

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC)

[http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species%20Newsletter.htm)



Vol 26 No 6 November 2014



CULTURAL AWARD, October 2014

Eulophiella elisabethae

Maxine

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 11 November

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

14 October 2014, 7:54pm

Present: 36

Apologies: 2 as per register

Visitors: Howard Tan

New members:

Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting:
(Chris, Mavis).

Business Arising: Nil

Financial Report: Tabled by Charly.
Current balance of \$10,020.88.
(Maxine, Paul)

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- Various newsletters.
- Invitation to visit Orchidup (near Walpole) on the 25th of October.
- A letter to book the hall for next year

Outwards:

- Nil

General Business:

- Bruce described the efforts in South Africa to obtain the WOC in 2010 for Perth. In spite of a fine bid Taiwan won. It would seem that our import laws will preclude us (Australia) from ever being able to have the WOC. Great interest was shown in our native terrestrial exhibition. Ecuador had a very fine exhibition and they are to hold the WOC in 2017.
- We have been invited to put on a stand at the NDOS show in August 2015 at the Coventry Markets.
- Mavis has made a full list of home visits for 2015 with a late change to have the February (actually on March the 1st)

visit at Noel and Eva's place.

- Tony and Ken made brief comments about the Sakdisri offer and the society's order.
- The bus trip was appreciated by those who went. Thanks Tony.
- A reminder that our orders for plants should go through Mich. At present due to our decent stock levels new orders are not in progress.
- Ken outlined the progress on the Ten Shin order and mentioned some of the extra costs Such as Freight (\$US1200). GST (\$1000) and Customs (\$800).
- Tony managed to "get" an extra 10kg per person for the Thai trip.

Cultural Award:

Presented to Maxine for a flowering plant of *Eulophiella elisabethae*, a Madagascan species that is particularly challenging to grow and flower.

Raffle: Judith, Ian, Lesley and Tony

Name Badge: Tom & Pat

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- The Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 December. Wine, beer and soft drink refreshments in addition to tea and coffee will be provided and all members are asked to bring a plate of festive supper to share.
- There will not be a monthly plant in December– we ask that members who have spare species orchid plant bring it to be part of a free raffle so that every member attending goes home with another species orchid for Christmas. However, if you do not yet have spare plants, do not be concerned as we will have extras.
- Mavis represented the Society at the WAROO meeting on 26 October and will report on decisions made at the general meeting. In his written report to WAROO, the Chairman, Bruce included a picture of the Society's display at the Inter Society Challenge which he said helped set a new benchmark for club displays.

President: Ken Jones

Vice President: Adrian

Secretary: Graham Bowden

8 Bedelia Way, Hamersley, 6022.

Phone: 9447 4528

e-mail: gmbowden@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Charly

Editor: Ken Jones

204 Park Street, Henley Brook

6055. Phone: 9296 1765

e-mail: kcjones@tpg.com.au

Committee:

Chris Sharon

Maxine Paul

Michele Tony

Mavis

Life Members

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon

Joan (dec'd) & Ted (dec'd)

Trevor

Neville

Noel & Eva

Tony & Mavis

Barry (dec'd)

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH- COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

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

- * 30 Nov - Ken & Chris Jones, 204 Park Street, Henley Brook
- * 24 Jan - Ezi-Gro Orchids, Evandale St, Lansdale (note this will be on Saturday 24 January)

FOR SALE/WANTED



Imported plant news

The Wildlife Trade Permit from Canberra did not arrive in time for me to arrange shipment of the orchids from Ten shin Gardens by 2nd November. Apparently, it now takes 6 - 8 weeks for the Department of Environment to issue these permits. After consultation with Tony, as Matt will be in the US during the first week of November, and we are away the second week, I have scheduled the plants to arrive on Tuesday 24th November. I have committed quarantine glasshouse space to Tony's tour group arriving mid-February, and will hang their plants until an inspection wherein I hope to have 50% or more of the Ten Shin plants released. *Ken & Chris Jones*

MONTHLY PLANT

***Cattleya loddigesii* 'Aranda B' HCC/
AOS x Whopper' HCC/AOS**

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: Moderate sized, bifoliate
Cattleya .

Difficulty: Vigorous species that is
easy to grow and flower

Cost: \$8.00

Cattleya loddigesii Lindl. 1823
SUBGENUS *Intermedia* [Cogn.] Withner
1989; common name Loddiges' Cattleya
after an 1800's English orchid collector and
nurseryman, comes from Brazil. Its habitat
includes portions of the states of São
Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais,
and extends from near São Paulo north-
ward to the vicinity of Passos and west-
ward to the region around Bauru. These
plants were purchased from Rosella
Orchids and have been grown on by Paul.

