Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

May 2011

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CYRTOCHILUM LEOPOLDIANUM, AND ITS BIPOLAR IDENTITY Stig Dalstrom

In an article published in The Gardener's Chronicle, volume 38, page 340 (1905), we can read the following:

"ONCIDIUM CORYNEPHORUM

About fifteen years ago a handsome Oncidium was described in these pages under the name of Oncidium Leopoldianum, Rolfe (1890, 2, p. 556) from material obtained by Messrs. Linden L'Horticulture Internationale, Brussels, these consisting of a dried specimen, the collectors' coloured drawing, and some living plants. From these a coloured plate was prepared (Lindenia, 6,t. 274), and as the plants were distributed it was hoped that flowers would soon appear in our collections. At length, as was supposed, the long-looked-for event happened, and a plant in flower, from the collection of E. Ashworth, Esq. Harefield Hall, Wilmslow, appeared at the Royal Horticultural Hall, on October 24, and was unanimously awarded a First-Class Certificate by the Orchid Committee. Mr. Ashworth had apprised me of the event and late in the afternoon I went to the meeting, and was surprised to see the quite distinct but equally handsome O. corynephorum, Lindley, which had previously only been known from dried specimens. The discrepancy is difficult to account for, as the plant is believed to be one of the original ones, and the respective dried specimens are quite distinct in the structure of the lip. The probable explanation is that the two grow together, and as often happens in the O. macranthum section, may be confused when out of flower. The circumstance affords a clue to the habitat of O. Leopoldianum, which was not recorded.

O. corynephorum is a native of Peru and was described by Lindley from dried specimens collected by Matthews at Moyambambo [Moyobamba; author's note] (Sert. Orch. Sub. T. 25). With these dried specimens Mr. Ashworth's plant agrees in every respect, and the species is a very handsome one, as may be be seen from the illustration [accompanying the original article; author's note]. The rounded, undulate sepals and petals are rosy purple, with a broad white margin, and the nearly orbiculate lip is deep violet-purple, with a bright yellow base. In habit and in its long and twining inflorescence the plant recalls O. macranthum, but as regards the shape and colour of the flowers it is distinct from anything known in cultivation. A few other plants are known, and it will be interesting to see what they are when they flower. Such a handsome species should not be neglected by importers, as its shy-flowering habit is probably the result of weakness, owing to its treatment not being properly understood. We should suggest the cool treatment given to Odontoglossums and to Oncidium macranthum as likely prove the most suitable. R. A. Rolfe."

The enigmatic identity and origin of *Cyrtochilum leopoldianum* has been an interesting challenge from day one. The case involves species that are quite distinct and horticulturally desirable, and yet very poorly understood and scarcely represented in live collections. The first plant of this complex was collected in Peru in 1829 by Pöppig (Pöppig 1799). It was described as *Cyrtochilum volubile* in *Nova Genera ac Species Plantarum* by Pöppig and Endlicher (1835). The habitat is described as "tall trees in the mountains of Casapillo, near the hacienda of Cuchero-Pöppig" (Lindley, in Folia Orchidacea, 1855).

