

THE NZ ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE



NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Number 3
September 1994

From the Editor

The recent visit of Ray Thomson to NZ and sponsored by us was given 'rave reviews' by all who attended his talks. If you didn't get to one you missed a fascinating story. Ray was such an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker that he held his audiences spellbound for up to 3 hours!

His observations on climate and such important things as substrate, humidity, light, temperature, altitude and so forth were invaluable to those who want to grow such plants as *Odm.edouardii*, *Odm.hallii*, *Onc.loxense* and other rare gems of the Andean region. Ray's talks also included slides of local scenes, other plants, insects, animals and of course Masdevallias — his other great interest. His slides were superb.

I travelled with him from Auckland to Tauranga and on to Palmerston North via New Plymouth and his observation and interest in our local scenery and vegetation had us stopping for photos en route. Slides of our rain forest, nikau, tree ferns and snow covered mountains will be shown to his Ecuadorean friends. Our trip together was a very stimulating time for me which I wouldn't have missed. Ray asked me to thank all who helped make his tour such an enjoyable one and he has offered to come back again in the future.

I had his permission to use part or all of his 'Orchids Australia' article — see this newsletter. It was very difficult to condense and I would strongly advise you to seek out Ray's excellent articles in last years and this years 'Orchids Australia' bulletins — particularly if you missed his talks.

A video was made at the Palmerston North meeting but at this point I am not sure if it will be available to borrow.

I would remind you about the group flasks — listed in the last newsletter. Orders but no payments to Alan Locke please. If room permits I will re-advertise them.

The Annual Summer Display in New Plymouth is planned for Jan 6-8 and next year the Odont Alliance Forum will be on Saturday Jan.7 at 4pm — after the ever popular Boot Sale. Plan to be there. Registration forms will be with your local club secretary any day now.

Ross Tucker advises that Phil Altmann from Warnambool Orchids, Victoria is giving two Odont talks in NZ in November. Auckland Wed Nov.16 at the usual NZOS meeting and Levin on Sat.Nov.19. Phil is a top grower and breeder of the alliance in Australia and is looking forward to meeting growers here. Please do your best to support his meetings.

Now the bad news! Frosts. Many of us in the north received a 'real pasting' with a 7°C — 10°C frost which killed many plants and spikes and bleached leaves! We never seem to learn up here do we?

Thanks to our contributors. More articles and items always needed.

Ron Maunder — Editor
Box 2107, Tauranga
Ph. (07)5525570

1995 CONFERENCE — ODONT ALLIANCE DISPLAY

We have received a proposal for designing the display at the Conference in Palmerston North next year. Are there any other suggestions from members? Please phone me urgently otherwise we will go ahead and develop the one we have. Do we have a member in the Palmerston North area who can assist with greenery, ferns, sphagnum etc? Would members attending the the Conference please " earmark " at least one or two odont alliance plants for our display.

Ron Maunder

ODONTS IN BELGIUM

IN April this year I had the opportunity of travelling to Belgium with my family. Being an enthusiastic orchid grower albeit very new to the hobby I wanted to make sure I visited as many growers as possible. I remembered Ron Maunder mentioning that he had been to Belgium after attending the World Orchid Conference last year. So I telephoned Ron. Yes, he had been to Belgium and yes, he did have the address of someone who grew orchids there.

Ron had visited the grower, Guido de Burghegraeve, himself but had arrived there a day later than his invitation! Because of this Ron was unsure of how warm my reception would be. I wasn't too worried though! Having lived in Belgium for 6 years, I had learned to speak Flemish (with a Kiwi accent mind) and even though I hadn't spoken the language for some years I felt sure we would get on alright. However the day after we arrived in Belgium I asked my husband Alois, to phone Guido to ask if we could meet, (my confidence at being understood over the phone had disappeared so Alois had to do the talking).

