



Victoria Orchid Society



This antelope type Dendrobium helix, grown by Diana Rowles, was voted the best plant on the display table at the September meeting.

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2018 Meetings:

**Fall
October 22nd
November 26th**

Members with last names starting with **S, T, V & W** are asked to bring goodies for the October meeting.

Welcome to new members, Natalie Peterson, Fiona McCallum, Stephanie Cunningham and Valerie Melanson

From the Editor



Dracula bella

There will be no photographs taken of the display table plants this month as no one has come forward to offer to take over this task, or even part of it. The favourite plant on the display table, as judged by the coloured markers, will be photographed,

Please remember that volunteers run the society and we really need some younger members to take over some of the tasks that keep it moving.

Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show, October 26-28, 2018 – See page 3

Contributions to the newsletter can be made up to 14 days before the next meeting date by contacting me by phone or email. (250-385-8888 or enviroed@telus.net).

Logo photo D. Rowles

President's Message

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, . . ." Autumn is definitely upon us. For the orchid enthusiast, it is time to consider what the change in growing conditions means to the plants. Watering, for example, needs to be reduced since growth slows with the lower temperatures and declining light levels. Shading, either in the form of shade cloth or paint, needs to be reduced or removed.



John Taylor

This is an opportune time to examine our collections and consider whether certain specimens are worth the space. If a plant declines year after year and is obviously not about to recover, perhaps it is time to add it to the compost. It is so easy these days to obtain healthy, flourishing plants from the many orchid nurseries that it is a little surprising we keep plants that clearly do not do well under our particular conditions. The most likely reason that we still keep them long past their best-before date is because they are rare or valuable or have sentimental value even in decline. One justification for the serious collector might be that he/she wants one of every species in a particular genus, and some of the species are much harder to grow than others.

There are two genera that undoubtedly form the basis of most collections: *Cattleyas* and *Paphiopedilums*. It was once quite possible to obtain practically all the species in each genus. For myself, I originally set out to collect one of each of the *Cattleyas*, and at the time I started collecting this was a reasonable and straight forward proposition. There were about 46. Some, of course, quite rare and unusual, but still only 46. Now with the addition of several other genera to *Cattleya*, most notably the Brazilian *Laelias* and *Sophranitis* the number is well over a 100. *Paphiopedilums*, too, are increasing in number. There are at least 80 recognized species – barely possible, in terms of space required, if not availability, to get one of each.

We are very fortunate to have an expert on the Chinese *Paphiopedilums*, Wenqing Perner, giving a talk at our next meeting.

Fall 2018

October 22nd – Wenqing Perner
of the Hengduan Mountains
Biotechnology Institute
The *Paphiopedilums* of China
November 26th – Deborah Ward
December 10th – Xmas Party

John Taylor

Upcoming Events:

The monthly meeting of the Victoria Orchid Society is held on the fourth Monday of every month except July, August and December, starting at 7:30 p.m. The plants on the display table are presented by experts, followed by a short business meeting, a coffee break with a prize draw of plants and orchid related material, and a featured presentation. The meeting ends at about 10:00 p.m. Often there is a pre-meeting workshop or Question & Answer session from 6:45-7:30 p.m. The October workshop will be held by Poul Hansen and questions that you would like to be addressed, should be sent to him at pmilti@shaw.ca or John Taylor at jst_victoria@hotmail.com.

October 22nd general meeting – Wenqing Perner, of the Hengduan Mountains Biotechnology Institute, will speak on the *Paphiopedilums* of China.

Hengduan is an internationally known Biotechnological Institute that started as a spin-off from a conservation project in the Huanglong National Park in Northern Sichuan, China. Since 2003, a modern plant tissue culture laboratory in Chengdu develops protocols for the propagation of such difficult and diverse genera as *Cypripedium*, *Paphiopedilum* and *Cymbidium* among others. By making laboratory grown plants legally available to a broad international market, Hengduan increases the populations of these orchids and contributes to their survival.