In 1838 Lindley described Oncidium corynephorum in Sertum Orchidaceum, based on a plant collected by Mathews [Matthews?] in 1835. This specimen has no specific geographic origin mentioned anywhere other than "Peruvian", and is identified by the number "1918" written on the herbarium sheet (presumably by Mathews). This number is also mentioned in the type description and identifies the holotype. When this specimen is compared with the type specimen for Cyrtochilum volubile, it becomes apparent that Onc. corynephorum and Cyrt. volubile represent the same species. Lindley later also realized this and combined the two in his Folia Orchidacea (1855). But there is a problem! For some unknown reason Lindley maintains the name Oncidium corynephorum and lists the earlier published Cyrtochilum volubile beneath, as if listing a synonym. Lindley also cites a different specimen as Onc. corynephorum. This time it is another collection by Mathews, labeled "Mayobambo". It is somewhat unclear, but assumed here, that this citing refers to a separate specimen that has "Mathews, 1838, Peru, Province of Moyobamba" written on it. In any case, there are some additional anonymous notes in pencil on the same sheet saying: "Oncidium corynephorum Lindley affine". My interpretation of this note is that somebody compared this specimen with Lindley's description of Oncidium corynephorum and realized that it is similar to, but not identical with that species. This observation is correct. The two Mathews collections (3 years apart) do indeed represent two separate species. In a different handwriting on the "1838" sheet, somebody has also written in pencil: "Oncidium volubile Cogn. ...", which is incorrect. When comparing flowers from the two Mathews specimens, it becomes clear that they are closely related but the differences in the shape (and coloration) of the sepals, petals and lip is rather distinct. Lindley's citation of the "Mayobambo" specimen in Folia Orchidacea as "Onc. corynephorum" may be the reason why Rolfe had the identities confused.

Cyrtochilum villenaorum Christenson is described in AOS Orchids, July 2002, P. 616-618. The description is accompanied by a photo of an attractive species with flowers that have white and pale lilac sepals and petals, and a deep lilac and yellow lip. This species is the same as what Rolfe calls "Oncidium corynephorum" in his Gardener's Chronicle article (1905). Christenson writes in his article: "A striking new species, *Cyrtochilum villenaorum* was known from a single flowering plant brought to the Villena Nursery in Moyobamba by a native orchid enthusiast during my visit. Its precise locality is being withheld at this time pending artificial propagation of the species. The type plant is now actively growing in the United States and the Villenas have obtained several additional plants from propagation stock in Peru."

Christenson also correctly confirms that *Oncidium corynephorum* is synonymous with the older name *Cyrtochilum volubile*, and different from his new species.

It appears at this stage that we are dealing with three closely related but quite distinct species. One that has brownish flowers with a deep burgundy lip (*Cyrt. volubile, Onc. corynephorum fide* Lindley), and two that have white and pale lilac flowers with a deep lilac-purple and yellow lip (*Cyrt. leopoldianum* and *Cyrt. villenaorum*). The difference between the latter two can be seen in the shape of the lip, according to Rolfe. *Cyrtochilum villenaorum* has a very broad and almost rhombic frontlobe as opposed to the narrower and obtuse lip of *Cyrt. leopoldianum*.

Then something happened that thickened the plot. A plant purchased from the Villena nursery as *Cyrtochilum villenaorum* flowered in cultivation in the United States and received an HCC in 2 0 0 7. The owner of the plant, Tom Etheridge, dutifully sent photos of the plant together with some flowers to the Orchid Identification Center at Selby Gardens for a verification of the species (OIC 15203). There was no doubt concerning the identity of the plant. Most surprisingly, it was a "dead ringer" for the long lost *Cyrtochilum leopoldianum*!

The implication of this event did not dawn on me right away but I could not help getting excited about the possibility of finally learning more about the true origin of this handsome species. But how was it possible that the plant had been purchased as *Cyrtochilum villenaorum*? Perhaps Rolfe was right in his assumption that the two almost twin-like species grew together? The more I thought about this, the less likely it seemed. The flowers were identical in every aspect other than in the shape of the frontlobe of the lip. Knowing how notoriously variable and finicky this type of orchids can be when it comes to the shape and quality of the flowers, particularly in cultivation, I began suspecting that some clues were missing.

During a trip to Peru in October of 2010, I had the opportunity to visit Moyobamba together with my Peruvian travel partner Saul Ruiz, where we contacted the local orchid enthusiast who had sold the original plant(s) of *Cyrt. villenaorum* to the Villena nursery. After some initial negotiations he agreed to take us to the site where the plants had been found. The plan was to leave Moyobamba very early next morning in order to avoid the heat in the middle of the day. Our local friend explained that we would have to climb a particular ridge and that it would be rather heavy (sweaty) unless we could get there early in the day. Naturally, we did not leave Moyobamba until late in the morning and were not able to begin our climb until the sun hit zenit. This resulted in a murderous hike uphill, across some endless pastures and under a blazing sun!

