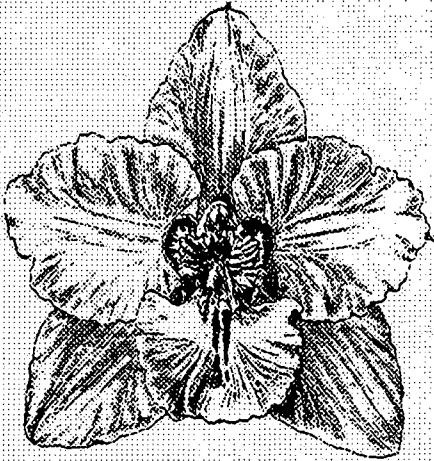


❖Odontoglossum Alliance❖

Newsletter

May 1998



San Francisco Orchid Show

Some time ago United Airlines sent me some of my frequent flyer coupons. When I discovered last fall they expired in 1997, I decided to use them. The airlines let me turn them in for a ticket to be used in 1998. So what better way for an odont lover to use the tickets and a week-end than to attend the San Francisco Orchid Show 27 February - 2 March 1998.

After conferring with Bob Hamilton in Berkeley and John Hainsworth and Pat Hill of Strawberry Creek Orchids, I scheduled the trip.

I arrived in SF in the early afternoon of Wednesday, 26 February and after checking in at a hotel close to the show, I walked over. The show was in the set-up stage at a former army warehouse and pier of Fort Mason. It is a great location with lots of room for displays and sales area. Strawberry Creek was in the finishing touches of set-up, while The Transbay Orchid Alliance (Steve Beckendorf, Bob Hamilton, and Tim Brydon) had yet to arrive. Set up was to be completed by noon Thursday, the next day. As the afternoon wore on Transbay started to show up. By early evening they were assembled with all their plant material. By 8:00 PM enough was done for Tim Brydon to join with Pat Hill, John Hainsworth and myself for a late dinner.

Thursday morning saw the completion of the show set-up. The set-up people then turned to their respective sales areas. Judging commenced in the afternoon and was completed by mid day of Friday. Friday afternoon was devoted to educational tours of school children, grades 1-5, with several schools participating. The children had the opportunity to see the displays in their prime condition with no crowd interference. This was a very positive step to be taken by the Show Committee. Several displays had educational tables set out to explain to the children the nature and culture of orchids.

Friday evening was the preview party with a large attendance. A number of Odont Alliance members were present. Howard Liebman, our President and his wife Ilene, Jim Rassmann, Valerie Henderson, Tom Perlite, Steve Gettel, and several others whose names I can't recall from my memory bank. We did see Bruce Cobbledick, our first President. Bruce has since given up growing Odonts, and we regret his decision and hope that it is only temporary.

The SF Show is **THE** place to see "The Odontoglossum Alliance". I think with the exception of the major West Coast shows where there is an AOS Trustees meeting and of course some World Orchid Conferences, this is the place to see "Odonts". The show has another unusual feature and that is the show area while being very large, is only about one half the

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devoted to plant sales. There was an enormous variety of plant sales. I was especially pleased to see the sales of odont alliance material from Mexico; Callie, Colombia and Quito, Ecuador. These sales booths seemed to receive considerable attention. Their species were a wide and unusual variety of plants. It was especially interesting to see the AOS judges crowd around those particular sales tables during lulls in the judging duties and before the sales tables opened during the preview party.

Friday evening a fun dinner was enjoyed with Valerie Henderson, Bob Hamilton, Jim Rassmann, John Leathers, Tim Brydon and myself at the Seafood Pacifica a small but excellent menu of seafood nicely prepared.

Saturday was a tour of the old Valamar Garden greenhouses. This is where Tim Brydon, Bob Hamilton, and John Leathers are sharing one house. Tom Perlite of Golden Gate Orchids has another of the houses. John Leathers has a major collection of masdevallias and draculas while Tim and Bob have odont collections. Both are raising seedlings as well as mature plants. Many of the seedlings are crosses by Bob Hamilton. Needless to say with our group of five visitors, Howard Liebman, Jim Rassmann, Loren Grobler, Kevin Hipkins and myself, each can away with some valuable additions to our respective collections. I, personally exhibited great restraint so that when I departed for home on Sunday, I had only one box of plants to check on the flight. This was a far cry from Jim Rassmann who filled his station wagon to overflowing between his show purchases and the plants he obtained from this visit. Howard Liebman was very selective and took only those "spectacular" plants.

The show was beautiful and imaginative with many exhibits. I concentrated on those with odontoglossum alliance material. All displays from California growers had suffered from the devastation of El Nino this year. Lots of rain and little sunshine. This slowed the blooming and the displayers all regretted the lateness of their crop. To a person they stated their disappointment at not being able to bring forth their usual displays of flowers. Never-the-less, to me the displays were spectacular. The El Nino effect also showed up in the sales area where the odont people decried their lack of blooming plants for their sales table.

The judges awarded an AM/AOS of 82 points to a sibling cross of Oda. Joe's Drum made and grown by Tim Brydon.

The theme of the show was the period of 1925-35, essentially the art deco period. Many of the displays were very creative in their design and implementation, including using original period material.

The Strawberry Creek display won a blue ribbon for Oda. Janice Miller 'Powder Puff', Odm. Extraria 'Lime Spice' and Oda. Heron Water x Zorka 'Red Zebra'. They also received a red ribbon for Oda. Sophia Liebman. There was a very beautiful Oda. Graireana which is Odm. rossii x Coch. noeziiana, the cross being made in 1909. Some of the very old crosses are beautiful and it is wonderful to see them continuing to show their color at various shows. A particularly beautiful Oda. Drummer Joe 'Damask' was noteworthy in the display.

