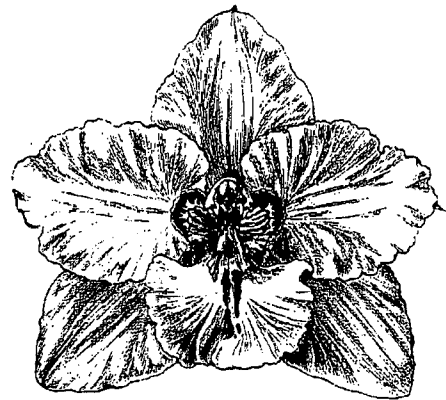


Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

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Odontoglossums by Leon Duval



CHAPTER SIXTEEN

CONCERNING THE BEAUTIFUL ODONTOGLOSSUMS AND THEIR VALUE

If we must examine one by one all the beautiful varieties of *Odontoglossum* which are catalogued, named and reproduced since one has been dealing with researching them, we would need an entire volume. It is not that the number of absolutely marvelous varieties is so great as one might suppose, but, apart from certain jewels, completely beyond compare, there is also a place for varieties with precious qualities of whom the amateurs are very proud. This is why one finds them catalogued under designations which, correspond be it to their colour, be it to their shape, or which, simply, recall the name of certain persons, that of a parent, or of a friend. There are not only absolutely beautiful plants in the numerous collections which have been built up over the past ten or fifteen years; They are the originals, the bizarre. There are others which have no merit other than their very great rarity. Others, finally, completely belonging to a recognized and classified series, are in some degrees very different, according to the strictness of criteria which one applies to admit them into the collections, some qualities more or less perfect.

The knowledge of these very beautiful varieties, their rational and rigorous classification, not without giving rise to a single criticism, will always be very delicate; If one wishes to admit our comparison, we will say that it is absolutely the beautiful *Odontoglossum* as a some sort of work of art; One may always, in discussing the merits, find oneself in agreement on certain points, but, for the whole ensemble, never! Because that which pleases one does not please the other; What seems a defect to one critic is a quality to another... the best thing is to consider that he who buys a beautiful variety of *Odontoglossum* has the right to feel very satisfied with it, and it is not necessary for him to be preoccupied with the little criticisms of detail which are never wanting concerning the value of his acquisition! However, there are, nevertheless, certain absolute rules from which one must not stray. If one wishes to admit that it is possible to meet perfection in one flower, it is first of all necessary to know of what the details of this flower consist, to enable it to be perfect. For that, it is necessary, in order to fix the mind of our readers, to choose a standard of beauty; The thing is easy.

We have there the rigorously exact pattern, which we have devised, after a photograph, of the *Odontoglossum Apiatum* (Duval) (fig. 32). In the opinion of all the amateurs, and the best connoisseurs, this variety must be classified amongst the premier, at the head of all the others which have appeared up to this time. If we examine the segments of this flower, we see first of all that they are perfectly constituted; the substance is solid, fleshy, consequently takes a long time to lose its shape; the sepals and petals form a perfect star which is able, in its circumference, in a manner rather mathematical; The lip is large, well spread out, precious quality, it is not contorted from the base, not strangled...

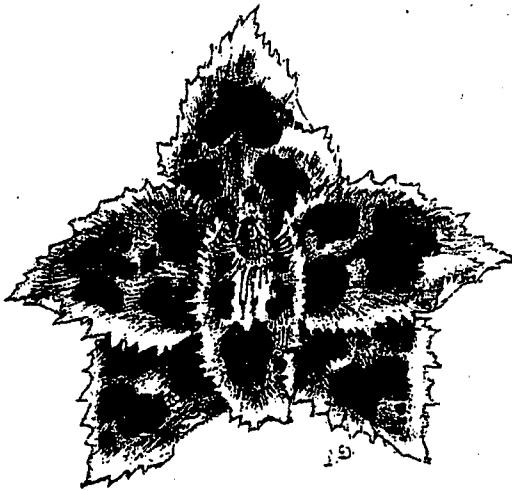


Fig. 32 - *Odontoglossum Apiatum* (Duval)
reduced by one-third.

the large spots are distributed in a regular fashion, equally over the sepals and the petals as on the lip. Their colour is very straightforward (which is not reproducible in our drawing). If one looks at this magnificent flower one will see that all is harmonious in form and in the disposition of pattern which ornaments the segments. As we have said, one must consider *Odontoglossum Apiatum* (Duval) as a model, and, if one wishes to judge well, by comparison, one may classify the varieties by which approach most closely the form, the substance, and by the nicety of their spots as being varieties of the first rank. It is well understood, however, that the beauty of an *Odontoglossum* does not rest solely in the perfection of the form of the flowers, but also in the colour of

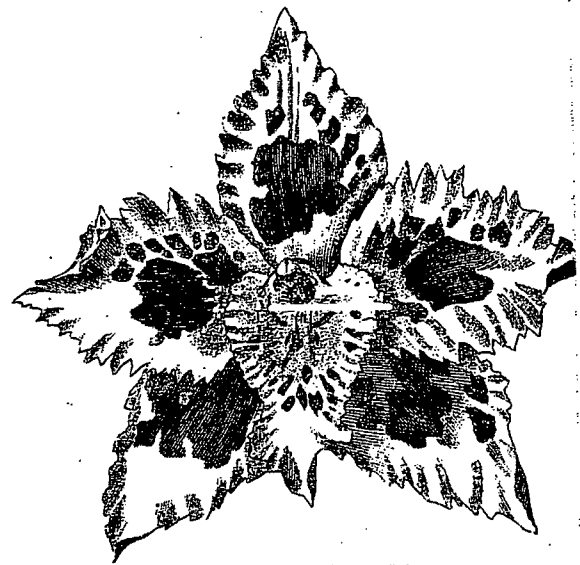


Fig. 33 - *Odontoglossum Crispum*
Variety *Madame Margoux*. Type of quite spotted
form, but with a lip a bit defective at the base

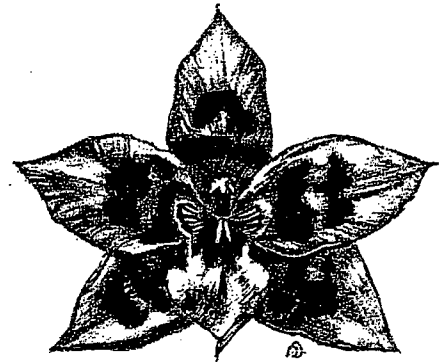


Fig. 34 - *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* Veitchianum
Life Size

the spots. A goodly number of very beautiful varieties are, above all, remarkable by their

colour more or less accentuated by the curious form which they may assume, which gives to their flowers aspects completely seductive and often very original. If we have taken the *Odontoglossum Apiatum* as a model, and in order to make a comparison with its fellows variegated or spotted, that does not mean that an *Odontoglossum* with white non spotted flowers, whose pure white divisions will be embellished with a superb lip, more or less spotted, will be a plant to scorn; Far from that, on the contrary, this variety will be considered to be very beautiful; That is so true that

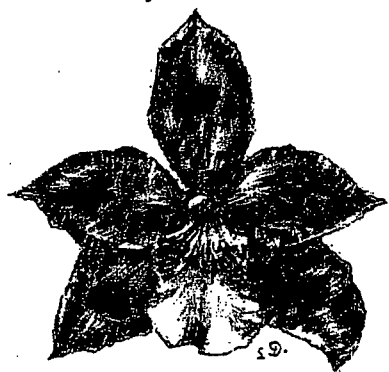


Fig. 35 - *Odontoglossum Reginum Pescatorei* x *Harryanum*,
reduced by one-third.

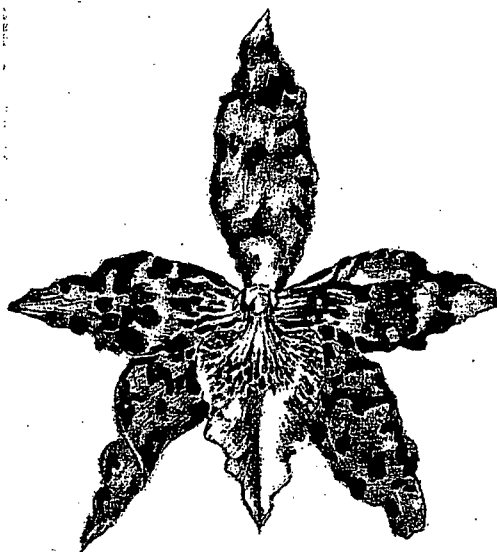


Fig. 36 - *Odontoglossum* hybrid of *Harryanum* x *Crispum*, variety *gloriosissimum*,
1/2 life size

a variety absolutely white, which has been found by a Belgian horticulturalist, has still today, a considerable value.

If one must research one thing above all, it is that the flower has, as we have said, an excellent substance, a precise form, and a perfectly firm colour...It exists, therefore, alongside the variables which have sufficient merit to be delineated, other plants whose

qualities are sufficient to attract the attention of the amateurs and form the base of a collection where one does not encounter pearls like *Apiatum*, *Franz Mazerel*, *Augustum*, or *Madame Madoux* (fig. 33), but quite sufficient to captivate and retain those who love to see the pretty varieties bloom their flowers in their greenhouses.

In this number are precisely the beautiful *Odontoglossum* classes under the general name of *Patcho* type (see fig. 9); These are the varieties with perfectly solid flowers, thick substance, and often of a very pure white. of whom the sepals and petals form a star of perfect regularity, of which the very regular lip is often ornamented with a large and beautiful spot of the colour of sienna or dark reddish brown....