It was a very short conversation — Alois put the phone down to say I had been invited to be at Guido's house (at a place called Leiderkerke) in a couple of hours time! Now I know that Belgium isn't a big country (about half the size of the South Island) but Leiderkerke was too far away to get to by train in time. Fortunately some friends came to the rescue and agreed to drive me there. I checked the address that Ron had given me — it didn't look like there was any room for a glasshouse at the house I was standing in front of — with a front door which opened directly on the footpath and no sign of a garden. Anyway I rang the doorbell and spoke into the intercom that I had come to see the orchids. The door was opened by a lady who introduced herself as Guido's wife. She led me through to the back of the house and into a large back garden. And there was the glasshouse.

Ron had told me that Guido was an *Odontoglossum* man — definitely the best way to describe him. Guido explained that his wife had been given an orchid for her birthday some years previously and that from that time he became interested in orchids. His collection is a mixture of mainly intermediate and cool growing orchids but his passion is definitely Odonts! His knowledge of them, profound.

Guido's growing area isn't that big but every centimetre of available space is utilised. At his own admission he is a 'wet' grower — too wet for *Masdevallias* he says but *Restrepias* don't seem to mind. Gumboots would have been very useful if I had thought to take any! Unfortunately, because it was late spring in Belgium, there weren't very many Odonts in bloom but Guido showed me many plants that I had only read about. We could have spent hours looking at and discussing them but my transport arrangements meant that I couldn't stay long. So after a cup of coffee and more 'orchid talk' it was time to go. As I was leaving Guido asked me if I would be interested seeing some slides. Well I didn't need to be asked twice! I was determined to go back again before we left Belgium.

On the Monday before we were to fly out of Brussels I was back at Guido's house. He had only just finished work when I arrived so I was able to have another look around his glasshouse while he had tea. Then we went inside to look at the slides. I think I am correct in saying that he had slides of practically every available Odont species (from memory — those of both the Mexican and Columbian groups) and some affiliated genera. Also that the slides were of his own plants. But what I found most fascinating was the depth of his knowledge of Odonts. He knew each and every bloom and the sometimes minuscule differences between them — the fringing of the outer petals of a particular species or the twisting of the sepals of another. The colours, the spots, the stripes.

The slides had been taken at various angles, so as to demonstrate the differences in structure between each species. Some of the blooms had had petals or sepals removed before being photographed, to better illustrate the shape of the column or lip. He knew the distribution of each plant and the variations of each species. We spent a good 2 hours looking at his slides and I wish I had been able to stay longer. He had so much to teach and I certainly have so much to learn. *Odm. crispum*, *Odm. triumphans*, *Odm. harryanum*, *Odm. cirrhosum*, *Odm. crinitum*, *Odm. gloriosum*, *Odm. lehmanii*, *Odm. wallisi* - the list just goes on and on.

From what Guido said I gather that there are not many orchid growers in Belgium - from memory about 300 in a country with a population of 10 million people. But because Belgium isn't very big, most of them know each other and also their area of interest. This is how Guido has acquired most of his plants. He also has contact with various other growers and Botanical Gardens throughout Europe and South America and these have proved invaluable in terms of building up his collection.

He also has close contact with the author of the book discussed at the Taranaki meeting - *Odontoglossums - a Monograph & Iconograph*, Lenore Bochemühl. Because of his knowledge and commitment to orchid growing I feel sure he would be a valuable contact for the N.Z. *Odontoglossum* Alliance conservation project which Ron mentioned in the last newsletter.

And if any of you happen to be going to Belgium and want to talk Odonts I am sure that Guido would be happy to see you - you don't need to be able to speak Flemish - he speaks English very well!

Heather Verstraeten
Richmond
Nelson

ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE MEETING PORTLAND, OREGAN, U.S.A.

Planning a trip to U.S.A. next year? The AOS Western Congress is on in Portland, Oregon in the USA North West next April. As well as the show and lectures there will be an Odont Alliance meeting on Friday 28th April - 8am to 1.30pm. which includes luncheon, an auction of fine Odont Alliance material and four guest speakers. Those speakers already accepting are:-

Mr. Helmut Rohl	Californian Alliance breeder
Mr. Sandra Cusi habitat & culture	Rio Verde Orchids - <i>Lemboglossums</i> ,
Mr. Juan Felipe Posada	Colomborquideas - The state of species odonts in Colombia

The Pleurothallid, Paph. and Phalaenopsis groups usually run similar get together and you may be able to fit in a trip to the Santa Barbara Show.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo 1. Obviously intoxicated by the incredible and strong chocolate perfume of hundreds of *Odm. edouardii* plants in flower, Ray's worry about the colony's future is momentarily forgotten.