October 26 - /28 – Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show and Sale:

Don & Marilyn Mills will once again be taking our plants to the Fraser Valley Show and setting up the display. Lioba Samer is kindly loaning us her van for the trip. Start getting your plants ready now and plan to get them to Don & Marilyn's house by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday October, 25th, so that they can be loaded that evening to catch the early morning ferry next day.

Past Events

Judging news:



Abu Saleh

Please note that all awards are considered provisional until paperwork and payment is processed by AOS and published in Orchids Plus.

At the AOS Western Canada Judging Center's monthly judging on September 8, 2018, the following AOS award was granted:

Cattleya Fuchsia Doll 'Harborcrest' AM/AOS 87pts
(*Cattleya sincorana* x *Cattleya Sierra Doll*)
Exhibitor: Jill Livesey

Photographer: Judith Higham

The AOS Western Canada Judging Center meets every second Saturday of the month at 11:30am, except where noted.

(Chair: Abu Salleh, 604-328-5363, asalleh@telus.net)



Next two monthly meetings:

- October 27, 2018 : 2:00pm, after Fraser Valley Orchid Society Show Judging, George Preston Rec Centre, 20699 – 42 Ave., Langley BC
- November 10, 2018 : 1:00pm, after WCJC business meeting, at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria BC

September 24th general meeting - Roy Tokunaga of H&R Orchids in Hawaii spoke on *Dendrobium* orchids.

H&R Orchid Nurseries – Waimanalo, Hawaii are known throughout the orchid growing world for their excellently grown plants, new and innovative orchid hybrids and rare and unusual species.

Roy spoke on the topic of *Dendrobium* orchids, a genus which contains an astonishing variety of plants. He brought pre-orders for those who had ordered ahead, but also, many extra plants for sale. He very kindly gave two new members small blooming orchids as a welcome gift.



A great start to the Society's new season!

Orchids are much older than we thought.

By Kelsey Kennedy, May 04, 2017



A product of the Cretaceous. [BARNEY MOSS/CC BY 2.0](#)

This fungus gnat did not have a good day. First, she was duped into laying her eggs in an orchid instead of a mushroom, then she lost a leg, and finally she died, stuck in some tree sap. But between 45 and 55 million years later, her bad day is telling scientists that they need to reconsider the age of the orchid family. That tree sap preserved for the ages a pollen sac attached to the gnat's leg, and it is the earliest known evidence of the diverse family of flowering plants.



The round object under the fungus gnat's abdomen is an orchid pollinia. **GEORGE POINAR, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**

Amber, fossilized tree sap, is really good at preserving things. In it, scientists have found ancient mammal blood inside a tick, a dinosaur feather, and plenty of insects and lizards. Orchid pollen sacs have been found in amber before, also attached to insects. But the previous oldest known specimen was found in Dominican amber that's 20 to 30 million years old. The new specimen, found in Baltic amber, is about twice as old.

"It wasn't until a few years ago that we even had evidence of ancient orchids because there wasn't anything preserved in the fossil record," said George Poinar Jr., an entomologist at Oregon State University who led the study, in a press release. The sticky pollen sac, known as a pollinia, is a common feature of modern orchids, which use a variety of evolutionary tricks to attract pollinators and get their pollen from one flower to another. But finding such an old example of a pollinia shows that the orchid family was pretty well-evolved when the gnat got stuck, back when palm trees grew in Alaska and India was just butting into Asia. That means the first orchids were probably blooming back during the Cretaceous, when dinosaurs were still at the top of the food chain.

Today there are around 28,000 species of orchid, and some of them are still up to their incredibly old ruses, fooling modern fungus gnats into picking up pollinia.

Controlling the Plague: Mealybugs (vaccine presently unavailable)

By Tricia Workman

Editor, Kingston Orchid Society

In most of North America, the long-tailed mealybug (*Pseudococcus longispinus*) is probably the most common and problematic species on orchids, particularly in homes and greenhouses. White and fuzzy, they use their piercing mouthparts to suck out plant juices. (Is that creepy, or what?)

Mealybugs have a three-stage life history: egg, larva (nymph) and adult. Eggs are laid within a waxy coated egg sac. After ten days they hatch.