The Transbay Orchid Society display contained a collection of Odontoglossum species; blandum, lacerum, nobile, and lindenii, a Lemboglossum cervantessii, and Ryan. maculatum. The display contained Tim Brydon's Joe's Drum that received the AM, a large heavy textured red/purple Vyls. Lana Court, and a beautiful red Oda. Ray's Splash 'Hawks Hill'.

Odcdm. Tiger Night HCC/AOS, Wilsonara Goldrush 'Golden Orange' and Odm. triumphans 'Golden Gate' graced Tom Perlite's Golden Gate Orchids display. The Rod McClellan display had few odont alliance plants, but particularly notable was Odtina. Lorraines Fourteenth Anniversary AM and CCM/AOS. Sunset Orchids (Steve Gettel) displayed a beautiful Oda. Gene Gettel 'Sunset Royalty' which had a rich burgundy color and well shaped. and a stunning orange- Oda. Santa Maria 'Eclipse'.

Saturday night was a dinner gathering of the Odont Alliance group at a Chinese restaurant. We started out with a reservation for 9 which included Bob Hamilton, Tim Brydon, John Leathers, Valerie Henderson, Steve and Julie Beckendorf, Kevin Hipkins (Royal Orchid Gardens, Australia), Lorens Grobler (South Africa), and myself. But the party rapidly grew as more were welcomed. The Chinese host cleverly expanded the table to accommodate everyone- Sandro Cusi (Rio Verde Orchids, Mexico), Jose (Pepe) and Inez Portilla (Equagenera Orchids) from Ecuador, Jim and Julie Rassmann, Bruce Doxey of Classic Trees and Gardens and Alex Koomanoff. (Bruce did a video on orchids, a pilot for a diverse series on horticulture and gardens.) We enjoyed a Chinese banquet.

Early Sunday morning I caught the 7:00 AM flight to Boston and by late afternoon the same day had unpacked my small collection of new plants, repotted them and into my greenhouse. The pictures of the displays in the newsletter does not do justice to their beauty, but it does give a sense of the scale a number of odont material for displayed.

John E. Miller

Enigmatic Odontoglossums

Part 6: The *Odontoglossum luteopurpureum* Complex by Stig Dalström

Odontoglossum luteopurpureum was described by Professor Lindley on page 16 in his *Orchidaceae Lindlenianae* (1846). It was a plant discovered by Linden a couple of years earlier in the forests of Quindío at an elevation of 8,860 feet (2,700 meters) in the Central Cordillera in Colombia. Since Lindley only saw a dried specimen, he interpreted the color of the flowers as being yellow and purple, hence the name. However, in a living state the flowers of this variable species are almost exclusively yellowish with brownish spots and markings.

Approximately 20 years later, this species became better known through the introduction of living plants by various collectors. Plants were collected both in the Central and the Eastern Cordillera where this species still is fairly common. As in many other cases, the growers discovered a number of "different" plants that had been gathered together with *Odm. luteopurpureum* and that subsequently described as separate species. But as the taxonomical knowledge increased with the flow of freshly collected plants, growers and taxonomists realized that many of these "species" merely represented the natural variation of a widely distributed and variable taxon. There were also several suspected natural hybrids discovered this way.

These discussions can be studied in several contemporary publications, such as Reichenbach's *Xenia Orchidacea* (1868, 1874), *The Gardiners Chronicle* (1882) and Veitch's *A Manual of Orchidaceous Plants* (1887-94). It is clearly stated that reasonable "borders" between the many forms of this species are impossible to maintain and that they should be regarded as sub species varieties of "garden forms" only. Some are more distinct than others.

This information is important and useful today, considering the enormous number of plants that must have been available in the nurseries at the time. If the growers and botanists then could see how these plants graded into each other, there is no reason to doubt their words today.

Despite that Reichenbach and others who worked with these plants apparently agreed on lumping them into *Odm. luteopurpureum*, this decision is not entirely supported today. Bockemühl (1989) insists that one of these forms, *Odontoglossum sceptrum*, Rchb.f. and Warz., is a distinct species, not even closely related to the superspecies " *Odm. luteopurpureum*."

Bockemühl claims that this "species" lacks close relatives due to the "short" column. All other characteristics pointing toward *Odm. luteopurpureum* are ignored.

But let us go back to the type description of *Odm. sceptrum* in *Bonplandia* (1854). Here Reichenbach declares that the flowers are slightly larger than *Odm. luteopurpureum*. Furthermore, there is no designated collector or collection numbers in the description, only the country of origin (Colombia = New Grenada) Bockemühl believes that the type specimen (which Reichenbach used for his description), is in the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, labeled "O. sceptrum" R. 27. Warz. The problem is that these flowers do not show any particular differences from the flowers of the type *Odm. luteopurpureum*.

However, not until 1868 did the form that we today call "*Odontoglossum sceptrum*" become known through live plants. Wallis, who frequently collected near Medellín, managed to send plants to Linden's orchid establishment in Belgium. This information is submitted by Veitch, who writes in his *Manual of Orchidaceous*

Plants, 2, p. 46 "*Odontoglossum luteopurpureum* var. *sceptrum*, Flowers smaller with broader segments and a more regular contour.

In other words, we do not know for sure which specimen Reichenbach used as a type for *Odm. sceptrum*. If it is the Warszewicz specimen labeled "R.37.," the collection site remains a mystery. Finally it does not look like the smaller-and-roundier form, known today as that "species" but rather as a "normal" form of *Odm. luteopurpureum*.

In 1989, I had the privilege to see some plants of the so-called "*Odontoglossum sceptrum*" in the wild. It is still fairly common in the vicinity of Medellin, where it grows in wetter areas as an epiphyte or terrestrially along the road cuts. Despite that very little forest remains in the area, I was fortunate to find enough plants in bloom to get an idea of its natural variation. In some cases, the plants were smaller, with round flowers and sometimes they were bigger, carrying larger and more stellate (starlike) flowers that looked like the supposed type of *Odm. sceptrum* as well as *Odm. luteopurpureum*. It was also interesting to see how the shape and size of the flowers change in cultivation, depending on the health of the plant. My conclusion is that this is nothing but a geographical form of *Odm. luteopurpureum* or at most a subspecies.