When we finally reached the summit, where we encountered a small coffe plantation, I could barely make it into the shade by myself. It took some good time to recover before we continued into the scrubforest that covered the ridge at about 1800 meters elevation. But as the terrain had flattened out it became increasingly easier to advance and it did not take long until we hit paydirt. Plants of a large *Cyrtochilum* species were found growing on the ground, scrambling over some dense vegetation with pseudobulbs placed wide apart on an elongate rhizome. It did not take long after that until we also found the first wiry inflorescence with some old and ratty looking flowers near the end. Our guide explained that we were in the exact location where he had found the first plants of what had become *Cyrtochilum villenaorum*.

I studied the flowers and could not believe my eyes. The flowers looked just like *Cyrtochilum leopoldianum*. Or rather, some of them did while others had a broader lip and hence would be *Cyrtochilum villenaorum*. I also realized that the flowers near the end of the inflorescence had narrower lips than the earlier ones lower down. I could not help grinning. My obvious conclusion was that a strong plant will produce flowers with a broad lip (*villenaorum*), and gradually as the inflorescence develops and drains strength from the plant, the flowers become smaller with less developed segments and a narrower lip (*leopoldianum*). This is probably true in cultivation as well where newly imported plants that are stressed and weakened are likely to produce smaller and narrower flowers, like many other species in Oncidiinae. The more I thought about this, the more reasonable it seemed, and much more plausible than the theory suggested by Rolfe, of two almost identical species occurring intermingled and still remaining distinct.

In April of 2011, I had the opportunity to revisit an area south of the city of Chachapoyas where the plant collector Mathews once lived. We had found some interesting plants on a previous trip that looked much like *Cyrtochilum leopoldianum/villenaorum* but were without flowers. We had better luck the second time and found a strong plant in full glorious bloom. The flowers were identical in every aspect to the ones found near Moyobamba, except that the lip was much broader. This left no doubt in my mind that *Cyrtochilum leopoldianum* and *Cyrtochilum villenaorum* indeed are the same species. In the first case, a weakened plant of unknown origin had flowered in cultivation, which led Rolfe to describe it as *Oncidium leopoldianum* (later transferred to *Cyrtochilum* by Kränzlin). A second and more established plant from the same importation later flowered in the greenhouse of Mr. Ashworth and was awarded as *Oncidium leopoldianum*, but turned out to be an "Oncidium corynephorum" *fide* Rolfe (= *Cyrtochilum villenaorum*, most likely from the original collection of (natural) "propagation stock", flowered in cultivation and turned out to be a *Cyrtochilum leopoldianum*. The conclusion is inevitable. They represent the same species! The oldest published and currently valid name is *Cyrtochilum leopoldianum* (Rolfe) Kraenzl, and *Cyrtochilum villenaorum* Christenson is a synonym.

NOTE: Illustrations are aon pages 12, 13, 14. The illustration order is:

1	2	5	6	9	10
3	4	7	8	11	12

Report From Andy Easton

I am laboring under some disadvantage with my old computer having died and having to fight with a slow loaner but John has a newsletter that needs material so please be a little forgiving if this is different to normal.

In April I attended a very interesting conference of an organization I belong to named CIOPORA. It was unfortunately in Rome, not a city that appeals to me very much but the content was excellent. We tend to be very interested in issues that affect the orchid world but most of us, including me, are less updated in other fields of horticultural endeavor.

As the only orchid breeder present, I enjoyed interacting with folk who bred roses (greenhouse, garden and pot plant types), hibiscus, kalanchoes, poinsettias, fruit varieties like strawberry, bedding plants etc etc. We have many problems in common and fortunately, orchidists may be protected in other areas.