We think that we have indicated sufficiently



Fig. 37 - *Odontoglossum Blandum*

the qualities which beautiful *Odontoglossums* must have, but one may reproach us for not having spoken sufficiently of the *Crispum*. What we have said about the qualities of these may be applied to the beautiful natural hybrids which have taken their place in the great collections; It is quite clear that the same strictness of judgment will preside over the choice of an *Odontoglossum Wilkeanum*, of either *Excellens* or

of Elegans;

Similarly, one must show oneself to be strict in the choice of *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* and of *Triumphans*; First of all, the form of the segments, their whiteness or their purplish spotting will be equally qualities for research (see fig. 34); Secondly, the beauty of the forms, their consistency, and the frankness of their yellow tint are things which it is important to require. The best method, moreover, for



Fig. 38 - *Odontoglossum Londesboroughianum*



Fig. 39 - *Odontoglossum sceptrum*
life size

the beginning amateurs consists of procuring the picture of a species or of a variety known for its beauty, and to use it as a point of comparison; This does not exclude the appeal made by the experience acquired by an amateur or an horticulturalist who is a fine connoisseur in the matter.

The beautiful and rare varieties are distributed in the collections of the great amateurs, some of

whom have sold for enormous prices, beyond their appearance, be it at public sale, or be it amicable; For certain (varieties) figures of 6 to 7000 francs, some at 8000 and more, have been reached. This proves that certain intelligent patrons do not hesitate to pay for the beautiful things which they value...

We give here a very restrained list of beautiful *Odontoglossums*, whose reputation is well established; Everywhere where we have been able to indicate it, one finds the year when they were sold and the price which they achieved. They are classed, for the first ten, by order of merit, according to the advice of one of the greatest connoisseurs of England, but it is quite evident that there are many other very beautiful varieties which, if they do not appear on our list, are not less ranked and quoted than some dignified beauties of the most beautiful collections.



Fig. 40 - *Odontoglossum Madrense*
life size

In order to be complete, it is necessary that we give names to the principal amateurs of Europe, and indicate to the attention of our readers the value of their collections. We are able to cite some names of principal proprietors of most beautiful *Odontoglossums* but we certainly hope, that we will not elicit rancor from those whom we have omitted, for the very simple reason that we do not know their names... In England, the collection of M le baron Schroeder is certainly the wealthiest, then those of Mr. Lee, Sir Trevor Lawrence, M. le baron de Rothschild, Mr. Charlesworth, Mr. Craswhay, Lord

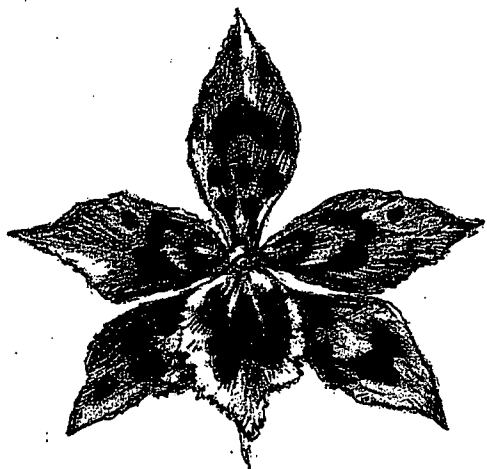


Fig. 41 - Polyxanthum (good variety) reduced by one-third

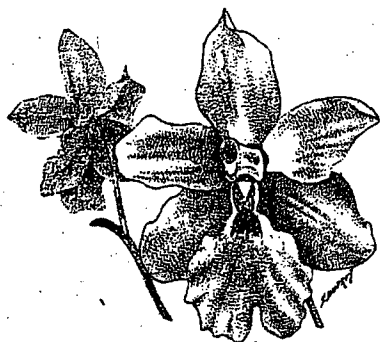


Fig. 42 - Odontoglossum Pulcherrimum



Fig. 43. - Odontoglossum Uro-skinneri reduced by one-third.

Chamberlain; in Belgium; those of Mr. Jules Hye, Mae, de Peningen, Madoux, Count de Boisie Massange, Peeters Vinck, Wuyksteke, Linden, etc.; in France, MM. the barons Alphonse and Edmond de Rothschild, MM. Dallemagne, Doin, Graire, etc., etc.

The value of the very beautiful Odontoglossums is not likely to change, because their appearance occurs only from time to time, and without one often knowing why in a population of somewhat mediocre plants a miracle may occur,, It is therefore no exaggeration to say that the figure of some hundreds of thousands of francs representing the collections of two of the greatest amateurs of Europe, M. le baron Schroeder, and Mr. Jules Hye, of Gand, make an excellent investment, because the plants of which they are composed are the result of a perfect selection, of which we have tried to retrace the great lines in this chapter, and if for one reason or another these wealthy amateurs wished to give up all or part of their beautiful varieties, they would be certain to find placement at a price much greater than that at which they had been acquired!

LIST OF SOME BEAUTIFUL ODONTOGLOSSUMS

present in the collections cited

	Year	Price
Apiatum (Duval) (fig. 9).....	1885	4.810fr.
Veitchianum		
Franz Mazerel		
Hyeatum		
Virginalle		
Harvengtense (Mauriei).....	1894	650
Capartianum		
Bousiesianum		
Augustum		8.375
Lucianianum		
Wuylstetkeanum.....		3.200
Ajax.....		2.000
Nobilior.....		2.500
Superbissimum.....		3.500
Loochrystiense		
Baronness Schroder		
Queen Victoria		
Wilkeanum superbum (fig23).....	1885.	1.500

Excellens (Duval).....	1885	1.500
Madame Mae de Peningen		
Mullus Holfordianum		
Elegans perfectum.....		2.500
Pescatorei Veitchianum(fig34).....		3.000
- album		
- Schroederianum		
Luteo-purpureum Wuylstekianum		
Leroyanum		
Pulchellum		
Madame Wuyksteke		
Vivicans		
Spectabile	Hybrids of	
Urophillum	Odontoglossum	
Eximium	crispum and	
Grandiceps	Harryanum and vice-	
Hirsutum	versa (1)	
Bellatulum	Hybrids of	
Corallinum	Odontoglossum	
Gratosum	Pescatorei and	
Supremum	Odontoglossum	
	Harryanum	
Leopoldianum.....	1898	3.000
Madame Madoux (fig. 33)		
PresidentZahldua.....		3.500 fr.
Cavaliniana.....		3.000
Expansum.....		2.050
Linden		
Reine des Belges		
Moortebeekiense	All hybrids of	
Kejeljani	Harryanum and	
Augustum	Crispum	
Miss Anna Guders	Diphlademium	
Miss de Hele	or Pescatorei	
Duchesse de Mortemart		
Jeffersoni		
Triomphe de Rambouillet		
Loochrystiense Delicatum		
Summum		
Reginum (fig. 35)		
Peramoenum		
Clarum		
Gloriosissimum (fig. 36)		

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

STUDY OF THE LIPS OF ODONTOGLOSSUMS

We have seen what conditions were to be fulfilled by flowers of certain *Odontoglossums* so that they became considered to be elite varieties, but there is complete category of plants which are always the object of discussion and of research concerning their origin; Similarly, this category of plants often gives rise to errors when it is a question of their nomenclature. It is these hybrids of which we wish to speak, including natural hybrids, those of which Veitch himself said, "that it is often better to give up their parents to research, desist from applying a designation to them, which, in order to not be very fair, has at least the merit of not stirring up sterile debate".

When one has seen, as we have, thousands of plants flower under our very eyes, when one is not content to look at them impartially, when one is passionately involved in them to the point of recording each day the most minute details, one may discreetly form one's own opinion concerning the hybrids, not with the pretension of seeing them admitted completely, which would be very nice, but with the hope, however, that they may be adopted, at least in part, by all those who have studied the appearances which are so curious which clothe the hybrids, even when one is certain as to the nature of the parents!

We will have, therefore, to speak later about certain *Odontoglossum* hybrids; There are those whose reputation of beauty is very great, and the value is considerable; certain ones which detach themselves as a star on the lists of the great amateurs; their nature is sufficiently settled that they are able to be classified under typical names, without being worried about their more or less marked variations. It is thus that the product of *Odontoglossum Crispum* and *Luteo-purpureum* and vice-versa are named *Wilkeanum* (Reichenbach); that the product of *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* and *Triumphans* and vice-versa have been have been named *Excellens* or *Eugenes*; that *Odontoglossum Elegans* is the product of *Cirrhosum*; that *Adrienne* is supposedly the hybrid of *Crispum* and *Tripudians*.

(1) Many of these plants have been sold from 2.000 to 7.000 francs

Outside of these types, there are, moreover, all the series mentioned; Hybrids without other designation, and of whom the designations have been made so often in a hurry and in such numbers, that the name Hybrid alone suffices, because it is impossible to know which are the parents of these plants which one has thus designated. The fertilization of *Odontoglossums* is carried out in their own country with extreme ease; Insects are the best intermediaries of these marriages of chance, and the masses of pollen of species the most disparate in appearance are thus carried, stuck to the legs by the nectar of the flowers, to fertilize the ones or the others without any other method, and for the great embarrassment of future specialists and growers! But, if we know that in these districts where crossing together *Odontoglossum Crispum* and *Luteo-purpureum* produces *Wilkeanum*, we can also hypothesize that one

become species, and be fixed, asserting itself, perfect, typical. We find ourselves in the presence of an *Odontoglossum* whose ancestors must have been a *Crispum* and a *Luteo-purpureum*. - but which will be, perhaps, a splendid *Odontoglossum* with yellow divisions, marbled with brown, in which one looks in vain for traces of *Crispum* or *Luteo-purpureum*. From there to suppose that these descendants of Hybrids can be refertilized in their turn by either their own parents, or by other species, there is but one step. Also, we prefer to leave to our readers the care to see where research of this type could lead us, research applicable to all the hybrids and that nothing could tempt without risking loss of recognition!