Dealing with odontoglossums, it is risky using a single morphological feature such as the length of the column, as taxonomically significant. These notoriously changeable plants are not to be trusted. For instance, the length of the column can vary in many species despite that other features are the same. In *Odontoglossum kegeljanii* Morren (the *Odm. epidendroides* complex), there are two groups of plants that differ only in the length of the column. Whether this difference indicates the existence of separate forms or subspecies, or merely the fact that I measured large and small flowers of the same taxon, remains to be investigated. It is like classifying people shorter than 6 feet as one species and those who are taller as another species (intermediate forms are "natural hybrids"). We could do it, but it would hardly reflect a natural classification in my mind.

Reichenbach, together with Linden, also described *Odontoglossum schlimii*, in the same year and in the same publication as *Odm. sceptrum* (1854). The plants had been collected by Schlim (nr. 405) near Ocana in the Eastern Cordillera during his trip in 1846-52. Reichenbach later considered his "species" as a "variety" of *Odontoglossum luteopurpureum*. A second specimen of *Odm. schlimii* can be found in the Herbarium at Kew (Schlim 1024). It is mounted on the same sheet as a specimen labeled "*Odontoglossum schlimii*, Warszewicz, New Grenada."

Bockenmühl treats *Odm. schlimii* as a synonym of "*Odontoglossum sceptrum*," probably due to the smaller flowers which are similar in size. But again, when we study the type specimen a little bit closer we get another picture.

But there is another dubious species that needs to be mentioned first. *Odontoglossum tripudians* Rchb.f and Warsz. was also described in Bonplandia (1854). It was based on a plant collected by Warszewicz during his journey to South America around 1850. He also sent live plants to Linden's nursery, where they flowered a few years later. Somehow the type of *Odm. tripudians*, which is in the Reichenbach herbarium at Vienna, was believed to have come from Peru. Since nothing similar has been reported from Peru, only from northeastern Colombia, I assume that the labels were "mixed" somewhere along the way (especially since we know that Warszewicz was in Colombia when he collected the "schlimii" specimen and the supposed type of *Odm. sceptrum*, at Kew).

Morphologically, the type of *Odm. tripudians* is practically identical to *Odm. schlimii*. Hence, I consider them to be the same species. This conclusion is supported by the herbarium sheet at Kew, which indicates that Warszewicz was in the area where this species occurs.

So how did this mess get started? Permitting myself some speculation, it appears that Warszewicz and Schlim collected the same species, probably in the same area at about the same time. Since it is a common practice among collectors to spread botanical discoveries to several herbaria, Warszewicz and Schlim sent there inflorescence both to Kew and to Reichenbach (and possibly to other herbaria as well). Reichenbach described the Schlim specimen from Oceana as *Odm. schlimii* and the Warszewicz specimen, which lacked information about its origin but was believed to have come from Peru, as *Odm. tripudians*. At Kew they were both determined as

Odm. schlimii and ended up on the same sheet.

Why Peru then? Well, Warszewicz actually visited Ecuador and Peru during his journey, where many of his *Odontoglossum* discoveries were made. Possibly it was assumed that *Odm. tripudians* was collected as well.

This later name has been used for this species until today and should therefor be used, while *Odontoglossum schlimii* becomes the synonym.

Odontoglossum tripudians has since only been collected sparsely in the northeastern part of Colombia at elevations around 6,560 to 9,840 feet (2,000 to 3,000m). It apparently occurs on both sides of the Eastern Cordillera. Morphologically it has a very peculiar shape and appears like something in between the *Odm. epidendroides*, *Odm. cristatum* and the *Odm. cruentum* complexes, with characteristics such as the rectangular but fringed column wings and the large and radiating colored keels on the lip.

Bockenmühl compares it with *Odontoglossum spectatissimum* Lindl. (the *Odm. epidendroides* complex), while I would rather place it in the *cristatum* complex, to which *Odontoglossum luteopurpureum* also may be affiliated. However, since I have very little personal experience with *Odontoglossum* plants from this part of Colombia, I admit that I am speculating here. The fact that *Odm. tripudians* always has been regarded as "rare and variable" (a suspicious combination) leaves room for surprises.

Maybe it simply is the northernmost form of the *Odm. cristatum* complex, which otherwise seems to be absent there, or perhaps an independent natural link that ties the different species complexes together.

None of the forms of *Odm. luteopurpureum* have been reported from Venezuela nor Ecuador, although there are rumors that it may occur in the northern districts of Ecuador, close to the Colombian border. But since the forests disappear so fast we may never find out for sure.

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Editors Note:

This is the final installment of the series by Stig Dalström on the Enigmatic *Odontoglossums*. The *Odontoglossum Alliance* thanks Stig and the American Orchid Society for the privilege of reprinting this material.

A New Biological Root Rot Preventative Product

by Russ Vernon

Growers who have used peat based mixes over the years have had to keep an eye out for symptoms of root rot. This disease can ruin a plant and give very little indication of its presence until it is too late. If you have ever had a plant fall over on the pot when you pick it up, you know how true this can be.

Using moisture retentive mixes evens out the radical moisture swings of more open mixes and extends the interval between watering. For orchid genera that appreciate such conditions, peat based mixes are a good solution. They are inexpensive, as and efficient to use, and of consistent quality. The root rot potential is the down side.

Many commercial growers use regular applications of fungicides to prevent root rot fungi from becoming a problem. I, for one, like to try and avoid using pesticides in any quantity unless there is no alternative. Also, with environmental concerns growing, a non-chemical alternative might be worth considering.

