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CULTURAL AWARD, Feb 2012

Brassavola nodosa

Tom & Pat

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 13 March

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NEWSLETTER

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 February 2012, 7.45 pm

Present: 33

Apologies: Lee

Visitors: Glenn, Jo, Sue

New members: Nil

Minutes: Minutes as circulated accepted (Mavis, Graham)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: The Financial Report was tabled by Sandra. Current balance is \$3491.91 #2 A/c \$1812.00 (Trevor , John)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Mandurah Orchid Club – Office bearers
- Bill – Plant request
- Wally – cannot attend meetings
- Scott & Broad – no longer acting as insurance brokers for GCA
- GCA – notification of new insurance scheme
- Merle Arrah – re. sponsorship of major prize at 19th AOC Conference
- Various club newsletters

Outwards:

- Email to thank Rudolf Jenny for the free copy of Renziana

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Adrian invited members to attend the Cymbidium Club meeting on Monday 20th February to assess the suitability of their hall for our meetings .
- Thank you to Ken & Chris, who while they were in USA, purchased a copy of

Huntleyas & Related Orchids for the library.

- 19th AOC Orchid Conference matters:
 - (1) The Species Orchid Society and Wanneroo Orchid Society are to share a Sales Table. Members are requested to sell only well-established plants in clean pots.
 - (2) Volunteers will be needed for various duties. Mavis will have a list at the next meeting. Your support could earn dollars for your Society if the conference is profitable.
 - (3) A Display Committee is being set up to begin planning & construction of our display. Any volunteers to join this committee will be welcome.
 - (4) Ken & Chris will be hosting a morning tea for about 68 people, taking part in the Home & Nursery Tours for the AOC Conference. They will need volunteers to help with setting up, serving of refreshments, provision of food etc.
 - (5) Ken is co-ordinating the pre-ordering of plants for the conference.
- Mich reported the Orchids of Brazil book and the copy of Renziana are in the library.
- The Home Visit in January at Ezi-Gro Orchids was enjoyed by all.
- It was moved by Peter, seconded by Anne that the Species Orchid Society of WA sponsor the prize for Champion Dendrobium Species at the 19th AOC Conference. Motion carried on show of hands.

- A copy of the South West Orchids book available for \$50 (subsequently sold).
- Peter had a copy of the growing conditions for *Renanthera imschootiana* for anyone who wished to see it.

Cultural Award: *Brassavola nodosa* grown by Tom
Raffle: Adrian, Bill and Graham
Name Badge: Ian
Special Raffle: A plant of *Cattleya gaskelliana* var. alba was won by Jo.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Several members of the Committee visited the Belmont Sport and Recreation Centre across the road to assess its suitability as a replacement venue. Providing some matters can be addressed, it will be a suitable venue at a very substantial saving in the cost of hall hire. Thanks Courtney for arranging the visit.
- A sub-committee has been established to plan the Society's display at the September AOC. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Adrian.
- The Wanneroo/Joondalup Orchid society have agreed to share a sales table with us at the Conference. If you are planning to sell plants, start getting them ready now because we will only sell good quality, established and well grown orchids in clean pots.
- The Club's AGM is in May. Please give some thought to joining the Committee - it isn't an onerous task, and your Society benefits from your ideas and suggestions.
- If you haven't ordered your new badge yet, please see Mich. The cost for badges with a magnetic clip is \$13.50, and with pin is \$11.50.

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Life Members
 Barry Gardner (dec'd)
 Gordon
 Joan & Ted (dec'd)
 Neville
 Noel & Eva

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

At 10am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and of food to share.

- * March - Bruce & Kaye
- * April - Maxine
- * May - John

FOR SALE/WANTED

Murray is interested in buying some virus test kits from the following supplier: https://orders.agdia.com/InventoryD.asp?loc=IN&collection=ISK%2013301&attribute_Size=25

With freight costs they work out at about \$11.50 each for the minimum order, but he is hoping that cost will come down a bit for larger orders. If you are interested in sharing costs for some test kits, please contact Murray on 9310 2800.



Imported plant news

MONTHLY PLANT

Cyrtorchis arcuata

Country of origin: Southern Africa

Description: Compact growing epiphyte or occasional lithophyte

Difficulty: Requires some warmth and drier conditions in winter

Cost: \$10.00

Cyrtorchis arcuata (Lindley) Schlecter, 1914 is one of 15 in the genus from tropical and Southern Africa. It is described as a woody, robust species often forming large clumps over time. It is generally a woodland species, though may be found in riverine forests or even exposed locations growing either epiphytically or lithophytically.

Originally described as an *Angraecum*, Schlecter established the genus *Cyrtorchis* in 1914. More recently, Summerhayes, 1960 revised the genus into two sections.

Cyrtorchis arcuata has a small waxy white flower that becomes apricot-coloured as it ages. The flowers are borne on short, densely-bunched racemes and exhibit the typical spur common in angraecoids, as well as the nocturnal fragrance.