The species is found at 600-900 m along
the Rio Grande, Rio Tiete, Rio Pardo, and
Rio Feo rivers, and in the swampy regions
near the headwaters of these streams.
Plants are also found in swampy areas of
the headwaters of the Rio Paraíba in south-
eastern São Paulo. The habitats of *C.*
loddigesii and *C. harrisoniana* overlap in
this region, and primary hybrids between
these two species occur.

These plants are actively growing and



Source: <http://www.aorquidea.com.br/forum/viewtopic.php?t=8803&sid=de007e3d54967036652ba8477a081440>

have more than filled the 50mm tubes so
will need to be potted up (or mounted) so
that they can grow vigorously over the
upcoming warmer weather. *Cattleya*
loddigesii is one of the easiest of the
genus to grow and flower, and is more than
happy in a shadehouse provided some
winter protection can be provided. Any
standard potting media will be OK. They
benefit from regular feeding while in active
growth to assist in flower production

I have found that *Cattleya* species and
hybrids can be susceptible to soft or cotton
scale if the air movement is limited. The
best remedy is to allow plenty of space
between plants to ensure free air move-
ment, or if like me, your have too many
plants, regular application of pest oil after
removal of the husk on the mature
pseudobulbs as the scale is often found
underneath this covering..

Graham & Margaret

Caladenia marginata
Cymbidium canaliculatum var. *sparkesii*
Dendrobium pugioniforme
Pterostylis rufa aff. *picta*
Rhinerrhiza divitiflora
Sarcochilus falcatus

Chris

Ansellia africana
Coilostylis falcate
Cymbidium bicolor subsp. *obtusum*
Dendrobium lindleyii

Maxine

Bulbophyllum longissimum
Bulbophyllum nymphopolitanum
Eulophiella elisabethae
Phalaenopsis manni
Polystachya pubescens

Ken & Chris

Cattleya amethystoglossa
Cattleya quadricolor
Cattleya walkeriana
Coilostylis parkinsonianum
Dendrobium fimbriatum
Dendrobium lancifolium
Dendrobium nobile var. *virginalis*
Dendrobium unicum
Dendrochilum wenzelli
Guarianthe skinneri var. *alba*
Oncidium multiflorum
Paphiopedilum primulinum var.
purpuraescens
Phalaenopsis deltonii (*bastianii*)
Phalaenopsis heiroglyphica
Phalaenopsis manni
Pleurothallis caliptrostele
Vanda denisoniana

Bruce

Cattleya intermedia fma *aquini* *coerulea*
Guarianthe skinneri

PLANTS DISPLAYED OCTOBER 2014



Guarianthe skinneri Dayana
Bruce
Ken & Chris

Cattleya intermedia fma. *Aquini*
coerulea
Bruce



Peter

- Cattleya amethystoglossa*
- Cattleya aurantiaca* 'Tropic Gold'
- Epidendrum difforme*
- Ionopsis utricularioides*
- Leptotes bicolor*
- Oeoniella polystachys*
- Oerstedella centradenia*
- Phalaenopsis aphrodite*
- Phalaenopsis philippinensis*
- Phalaenopsis schilleriana*

Victor

- Ansellia africana*

John

- Cattleya intermedia* var. *orlata* 'Crown Fox'
- Cattleya skinneri* var. *alba*

Tony & Mavis

- Chiloschista* ssp.
- Dendrobium X usitae* (natural hybrid
Den. bullenianum x *goldschmidtianum*)
- Microcoelia cornuta*
- Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum*
- Phalaenopsis parishii*
- Phalaenopsis philippinensis*



Cattleya intermedia var. *orlata* Crown Fox
Maxine
John

PLANTS DISPLAYED OCTOBER 2014



Cattleya amethystoglossa
Peter

Dendrobium farmerii
Peter



Photography by Tony

Leafless Orchids *Continued from September 2014*

Taeniophyllum malianum Schltr. 1913
SUBGENUS *Liberosepalum* SECTION
Rhynchanthera is found in north-eastern Queensland on the Iron Range and Mcllwraith Range and in New Guinea. Its common name is the Tangled Ribbonroot which aptly describes its growth habit. Found in sparse scrub and rainforests at 200-600m where it grows in humid environments including moist slopes and ridges and along streams, this species has a tangled clump of roots, the majority of which are pendulous or spreading and grow through the air, with only a few attaching the plant to the host. Its insect-pollinated flowers are honey-scented, generally opening for less than a day in late afternoon. Typical of one-day or gregarious flowering orchids, the majority of the population in in area will flower on the same day.



Source: http://keys.trin.org.au/key-server/data/08090a09-0d0e-410b-860c-020705070e0e/media/Html/Taeniophyllum_malianum.htm

Taeniophyllum montanum Carr 1932. As the photos shows, this species from peninsular Malaysia is a small sized, warm

growing epiphyte with flattened, thick roots which firmly attach it to the substrate.