Photo 2. A fallen plant of *Odm. edouardii* photographed close up showing the intense colour and crystalline texture - but not the chocolate scent.

Photo 3. The habitat of *Odm./Cyrt edouardii* within almost permanent damp mist and fog. Light levels are high and temperatures lie with in the ideal 8°C minimum to around 25°C maximum.

THE NEW ROAD AND THE LOST WORLD OF EDOUARDII.

In Ecuador again with Ray Thomson

Have you ever smelled the inside of a chocolate factory? Only 1,000 *Odm. (Crypt.) edouardii* could ever smell as sweet. It is true, this endangered Ecuadorian species is alive and well, albeit, for how long no one knows. A new road is going through and with this so called progress, will go the destruction of thousands of years of orchid evolution. Such is the scenario in most of Ecuador and most other South American countries. Yet, at the risk of repeating myself I have to once again inform you that to save these plants is officially illegal. Even the collection of seed from all the orchids of Ecuador, (just as it is in Mexico) is now frowned upon! (I should say illegal). I originally saw *Odm. edouardii* at the Ecuadorian Orchid Show in Guayaquil, in 1991. The interest in that sighting, here in Australia, even though an exhibition plant, was intense.

To reach the plants a breathtaking journey along roads that would break the back of many a pretender to the 'four wheel drive crown', was necessary. You won't get far without a strong 4x4 in these parts. First we must travel to well over 4,000 meters. Beyond the tree line in fact, and through an amazing landscape devoid of trees but with vistas as grand as any you will ever see. This is the Paramo, an area of crystal clear mini lakes, some with trout and all surrounded by sphagnum bogs. This is also the terrain we had to cross to reach our destination. The angle of the sun changes both the colour and texture of the landscape by the hour, so that not all will be immediately recognisable on the return journey. The vehicle coughed and spluttered in the rarefied atmosphere and as well, we did similar, at the slightest physical activity. Gringos like us and from the lowlands take it easy in these lofty places. Both machine and person need to be in good tune at these oxygen deficient altitudes!

Ahead lay a valley with its peaks, as grand as that upon which Macchu Pitchu was built and just as spectacular. Beyond is the Pacific Ocean and the moist ocean air. As this swirling, rising air, rushes in, it condenses to become a wet fog so dense as to create a wall of white half way along the steep valley. We will make a gradual descent from this point to an elevation more amiable for orchids. Bear in mind that we are only a few degrees south of the equator here, but, because of the altitude, the climate is changed to one reminiscent of eternal spring. It is damp and drizzles constantly. While cool, I cannot describe it as cold. Days and nights vary little in length here, 12 hours for each is approximate during any month.

As we descend to around 2,600/2700 meters, it becomes just a little warmer and as well, the incessant freezing winds of the higher altitudes gradually subside. Almost like a curtain it is, this white, constantly rising wall of moist fogs and mist. To enter this ethereal world, we drive axle deep in mud, from brilliant sunshine into a bright white fog without shadows. The deep ruts act like rails and to dive 'hands off' is a possibility. The road alternates wildly from left to right and the remains of frequent landslides remind us that we are in a hostile and unfriendly place. The front axle and the sump guard are battered by the terrain. The brakes protest at being full of gritty mud. Fallen boulders as big as a house sometimes block our path. Rivulets and small waterfalls on the road cuts precede the landslides yet to come. Suddenly and within a few meters, we are into an environment not often seen by any man, the permanent wet, Ecuadorian rainforest. Indians on horses and donkeys venture here, busy in the business of life, but, not often, orchid crazy gringos, such as ourselves.

A short excursion into the forest, climbing up from the new road, which is still being formed and not yet open to general traffic, and the sensory organs are assaulted by the unmistakable sweet smell of orchids in full bloom. Because of its larger size *Odm. hallii* with its

brilliant but very variable and showy yellow, contrasting with chocolate to brown spots and daubs, is the first orchid to be seen.