I have been using a new "biological" product now for two years and have found it to be very effective. This product is an impregnated clay particle containing the spores of a parasitic fungus. This fungus colonizes the roots of the plant and consumes pathogenic root rot fungi.

When I repot orchids, as I position the plant in the new pot, I sprinkle a "pinch" of the particles on the roots, and then add the medium. Supposedly, the fungus stays with the plant for its lifetime, but I add more at each repotting because so little is used.

I have used this product on Phalaenopsis, Miltoniopsis, Masdevallia, Lycaste and Oncidinae alliance plants including Odontoglossums. Phalaenopsis are potted in Pro Mix-HP and plastic pots, all others are in fiber pots. So far, in two years I have yet to lose a plant to root rot.

This new material was originally sold under the name of T-22 G, Biological Plant Protectant Granules. It is now called: Rootshield. It is manufactured by BioWorks, Inc., 122 N. Genessee St., Geneva, NY 14456. Check with you horticulture supply source to see if they carry Rootshield or call 1-800-877-9443 to find your closest distributor.

I hope that you find this product as helpful in your growing as I have found it helpful to mine!

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World Orchid Conference 1999

Report on Preparations for the Odontoglossum Alliance participation in the 1999 16th World Orchid Conference to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; 23 April - 2 May 1999.

The WOC Chairman, Dr. Wally Thomas, has committed an entire day to the Odontoglossum Alliance. This is planned to be an International Odontoglossum Alliance Day the second day of the conference. There is a three person committee preparing the program with the very excellent help from the general conference staff. We have been allocated Thursday, 29 April, 1999.

We have assembled a fine set of speakers, all internationally known and respected. The program is varied and authoritative. The speakers are:

Juan Felipe Posada	Colombia S.A.
Sandro Cusi	Mexico
Mark Chase	US and Kew Gardens

Alex Hirtz	Ecuador S.A.
Stig Dalström	Sweden and Marie Selby Gardens
Roberto Vasquez	Bolivia S.A.
Robert Hamilton	US

The day is planned to commence in the morning with five 30 minute talks and additionally allowing 5 minutes for questions following each speaker. Following the morning session is an Odontoglossum Alliance lunch, during which time there will be a short business report. Also some of the auction material will be auctioned. As the beginning of the afternoon session will have three talks by another alliance, this will provide for a relaxed lunch period. The afternoon session, beginning after the afternoon break, will have two speakers with the same format. The evening will be a social function with a Chinese banquet at the Chinese Imperial Restaurant. During the dinner there will be an auction of the balance of the fine odontoglossum alliance material. In 1996 at the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting a dinner was held at the same restaurant and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The food was delicious, varied, many course, and pleasantly served. Service was outstanding with it being very prompt, but unhurried during each course. We received many compliments on the fine evening. We have also planned for some interesting surprises during the dinner.

The general theme of the World Orchid Conference is conservation. In the spirit of this theme the Odontoglossum Alliance will have several talks dealing with the conditions of the alliance species in their native habitat. Then we will have some reports on interesting and new developments related to the alliance. This is a meeting that every Odontoglossum Alliance lover will want to attend- Great city, informative talks, and fun social events.

The program is being organized by a committee representing the alliances of New Zealand, Britain, and the American (north, central and south) groups. In addition W. Mark Elliot and Joan Walton of the Vancouver Orchid Society are part of the organizing team with their on-site presence. From time to time I will be reporting on the progress of organization of this day for all Odontoglossum Alliance lovers the world over. I hope every odont lover will find this program to their liking.

Speakers

Mark Chase, Kew Gardens.

Title of Lecture: "Genetic Relationships of *Oncidium* and *Odontoglossum*: evidence from analysis of DNA sequences."

Roberto Vasquez Cavez, Bolivia

Title of Lecture: The Subtribe *Oncidiinae* (Orchidaceae) in the Mountains of Bolivia

Roberto was born in Cochabamba, Bolivia and studied Business Administration at High Point College, North Carolina. His major activities are farming and botany with specialization in orchids. He has been studying orchids since 1972. With Dr. Calaway Dodson he has published 3 volumes "Orchids of Bolivia" in the *Icones Plantarum Tropicarum* series, published by the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens and the Missouri Botanical Gardens. To date they have found 200 orchids new to science, published in co-authorship with Dr. Caryle Luer and Dr. Calaway Dodson. The genus *Vasqueziella* was named after Roberto. He was a speaker at the World Orchid Conferences in Miami (1984) and Rio de Janeiro (1996). He is the founder and President of the "Sociedad Boliviana de Botanica".

In biological terms, Bolivia is considered a country of megadiversity. The presence of the Cordillera de Los Andes to the west, the extensive tropical forest of the Amazon basin to the North and east and the xerophytic Chaco forest to the south has configured a region quite varied in topography and climate, and this combination of factors has created one of the most diverse regions on our planet, but at the same time, Bolivia is one of the least studied countries biologically.

It is believed that around 15,000 - 20,000 species of plants grow in this country, 10% of which belong to the Orchidaceae family. The subtribe Oncidiinae is represented in Bolivia by 42 genera and more than 160 species, 25% of which are endemic. The genera with the most numerous species are *Oncidium* (48 spp.), *Odontoglossum* (16 spp.), *Pachyphyllum* (10 spp.), *Rodriguezia* (7 spp.) and *Stigmatostalix* (6 spp.). Undescribed species are constantly being found in the wet mountain forests and need to be studied soon. Increasing basic needs of a growing human population are contributing to the destruction of habitats with negative effects on living organisms including orchids.

Stig Dalström, Marie-Selby Gardens and Sweden

Title of Lecture "Odontoglossum -- Taxonomically Endangered"

A discussion about how to treat various groups of species-complexes in the genus *Odontoglossum*, which can be taxonomically justified to remain in the genus in a strict natural classification, which groups borderline other genera and which distantly related groups are placed in the genus based on convergent floral similarities only.

