



CULTURAL AWARD, November 2013
Encyclia bractescens
Norm

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 3 December

Contents

2	General Meeting Minutes	last month)
3	Notes from your Committee	6
4	Noticeboard	8
5	Leafless Orchids (contd from	10
		Plants displayed Nov 2013
		Leafless Orchids (contd)
		About us



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

12 November 2013, 7.55pm

Present: 32

Apologies: Patricia, Ken & Chris, Gordon, Adrian & Dee, Charly & Gerda, Trevor, Noel & Eva.

Visitors: Nil

New members: Nil

Minutes: Published minutes accepted (Paul, John S)

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Sandra. Current balance of \$9,069.67. (Ian D, Tony G).

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Orchid Digest
- GCA – annual Report & Gardens of Australia magazine
- Various club newsletters.

Outwards:

- Calendar orders to Bartels
- Booking forms for Hall to Jan Barnard

Business Arising: Nil

General Business:

- Vic asked for any expression of interest for plant order from Orchid Species Plus.
- Mich reported the library book list (numerical order) has been pinned inside the library cupboard doors. If anyone would like a list done of topical books please let her know.
- There was little interest from members regarding embroidered club patches
- Clive offered some Melaleuca for mounts to anyone interested..

- Sharon was thanked for hosting the last Home Visit. The next one is at Jim & Jeanine's on 1 December. Usual requirements regarding food and chairs.
- The next General Meeting is on 3 December and is our Xmas wind-up. Members are asked to bring a plate of festive fare to share, plus a plant for a gift (Secret Santa). The club supplies drinks and some food such as party pies etc.

A plant auction was then held for 2 plants offered by Peter Masters on a 50/50 basis for himself and the club. Tom again was the auctioneer, thank you to Tom.

Leptotes bicolor fetched \$25 from Vic. *Cattleya amethystoglossa* fetched \$21 from Barbara.

Cultural Award: Norm for his plant of *Encyclia bractescens*.

Raffle: Tony G, Mavis, Chris C..

Name Badge: Graham

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The December meeting is our Christmas party. The meeting will be on 3 December (the first rather than second Tuesday). For several years, we have given all members (family or individual) a raffle ticket in a plant raffle using plants donated by members as a way of sharing our hobby with others during the festive season. We realise that many of our newer members will not have spare species orchids to donate. A hybrid orchid or any other plant from your garden would be perfectly acceptable.

Please bring a plate of festive food to share. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be provided.

- The January home visit will be at Ezi Gro Orchids in Evandale Street., Lansdale. As in previous years, this will be on **Saturday 25 January**, not Sunday
- We wish all members a happy and safe festive season and prosperous new year. Please note that there is no general meeting in January.

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Life Members

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

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

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

- * Jan - Ezi Gro Orchids, Evandale Street, Lansdale
- * Feb - Les & Val, Wanneroo
- * Mar - Gerda & Charly, Sinagra, WA

FOR SALE/WANTED

- 3m x 2.5m treated pine frame greenhouse with double plastic cover (inside and out) available. As Ken wants it removed, he is not asking for payment but suggests that you make a donation to the Species Orchid Society. It has been dismantled. Fans, hotbed and controllers also available - make an offer. Contact Ken 9309 3361.

Imported plant news

To date, I have not been able to contact Matt from Ten Shin Gardens to get the information required for the next order, including confirmation that he can supply the plants ordered and the pricing. I have sent several e-mail communications and left phone messages, so can only assume that he is away from Taiwan at shows. What this means is that there is no way that the shipment can come in before Christmas. It will take about 4 weeks to obtain a CITES import authority once I provide Canberra with a copy of his CITES . I expect that subject to making contact with Matt before Christmas, the shipment is more likely to be February 2014.

Ken & Chris Jones

Leafless Orchids

Continued from November 2013

However, at the risk of becoming a bit technical, the broader question of leaflessness in angiosperms (flowering plants) is of interest to us as growers of flowering plants. The type of leaflessness found in monopodial *Vandaeae* is unique. Typically, leafless vascular plants are either; succulent and xeric-adapted (for example Cactii and Euphorbias); are parasitic on other plants; or are fungi. The stems and shoots of these plants are well developed and form the main body of the plant. This is similar to one of the leafless orchids, *Vanilla aphylla* where the stem is robust and performs photosynthesis for the plant.

