



# South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

Affiliated with the Orchid Club of South Australia Inc. and with The Australian Orchid Council

PATRON: Mr. L.R. Grey (Mayor of Marion)

MONTHLY NEWS SHEET  
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The next meeting of the South Coast Orchid Club will be held at the R.S.L. Hall, Morphett Vale, on Tuesday 13th May at 8 p.m.

Our speaker for the evening will be Mr. Harold Goldsack. We have not had the pleasure of his company for some time now, as he has been tripping around this planet of ours for quite a while, and at this meeting will talk of his experiences on his journey through Africa, accompanied by a Slide Programme that will be of interest to all members.

NEW MEMBER Mr. Roy Hill, 27, Crozier Terrace, Oaklands Park.

## TRADING TABLE

It was pleasing to note the number of plants brought in last month. For those members who have several divisions of the same plant, this is an excellent chance to off load your collections to benefit members, both old and new, and at the same time finance your own programme for the purchase of new crossings to up-grade your own collection.

Remember, the sale of plants at Club meetings benefits the Club to the tune of 20% on all sales.

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL LADIES.

As we told you last month, the Floral Art Section will be held at our Winter Show on July 8th. For the members who have no blooms at this time for Art displays, don't be dismayed, we want you to participate. If you will tell the Secretary or Show Marshall of your requirements, we will do our best to provide blooms for you. Early application is required.

## SICK LIST.

Our good friend and member Mick Chenoweth has had a little rest in hospital away from his Orchids. Both he and his plants should appreciate this, and we all hope he <sup>is</sup> well on the way back to good health.

"THE MAGIC OF ORCHIDS".

This will be the theme for our Spring Show being held at Marion this year.

So you will now have a chance to use your imagination, any magical theme will do. Naturally the judges will take your effort into consideration when judging the exhibit prize. Ideas can be obtained by reading various books or remembering what you have seen on T.V.

Just a gentle reminder to keep on the look-out for foliage plants for use in our show.

Have you located your Oak tree to gather the fallen leaves? When you are out driving keep a sharp look out, remember we are usually short of moss, and leaves are a good substitute.

Now the weather has broken again, midweek waterings can be decreased unless the plants are actually dry. Slug slayer and Snail snuffer can be spread around to thin out the moving population and lessen the chance of a spike being slewed by a slug. Buds that have started to show should be put away under glass or whatever, for protection. Still keep up the fertilization program.

Additions to By-laws.

OPEN exhibitor shall mean an exhibitor who has graduated from the Novice section or has nominated himself (themselves) for this section.

COMMERCIAL Exhibitor shall mean an exhibitor who has nominated himself (themselves) for this section.

Judging results for April

OPEN SECTION

Cymbidium	ENSIFOLIUM x EARLYANA "STARLIGHT"	Mick Ryan Orchids	3 pts.
Cattleya	ELSTEAD GEM x GUTTATA 'Alba'	Mick Chenoweth	3 pts.
Paphiopedilum	ROTSCHILDIANUM x CHAMBERLINIANUM	Bernie Hansen	3 pts.
	MAUDII MAGNIFICUM	" "	2 pts.
Misc.Genera	Paph.haynaldianum'	Bernie Hansen	3 pts.
	Den. LADY FAY x COMPACTUM	Mr.& Mrs. W. Gray	2 pts.
	Dtps 'pulcherrima'	Mr.& Mrs. L.Poole	1 pt.

Popular Vote

Indoor plants	Fern	Marie Martin
Orchids	No result given	

ONCIDIUMS by Mr. Bob Deane. Continued from our last bulletin.

O. cheirophorum. Small compact pseudo-bulbs with leaves 3 to 4 inches long. The spikes are short but branched and carry many small pure yellow flowers of very good texture. Flowers in autumn.

O. pumilum. This is a very small growing type having purplish spotted leaves 2 to 4 inches high. There are no pseudo-bulbs. It has a short branched spray of very small yellow flowers spotted with red. It flowers in summer and is very long lasting.