These plants are in full bloom and the diversity of colour and form is unexpected. The flowers are larger than expected. Many are award quality. Moving further into the forest we become aware of the source of that chocolate perfume. It is *Odm.(Cyrt.)edouardii*! The most brilliant mauve of any orchid flower I have ever seen. The sprays of flowers are over a meter in length and the habit and quality of the blooms is most variable. We are informed that this is an endangered species and I believe it, however, with so many specimens within just this small piece of forest, it is indeed, hard to believe.

Odm.(Cyrt.)edouardii is growing from eye level to way up in the trees and mostly accompanied by *Odm.hallii*. Pleurothallids of many differing genera are also observed and the *Masdevallia*, within the *Amandae*, are common. It is the *edouardiis* that command our attention however, and we are sad, very sad, as we contemplate the obvious fate of these beautiful orchids. Already we observe the destruction caused by grazing cattle and soon will follow the burning of the landscape to make even more pasture. The top of the steep hills have already been cleared and there is evidence of severe grazing as well as compaction of the thin soils. Plants growing low down, indicate browsing by these animals, of anything within reach. Bulbed orchids with ragged chewed leaves give credence to the observation.

It is reported that the *edouardii* plants are difficult of cultivation and I can understand this, if a knowledge of how the orchid grows in situ, is not understood. The very fact that this plant grows alongside *Masdevallias* within a section I do not consider difficult, leads me to suggest a similar cultural regime should deliver results. Certainly *Odm.(Cyrt.)edouardii* is a cool grower but never cold. Humidity in the environment is always extremely high but this is accompanied by noticeable air movement.

As well as in the forest, at Paute, I saw *edouardiis* growing vigorously in cultivation by the hundreds. Growing among a mixture of loose sphagnum and stone/rubble, the plants growing in huge shallow troughs had long and healthy root runs. Light was medium and the thick concrete walls of the enclosures insulated the plants from wildly fluctuating temperatures and also assisted with the retention of that all important humidity. Companion plants in the Paute nursery, and doing equally well, were that other exclusive orchid, *Phragmipedium bessiae*! Neither orchid was growing in a pot thus the root runs were never restricted. The roots appear to prefer the top few centimetres of the medium and as well, the medium can be kept constantly moist under these conditions, with our root loss.

I hope to go back to this magic place sometime in 1994, to see first hand what effect the new road is having upon *Odm.(Cyrt.)edouardii*. It is a fact and it is normal in all countries in South America, that new settlers will come and with that new settlement and the destruction and burning that accompanies such migration, I fear that this is perhaps one of the last natural colonies of this wonderful plant.

(Condensed from 'Orchids Australia' Oct.1993 - with kind permission of Ray Thomson)

ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo 4. The habitat is gradually but surely disappearing, and at a rapid rate. Among the shattered remains of the forest a plant of *Odm/Cyrt. edouardii* is 'rescued' from being consumed by the cattle that now graze the area.

Photo 5. A lone and exposed tree remnant supports a solitary plant of *Odm.hallii*. Removing these plants by 'pickers' as here can only be condoned where the plants are in danger.

RAY THOMSON'S VISIT TO WELLINGTON

On Monday evening I had the privilege to be part of the audience to hear an address by Ray Thomson of Moorlabark Orchids. Without doubt this was one of the best talks that I have attended over the many years that I have been involved in orchids.

Ray held the meeting spellbound with his descriptions of his expeditions into Ecuador and the problems experienced, all supported by an excellent slide programme.

I was amazed at the number and beauty of orchid species never before seen that he has captured on film, also the colony of the almost extinct *Odm.edwardii* that he discovered. Fortunately he has been able to raise some progeny from these rarities, some of which are now in the care of the Odontoglossum Alliance.

An avid environmentalist, Ray told us some grim stories of the destruction of native forest and of the plunder of the orchid population by unscrupulous collectors, mainly from the U.S.A.

For those who did not hear this address you missed a thoroughly educational and entertaining evening by a dedicated scientist who is not only concerned about the future of Ecuador's rich flora and fauna, but is trying to preserve some of the dwindling resources.