The highly mobile nymphs, or crawlers, appear as diminutive adults. The crawlers are the most active stage, moving between plants and developing through several growth periods before becoming adults. In a warm greenhouse or indoors there may be upwards of eight overlapping generations per year. This short and overlapping life cycle means that repeated applications – every 10–14 days – of any treatment is required to kill the immatures. Furthermore, treatments are most effective against the small crawlers.

Fortunately, this pest responds to household remedies if treated early, ie. *immediately upon discovery*. If we eliminate the more imaginative “remedies” like Listerine and Worm Tea, we are left with isopropyl alcohol and/or soap. The soap dissolves the waxy covering of the bug, while the alcohol actually kills it. For treating small areas, I have found that weekly swabbing with an alcohol-soaked Q-tip works just fine, followed by a rinse in lukewarm water. Do not use other alcohols, such as ethanol or methanol, as they can penetrate and damage plant tissues. You’ll need to treat a second and a third time as well.

Like most pests, mealybugs don’t like light, so look for them in the crotches, on the undersides of leaves, and where leaves meet stems.

Isolate the plant in case you’ve missed any bugs or eggs, and check the lips and cracks of pots, as well as trays and benches, because the females will leave the plant to find hiding places. Also check plants other than orchids as these may be a cause of infestation.

Biological control

The keeper of many plants in a large greenhouse or a commercial grower may try using one or more parasitic or predatory insects to keep mealybugs under control. Montrouzier’s lady beetle, or mealybug destroyer, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*, an Australian beetle, is highly effective for control of mealybugs in greenhouses. Both adults and larvae of this ladybird beetle are very effective predators, especially when mealybug numbers are high. They do best in warm, humid conditions. Biological controls aren’t practical for keepers of small collections as the beetles run out of food and leave.



Chemical Control

Horticultural oil, neem oil, and mineral oil smother the insects, so complete coverage of all sprayed plants is essential. These oils are mixed with water and a plant-safe detergent to enhance the spreading and sticking of the oil. The flowers of some orchids such as *Miltonia* and *Masdevallia* are sensitive to neem oil.

Insecticidal soaps are usually solutions of a synthetic pyrethrin and a plant-safe detergent. As with oils, the detergent acts as a surfactant and spreader for dispersing the pyrethrin evenly, and as a mild caustic against the insects. With both oils and soaps, to prevent sunburning, apply the chemical and allow it to dry in the shade.

Growth regulator

Growth regulators are relatively expensive, but the cost per application is less than for botanical oils. Kinoprene (trade name = Enstar II) is a synthetic form of juvenile hormone which works by disrupting the normal development of the insects. It appears safe for humans and pets under usual-use precautions. Experience with its use in greenhouses and home collections suggest that this may be the best new pesticide for controlling many orchid pests, including mealy bugs.

Never use an insecticide not labeled for ornamental plants. Whether you use oils, soaps or insecticides, be thorough, change formulations frequently, and do not use less than the minimum concentration of mixture, or more than normally recommended. Too little of a chemical enhances resistance, while too high a concentration may damage the plant. Always follow label directions and never exceed the minimum recommended concentration given in mixing directions. On the bright side, if all efforts fail and you have to destroy a plant, that can be justification for the purchase of a new and healthier plant!

References:

Paul J. Johnson, Ph.D.
Insect Research Collection
Box 2207A, South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007
<http://nathist.sdstate.edu/orchids/pests/mealybugs>
and
<http://floriculture.osu.edu/archive/oct97/mealybug>

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In MOS2011 May newsletter.



Victoria Orchid Society Minutes of General Meeting, September 24, 2018

Den. Hibiki Paulwela AM/AOS

The General Meeting of September 24, 2018 was held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall. President John Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were two new members, Stephanie and Fiona. John asked our guest speaker, Roy Tokunaga, to present the show table and Ingrid Ostrander assisted him.

