

# THE NZ ODONTOGLOSSUM ALLIANCE



## NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 Number 1  
March 1994

## EDITORIAL

**A**nother year and another issue. It's been great to forget about meetings over the summer months! However it is hard to get far from your orchids what with watering, potting and callers. Too soon the sun starts dropping in the sky and you need more shade on the northern side to avoid burning. Days are drawing in and the southern areas are again getting frosts and bad weather. Of course our friends in the Northern Hemisphere see it differently and are looking forward to better weather.

Thanks to Bev Lowe for notes taken at the Taranaki meeting. The June visit of Ray Thompson is being worked on with offers from H.B., Canterbury and possibly another South Island Society. Alf Day is currently visiting Australia and will discuss things further with Ray. I will endeavour to get the June newsletter out in the first week of June or earlier so final details of the itinerary can be given.

We had hoped to send out a list of Odont crosses available to members in mini-flasks for distribution in a year or so. Unfortunately the flasking lab reports problems so we are looking for alternatives.

There has been no volunteers to set up or design a display for 1995 International Conference in Palmerston North. Here's your big chance to get involved!

This will be your last issue if you haven't paid your sub. Over 100 paid up so far. Thanks for your support.

Ron Maunder, Editor  
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## A HOT BOX FOR DEFLASKED ORCHIDS

From time to time I buy a hobby-flask of Odonts- Odontiodas. The following method works well with a small number of plants. I have a Denniston propagation pad, on which I place the Hot-Box.

The box is made out of a beer crate placed upside down on the pad. The timber on the front-back-sides is reduced to let in more light. The ends and back of the crate are then covered with plastic. I then cover the top and front with a plastic curtain, weighted with a timber slat at the bottom, so that the curtain can be rolled up to let in more air and cut down the humidity. On the base of the box (was the top of the crate) I put stiff plastic mesh to keep air between the orchid pots and the heating pad.

With the curtain closed the temperature is about 17°-18°C and very humid. If I think the conditions are too bright, I place a piece of shade cloth over the box. I deflask into small pots with 3 or 4 plants in each pot. I sterilise the bark mix. The plants are then placed in the box with the curtain down. I check the plants every day. The warm humid conditions mean hygiene needs to be good. Remove dead plants and leaves quickly. Because of the conditions the mix may need to be replaced after 6 months.

Once the plants are established and begin to grow, I roll up the curtain to let in more air and harden off the plants. When they start their second growth I repot them and when they are re-established I move them out with the rest of my plants. I like to do this in the warm weather to cut down the shock of movement into a different environment.

This method may not suit all orchid seedlings (for instance Aussie dendrobiums) or even some other odont alliance crosses. It may sound a bit fussy but the reward for me is healthy plants with fat shiny bulbs.

P.J.Hawkins

These are potentially the hottest group of hybrids in the orchid world and in future we will see more of these for the following reasons:-

- a. More growers are finding power bills prohibitive especially for growing warm house plants such as *Phalaenopsis*, and are looking for cool or intermediate plants with more modest heating requirements.
- b. The cut flower trade where economics require maximum flower production per sq. metre and flower availability all year.
- c. Equipment like evaporative coolers, automatic humidifiers and opening vents, recirculating fans etc. which are all aids to growing the oncidium alliance plants in areas where they did not thrive in the past.
- d. The breeding of odont alliance plants that will tolerate hot summers and also as a bonus sometimes plants that can stand colder winter temperatures as well.
- e. And of course, the beauty of the flowers themselves. The small pots needed for even specimen plants and the ease of culture once you have the conditions right.

These new look odontoglossum types are being bred in the main from the Mexican odont species, oncidiums and miltonias plus brassias and aspacias.

1. MEXICAN SPECIES - These are producing heat and cold tolerance in their progeny. The best species so far are *O.bictoniense*, *O.cariniferum* and *O.rossii* and to a lesser extent *O.cervantesii*. The first two are giving tall erect spikes with good sized flowers. Very colourful when crossed odontiodas, and very good yellows especially when mated with good modern yellow odonts. Some of the better bictoniense hybrids though are those bred onto miltonias (odontonias) and oncidiums (odontocidiums). The use of *O.rossii* has produced many exceptionally fine hybrids.

