#### Newsletter

# **Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting**

February 1998

The program for the Toronto meeting of the Southern Ontario Orchid Show has been mailed. If you did not receive on please contact:

> **Peter Poot** Box #241 Goodwood, Ontario L0C 1A0 905-640-5643 905-640-0696 (FAX)

The Odontoglossum Alliance annual meeting will be held Saturday, 9 May 1998 in Toronto, Canada. This will be held in conjunction with the Southern Ontario Orchid Show Orchid Show, 7-10 May 1998. This is the Mid-America Congress, Eastern Orchid Congress and the AOS Trustees meeting. The Odontoglossum Alliance program has been organized with the lectures beginning at 8:30 AM and continuing until noon. There are four lectures. Following the lectures will be a luncheon which will include a business meeting and an auction of fine and unusual Odontoglossum Alliance material. In addition we have arranged for an evening function at a Chinese restaurant in the same building as the lectures. The menu looks excellent. During the dinner we will also conduct an auction of fine Odontoglossum Alliance material. We will have divided the auction contributions between the lunch and dinner functions. The addition of a dinner will be a time to socialize with your Odontoglossum Alliance friends in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Both the lunch and dinner menus are printed at the end of this article. Also both the lunch and dinner are held in the same building as the lectures.

Our thanks go to Marrio Ferrusi, who has made many of the arrangements. Also he is the contact person in the event you wish to send contributions to the auction. Please see the notice later in the newsletter for details. Marrio's address is: 1229 Cream St. RR 5, Fenwick, Ontario, Canada, L05 1C0.

Program

Session Chairman: Dr. Sal Nagvi

Dr. Naqvi is a cardiologist at the University of Toronto. He bloomed his first Odm. crispum under lights in 1976 and has been pursuing growing this genus ever since, with as he says "limited success". At the present time he is growing his Odonts in a cool greenhouse with other cold genera using Perlite as a potting mix with a reservoir in the pots.

Inside	This 1	ssue			
In Memor	y-Don V	Wimber		page	2 5
In Memor	ry-Lilliar	1 Dugge	r	page	e 6
Enigmatic	c Odonto	oglossu	ńs	page	;7
Part V					
WOC 199	99 Plans			page	: 9
Book Rev	view			page	<u>•10</u>



#### Page 2

#### Odontoglossum Alliance

This follows the method as described by Dr. Wally Thomas and reported in a previous newsletter.) Despite the evaporative cooler, he finds the summer difficult in his part of the world. He has experimented with bark mixes and rockwool. At the present time the majority of the collection is in Perlite while trying a few in coarse peat in fiber pots. He reports his seedlings do well up to about age two. He is attempting to achieve the size of bulbs or racemes seen on the West coast here in Ontario.

#### "Temperature Tolerant Oncidiinae Intergenerics" by Milton Carpenter

This presentation discusses the more prominent of the various intergeneric Oncidiinae combinations which have been found to tolerate wide temperature variations 45F -105F at the speakers growing facility in South Florida. The talk, illustrated by slides, also focuses on the numerous characteristics contributed to their progeny by the species involved.

Everglades Orchids Oncidiinae hybridization program has as it's goal, the creation of "Temperature Tolerant" Oncidiinae which have the beauty of modern Odontoglossum hybrids, but a much wider range of shapes, colors, and patterns, plus the ability to grow vigorously and bloom successfully in most climates of the world.

Milton Carpenter, a native of the Florida Everglades, attended schools in Palm Beach County, the University of Florida and the Massachusetts Trades School in Boston, Massachusetts. He has been growing orchids for 37 years and is the owner of Everglades Orchids in Belle Glade, Florida. He is a past president and life member of the Orchid Society of the Palm Beaches. He is also Executive Vice President and a life member of the American Orchid Society. He is an accredited Judge of the AOS.

#### "Those Other Glossums" by Sue Golan

This is a discussion of the Rhyncostele tribe, which formerly was the Lemboglossum tribe. Included in the class are bictoniense and rossii, among the more well known. These plants are native to Mexico and other countries that are closer to the US than the Odontoglossums of South America. The talk will cover the plants within the Rhyncosteles group, illustrated by slides. It will cover the history of the group hybrids and the attributes they impart to hybrids.