Treasure's report: Jill Livesey presented her financial report for the months of June, July and August and moved for acceptance, seconded by Ingrid Ostrander. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Secretary's Report: Elsie Gerdes moved and Kathryn Collins seconded that the minutes from the June General meeting be approved as published in the newsletter. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Barb reported that she had registered our Society with the B.C. Societies Act as required for this upcoming year. She also sent thank you cards to Bryan Emery and Florence Davis for the summer BBQ, a condolence card to the family of long time member D.A. Evans and a get well card to Jonathan Littau.

Other Reports:

AOS: John reported the next judging will be at the FVOS show, October 27-28. Poul offered to take over plants that are specifically for AOS judging.

Library: John reported Leda is willing to share the duties of the library with someone. Elsie Gerdes volunteered.

Membership: Kathryn reported that we have 50 members at this time.

Plant orders: J&L orchids will be at the FVOS show. Check their website for pre-ordering. Poul will be able to bring back members' orders from the show if necessary.

Program: Rod confirmed that Wenqing Perner will be at the October meeting. He is working on the program for the rest of the year. The pre-meeting workshops will start next month with Poul Hansen answering questions. Please submit your questions to either Poul or John.

Shows: Barb reported that she has signed a contract with Our Lady of Fatima Church for hall rental next spring with a damage deposit given. She has emailed those members who volunteered with last year's show, asking if they can commit for 2019. She and Leda will be organizing a show committee meeting very soon and will let everyone know when and where.

Supply Sales: Catherine reported that fine bark mix will no longer be available. Poul mentioned it is still available from Washington State. Toni Dertlieva said she might be able to pick it up.

Website: We are looking for someone for this position, as Melanie has stepped down. Diana will no longer be taking pictures of plants for the show table. Anyone who has an interest in photography and would like to take over please let John or Diana know. Diana said it would be better if two people could share this job. There is a tripod available in our supply cupboard. Donna Stuart, who assists Diana, is also stepping down.

New Business:

John asked the membership if anyone could work with Lioba Samer with organizing the coffee break at the meetings. Ireta Fisher offered.

Program: John introduced Roy Tokunaga from H&R, who spoke on Dendrobiums. He also very kindly gave our two new members an orchid each, as well as giving the Society some 25 orchids to sell! John thanked him for his presentation.

Next Meeting: October 22, 2018 at Gordon Head Church Hall.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Davies

Society Information

Meetings are held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall Avenue, Victoria, B.C. on the fourth Monday of the month. Members are encouraged to bring their orchids in bloom to display on the show table.

Guest speakers are engaged for these meetings and often, speakers bring plants for sale. There is also a sales table where plants brought in by members may be purchased. There is often a pre-meeting, basic workshop from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. Plant sales begin at 7:15 p.m. and the meeting runs from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



Phragmipedium Joan Montmorency

Membership fees are \$25.00 for individuals, \$35.00 for households. The Society membership year runs from September to September, but meetings are not held in July and August. Name tags are available for \$9.00, magnetized tags are \$11.00.

Coffee and tea are available for \$1.00 at the meeting and goodies are provided by members in rotation, based upon the initial letter of their last names. Goodies are requested from those with last names beginning with **S, T, V, & W** for the October meeting.

The Victoria Orchid Society Newsletter is published monthly, around the 15th of each month, excepting December, July and August. Newsletters will be sent by email to members with email access. Email addresses will be blind copied. Upon request, copies of the newsletter may be picked up at meetings for those not wishing to print off their copy at home.

Advertising, in the newsletter, is free of charge to members in good standing: \$2.00 per business card size ad per month to a member owned business (\$15.00 per fiscal year), \$5.00 per month to non-member businesses (\$40.00 per fiscal year). Businesses may also advertise on the Victoria Orchid Society web site *Classifieds* page for the same costs.

The Society's mailing Address is 195 Maddock Avenue West, Victoria, B.C. V9A 1G5.