Cultural advice is that it is best grown on a mount providing humidity can be



Source: <http://flickrriver.com/photos/36517976@N06/sets/72157623872162037/>

maintained during the hot summer months. It is likely that it would do well on a tree fern mount which would retain some moisture. Alternatively, it can be grown in a wooden or plastic basket. If pot culture is preferred, large media should be used to avoid loss of roots. This species requires moderate or bright light, intermediate temperature (especially in winter) and a distinct drier rest period in winter. I have found that this species is a reluctant flowerer unless growing vigorously, and to this end, when in active growth (ie green root tips showing), regular fertilising with a high K fertiliser will promote growth and flowering.

The species is generally resistant to pests although I have found that it is vulnerable to cotton scale if there is insufficient air movement in your growing environment. This pest seems to spread quickly and can be fatal unless acted on as soon as it is observed (check leaf undersides).

Graham & Margaret
Dendrobium tangerinum

Maxine
Aeranthes caudata (*Aeranthes imerinensis*)
Angraecum didieri
Dendrochilum cobbianum
Pescatorea lehmanii
Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi f. *flava*
Phalaenopsis venosa
Promenaea stapelioides
Vanda tessellata 'blue'
Vanda tessellata 'alba'

Ken & Chris
Eria javanica
Lycaste tricolor

Michele
Dendrobium pachyphyllum
Dendrobium rhodostele

Peter & Shirley
Cattleya maxima
Cattleya maxima var. *coerulea*
Paphiopedilum liemianum

Anne & Geoff
Dendrobium cucumerina
Clowesia russelliana

Tony & Mavis
Brassavola nodosa
Paphiopedilum concolor
Kingidium delicosum
Oncidium onustum (*Zelenkoa onusta*)
Prosthechea radiata

PLANTS DISPLAYE



Phalaenopsis borniensis
(*cornu cervi forma flava*)
Maxine

Clowesia russelliana
Anne & Geoff





Dendrobium cucumerina
Anne & Geoff

1D FEBRUARY 2012

Promenaea stapelioides
Maxine



Oncidium onustum
Tony & Mavis

Photography by Tony

Myrmecophila - is it just a *Schomburgkia* ?

Debate exists over whether Sawyer's *Schomburgkia*, *Myrmecophila sawyeri* is a valid species since so few have been studied or cultivated. The type specimen was collected by Sawyer in 1942 at a location near Guerrero on the Mexican pacific slopes at altitude of 1500m. It has also been found at low elevations as an epiphyte on trees in river valleys and lowland tropical deciduous and sub-deciduous forests. It has an elongate, 3 to 5 jointed, terete pseudobulb tapering to the narrow apex with 2 to 4 thick, leathery leaves. The typical long flower raceme is up to 2m in length, carrying up to 20 slightly dropping flowers. J Phal however considers that this species is synonymous with *Schomburgkia galeottiana*. It is often associated with ants.

Myrmecophila thomsoniana has at various times been classified as *Epidendrum*, *Bletia*, *Schomburgkia* and more recently, *Laelia*, but for this article, I have included it in *Myrmecophila*. It is found in the Cayman Islands and Cuba and was first introduced into collections in the in the late 1800s. The type description was published in 1887 from a plant in the collection of W J Thomson that was awarded a Certificate of Merit in London rather than from a plant in its natural habitat, ie, there was no original type specimen. Initially, two varieties were proposed, var *albopurpurea* and var *minor* (the former has now been raised to species status) while var *minor* is syn with *Myrmecophila thomsoniana*.



A natural hybrid, *Myrmecophila Xintermedia* also exists between *Myrmecophila thomsoniana* and *Myrmecophila albopurpurea*.

This species is substantially more compact than the majority in the genus and accordingly has been widely used in hybridization to produce more compact, but free flowering plants. The flower raceme however can be more than 1m in length with up to 20 flowers providing useful genetics for hybridizers. The intense yellow colouration and the dark veins on the lip are dominant features that are passed on to its progeny.

In their natural habitat, this species grows on low scrub, often exposed to full sun, and, given their proximity to the coast, salt spray. However, in common with many other species worldwide, *Myrmecophila thomsoniana* is threatened by habitat destruction through heavy deforestation.

Myrmecophila tibinicensis is one of the more commonly represented members on this genus in hobbyist orchid collections. Its common name is the Flute Player's Schomburgkia due to its hollow pseudobulb with the small opening at the base, which allows biting black ants access to a free nesting site. This species, originally discovered in Honduras by Skinner is also found in Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Colombia. It has many synonyms and was first described by Bateman in 1838.

It is one the largest species with flower racemes up to 3m tall and 1cm in diameter, with 30-40 progressively opening undulate, magenta/purple flowers with a prominent white labellum. There are also colour variants tending to brown/ yellow and pink , and perhaps an albinistic form.



Source: <http://nature.jardin.free.fr/orchidee/schomburgkia.html>

It is generally found in in seasonally dry deciduous forests on trunks and larger branches, often in full sun and at

elevations up to 600m. This is a very large plant with conical, hollow pseudobulbs nearly 0.5m tall with the usual opening in the base allowing ant access to the space inside. Each pseudobulb has 2 or more apical leaves.