Stig Dalström, born and reared in Sweden, now lives as a resident alien in Sarasota, Florida, USA. His first experience with the *Odontoglossum* alliance, was a couple of jungle collected plants, imported from Central America, which were the first orchids to grow relatively well and flower in his collection. This triggered a desire to find other related species and to learn more about them. A trip to Ecuador in 1979 turned out successfully plant wise, but as a failure nomenclaturally. This frustrating situation initiated a continuous quest to produce a taxonomical treatment for this large group of plants. He currently works for the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida, as an artist, illustrator and researcher. He also works in conjunction with other taxonomists, organizations and institutions.

The complete description of the program, the lecture titles and abstracts are planned to be published in the August newsletter.

Meristemed *Odontoglossum*?

While attending the Greater New York Orchid Show on 1 April 1998, I ran into Mike Tibbs who has had a long association with various *Odontoglossum* Alliance nurseries. Mike currently is associated with a Japanese firm. He showed me a replated flask of *Odm. Coupe Point*. The flask was about 4 inches in diameter and held about 150 plants that were 2.5 - 3 inches high. I had not been aware that straight *Odontoglossums* had been meristemed. This certainly was my first exposure. This may not be news to all our members, but like I said, it was to me.

John E. Miller

Odontoglossum Alliance Toronto Meeting

The 1998 meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance was held in Toronto, Ontario in conjunction with the Southern Ontario Orchid Show and the AOS Trustees meeting. The meeting was held on Saturday, 9 May. The meeting was opened by Dr. Sal Naqvi, the session chairman. He began the meeting with a moment of silence in respect and memory of Dr. Don Wimber, who earlier this year had passed away. (His passing was noted in the February 98 Newsletter). Dr. Wimber had made many significant contributions to horticulture, not the least of which were in the breeding of the odontoglossum alliance material.

The meeting started at 8:30 AM in a room with about 100 chairs. Before the first talk began the room was filled and it was standing room only from then on. I estimate that we had about 150 in attendance for the four talks. Two talks will be printed in their entirety in subsequent issues of the newsletter. Those are the talks of Sue Golan and myself, John Miller. As the lead off speaker, I described the design of my greenhouse in Westport, Massachusetts that was completed in 1987. During the question and answer period there were a few comments that will increase the utility and growing ability of the greenhouse. I intend to incorporate these into the operation.

Milton Carpenter, Executive Vice President, AOS discussed the results of his breeding program in the Oncidinae group with the intent of bringing into the odontoglossum alliance plant material with a tolerance of warmer growing conditions. Milton lives in Belle Glade, Florida with its very warm conditions. He began this program a number of years ago initiated with the urging of W. Moir. He has been working with Oncidiums, Bapiisonias, Wilsonaras and other warm growing Oncidiinae crossed with cool growing Odontoglossums and Odontiodas to produce these warm tolerant hybrids. Pollen of these cool growing varieties had been donated by a number of hybridizers, to whom Milton gave credit. He showed a large number of spectacular hybrids. Milton not only gave a most interesting talk, but his delivery, mannerisms, comments and presentations were laced with humor while delivering understanding. He captivated the audience.

Doug Kennedy, the winner of the first Robert Dugger AOS award for the best Odontoglossum discussed the plant, Odm. Cherry Fudge 'Swiss Mocha' AM/AOS. Doug had purchased a block of these seedlings, before the hybridizer and grower had seen one flower. Of the first six plants Doug flowered, four won awards. How that for hitting the lottery! He discussed the parents and raised questions as to if Odm Summit x Onc. leuochilum are the 'real' parents. With comments from the audience that generally supported his concerns, he described his several attempts to re-do the cross and also to make crosses with Cherry Fudge. He also offered to give pollen to anyone who would like to try, but all his efforts were without any success. He also had a humorous delivery that many times had the audience laughing.

Sue Golan discussed the 'other glossums' and their hybrid history. These include the lemboglossum group. Sue's talk was well received and will be printed in its entirety along with some of her illustrations in the next newsletter. Here slides vividly showed the beauty of these orchids and the attractiveness of the genera.

During the lunch there was an auction of odontoglossum alliance material which had been generously donated by a number of people. There were plants, flasks, a copy of the Bockemühl book, *Odontoglossums A Monograph and Iconograph*, and an Eric Young Foundation shirt. Howard Liebman did the auctioning and also bought the shirt. He has a deep knowledge of alliance material and an ability to recall the plants names, parentage, description and various other pieces of information that makes his auctioneering unique and fascinating.

The orchid show had a small number of Odontoglossum Alliance material plants in display. Significant among them was the Odm. Cherry Fudge 'Swiss Mocha' AM/AOS displayed in Doug Kennedy's set-up. There were a number of sales booths in operation at the show. Of interest to the odont group was Sandro Cusi of Rio Verde Orchids who had large collection of Mexican species. Jose (Pepe) Portilla of Equigenera Orchids had a large number of Ecuadorian species including many odontoglossum species. Both of these organizations plan to be in Vancouver in 1999.

In the evening there was a dinner at a Chinese restaurant that was attended by about 30 people. There were numerous dishes of a great variety. During the dinner Dr. Liebman, President of The Odontoglossum Al-

29 April 1999 in Vancouver. There were also another auction of odontoglossum alliance material. The auction raised about \$1300.00 US for the alliance, much of which will be needed to support the newsletter and the 99 WOC. program. All in all it was a very successful and interesting meeting. Our thanks go out to Mario Ferrusi who was the on site organizer of the program and events. Our additional thanks go to the donators and successful bidders of the auction material, and to the speakers at the formal lecture meeting.