Sue Golan lives in the Chicago, Illinois area and in the last five years of her amateur growing has become interested in growing the Odontoglossum Alliance material. She has two greenhouse, one cool and one intermediate. Sue is an Accredited AOS Judge.

#### "A Greenhouse for Odontoglossums" by John E. Miller

The climate for growing cool Odontoglossums in New England is modestly acceptable. There are a number of features that can be included in a greenhouse to enhance growing. After building a number of greenhouses at various locations, the accumulated thoughts were incorporated into a new greenhouse specifically designed and constructed for growing the odontoglossum alliance. The greenhouse has been in operation now for ten years. The design success and failures are described and illustrated.

John Miller started growing orchids in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1951 in a window greenhouse. He was an early member of the Massachusetts Orchid Society. In 1953 the family moved to Dayton, Ohio where greenhouses were constructed at two homes. He joined the Miami Valley Orchid Society. In 1958 the family moved back to Massachusetts, first to Weston and later to Brookline where greenhouses were constructed at both houses. It was then that John started growing Odontoglossums. He built up a collection by buying community pot size plants from Charlesworth and Co. until they were acquired by McBean's. In 1986 construction was started on a new home in Westport Point, Massachusetts where yet another greenhouse was designed and constructed.

John is the editor of the Odontoglossum Alliance newsletter and secretary/treasurer of the Odontoglossum Alliance. He lives with his wife, Janice, at Westport Point, Massachusetts.

<u>"Odontoglossum bictoniense to Odontocidium Cherry Fudge: Nature's pallet yields a masterpiece</u>" by Doug Kennedy

Odontoglossum bictoniense has proven to be a prodigious parent within the Oncidium alliance. Starting with the first generation, we see an infusion of desirable traits; e.g. spike habit, warmth tolerance, and color. Subsequent generations continue to show this strong positive dominance. This is aptly reflected in the first recipient of the Robert Dugger AOS Award - Odontocidium Cherry Fudge 'Swiss Mocha' AM/AOS. A hybridizers dream come true!

Orchids in Our Tropics - a hobby gone wild! In Vandorf, Ontario, the greenhouse offers Doug Kennedy not only a respite from -30 Canadian winters, but affords him an opportunity to hybridize with his many award plants. From instantly falling love with Paph Winston Churchill 'Indomitable' FCC/AOS 25 years ago, Doug has progressed (or regressed) through all the alliances. A significant number of these are still represented in his greenhouse, but his present obsession is his Oncidium intergenerics with a splash of Lycastes. This obsession has recently (1996) been reinforced by winning the first Robert Dugger Award with Odontocidium Cherry Fudge 'Swiss Mocha' AM/AOS.

With his wife Terry, he has exhibited his orchids in numerous shows from coast to coast including the 11th World Orchid Conference in Miami in 1984. The 55 AOS show trophies and countless other awards document the success of these shows.

Doug is a past Vice President of the Mid America Orchid Congress. He has also served several terms as president and show chairman of the Southern Ontario Orchid Society and continues to act as a long term director. Having taken early retirement earlier in 1997, he can now devote full time to his family and vocation - or-chids.

#### <u>Lunch</u>

Lunch will be in the same building as the lectures commencing at 12 noon. The menu is:

Chef's Soup of the Day Assorted Kaiser Sandwiches Potato Salad Relish Tray Fruit Cocktail Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks

#### <u>Dinner</u>

Dinner is a Chinese banquet again served in the same building as the lectures. We will hold a part of the auction material for this dinner function. The menu is as follows:

Roasted Meat Combination Platter

Wok Fried Chicken Fillet & Squid with Seasoned Vegetables

Crispy Golden Seafood Roll & Milk Nuggets

Braised Shark's Fin Soup with Shredded Chicken & Bamboo Pith

Fresh Lobster Wok Fried with Garlic Sauce

- Steamed Live Whole Fish
- Crispy Golden Fried Chicken

Braised Vegetable with Conpoy & Mushroom Sauce

Rainbow Fried Rice

Braised E-Fu Noodle with Mushroom

Red Bean Sweet Cream Lotus Seed

Wedding Cake Petit Fours

The total price for the dinner is \$45.00 Canadian, \$35.00 US. This looks like a great menu. It will be a time to enjoy company and good food with Odontoglossum Alliance friends.