Paul Cable
Wellington

Odm.edouardii — *Odm.edwardii* — *Cyrtochilum eduardii*

It seems that back in 1878 Reichenbach named this beautiful species after the famous Belgian (I believe) collector Edouard Klaboch who first discovered the plant in Azuay province in Ecuador. Why he used the *edwardii* or (Anglized) form of the name we don't know. For registration purposes *Odm.edwardii* has always been used. To confuse the issue further it has also been placed in the *Cyrtochilum* section of *Oncidiums* which makes it related to the high altitude 'scramblers' like *Onc.macranthum*, *serratum*, *falcipetalum*, *monachicum*, *orgyale*, *superbiens* and *loxense*. More information on this species and its history can be found in a recent AOS Bulletin article by Carl Withner and in the August 1994 US Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter.

HOUSE OF ORCHIDS

John & Maxine Scott

MASDEVALLIA

Cool growing little dazzlers from Ray Thomson. These are not ex flask but full flowering size plants we have been growing on for several years. Price \$7.50 each unless stated otherwise, or 10 plants our choice \$60.

SPECIES:

barlaeana, *caesia* (syn.*deorsa*)\$9, *caloptera*, *haematosticta*
measuresiana, *nidifica*, *nitida*, *tovarensis* \$9

HYBRIDS:

Bocking Hybrid, *Falcata*, *florabunda* x Harlequin,
infracta'Wine' x *weber baueri*, *polysticta* x *aenigma*, Redwing,
veitchiana x *burfordiense*, *veitchiana* x *stenorhynchos* \$9, Sugar Baby,
veitchiana'Sol' x *Dracula sodirol* \$9, *welishii* x *veitchiana*,

Post & Packing \$5

145 Manuka Rd. Glenfield, Auckland 10

Ph.(09)444 9771

Odontoglossum coronarium: (syn. *Otoglossum coronarium*)

My plant was imported as part of the *Odontoglossum* Species Project in 1991. I chose *Odm. coronarium* because I had seen pictures of the lovely glossy copper flowers but I had no idea of the habit of the plant. I arrived at Tucker's Nursery to collect the plant and was greeted with a few chuckles from other growers there (the Odont Alliance mini show was in progress at the time). Ron Maunder handed me the plant - 3 bulbs attached to a long slab of horrible spiky tree fern. He then proceeded to tell me with glee that it can grow up to 6' tall in the wild.

One prominent grower who shall remain nameless casually asked me how I intended to grow the plant - I described my growing area and could see him mentally holding up his hands in horror. I'm sure he thought that was the last he would see of the plant!

I was advised to keep it in a humid place and water frequently. So I carried my treasure home quietly determined to show those unbelieving experts a thing or two! For about two weeks I struggled to keep the plant moist enough but it just didn't look happy so I decided it simply had to be potted. But just what do you pot a 2' long plant into? Why a wallpaper trough of course, so one was duly purchased and numerous holes burnt into it with my trusty soldering iron. I potted the plant - spiky tree fern and all - into Sunrae's Odont Blue mix with a few strands of sphagnum moss and then treated it just as all the other Odonts in my collection.

In three weeks it was a much happier looking plant and new roots were pushing out of the rhizome everywhere. Over the following winter it was treated as a *Cattleya* and the growth matured and a new growth started but no flowers. Growth continued over the next summer (93/94) with the plant now hanging over the front of the pot by some 3-4". In April I couldn't resist peeking and was thrilled to see a spike just starting. The spike developed very fast just 8 weeks from first sighting to flowering! And it was a magnificent flowering - 13 shiny copper flowers edged with gold and a surprisingly wonderful perfume reminiscent of honey and caramel. Size 2½". Fortunately it flowered just in time for North Shore's Winter Show so I took it along (the ladies doing the display were not impressed by my pot, how are we going to hide that darn thing! was the general reaction). However the judges liked the plant as it won the trophy for the best species in the show and was granted an interim Award of Merit with 81 points. This award has not yet been confirmed. Self pollination was attempted but proved unsuccessful so the plant has been divided in situ with the hope of the back part striking a new growth.