2. ONCIDIUMS - Crossed with odonts = Odontocidiums and with Odontiodas = Wilsonaras. The best species used so far are *Onc.macranthum*, *maculatum*, *forbesii*, *tigrinum*, *incurvum*, *leucochilum* and to a lesser extent *Onc.sphacelatum*. Hybrids from the first two are cool growing but with the added attraction of coping with reasonably hot summer weather. I must stress here that when contemplating buying intergeneric oncidium alliance plants you will have to study the parentage to see what species are involved. Remember some oncidium species, Aspacias, Rodriguezias etc. are warm house plants and require a lot of heat.

Primary hybrids from *Onc.incurvum* are very vigorous with spikes 4 to 6ft long. Secondary crosses onto Odontoglossums and Odontiodas usually improve the flower shape, give better substance but tend to reduce the flower count. However you could still expect mature plants to give up to 50 flowers per spike and two spikes per bulb.

*Onc.leucochilum* tends to dominate in primary crosses with odonts, with shorter branched spikes, flowers only slightly larger than the *Onc.* and with the leucochilum lip. Colours mainly mauve, red, pink and orange to cream. In secondary crosses the flower is fuller shaped and the lip improved but the spike length may be reduced.

*Onc.tigrinum* has two commonly used varieties - 'unguiculatum' has a branched spike and smaller flowers than typical form, and 'grandiflorum' which has larger flowers. Generally the flowers in primary crosses are like odonts, slightly star-shaped but more flowers per spike in mature plants. The banded petals and sepal markings don't come through when dark forms of Odm. or Oda. are used. As you may expect the secondary crosses are proving very successful with a wide range of colours and patterns now available.

3. MILTONIAS - Crossed with odonts we get Odontonias, and with Odontiodas we have the tri-generic Vuylstekeara.

The real prima donna would be *Milt.warscewiczii* as far as intergeneric breeding is concerned, especially for getting red into the hybrids, in much the same way as *Cochlioda noezliana* got red into the first odontiodas. It is much superior however, has branched flower stems, larger flowers and is more adaptable temperature wise than the Cochliodas. It is also peculiar in that it only acts as male when crossed with odonts, the same as the *Cochlioda*. In fact it also has the same chromosome count, factors which the late Mr.W.W.G.Moir of Hawaii suggested that it should be more properly termed a *Cochlioda*. It also flowers off the old spikes. Mansell & Hatcher report in the Feb 1979 Orchid Review "that it is in flower for the fourth time in the last 2 years from the same 2 year old spike, in spite of also carrying seed pods at various times over the same period; this is a happy habit which we hope will carry through into some of its progeny"

*Miltonia clowesii*, *candida*, *spectabilis* and *regnellii* etc. Intermediate to warm growing Brazilian Miltonias have all been used frequently and add the warmer tolerance of Odontonias and Vuylstekearas. Watch the *spectabilis* hybrids, the feature of one flower per stem comes through sometimes as a few flowers bunched on the end of a spike. Vuyl.Cambria 'Plush' is the most widely grown. It was registered in 1931 and meristems have been grown all over the world.

4. BRASSIAS - Crossed with odonts we get Odontobrassias, with Miltonia x Oncidium we get Alicearas another tri- generic is Degarmoara ( Brassia x Odontoglossum x Miltonia). Adding another genera into the mix we get a Beallara (Miltonia x Brassia x Odontoglossum x Cochlioda). Some spectacular things have resulted when brassias are used in the intergenerics. Some incredible shapes and sizes. Large beautifully arched spikes are the norm.

I could write many more pages on these intergenerics, suffice to say that I think these are, in the main, the plants of the future. Do check on the parentage before buying, or ask someone if in doubt. In most cases they are listed as cool, intermediate or warm growing. Cultivation is similar to odonts in part 3.