Officers:

President John Taylor
Past President Ingrid Ostrander
Vice-president Diana Rowles
Secretary Barbara Davies
Treasurer Jill Livesey

Directors:

Astrid Firley-Eaton
Catherine Frutiger
Alida Bower
Rodney Crutcher
Debb Ward
Poul Hansen

Newsletter Editor: Diana Rowles

Web Master: Chris Bauer

Proofreader: Joe Chow

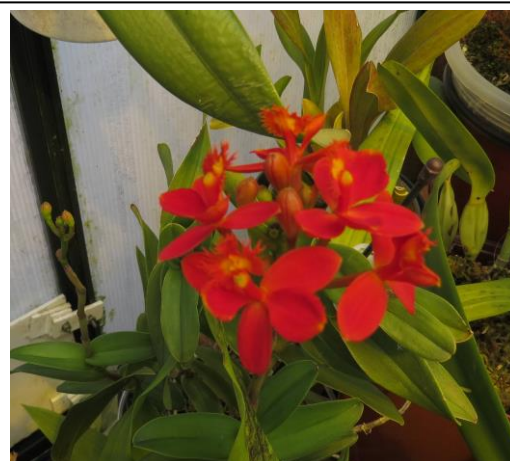
Librarian: Alida Bower/Elsie Gerdes

Membership: Kathryn Collins

Spring Show Chairs: Barb Davies/Alida Bower

Programs Chair: Rodney Crutcher

In emergencies, call John Taylor at (250) 250 479-0146.



Epidendrum Joseph Lii 'Kultana'

About the Victoria OS Executive council

Please be aware of the following:

There are five executive positions: President, vice president, secretary, treasurer and past president. There can also be directors, invited or volunteered and voted in by the membership.

The following positions do not need to be executive directors: Plant sales, Show chair and show committee, Membership, Library, Host of refreshments at meetings, Plant orders, Speaker programs, Newsletter editor, team to look after out-of-town displays, some electronic communications and Prize draws. And please also keep in mind that each and every one of these is a volunteer.

We use some professional services that do get paid – they are not volunteers:
Post office, printers and website manager.

Ingrid Ostrander

Reminders & Opportunities

Membership renewal: If you have not paid your membership fee for 2018/19, please see Kathryn Collins at the October meeting. It makes our record keeping so much easier if we get all the updates done in the first month or so of the new Society year.

Donation of plants for the Prize Draw table. The prize draw is an important feature of our meetings. Recently, very few people have brought in their extra divisions for this purpose. Please check your collections for plants that you could donate to the table. It makes a big difference to the meeting.

Classifieds



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What's in bloom in the Orchid Collection - September

Maxillaria [Max.] cucullata

The Cowl Carrying *Maxillaria*, to give its common name, is found in Mexico throughout most of Central America, and northern South America.

It grows in dense humid forests, coffee plantations, pastures, and patches of cloud forest, on trees, rocks, and on the surface of the ground.

The flowers are fragrant and usually bloom in the fall and early winter.

This specimen is a division of a plant acquired as part of the Betty Berthiaume donation in 2009.



Oncidium [Onc.] harryanum

Originally classified as an *Odontoglossum*, it is frequently called Harry's *Odontoglossum*, in reference to Harry Veitch, who was the head of Veitch's nurseries and instrumental in establishing the Chelsea Flower Show.

The species is found in the northern end of the Central Cordillera of the Andes in Columbia; growing on trees at forest edges in lower cloud forests.

It blooms in the summer on tall inflorescences with several [4 to 12] large, fragrant, waxy, long-lasting flowers.

This specimen was part of the Keith Day 2004 donation to the collection.



Oncidium [Onc.] noezlianum

This was originally the type species for the *Cochlioda* genus, however, with the advent of DNA most of the species of the *Cochlioda* genus have been reclassified as *Oncidium*s.

This species is named after Jean Noezl, a Swiss orchid collector from the 19th century. It has had a large influence in red and orange *Odontoglossum* hybridization.

It can be found in Bolivia and Peru growing in wet cloud forests on the eastern cordillera of the Andes.

It is a shade-loving orchid that blooms in the fall and winter with flowers ranging from 1 to 2 inches.

The OSPF purchased this specimen from Ecuagenera in 2017.



