Newsletter

November 1999

Conservation of Orchid Habitats A Long Range Approach by Sandro Cusi Orquideas Rio Verde Delivered April 1999 at the

16th World Orchid Conference

Mexico like in many places around the world we have serious environmental problems their origin being a complex one, but we can identify two main sources: population growth and an economic/political system that makes only short range plans and does

not consider the health of the environment as an asset to be taken care of.

These same problems apply to the country and town where I live, Temascaltepec, where lately there have been some developments that are the basis of what I will talk about which I think give us the opportunity to work toward changing our careless treatment of the place we live in.

Temascaltepec is located in the highlands of central Mexico (19° 03' N, 100° 00' W). At 1700 meters above sea level in the slopes of the Zinacatepetl, an extinct volcano that forms a large water shed whose altitude varies from 4700 to 1000 meters. The combination of altitude and mountainous terrain allows abundant forests to grow in spite of the latitude and the monsoon type weather that prevails; there are heavy rains from May to October and a dry period the rest of the year. These forests harbor a good population of plant and animal life including many orchid species, some endemic to the area. From 3800 to 1600 meters there is a mixed

pine oak forest and from 1500 meters down there is an oak and tropical forest. At altitudes above 1500 meters the morning air is cool enough all year round to reach below the dew point of water, therefore there is always moisture available to the plants even without rain, this forest remain green and reasonably moist throughout the year having many water springs and small rivers.

Below 1500 meters there is scant morning condensation during the dry seasons and the plants are mostly deciduous including some orchids, also here you find many of our terrestrial species that grow with the yearly rain cycle. The area is sparsely



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populated with few sources of income for the people, mainly the wood, some cash crops and subsistence farming. By themselves this activities exert a lot of pressure on the forests but if you include our recurrent economic crisis the pressure is much greater. People are forced to cut down tress or migrate. Less than half the original area remains forested and of this half only half again can be considered undisturbed forest.

Temascaletepec is also located 140 km South West of Mexico City, a huge urban center lately well known for its pollution, this city consumes vast amount of water with ever increasing needs due to its population growth and its lack of planning; 35% of the water that reaches the city is wasted by a faulty piping system and only 10% is pre-treated and recycled.

The local water sources have no more capacity and the city brings it from far away sources like Valle the Bravo our neighboring county. Now a project has been started whose objective is to pump the water from the Temascaltepec county. So far no construction has been carried out due to local opposition and lack of government funds, however soon it will be because the availability of water to Mexico City is a crucial issue.

The project is an expensive one and will spare no money for construction and upkeep of the system, also because the price of water to the users in the city is subsidized, they pay only 1/3 of its cost.

In the project only a small one time payment is included for the county and no provisions are made for the upkeep of the environment, the forests that are part the source of the water.

With the actual deforestation trend desertification will increase, the dams to be built will fill with sediment from erosion of the steep slopes, springs will dry and the overall volume of water will diminish. For the planners if they are aware of the problem, it belongs to the future and to someone else.

Soon our county will be "Producing" a commodity to be sold to Mexico City, this fact presents us with an opportunity to work toward changing a current way of thinking that the only value the forest have is its lumber. Standing forest have no value whatsoever.

The idea of giving real economic value to the environment and the forests has been put forward in the past by several people, without this premise we see no way of accomplishing any real and long range preservation of our forests. With the pioneering work of some people, the slowly increasing environmental awareness, we have included that of some government agencies, work is being done to reach this goal since early last year. The first stages of the work have been dedicated to planning and to involve the people needed since it is a effort that needs expertise in several fields.

Legislation: Laws have to be changed or new ones implemented where the standing forest are established as a crucial part of the water system.

Income: Payment for the water should be extracted from the city for the benefit of the county, part of it going directly to the forested areas.

Exposure : Expose the local population to the objectives of the project and its overall benefits. Exposure to the International community is also needed to obtain help from experienced people in the field and to catch our politicians ears. Part of this exposure is planned as ecological tourism. Orchid habitat watching is of course included.

National Park. A large area of the Zinacatepetl volcano was declared a National Park many years ago but its functioning was never implemented. One of the groups involved in our project was recently commissioned by the state government to make and implement a plan for the park. Part of it lies in the Temascaltepec county and among other things it has a wintering colony of Monarch butterflies.

Biodiversity: An inventory of species is being made to help determine the actions to take, Orchids will be used as symbols of the Biodiversity of our forests.

Ahead of us lie years of hard work and it is premature to speak of "a working example" but we are happy by the response we have had considering that the project has only started, we want to change our way of thinking toward our environment and not only to preserve whatever remains of our forest but to increase them in size and quality for future generations to know and admire the living treasure that is a mature forest full of orchids.

San Francisco Meeting of the Alliance

The annual meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance is held in the spring of the year in conjunction with the AOS Trustees meeting. However this year the spring AOS trustees meeting is being held in Tampa, Florida, a location where there is not likely to be many Odontoglossum Alliance plants. The meetings have been held in conjunction with the Trustees meeting primarily because so much of the administrative aspects of the meeting are shouldered by the show committee. Such things as registration, hotel recommendations, meeting rooms and above all a show where there is likely to be plenty of Odontoglossum alliance material as well as vendors with material available for sale. Our Alliance is not set up to be able to handle, on its own, those aspects of a meeting.

With this situation the Board and Officers have decided to hold an informal meeting around the San Francisco Orchid Show that will be held 25-27 February 2000 at the Fort Mason pier. With the exception of World Orchid Conferences, this is the place in North America to see flowers and plants of the Odontoglossum Alliance. Friday evening, 25 February is the preview party. In the past this has been a great affair at a beautiful show, with lots of California wines and plenty of appetizers. There are a number of hotels and motels within walking distance of Fort Mason, making eluding the parking problem easier. The show also supports a large number of vendors with opportunity to upgrade collections.

The plan is to have an 'in formal' meeting, a meeting without registration and no lectures, business meeting or auction. What is being planned will be a dinner on Saturday night with each person paying their own way. On Saturday and Sunday the places of odont growing will be open to visitors. There are a number of such locations within easy driving distance. All this will be supported by an information desk at the show giving the dinner location and the open times for visitors at greenhouses.

The February Newsletter will repeat this announcement along with more details of events and administrative information. We will also be enclosing with each newsletter a card that can be returned to Steve Beckendorf indicating if you will be attending the dinner and the number attending.

The San Francisco Orchid Show is THE place to see Odonts. San Francisco is a great city to visit.