Given the size of the flower raceme, when grown in collections, this species is best mounted on a large slab or similar, or a very large container to avoid damaging the tall flower spike when being moved. As the following in-situ photograph illustrates, over time this species grows into a very substantial plant. The in-situ picture from Belize and also shows the high light in which it normally grows (self-evidently, there is little shade from the tree on which it is growing) although it should be said that the light in Belize is not as intense as that in summer in WA)



Source: <http://www.orchidworks.com/newsletters/FarewellSchomburgkia.html>

However, the following photo from San Diego Zoo shows that this species may well be suitable for outdoor garden culture in Perth given the similarity in climate. (Source: [epiphyte78's buddy icon San Diego Zoo Orchids](#))



I have also seen this species growing strongly on trees along the road in Northern Queensland, with the roots anchoring it firmly to the rough bark.

Myrmecophila (Schomburgkia) wenlandii Reichenbach f. 1861 was originally collected by Wenland in 1860 in Guatemala and has since been found in neighbouring Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica. Its habitat is said to be mossy or lichen covered rocks often in full sun, or epiphytic on trees in more moist situations in semi-arid forests at low to



moderate altitude. It has the smallest and most insignificant flowers in the genus, and consequently is not often found in collections. The flowers are non-resupinate (ie upside down similar to *Schomburgkia lyonsii*). It is thought that this characteristic is most probably related to its pollinator although Withner was not able to discover any evidence to this effect. It appears that from time to time, the flowers may be cleistogamous (ie, self-pollinating). J Phal's photo clearly shows the non-resupinate characteristic.

To finalise this article, I refer to two doubtful species identified by Withner. The first is *Schomburgkia schlechteriana* for which there are few or no herbarium records, although Jones, 1967 is convinced that it is a separate species. Subsequently, Withner reports that he observed two plants at the Caracas Orchid Show in 1982 that were displayed as albino forms of *Schomburgkia undulata* which might have been this species. However, in the absence evidence to the contrary, they should be treated as colour forms of *Schomburgkia undulata*. Naturally Jones (1969) disagrees but I was unable to find any further information in this species. The second is *Schomburgkia wallisii* . This species cannot be differentiated from *Schomburgkia weberbaueriana* with the latter relegated to synonymy. The original plants was said to have come from Colombia, while *Schomburgkia weberbaueriana* is a Peruvian species. Like *Schomburgkia schlechteriana* , there are few herbarium records that can be researched to determine whether this is a separate species.

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (exc January at Forster Park Hall, cnr of Abernethy Road and Keane Street, Cloverdale commencing 7.45 pm. Usually, the short formal meeting is followed by plant descriptions given by members. Supper follows to allow members time to socialise and discuss orchids.

All visitors are very welcome

Membership Fees

Family \$30 PA + 2 badges (1st year only) [Badges come in two versions. Pin fastening (\$11.50) or Magnet fastening (\$13.50) *Please indicate your preference.*]

Single \$20.00 PA + 1 badge (1st year only) [Pin fastening (\$11.50) or Magnet fastening (\$13.50)]

New members who don't live in Perth will not require name badges, therefore membership will be at the renewal fee only

Monthly Home Visit

On the weekend following the fourth Thursday of each month (generally on the Sunday morning), a home visit is held at a member's home. This gives members an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship that our mutual interest provides, and to see how others go about growing their orchids.

Monthly Plant Display

Given that the prime objective of the Society is to promote the cultivation of species orchids, only species or natural hybrids are acceptable for display. Since we all may be uncertain about the identification of a plant from time to time, we encourage members to bring plants along about which they are unsure since someone

may be able to identify them. There is no competition nor restriction on flower count, quality or length of ownership. We want members to be able to see species plants in flower. So even if your flowers are a bit past their best, bring them in as others may not have seen that species in flower.

Plant Sales

The Society provides an opportunity table for members to sell surplus plants and equipment, and for the Society to sell product from time to time. A commission of 10% is charged on all sales.

Plant Purchases

The Society endeavours to obtain a different species seedling for sale at each meeting, usually costing between \$6.00 and \$15.00. The Society makes a small profit on these sales which is invested in benefits to members. As it is always difficult to get new or different species, should members have 20 or more plants of one species which they feel might be suitable as a monthly plant, please contact a Committee member.

Raffle

The Society conducts a raffle each meeting and at home visits as a means of raising funds.

Plant Imports

The Society is able to use quarantine facilities provided by Ken & Chris to co-operatively import species orchids.

Management

In accordance with the Constitution, the Annual General meeting is held in May each year at which time the office-bearers and committee are elected. The majority of Committee members serve two year terms.

If unclaimed, return to
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Peterskorner is now distributing a range of orchid products from Easy Orchids (Murray and Jean Shergold) and we are happy to take orders, and bring them to the Species Society monthly meeting **(please confirm your order the week prior to the meeting).**

Check out our catalogue at www.peterskorner.com, phone Peter or Shirley on the numbers shown, or e-mail peterskorner@iinet.net.au.