John E. Miller

Dues Announcement

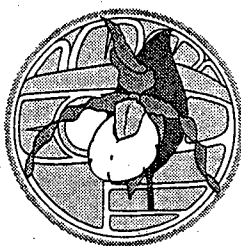
The payment of dues for membership in the Odontoglossum Alliance is required by 1 August 1998. Last year we initiated voluntary payment of the dues for two years. If you paid for 1997-1998, then I have included with this letter a dues and membership form. If you are already paid for the year 1998-1999, then NO membership form is included and NO payment is needed.

I urge each of you who have received a dues notice to promptly remit your check prior to 1 August 1998. You may pay for the years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. It costs the alliance time and money to send you a dues reminder along with your August newsletter.

If you desire to receive the New Zealand Odontoglossum Alliance, this is an additional \$5.00 per year. You may also contribute to the AOS Robert Dugger Odontoglossum Alliance Trophy for the best Odontoglossum awarded each year.

Remember, I am a one man band up here in Westport, Massachusetts, so I hope I need not remind you again about the dues payment.

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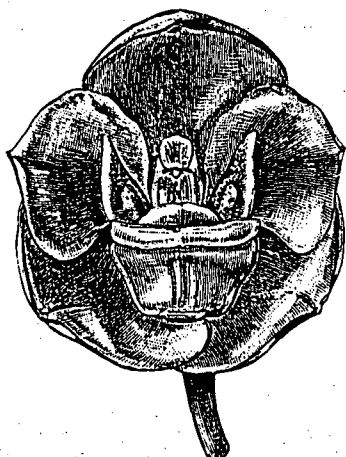
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*Peristeria elata.*

PERISTERIA ELATA.

THIS stately Orchid has long been known as the Dove plant from the fancied resemblance of the column and its beaked anther, combined with the ascending side lobes of the lip to the figure of a dove; characters which also obtained for it from the Spanish settlers in Central America the name El Espiritu Santo, or Holy Ghost plant. It is a native of Panama, whence it was first communicated in 1826 by Mr. Barnard, a Peruvian merchant, to Mr. Harrison, of Liverpool, in whose hothouse it flowered for the first time in 1831.

The comparatively immense pseudo-bulbs carry leaves of 3 feet or more in height; the strong erect flower-spikes often 5 feet high, the individual wax-like blooms being nearly 3 inches in diameter and very fragrant, the only colour being some purple spotting on the side lobes of the labellum. The flowers are produced during the months of July, August and September, and last a long time in perfection.

Messrs. Veitch and Sons give the following cultural directions:—*Peristeria elata* is usually potted early in spring in a compost of two-thirds well-rotted turfy loam and one-third fibrous peat or other fibre, with the addition of some thoroughly decomposed cow manure. Ample drainage should be secured by broken crocks to about half the depth of

the pot, and the compost filled in above this to within an inch of the rim. The pseudo-bulbs should be placed on the surface of the compost which should then be covered with sphagnum moss. When growth commences the plants should receive a liberal supply of water, which should be continued till the large new pseudo-bulbs are mature; the supply may then be diminished to so much as is sufficient to prevent the pseudo-bulbs from shrinking during the winter months. As much air and light as is safely practicable should be afforded at all seasons, shading being used only during the earliest stages of growth and on hot bright days to prevent the foliage being scorched.

ODONTIODA LÆVETZLIANA.

(*Od. læve* × *Cochlidia Nætzliana*.)

One of the very few remaining primary *Odontiodas* proves what is called interesting, another and more euphemious term for "rubbish" in the eyes of the hybridist.

The bulbs are smooth and glabrous, much like those of *læve* the ♀ parent, but thicker in proportion; the leaves are long and narrow, also more like those of the seed bearer.

Spike 22 inches long, divided by strong three-quarter inch bracts into nodal lengths, those at the base being 2 inches long, gradually reducing, the one at the apex being but half an inch. Flowers 8, in form extremely like *læve*, but entirely light venetian-red, slightly darker at edges and tips. The lip alone varies in colour, being a light yellow, tinted at edges with rose; it is intermediate in form, the column short and similarly tinted, having the stigma almost divided into two parts by a projection of the ridge under the caudicle of the pollinia.

A remarkable feature is a thread-like filament on the back of the base of the lower sepals; on two flowers there are two, on three only one. The flowers were crossed May 26th, 1907, but the first plant did not flower until June 26th, 1915.—*de B. Crawshay, Rosefield, Sevenoaks, July 22nd, 1915.*

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ODONTOGLOSSUM CRISPUM.

ONCE again the *Journal of Horticulture* has encouraged the practical Orchid grower, this time by reserving one of its well-known monthly competitions for the best essay on *Odontoglossum crispum*. Judging by the numerous essays submitted, this enterprising *Journal* circulates in many a garden of importance where Orchids form an indispensable feature.

The final adjudication was entrusted to Mr. Gurney Wilson, who awarded the First Prize to Mr. W. E. Dadson, Hookfield Gardens, Epsom, and the Second to Mr. A. R. Moody, 28, Drake Street, Enfield. The former receives a Gold Medal and the *Journal of Horticulture* post free for one year, while the latter obtains a Silver Medal, to which we have pleasure in adding a monthly copy of the ORCHID WORLD for a year.

By courtesy of Mr. Horace J. Wright, Editor of the *Journal of Horticulture*, we have pleasure in publishing extracts from three of the essays.

MR. W. E. DADSON'S ESSAY.

The cultivation of Orchids is no longer the exclusive privilege of the few, now that the cultural requirements are better understood. This has arisen chiefly from three causes: Firstly, from the useful information imparted by those who have studied the plants in their habitats; secondly, from the close study and application by means of which cultivators have brought the observations of travellers to bear in a practical manner on the culture of the plants; and, thirdly, from the discovery that many of the species require less heat and less expensive appliances than were once thought indispensable.

While the culture of Orchids demands forethought and careful attention to details in respect of watering, resting, cleaning, temperature, shade, and ventilation, common-sense enters largely into their treatment, and those who apply it will find Orchid cultivation as devoid of difficulties as the management of any other garden plant.