To sum up then, standard or conventional odonts will continue to be bred and grown without setting the world on fire, but odonts crossed with the other genera of the *Oncidium* alliance will become more and more commercially important in future, but much has yet to be done. I think that we amateur breeders have a part to play in this future. Don't think that these odont alliance plants are promiscuous; all the main breeders complain of results like 4 or 5 pods from 84 attempts etc., as there are large chromosome differences to overcome.

Phil Mayhead  
New Plymouth

(reprinted from the Taranaki Orchid Society Newsletter 1979)

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## WANTED

Divisions of these two yellows

*Odm. Moselle*  
*Odm. Stonehurst Yellow*

Please phone Jane Frear if you can help.

Ph.(09)2784698

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## The 14<sup>th</sup> WOC and more - Part 4

After the conference I moved down from the Glasgow Youth Hostel on the hill to the Alamo guesthouse on the town side of Kelvingrove Park. L & R had been staying there as well as Katy Buck from Auckland whose hand painted ties and scarves at the conference had also been a sellout. Some fast talking by my friends got me a single rate B & B for £15 a night - providing I only slept in the single bed in the room!

Monday morning our ex-Kiwi friend David Menzies - longtime orchid grower at Kew and currently curator of orchids at the Glasgow Botanical Gardens, arrived at 8am to take us through the gardens. He'd been up all night removing hundreds of plants and props and supervising a crane to remove huge rocks at the show. His display had been one of the largest. He gave us the morning, showing us the beautiful Palm House, display houses and behind the scenes at his lab and orchid nursery. He left us at the Central Station at midday to go home and 'crash' for a well deserved sleep.

We caught the train to Edinburgh - some 70km away. After a late lunch in a downstairs pub we walked a dozen or so blocks to the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens where we spent the rest of the day viewing the display houses and gardens. A young attendant kindly took us to the orchid growing houses where several knowledgeable growers showed us around. A highlight for us was seeing the large collection of high altitude PNG dendrobiums growing there. While watching squirrels eating a fallen icecream we met Ann and Phil Jessup from the USA. Their interest in micro-mini orchid species and pleurothallids is well known and I had been a guest at their hotel for a meal one night.

Next day we hired a car and headed south on our orchid crawl! We crossed the Scottish border at Gretna Green into Cumbria and at Carlisle joined the M 6 which took us in good time to Penrith where we branched east on the M 66 through farmland and then up over the bleak North Pennine highlands and down over the border to the town of Barnard Castle in Durham. Here we set about finding Dr. Dick Warren of Equatorial Plants who specializes in rare species flasks. We eventually found him mowing his lawn behind a high stone wall at the back of his 200 year old house. Beyond lay the common with children playing and 2 fly fishermen casting away in the picturesque River Tees which runs through the town. Dick's other big interest is the tract of Brazilian jungle some 1½ hrs drive from Rio de Janeiro which he and a friend are developing as a conservation area.

After dinner in the local pub and much talk and looking at flasks, we stayed the night in rooms up creaking stairs. Next day there was more talk and "horse trading" before we set off on the M 66 to Scotch Corner where the M 1 took us south towards Leeds and Mansell & Hatcher's Nursery - famous for odont alliance orchids. My navigation ability was being questioned by the time we found the elusive Cragwood Nursery in Rawdon - which is almost a suburb of Leeds. Alan Long and his lady business partner were expecting us and he took us and a South Australian to the local pub for lunch.

The nursery was very old with brick buildings and houses. These ran left and right off a central area and were terraced up the hillside. A separate odont house had a few primaries such as *Odm. Megaglossum (hallii x luteo-purpureum)* in flower and a roped off area of stud plants. Mix was probably rockwool or similar judging from the mossy pots.

A nice display of *Masdevallias* and *Miltoniopsis* were seen in the other houses. More trading took place between Russell and Alan. Bob McCulloch, one of our members from Upper Hutt turned up in a rental car. Alan phoned across town to get his old boss David Stead to wait for us to arrive and after some hectic navigation from motorway to motorway in peak hour traffic we arrived rather late but unscathed. David lived on the 'farm' but was going out to dinner, so we had only

a quick visit. The nursery consisted of two converted tomato houses lined with plastic. His heating had failed the previous winter so he had bought a lot of replacement phals and paphs. The odonts were badly marked and he spoke warmly of his memories of our climate when he and Ross Tucker toured NZ several years ago.

