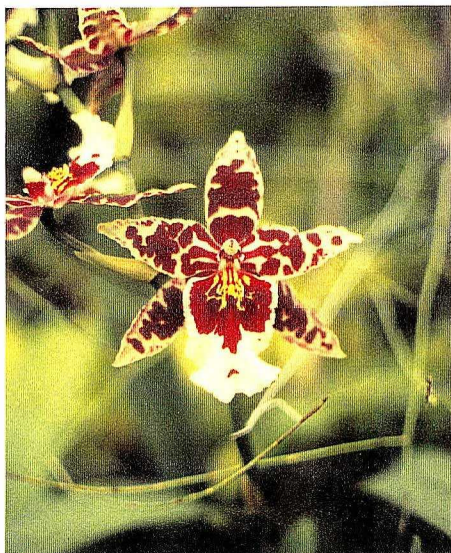
2. Milt. Jean Carlson seedlings



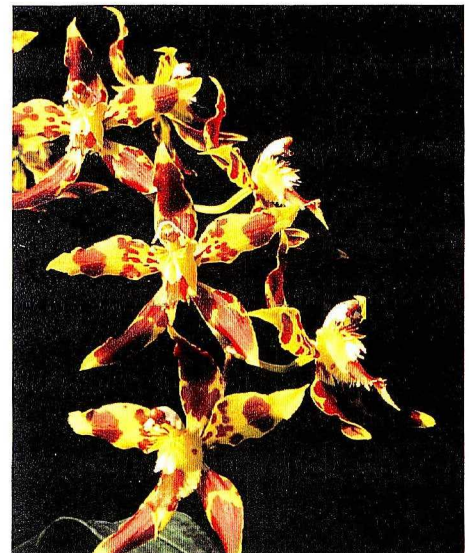
3. Royale Orchids -
Miltonia and Odont house



4. Jerry Reyfield -
Starbek Orchids



5. Odm intergeneric -
Starbek Orchids



6. Odm cristatellum