Odontoglossum crispum is most abundant in the mountainous regions of the South American Andes, between Bogota and Ocana, at an altitude varying from 5,000 feet to 9,000 feet; it is a humid, temperate region, with a mean annual temperature of a little over 55 degrees for the higher elevation and 65 degrees for the lower. The difference between the maximum and minimum temperature is sometimes very great, the thermometer in the heat of day often rising to 90 degrees and falling at night to 40 degrees. From this fact may be deduced the importance, first, of a low night temperature, and, second, that an occasional high temperature in summer need not cause anxiety if the house is carefully shaded and ventilated, and the atmosphere is kept moist.

Considering the immense quantity of plants of *Odontoglossum crispum* that have been imported during the past thirty years, and the large number still to be obtained, there is sound evidence that this species perpetuates itself by seeds very freely in its native home. When carefully saved seeds are sown under the artificial conditions of cultivating adopted in this and other countries, however, the result is very disappointing, for despite every attention only an exceedingly small proportion germinates satisfactorily. Exactly why this is the case has never been discovered, notwithstanding the fact that seeds of hybrid *Odontoglossums*, when sown under similar conditions, yield fairly good and encouraging results. However, with close attention, success is sometimes achieved, and the cultivator is then well rewarded and encouraged to continue his or her interesting work.

The best time to repot these plants which require it is shortly after flowering, before new roots are formed. It is a grave error to injure the roots by the process of transplanting to larger pots while they are active. The pots must be clean and well drained, being about half-filled with crocks. For potting material use equal parts of fibrous peat and sphagnum moss, with no admixture. After potting shade the house judiciously during bright weather, and keep the

atmosphere closer for a short time; water with great caution until the roots have freely entered the material, when the supply can be increased as required; but a saturated condition must be avoided always as it causes a sour compost, in which no plant delights. Soft water, whenever obtainable, should be preferred both for root application and spraying, and it should be as nearly as possible of the same temperature as the house; cold, hard water is liable to cause the young leaves to assume a rusty-brown appearance and to check the young growths.

As these plants continue their growth right through the winter watering must be carefully attended to, and although a minimum temperature of 50 degrees should be aimed at, no real damage will occur if the thermometer falls to 45 degrees. On very cold nights an excellent plan is to cover the glass with mats, and when the blinds are in use they may be let down as additional protection. Excessive fire-heat is never good for plants, so every means must be taken of preventing a loss of heat from the house, and thus reducing the need for highly-heated pipes.

As the weather improves air must be admitted on all favourable occasions, and the plants frequently damped down as the weather permits. When spikes are developing the plants should be carefully inspected every day for slugs and snails, which are particularly fond of them. As the flowers expand shade is very essential, and all the ventilators should also be opened on bright warm days, so that the house may be kept as cool as possible.

Scale is rarely found on *O. crispum*, these cool-house plants being favourite hosts for thrips, which cause much damage to the flower-spikes and disfigure the new growths. Fumigation is generally effectual, care being taken that water is not lodging in the growths, or it may prove a harbour for the thrips until the fumes have passed away, when they will march forth once again on their work of destruction. It is advisable to sponge the leaves once or twice a year with some safe insecticide. The best times are

just before the plants come into bloom and after repotting.

MR. A. R. MOODY'S ESSAY.

This charming Orchid, well known to many under its synonym *O. Alexandræ*, is undoubtedly first among the cool-house section of orchidaceous plants. A temperature ranging from 45 degrees to 65 degrees suits it admirably, but better results may be achieved with a minimum of 50 degrees. The type, judging from accounts, appears to have been pure white with golden spots on the lip; but imported pieces provide various forms and shades. In recent years many very fine varieties have been introduced in importations, and superb variations, with the petals and sepals so heavily spotted and blotched with purple as to almost exclude the typical whiteness, have been produced by skilled raisers at home. The essential points are fulness of form, regularity and depth of colour of blotches or markings, or pure white combined with good shape. Imported pieces of the type known as "Old Pacho" usually furnish better varieties than others.

Upon receipt imported plants must be looked over most carefully and all dead and decaying matter removed. It is an excellent plan to dip them in a solution of insecticide to destroy any insect pests which may be lurking in obscure and hidden places. They should then be stood upright in pots or boxes partly filled with crocks and sphagnum moss, in a temperature of from 50 degrees to 60 degrees, shaded and lightly sprayed to encourage the dormant "eyes" to start into growth, immediately after which they should be placed in pots just large enough to accommodate them properly.

A good potting medium consists of two parts of well pulled and chopped *Osmunda* fibre, one part of *Al* fibre, and one part of perfectly cleaned, cut-up sphagnum moss, with a little charcoal and some broken, half-decayed oak leaves. The components must be thoroughly mixed and damped prior to using. Peat still finds favour with many successful growers. It should be of a very

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fibrous nature, well broken up to remove the dust, and incorporated with chopped sphagnum and broken charcoal at the rate of two parts of peat to one part of moss and charcoal.

The pots should be two-thirds filled with clean crocks, with a covering of sphagnum to keep the drainage open; then add the compost fairly firmly. The plant ought to be so placed that the new growth is as nearly as possible in the centre of the pot; small sticks or fine copper-wire pegs should be used to hold it in position until established. When the operation is completed the base of the pseudo-bulbs must be slightly bedded in the potting mixture, which ought to be about level with the rim of the pot in the centre and half an inch below it at the edge. A few pieces of live sphagnum should then be inserted in the surface, as when in growth it helps to keep the material sweet, adds to the neatness of appearance, and acts as a guide in watering. Rain water, when obtainable, should be exclusively used.