Culture - I grow *Odm. coronarium* basically like a *Cattleya* or Brazillian *Miltonia*, bright and plenty of water in the summer and a little drier and as bright as possible in the winter. It gets little heating in the winter sitting adjacent to but not on a heatboard.

Cathy Hine
Huapai, Auckland

ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo 6. *Odm. hallii* - one of the finest forms seen from those being collected. Deep black chocolate markings of this flower caused much interest back home.

Photo 7. *Odm. coronarium* HCC/OCNZ - see Cathy Hines article in this issue. Cathy advises that the converting of Val's slide to print has washed out the yellow lip somewhat.

Photo credits

Photos 1-6 Ray Thomson, Moorabark, Victoria

Photo 7 Val Bayliss, Auckland. Grower Cathy Hine, Auckland

Odontoglossums in Columbia

by Juan Felipe Posada M.

Once upon the time, just one hundred years ago Colombian Andean Mountains hosted the most beautiful and extraordinary Odontoglossums that have been seen. To verify this we just have to go through the old books: Reichenbachia, Lindenia, etc, etc. Odontoglossum crispum varieties "spectabile", "luteo-radiatum", "fastuosum", "Ashworthianum", Rayon D'or", "auriferum", Griselidis", "Quo Vadis"; Odontoglossum pescatorei varieties "Roi Leopold", "Lindenianum", "Lindeniae", and countless natural hybrids, to name just a few, are well above today's standards and would very likely deserve FCCs and Gold Medals anywhere. What is really pitiful is that these wonderful species perished or were lost through the time and today this great genetic potential has been lost to mankind. Just take a few seconds to think what could be done today using our modern techniques with species like the ones that arrived in Europe during the past century and the first years of this one.

Unfortunately here in Columbia the Odontoglossum natural habitats have been destroyed. Agriculture, pastures and fire have in no way helped to preserve nature in its original condition. Progress, civilization (they call it) has come by, struggling Odontoglossums and all other native flora and fauna every day further back. Very few sites have been left untouched and the efforts being made now to preserve them are not promising. Possibly the only positive view of our "guerrillas" is the conservation of these forest mountain sites where they hide and keep free of visitors.

Looking from another point of view Columbia never had orchid nurseries, either big or small, that, like the old European establishments, acquired plants for selection, reproduction and trade. Nobody in this country was interested in growing orchids and/or conserving good varieties of what was once easily available. Only in the last 25 to 30 years have orchid amateurs become aware of what an extraordinary array of species grew in our country. Since then progress has been made, undoubtedly, but alas, when we started, those wonderful old goodies were already lost for the world, not only in their native habitats but also in greenhouses.

Let us hope that in the near future professional and selective collections with conservative purposes can be done in these few original habitats that are still left. At that moment, even if we can not find any more the formidable varieties seen and pictured in the past, the new plants will allow us, Odontoglossum lovers, to obtain fresh blood material for reproduction and hybridizing.

Another avenue to explore by Odontoglossum Alliance lovers at this moment can be to think and work with some of the other species still available and not intensively used in the past. Other genera and species different from crispum and nobile still can be found and working with them seems a challenge for the future. It may be that Odontoglossums like ioplocon, lindenii, cirrhosum, naevium, tripudians, nevadense, Oncidiums of the Cyrtochilum type, and others can turn out some new crosses with a different look.

Now we can not cry over spilt milk. Something has to be done, and that is exactly what a handful of orchid lovers are doing. Selection of what is left, location of new and better clones, reproduction and hybridizing are coming up and hopefully in a near future some good things will be offered to share with our foreign Odontoglossum Alliance enthusiasts.

Calle 11A No. 438-68
A.A. 50494
Medellin, Columbia



UPDATE ON THE PUKEKURA PARK ODONT COLLECTION

I took over looking after the New Plymouth Council's orchid collection in April 1990. I had worked for the Council's horticultural department for four years previously, then had a years break to teach English in Japan - at Muhima, New Plymouth's sister city. I returned with my family to again work for the Council in Feb. 1990.

The orchid collection had been set up by George Fuller when he returned from Europe in 1965. After George's ill health in early 1990, he finally retired after the 13th WOC in November 1990.