Source: https://orchid.unibas.ch/phpMyHerbarium/2010404/1/Taeniophyllum/montanum/Carr_Cedric_Errol/specimen.php

Taeniophyllum norfolkianum D.L.Jones, B.Gray & M.A.Clem. This species is found on Norfolk Island where it was regarded as endemic until its recent discovery on a hillside in the Waipu Ecological District North Island of New Zealand.



Source: http://www.nativeorchids.co.nz/images/Taeniophyllum_norfolkianum.jpg

The recent New Zealand discovery records this species from the upper trunk and branches of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), while on Norfolk Island it is a locally common

epiphyte on Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and *Wilkstroemia australis* within the Mt Bates central forested area of the island. However, it is rare on Norfolk Island where it is classified as "vulnerable", based on the IUCN red book classification system as less than 1,000 mature plants were recorded in 2003.

In New Zealand, some 140 plants were discovered. The plants were flowering and fruiting when observed in November 2009 and it appeared that some plants were at least two years old as the remains of the previous year's flower stalks and current flower stalks were present on some plants. This population may not be the only occurrence of this species at this site because there are large tracts of suitable habitat occupied by suitable host plants.

Taeniophyllum obtusum Blume 1825. Found in south-central China, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Borneo, Java, Sumatra and Vietnam, this small-sized hot to warm growing epiphyte occurs at 150-1,600m in swampy primary montane forests principally on mangrove and coffee plants. As the photo shows, flowers are produced on short flower spikes and are yellow with a white bulbous lip and sweetly fragrant.

I found another article which reminisced that this species was once abundant in Singapore, but has disappeared from many of the known sites although can still be found in a few isolated swamp forest areas such as the Ngee Soon Swamp Forest. Previously it was collected from multiple sites including the Botanic Gardens, Bukit Mandai, Serangoon Road etc. It can still be

grown in Singapore, but given its diminutive size, it does not cope well with cultivation stress. It needs bright area with constant air movement and high year-round humidity.



Source: <http://orchidofsumatra.blogspot.com.au/2012/02/taeniophyllum-obtusum-blume-1825.html>

Taeniophyllum retrospiculatum (King & Pantl.) King & Pantl. 1898 SUBGENUS *Liberosepalum* SECTION *Sepalocodon*. Found in the eastern Himalayas and Laos on mossy tree trunks at 1,300 to 2,400m. it is a miniature warm to cool growing epiphyte



Source: <http://orkidland.blogspot.com.au/2011/07/taeniophyllum-retrospiculatum.html>

While researching this article, I came across a 2013 paper describing this species in Assam (India) where it was not previously known to exist. Occurring as an epiphyte in heavily-shaded primary forest, this (and many other) species is under threat due to clearing for other purposes, and given its limited botanical appeal, does not appear to be regarded as important.

The picture gallery Orchids of PNG (<http://gallery.orchidspng.com>) has many images of unidentified *Taeniophyllum* species. There are some very attractive, though small flowers well worth a look if you are interested.

There are other species of orchids that are either constantly, or occasionally leafless and do not have photosynthetic root structures. For this article I have focused on those where the leaves (if any) are ephemeral and where the generally flattened, cord-like green roots with distinctive pneumatodes act as stomata to enable the photosynthetic roots to perform the gas exchange required to support photosynthesis.

However, for general information, there are several leafless tropical, sub-tropical and temperate terrestrial species that are principally saprophytic, for example, *Rhizanthella gardneri*. There are also several epiphytic species including *Phalaenopsis* that will drop their leaves in stressful periods, and *Vanilla aphylla*, *barbellata*, *decaryana*, and *dilloniana* where the thickened stem replaces the leaves and performs photosynthetic function for the plant. However, these species do not

have photosynthetic roots.

Summary

In summary, cultivation of leafless orchids without specialised environmental controls can be challenging. Clearly, as the photosynthesis process for these plants is achieved by the chlorophyll in the roots, they need to be mounted with the roots fully exposed to light. By way of further complication, some are classic 'twig epiphytes' in their natural habitat and have few roots adhering to the substrate. They require some other means of attaching the plant to its mount.

Most need a warm, humid environment with filtered light (the majority grow in the lower primary forest) with some, but not extreme air movement. While some commentators suggest that the use of fans is injurious to these plants, I have found that there needs to be some level of air movement and if there is no natural movement, then fans are the only solution.

Leafless orchids do not like to be permanently wet, so careful management of the environment is necessary to avoid soft rots and other fungus pathogens while maintaining high humidity and ensuring plants are dry when the temperature drops at night. Like all orchids, leafless orchids are gross feeders and benefit from regular but weak fertilising. A vivarium-type environment can be a cost-effective solution in WA where the summer conditions of extremely low humidity and high temperatures are the anathema to what these plants require for healthy and vigorous growth.

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 11 November 2014

Peter & Shirley Masters

Phone: 08 93506087

Mob 0419831177

Shirley 0414948469

E-mail: peterskorner@iinet.net.au



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.