After potting stand the plants in a cool, shaded position in the house and damp between the pots to maintain a moist atmosphere. An occasional light syringing of the surface of the compost and the plants themselves on sunny days will be all the watering required until root action becomes vigorous. The most scrupulous care must be exercised that no moisture remains in the young growths, especially during cold and damp weather, or they will almost certainly damp off. Air must be admitted on all favourable occasions during mild weather to encourage firm foliage and pseudo-bulbs. For this purpose bottom ventilators are preferable to those in the roof, because the too frequent use of the latter permits the escape of the essential atmospheric moisture. The growing period extends from about July to March, and liberal supplies of water must be given as required, which, during fine weather, may often be daily.

When the plants are finishing their growths the primary aim must be to ensure perfect ripening, and to that end air ought to be admitted freely yet with judgment; let them,

too, have as much light as possible short of exposing them to very bright sunshine. This treatment will go far to induce that plump, firm appearance of pseudo-bulbs and leaves which bespeaks fine, strong flower-spikes. Blinds are particularly useful at this stage, as shading can then be used when absolutely necessary; the possessor of such an important and desirable accessory has a great advantage over his less favoured *confrère* who has to have either all shade or none.

Small or half-formed pseudo-bulbs should not be allowed to carry large spikes, if they form them, and it is advisable to reduce the buds to about three or four in some cases, while total removal should be the rule in the case of very weak growths; even with strong growths the spike ought to be cut as soon as the plant shows signs of shrivelling.

MR. J. W. FORSYTH'S ESSAY.

The following useful information is extracted from an essay contributed by Mr. J. W. Forsyth, The Gardens, Markyate Celt, near Dunstable.

Opinions differ greatly as to the compost. At one period quite a craze existed to pot the plants in leaf-soil, peat and sand, which, needless to say, meant disaster. I find the following material excellent and can recommend it with every confidence. Mix thoroughly two and a half parts each of polypodium fibre and best quality fibrous peat, remove the sticks, chop, and remove the dust by means of a sieve; four parts chopped sphagnum moss, one part oak leaves (dry). The oak leaves should be gathered by hand in the autumn and stored in an airy place to dry; when required they should be rubbed through a half-inch sieve. Add also a good sprinkling of coarse silver sand, some small crocks and charcoal.

September is the best time to re-pot, for then the plants commence to make new roots. Do not delay potting until the roots are too long, or much damage will occur. The best method of potting is to use a sharp-pointed bamboo stick, about 7 inches long; avoid pressing the compost downwards with the

fingers, but press it towards the plant with the potting-stick, and pot moderately soft, with the aim of keeping the compost open. Finish by top dressing with freshly gathered sphagnum moss, which greatly encourages root action. The pots should be clean and well laid with crocks, upon which a few peat roots may be placed. Do not make the common mistake of using too large a pot, err rather on the small side.

Speaking generally, damping down should be carried out two or three times a day. Spraying the plants will also prove beneficial. In ventilating the house always start with the bottom ventilators, and when the temperature increases the top ones may be used; a draughty condition must be carefully avoided. Keep the temperature as near 55 degrees as possible. To have a free circulation of air round the pots do not overcrowd, and always stage the plants with the young growths facing the light. It is also advantageous to raise the plants on what is called a dummy stage, thereby ensuring a circulation of air round the bottom of the pots, which assists in keeping the compost sweet.

PLATYCLINIS GLUMACEA.

Illustration on page 282.

ALTHOUGH the individual flowers are small, the immense number produced on a single spike renders this species particularly useful, for when well grown many spikes are borne. An intermediate house will suit it admirably, and large pans will be found more suitable than deep pots. The yellowish-white flowers, usually borne in March and April, emit a most delightful fragrance, which is noticeable at some distance from the plant.

This graceful evergreen species was discovered by Cumings in the Philippine Islands, and was sent by him to Messrs. Loddiges, in whose nursery it flowered for the first time in 1841. The variety *valida* is distinguished by having much broader leaves; it is also spring-flowering and sweetly scented.



Oncidium Cavendishianum.

ONCIDIUM CAVENDISHIANUM.

THIS plant was discovered by Mr. G. Ure Skinner in the neighbourhood of the city of Guatemala, and was one of the first Orchids sent to England by this collector, it being included in a consignment received by Mr. Bateman at Knypersley in 1835. A few years later plants were sent by Mr. Parkinson, the British Consul in Mexico, to the Woburn collection, where one of them flowered in 1841, and from that time to the present frequent mention is made of it in the horticultural periodicals. It was collected by Roezl in 1875 near Colima, in the Mexican provinces of Michoacan, thus indicating that it is spread over a considerable area in the neighbourhood of the Pacific coast.

O. Cavendishianum is one of a small group distinguished by the absence of pseudo-bulbs and by their large, thick leathery leaves. It was named by Mr. Bateman in compliment to the then Duke of Devonshire, the most munificent patron of horticulture of his time, and under whom Sir Joseph Paxton commenced the modern system of Orchid culture at Chatsworth. Its usual flowering season is April and May. The strong spikes are from 2-3 feet high, terminating in a many-flowered panicle. The fragrant flowers are about 1½ inches in diameter; sepals and petals sometimes wholly yellow, sometimes yellow-green spotted with red; the labellum bright yellow; column wings yellow spotted with red. It succeeds well in an intermediate house, and requires plenty of atmospheric moisture.

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Odontoglossum crispum, extra large variety.



J. SÖNNEMARK

Above: A plant of *Odontoglossum tripudians* that was imported from Colomborquídeas in Medellín. These flowers correspond with the type specimen of *Odontoglossum schlimii*, which is a synonym.



S. DALSTRÖM



STIG DALSTRÖM

Left: *Odontoglossum luteopurpureum* from Fusagasugá in the Eastern Cordillera.
Above and Back Cover: This smaller plant of *Odm. luteopurpureum*, which is from the vicinity of Medellín, Colombia, is known in cultivation as "*Odontoglossum sceptrum*."



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