One of the great characters at the meeting was the famous rose breeder, Alain Meilland. He may not be tall but his infectious personality and "can-do" attitude was a joy to experience. He chatted to me about orchid hybridizing and asked several pertinent questions. He was astonished that anyone commercially producing orchids would ever sell unbloomed seedlings. He asked me about recorded parentage details and I explained about the old Sander's hybrid lists and a pretty accurate parentage record open to all. His pithy comment was: "Ah, the RHS, amateurs". As the firm Meilland transitions to the third generation of the family in control, I got the clear impression that they jealously protect many "tricks of the trade".

As we drove to various meetings by bus, I chatted with other breeders. One was a pot hibiscus breeder from Denmark. We were exchanging basic procedures quite openly when another man in a nearby seat made a couple of comments about hibiscus species my Danish friend might try in their breeding program. Did that put a damper on the conversation! The man sensed the abrupt halt in discussion and added that he used to be a hibiscus breeder many years ago and was now concentrating on Aglaonemas. My Danish friend relaxed and started making notes on the former hibiscus breeder's comments. I saw this secrecy in most of the fields of endeavor represented.

One could not help but contrast the cautious exchange of knowledge with some of the raucous dinners I remember with Odont. Alliance enthusiasts. Yet even in our group we know some who are solidly takers and never givers of useful hybridizing knowledge. I enjoy getting together with Bob Hamilton or Howard Liebman as the conversation always leaves me fired up and vowing to do better. Once every six weeks or so, I phone Keith Andrew and catch up on his Odont. efforts. I have been soaking up his wisdom since 1960 and I still have a long way to go. It seems to me the long developmental time for new hybrid lines is both a scourge and a blessing. For those of us who make hybrids, they always take far too long to bloom. But I am sure the wait seems even longer for the "Pirates" and "Johnny Come Late-lies". The long proving time must deter the impatient and undetermined.

It is very irritating to see Taiwanese pirate every new introduction in the Odont. Alliance, knowing that the breeder can do little about their thievery. But little by little, the breeders are bouncing back. If the variety is protected under UPOV then at least the European Community market is safe. One of the attendees in Rome was a Mainland Chinese patent attorney. From his comments and remembering how things were in Japan back in the early days of orchid patents and how they have moved 180 degrees today, it is not unrealistic to imagine that China will start to enforce local patents with increasing vigor, especially when they have lots of locally developed plant varieties that are appealing on a world market. So the market there may be a lot brighter for plant breeders in the not too distant future.

Personally, I would like to market all our new introductions under trade names and no mention of the parentage. If a friendly competitor would like to breed with them we will likely share the parentage but as for the pirates, they can go to hell. It is much easier to protect trade names than it is to go through the Plant Variety Rights procedure and I think the public could care less whether something is (Vuylstekeara Cambria X Odontioda Charlesworthii 4n) 'Red Alert' or just plain Red Alert. As a breeder, I have to filter out the chatter of the ever-fewer hobbyist growers on various forums who want names on all blooming orchid plants and who then brag about buying them at Trader Joes for \$11.99! Those people are unlikely to ever contribute a penny to my imminently needed retirement fund.

When I spoke at UC Davis a week ago, a perceptive questioner asked me whether as a plant breeder I tried to satisfy my customers or rather bred plants I thought would be good in the market and forced my customers to choose from the available selection. In truth one must do both but I cannot avoid thinking that only a hybridizer has the vision to conjure up something that hitherto has not existed but could actually be created. I thought about that when I saw a recent Cyrtochilum hybrid from the dreaded Dr. Liebman. It was as colorful as a Carnivale Dancer in Rio (with reproductive parts about as visible!) and one could imagine just what might emerge when it was crossed with say a Miltoniopsis. I'm sure Howard has already made some pollinations. Andy Easton

Report on the Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting.