Gomesa [Gom.] forbesii

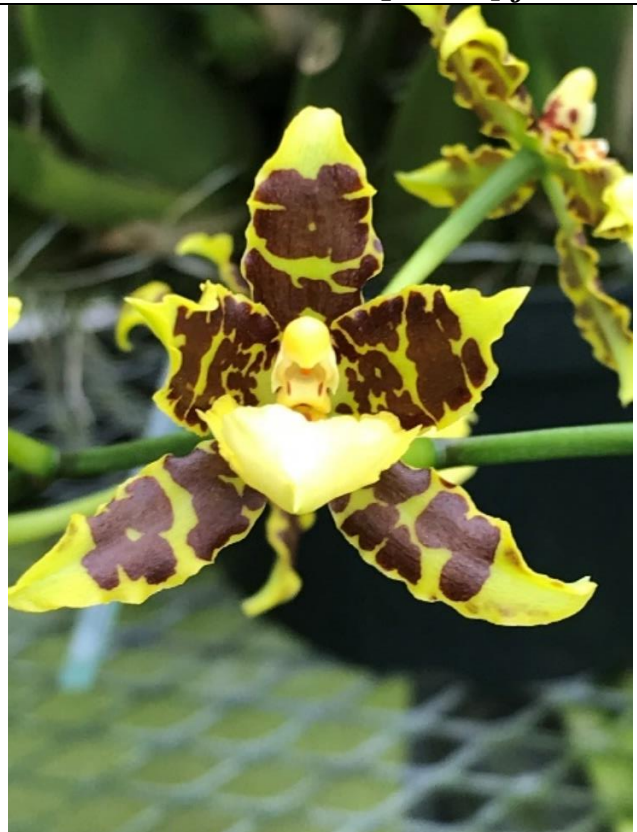
James Forbes (1773 to 1861) was the gardener for the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey. Sir William Jackson Hooker (an early Director of Kew Gardens) named the species after him.

This species can be found in the states of Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo of Brazil. It grows in the foggy forests of leeward slopes at 3000-4000 ft. (910-1220 m). It does not enjoy dry zones.

Although normally found in older forests, this species can quickly colonize a re-growing area after the old forest has been logged or burned. These plants, which grow extremely well on rotting wood, may also be found growing as terrestrials in young, re-growing forests.

They produce an inflorescence between 16-35 in. long each carrying about 6-14 large blossoms, but as many as 30 have been noted on extremely large plants.

We unfortunately do not have a record of how this came into the collection.



Miltonia regnellii var *alba*

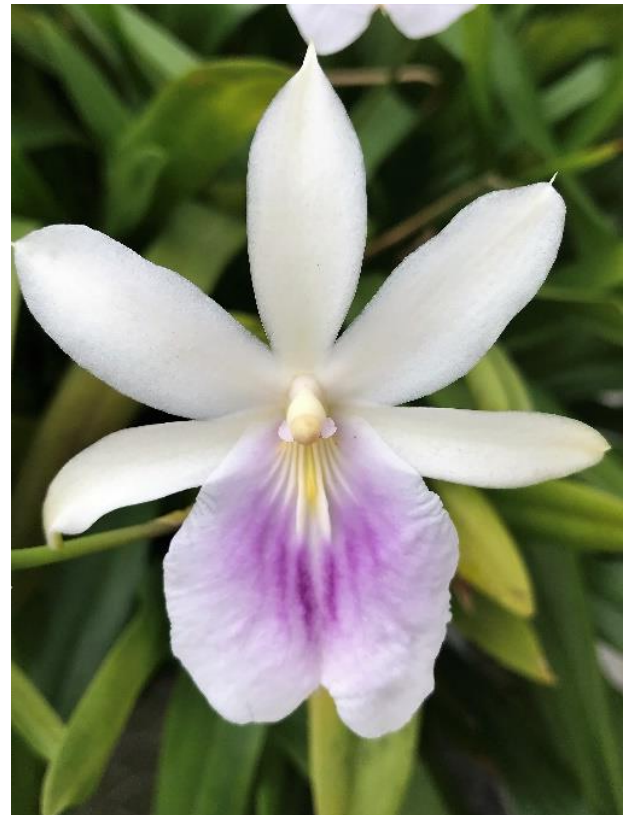
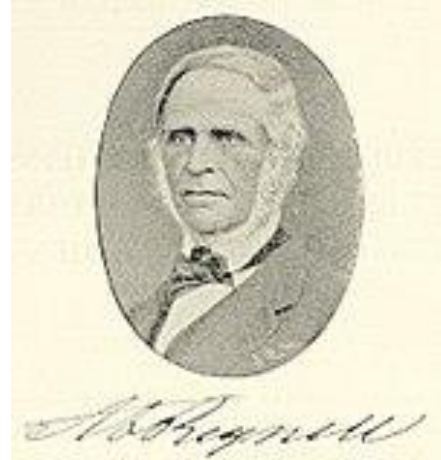
Named after Regnell Anders Fredrik (8 June 1807 – 12 September 1884) who was a Swedish physician and botanist. He left Sweden for Brazil in 1840 and settled in Caldas, in the province of Minas Gerais, where he spent the rest of his life. He made substantial collections of plants which he sent to Europe, in particular to Scandinavian museums.