However, one may, in our opinion, easily recognize the presence of two quite distinct species which have produced certain hybrids, noting those whose names we have cited at the beginning of this chapter; It is sufficient for that to have quite fresh flowers, and, which is even better, the plant itself, before one, and to study with a great deal of care the form of certain parts of the flower, principally, the lip. This is what we have done for many years, struck by this fact that in certain species of orchids, *Cypripedium*, and *Cattleyas*, for example, the lip is not always able to be a source of information. On the contrary, in *Odontoglossums* it (study of the lip)



Fig. 44 - *Odontoglossum Cirrhosum*. Life size

or several plants of this beautiful hybrid variety will self itself in its turn, fertilized by its own pollen masses; That will occur during an indeterminate number of years. What conclusion will we arrive at in this case? It is that, at the end of a period of time, more or less long, all trace of intervention of the two species types will have disappeared, and, according to the law of nature, who knows whether one variety may not

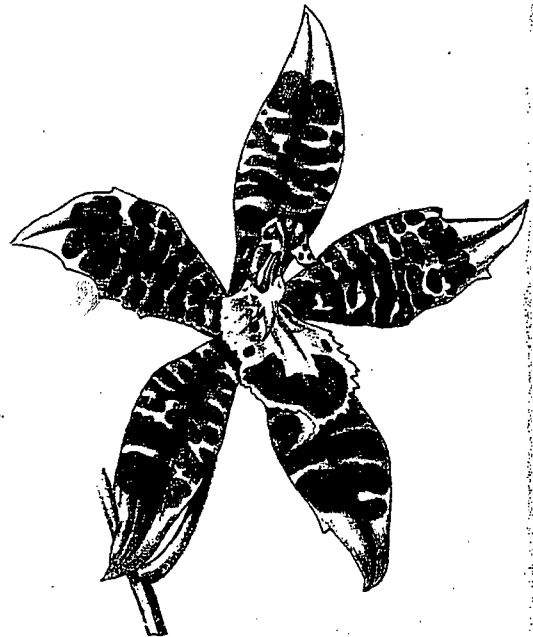


Fig. 45. - *Odontoglossum triumphans*

may be of enormous help in well determining such information, given the perfect regularity of its structure, especially at its summit (Odontoglossum Crispum), by the points attached to the column, and often, also, at its middle portion (Odontoglossum Pescatorei). And, supposing one has acquired, by a series of carefully followed studies, a little experience with which we are happy to benefit the readers of this



Fig. 46 - Odontoglossum Rukerianum

work, we have put together and consulted numerous drawings, photographs, and sketches done after certain models, which permit us to establish, for example: that all the lips of Odontoglossum Triumphans (fig. 45) are, as closely as possible, mathematically similar, in their attachment by their summit, and, naturally also, in their general form, which is the same as that of Odontoglossum Pescatorei.

In what concerns the pure Odontoglossum Crispum, that is to say, the type which is widespread by the hundreds of thousands in culture, it is exactly the same: Invariably, whatever be the form of the base of the lip or its dimensions, the summit, or rather, the two sides of the summit have a precise form which one rediscovers always, and which serves to demonstrate to us how it is this form which, in the hybrids of Crispum, can rediscover the presence of this species.

It is for this reason that, in spite of all the respect which we have for the memory of the great scholar Reichenbach, we together with other connoisseurs, are unable to admit the classification which he adopted for Odontoglossum Andersonianum and its varieties, not for Odontoglossum Rukerianum (fig. 46); These two plants principally, are considered by this scholar as Crispums, although their lips are completely different, removing themselves in such a definite fashion from the precise repeated form of hundreds of thousands of examples of Crispums, that which, without a single modification, suffices to compare our rigorously exact drawings to convince oneself that Odontoglossum Andersonianum and Rukerianum along with their numerous varieties may be modified Crispums, hybrids, crossbreeds, but not the pure Odontoglossum Crispum. (see fig. 51, 53, 54).

If, on the other hand, we examine the lips of well established species such as Luteo-purpureum (fig. 55), Polyxanthum (fig. 47), Harryanum (fig. 49), they will be the same if one brings to their



Fig. 47 - Odontoglossum Polyxanthum, Doin variety. reduced by one-third.

examination the same rigour of observation.

If we have made these studies which, were not destined for publicity, and provided nothing other than our own satisfaction to look for correcting certain errors truly too obvious, and if we transcribe them here, it is that they seem to us of a nature to captivate the attention of the amateurs who hold to not see applied to a plant a name which to them does not appear suitable.

Since the appearance of numerous natural hybrids, above all those between *Odontoglossum Triumphans* and *Pescatorei*, this study of lips helps us to discover the true parent of varieties, for whose name, it seems to us, that one had an obligation to act a little lightly.

Before giving some explanations concerning our points of comparison and their use, we hold to the declaration that we do not wish to set ourselves up as chief authority, because we might be mistaken; There is never an absolute rule and it is quite evident that there is always one thing which must take precedence; that it is done in good faith. We hope that one would like to welcome this declaration which appears necessary to us, because our readers will be, without doubt, astonished, to see us, in the course of this chapter, look for a correction of the errors made by the scholars whose scientific knowledge is not contested, but of whom the determinations, often hastily carried out, can no longer go on without challenge, given that they often had nothing to guide them except poor samples, flowers faded by the voyage, when they were not absolutely dry, when they could examine only the isolated flower, while certain practitioners and amateurs see thousands of flowers of clear-cut types open out in their greenhouses....

It is for those who have copied our notes concerning the lips, and for whom we are going to enter into explanations which we consider to be necessary for the clarity of our research and the value of our statements.

One of the most beautiful *Odontoglossum crispums* known, *Apiatum* (Duval) will serve as our standard, its lip (fig. 51) being the most perfect possible, if not one of the most perfect in existence. If one examines this part of the flower, one will note that one may inscribe it in a parallelogram, that its summit remounts the two sides of the column and rounds it off, and that it thus forms the false collar. This is a comparison which will better illuminate our examination.

If one looks attentively at the pictures which represent the varieties of *Crispum* known for their merit and of whom the drawings are always done by Mr. Goessens, for the Dictionary of illustrations of Orchids, to which one refers the reader, at least they do not prefer to regard attentively all the

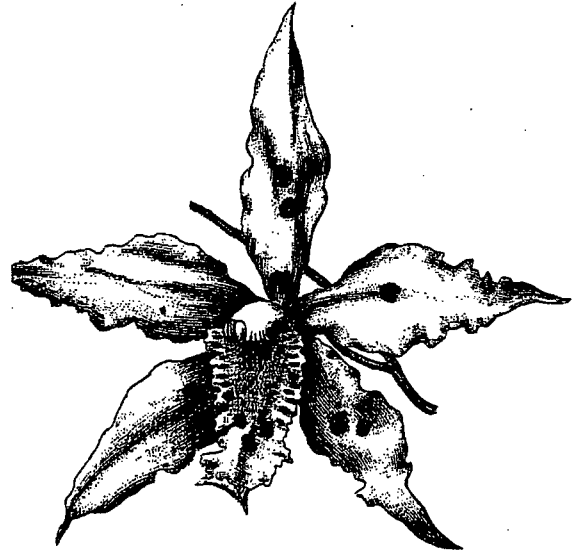


Fig. 48 - *Odontoglossum crispum* (star type)

Odontoglossum crispums without exception. We see that their lips, while moving away from the regular form of that of *Apiatum* (Duval), in their ensemble, their summit does not always remain the same, which is the absolute characteristic of all the pure *Crispum*, without a single exception (fig. 48).

If we also look attentively at the lips of *Luteo-purpureum*, they can vary in their forms, to be more or less large, to end in a point, to be more or less frizzy, indented, but their summit will invariably be the same, and, if we take as a standard the lip of the variety displayed in the Dictionary of Illustrations of the Orchids (february 1899, plate 22), we can there see a hundred or a thousand, these lips will be all arranged and constructed in the same manner at their summit, and attached in the same manner at the column. These characteristics are so well established that the hybrids which are the result of *Crispum* and *Luteo-purpureum*, and vice-versa, carrying perfectly the imprint of the two species, in the lip above all!

We cite some examples to give, in our fashion, the ability to see an authentic character: Let us observe, first of all one of the most beautiful *Odontoglossum Wilkeanum*, known and sold by us to Schuttleworthy in 1885 (fig. 23). This variety certainly seems to be the product of *Luteo-purpureum* fertilized by *Odontoglossum crispum* or vice-versa; but it has occurred, as it always happens, after our own observations, a very curious fact; It is the mother, the *Odontoglossum crispum* which has given the flower its general structure, so well that, for an ama-

teur who was not used to look carefully at certain details of flowers of hybrids, our figure resembles an *Crispum* astonishingly well; However, if one looks at the lip, one will see at once that it is completely intermediate between the two parents, that it is not that of a *Crispum*, but that of a *Luteo-purpureum*, with, however, some modifications.