The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting was held in conjunction with the San Francisco Orchid Show held at Fort Mason, San Francisco, California. The show this year was extended one day, back to its usual schedule. The preview party was held on Thursday evening 3 March 2011. The cost of the event was \$35.00. Placed at strategic places around in the show were multiple wine purveyors. Upon entrance to the party you were given a wine glass that permitted you to taste as many of the various wines from the multiple locations. In addition there were generous amounts of appetizers that were constantly refilled.

This orchid show is very large and in my opinion is one of the several very large shows held each year in the US. To give you a size comparison the sales area was equal to the show area and it held 72 vendors. In addition to being very large it was also as complete as you could get, of the range of orchid genera. This is principally due to the large number of firms and individual growers who exhibited in a climate that permits relatively easy growing in a welcoming climate for orchids. The Miami show for example would be hard pressed to come up this range of variety of orchids. To me it is the interest and activity in growing orchids combined with the favorable climate that produces these results. I took time on the next days to spend time going through the show as well as shopping at many of the vendors.

The following day, Friday, 4 March 2011, a number of us were invited to visit the greenhouses of Steve Beckendorf and his wife, Cindy. Steve is growing lots of species, especially the odontoglossum alliance species. He also is carrying much of the load on communicating with the RHS Committee on Nomenclature that has been ongoing. Here the two positions are to combine all the Odontoglossums into Oncidiums or maintain the current situation with Odontoglossums and adding in a number of the alliance genera. While Steve's greenhouse is not large, the number and variety of orchids is. Many small plants beautifully grown to their maximum size in his excellent culture. Do to Steve's generosity several people left with a plant or two.

Cindy has rented a former commercial growers greenhouse of a substantial size. Here she grows the much larger plants and grows them to impressive size with excellent culture. The range on variety of dendrobiums was eye opening and wonderful to see. Numerous other genera were also grown.

We also visited the greenhouse of Bob Hamilton and John Leathers in Berkeley. Here they grow Pluerothalids and Odontoglossums, especially those that do better in a little warmer climate than in Pacifica. They also have a very large set-up in Pacifica which is on the coast and is ideal for the cooler growing odontoglossum and Pluerothalids. Bob does the odonts while John specializes in the Draculas and Masdevallias.

Their little greenhouse, 16'x24', at their home was filled with plants and lots of beautiful blooms. Again the plants showed the excellent culture of Bob and John. There was one Odont, Wils. Matoka Rd "Renee del Mar', that had a flowering spike that reached over three feet above the rim of the pot with well shaped and full color yellow flowers. I didn't count them, but my estimate is about 40 flowers. After all those tours in the morning it was time to test the restaurants of San Francisco, for which they are famous. We had a delightful lunch at a small Thai restaurant with a multiple number of very interesting dishes. By then the mid afternoon was upon us and we broke to our respective places. As the combined Pluerothalid Alliance and Odontoglossum Alliance meeting, dinner and auction was held in the Fort Mason complex (the show location) I took the late afternoon to leisurely and carefully examine the show. I was again struck by the variety of orchids and the excellent quality of blooms and growth. John Leathers won the plant of the show award with a Dracula which had very dark, almost black flowers. Tom Perlite's display (Golden gate Orchids) greeted you as you entered the exhibit. His display always contains some new and interesting plants which make you travel to his sales area. The sales area is huge with 72 vendors and I would guess that 60 of them are selling plants. There were vendors from the US, South America and the Far East. Again huge variety and something for anyone interested in growing orchids. I walked away with a modest sized bag of plants.

Around 6 PM people began arriving at our location adjacent to the show for the combined Odontoglossum Alliance and Pluerothalid meeting. This was attended by about 30 people of which I estimate 20 from the local Pluerothalid group and 10 from the Odontoglossum Alliance. It was a little disappointing that we had only 10 from our alliance where we had announced to our entire membership. Whereas the Pluerothalid group had only announced it to the regional group. The OA has about 70 members and the PA has 200-300 members. The growing conditions are about the same for the two genera and it is a puzzle why we don't have more interest. This is something that the officers of the OA are taking a good look at changing.