Odontoglossum Compendium Printing

Our Odontoglossum Alliance printed a compendium of material from the newsletters and made it available at the 16th World Orchid Conference in Vancouver last April. We printed 100 copies that were sold out

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Odontoglossum Alliance

the first day of offering. In our May newsletter we asked for indications of interest to obtain a copy. We received in excess of twenty five such indications. Your Alliance is in the process of having the Compendium re-printed and will be available shortly after the New Year. Our February 2000 newsletter will contain the cost of a copy. These copies will be mailed from Westport, Massachusetts after payment is received. We are very pleased with the response received. We shall be offering them for a period of time through the Alliance and then it is our plan to sell them to the American Orchid Society Book Store and let them handle the sales. The price through the book store will be considerably higher than through the Alliance.

Notice on the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

By the time of mailing this newsletter we had not received the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter. If you have subscribed to it, when we receive the issue we will mail it with the next issue of our newsletter.

Cultural Tips on Mixes for Odontoglossums and Allied Genera

Editors Note:

This is some material as told to Clark Day Jr. by Bob Dugger many years ago. I came across this paper when cleaning and thought this might be interesting to our readers.

Bob Dugger, who has been growing, breeding, and observing Odontoglossums and allied genera for many years has found that he has had the best success using white or red fir bark 1/8" to 1/4" size for both seedlings and mature plants.

Seedling mix 1/8" to 1/4" as from the sack unless there is 40% or more fines, then sift out the fines through 1/8" screen so you wind up with approximately 10 to 15 maybe 20% fines. Then mix in 20% Perlite (Sponge Rok) (about 1/2 pea size) and then about 10% milled sphagnum -- this is the basic mix.

When transplanting from flasks into the mix, add a handful of used mix (not broken down though) from a mature plant or a vigorous growing seedling. The mychorriza in this soon spreads through the new mix and the replated seedlings roots can assimilate food and start producing new roots.

The seedlings are planted in plastic shoe boxes with drainage holes in the lower or bottom half of the box and small strips are glued on the sides to hold the top half of the box in place.

It hasn't been found necessary to soak the mix in a fungicide to avoid damp-off but the seedlings are washed in Physan before planting.

The recent use of a B-1 mixture finely sprayed on the seedlings has not produced any noticeably new results. In any event after the seedlings are planted the mix should be well moistened.

If there is good contact or seal between the upper and lower portions of the box the temperature variations should provide sufficient moisture so it isn't necessary to water the seedlings but it's a good idea to check on them for damping-off, etc.

The shoe boxes are kept in the regular greenhouse on a shelf roughly 30" to 36" above bench height so the minimum temperature for seedlings is maybe 2 or 3 degrees warmer. The shelving is slats so there is opportunity for some breathing through the drainage holes in the bottom of the lower box.

Also, additional shading is used on the box as the seedlings won't take the amount of light the mature plants are receiving.

Another variation of the small greenhouse approach would be plastic community pots with plastic bonnets in case plastic shoe boxes or sweater boxes are not available.

It is considered the condensation water is these mini-greenhouses of micro-climates is a real advantage as it is so much better than tap or deionized water.

Fertilizing if used should be on the light side and on at least a month's separation -- if the plants are developing good roots it can be stepped up of course. Also, if there is plenty of light like summer versus winter, it can be increased.

For many years Bob has never fertilized and the seedlings seemed to grow, probably not as fast but they did grow -- where the nutriment came from he doesn't know.

Regarding Wayerhaeuser bark, the kiln drying seems to put a glass or shell on the bark -- if no other type is available you could soak the bark using hot water until it really absorbs water and then it will grow my-chorriza.

For mature plants the mix is the same except sift out all fines and don't use any sphagnum moss. Good Growing:

The Odontoglossums by Leon Duval

The Alliance has received a generous gift of a copy of 'The Odontoglossums' by Leon Duval, printed in 1900. This little book copy was given to us by Carl Withner. He states that "I found this book a number of years ago and since then have seen only one other copy." He has also given the Alliance permission to re-print the book which is in French. The Alliance is also pleased to have enlisted the services of Mrs. Shirley Thomas to translate it into English. The first segment of the book has been translated. Then we will print complete copies in both the original French and the English translation. This book will first be offered to our members.

The Alliance is deeply indebted to both Carl Withner and Shirley Thomas for their generosity.

THE ODONTOGLOSSUMS THEIR HISTORY THEIR DESCRIPTION - THEIR CULTURE

BY

L.DUVAL

HORTICULTRALIST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF HORTICULTURE OF SEINE-ET-OISE

WITH 65 ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE TEXT

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Odontoglossum Alliance

PARIS

OCTAVE DOIN EDITOR 8, Place de L'Odeon Agricultural Library of the Maison Rustique 26, Rue Jacob, 26

1900

ТО

Mr. Harry Veitch To the eminent horticulturalist by whom the establishment of Chelsea has always so largely opened to our children; to the man of service and good, I dedicate this book about the Odontoglossum as a feeble gesture of my affectionate remembrance.

Leon DUVAL

Versailles.

THE HORTICULTURAL DICTIONARY

(HORTICULTURAL ENCYCLOPOEDIA) PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

M. Le D' F. Heim Professor (agrege ? emeritus?) of Natural History of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.

> Doctor in Sciences Member of the National Society of Horticulture.

PREFACE

To write a book on the Odontoglossum after the numerous and very learned works which have been published about orchids, and of which the praise is no longer to be done, is perhaps a bit daring on the part of a simple gardener, who does not possess besides, and declares immediately, not a single pretention to literature!

To speak of these beautiful plants with passion, to make known the best methods of culture, to give his opinion about the beautiful varieties, to seek to spread the taste of these pretty orchids so elegantly and bizarrly conformed; all that appears easy to a reader who, skimming through a book, goes directly to the chapter which furnishes him with the information which he needs.

It is said, and it is true! that it is necessary that the author very much loves the plants of which he speaks, that he must have cultivated a sufficiently large number, and that he has made a great many notes which give him the comfort to write his book.

It is said also that a man who speaks of heating, shading, construction of glass, of hybridization and of many other interesting things with an assurance which appears absolute must certainly speak of them with knowledge.

It is up to the author that he does not allow one to suppose for an instant that he has been able to accomplish such a serious work, that he has been able to provide sufficiently precise information about the plants which are the subject of this book, without the help of excellent collaborators who have singularly helped his work by putting at his disposal the most precious documents.