## Wanted: Auction Material

Each year at our meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance we hold an auction of fine alliance material. This has always included some very fine and often awarded plants, flasks of crosses, both expected fine material and unusual crosses, and books or papers appropriate to the auction. The proceeds of the auction support the increase of color material in your newsletter. The auctions have been generously supported both by the donators of material and the bidders for material. This year, in Toronto we will again conduct an auction and this is a request for donations of material.

If you are planning to donate material you can:

1. Bring it to the lunch on 9 May or to the dinner that same evening.

2. You may bring it to Toronto and leave it with John Miller, your editor, who will be staying at the hotel of the meeting.

3. You may bring or send it to:

Mario Ferrusi 1129 Cream Street, RR 5 Fenwick, Ontario Canada, L05 1C0

Please look over your collection and find that special item you can part with to support our auction.

### Taking plant material out of Canada

Mario Ferrusi reports that arrangements have been made with Canadian officials to expedite the granting of the necessary documents to take plant material obtained from the show out of Canada. He is also working with the US Customs and Department of Agriculture to insure recognition of these documents to ease transporting the material into the United States. My own experience at the Vancouver show in 1996 was that Canadian officials came to the hotel to provide the documentation. This documentation was accepted by the US Customs and Dept. of Agriculture people and everything went smoothly for me. I hope the same situation can be arranged for the Toronto show.

# Suppliers of Odontoglossum Alliance Material

One aspect of attending the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting is the opportunity to visit the sales area where there are suppliers of Odontoglossum Alliance material. While I have attempted to find a list of vendors who will be selling at the Toronto meeting, I have been unsuccessful. However Sue Golan has sent me the name and listing of one of the suppliers who will be at the Toronto meeting. She obtained this name from her recent visit to Ecuador. The supplier is Ecuagenera CIA LTDA, Orquideas Del Ecuador, Tel. 5937-816926, FAX 5937-882792, Apartado: 01-01-1110, Cuenca, Ecuador.

I have a copy of his list, including prices. He requests that if you want something to order it ahead of time so he can bring it with him and you can be assured of getting what you want. You may obtain his list by calling or faxing him. The list is four pages and contains among others the following genera: Ada, Bollea, Comparettia, Cyrtochilum, Miltonidium, Miltoniopsis, Odontoglossum, Oncidium, Otoglossum, Stenoglossum, and a large number of other genera. There are 32 different odontoglossum species on the list. If you have an interest please try contacting them directly in Ecuador.

If you are unsuccessful, send me an e-mail message (jemiller49@aol.com) or fax (508-636-6143) and I will fax or mail you the list. John E. Miller, Editor

# Dr. Don Wimber in Memory

#### Andy Easton Geyser Orchids

Odontoglossum enthusiasts will be saddened by the untimely death of Don Wimber late last year. Don collapsed after his morning jog and failed to regain consciousness.

Don was truly a master of the microscope and his efforts at the Eric Young Orchid Foundation marked the fist systematic attempt to record the chromosome counts of significant plants the alliance. To be honest, Don hated counting Odontoglossum chromosomes - there are so many and they are very small, but he approached this formidable task with discipline and enthusiasm. While the debate will continue as to whether stable ploidy parents always produce better progeny no one can overlook Don's immense contribution to our knowledge of the Alliance.

Don always knew he was on borrowed time, but it is particularly worrying that his death leaves a scientific void with no obvious replacement. We have been privileged to enjoy his generosity, knowledge and unassuming friendship for what seems like a lifetime. Now we must proceed without our scientific rudder and I fear we will progress much more slowly as the result.

Don was truly one of a kind. To Carol and his daughters, Carmel and Erica we extend sympathy and thanks for sharing of this great orchid scientist.