O. pubes. This plant is very similar to O. sarcodes but is much smaller. It has long branched, pendulous sprays of one inch flowers. The sepals and petals are brown; barred and spotted with yellow. The lip is red-brown margined with yellow. Summer flowering.

O. barcatum. Rather compressed looking pseudo-bulbs 2 to 3 inches high, with leaves to 5 inches. Shortish upright spikes of 1 inch flowers. The colours vary greatly but generally the petals and sepals are a mid tan colour with yellow markings. The lip is bright yellow with red spots on the crest. This lip is rather distinctive as the lobes are quite separate and on first glance it would appear to have too many flower segments. Flowers in autumn.

These are but a few of the species I am growing but time will not permit me to dwell any further on this aspect.

The hybrid Oncidium is now coming to the fore. Up to 1946 only 40 hybrids were registered. From 1947 to 1960 a further 80 registrations have been recorded and on a rough estimate new registrations are being made at the rate of about 50 a year. Of course quite a large percentage of these hybrids are with the miniatures but all the same there are still a lot of the larger growing types. Quite a lot of hybridising has been done in Sydney and these hybrids have in no small measure helped the Oncidium along the road to popularity. Mr. Herman Slade has originated quite a few crosses and has remade O. Nona (O. varicosum x O. crispum) several times as have many others. A great many growers are probably unaware that O. Nona was registered by Orchidwood Incorporated of New York and not by Mr. Slade so popular has it become in Sydney. Apart from the work being done in Australia I think Honolulu can take credit for producing the most new crosses. From this area we have the well known Hybridists such as W.G. Moir, Oscar M. Kirsch and Milton Warne all producing new oncidium hybrids each year.

The most popular of the larger flowered type hybrids are very easy to grow and they take readily to the fibre block method of culture. The most widely seen hybrids are:-

O. Nona. varicosum x crispum. This now comes from a clear yellow to one with brown spots. I think the spotted ones are more attractive as they are different from the species. The flowers are quite large and the well branched sprays last in perfection for about eight weeks. With several clones you can have them in flower from March until June.

ONCIDIUMS cont.

O. Kaiulani.- flexuosum x ornithorynchum. This one prefers the pot method of culture. It has branched sprays of deep rose coloured flowers about an inch across. It usually flowers for the Winter show.

O. Palmyre. - Saladin x varicosum. This one retains the general shape of O.varicosum with the large lip and very small petals and sepals. Has a large branched spray of bright yellow flowers in autumn.

Phyllis Wells - Kuron x gardneri. This is one of the new hybrids raised by Mr. Slade. It is another autumn flowering variety with very large flowers. I have seen some clear yellows but mostly the flowers have been spotted some with very large spots.

During 1966 I saw many nice flowers of O.crispum x O.gardneri. They were very large with the petals and sepals nearly the same size as the lip. Mostly they were a deep chestnut brown colour. These were only on small plants and I am looking forward to seeing how they will improve as the plants mature.

The Oncidium has also been crossed with many other members of the alliance. A list of the multi-generic crosses recorded to date is shown in Appendix A. Of some, only one hybrid has been recorded to date. From the results obtained I am sure that further crosses have been or will be made in the near future. Perhaps the most popular of these crosses is the Miltonisium with over twenty crosses recorded to 1963. The Miltonia used in most of the crosses has been either M.warscewiczii or M.spectabilis do very well in the shade house and have much larger and more colourful flowers.

Most of the hybrids are more easily grown than the species used in the cross and by their introduction we can bring in colours not readily found in the Oncidium species.

So far only one award has been given to an Oncidium by the Orchid Society of N.S.W., a Highly Commended Certificate being gained by a well grown plant of O.marshallianum variety 'Belmont'. Over the years several Cultural Certificates have also been awarded. I am confident, however, that during the next few years many of our newer hybrids will be good enough to break the barrier and carry off some higher awards.