Leaving David, we set off down the M 1 and stayed in a roadside motel a little north of London that night. Next morning I managed to navigate us into the city and over the Vauxhall bridge to my cousin's place where we left our washing to be done and caught the train to Kew Gardens in Richmond for the day.

It was a great day, the weather was fine and our contacts we'd met in Glasgow really turned it on for us. Right on schedule we were shown the orchid houses with many benches and racks of species. We were shown several large shipments of orchids - seized from 'smugglers' for contravening CITES. While L & R went out for air and to see the Palm House I was shown the lab and also the seed-raised rare terrestrial natives in the Sainsbury collection. Back home we packed up and left at 8pm for Paxton in the west - near Weston-Super Mere. The route was on the M 4 past Reading and Swindon (in the dark) where on the northern outskirts of Bristol we joined the M 5 and turned south - in sight of the lights of Wales just across the Severn.

We arrived at Bob and Paddy Dadd's that night about 11pm and we were made most welcome. Greenaway Orchids is their nursery and they sold next to L & R at Glasgow. We talked till the wee small hours and awoke to the call of crows or rooks and familiar bird calls we hear back home in the rural areas. The site of Rookery Farm is recorded back in Norman times we were told, and the old outside two storied lab must be the oldest in the world! I was intrigued by Bob's methods which were developed from his engineering background. He is Britain's leading advocate for rockwool and has developed his own seaweed-based fertilizer for use with it - plus one for his agar. Needless to say I came home with a sample to try. I will never forget his magnificent flasks - especially *Prag.bessiae*! His orchid collection was mostly warmer genera and all doing well in somewhat mossy pots of rockwool!

It was hard to leave these friendly people who phoned Poole for boat sailings to Jersey and called various nurseries for us. We had to turn down their invitation to lunch with Peter Sander (descendant of famous family) who was coming and managed to escape before he arrived but not before Bob McCulloch turned up again! We made fast time down the M 5, past Taunton into Devon and on to Exeter. Near Exeter I recognised names on signs to 'family tree' villages where ancestors had come from. At Exeter the M 5 ended and we headed off further southwest towards Plymouth on the A 38. Just before Dartmoor we turned off on the A 382 towards Torquay and short of the coast found Burnham Nurseries and Orchid Paradise near Newton Abbot.

Unfortunately Brian Rittershausen was away but his daughter and foreman made us welcome. Brian and Keith Andrew had been to NZ as guest speakers at the 1985 Wellington conference. The nursery catered for tourist buses and visitors with one house set up with displays, pools and a jungle like atmosphere. This area has a door charge to get into. Two other houses contained jungle species and hybrids with Dendrobiums, Vandas and Coelogynes strongly represented. I remember well the hundreds of *Coelogyne ochracea* plants in flower and their strong scent! While L & R spent time with species I drooled over a wide range of Odont alliance clones we don't have here. However I limited myself to a couple of plants only as I was conscious that it was L & R's permit. Besides, the prices were not cheap! The nursery contained a shop and refreshments and we were impressed with their glossy 14 page colour catalogue and all the information it contained. The rope barrier was lifted so we could have a free ramble in Orchid Paradise. I think Bob turned up just as we were leaving again - perhaps that time he beat us! Hope you got a free look too, Bob!

The race was on to get the car back at the agents in Bournemouth/Poole by 6pm! It was back to Exeter and up the M 5 a few minutes and off east on the A 30 to Honiton where we turned off further east again on the A 35. The roads were narrow now and where before they bypassed cities and towns, now we were slowed up by villages and village traffic. Some buildings had the old style thatched roofs. We crossed from Devon into Dorset and turned off again at Dorchester. Here the Cerne River and names such as Piddletrenthide reminded us that we were near to Keith Andrew's old nursery.

At Poole ferry wharf we tumbled out with our gear while Russell raced off into the unknown with 10mins. to get the car back! It had been a great four days. An orchid grower's dream in fact. Now as we repacked and carted our various cartons and suitcases into the terminus we realised from now on we had to lug it everywhere by hand. Did we have the right permits to get across borders without being detained? That night we slept deep in the bowels of the old ferry enroute to Guernsey and Jersey.