#### Philip Altmann Warmambool Orchids

I was fortunate to have spent time with Professor Don Wimber. Don and his wife Carol visited us at Warmambool Orchids where Don demonstrated techniques for odontoglossum root tip collection and preparation for chromosome counting.

Don felt it his duty to freely give information which he felt could benefit others. Those who knew Don can vouch he was a wealth of knowledge not only in the sciences but of life in general. Here was someone who found little wrong in this world and its people. When pressed on the difficulty involved in counting odontoglossum chromosome numbers, where most would have cursed, Don would smile and give his trademark, "Oh boy, they're tough!". I always had the feeling that something tough was never going to get Don down.

One day, when discussing a point of dissent by another scientist on the value of colchicine doubling of chromosome numbers, Don let it fly with what I imagine was his strongest possible condemnation of anothers opinion - "Oh poo". Don just didn't have a bad bone in his body.

From Don's visits it became obvious I was enjoying the company of a gentleman, of a type, I fear, our generation may struggle to duplicate. Don's benefit to all of us was not just his scientific endeavors but rather that so many of us had the opportunity to share some time with this wonderful human being.

#### Dr. Joseph Arditti

I was very sorry to see a message reporting that Don died. He was producing excellent orchid science while I was a student. Don was also a very busy man.

A good case can be made that Don Wimber was the very first scientist to publish a method for clonal propagation of orchids from shoot tips. True, Morel's 1960 paper is usually accorded that honor, but this is not right. Morel's paper was no more than a news release. Contrary to accepted scientific practice Morel did not include any details in his 1960 paper. The reason is probably his desire to allow Vacherot and LeCoufle to grab the monopoly. Don Wimber discovered the process independently and published a wonderfully detailed paper. As soon as this happened Morel published his details. It made no difference by then because V&L had the monopoly.

I wrote an article once detailing these facts. Don read it and still deferred to Morel. This is a sign of a nice man, great scientist and ethical human being. I had the pleasure of meeting Don in Japan once and another time at a different meeting. Both times he was very kind.

We all know Don as a great orchid scientist. What is less well known in orchid circles is that he had a name as a noted plant cell scientist working with plants other than orchids. He was doubly famous.

Let us hope he has a super time in the great orchid garden in the sky. He is probably sitting next to Holttum, Lindley, Knudson, Reichenbach, Schlecter and other greats. Much as I liked him I hope that all of us take our time before we join him.

P.S. This is a nice message because Don deserves it. I reserve the right to be equally honest when someone (dead or alive) deserves a nasty message.

# In Memory of Lillian Dugger

Lillian Dugger, wife of Robert Dugger, suffered a major stroke in August 1997 and passed away in January 1998. Unfortunately Bob suffers from Alzheimer's disease. Following the stroke both Lillian and Bob resided in a nursing home. A memorial service for Lillian was conducted on Sunday, 1 February at the Solona Beach Presbyterian Church in Solona Beach, California.

Bob Dugger continues to reside at:

Manor Care Health Services 944 Regal Road Encinitas, CA 92024 760-944-0331

Bob welcomes visitors and enjoys hearing from his Odontoglossum friends.

# Enigmatic Odontoglossums, Part V

#### The Odontoglossum crispum complex by Stig Dalström

For many growers, the image of an *Odontoglossum* is equal to one single Colombian species and its hybrids - *Odontoglossum crispum* Lindl. This magnificent creation was discovered in 1841 to 1842 in the mountains near Pacho north of Bogatá, by Karl Theodor Hartweg, who was sent to South America on a plant-collecting mission by the Horticultural Society of London. Hartweg discovered several unknown orchids during this trip and managed to prepare good herbarium specimens. In 1845, John Lindley described them in *Ann. Nat. Hist.* 15, p. 256.

Since the cultural needs for cool-growing orchids in general were poorly understood then, few plants survived in cultivation. It was not until about 20 years later, when the growing techniques had improved, that taxonomists, were able to study plants in a living state. Since, by nature, it is difficult to find two odontoglossum individuals that look alike, a number of "new species" were described based on cultivated plants. Subsequently it was realized that many of these "species" merely represented geographical subspecies, varieties or cultivars of a few widespread and variable taxa.

