

HARROGATE ORCHID SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020 - 2nd Edition

Dear Members,

This Newsletter is in lieu of the April meeting. Hopefully everyone is keeping safe and well. We have a couple of articles for you, plus a 'table' display. There is no raffle this month. I can also confirm there will be no meetings at Harlow Carr in May, June or July 2020.

Liz Groves, Editor

Advice Column

Crown Rot

By Ian Dorman

Some orchids can suffer from crown rot, particularly Phalaenopsis but also Paphs and some other genera. As these are monopodial orchids, once the crown rot kills the growth the plant is usually deemed lost.



However, this is often not the case and in my experience it is advisable to be patient and wait several weeks before binning the plant. Please note the Phalaenopsis species opposite which after several weeks has produced a side shoot off the main stem and this should now happily grow away and save the plant.

Of course, some of you will already know this, but I hope this advice saves a few special orchids from being thrown away.

WARNING!

A couple of months ago I had an infestation of Hard Scale on a Prosthecea cochleata. One was just disgorging its millions of 'crawlers'! I treated the plant with bleach then repotted in fresh compost. After 2 weeks, I spotted another lone critter. Then today, I was loading my washing machine and found one of the blighters clinging to the rubber seal! How did it get there? Are they water-borne? Was it on some clothing? How far will the baby 'crawlers' move in search of a plant to attack? Unsurprisingly, I'm now paranoid!!

Liz Groves Apr 2020

Article by John Gay

The Genus *Miltoniopsis*

Today's *Miltoniopsis* were formally lumped into the genus *Miltonia* by the English botanist John Lindley in 1837. It was only later in 1889 that it was described as a separate genus but not generally accepted until 1976 following a publication by Leslie Garay and G.C.K. Dunsterville. To me, the most amazing aspect of *Miltoniopsis* is the fact that until fairly recently the great diversity of flower colour and patterns in the hybrids had been developed by continued crossing of hybrids originally obtained from three Colombian species: *Miltoniopsis vexillaria*, *Miltoniopsis roezlii* and *Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis*.



Miltoniopsis vexillaria is endemic to the Andean highlands of Colombia and Northern Ecuador growing in cloud forests at 4,000 – 6,500 feet. The flowers come in various shades of pink to pure white and can be 4 inches across.

Miltoniopsis roezlii is endemic to western Colombia. It is found at a much lower elevation to *Mps. vexillaria* at 1000-2500ft. Plants are smaller than *Mps. vexillaria* as is flower size. There is a



pure white form and a beautiful pure yellow form which I have a very nice plant of.



Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis is endemic again to Colombia and grows in shady, humid locations at 4000-6500ft. The plants are quite small with the

flowers measuring 2-3 inches across, smaller than *Mps. vexillaria* and *Mps. roezlii*.

There are a few more species in the genus namely: *Miltoniopsis santanae*, *Miltoniopsis warscewiczii* and the more recently discovered *Miltoniopsis bismarckii*. However, these have been used very little in hybridizing.

NEXT EDITION- Miltoniopsis hybrids and growing conditions

'TABLE DISPLAY'



Just in flower now is **Paphiopedilum Ho Chi Minh**, a primary hybrid of Paphiopedilum (delenatii x vietnamense). It is perhaps the finest vietnamense hybrid, and it gets the best of both parents. The delenatii gives the flower better form, while the vietmanense gives it fantastic colour. They are also very vigorous and easy to grow. Once considered an illegal plant, as when I first obtained it 20 years ago the parent plant of vietnamense was appendix 1 and at that time non (in theory) had been imported from the wild. **George Barnes April 2020**

My fascination for Phragmipedium Slipper Orchids has grown solely because when in flower the pouches do indeed look like ladies slippers and I love the different shapes and colours of the petals.

The species originate from South America especially around Peru and Ecuador.

I grow my collection in a greenhouse with controlled intermediate conditions aiming for daytime temperatures of 21C and night temperature at 15/16C. Obviously in spring, summer & autumn the temps rise but I always try and keep them below 33 degrees using shading, fans and ventilation. They do not like direct sunlight so shading is essential from early spring onwards until late October, if not longer, depending on conditions.

I grow most of my Phragmipediums in a mixture of Rockwool and Perlite and they seem to do very well.

As for watering they must never be allowed to dry out and I only use rain water which I have stored in barrels especially for them.

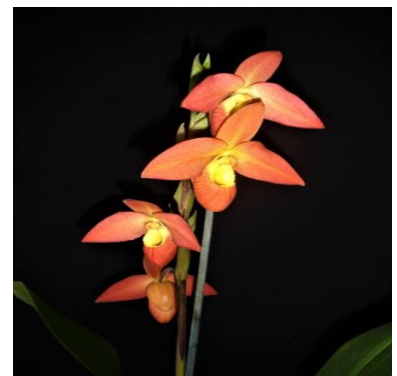
In the growing season I feed with a weak solution of fertiliser and flush out with rain water once a month - this is to stop salt build up etc.

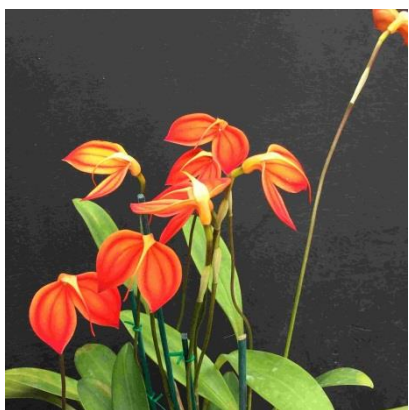
Phragmipediums are best grown in a greenhouse but can be brought inside to enjoy when in flower although some do get to be very large plants. **Pat Hollings April 2020**



Phragmipedium Jerry Lee Fischer
(Besseeae x Incan Treasure)

Phragmipedium "Oaisne"
(Eric Young x dalessandroi)





Masdevallia ignea 'Lava Flow' AM/RHS

This plant I obtained from the late Ellis Eyre which he got awarded by the RHS probably because of its vivid red colour and its extreme vigour which could point to it being a tetraploid.

Masdevallia ignea is a terrestrial plant from the Eastern Cordillera of Columbia at elevations of 2600 to 3800 metres, making it a cool growing orchid.

I grow it in the cool section of my greenhouse where temperatures range from a min of 10C to a max of 21C. Humidity, which is key to growing this kind of cloud forest orchid, rarely falls below 80%, although I'm sure the plant will tolerate lower humidity for short periods. Light levels are on the low side with 60% shade cloth applied externally from March to October, supplemented with extra internal shading as required. I use my standard Masdevallia compost which is 60% small bark, 20% perlite, 10% sphagnum moss and 10% horticultural foam. Watering is usually once a week or sometimes twice a week in summer including a liquid Rainmix fertilizer.

Ian Dorman April 2020

Amongst our orchid collection there are many Vandas. Some grow as houseplants, living in the conservatory. Min night-time temperature can fall to 55 deg in winter, daytime summer can reach up to 80 deg, but they are shaded. I have these growing in fruit juice dispensers: basically large plastic containers with taps at the bottom, which makes them easier to empty. I leave them stood in the containers for 2 or 3 hours about twice a week, and they flower fine for me.

George Barnes April 2020

Vanda Tayanee White



Vanda Pink Parfait