For the first hour it was social with wine, talk and appetizers. Lots of fun and interesting information. The meeting venue has changed for the better this year by having the speaker, Manolo Arias talk before the dinner. He gave a discussion of Peru and its beauty pointing out a number of the plants indigenous to his country. I was pleased with the nature of his talk. He did not give us a long plant list with names we couldn't remember. It was a very appropriate discussion that intrigued you to visit Peru and its orchids. Dinner was pot luck with the OA furnishing the main course of wine, roast turkey and baked ham. Bob Hamilton and John Leathers brought over the main course cooked at their home. Many of the attending members augmented the dinner with vegetables, salads and desserts.

The auction was a fine success. The contributions were many and of excellent material, both Odontoglossm and Pluerothalids which were alternately auctioned. The OA raised \$1170 form this fun event. A partial list of the OA material follows:

Odm Cristor, Odm noble 4n, Odm Two point, Odm nevedensse, Odm rossii, Odm Shelly 'Spring Grower', Vuyl. Nova, Odm Roy Witwer x Dr. Tom, Oda Masquerade, flask of Tribbles x Oda. Trish, Oda. Red Nugget x Bombay, community pot of Odm. nevedensse, Oda Dugger's Gold, Crypt. Edwardii, Odm halllii, Cyrt aurum, Oda. Florence Stirling, Oda. Joes Drum, Oda Picotee, Oda Taw, Odm andersonianum and Oda. Red Flame. The auction certainly is an opportunity to acquire some things not normally available, some at very reasonable prices.

Saturday morning was the opportunity to tour the large greenhouse shared by Gary Meyer, Bob Hamilton, John Leathers and Tim Brydon. Tim and Bob grow, hybridize and propagate the Odontoglossum Alliance material while John Leathers is internationally known for his Masdevallias and Draculas. Bob Hamilton is a very creative hybridizer and is always coming up with very interesting material. His Odm Tribbles cross in its self is a fine plant. It has now been successfully used in breeding.

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Some of the Tribbles crosses have been done by Tom Perlite, Bob Hamilton and I. None of mine have flowered as yet. Those of Tom and Bob have produced some lovely and vigorous material. The parent of Tribbles is Odm trilobium which is now an Oncidium which adds some warm tolerance to the progeny. I was given Oda. John Miller (Tribbles X Burning Bed) which had a small spike of lovely red flowers. That plant a year later is in my greenhouse and is a vigorous grower. The plant is currently in spike, but not far enough along to flower before issuing this newsletter. I shall show it in a later issue.

I will extol the food again as we had lunch at a Chinese restaurant with a large group, delicious, varied and modestly priced. Dinner was at a Persian restaurant. The seating was a little difficult due to the short table and chairs, but very enjoyable. Such a variety to choose from all over the Bay area.

All-in- all a fun meeting with lots of comradeships. I learned about New Zealand bark that is harder than our Rexus bark and lasts for two years. I was intrigued enough to arrange to acquire some when I returned to the East coast. Also I had been getting some light green blotches on my odonts. I learned that it was due to a mite that goes into the new growth before it matures. It damages the leaf and you can see it as the same blotch is on each side of the leaf. It is a mirror image. A mite spray seems to have killed that problem in my greenhouse. Also I have repeatedly reported my troubles with scale. I have now tried Safari which had good reports. So far my plants are clean. I shall have to see if they go through the year to know if I really have that under control. These are some of the things I learned attending the meeting. For those of you that did not attend your officers are working hard to find a venue that will attract more of our members.

John E. Miller

LEDS Supplemental Lighting Experiment Larry Sanford

Problem:

My east side lean to greenhouse has always been light limited and therefore supplemented with HPS lights. For several years my odont growth appeared to be declining and it was finally noted that the neighbors ever growing overhanging trees markedly reduced summer direct morning light until about 11AM vs the earlier 6 AM. The lean to feature also limited 3PM onward light.