This was inevitable because the source of information was so limited. Nevertheless, it is interesting to see how some orchid authorities handled the problem better than others. Reichenbach, for instance, was a prolific author with an excellent species concept. Although he was quick to describe new species based on poor specimens, he also freely admitted later on that many of them were treated better as subspecies or varieties. This "maturing process" is something that many taxonomists seem to go through provided enough time is spent on a particular subject.

Today, *Odm. crispum* occurs at elevations around 6,560 to 8,200 feet (2,000 to 2,500 m) as an epiphyte in humid but open forests. Apparently it is still locally common along the Eastern Cordillera in Colombia, where it extends from around the border with Ecuador in the south up to Venezuela in the north. This fact in itself is amazing, considering 150 years of extensive collecting. It seems that the terror caused by various guerrillas and bandits operating in the area have provided an efficient nature protection.

Although there are no confirmed reports of this species ever being collected in Ecuador or Venezuela there are rumors, and it is possible that it may exists there. Orchids do not generally stop at manmade borders. Actually, a plant of Odontoglosssum and ersonianum Rchb.f., the supposed natural hybrid between Odontoglossum crispum and Odontoglossum odoratum Lindl., has been reported from Venezuela.

It is easy to distinguish a flowering plant of *Odm. crispum*. The sparkling white flowers with the butteryellow spot on the lip are striking. Frequently there are some purple dots scattered over the floral parts. Sometimes a soft yellowish or purple hue can be seen, especially on the outside of the sepals. The shape and size of the floral segments may vary endlessly and there are hardly two individuals alike. Nevertheless, there do exist some fairly consistent features that make it possible to distinguish most of the plants as belonging to one good species - characteristics that when combined constitute a unique "species profile". Basically, the shape of the column together with the basal part of the lip are considered important taxonomically. Logically, these morestable parts of the flower, together with any occurring scent and possibly color patterns, "select" the pollinator.

For odontoglossum species in general, no true reward is offered the visiting pollinators to visit and revisit the foodless flowers. In the case of *Odm. crispum* I never have been able to discern any trace of a scent either, which is uncommon for the genus. This species seems to have developed a pollination system based on a random "gambling" by passing insects (like repeatedly selling the same worthless liquid by changing the design of the bottle).

*Odontoglossum crispum* grows with a number of distinct species, with which it basically manages to avoid being cross-pollinated, though not entirely. Natural hybrids do occur and they were originally described as separate species. It really is a matter of opinion whether they should be regarded as "natural hybrids" only, as "evolving species" with supposed hybrid origin, or perhaps as "randomly existing phenomena."

The only other species that Odm. crispum can be confused with is Odontoglossum nobile Rehb.f. (Through some unfortunate misinterpretations this species was also described as Odontoglossum pescatorei by Linden, in Paxton's Flower Garden, 3, 83,t. 90 [1852]. This name has been used in cultivation until present days, but is a synonym of the older name). It has similar snow-white flowers of what seem to be of a more consistent shape. The flowers are also commonly smaller and look like a miniature form of their larger relative. Although these two species traditionally have been treated as different, I do not doubt that they are extremely closely related. Odontoglossum nobile also seems to be geographically "separated" from the main distribution of Odm. crispum, thus indicating a possible subspecific status.

Bockemühl (1989) compare *Odm. nobile* with the southernmost form of *Odm. crispum*, known in cultivation as var. *lehmannii*. These taxa resemble each other in habit and appearance. The only difference appears to be the base of the column, which is supposedly is a more rounded ovate in *Odm. nobile*. Personally, I am not convinced that this difference is that reliable. By drawing several specimens of both these species, and comparing them, my impression is that they just as well could be lumped together.