It is, therefore, thanks to the generosity, imprinted with the greatest of goodwill, of a learned horticulturalist, of a man to whom we dedicate our book on the Odontoglossums, to Mr. Harry Veitch, whose documents we have been able to peruse whenever we wished, in his admirable Manual of Odontoglossums, of which we have respected the lists of such perfection, the nomenclature, so knowledgable, and the notes so certain, concerning the provenance of certain species... It is not all the collectors we have largely instructed about the controversies where they find the Odontoglossum, and the manner of the collector. One of them, principally Mr. Pauwels, has the right to our best thanks. Such obligations do we not have also, to our friends and colleagues of France, and of others, who have given us not only their good services in furnishing to us the most precious documents: MM. Craswhay, Jules Hye, Wuylstecke; for the questions relevant to the beautiful and rare varieties, on the hybrids natural or artificial; MM. Leroy, Bert, Jacob et Vacherot, who have happily given us precious information on how to proceed to carry out fertilization, the difficult art of sowing seed, and above all, to make the Odontoglossum seed germinate.

From all sides, besides, we have received excellent counsel, serious information, and flattering encouragement. To all those who have helped us please accept here the expression of our most sincere recognition!

And now, dear readers, that we have said how this book about the Odontoglossum has been conceived and written, we hope that you will consult absolutely whom you wish; if it is that you put your confidence in a friend, be persuaded that the author has but one sole goal; to help you to triumph over the little difficulties of a culture which, in reality, is one of the most seductive. If however, it seems to you that the explanations are a bit long, and too detailed, please excuse them; above all it seeks to speak to you of the practical; it does not fear repetition; evaluating that in a culture, if one wishes to truly comprehend it, one cannot develop his subject too much!

L. Duval

FOREWORD

This book of the Odontoglossum, which treats in general everything which is related to that topic, contains chapters which spell out the culture of these plants, taking, for type, the Odontoglossum crispum. It is, in effect, this species (and its numerous varieties or hybrids) which is the most researched, the most cultivated, since hundreds of thousands of these have been imported.

There are many other species, completely different, for whom the culture is not completely similar, in certain details, to that of the Odontoglossum crispum: it is for that, that we, adding to the excellent information contained in the works of Mr. Veitch, from our own experience, we have elected to end this book with tables, which contain, in a reduced form, all the information concerning Odontoglossums in general. The fancier is able, in referring to these tables, to have immediately, in front of his eyes, the name of the species, or of the variety, its country of origin, a succinct description of its flowers, etc. etc. We have included certain natural hybrids, but we have excluded certain species, such as Odontoglossum vexillarium, Phalaenopsis, and Roczeli, these plants requiring a hot house, and apparently not truly belonging properly speaking,

to the genus Odontoglossum, since they have been classified in the Miltonias.

THE ODONTOGLOSSUM

Chapter One

History

It is not more than forty years since the Odontoglossums made their appearance in European culture. Imported initially in small quantities, from 1880 to 1899 more than a million specimens were imported! This genus was created by Humboldt and Kunth after a species found at the beginning of the century by Humboldt, near Jaen, in northern Peru; it was further described in their New Genera and Species of Plants, under the name Odontoglossum Epipendroides, a species which appeared unknown to modern science (Odontoglossum Veitch)

At the date at which we are writing this book, one recognizes about seventy to eighty species, but, however, because of remaining uncertainties due to some species of which the forms are so different that it has been necessary to devote a great deal of attention among scholars, a sufficiently large knowledge of Odontoglossums has arisen, allowing for a classification in which, in spite of everything, a number of errors have slipped in. It is there in innumerable quantities, especially in the past 10 years, that many plants have been imported, of which new forms, colours not previously seen, have thrown into disarray certain of those in the nomenclature, with the result that, in our opinion, it is futile to seek to operate a sorting out within these limits. How is one to recognize in the midst of these innumerable variations, possibly true mules, or perhaps the result of fertilization by insects with results so extraordinary that it is completely impossible to identify their origin?

This is why one must, wisely, when one cannot do otherwise, that what is the case nine times out of ten, designate under the general name "hybrid" the varieties which appear often enough with extremely well defined characters, and attach these to such or such a species!

If we should be permitted to discuss our idea on Odontoglossums in general, this is how we would seek to explain matters.

In taking the Odontoglossum crispum as the type in the region where it flourishes, and certain other well defined species who find themselves in the same forests, it is evident that the more the neighbourhood of these

plants is constant, the more numerous are the products of this proximity. The insects operate to constantly perform the fertilizations of which we will speak in another part; not only the fertilizations have lead to astonishing variations, but, one may suppose also, without deceiving oneself that certain hybrid plants may find themselves completely isolated, beyond the range of insects; that they have self fertilized, producing in the millions, over a period sufficiently lengthy to fix and thus form a type which has become sufficiently difficult to differentiate and which has all the qualities of a primitive species.

What we are saying is subject to criticism, we do not doubt, but, on sum, as one may suppose, it is an explanation quite as valuable as any other and which seems to us to have the chance of being admitted by all those whose subject is hybridization.

When one judges what passes for Mexican Odontoglossums, less numerous than their brothers of the same name in Colombia; they offer very little variation; one counts hybrids between Odontoglossum Rossi and cordatum. It is the same between



Odontoglossum Insleayi Figure 1

Odontoglossum Grande and Insleayi (fig. 1) etc., etc. It is, moreover, in the region where one finds all this splendid family of Crispum, Luteo purpureum, Triumphans, Pescatorei, odoratum, etc., etc., that occur these mysterious couplings, so fertile and productive of marvellous results of which we are content to admire the grace, the freshness, the exquisite forms which contribute so much to the charm of the ornamentation of our glass houses, to the joy of our eyes, and, which is not to be decried, to introduce a movement into Europe the tally of which is to permit to the most jaded dreamers the beautiful productions of nature.

Veitch says it thus: Odontoglossums are confined to a mountainous region of tropical America extending from 15° of latitude South to 20° of latitude North.

They are present in sufficiently large numbers in certain particular mountains. Although Odontoglossums may be spread out, they are, however, confined within a relatively narrow area.

The Odontoglossum which occurs the furthest South is Odontoglossum Compactum (Rechb. Garden chron.,111, 1875 - no 492); it occurs on an elevated summit, close to Cuzco, called Las Tres Cruzes (the three crosses). After leaving Cuzco, heading North as far as Chachapojas, a distance of 500 miles, the Odontoglossums are very rare, since one encounters, during such a day, only three or four species with little flowers, but, on leaving Chachapojas, one again encounters the flowers at more approachable intervals.

Odontoglossum Myanthum (Lindl), Odontoglossum Gracile (Lindl) and several other species with small flowers have been identified at Loxa, and closer to the Equator one encounters the magnificent Odontoglossum Halli, the superb Odontoglossum Cirrhosum and the Odontoglossum Edwardi (fig. 2) North of the Equator the Andes divide into three distinct ranges; one - the oriental Cordillera, short in the North-East direction, and long adjacent to the coast of Venezuela as far as cape Paria.