Ron Maunder  
Tauranga

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### PARADISE ORCHID NURSERIES

Try these intergeneric clones:-

<i>Odcdm.</i> Hans Neuenhaus 'Bert' - chocolate, gold lip	\$10
<i>Bllra.</i> Tahoma Glacier 'Ithan' - the best, ice green, purple marks	\$10
<i>Odcdm.</i> Tigersun 'Paradise' HCC/OCNZ - large yellow, brown marks	\$10
<i>Vuy1.</i> Lady Elizabeth 'McGregor's' - pink/mauve, mottled patterns	\$10

Seedlings:-

(*Odm.* Hallio-crispum 'Paradise Alba' x *Oda.* Golden Rialto 'Paradise Purity') 100% albas or xanthics - creams, yellows some with gold spotting. \$12, \$15

(*Odm.* maculatum 'James' x *Oda.* Golden Rialto 'Paradise Purity') expect yellows/maculatum marks. Will carry xanthic factor \$10

Order any 5 plants for free delivery. 4 or less please add \$3.50  
Some larger sizes available.

P.O.Box 2107, Tauranga

Ph. (07) 5525570

Photo 4 *Odm. mirandum*

Flowered for Jane Frear Jan/Feb 1994. Found in Colombia at 2000-3000 metres growing epiphytically at the forest edge or in clearings. Spikes up to 15cm long with up to 12 scented 5cm flowers.

(Leonore Bockemühl)

Photo 5 *Odm. cristatellum*

Flowered for Paul Cable with 2 spikes (14 & 12 flowers). Found in Ecuador and Colombia at 2400-3000m. Epiphytic and terrestrial on road margins in loose humus, at the forest edge in forks of branches of large trees. Spikes to 20cm long with up to 25 flowers. Flowers scented and up to 70mm diameter.

(Leonore Bockemühl)

Photo 6 *Odm. crispum var lehmannii*

Flowered for Ron Maunder with 7 flowers of 45mm diameter. Found in Colombia in the Popayan area - small flowers but many flowered and branched. 2300 - 2900m. Epiphytic in clearings and at forest edge.

(Leonore Bockemühl)

# Odontioda

- 9.29 1 Bradshawiae  
 9.29 1 Brugensis  
 9.29 1 Lutetia (C. Rozykeana x Od lutes-purpureum) (Ch)  
 9.29 2 Maharanee  
 12.31 1 Bella (MTH)  
 12.31 1 Colmanii  
 12.31 1 Cooksoniae  
 12.31 1 Henryii  
 12.31 1 Latona  
 12.31 2 ~~Madeline~~  
 12.31 1 Shroderae  
 12.31 1 Seymourii  
 10.32 2 Oda Bradshawiae x Od. Crispum Coculeum  
 10.32 2 Oda Amabile x Oda Bradshawiae  
 10.32 2 Oda Amethyst x Oda Jasper  
 1932 1 Thwaitesii D.  
 10.34 2 Chalfont (BST)  
 10.34 2 Cassandra (BST)  
 10.34 2 Colmanii (BST)  
 10.34 2 Elton (BST)  
 10.34 2 Lucy (BST)  
 10.34 1 Lyra (BST)  
 10.34 1 Mona (BST)  
 10.34 1 Tamar (Oda Joan x Oda Zampa) (Ch)  
 10.34 1 Iris (Oda Brewii x Od Dusky Monarch) (Ch)  
 10.34 1 Astylbe (Oda Dolosa x Od Crispum) (Ch)  
 10.34 1 Joris (Oda Mena x Od Crispum) (Ch)  
 10.34 2 Kola (Oda Dolosa x Od Aglaon) (Ch)  
 10.34 1 Lady Patricia Ramsay (Oda Coronation x Od Lambcarnum) (Ch)  
 10.34 1 Refulgens (Oda Brewii x Oda Cardinale) (Ch)  
 10.34 1 Frances (Oda Aegis x Oda Pelliae) (Ch)  
 10.34 2 Brenda (Oda Maureen x Od. Crispum) (Ch)

1-4-83  
 ODM  
 N. H. S. E. N. E.