Since the var. *lehmannii* of *Odm. crispum* is so similar to *Odm. nobile*, it was originally suspected to be a natural hybrid between them. Lehmann, who had tremendous field experience, knew that this could not be true since *Odm. nobile* was known only from northeastern Colombia, north of the main distribution of *Odm. crispum*, while var. *lehmannii* was found in the southern districts, at the other end of the distribution. This can be read in a letter published in Gardeners Chronicle p. 395 (1883). Here Lehmann mentions that var. *lehmannii* occurs in northern Ecuador as well.

Lehmann was convinced that var. *lehmannii* was so different from *Odm. crispum* that he proposed naming it *Odontoglossum reichenbachianum*, in honor of the famous professor. Apparently this nomenclature change never became accepted.

If we approach this case from another angle, there is yet another possible interpretation: Let us say that originally we have a large population of a white-flowered *Odontoglossum* occurring from the Andes in northern Ecuador, up along the Eastern Cordillera in Colombia to Venezuela. Then something happens somewhere in between. Spontaneous mutations and/or occasional hybridization with other species take place and locally some plants start producing different flowers. Eventually, these forms develop characteristics that differ from the populations towards the ends of the former distribution. Meanwhile the end-populations (*Odm. nobile* and *Odm. crispum* var. *lehmannii*), which still share most features, start evolving along separate paths since they are basically isolated from each other by the "middle" populations. This is when man enters the stage and starts describing the different-looking populations as separate species.

Regardless of whether Odm. crispum and Odm. nobile really maintain their identities in the wild, it is interesting to see what has happened in cultivation through the years. By selective breeding, it is possible to develop certain desired features in plants and animals. In orchids, for instance, producing those larger flowers in Odm. nobile has resulted in clones that look more like Odm. crispum.

As a summary of the first parts of the series published so far about the enigmatic *Odontoglossum* species, certain things should be pointed out. The intention is to describe the problems that often are caused by factors other than the plants themselves. Taxonomy is an intriguing science that truly gives a chaotic impression at times. But despite the occasional somersaults performed by the participants, there is usually logic apparent when the mess is viewed from a distance. The true challenge is to discover and explain this logic in an easy enough way. If it does not make sense the first time it is read, then read it again.

References

Bockemühl, L. 1989. A Monograph and Iconograph. Brücke-Verlag Kurt Schmersow, D-3200 Hildesheim. Dalström, S. 1995. Enigmatic Odontoglossums, Part 1; The epidendroides complex. American Orchid Society Bulletin. 64(11): 1218-1223

1996. Enigmatic Odontoglossums, Part 2: The cruentum complex, part I. Orchids. 65(1): 20-25.

.1996. Enigmatic Odontoglossums, Part 3: The cruentum complex, part 2. Orchids. 65(3): 270-273.

.1996. Enigmatic Odontoglossums, Part 4: The cristatum complex. Orchids. 65(7): 716-721.

Lehmann, F.C. 1883. Gardeners Chronicle. p.395.

Linden. 1852. Paxton's Flower Garden, 3, 83, t. 90 (description of Odontoglossum pescatorei).

Lindley, J.1845 Ann. Nat. Hist. 15, p. 256 (description of Odontoglossum crispum).

Reichenbach, H.G. 1849 Linnaea, 22, p. 850 (description of Odontoglossum nobile).

Veitch, J. 1887-94, A Manual of Orchidaceous Plants, Vol. 2, p. 1-80.

Stig Dalström is an accomplished watercolor artist with considerable field experience in the New World Tropics.

Tallbacksvägen 9 C, 791 32, Falun, Sweden.

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

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. Between the morning and afternoon sessions there will be a luncheon.

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.

# **Book Review** The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium

Review of "The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium" by Harry Zelenko, Betsy Dillard Zelenko, and Johanna Warshaw. This beautiful, 11" x 14", book is available after 13 years in the making. For Odontoglossum lovers it has life size colored illustrations of 60 species. Because this book is so important in the literature of the Odontoglossum Alliance, I have printed the brochure flier in this newsletter. It describes better than I can the contents.