It is on this range that the greatest part of species flourish; they are most populous in the region which extends between Bogota and Ocana, which may thus be viewed as the centre of Odontoglossums, of which they are the most numerous (Veitch).

The intermediate range, known as the central Cordillera turns toward the North and ends at cape Gallinas. One meets only a few orchids on this range, but the valleys of both sides, on the two flanks, that of Magdalena to the East, and of la Cauca to the West, are exceptionally rich in orchids.



Odontoglossum Edwardi segment of stem Figure 2

The third range, or occidental Cordillera, bordered by the



Odontoglossum Oerstedi actual size Figure 3 Pacific, makes its course across the isthmus of Panama and beyond that, to the plateau of Mexico. One does not see a single Odontoglossum on this range within the limits of the neo-grenadian territory, neither in the isthmus nor on the lowest summits between the two oceans, which does not exceed 130 feet. However, to the north of this region, the sun rises again, creating, at certain places, views of great magnificence; there the Odontoglossum reappears promptly; the first such to be encountered is the Odontoglossum Chiriquense (syn. Odontoglossum Coronarium), then Odontoglossum Cariniferum, both of them discovered by Warscewicz, in the environs of Peragua.

The delicate Odontoglossum Krameri, and Odontoglossum Oerstedi (fig. 3) are originally from Costa Rica, the same as Odontoglossum Schlieperiarum (fig. 4), an especially robust species. After Mr. Ure Skinner, the genus is represented in

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Odontoglossum Schlieperianum actual size Figure 3 Nicaragua by a species names by Dr. Lindley, Odontoglossum Rubescens, but it is considered to be Odontoglossum Rossi by Reichenbach (Veitch)

Across central America there exists a series of plateaus whose altitude, little by little, depends on the distance between the two oceans, enlarging to the grand plateau of Mexico, where the average altitude is not less than 8000 feet.

On these elevated territories, the Odontoglossums are, firstly, dispersed, more on the basis of their numbers increasing gradually than on the advance to the North after which their numbers decrease up to the 20th parallel North, which is their extreme northern limit.

Not far from this latitude is the southern limit of the Sierra Madre where the Odontoglossum Maxillare, and, at the eastern (l'orient) part

of this Sierra is the range know as Irapean, on which the Odontoglossum Maculatum

(fig. 5), and the Odontoglossum Cervantesi (fig. 6), were discovered nearly a century ago by the veteran of orchidologists, Lexara. These are the most northerly Odontoglossums known. Not only are the Odontoglossums confined to the mountain ranges and the plateaus which we have just described, but they are centralized, in spite of a few exceptions, to a zone extending vertically, comprised of strictly chosen limits. (Veitch).

In South America, despite its extreme limit being at the isthmus, the largest number of Odontoglossums are encountered in a zone in which the vertical dimension rarely descends under 5000 feet nor extends above 9000 feet; there are some species, nonetheless, like Odontoglossum Densiflorum (Lindl), Odontoglossum Compactum (Rechb.) and certain other species with little flowers who grow on the rocks, under the sun, above the tree zone, at an altitude of 11 to 12,000 feet. (Veitch).

What could we add in addition to those documents as precious as those we have just transcribed with fidelity, since they will give to our readers the value throughout of their accord, that of absolute authenticity linked to a remarkable clarity; there is one thing which detaches itself from this excellent information; it is that Odontoglossums are mountain plants; that they love absolutely pure air, except for certain species from Guatemala and Mexico, which depend on very distinct seasons; the one, very dry; the other, wet. The plants of Colombia are almost constantly bathed in a saturated atmosphere, and are, in addition, subject to light breezes. The notes of collectors which one will find in the following chapter will serve to confirm the extensive tribute we have made to the excellent work from different sources in the course of this chapter.



Odontoglossum Maculatum actual size Figure 5



Odontoglossum Cervantesi actual size Figure 6

Chapter Two

Collecting

For those who are starting to collect Odontoglossums, whether for their own collection, or for the collection of a house, there will be moments when they will regret entering into this type of work, which is not always remunerative.

It would, in effect, be deplorable, from the point of view of sales, to permit the readers to believe that the Odontoglossums are found in the forests of Colombia, rather like the lily of the valley of our own woods; the quantities imported during the past 20 years (perhaps a million, perhaps more) could lead one to suppose that, in a sufficiently restricted space, collectors have been able, without fatigue and without danger, to amass millions of these pretty epiphytes, and that there remain, without straying too far from the areas explored, sufficient quantities for continued exportation. This is a gross error which it is important to dispose of as quickly as possible.

In a work of this kind, everything which impinges on the plants of which we speak is certainty interesting, but it is necessary to know from whence the information comes, and that it conforms to the strict truth.

We can do no better than to cite the text of passages from a long letter written to us by a collector who was perfectly familiar with the matter, a letter which contains excellent information and for whose style we have respect. (fig. 7)

"In the areas where one finds Odontoglossums, that is to



View of a site where one finds Odontoglossums (sketch of L. Duval after a photograph) Figure 8

say at altitudes varying from 1,000 to 1,200 meters, the trees are generally covered with lichens and mosses. The Odontoglossums attach themselves to strong branches, by preference to those which are nearly horizontal...



collecteur of the Odontoglossum in his working clothes Figure 7

"But, one must note that they are always found on the superior side of the branch, the portion completely naturally exposed to the light.

"On the roots and between them there is formed a compost of leaves, of mosses, and of lichens, and also other organic material in which the plant is often partly enfolded.

"The Odontoglossum as often finds itself in the interior of the tree as at the extremity of the branches, especially when these are shaded by the branch above.

"One finds the Odontoglossum in the interior of the forest; but, if the trees on which they are found are in a clearing, if indeed one finds the plants on the great trees in the interior of the forest, it is those which emerge above the others, and it is only those branches which support the Odontoglossums.

"Thus, one does not find an abundance, and it is above all near the streams, in the gorges, on the banks of the torrents and the lakes, that one finds a large number (figure 8).

"It is hardly along the banks of torrents that one finds small trees, and on those, they are sufficiently numerous.

"Throughout all the region close to the Equator the two sides of the mountains are exposed to the sun's rays; one finds the Odontoglossums sometimes on the sides, sometimes on the plateaus. In these locations the Odontoglossums are almost always constantly in an atmosphere saturated with humidity; in the elevated regions, it rains very frequently; during the dry season the water vapour condenses, thus saturating the plants every morning...

"Besides, the humidity is so extreme, that our clothing, which we keep during the night, is completely soaked. These indications are sufficient to prove that the Odontoglossums are never subjected to drying out.

"The mist is sometimes so dense that after passing through the mist, it transforms itself into droplets of water which attach themselves to all parts of the Odontoglossum.