If one looks carefully at *Odontoglossum Wilkeanum* shown in the Dictionary of Illustrations of the Orchids, (July 1897, plate 2), this variety is that which has served professor Reichenbach to decide the natural hybrid to which he attributes the name *Wilkeanum*; It is shown accidentally in the cultures of M. Massange de Louvrex, at Baillonville, close to Marche (Belgium).

Thus declares the professor Cogniaux, this plant possesses closely the organs, and the vegetation of a *Crispum*; it is certainly the product of a *Crispum* fertilized by a *Luteo-purpureum*. This is confirmed by an operation carried out by a skilled gardener whose name we have cited in relation to one of the premier hybrids of *Odontoglossums* obtained in France, M. Leroy, of the domain of Gretz-Armainvilliers.

In effect, the *Odontoglossum Leroyanum* (fig. 56) presented in 1890 to the national Society of horticulture of France, is the product of *Odontoglossum crispum* by *Odontoglossum Luteo-purpureum*; Its characteristics are absolutely the same, and its ensemble, as that of *Wilkeanum* of Reichenbach (Dict. icon., July 1897, plate 2); If one wishes to closely examine the lips of these two plants, one will see that they are by the summit (fig. 57) almost identical to those of an *Odontoglossum Luteo-purpureum*, which appears to confirm our manner of observation of the influence of the mother in the general formation of the flower.

Let us now take the *Odontoglossums* named by the botanists: *Odontoglossum Excellens* and those which are supposed to be hybrids between *Pescatorei* and *Triumphans* and vice-versa.

If we take as a standard one of the *Excellans* of which the structure of the flowers is well established, we see that the lip is completely intermediate between the two parents; It suffices for that to carefully look at one or two lips of *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* and that of *Odontoglossum Triumphans* 10



Fig. 49
Lip of
Odontoglossum
Harryanum
Variety de
Madoux



Fig. 50 - Lip
of *Odont*
Adrianae



Fig. 51 - lip of
Odont Apatum
(Duval)



Fig. 52 - Lip of
Odont
Pescatorei



Fig. 53 - Lip of
Od
Andersoniarum



Fig. 54 - Lip
Od Ruckerian



Fig. 55 - Lip
Od Luteo-
purpureum



Fig. 56 - Lip
Od. Leroyanum



Fig. 57 - Lip of
a beautiful
Wilkeanum

and, knowing what we know, we are able to clearly state that in this *Excellens* it is the *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* which has been the mother.

If, on the other hand, we look at the lip of *Odontoglossum Excellans* sold by us to Schuttleworth in 1885 (fig. 39), we find there in a virtually intact form, that of *Triumphans* (fig. 45) we may infer that, in the present case, it is the *Triumphans* which has been the mother.



Fig. 58 - Lip of Od. excel. Reichenbach



Fig. 59 - Lip of Od. Exc (true)



Fig. 60 - Lip of Od. Harvengtense (Maurici)



Fig. 61 - Odont. Excellens x Hyeantum



Fig. 62 - Lip of Od. Albertianum



Fig. 63 - Lip of Od. Excellens, variety Nobilius

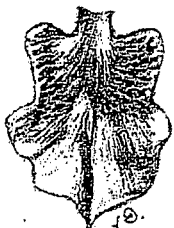


Fig. 64 - Lip of Od. Rolfeae



Fig. 65 - Lip of Odont. Histrix extra beautiful

We shall have, therefore, in looking attentively at these two plants, the ability to consider them as two perfect standards of *Odontoglossum Excellens*, which permits us to reject all the varieties which one would like to present as these, if they have nothing in the form of their lips which approaches, even from a distance, those of our two standards.

It is thus that we reject the series of *Excellens Odontoglossum Harvengtense* (fig. 60) sold by us besides under the name of *Maurici* to M. Peeters of Brussels in 1894, for this reason, that nothing, absolutely nothing in the form of the lip revealed

the presence of *Pescatorei* more than that of *Triumphans* (Dict. icon. des Orch., plate 4, march 1898); Besides, our own information allows us to state that this plant comes from a district far from certain places in the mountains where exist the crosses of *Pescatorei* and *Triumphans*.

We equally reject from the same series *Odontoglossum Excellens Hyeantum* (Dict. icon. des Orch., plate 1, april, 1899) (fig. 61) whose characteristics approach very closely those of *Harvengtense* or *Maurici*, whose lip is exactly that of *Crispum*.

And similarly, once again, we reject, as represented under an improper name, *Odontoglossum Excellens Nobilius* (fig. 63) (dict. icon. des Orch., plate 1 july 1899), this plant having a lip absolutely similar to that of *Odontoglossum crispum* (see fig. 31).

But we may be able, on the contrary, to suppose that the *Odontoglossum* represented under the name of *Albertianum* (fig. 62) (Dict. icon. des Orch., plate 5, december 1897), is not a form of *Wilkeantum*, as one claims, but rather a hybrid between *Luteo-purpureum* and *Pescatorei*, if we take into account the lip which recalls, by its summit and by the strangling of its central portion, that of the afore mentioned species.

Many of our readers will be tempted to see, in these studies, an attack against the science of the scholars who have established these hybrids. To answer this thought, we hold to declare that no one is more respectful of their knowledge, but that does not exclude, however, the right to control their naming and does not prevent us from recording our particular observations, made in good faith, with rigorous attention and on a great number of subjects. In total, no one is forced to consider these things from the same point of view; We maintain, however, our remarks, because they are at each moment confirmed by the results of artificial fertilization, as we shall see presently.

If we leave the study of natural hybrids, in order to open the hybrid studies obtained by our experienced breeders, we are at once going to discover some very curious facts....

Looking at, first of all, *Odontoglossum Rolfeae* (fig. 64) (diagram in the Dictionary of Illustrations of Orchids, p. 7, october 1898). We

see that this hybrid, obtained by M. Wuylsteker, of Loochrysty, is the product of *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* (fig. 52) fertilized by *Harryanum* (fig. 49)

In essence, even if that has been very modified, it is still *Odontoglossum Pescatorei* which exerts the greatest effect. It is therefore the mother! The lip of *Odontoglossum Rolfeae* is quite intermediate between those of the two parents. The summit goes up gently; the median portion is pinched in a corselet; the base assumes the form of that of *Pescatorei*.

All of the hybrids obtained by M. Wuylsteker between *Pescatorei* and *Harryanum* or vice-versa carry all in turn absolute evidence of the influence, more or less, characteristic of the mother, in the overall picture. (see fig. 29, 30, 31, 35, 36, 56).

If we wish to pursue this study more before the next, we examine the hybrids of *Odontoglossum Harryanum* and *Odontoglossum - crispum* and vice-versa, and we will always rediscover in different degrees the influence, more or less marked, of one of these parents, but, above all, that of the mother (fig. 31).

It will be the same again for hybrids between *Odontoglossum crispum* and *Odontoglossum Triumphans*, which will serve to prove successfully what we have said for *Odontoglossum Excellens*; If one wishes to carefully examine these beautiful results, one will see how, certainly, at first sight, they resemble *Excellens*; But, if one pursues the examination and one looks at their lips, one will see that the product of *Odontoglossum crispum* by *Odontoglossum Triumphans* has a lip almost identical to that of *Crispum* (fig. 29), while the opposite fertilization gives rise to a product whose lip approaches closely to that of *Triumphans*.

Let us cease these citations which can only lengthen this chapter. It suffices for us to have brought the attention of the amateurs to the particularity of the forms which mimic almost precisely the special lips of *Odontoglossums*: They (the amateurs) may, in their turn, recapture these studies for their own count, and research, on other species and hybrids, the points of similarity which they may have between themselves. The field is extremely vast; It offers inexhaustible resources to those who do not wish to content themselves with the designations

made, often a bit lightly although with the best good faith in the world, which have the grave fault of provoking, on the part of those who follow the exhibitions and visit collections of amateurs, criticisms which are sometimes quite severe. Besides, one has so misused the name hybrid in matters which concern *Odontoglossums* that it appears to be urgent, at a given moment, to look for a better disentangling of this skein, in which one has twisted a total series of *Odontoglossums* whose nature is completely different; The climate is no longer a great mystery; By the collectors one knows, today, from whence come the importations, what they have needed; It will no longer be possible to pretend that such and such a plant is a hybrid of some other, unless it is proved that by crossing them several hundreds or several thousands of times, the one and the other..... In resume, these questions are, above all, interesting to those who wish to instruct themselves in the recognition of varieties reputed to be rare, and who love to not see their collections composed of plants carrying the wrong names. What we have done for the past fifteen years, that is to say: draw, photograph, take note of the forms of certain lips, all things which an amateur may do, he (the amateur) will find, as we have, without doubt, much pleasure; He will not wait, as we have done, to interest himself enormously in this study of the lips, which will furnish him with the means of recognizing the presence of such or such a species in a plant which one submits for his opinion. If in writing this chapter we have been presented with not only plants in flower which we have had under our own eyes or before the apparatus where we carry out our drawings, but also from the Dictionary of Illustrations of Orchids, it is that we have thought, in what concerns this collection, that it will always be easy to the reader to obtain such or such detached figures, these being very exactly drawn, and to see for themselves if our comments have any value; The numerous sketches of lips which accompany and document this chapter have been rigorously drawn by us after the manner of M. Goessens, or from the plants which we have had in our hands; One may, therefore, without the slightest anxiety, consider them to have valid authenticity; We have, besides, taken the precaution of reviewing each of the plants where there is a question; This is what has permitted us to be so positive

in our little study on the conformation so special of the lips of odontoglossums and their hybrids.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

SOME FURTHER INFORMATION

We have tried very hard in the preceding chapters to provide to our readers all the necessary elements for a rational culture of Odontoglossums; But it seems to us that our task would not be completely achieved if we were not to give them, in conclusion, some advice that we ourselves were happy to receive at the time of our entry into this culture, and, by the same token, advice which has been dictated to us by our own experience. It is, therefore, primarily, to the gardeners that we address our remarks, and, by repercussion, to the true amateurs, to those who concern themselves with their plants, and to them we say:

Keep your greenhouses meticulously clean; Do not ever allow the presence of the slightest decomposing material, especially on the benches.