Conversely, the shoot system of leafless monopodial *Vandaeae* is extremely reduced, contributing no net carbon gain to the plant. Instead, the roots form the main body of the plant and have taken on the role of food assimilation using a Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM)-like system of recycling CO₂. The degree of reduction is so extreme that these leafless orchids have even been referred to as “shootless” and “semishootless” by some observers who have hypothesized that these extreme epiphytes have reduced their carbon investment in vegetative organs by limiting shoot formation, while increasing their potential fitness by allocating more resources for flower and fruit production.

The genus *Campylocentrum* comprising some 90 or more (or less) species (the number is subject to debate by various

taxonomists) is found from Florida south to northern areas of South America. Some 15-20 species are aphyllous (naturally leafless) or only occasionally have leaves present. The flowers have a small spur which is in part an explanation for some of the taxonomic difficulties when the genus was first described.

The type species is *Campylocentrum micranthum* (Bentham, 1881) although Lindley originally described and illustrated the first specimen belonging to the genus *Campylocentrum* in 1835 as an *Angraecum* Bory (Lindley, 1835). The type species which was originally described as *Angraecum micranthum* Lindl. was identified from a collection supposedly from Sierra Leone, Africa, which was flowered in by Loddiges in England. However, this was an African, not a South American plant. Subsequently, the locality data was found to be incorrect.

Several explanations have been proposed to clarify the origin of this specimen, ostensibly belonging to Neotropical *Angraecinae*. Without going into detail, some authors favour Jamaican origin of *Angraecum macranthum* while others suggest the type locality to be Guatemala. While more recently, Robert Dressler observed that Lindley’s specimen at Kew is consistent with the Guatemalan form of this species, the exact origin of Lindley’s specimen, alternatively assigned to Surinam and Guatemala, seems difficult to ascertain, because *Campylocentrum micranthum* ranges from Mexico and the *contd on page 8*

Murray & Arni

Gongora dressleri
Ionopsis utricularioides
Phalaenopsis equestris

Graham & Margaret

Diuris drummondii var. ‘Buttery’

Maxine

Bulbophyllum echinolabium
Bulbophyllum sinapsis
Cattleya mossiae
Laelia cinnabarina
Lophiaris straminea (*Onc. stramineum*)
Rodriguezia ensiformis

Frank

Dendrobium chrysotoxum

Mich

Dendrobium goldschmidtianum

Pleurothallis sp. aff. *grobyi*

Peter & Shirley

Aerangis mooreana
Angraecum compactum
Cattleya walkeriana var. ‘Tito’
Mystacidium braybonae
Oeniella polystachys
Oncidium bifolium
Phalaenopsis philippinense
Phalaenopsis stuartiana
Sedirea japonica
Vanda tricolor var. *sauvis*

Norm

Anacheilium baculus
Encyclia bractescens
Paphiopedilum primulinum
Paphiopedilum sukhakulii

PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2013

Rodriguezia ensiformis
Maxine



Diuris drummondii var. ‘Buttery’
Graham & Margaret



Tony & Mavis

- Chiloschista* sp. Unknown
- Cymbidium canaliculatum*
- Dendrobium delacourii*
- Paphiopedilum niveum*
- Zelenkoa onusta* (syn. *Onc. Onustum*)



Paphiopedilum niveum
Tony & Mavis

PLANTS DISPLAYED NOVEMBER 2013



Sedirea japonica
Peter & Shirley Masters

Oeniella polystachys
Peter & Shirley



Photography by Tony

Antilles to South America, and it shows considerable morphological variation in the shape and size of leaves and flowers throughout its distribution.

While my research showed that there are many more *Campylocentrum* species that have leaves (including the type species) than those that are leafless, I was not able to find a convenient list which showed those that were leafless and those that were not. Therefore, those I found were as a result of further detailed research, but as they are seldom seen in collections in our part of the world, a few examples will suffice to illustrate this genus.

Ricardo Valentin in his blog <http://ricardogupi.blogspot.com> discusses *Campylocentrum filiforme* which he describes as "a bizarre native orchid that challenges our concept of what an orchid must be."



The photo shows the roots which are silvery white when dry but turn green when wet. Clearly this plant has been pollinated and is carrying many seed pods – the flowers are small and insignificant. Both

live and dead roots are visible in the photo. In this species, the stem or body of the plant has been reduced to about 1 cm in length, making it practically invisible. The roots completely dominate and form a tangled mass over time.