"It is important to note that the mists which form in the morning, before the sun rises, and which dissipate after its appearance; during the rainy season, these mists form in an instant, creating a very special atmosphere, very difficult to imitate in our European glass houses

"In their country, the Odontoglossums do not have a resting period; vegetative growth is continuous; plants produce at all times both flower spikes and new growths.

"Everything points to the fact that these plants live a long time, because one often finds a cluster of 30 or 40 bulbs, and even more; it is true to say that one always finds bulbs, be it in the middle, or on the sides which are dead and which one must discard when one plucks the plant for packing.

"Thus, one thing which proves that the Odontoglossum flourishes early in its own country, is that I have often found small plants, with three or four bulbs, already carrying a flower spike; it is these plants which have had no more than three or four years to produce seed, and more.

"One thing worthy of mention is that I have often found Odontoglossums on trees which have fallen to the ground.; such that they find, in the support of the branches, the vegetative detritus in which they themselves had survived; they resisted; but, by contrast, this is something I have never found in the sun itself.

"It is frequent enough to find Odontoglossum Lindleyanum in the same region as the Odontoglossum crispum; I have also encountered Odontoglossum Triumphans, but rarely...

"Our people bring back very few plants, given the time taken to look for them; it must be said, and very frequently, that they do not make a great deal of effort and also, it is difficult to see the plants and when there is an enormous tree, comparable to an oak in Europe, it yields only a very small number of Odontoglossums. To sum up, often, at the end of a trip, a man may bring back only 25 to 30 plants, and sometimes many fewer.

"To prepare Odontoglossums for export, one begins by cleaning them.

"This consists of cutting the leaves, and removing the detritus, which is fixed between the bulbs; one cuts the roots to a large extent, and disposes of everything which is not useful, or weighs too much.

"Then one places the plants in the shade and allows them to rest for 10 to 15 days. This ensures that they are healthy and dry enough when they are packed. The periods of rain and dryness are not well fixed; generally the rainy season begins in April and continues until June.

"The second rainy period begins toward October and continues to the end of December. During the other months, which seem to be those of the dry season, it does not rain less than quite often; in summary, it is not a fixed pattern.

One thing to observe, is that I have never seen an odontoglossums to be in air which is miserable or shrivelled up, such as one sees in culture. This I attribute this to the fact I have just mentioned, that the Odontoglossum is always in a vegetative state, never resting, and that it is always in an atmosphere well saturated,

even during strong heat conditions.

If we consult notes which were sent to us also by another distinguished collector, we find information there which is very interesting; and which is able to take its place in this chapter on collecting these notes having the ability to throw a certain day of history on the Odontoglossum crispum...

Strong tufts of Odontglossums are very rare; this is in keeping with the fact that the region where one found the plants these last few years have been battered in every way by collectors; At the beginning of European exploration, one exported only plants having a sufficiently strong volume; the little plants were considered to be rubbish; one threw them away... It is true to say that at this time plants were abundant...Now, when it becoming ever rarer, and when collecting is carried out always in the same mountains where one has already collected since the first plants were sent to Europe, one can now find only medium and small plants.

It is said that one may find Odontoglossums in Bogota or its environs; this is an error which is easy to refute, because Bogota is situated on a grand plateau at the foot of a mountain, and, neither on the plateau, nor on the mountain, does there exist vegetation capable of providing asylum for Odontoglossums; These are immense pastures where one cultivates livrstock.

It requires at least a three day journey from Bogota to the district where one may find these plants. Even at Pacho, which has given its name to a famous race there is no ember of the Odontoglossum, because Pacho is a little village where the temperature is absolutely torrid.

In the earliest times it was not necessary to attack the trees in order to collect the Odontoglossums; one found them at a man's height, above all close to streams and lagoons. Nowadays it is all very different.; if one spies Odontoglossums on a tree, one cuts down the tree, whatever its size may be; if it is turned toward the side of a mountain, its descent will be quite uncontrolled; on rolling and bruising the other trees which it encounters in its descent, it produces this; it is only masses which are more or less reduced into a ball.

This method of collection is completely defective I well know; but there is no other means because the indigenous inhabitants absolutely refuse to climb the trees. because of black ants of which the stings are quite terrible.

If I chance to come across climbing of trees, and jumping from tree to tree, I find a collector of plants in a perfect state, but for that, what difficulties and what persuasion has he had to use!

It is very rare to be able to collect the Odontoglossums in flower, because, whether due to entanglement with branches, or to falling with the tree, they arrived with bruises, and without it being known to which plant such and such a branch belongs. Besides, I have noted that they flourish less well in their own country than in the glass houses of Europe.

There is a general belief that the collector sees superb examples of flowers, stunning effects of floral richness formed by millions of flower spikes.vigorously displayed along the length of the branches...All that must be considered to be legend...The strongest plants never produce more than 20 flowers in general; the bulbs are smaller, and the flowers less grand than those which have been cultivated in glass houses...

One finds the Odontoglossums only on the most elevated summits of the Cordillere of the Andes, where the temperature seldom exceeds 12 to 15 degrees centigrade in the day, and at night often descends to 5 degrees.

I have never observed an Odontoglossum on rocks, nor have they flourished on all trees indiscriminately. There are some species of whom one can find many examples; but I am not able to give you the name of the country; if a botanist can recognize it - so much the better (sic). These are: L'Amaryllo, le Timo, le Granizo, l'Impa, le Colorade, le Quinn, la Gaque, l'Encenillo, le



Odontoglossum crispum (type Pacho) actual size Figure 9

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Coco Roblo, le Champas, et l'Hubo

You have asked my advice concerning the reproduction of beautiful types which one finds at one time or another and if one can find them in certain places or in compact groups. Yes, certainly, if a certain beautiful variety keeps its seeds on the branches surrounding itself, there is a significant chance, if this variety has not been fertilized by an inferior variety with the aid of insects, that the offspring will conform according to: the same quality as the mother plant, which explains why, in certain districts where nature has primitively doted on superb types, these are reproduced and that they are given names special to this race; for example: de Pacho (fig. 9), but this has been abused and it is important to maintain quality above all.

In the excellent notes which precede, which we have transcribed faithfully and have respected the style! the reader may deduce which seems to him to be quite plain, but it seems to be quite certain that the Odontoglossums have become rare throughout, where one has collected them for over 20 years, which is not extraor-



Odontoglossum luteo-purpureum actual size Figure10 dinary should one wish to reflect on the enormous numbers of plants introduced, which did not survive, alive, to be introduced into Europe. We have, ourselves, observed, over the past 15 years, the shipment of 15 to 20,000 Odontoglossums, of whom not a single specimen arrived living.