Take care that your reservoirs containing rain-water do not receive this until they have been cleaned, and that any extraneous material, straw, leaves, etc., have been removed.

At least twice a year. carry out a major washing of the face of the walls, the benches, and any paneling.

Insist that your glass panes be very clean, and, as a result, cleansed of any viscous material which may obscure them. It can never be too clean in the greenhouse.

Ensure that the heating works very evenly. Nothing is worse than gaps in temperature, (better that this be a little on the low side, but very even). The differences which one observes in heating which is poorly done are very prejudicial to the health of the plants.

Every morning, carry out a tour of your greenhouse, with small steps, without hurrying. Look attentively at your plants. Make an inspection, not a casual one; But a man who loves them (the plants), with passion, which they sense, is to also say, to live between his hands and to prosper by his care. Look well at these charming morning hours in the spring

above all. You will see them (the plants) covered with a rosy hue. Each growth will have at the tip of the young leaf a pretty trembling diamond, an infallible sign of good health.

Study the buds, their conformation, their manner of presentation on the stem; Lift this (the stem) delicately; It is there, from time to time, you will be able, when the buds are quite advanced, to have the surprise of perceiving the spots, more or less pronounced, which will be a promise for you, because these announce, or at least can allow one to hope for, the appearance of a pretty variety.

When will this open? For the love of God, do not touch it! Leave the flower in this state yet for a day or two, because you might damage these very tender sections and deform the little miracle which generous nature bestows upon you in recompense for your care! Always have your excellent sharp knife at hand, and, while you go about, examining this and that, do not hesitate to boldly cut off all parts of a contaminated leaf.... A front bulb has rotted? Place the knife between this bulb and the next and with one dry cut, sever the rhizome; Then remove the bulb; Put a little charcoal powder on the cut surface and rearrange the compost...

It is above all during the delicious morning hours that you have the leisure to examine your plants and that you can best judge them.

You must always make a special place for the plants with buds. What is always preferable is that you will arrange them according to strength and advancement; You will also need to prepare special supports, isolated above a little earthenware pot which contains water; for your rarities or your long awaited pearl... but, you must take great care to take into account whether or not there are any slugs at the bottom of the pot, or your precautions will not be of any benefit....

Your long awaited plant is finally open. Leave the flowers alone to open before judging them; It may be that this plant has at the beginning flowers of a more or less yellow tint, to then change to a pure white. It is then prudent to wait before forming an opinion, since the form will not be set until several days have elapsed. It is then that it is necessary to carefully study the form of the flowers and to enter into them; Do not be afraid to often revisit them.

Besides, if you truly love your plants, this recommendation is useless. Because you, yourself and without noticing it, will have come ten times per day to revisit your treasure... And what satisfaction! What joy! - if truly you have discovered, in an importation, one of the rare pearls that one finds from time to time, but too rarely for the liking of growers...

It may be necessary that you have it painted, or, at least, photographed. This is an excellent custom with whose use one may later put together a golden book of *Odontoglossums*...

I should like once again to give you a piece of advice, or rather, an opinion. Do not be too egotistical; Do not keep for yourself alone the pleasure to see and admire your beautiful things; Allow them to be widely appreciated, not by your friends only, but also by those who, like you, love *Odontoglossums*; Do not fear to submit the varieties which flower in your greenhouses to the appreciation of the connoisseurs. You may find some opinions which thwart yours, admirers rendered chilly by a small seed of jealousy; What does it matter! You yourself, will not have less satisfaction to possess a beautiful plant; you will have given it (the plant) back, more celebrated, and you will have had it take its true place, if you have had many growers see it, of whose opinions you can take note, which will serve you as a base for forming your opinion initially, and which will later amuse you greatly, which is not to be despised.

Then, one more thing: From time to time in the best season, that is to say from february to may and from september to november, bring the *Odontoglossums* into your apartments. Permit you and yours to obtain the benefit, without a single inconvenience. If the plants are in good health, it will be necessary to place them in good light, avoid dust, and water copiously; They will be able, without any danger to remain for fifteen days, if one takes care when one prepares the rooms, to place them in the foremost position in the display cabinet. It is very simple.

But, at the least sign of fatigue, it is necessary to re-enter the greenhouse. It is understood that these are not the elite varieties with which you are concerned...

And, also! You will always be able to bring them in for four or five days, close to you, in your

office or sitting room, which will give you the satisfaction of listening to the formulation of the praise which will be addressed to the plant and to the grower.

I have said, in speaking of certain varieties or species, that it is not necessary to leave the flowers too long on the plants; This is true; Also, do not be too stingy, and if you love pleasant visitors, do not make the mistake of offering them a stem of *Odontoglossum* if it has been opened out for fifteen days...

Please send these (the stems) farther away; Here is the method: Cut the oldest stem; Place it, above all, the stem, in clean water, in an unheated room. Use a container large enough to not bend the stem. In it (the container) place thin waxed paper; Put in your bare stems, one by one, placing more of it (the waxed paper) between the leaves; End by crumpling this paper and filling all the remaining spaces in the container in such a manner that the flowers cannot move, should they receive a shock.

Ship by the parcel post service if you wish, but, if it is cold, protect the box with a double or triple envelope.

If it is by the parcel post always register your parcel....

Never pack flowers or plants when wet. The leaves and the flowers will suffer greatly, especially in the winter.

It seems to me that I have said everything to you, and if I have assumed the familiar form of conversation, it is because this appears to me to be more apt, and makes it easier for me to be understood; But, if I have omitted anything, and you, dear readers, are hampered by a question which remains obscure or forgotten, call on my slight knowledge; to my wish to be agreeable to all who love the plants, and you will find me always ready to provide you with information which you may wish to have for your satisfaction and for the good of our dear *Odontoglossums*!

Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting

The Odontoglossum Alliance will hold its annual meeting on 24 March 2001 in Santa Barbara at the Holiday Inn in the Mission Room. This is the time of the Santa Barbara Orchid Show 23-25 March 2001. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM Saturday with a program of three speakers and a panel discussion on judging the Odontoglossum Alliance. In the evening will be a dinner at a Chinese restaurant with cocktails at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:30 PM. During this time there will be a short business update and our usual auction of some fine Alliance material.

The meeting will be at the Holiday Inn of Santa Barbara, Goletta, 5650 Calle Real, Goletta, CA, which is two exits South of the County Fairgrounds where the Santa Barbara show is held. Our Alliance members will be able to purchase a ticket to the show for \$6.00 which will be good for entrance during the entire show period. There is a block of rooms being held for our members. Reservations at the Holiday Inn may be made by calling 805-964-6241. The block of rooms will be held until 8 March 2001 after which time they will be released back to the hotel. The rate for these rooms is \$89.95 per night.

PROGRAM

1:00 PM
Holiday Inn
Mission Room

The Session Chairman for our program is
Jim Rassmann.

1. Russ Vernon

The Influence of Odontoglossum species
in hybrids Other than crispum

2. Dr. Howard Liebman

Odontiodas: Back to the Future

3. Jerry Rehfield

Breeding Odontoglossums with other Genera

Following our presentations our speakers will form a panel, moderated by Jim Rassmann addressing the "Judging Criteria and Point Scales" for Odontoglossums in the AOS Handbook of Judging and Exhibition. These Criteria, long ago selected to provide a standard of perfection and guide judges, have often been criticized as no longer relevant or too restrictive in evaluating the major orchid genera. The three members of our eminent panel will address the Criteria (below) and invite their audience to comment. Should a valuable proposal for a new Odontoglossum Criteria result, Jim will present it to the Judging Committee for evaluation.

ODONTOGLOSSUM

The general form of the flower is toward roundness, fullness and flatness, tending to fit within a circumscribed circle as in Cattleya. The color of the flower must be definite and clear, in well defined patterns. Size of the flower should be equal to or greater than the geometric mean of the size of the parents. Substance should be equal to or greater than the average of the parents. Substance should be equal to or greater than the average of the parents. The habit of the inflorescence may be simple or branching with flowers well spaced and well displayed. Floriferousness is closely related to parental background.

The Odontoglossum point scale is designed primarily for the crispum-type odontoglossums, odontiodas, vuykstekearas, oncidiums, miltionias, and similar orchid flowers that have lips approximately equal in size to the petals and sepals. For large-lipped forms, score by the Miltonia point scale.

This will be an opportunity for our Alliance to have an impact on the future direction of awards in the AOS. All our speakers are judges as well as the panel chairman. In addition, Jim Rassmann is the Chairman of the AOS Committee on Judging. This should be an informative and constructive panel discussion with the possibility for significant consideration for future awards and the direction of hybridizing.