Regnell died in Caldas, Brazil, and is buried in Uppsala's old cemetery. In 1903 a memorial monument in Caldas, Brazil was dedicated to him.

This species is found in the eastern states of Brazil growing in wet forests at 1000-2600 ft. (300-800 m).

This species can be mounted or potted with cool to hot, semi-shaded conditions. It appreciates ample water while growing and a drier winter rest after flowering.

This plant was part of research program conducted by Crop Diversification Centre South, located in Brooks Alberta. The program was looking into the potential of a commercial orchid industry in Alberta. After the study was completed the plants were given to the Muttart.



Sources:

OrchidWiz

Charles Baker

Jay Pfahl's IOSPE at www.orchidspecies.com

Wikipedia

The Plant List

Photos D. Bovee/D. Nixon

What's in bloom in the Orchid Collection - October

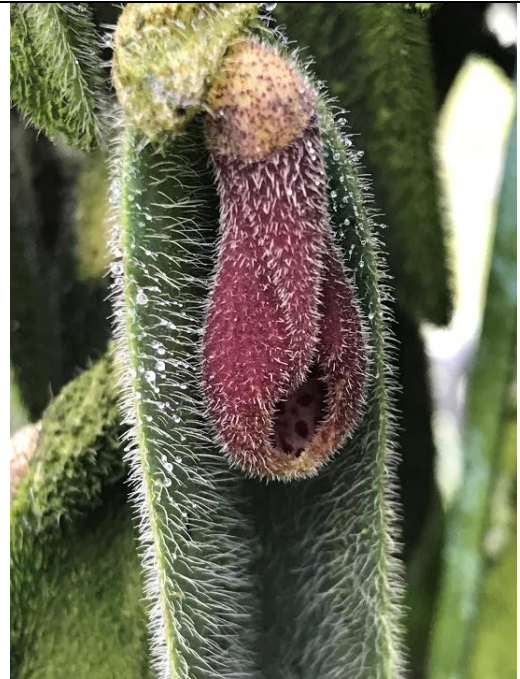
Dresslerella [Dla.] caesariata

This is a new Genus to this column. There are 13 species in this hairy leafed genus. The flowers have hairs, the leaves have hairs, even the inflorescence have hairs. The leaves are thick and heavy. They are found throughout the tropical mountains of Central and South America.

Typically this genus needs to be grown in moist conditions and with warm to cool temperatures.

The Genus was named for the American orchidist Robert (Louis) Dressler (born 1927).

This particular species commonly referred to as “The Grand *Dresslerella*”, is found in southeastern Ecuador. It is grown in intermediate temperatures, low light and high humidity.