It is necessary to go further afield, always further, to collect. Certainly, what is essential to do...but expenses become always more onerous, risks increase, difficulties become more numerous and what concerns the transport of the charges which cannot, for each shipment, exceed a certain volume or a certain weight. This is why, at least to delineate certain areas as proprietors (which have already been affirmed) and to reserve them to Odontoglossum research.; one is obliged, as has been stated by some of our correspondents, to pass there where others have already passed...

What has been said here concerning the Odontoglossum crispum may be equally applied to other species; it is certain that the price achieved in Europe by many examples appear among many species sufficiently difficult to obtain have not been remunerative; the culture has not been extended. Because of this, the abandonment of their research has occurred by the collectors,

who like nothing better than to go to the nearest place and gather a collection which is easy to amass, This is why the Odonts Hastilabium, Pescatorei, triumphans, Luteo-purpureum (fig. 10) and many other interesting species will always be relatively rare; because, it is necessary for the collector to go ever further afield in the regions where access is difficult, and where the distance from the ports of embarkation is one cause of their poor condition. on arrival in European markets.

CHAPTER THREE

IMPORTAIONN - THEIR ESTABLISHMENT AND OF TAKING SPECIMENS BACK, IN GENERAL

The best times to import Odontoglossums are february, march, april, and the beginning of may. It goes without saying that they do arrive in all seasons, that each person is free to import and to seek to sell, the same as growers and amateurs may also buy, if it appeals to them, at any time...Only, it would be difficult for an author to indicate how to treat a plant brought in at never mind which moment; the different kind of care which



Imported plant; first repotting in the previous compost Polypodium and Sphagnum Figure 11 one would require in order to establish an Odontoglossum which was brought in at the right season, that is, during the months which we have indicated, or whether it was brought in during the winter, or, which is even worse, the summer.

We will concern ourselves with plants brought in under good conditions, to trace out the quite simple operations . which must be carried out in order to establish them.

First of all. let us examine the plants one by one, lifting out with care those which have spoiled or become too old in the course of travel, cutting the roots in such a way as to leave only the very strong parts which are at the base of the bulbs, like the bristles in a brush, and thus...if in our judgment it is appropriate to suppress the specimen completely, this poses no inconvenience. We unwrap our plants with the fingers as often as possible, and not a knife, because to use the latter introduces the possibility of damaging the bulbs...

It is necessary to pay strict attention in removing fragments of leaves, and the envelopes at the base of the bulbs so as to not damage the new growth, which is often found in a rudimentary state and may even be hidden in the base of the preceding pseudo-bulb.

In effect, (see figure 11). Odontoglossums collected in the country must have many front ends, that is to say, many leads, but collectors carve up their plants, and the buyer rarely is able to establish a plant with more than two leads. It is thus, in the base of the pseudo-bulb, which seems to be the most fresh, and which often has guarded fragments of leaves at its summit, that one finds the new growth, where it is least apparent. If it is only very slightly developed, it is necessary to leave it, as it expands, to take up the colour, and to continue its vegetative march.

If, on the contrary, due to a prolonged sojourn in a private case, deprived of air and light, or of heat and humidity combined, the growth has become very large, very elongated, white like the chicory beard of a capuchin, it is much better to cut it off cleanly at the base and cauterize the wound with charcoal. We can recall, occasionally, that growths of this kind become more solid and take colour, but their unhealthy state is such that it leads to the formation of an unhealthy pseudo-bulb, which, in its turn gives rise to an unhealthy growth.

Suppression of a growth thus atrophied has, as its goal the forcing of the bulb to construct a new growth, one which will be constituted perfectly.

This digression has made us leave our importations, for the moment, on the table...Those, well unwrapped, clean, will be placed in the glass house with established plants, or in a little section of which we will speak in the chapter on greenhouses.

But before, if one has the least doubt about the about the absolute cleanliness of the pseudo-bulbs, one must wash the or at least soak them in water very slightly stained with nicotine, to destroy certain insects which could have lodged in recesses inaccessible to fingers or to grafting.

In the part reserved for imports one will have established, be it a table, be it a box, be it even a pot, in which one has placed broken crockery and a bit of sphagnum well cleaned

One places the Odontoglossums in this fashion, that they stay in equilibrium from the side of the roots and the bulb before being in the view of the grower, then one packs the plants sufficiently firmly so that the care of the sun will be guaranteed for the next 15 or 20 days, because if one ignores whether or not the plants have already had the air when one received them, then the sun's very strong rays may well burn the bulbs before they have had a chance to become hardened.

One gives little breeze, or the least breeze must not be given, except for when very light packing has been carried out on the plants, if the season is beautiful, two or three times per day. This potting must be very lightly done; it has no function but to contain the materials which support the Odontoglossums in a state of

moderate freshness and to thus aid the recovery of the pseurdo-bulbs.

It would be imprudent, in effect, to force the question of the potting density in plants which are not well supplied with roots, That would excite an artificial vegetative state to the detriment of the principal nourishment of the bulbs; It is necessary, therefore, to be very prudent.

If one has a good season and one well knows how to direct the heat of the greenhouse, which must be very gentle; 10 to 20 degrees at night; 15 to 20 degrees in the day, and one has potted very lightly, the plants will respond rapidly. One begins by seeing, after about a month, at the base of the first bulb, growth made up of white roots, short, with spongioles which seem to want to achieve very quickly, the sphagnum or the crockery...

It is time to report the plants, because it is essential to not break the rootlets, which are the veritable basis of future vegetation.

Everything which we have said concerning the imported plants may be applied to an Odontoglossum which one has already shaken, cleaned, and allowed to rest for one reason or another, because it deals with the establishment of a rule, with less uncertainty, however, since one finds oneself in the presence of plants whose pseudo-bulbs are swollen, and have not been subjected to the vicissitudes of a voyage of several months... (see the special chapter).

One provides oneself with the necessary pots; those must always be prepared perfectly, having been washed with great care, if already used, and brushed, - if new-. The sizes of these pots must correspond to the proportions of the masses imported; It will thus be necessary to calculate the dimensions of these pots based on the size of the plants, and, if we can establish a proportion, we will say that for the little Odontoglossum with two or three bulbs, the average size of a pot of 8 cm. is sufficient. One may, then, with this basis increase from one to two cm. according to the size of the subject. In general, it is preferable to establish plants in pots a little too small than too large.

After having prepared the pots it is necessary to provide them with perfectly clean crockery pieces, or pieces of brick. The latter tends to hold onto other things, especially particles of carbon, which have the inconvemient habit of damaging the roots. -- All of these pots are filled a little more than a third with crockery or bricks; The next step is to start to place the imports.