The evening dinner will be held at The Empress Palace restaurant located at 2251 Las Positas Road, Santa Barbara (805-898-2238) which is a short distance from the hotel. The cost per person is \$30.00. Cocktails will begin at 6:30 PM and dinner is at 7:30 PM. During the dinner there will be a short business meeting and update on the status of the Alliance. After dinner we will hold our usual auction of donated high quality Odontoglossum Alliance material. The proceeds of which will go to your Alliance.

The show will have a large number of orchid vendors including several offering Alliance material. The local area has a number of nurseries including Cal Orchids, Gallup and Stribling and Orchids Royale that will be open for visits during the period of the show. Jerry Rehfield will open his green house for tours. At a somewhat greater distance (a two + hour drive) are commercial houses at San Luis Obispo. Several people may wish to team up to drive over. The show preview party is on Friday evening (23 March) for which tickets will be available. This is also the time of the annual meeting of The Cymbidium Society.

Dinner Reservations

The Odontoglossum Alliance dinner will be held at The Empress Palace restaurant located at 2251 Los Positas Road, Santa Barbara (805-898-2238). Cocktails will begin at 6:30 PM and dinner will served at 7:30 PM. The cost of the dinner is \$30.00/person not including cocktails. It is very important for us to have an accurate count of the number of people attending this dinner. If you are planning on going to the dinner please notify John Miller with an e-mail message prior to 17 March 2001 or phone Jerry Rehfield in Santa Barbara at 805-684-3344. John Miller will be staying at the Holiday Inn the location of the meeting and you may notify him at the hotel prior to 23 March 2001. We need to give an accurate count to the restaurant. Your help in this will be very much appreciated.

Auction Material

We are planning an auction of high quality Odontoglossum Alliance material at the dinner. We are soliciting contributions of such material. If you

an contribute it will add to the ability of our Alliance to continue operating and increase our ability to provide material and information to our members. You may bring your contribution to the dinner or deliver it to (1) Jerry Rehfield, 7305 Shepard Mesa Road, Carpinteria, CA 93013, Phone 805-684-3344 or (2) if you are going to be in Santa Barbara, but not attending the dinner you may leave it with John Miller at the Holiday Inn (the meeting location) after 22 March 2001. These auctions provide an opportunity to acquire some very interesting alliance material. In the past there have been awarded plant divisions, unusual species, and flasks or community pots of promising crosses. It has always been a fun time.

Odontoglossum Judging Criteria

The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting will have a panel discussion on the judging criteria for the Odontoglossum Alliance. In preparation for this Jim Rassmann, Chairman, AOS Judging Committee, has proposed a series of questions. He has also asked for responses to these questions from a number of people, several of whom are AOS judges, and several who are not. What is included next are the Rassmann questions followed by the responses that have been received by your editor. These responses were sent by E-Mail to Jim and copied to your editor.

The Rassmann Questions.

Dear Orchid Enthusiasts,
November 12, 2000

The effort to review the current status of the section on Judging Criteria and Point Scales contained in the **Handbook of Judging and Exhibition** requested by the AOS Trustees can't wait until the Odm. Alliance meeting March in Santa Barbara. While we can certainly have our panel discussion and include whatever consensus comes from it we must begin kicking it around now. I've taken the handle from the judging community on the inquiry though the Odm. Alliance and would like to begin by asking all of you a few questions. All of you have email so send your responses out on a list serve

so we save time and communicate freely (Dr. Liebman, I'm certain someone on your staff can easily show you how to do this). I realize that I'm presuming on your available time and interest in this subject and if for whatever reason you must beg off I'm sure the rest of us might understand and cut you some slack. Bob Hamilton, if you can, would you also run this by Tim Brydon and Tom Perlite please? Let's begin talking about the criteria and save the point scale for later. Try to get this back out in a reasonable time so we can cover as much ground as possible.

1. Does the Odm. Judging criteria need fixing or is it adequate as it stands? For those of you without a **Handbook** the criteria can be found in your latest Odm. Alliance newsletter.

2. Should Odm. Flowers be round and full? Needless to say some judges would mark down a cirrhosum hybrid for being spidery. What's wrong with star shaped flowers derived from other than crispum or nobile? Does the criteria need to specifically address the basic difference between hybrids from these two and most others?

3. Should Odm. Flowers be flat?

4. Must the flower color be definite and clear? What do you think the writer meant by this? What do you do with pastel flowers?

5. Should points be knocked off for colors that bleed through from front to back?

6. Must patterns be bilaterally symmetrical? While the criteria does not call for this I've heard some judges say its mandatory. Should this sentence mention that bilateral symmetry is not imperative?

7. Is the sentence on size adequate? Substance?

8. Should the criteria mention the number of flowers? This is covered in the point scale, but is it enough to leave it up to the judges or should the criteria list a standard or a minimum range for crispum hybrids for instance? In other words, should we award a crispum hybrid with one or two flowers as we do Lycastes?

9. The first sentence on the section on quality read, he purpose of judging quality is to recognize superiority and improvement." Is this adequate?

Response of Tom Etheridge

No, the description is not adequate as it stands. It neither acknowledges the diversity that you allude to in your questions nor addresses many of the more salient features of the flower, such as fimbriation (or lack thereof) or lip characteristics. If guidance is taken from the "Cattleya and Allied Genera" section (7.1.1), then judging criteria as described should be more complete.

In general, the flowers should be round and full. I think the problem here is with the ambiguity of 'full'. A cirrhosum cross whose segments are evenly spaced gives the impression of fullness without the requirement of overlapping sepals and petals. It may have a starry shape but, as long as the segments are well proportioned, the effect of fullness is gained without having crispum-induced petals. Again, if the Cattleya description is used for reference, an allowance should be made for the plant's heritage. Similar allowances are made in the descriptions for Cymbidium and Phalaenopsis. Good clones of progeny from Phalaenopsis equestris of Laelia sincorana are justifiably granted awards even though the flowers often cannot be described as 'full' of round.

Generally yes, but the presence of fimbriation or recurved petal tips may reduce the flatness of the flower when viewed from the side while not necessarily being distracting when viewed from the front or as a complete inflorescence. The problem for me comes in suggesting an allowance for fimbriation or slight waviness while discounting the effects of Odm. Harrayanum on petal carriage.

I personally find it difficult for a flower color to be 'definite and clear' without being monochromatic. Most Odontoglossum hybrids are patterned. A flower has a pleasing background color, be it intense or pastel, with a contrasting pattern color seems hardly definite in color yet can be quite beautiful. If color must be clear, what do we do with flowers that have brown segments or blotches? Unfortunately, I feel that this is where we must defer to the subjective nature of judging and, within some fairly broad guidelines, allow the judging team to determine a flower's merit. I don't think that color bleeding through to the back of the flower should be counted off.

I do not think that bilateral symmetry should be a

requirement. However, I think that the flower should be fairly evenly patterned. In other words, if one petal is heavily blotched then the other should be as well and this tendency should carry over to all the floes on the plant. By contrast, flowers with only occasional spots should not be discounted.

The sentence on size is consistent with the other descriptions and therefore seems to represent a general sentiment of the AOS judging system. The obvious expectation of perpetually increasing dimensions probably needs to be addressed by a wider audience.

As with question (2), an expectation should be set based on the plant's heritage. This is already mentioned in the judging criteria and is accounted for in the scoring system. I personally feel that it should be left to the judging team to decide unless clear guidelines are given for alliances other than Odontoglossum alone.

I think that this statement must, of necessity, be vague. The definition of quality as it pertains to each alliance is outlined in the judging criteria and the "Awards Quarterly" shows or describes previous awards. It must be up to the judging team to decide, within this context, what represents superiority of improvement. I fear that any more detail in this sentence would only tend to quell variety and novelty even more than is already the case. Again, your questions allude to too much homogeneity in the system already.

Response of Jerry Rehfield

Here are my on Odont judging criteria, for whatever they are worth, which isn't much.

Change geometric to arithmetic. Geometric requires too much computation. Also we should broaden the definition to include plants with Odont in them. I think this is important.

The flowers roundness and fullness should depend on ancestry.

Flatness should be depending on ancestry. Flatness in Wilsonaras Etc. should be rewarded.

Definite and clear colors should mean that pastels, blends, picotees and bicolours are OK. A flower would not be definite and clear if, for example, it is purple fused with brown. So unclear should mean an unpleasing combination. Clearly this requires judgment. Perhaps definite should be dropped.

No points off for colors that bleed from back to front, unless it creates an unpleasant combination. Patterns should not have to be bilaterally symmetrical. If however one petal has marking on it and the other has none, clearly this is not good. A few random spots here and there should be permitted.

Size should be rewarded unless plant is compact or miniature, by ancestry. Plants should not have to be larger to be awarded. I.E. If a large flower is awarded, another the same size should be awardable.

Judges should use their judgment in scoring a plant, remembering that ancestry matters. The number of flowers should take into account the plants ancestry; increases in the number of flowers should be rewarded. No crispums should be awarded with 1 or 2 or even three flowers.

Superiority should mean superior clones not that every plant should be superior in quality. The same should refer to improvement. This requires using judgment.

Response of Robert Hamilton

The AOS judging system is a point-based system. For the most part it is based on the same principals as the adult entertainment industry, namely size. I currently utilize neither AOS judging nor the adult entertainment business. Therefore, I may not be much help.

If we step back away from the issue of Odont plant criteria and look at judging in more global terms, it can be argued orchid judging has several functions like "building a sense of community" and as an "engine" which drives hybridizing and plant sales. These are important issues, particularly at this juncture in history for we are at a time when interest and participation in voluntary organizations in on the ebb. This is true for religion, scouts, orchid societies, etc. and it is worldwide. I live in the San Francisco area and our judging region has failed here for several reasons.