I have reviewed a copy and found the material of the finest quality, usefully organized and taxonomically interesting. The introduction by Mark Chase of Kew Gardens is an authoritative comment on the book. The price, at \$150.00, purchased before 15 April 1998, at first seems high. However the quality is there and considering other publication prices, it is fair and even reasonable. When one considers the 800 species illustrated this Encyclopedia will be a major addition to the orchid library of any one. John E. Miller

268

# THE ORCHID WORLD. [September, 1915.

#### Oncidium Leopoldianum.

#### ONCIDIUM CORYNEPHORUM AND O. LEOPOLDIANUM.

THERE are two elegant Oncidiums that have come into prominence during the last year or so, one is O. corynephorum and the other O. Leopoldianum. It is more than likely that they grow in the same locality, for both have appeared in an importation of plants received from Moyambambo, Peru. Although the habit of growth and the formation of the flowers shows respectively a great similarity, the two accompanying illustrations depict a marked difference in the construction of the labellum, by which each species may be identified. It is at present impossible to say whether any natural hybrids exist, and even if already imported some time may be required before they are discovered, as both species are notoriously difficult to cultivate, at least, so far as their flowering is concerned.

O. corynephorum has by far the longest history, having been déscribed by Lindley about the year 1838, from a specimen collected by Matthews in Peru. O. Leopoldianum was introduced by Linden in 1890, and dedicated to Leopold II., King of the Belgians. In both species the spikes are several feet in length and bear numerous whitish flowers more or less stained and freckled with rose, the labellum coloured with varying shades of purple.

O. corynephorum was exhibited at the

September, 1915.]

THE ORCHID WORLD.



#### Oncidium corynephorum.

Royal Horticultural Society by Messrs. Sander and Sons, May 23rd, 1911, when it received an Award of Merit. O. Leopoldianum was exhibited by Mr. H. S. Goodson, of Putney, July 28th, 1914, and obtained a similar award. Our illustrations, reproduced from the Society's *Journal*, show both examples.

#### CULTURAL NOTES.

THE sun is gradually losing its power, and shading on all but the cool houses should be reduced accordingly. Where roller blinds are erected their use can be regulated as required, always taking care that the unripened plants are not subjected to bright sunshine during the middle part of the day, for there is still a chance of tender foliage being burnt.

Where permanent shading in the form of whitewash on the glass is used its removal must take place gradually, thus slowly accustoming the plants to increased light. If possible, the plants should be separated into two lots, one containing those with fullygrown bulbs, and the other reserved for the few that require another week or so to finish their growth under shady conditions.

There are some amateurs who shut the houses up as closely as possible each night in order to save the cost of fuel, which is poor economy indeed. Plenty of air is now needed, and ventilation should always be used when the outside atmosphere is not unduly severe. A little fire heat at night time will cause the air to circulate, as well as maintain a suitable temperature. Shutting up the houses on a summer's afternoon is all very well when a hot steamy atmosphere is required to promote vigorous growth, but during the month of September amateurs would be well advised to discontinue this treatment, or some of the plants may be excited into starting a second growth, which is most undesirable. Moderation in all things is now the main point to consider.

In the cool houses no fire heat will be required until October arrives. The Odontoglossums are lovers of a cool and moist atmosphere, and a temperature of 50-60 degrees will suit them admirably; no harm will occur if it falls as low as 45 degrees on cold nights, although when this is expected the watering should be done early in the day so that much of it may evaporate before night time. When a cold night arrives unexpectedly the new growths should be examined and any water lodging in them shaken out. This will go a long way to prevent damping off.

Many Odontoglossums of the crispum section will require repotting, those in the most forward condition of growth being taken in hand first, while the backward plants can wait a few more weeks, and very late ones until the early spring time. The practice of going through a batch of plants and repotting every one, whether they require it or not, is by no means satisfactory even in the large trade establishments, and still less so in amateurs' collections, where a considerable portion of the work is done in odd hours.

With Odontoglossum hybrids there is a remarkable increase of vigour, making them particularly useful, for they soon overcome any check caused by repotting, while they

Page 12

269

270

THE ORCHID WORLD.

[September, 1915.