APPENDIX A

INTERGENERIC HYBRIDS OF THE ONCIDIUM

ONCIDIUM X

Aspasia  
Brassia  
Miltonia  
Miltonioda (Cochlioda x Miltonia)  
Ondontoglossum

Aspasium  
Brassidium  
Miltonidium  
Charleswortheara  
Odontocidium

ONCIDIUMS cont.

INTERGENERIC HYBRIDS OF THE ONCIDIUM cont.

ONCIDIUM X

Cochlioda	Oncidioda
Rodriguesia	Rodricidium
Trichocentrum	Trichocidium
Ondontioda (Cochlioda x Ondotoglossum)	Wilsonara
Comparettia	Oncidettia
Odontonia (Miltonia x Odontoglossum)	Colmanara
Vuystekeara (Miltonia x Cochlioda x Odontoglossum)	Burrayeana
Miltassia (Brassia x Miltonia)	Aliceara
Gomesa	Oncidesa
Rodrettia (Rodríguezia x Comparettia)	Warneara

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Bark of the Slash Pine (Pinus Caribaea Morlet)  
as CYMBIDIUM COMPOST.

By J. Allen.

A dilemma facing cymbidium growers is the choice of a stable compost.

Some composts decompose too quickly. Peat moss mixed with sand, leaf mould and animal manure, the modern tan bark of very open structures mixed with animal manure also breaks down very quickly.

In the early days of cymbidium culture no animal manure was used, and some of these composts lasted much longer. In the past hot water was used to extract tannic acid from wattle bark now it is done with high pressure steam, this alters the structure of the bark and makes it open and friable. Due to cellulose-digesting wogs in animal manure some of the composts are broken down in a spectacular fashion much the same as a 'Compost heap effect'.

Other problems are some composts can't be wetted or they dry out and are very difficult to re-wet.

Two years ago my attention was drawn to the bark of the "Slash Pine", *Pinus caribaea* Morelet, a species grown by the Department of Forestry as an economic timber tree. It is an exotic from Cuba, Honduras and the U.S.

As an introduction it has done very well here. The tree has a thick bark almost free of resin. My attention was drawn to this material as a potential cymbidium compost by a Forester who pointed out how it could absorb water and not decompose. I was shown a heap of this material in the forest that had been there for 20 years and had not broken down. This had been constantly wetted with rain and the material taken from down in the heap was wet. Trials were begun about two years ago. Small particle size bark was used to deflask seedlings into, this gave very good results. Adult plants were grown in a bark of larger particle size, mixed with leaf mould and sand.



Bark of the Slash Pine cont.

Growth was spectacular, the root system outstanding. Flower spike production is the best I have ever had. Prior to this I have lost about ten plants a year from black rot (Records kept). This year two were lost from this disease and both from clones previously infected.

The manural programme is 1 teaspoon of pink "NITROPHOSKA" to 3 gallons of water, this formula is applied after watering once a week, any residual material is washed from the leaves with a light spray.

Bark of this species was submitted to the Dept. of Agriculture for analysis on 22/11/68.

Result:-	Ph.	4.5
	N	0.13
	P	0.004
	K	0.05
	Moisture	17.0

The acid structure of the bark is ideal, this tends to correct the nearly neutral Sydney water supply which has a Ph value of about 6.

In the two years I have been using this bark there has been no breakdown of my compost.

The bark is sieved to three grades, Fine, medium and Coarse. The Fine when mixed with old compost in equal parts is excellent for setting out seedlings.

The Medium and Coarse are equal to any other bark, local or imported, for growing miscellaneous plants. I have also had good results using the Bark for Australian Native orchids.

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For those of you who are interested in bark, and who keep your monthly bulletins, a very good article on this subject was printed in the copy of July 1974.

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This months selection

From statistics taken by the bureau of Census and Statistics on "Why Married Men get up in the middle of the night". It was found that 5% get up for a snack, 15% get up to go to the toilet, and 80% get up to go home.

Low rating.

Personnel Manager:"Did you give Miss Pringle an aptitude test?"

Assistant:"Yes sir, and for your information, she's not apt to."