## **Maharanee/Trixmahnee**

The article on Maharanee/Trixmahnee stirred up some feedback. Thanks. Alf Day borrowed Sir Frank Mappin's old stock book from Mrs. Blumhardt and sent the above pages on the Odontiodas. There are two pages of Odms and part pages of Oncids, Vuyls, Odnas and Miltonias. Sir Frank brought back 20 Cattleya hybrids, 12 Cymbidium hybrids, 25 Odontioda hybrids, 25 Odontoglossum hybrids and 3 Odontonia hybrids from England by steamer in October 1934 according to one memo. The abbreviations in brackets are:- (see next page)



- 10-34 1 Beacon (Oda Chanticleer x Oda President Poincare) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Metis (Oda Brewii x Oda eximium) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Aloma (Oda Hemera x Oda crispum) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Columbia (Oda Alcantara x Oda St James) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Aloma (Oda Hemera x Oda Crispum) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Hemera (Oda Brewii x Oda Aircworth) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Titian (Oda Cardinale x Oda Victoria) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Manakela (Oda Aricia x Oda Maralis) (Ch)  
 10-34 1 Sylvia (Oda Joan x Oda Kilburneanum) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Odette (Oda Ganey x Oda Aricia) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Sonia (Oda Cardinale x Oda Cooksoniae) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Apolla (Oda Ganey x O. crispum) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Marie Antoinette (Oda Colinge x O President Poincare) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Astoria (Oda Pittier x O. Crispum) (Ch) good var  
 11-35 1 Zarina (Oda Chanticleer x O Crispo-Harryanum) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Amana (Oda Laura x O. crispum) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Beryl (Oda Wilsonii x O. eximium) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Dorila (Oda Ganipa x Oda Lady Veitch) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Brackenhurst (Oda Charlesworth x O. eximium) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Melina (Oda Victoria x O. Crispum) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Irma (Oda Madeline x O. Louise) (Ch)  
 11-35 1 Vivienne (Oda Cooksoniae x O. Crispum) (Ch)  
 10-36 1 Melina (Oda Victoria x O. Crispum) (Ch)  
 10-36 1 Frances (Oda Acis x Oda Pittier Impress) (Ch)  
 10-36 1 Alethea (Oda Diana x O. Brotham) (Ch)  
 10-36 1 Conchita (O. ossulstonii x Oda Alcantara) (Ch)  
 10-36 1 Monica (Oda Brewii x Oda Lambearianum) (Ch)  
 10-36 1 Ladas (Oda Leonie x O. Crispum) (Ch)  
 10-36 1 Tangira (Oda Julian x O. Crispum) (Ch)  
 11-38 1 Actia (Oda Acis x O. St. James) (Ch) good var  
 11-38 1 Caremus (O. Purple Queen x Oda Pittier Impress) (Ch) good var  
 11-38 1 Cetura (Oda Clivia x Oda Esme) (Ch) good var

M & H - Mansell & Hatcher

Ch - Charlesworth

B & F - Black & Flory

The old label (misspelt) is from Bert Blumhardt's plant. I note the date given is April Fool's Day. Perhaps that is significant to the mix up!

Jane Frear sent in notes and observations on the Maharanee/ Trixmahnee question. In the light of many more names being on the Oda. list above - more than the 1929 & 1931 plants I listed previously, I have asked Jane to study the list and come back with her ideas on whether one of the plants on this complete list could be "our" Maharanee.

Editor

## TARANAKI MEETING

The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting at the Taranaki Summer Display was held in the Central School this year — on Sunday Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at 8am. This was our third annual get together and although too early for some after the previous night's activities about 20 people attended. Members were there from Wairarapa to Auckland.

It was a very informal affair with lots of good humour and information passing to and fro. Ron Maunder chaired the meeting and said finances were in good shape so subs would remain at \$15 per household. Subs are now due for 1994.