The compost being prepared in the manner that we describe in the special chapter (earth and compost), one puts a little of this into the pot; Then one grasps the bulbs from above, in the left hand, paying attention, if the roots. are already long, to not bruise them in holding the plant suspended in such a manner that the compost between the roots and down the sides, pushed by the right hand, but lightly to begin with...The plant thus acquiring its equilibrium, and support, one may then stop, and then continue but with a blunt stick to leisurely tap the compost and give it a hemispheric appearance....This ought to be supple, rather like a cushion - that is to say, with a certain elasticity under the fingers; - too hard, it is bad, because the water, of the soaking and sprinkling do not allow easy passage of the water; too soft, is likewise bad, because the plants lack stability and the water of the drenching will quickly cause a settling which transforms the spherical form into a hollow. It is therefore necessary to devote some work to this and to not be afraid of starting over again if one finds that the first time is not satisfactory. (fig. 11)

It happens that there is a certain amount of anxiety in placing masses of Odontoglossums in the compost, and that one is afraid of burying them too deeply. To avoid this irritation it is necessary to provide oneself with a wire of zinc, or a wire of galvanized iron, of the diameter of a hair pin; One makes a hook at the end of this wire, to fit the size of the bulbs; one forces the instrument into the compost, applying gentle pressure below, but the use of these wires sometimes presents certain disadvantages. With a little practice one can wedge the plants perfectly with nothing other than the compost. When all is reported, one places the pots in the greenhouse in an area reserved for imports; one sprinkles frequently, without, however, projecting the water violently, because one risks destroying one's work in loosening the plants whose stability is certain to be a little light...

The care which one gives to newly repotted Odontoglossums is very simple: It consists of keeping a

close surveillance on what is going on; that is to say, to sprinkle at one time or another if the plants are perfectly healthy, and, if they already possess shoots which show vegetative signs; if, above all, they already have roots outside the repotting material; to sprinkle very sparingly and very prudently if the plants have a bad appearance, showing signs of old decomposition and without any longer the appearance of vegetation.

It is also necessary to proportion the breeze to the state of the plants, and since we are assuming the months of march, april, and may, in order to establish the plants, it is necessary, each time that the weather becomes mild and fresh, to provide a little more breeze, and, on the other hand, to to tread very carefully if the weather is dry and hot.

It is agreed, sprinkling alone will not be sufficient; It is necessary, if one sees roots developing rapidly, to carry out watering with a watering can with a head with a very fine mesh, paying careful attention to not dislodge the plants and recognizing that one waters abundantly only those plants which will be dry or very dry.

Odontoglossums which have been well treated, and have reached a good state should already have a delightful aspect towards the month of september. They will have undergone the same little vicissitudes as the established plants, that is to say, the heat, the dryness, and consequently they will need the same precautions which we have indicated in the chapters: Culture d'ete and Culture d'hiver, with a little more in the way if precautions in matters concerning watering, sprinkling, and ventilation...

The imports must be observed and examined often; one must not hesitate to lift them out of their pots if one cannot otherwise clean them, whether it be to cut off a decomposing bulb, or to resettle a plant which has become unseated. One can always change the compost if it appears to be breaking down; Similarly, if the pots are covered with mould, one must wash them. It is a very good operation.

It is not only when the imports form their first pseudo-bulbs that one must repot them anew, following the indications which we give, in this regard, in the special chapter (Repotting).

But one must never await repotting time, for the isolated cases; if one shows the need, for one cause or another, to take the Odontoglossum out of its pot, one must do it, because it will be possible to avoid the dangers of leaving a plant in a state which is prejudicial to its vegetation, not the least of which are: decomposition of compost, damage to the roots, atrophied new growth, etc., etc., all causes of nature to attract the attention of the grower, who must, immediately deal with the situation in the most expeditious and rational way, which we have just enumerated in this chapter.

It is also understood that the imports are not sheltered from insects, and that the same care and precautions will be followed for the imported plants as for the plants already in place. See, in this regard, the special chapters concerning insects and diseases.

New Officers Elected

Chairman of the Board, Helmut Rohrl announced the election of Officers for the period November 1999-2002.

President Steve BeckendorfBerkeley, CaliforniaVice-President Sue GolanLake Forest, IL

Secretary/Treasurer John Miller Westport Point, MA

Helmut Rohrl reported that the board was unanimous in their selection officers for the coming period. He also expressed the appreciation of the Board for the services of Howard Liebman (1996-99) outgoing President, Roger Williams (1993-1999) out going Vice President and John Miller Secretary/Treasurerduring their tenure. Both Dr. Liebman and Mr. Williams have joined the current Board as Directors. Effective with the publication of this newsletter the newly elected officers begin their term.

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In Memory- Robert B. Dugger

It is with regret that I report the death of Robert B. Dugger of Solona Beach, California. Bob was the ultimate Odontoglossum Alliance hybridizer of America. His worked spanned the period from the 1950's until the present, when some of his latest crosses are still seeing their first bloom. The American Orchid Society trophy for the best odontoglossum awarded each year was established by the contributions of the Odontoglossum Alliance. Bob's crosses were numerous and each year awards were achieved by plants he hybridized. Perhaps one of the better descriptions of his contributions to the odontoglossum world was expressed in Robert Hamilton's letter to the then chairperson of the AOS Awards Committee at the time of the request for establishment of The Robert B. Dugger Odontoglossum Trophy.

Obituary

It has been learned that Robert Dugger, the dean of American odontoglossum breeding, passed away earlier this year. Robert had been in a convalescent home for the past couple of years. Robert Dugger spent his working career in the corporate world retiring from Pacific Telephone as a Vice President. Bob was a slow and thoughtful talker, a master of the dramatic pause. He sometimes bragged how useful his speaking skills were when he bargained with union representatives on behalf of the corporation.

Bob Dugger was singularly the most important American odontoglossum grower and hybridizer. He created important new paths in oncidinae intergeneric breeding spending more than 3 decades raising and hybridizing stunning hybrids. His determination and skill added new species to the breeder's pallet. Dugger spent a amount of time lecturing before orchid societies and introduced many to the cool growing oncidinae. Bob's enthusiasm and generosity influenced a generation of growers and breeders.

Bob and wife, Lillian, were an inseparable pair. Together, they visited the rain forests and archeological sites of Meso-America, along the way, collecting orchid species of interest. They made frequent trips to England to visit nurseries and acquire stud plants. The Dugger's made close friends with odontoglossum growers in the North of England. Hybrid names such as Oda. Lionel Dunning and Wils. Kendereck Williams are examples of grexes which honor these friends. Bob was proud of his Scottish ancestry and no doubt felt close to home while in the North of England.