With Electrical power costs expected to continue to increase. The question became can LEDS offer a lower operating cost alternative to adding more HPS?

LEDs technical Advantages;

Light produced can be limited to Plant usable Spectrum ie. Blues and Reds with no yellows or greens.

Low heat (without requiring the usual heated filament to bring elements to heated influoresence) 4-10 times more usable light per watt

Longer life: 5-10 times longer (50,000-700,000 hours vs 5,000-7,000 hours)

Many, Many Choices (including 110volt 40" tubes with new ballast to replace 4 foot fluorescent lighting in current fixtures.)

Possible LED GROWING advantages based upon then available literature:

An initial recommendation by an LED supplier that LEDS (light emitting diodes) could be used at 25 % of the

wattage of successful HID lighting. The second benefit of lower wattage is heat and that AC cooling used mid April thru September here in Cincinnati is more effective.

A University of Minnesota graduate student paper (Gabe Klaassen) indicated that good growth was obtainable with Red and Blue LEDS (equivalent or slightly better than HPS) although natural greenhouse light results were better.

Additionally, there were reports of 1) A commercial greenhouse in Wisconsin specializing in premium flowering on compact plants derived by over head supplementation of natural light with red and blue LEDS. 2) An experienced greenhouse orchid grower in the Midwest was ecstatic about red and blue LEDS as source of lighting for orchids growing in a large indoor aquarium.

Test Installation: Track lighting fixtures were fitted with screw-in 110 volt LED bulbs purchased from GrowwithLEDs as shown in Figure 1. 62 LEDs of averaging about 8w each (about14 % of previous 6-600watt HPS wattage)

Results: after 22 months: 15 hours/day w/photocell bright sunlight cut off

A Power Savings: over a1000 KWhrs per month from reduced lighting wattage and reduced cooling energy for 6 months (April through September) and about half of that during the cooler months for lights only. Power based payout is about 5 years and estimated to be 3 years with newer improved LEDs.

B Improved Plant Growth-i.e. compared to earlier culture

1) More frequent leads resulting in more spikes/flowers per plant in 4" pots as shown with Oda. Lavender Lace x Aviewood in Figure 2.

2) Many more large Mature Pseudobulbs with multiple leads as shown with Odm Bruce Cobbledick in Figure 3

3) Beginning to get good under bench results for seedlings when lights are within 4-8" of leaf Tips. (awkward watering problem likely solved by different light/fixture choices)

4) Possible Unexpected Negative or Positve ?: Four odonts out of approx 20 in spike have apical spike from top of psuedobulb in contrast to previous experience of one in about 200 over multiple years.

Plant groups.

5) Intermediate section had good growth but not so obvious

6) Disadvantages include :

a)Very b) Difficult to meas-

ure LED lighting in footcandles for the different light needs of

high first cost balanced favorably long term by lower power cost.

c) Plants appear red at night. see Figure 4

Conclusions and Recommendations:

1) LEDs supplemented natural lighting at lower cost than HIDs and because of lower heat generated are advantageous for cool growing.

2) Red and blue LEDs light combination appears to increase new leads and subsequent flowering and where light has been somewhat limited increase pseudobulb size.

3) For basement and aquarium cool growing, LEDs are a good lighting choice.

Larry Sanford

2/1/2011 Note: Illustrations are on page 15

Dues are Due for Your Membership

May is the month when we send out our dues notice. Since we have dues that can be paid for one or more years, only some of our members are receiving a **Dues Notice** along with their newsletter. The notice is in a separate return envelope with the date that your dues have been paid through. If you receive such a notice please send in your dues promptly. If there is **NO** envelope with your newsletter, your dues have been paid through 2012 or beyond.