Judging is conducted during orchid society meetings. This truncates the judges and their expertise from membership. It destroys "sense of community", a compelling human drive.

The judges are aloof.

Judging is at night under fluorescent lights.

Judges carry rulers. Their formula is $> \pi \times \text{radius squared} = \text{better}$, i.e. the bigger the better. Shape, count, color, etc. get factored in. To comply with rules points are typically calculated after the more arbitrary establishment of an award, i.e. "that's a high AM, now lets regressively calculate a point score that matches". Take away the rulers – they produce mindless results.

Non-AOS experts are NEVER consulted.

Aesthetics and beauty take a backseat to similar metrics. Looking closer at current criteria one finds archaic standards such as "natural, arching sprays" for odonts. This was the criteria for Odm crispum and its hybrids at the turn of the century. With 100+ mm flowers on 4' sprays not uncommon in today's hybrids, "natural arching" would take a cantilever of stake.

A wealth of new hybrids made with species previously neglected is producing exciting new hybrids which do not fit the mold for Odm. Crispum hybrids. Ironical, since crispum is the anomaly in Odm species.

Imagine the primary papahs being neglected over the spotted-toads! Most of the AOS income from judging would be kaput!

On one occasion a plant was tossed for a CBR because, to quote the judges, it did not fit the description. The plant exhibited was the holotype! The RHS system is "appreciative". Their approach is Socratic. A lot is learned with their process. The AOS would profit by a closer look at the RHS system. It should seek advice from experts when they are available and allow neophytes to observe their work. AOS judges should HAVE TO involve themselves with their local societies. It is time to revise the "rule book" seeking advice from experts in each genera. Rulers should be taken away (and for God's sake don't replace them with scales). Perhaps a council should be held to review the judging of all genera. Good luck, let me know when something happens.

Pat Hills Response

Here goes my contribution. Since I am not a judge, my opinions are based on observing plants from the other side of the table.

I believe the judging criteria needs to be revamped, for the reasons that follow in answer to your questions 2-9.

Harold's comment about the enormous improvements made during the 1940-60s are valid in that we are not likely to see enormous improvements in the crispum-type Odonts, but there are and will be improvements and perhaps pleasant surprises using the lesser-valued Odont species as parents, which are not based on the crispum-type module. I think it's inescapable that the judges need to know something about the parentage of those flowers that do not conform to the Cattleya description of a circumscribed circle. As a grower I have to ask: Is it that impossible for judges to acquaint themselves with some of the Odont species that make up the diversity of our modern hybrids? Surely cirrhosum, Harrayanum and Rossi are not that exotic. Is it possible to seek advice from growers familiar with lesser-used species, growers who are not AOS judges?

Perhaps flat is relative. Crispum-type Odonts with round segments should not be cuppy or reflexed – in general – but what about flowers with fimbriated petals which lend a pleasing ruffled appearance to the overall presentation? (Remember what 'crispum' really means?) Military starchiness is not necessarily pretty or even desirable in crispum-type flowers. Since I have little experience with intergenerics, I'll refrain from further comment.

Well, here color is so subjective that I think the operative phrase would be "muddy and unattractive" when judging negatively. Some of the prettiest flowers shade from light to dark and picotees are a definite attraction. Flowers with starbursts of color emanating from behind the column to the petals are startling and unusual. Highly colored and patterned flowers should not be considered the only ones worthy of awards. WHY? The back of the sepals protects the flower before opening. I've heard about a "distracting" pink blush coming through on crispums. Horrors! I have an Odont blooming at the moment with a "distracting" green blush coming through and its quite marvelous. As long as it's not muddy and unattractive, let it be.

Bilateral symmetry doesn't even work in humans. Who doesn't have a bigger foot or an eye that is marginally lower or some physical anomaly? It's what makes us unique and individual. Perhaps the judges should consult a mirror (or perhaps not). Intricate patterns are pretty impossible to get bilaterally symmet-

rical. The spots on white flowers are often randomly scattered and differ from flower to flower. If the difference is not unattractive and the overall effect is one of balance, I don't think points should be knocked off.

In general I agree, although ancestry needs to be looked into when considering size. I would hate to see us breed the equivalent of modern-day turkeys. Number of flowers, as the criteria states, is related to parental background. If that leaves the (informed) judges room to decide, fine. Crispum-type hybrids should not be awarded with only one or two flowers – the parental background does not point to so few flowers. If the plant is immature the flowers will probably improve with another year's growth, so why not wait? Tetraploids will generally have fewer flowers but may be of a high quality and should be recognized, although in my opinion mature crispum-type Odont needs more than two or three flowers to be considered.

The problem with the words "superiority and improvement", if taken as correctly defined, is that a plant of equal merit to one previously awarded will not be recognized. I think this is where the overall appearance of the plant needs to be considered: the color, form, presentation and aesthetics of the display of flowers. If it's especially nice and equal to one previously awarded, why not recognize it?

Steve Beckendorf's Response

The criteria should be revised. See below. Round and full should not be the uniform requirement, and neither should size. In a few other groups, especially Cattleyas but also Cymbidiums and recently even Phalaenopsis, size has been pursued to such ridiculous extremes that there has been a backlash. Miniatures and midsize have become fashionable and awardable. Exclusive reliance on size has been replaced by other factors: color, floriferousness, pattern. Charm, grace, beauty might someday sneak back to consideration. Bob's point about the RHS system and its emphasis on appreciation rather than the measurements is well taken. Some of the Japanese or Chinese esthetic of looking at the proportions and harmony of the entire plant, not just the flowers, might also be incorporated.

Should the flowers be flat? I can't imagine why, unless one is seeking round, full flowers as above. Flat flowers are fine and often attractive, but they are not the whole story. Few, if any, of the species have flat flowers. In fact the adnation of the lip to the column in all true Odontoglossums precludes really flat flowers. This criterion should be discarded. Definite and clear colors. I agree this is ambiguous. Solid pastels would, I guess, fulfill this criterion. Graded shadings are often attractive. On the other hand, so are strong contrasts, e.g. the so-called black and white patterns. I think we can live with both Monet and Kline.

Bleed through from the back. Usually not good because the colors from the back are masked or obscured by light colors on the front. Usually detracts from the overall impact of the flower.

Bilaterally symmetric pattern? No way that this should matter unless the flower is unbalanced by the asymmetry. Positioning of spots is usually different on each of the flowers of a spike and on the two sides of a flower and the asymmetry often adds to the charm or beauty. Beauty spots when applied by Victorian women were invariably on one side of the face, not both.

I guess the rest of my comments aren't directly keyed to your questions. I agree with Mario's comment that the rulers should come out after the award has been decided. I'd like to see esthetic characters like color, presentation, charm, proportionality with the plant, and certainly floriferousness take precedence over size or mass. I'd also like to see a stronger recognition of the contributions of parentage and an encouragement of novel breeding directions. Of course judges always say that parentage is considered, but very few noble hybrids are awarded, apparently because the flowers tend to be smaller. Even cirrhosum hybrids have a tough time. One wonders how crocidipterum or schillerianum or crinitum hybrids would be received. Species like ramosissimum do not get awarded, even though most who see them think the flowers are beautiful and a healthy spike can have hundreds of flowers. In summary, I think the Odm judging criteria are too narrow and too focused on crispum and its hybrids. We more or less inherited the crispocentrism from the nineteenth century English, but I think it's time to broaden our perspective.

Response of Mario Ferrusi

Well I've been enjoying all the comments on revamping the Odm. Judging criteria and it has become pretty clear that it will be very hard to come to a solution that would please everyone. We can strive for one that would please most, but in an area as large as North America how can we come up with something that can be done the same throughout. The reason the RHS system works in England is because it's always the same group of people that do the judging! The point system we use here is not always the easiest to use but it keeps the great expanse on the same playing field. I tend to agree that the ruler takes over most judging's, it really should be used only after the plant has been awarded. In hybrids as well as species form, color, presentation, and esthetics account for the majority of points or effect.

Response of Kenneth A. Roberts

No I don't think it is adequate. We have traditional (or standard) Odontoglossum breeding and we have no traditional (or non standard) breeding. The traditional type is covered adequately but the non traditional is not. We need to add some guidance on the non-traditional types. If the non-traditional types cannot be judged properly using the Odontoglossum Point Scale then we need to instruct judges to use the General Scale.

Yes and no. Again what we are dealing with is the different types of breeding. Ancestry is everything and must be specifically addressed the guidance, however we cannot cover every different species, so a general statement is needed. Again if the flower(s) don't match the guidance then use the general scale or if they match the Miltonia scale use that one.

More or less yes, but again in accordance with its parentage.

Yes the flower color must be definite and clear. The writers meant that the flower's colors not be muddy, dull or unattractive, it never was intended to mean that the flowers needed to be intense, dark, or heavily saturated! Pastel flowers are perfectly acceptable and clearly match definite and clear. When flowers are spotted or barred or whatever the base color and

the spots or bars must all be definite and clear.

I see no problem with color coming through from the reverse of the flower so long as it is definite and clear. If it comes through and is muddy or unattractive then I would score down for that.

Symmetry does not have to be perfect especially when the flower is spotted or barred. However, strongly unbalanced flowers should be scored down or rejected depending on the degree for individual flowers and for the inflorescence.

Yes both are adequate.