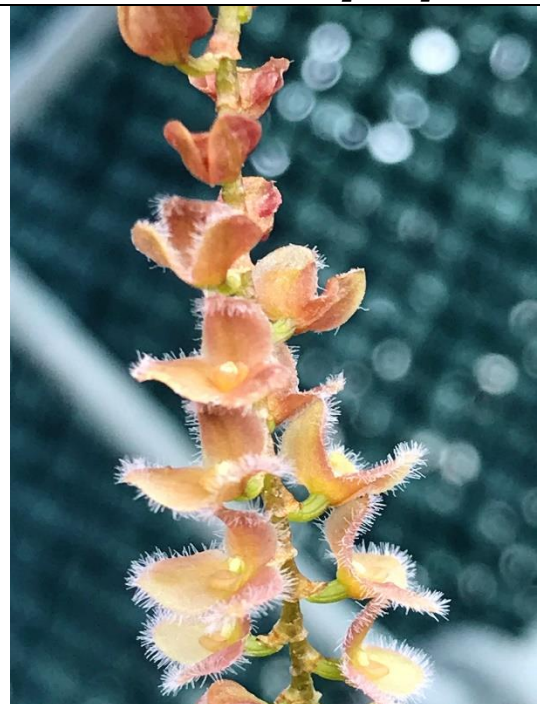


Stelis [Ste.] ciliaris

Keeping on the theme of hairy orchids, this is one of my favorite species out of the nearly 1000 that make up this Genus.

Commonly known as the Hairy *Stelis* as the whole of the flower is covered in tiny hairs, this species is found from Mexico to Colombia in hot lowlands and wet premontane forests from sea level up to 1100 meters. It has highly variable shaped flowers.

This specimen was purchase by the OSPF from Ecuagenera in 2017, and is one of the few hot growing *Stelis* in the collection. It is grown in the shade side of the hot greenhouse with reasonably high humidity.



Sobralia [Sob.] yanaperyensis

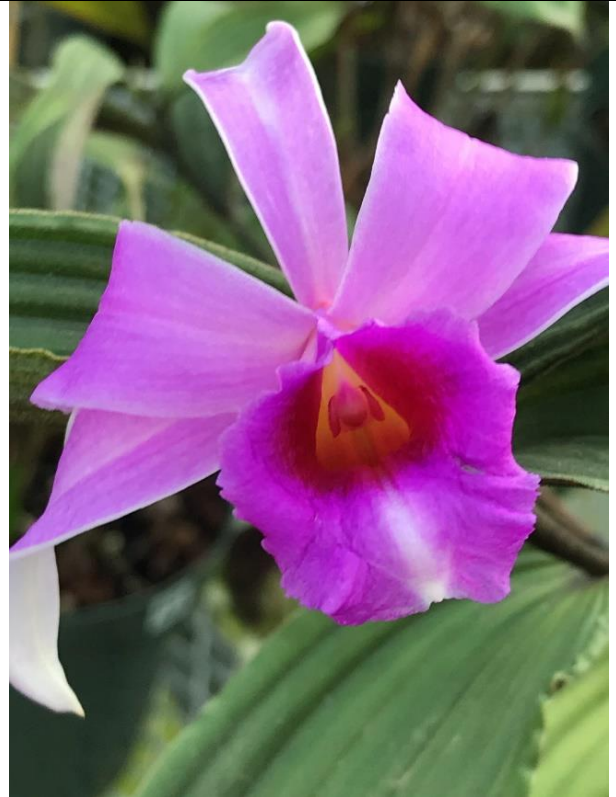
Lastly, I thought I would share a *Sobralia* as they are rarely seen in shows because of the very short lifespan (1 day) of the flowers. The short duration of the flower is caused by a self-digesting. Enzyme.

Due to the short lifespan of the flowers, in the wild the plants grow in clumps and the flowers tend to open simultaneously resulting in a mass flowering which is spectacular to behold but alas, so short lived.

This species ranges from Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, to Bolivia. This orchid was originally discovered along the Yanaperi river in the upper reaches of the Amazon from which it derives its species name.

These orchids are usually found growing in moist forest as terrestrials on cliff faces and on the roadside embankments in tropical wet forest. They are often referred to as ditch orchids

The flowers are extremely fragrant with a very pleasant citrus like aroma.



Source:

OrchidWiz

Charles Baker

Jay Pfahl's IOSPE at www.orchidspecies.com

Wikepedies

The Plant List

Photos D. Bovee/D. Nixon