2012 Odontoglossum Alliance Annual Meeting

The 20112 Annual Odontoglossum Alliance meeting will be held in November 2012 in Portland, Oregon in conjunction with the Portland Orchid Society meeting and Orchid Show along with the AOS Trustees Meeting. Tentative plans include a series of lectures and talks during the day and a dinner in the evening. It also probable that the Odontoglossum Alliance will have a display for the Orchid Show. Future newsletters will detail plans for the meeting along with the necessary administrative arrangements allowing people to make plans for attendance. With this venue we are hoping to have a good turnout of our members.

The Odontoglossum Alliance Report to The AOS

The Odontoglossum Alliance held its annual meeting in conjunction with the San Francisco Orchid Show at Fort Mason. The meeting joint with the Pluerothalid Alliance and in same complex as the show on 4 March 2011. Preceding the dinner Manolo Aris of Peruflora, Peru, S.A. gave a fascinating lecture on Peru and the variety of orchids to be found in his country. Following dinner the joint auction provided many interesting and hard to obtain alliance material for both groups.

The RHS Advisory Subcommittee on Orchid Hybrid Registration (ASCOHR) had received a recommendation that Odontoglossums and related hybrids be classified as Oncidiums. The Odontoglossum Alliance objected and proposed an alternate classification that would preserve Odontoglossums. Both recommendations were based on the same DNA data. The material was convincing such that the committee (ASCOHR) postponed decision until May 2011. The complexity of the resulting research shows there are multiple legitimate ways to arrive at alternate classifications. The Odontoglossum Alliance has continued to provide supporting material for the retention of Odontoglossums as a genus for the May meeting. The Odontoglossum Alliance hopes for a positive outcome to retain Odontoglossums as a genus that might be included as a late add-in to this report.

John E. Miller

A Note From Russ Vernon of New Vision Orchids

Hi Odont Fans!

This is Russ Vernon at New Vision Orchids located in Indiana. Odonts and relatives are a big interest of mine. I have been growing them to one degree or another for forty years. In the last ten years I have been doing hybridizing and have everything from flasks to divisions of mature plants available.

New vision Orchids has been operating since 2005 and has a web site at www.newvisionorchids.com.

Because NVO is a "one man" operation, it has proven difficult to stay on top of everything that needs to be done in a timely basis. I thought that this group might be a way to let Odont fans know what is going on in my "Odont world".

I promise that I won't inundate you with drivel and endless e-mails. Just the occasional update on what is available from the business Odont wise, an occasional cultural observation and an occasional picture. At present, we are using a land line so extensive pictures aren't practical.....

If you have questions regarding culture or other Odont related matters, do not hesitate to ask and let me know if I can pass the question and my answer on to the group. Business matters will remain between the two of us.

Please let me know if you do not want to be a part of this group and I will take your e-mail address off of the list. If you know of others that would be interested, let me know that and I will add their name after checking with them. (They should also be members of the Odontoglossum Alliance).

Thank you for your patience in reading this and your consideration.

I have attached an Odont picture as a teaser....:) Russ



Cyrtichuilum volubile type Illustration



Oncidium corynephorum=Cyrtochilum volubile



IUM LEOPOLDIANUM, *Rolfe*, Cyrtochilum leopoldianum type flower



Oncidium corynephorum, Gardens Chronicle



Oncidium corynephorum -'Ashworth'



FIG. 42 .- ONCIDIUM LEOPOLDIANUM.

Cyrtochilum leopoldianum, photo (publication unknown)



Cyrtochilum leopoldianum from Tom Ethridge



Cyrtochilum leopoldianum habit Moyobamba





Cyrtochilum leopoldianum Moyobamba

Cyrtochilum villenaorum = leopoldianum



Cyrtochilum villenaorum = leopoldianum, April 2011

Cyrtochilum villenaorum = leopoldianum April 2011 B



Figure 1



Light track with 110v socket with screw in LEDs



Figure 2



Multiple spikes in 4 inch pots with Oda. Lavender Lace x Aviewood



Figure 3- Multiple new leads on Odm. Bruce Cobbledick



Figure 4- Plants lose green color at night under red LEDs.