I don't think we ever want to get into specifics about number of flowers, size, etc...just general guidance is needed. This is after all JUDGING, not mathematics, otherwise we would get my computer to grant awards. Sure as all get out if we do address one or two flowered plants, they will find a new single flowered seven-inch Odontoglossum species and start breeding with it. Suggest we comment on this only in general terms according to parental influence.

This address Judging Quality only, not why we Judge and that light is correct. Why we judge is to educate and was the reason the founding fathers wanted to do it.

Harold Koopowitz's Comments

The basic philosophy of award judging by improvement was developed in the 1940-60s at a time when enormous strides could be seen in each generation as standard Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilum, Lycastes, Phalaenopsis, etc. were being developed. It was logical (under these circumstances) to make "improvements over parents" an important feature of the system. But as we move closer to the ideal shape for these flowers, improvements seem to occur in ever-smaller steps, or not at all. The later is how close we come to perfection. Because of the system, many judges confuse quality with improvement. The two are actually quite different. To my mind, quality judgments are based on how close the flower being judged is to an ideal standard. Many of the large Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis etc., came very close to that standard years ago. Improvement is the size of the step in moving towards the ideal. For many orchids the size of the step is now very small or non-existent, but the flowers are still of high quality and we seldom recog-

nize this. You can tell the situations where improvement is no longer important. That is when the parentage of the hybrid becomes meaningless (i.e. white *Phalaenopsis*, most *Cattleyas* when breeding is some distance from the ancestral species, modern *maudiae* hybrids etc.) Knowing the parents of those does not really help the judges very much. While the Handbook explores the ideas of quality most judges seem firmly entrenched in the idea of improvement. Occasionally we do award quality. I believe it is time to reexamine our philosophy of judging and move our bias towards recognition of quality. In general judges are more obsessed with novelty than quality and we need a better balance.

Kenneth Roberts Response to Harold Koopowitz's Remarks.

For ease in relating Harold K's remarks are ITALICIZED AND Ken's responses follow.

The basic philosophy of award judging by improvement was developed in the 1940-60s at a time when enormous strides could be seen in each generation as standard Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Paphiopedilum, Lycastes, Phalaenopsis, etc. were being developed. It was logical (under these circumstances) to make "improvements over parents" an important feature of the system. But as we move closer to the ideal shape for these flowers, improvements seem to occur in ever-smaller steps, or not at all. The later is how close we come to perfection.

I have no disagreement with the above, however I don't see *Lycastes* even today on a par with *Cattleyas*, *cymbidiums* and *Paphiopedilum*; and *Phalaenopsis* came along much later than the other three.

Because of the system, many judges confuse quality with improvement. The two are actually quite different. To my mind, quality judgments are based on how close the flower being judged is to an ideal standard.

Yes, but do we not raise the bar of the standard (however slightly) each time we give an award. As *perfection* was reached in these groups awards dropped off. Some people of course did not get the word, therefore the 100+ quality awards to *Ascocenda Yip Sum Wah* and almost as many to *Cattleya Bob Betts* and *Bow*

Bells. When a *grex* is uniformly excellent must we award so many before we stop? If we did away with the idea of improvement then we would have even more of these concurrent awards. I definitely think we need to keep the concept of improvement in our judging.

Many of the large Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis etc., came very close to that standard years ago.

Improvement is the size of the step in moving towards the ideal. For many orchids the size of the step is now very small or non-existent, but the flowers are still of high quality and we seldom recognize this.

This is because we are doing our job in moving the bar as awards are made.

You can tell the situations where improvement is no longer important. That is when the parentage of the hybrid becomes meaningless (i.e. white Phalaenopsis, most Cattleyas when breeding is some distance from the ancestral species, modern maudiae hybrids etc.) Knowing the parents of those does not really help the judges very much.

I guess I strongly disagree with this! I don't believe parentage is ever meaningless.

Knowing the parentages does help the judges to know what to expect, if you don't get it then you pass it and go to something else.

While the Handbook explores the ideas of quality most judges seem firmly entrenched in the idea of improvement.

Yes some of us certainly are because that is exactly what the Handbook tells us to be concerned with in paragraph 7.1. If we do away with this concept then what do we use as a standard.... I just like the flower; does not really cut it.

6. Occasionally we do award quality. I believe it is time to reexamine our philosophy of judging and move our bias towards recognition of quality.

Using what criteria? How do we determine quality...intuitively? I can't buy it

7. In general judges are more obsessed with novelty than quality and we need a better balance

I don't think this true. What you have is new lines of breeding being explored and they start out far from the ideal, so improvement is sometimes rapid and awards follow in rapid succession. Is that wrong? Not for me.

You can tell the situations where improvement is no

longer important. That is when the parentage of the hybrid becomes meaningless (i.e. white Phalaenopsis, most Cattleyas when breeding is some distance from the ancestral species, modern maudiae hybrids etc.) Knowing the parents of those does not really help the judges very much I guess I strongly disagree with this! I don't believe parentage is meaningless.

Knowing the parentages does help the judges to know what to expect, if you don't get it then you pass it and go on to something else.

As a general comment; it seems that Harold thinks the judges have made p this ideal of improvement and the handbook is silent on the issue. Quite the contrary is the case, the handbook is very specific, and it tells us to look for improvement. If this sparks any thoughts or rude comments please share them with the rest of us. I hope none were rude, they were not intended to be anyway.

Directors Terms and Election

The terms of our By-Laws have set as eight the number of Directors. The Director terms are staggered. The length of term is for three years. However since we elected all eight Directors at the time of the adoption of the new By-Laws it is time to consider the election of those Directors whose term expires in August.

The terms of the Directors expiration dates are as follows:

Name	Expiration Date
Helmut Rohrl	August 2002
Mario Ferrusi	August 2002
Tom Perlite	August 2003
Robert Hamilton	August 2003
Howard Liebman	August 2002
Juan Felipe Posada	August 2003
James Rassmann	August 2001
Roger Williams	August 2001

The determination of the term limits was from a random selection process. The President of our Odontoglossum Alliance, Steve Beckendorf, will name a nominating committee for the selection of a slate for the two terms that expire this year. These nominations will be announced at the meeting of the Alliance in Santa Barbara, 24 March 2001. At that

time the floor will accept any other nominations. The slate will be announced in the May Newsletter and with the dues notice (in May) will be a ballot for voting. If you have a nomination for Director bring it up to Steve or at the business meeting. Results of the election will be announced in the August 2001 newsletter

Odontoglossum Alliance Species Photographs

Thanks to the help and generosity of Stig Dalström we are publishing a series of photographs of some of the more rarely seen species of the Odontoglossum Alliance. Stig has proved the Alliance with the 35 mm slides. Your editor has a new computer system with scanner, which he is trying to learn along with new publishing software. This newsletter is the first attempt with the new stuff. Be patient, I hope it will get better.

These photographs will provide a collection, over time, of Odontoglossum Alliance species, many of which are rarely seen.



Cyrtorchilum caespitosum
(Rusbyella)
photo: S. Dalstrom



Cyrtorchilum grace
(Odontoglossum)
photo: S. Dalstrom



Cyrtorchilum macranthum
(Oncidium)
photo: S. Dalstrom



Cyrtorchilum pardinum
(Odontoglossum)
photo: S. Dalstrom



Cyrtorchilum patens
(Bueesiella)
photo: G. Gerlach



Cyrtorchilum rhodoneurum
(Neodryas)
photo: S. Dalstrom



Cyrtorchilum tricostatum
(Oncidium)
photo: J. Sonnemark



Diadenium micranthum
photo: S. Dalstrom



Gomesa recurva
photo: S. Dalstrom



Aspasia lunata
photo: S. Dalstrom



Brachtia andina
photo: J. Sonnemark



Brassia thyrsoidea
photo: Stig Dalstrom



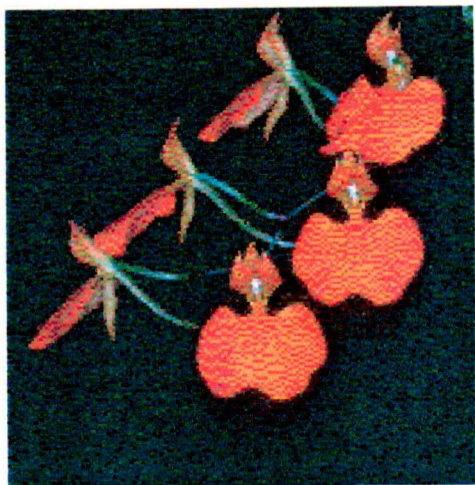
Caucaea radiata
photo: A. Hirtz



Cischweinfia parva
photo: A. Hirtz



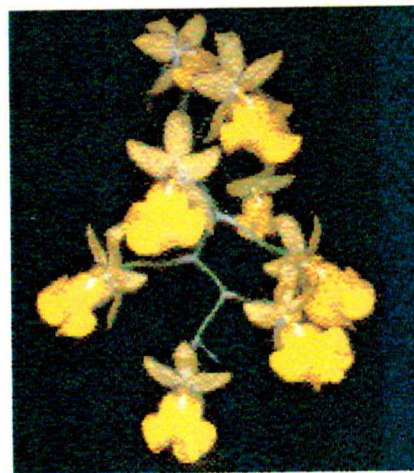
Cochloda rosea
photo: Stig Dalstrom



Comparettia speciosa
photo: S. Dalstrom



Cuitlauzina pendula
(*Odontoglossum*)
photo: L. Kuhn



Cyrtorchilum aureum
(*Odontoglossum*)
photo: J. Sonnemark