This species comes from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and while it is said to be uncommon, it may be more abundant than records indicate given its 'non-orchid like' appearance and possibility that it is short lived in the wild. All the plants that Ricardo monitored died when the twigs on which they were growing decayed. Popular theory is that the leafless orchids are among the most highly advanced in evolutionary terms allowing them to survive on meagre nutrient resources where many other plants would struggle. While they most often are found in swampy or moist forests, they are also recorded growing in disturbed and secondary forest areas where suitable conditions exist.

Campylocentrum fasciola is a species from Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad & Tobago, Windwards, French Guiana, Surinam, Guyana, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. It is found in wet montane forests as a miniature sized, monopodial, leafless epiphyte at low to moderate elevations of 1,500 metres. It has wiry green roots and flowers on subfilliform, terete, straight, 3 1/4" [8 cm] long, densely distichous, many flowered, racemose inflorescences with nonresupinate flowers. It flowers all year round.

The photo from <http://www.orchidstudium.com/Estrangeiras/Campylocentrum%20fasciola.html> shows just how small these flowers are when compared with a match head.



The following photo shows another characteristic of these small-flowered species. Frequently, they are very fertile and many of the insignificant flowers are pollinated. In this instance, almost every flower on some racemes is now a seed pod.



Photo source: http://www.ecuagenera.com/epages/whitelabel4.sf/en_gb/?ObjectPath=/Shops/ecuagenera/Products/PRS0087

Campylocentrum grisebachii is from Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina and Paraguay where it is epiphytic at low to medium elevations as a small sized, warm to cool growing in shady, damp environments on lower branches of permanent-barked hardwood trees. The flowers are tiny, a pale ochre to white colour, with the sepals and petals free, and small nectary at the back of the lip. The flowers are pleasantly fragrant.



Photo source: <http://www.rednaturaleza.com.ar/planta/142>

Culture of *Campylocentrum* species requires the plants to be mounted as the roots undertake nearly all the food-making functions for the plant. In their native habitat, they generally occur in medium- bright light situations, and intermediate to warm temperatures along with high humidity (70% or more), and high rainfall in the wet season (normally following flowering). In response to higher moisture and humidity levels at this time, occasionally the plants will commence growing new roots from

either the base of the plant, or existing root tips. During this growth phase, regular fertiliser application will help develop a robust plant. It is recommended that in cultivation, *Campylocentrum* orchids should be left dry for a day or two in autumn between waterings to enable the plant to experience the change in moisture levels that occurs in nature. In winter, water should be applied sparingly to avoid desiccation. Good air movement is essential for successful cultivation of this genus. *Campylocentrum* species generally flower in spring with the flower development commencing late winter, so care needs to be taken with watering to ensure that the plant neither desiccates nor rots from too much water. Most of the species are pleasantly fragrant.

The next leafless genus is one with which we are more familiar, *Chilochista*. They are members of the *Aeridinae* tribe rather than *Angraecinae* tribe, and are found throughout mainland and island Asia extending into northern Australia. All twenty species are leafless although occasionally ephemeral leaves may be present during periods of active growth in spring and summer. Generally, we mostly see the Thailand species on display as these plants have been imported over the years. These include *Chilochista lunifera*, *parishii*, *useneoides*, and *viridiflava*.

The type species is *Chilochista useneoides*. It had already been described and the name validly published by David Don. But, it was John Lindley, who reclassified it into the valid botanical systematics in 1832.

Chilochista lunifera is a small hot to cool growing epiphyte from the eastern Himalayas, India, Assam, Burma, Thailand and Laos at low to moderate elevations. It has the typical grey roots and occasional small, deciduous leaves. Blooming in autumn or winter, it has up to 20 fragrant reddish coloured flowers with a pleasant, subtle fragrance. The flower colour is unusual as the majority of species in this genus are white, yellow, green or light brown. The photo from http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chiloschista_lunifera_Orchi_004.jpg shows the attractive, well-displayed flower of this species.



An alba form also exists, and has previously been displayed by Tony.

Continued next month

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (exc January) at Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise St, Wilson 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
The Editor
204 Park Street, Henley Brook WA 6055

*** Next meeting Tuesday 3 December 2013 ***

Peter & Shirley Masters

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E-mail: peterskorner@iinet.net.au

Peterskorner

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.