#### THREE ELEGANT ODONTOGLOSSUMS.



In the production of the multitude of Odontoglossum hybrids that now adorn our collections three species stand out meritoriously; they are crispum, Pescatorei and Harryanum. How many times and in what varied ways have they been intercrossed is a question no one dares to answer, yet almost each succeeding attempt rewards the hybridist with one or more distinct and praiseworthy results.

Many beautiful varieties of ardentissimum and eximium now exist, and these, as well as fine forms of Lambeauianum, are to be seen in all up-to-date collections. Their wide range of coloration enables them to hold their own against any other section of cool-house Orchid, while their vigorous nature is such that no amateur need fail to cultivate them satisfactorily.

Our illustrations show three distinct and beautiful hybrids produced by the intercrossing of crispum, Pescatorei and Harryanum. By the above plan the precise mode of creating them is facilitated. Amethyst is the result of crossing eximium and Lambeauianum; illustrissimum is produced by crossing ardentissimum and Lambeauianum; while Dora has for its parentage Pescatorei and Lambeauianum.

MR. FRANK READER .- On Wednesday, August 4th, many of the principal exhibitors at the Royal Horticultural Society presented Mr. Frank Reader with a silver salver and a purse of gold in token of their appreciation of his courtesy and never-failing helpfulness, and to mark the completion of twenty-five years' service with the Society. There were eighty-four subscribers.



possess a constitution which renders them immune from many of the troubles associated with certain species. Hybrids containing Harryanum in their parentage are notable examples of this free-growing condition, and so strong are they that it matters but little at what season of the year the repotting is done, although when the growth is a few inches high is undoubtedly the most favourable opportunity. Many growers use the same compost mixture for all sizes of plants, which gives fairly good results, although the best success is obtained by selecting the finer material for the small pots and keeping the coarser kind of fibre for the larger specimens. If a large mass of fine grade fibre is pressed closely together there is little room for the necessary aeration, resulting in a sour and water-logged condition, which quickly upsets the health of the plant. Although almost all Orchids require a fairly large amount of water, especially when in growth, it is absolutely essential to provide efficient means of drainage, both in the compost itself and underneath it. In very large pots, say of eight or more inches in diameter, an excellent plan is to insert a small pot in the bottom, placing it upside down and surrounding it This method provides with a few crocks. ample drainage, and has the advantage of keeping the pot light in weight.



Odontoglossum Dora.





3. LA FLEUR

*Opposite: Odontoglossum andersonianum*, the natural hybrid between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. odoratum*.

Top left: The "typical" form of Odontoglossum crispum.

Top right: Odontoglossum odoratum, from Fusagasugá, Colombia, showing the erect column

and the rigid base of the lip. These features are inherited by the natural hybrids involving this species.

Above: A flowering plant of Odontoglossum nobile, which was imported from Colomborquideas. Larger-flowered clones of Odm. nobile may resemble Odm. crispum.



....

The most definitive reference to date on the Oncidium Alliance, in the making since 1984, this book contains illustrations of more than 800 life-size plants and flowers, arranged in taxonomic groups for easy reference.



The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium is an important addition to every botanical library and/or orchid library. It is the only book published in the United States that is exclusively devoted to the beautiful and varied Oncidium Alliance. It has been edited and partially authored by Dr. Mark Chase, one of the world's authorities on this group of orchids. Informative introductions to the 66 sections have been written by leading orchid experts. Most of the more than 800 species included have been meticulously rendered, actual size, from living plants and flowers. This cloth-bound, 164 page book has152 accurate color pages printed on 100 lb. dull-coated paper and is portfolio size, measuring 11x 14° inches. Produced and bound in Quito, Ecuador, by Imprenta Mariscal, one of the leading printers of South America. Available from the AOS BookShop at **\$150**US per copy until April 15, 1998 (10 percent discount member discount does not apply). After April 15, the price will be **\$185**US (less 10 percent discount for AOS members). Florida residents, please add 6 percent sales tax plus your county's surtax. Shipping and handling are extra (see Winter 1997-1998 Booklist order form for rates). Order item **BK6044**. Checks must be in US funds drawn on a US bank and made payable to the American Orchid Society. MasterCard and Visa accepted.