Odontoglossum enthusiasts were always welcome at the Dugger home in Solana Beach, California. Bob learned to grow at his home which sat on the cliffs within a mile or two of the Pacific Ocean. Lillian was a superb cook and guests often stayed for dinner. Dinner was invariably preceded with cocktails; Tequila Sunrises were popular at the Dugger home. I have no doubts that cocktails or a glass of good red wine influenced many of Bob's choices for the parents of crosses. Bob was immensely proud of his aging Mercedes sedan and the thrift it represented. Dugger had a large supplemental fuel tank installed in the trunk. Bob and Lillian would occasionally drive to Tijuana, Mexico to fill the tanks of this car for a substantial dollar savings on diesel fuel. Bob had several hundred thousand miles on his car. His license plate was customized to "ODONTS". When queried by the general public, Bob would tell them this was short "oh don't" leaving them perplexed. Bob and Lillian were comfortable in every age group with a special affection for the younger crowd. Both were stately and reserved yet both liked a good prank.

When dining at a posh restaurant, Bob would make a bottle of wine appear from under the table and pull out a corkscrew from his pocket.

Members of the odontoglossum community, have lost a great and fun friend as well as a brilliant hybridizer. The Odontoglossum Alliance in consort with the American Orchid Society endowed the Robert B. Dugger Trophy for the best odontoglossum intergeneric hybrid shown in a year. This tribute from his peers made Robert Dugger immensely proud. IT is a fitting tribute to this great orchidist.

Robert Hamilton November 1999

I am one of the many odontoglossum enthusiasts who was saddened by the recent death of Robert Dugger. Bob, as he was known to his friends, was more than any other individual singularly responsible for the reemergence of interest in the odontoglossum alliance in the United States. I remember my excitement upon viewing his exhibits of odont hybrids at the San Diego Orchid show beginning in 1969. The fact that he could grow such fine plants in Southern California lead to my own determination to grow and later hybridize odontoglossum intergenerics. Over the next twelve years, before my move to Boston, I regularly visited Bob in Solona Beach, California 4 or 5 times a year. I, like many other visitors was always warmly welcomed and usually spent a full day talking odonts, viewing his collection and leaving with a division or two, seedlings of his latest hybrids or a flask or two. Even after my move to Boston, we remained in contact with regular phone calls and visits when I visited my family in Los Angles.

I last visited Bob in 1994. At that time his greenhouse was nearly empty and he was obviously beginning to fade. However, even then he would become excited about the potential that remained in hybridizing in the odont alliance. Robert Dugger's hundreds of fine hybrids, the interest in the odontoglossum alliance that he instilled in me along with numerous other enthusiasts and this fine organization, which he helped to establish, will continue to be his memorial.

Howard Liebman

Letter from President, Robert Hamilton, Odontoglossum Alliance to:

Ms. Anita Aldrich Chairman AOS Committee for Awards Galvaston, TX 77554

Dear Ms. Aldrich,

21 January 1995

The Odontoglossum Alliance submits this request for the establishment of an AOS award to be presented annually for the best odontoglossum shown each year. Alliance members have collected in excess of \$5000.00 for the establishment of an endowment fund. Upon approval of this award, the total collected amount will be turned over to the AOS Executive Director Mr. Lee Cooke. We wish to name this award "The Robert B. Dugger Trophy" presented annually for the best odontoglossum alliance plant shown each year. The criteria for consideration of this award is:

"An odontoglossum or hybrid with odontoglossum in its parentage, exhibited before the AOS Judging System." The award name was chosen to honor Robert B. Dugger for his significant contributions in the development of the alliance. Bob has been growing odontoglossums and allied genera since the mid 1950's. His home and greenhouses are in Solona Beach, California, just north of San Diego, situated on a hill, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Early on, Bob was able to adjust his growing conditions for successful culture producing quality well grown plants with spectacular flowers.

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Odontoglossum Alliance

When Bob began growing odontoglossums, English nurseries were preeminent in breeding. Bob made numerous visits to England stopping at notable firms such as Charlesworth Ltd. and Mansell & Hatcher, as well as visiting and establishing friendships with private English growers. On these visits, Bob acquired many plants used in his odontoglossum hybrids.

Bob has bred and raised a remarkable number of hybrids. More than 400 crosses by Bob have been registered with the Royal Horticulture Society. Bob ranks as the third most prodigious Oncidinae hybridizer in history, exceeded only by Charlesworth Ltd. and W.W.G. Moir. All this done from two greenhouses, one 12 feet x 20 feet (Devoted primarily to exhibition and stud plants), the other 10 feet x 12 feet. In addition to breeding within classic odontoglossums, Bob established significant new pathways in intergeneric breeding. Bob distributed crosses mainly through the sale of replated flasks. Many odontoglossum growers (I, for one) got their start by purchasing Bob's odontoglossum seedlings from commercial firms such as Rod McLellan Co. Some of us went on to purchase Bob's flasks, Bob showing us how to grow seedlings at this young and fragile stage. Bob's hybrids have garnished numerous AOS awards. His crosses include such notables as Alexanderara Songman, Beallara Marfitch, Odontiodas Alstir, Jack Greatwood, New Start, San Elijo Joy and Uxmal, Odontocidiums Incali & Solona, Odontoglossum Conperry, Sally Jones and Somelle, Odontonia Yellow Bird, Oncidium Mexico, Vuylstekara Keith Andrew, Wilsonara Anaway, Kendrick Williams, Solona Pixie and Spaceman.

In addition to plants, Robert Dugger has provided inspiration to many of today's odontoglossum growers. Bob took it upon himself to frequently lecture at orchid meetings around the world and actively talk before American Orchid Society affiliated societies. The orchid world is indebted to Bob for his devotion to odontoglossums and his extraordinary achievements.

On behalf of the Odontoglossum Alliance and its Directors, I urge the Committee on Awards to establish the Robert B. Dugger Trophy. Members of the Odontoglossum Alliance would be pleased to meet with the committee to provide details, testimony, answer questions and provide background for the establishment of this award.

Sincerely,

(signed) Robert Hamilton President, Odontoglossum Alliance

If any of our readers wish to express their own thoughts and remembrances of Robert Dugger, you are invited to send those to the Editor for publication in the February 2000 Newsletter

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Valle d Bravo



Zinancatepetl (Volcano)



Ixtapan del Oro, 27 Nov 97



Enc. chondylobolbon



Onc. tigrinum



Ross. insleayi



Onc. reichenheimii

Ross. insleayi



Onc. tigrinum



Cuit. pendula Mexico City Show Expo D.F. Mayo 92



Lemb. cervantessi 'Seleccion'



Rossioglossum Seedlings



Ross. splendens



Odm. madrense



Cuit. pendula





Cuitzliana pendula 1992



Ross. splendens



Ross. splendens