New books were discussed. The book by Lenore Bockemühl entitled "Odontoglossums—a monograph & iconograph" is available ex the Australian Orchid Foundation for \$NZ142. This covers the South American odontoglossum species and is in both German and English with many colour pictures, line drawings and distribution maps. Also photos of natural hybrids. This book is a must if you are growing odont species.

The Colombian Native Orchids set of 5 books will be re-ordered later in the year. Volume 5 is not out yet. A companion set of Ecuadorian Native Orchids (5 vols) printed in Colombia will be coming out this year. Ron had a coloured brochure with lots of *Dracula* photos promoting the set. To get the cheapest rate (100 or more books) Ron will leave the order till later in 1994 so the bulk order will achieve the 100 plus.

The US Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter comes out quarterly for \$NZ15. Please order through Ron. Twelve members already subscribe. It currently has more pages than ours and a colour page.

We are hoping to get Ray Thompson of Mooroolbank Orchids, Australia to make a short tour in June. A decision is to be made for 5 or so venues around the country. Ray is an expert on Ecuadorean orchids. Will probably appeal to Odont and Masdevallia group members. Any offers to arrange meetings, accommodation and transporting halfway to next venue would be welcomed. He will bring flasks to sell. More details when more are known.

Odont seedlings from 14<sup>th</sup> WOC will not be released yet—until well established.

Local judges should let us know as soon as Odont Alliance plants are awarded so we can get the photos and story into the newsletter while it is current news. Waiting 12 months till lists come out is unsatisfactory.

Some members are experimenting with growing young plants from flasks in rockwool which is not easy to get here. Ron says he saw it used a lot in UK, Europe and USA. Mosses grow on top very easily and unless covered with gravel it looks scruffy. Some members are using blue chips on top of pots to stop moss and liverwort. Alf Day microwaves bark for deflasking. Cover with cup of water and microwave on high for 15mins. Laboratory report says it is well denatured and equivalent to 6 hours pressure cooking or 6 months composting.

Ron ended the 1½hr session by jokingly saying he could talk on for hours. I believe he, Alf Day and some others set off to make some odont alliance crosses for us on their display plants.

All in all a very good weekend. To those of you who haven't ventured to the New Plymouth Display it is well worth a visit — especially the lovely Parks and Gardens and members open house collections on Sunday.

Bev Lowe  
Napier

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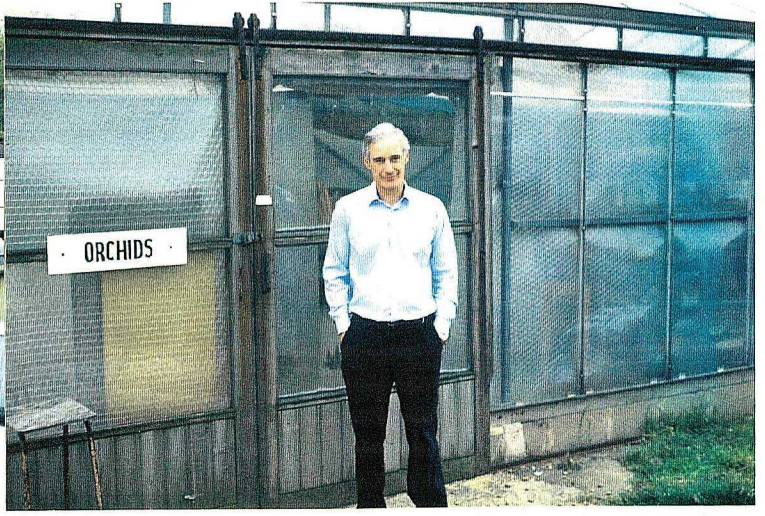
Photo Credits. 1, 2, Ron Maunder, 6, Bob Goodger, Tauranga

3, Sian Hawkins Eketahuna, 4, Alf Day Auckland, 5, Paul Cable Wellington.





1 MANSELL & HATCHERS NURSERY



2 DAVID STEAD



3 BEER CRATE HOT BOX



4 ODM MIRANDUM



5 ODM CRISTATELLUM



6 ODM CRISPUM VAR LEHMANNII