The odonts were growing in a cool to intermediate house along with Laelias, Lycastes, Maxillarias and Aussie Dendrobiums. They were potted in 3" - 4" clay pots in a mix of fine orchid mix plus oasis and a little charcoal. After about 18 months of heavier feeding the plants were still not developing to their full potential.

I felt the leaves and bulbs were still too red and flowering spikes rather short. Many were very good Charlesworth hybrids of the 60's which George had imported and I was keen to do them better. I decided to make some changes.

First I repotted them in medium grade cymbidium bark and into 4"-6" plastic pots. In many cases they had no roots to speak of. I moved them into the cool house with the Masdevallias where there was good ridge venting and overhead fans. Shade was increased to 50% shade cloth and I changed the fertilizer programme using Gardenia soluble blocks for the end of the hose attachment.

In the last 2 years the plants have more than doubled in growth and bulb size, but still flowering has not increased greatly. We do however get much better displays. Flowering probably has not been encouraged by the use of high Nitrogen fertilizer used to get them growing again into stronger plants. During this winter I have reduced shading and Nitrogen fertilizer so hope for better flowering in future. Time will tell.

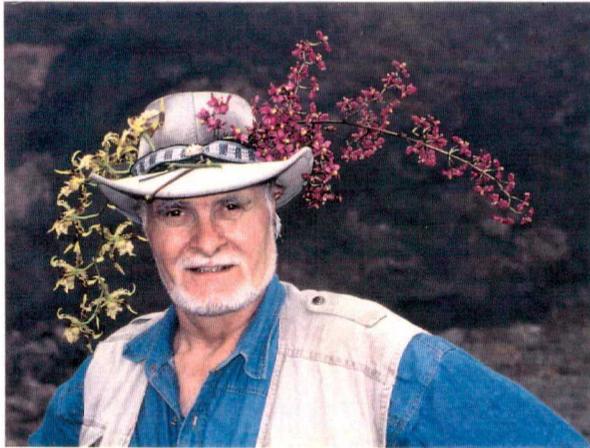
Ian Smithers, New Pymouth

NZ ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE FLASKS

The following crosses are presently available as protocorms and will be made up to hobby flasks by the lab - 10 plants per flask \$25, which includes postage if needed. Flasks will take at least 12 months. Send orders only to Alan Locke, R.D.7, Te Awamutu (no payment). First in ensures flasks, where numbers available are insufficient. No limit.

- 94/1 - *Alexanderara* Hec Hazelwood x *Oda*. Saint Clement 'Lacy' AM/OCNZ
- this is expected to give vigorous *Alexanderaras* with bright markings.
- 94/2 - *Oda*. Hallaga x *Oda*. Helen and Irene
- expect patterns and purples. These are Dugger seedling
- parents.
- 94/3 - *Odm. harryanum* x self
- at last the real McCoy! see Vol.4 No.1 for photo - 15 fls!
- 94/4 - *Odm. Megaglossum* x *Odm. Moselle* 'Moxham'
bright yellows with brown markings.

Odont's from the Andes



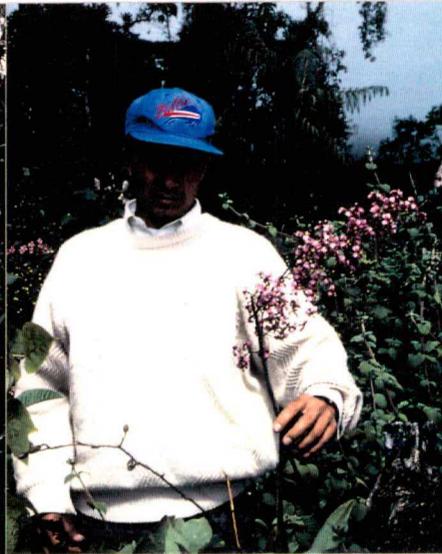
1 Ray Thomson & "friends" !



2 Odm./ Cyrt. edouardii



3 Find the
Odm./ Cyrt. edouardii



4 Gathering
Odm./Cyrt. edouardii!



5 Collecting Odm. hallii



6 A fine Odm. hallii



7 Odm. coronarium HCC / NZOS