

Harrogate Orchid Society

Email: editor.hosnews@gmail.com

Newsletter July 2020



Dear Member,

Welcome to your July Newsletter. Hope everyone is still safe and well. It doesn't look as if we shall be able to have a meeting for another couple of months but things change so watch this space.

Many thanks to those of you who returned the Potting Mix Survey. Details are below. There will be more surveys in future months.

Congratulations to those members who entered the recent virtual BOC judging and came away with awards: Hilary, Ian and George.

The 'Table Display' for you this month shows some different and interesting specimens so hope you enjoy them. My thanks to Matt, Hilary and Bernard. Please start thinking about sending pictures to me for the August edition.

Liz Groves

TABLE DISPLAY

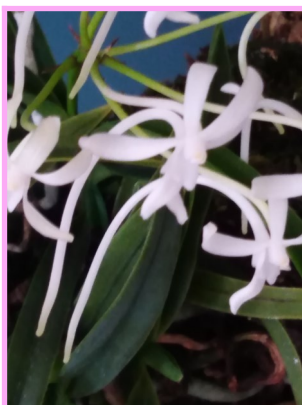
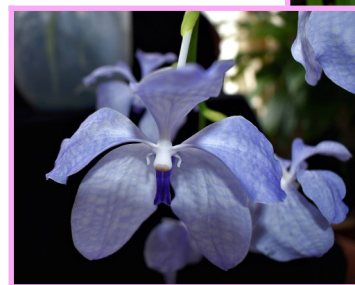


Vanda coerulea was described by John Lindley in 1847 and is found in Indo-China in temperate conditions. In the world of orchids the colour blue is rarely seen. The species grows as an epiphyte, often in full sun, at elevations of between 900 – 1500metres, usually in deciduous forests.

There are many look-a-likes where other species of Vanda have been crossed with V. Coerulea to produce bigger flowers. But the true coerulea is easily recognised as the petals are at 90deg or more to the sepals, facing the ground.

Another feature found only on our species is the presence of 2 white upward-pointing horns on the side lobes of the labellum.

Bernard McDonald



Neofinetia falcata blooming again for me. It spends March to November hanging in an east-facing window. It is watered thoroughly once a week and sprayed each evening. I feed my plants most weeks using either tomato food, Maxicrop or Rainmix—I mix them about. December to February it is moved to a cool, unheated porch and kept dry. This is its fourth year with me and the second flowering. The fragrance it emits is wonderful!

Liz Groves

Liz

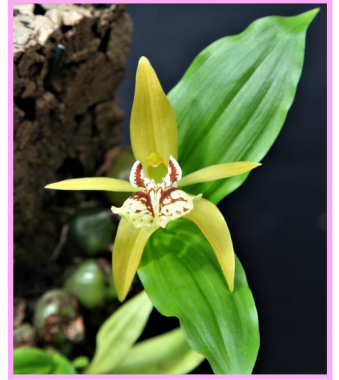


TABLE DISPLAY

Coelogyne Schilleriana

I really liked this orchid when I first saw it at an Orchid Committee meeting at Malvern in 2017 and managed to get one from K J Orchids.

It has flowered for the first time this year. The flower is nearly as big as the plant and is very attractive. I grow this in the warm section and spray daily as this is on bark.



Renanthera Imschootiana

It is very rare and endangered in the wild and is listed on Cites Appendix 1. It has a wide distribution from NE India to SW China where it grows epiphytically at high altitudes.

I bought this plant from Chantelle Orchids at the Congress at Norwich in 2017.

It is a beautiful orchid that has many large red long lasting flowers on a branched inflorescence which blooms every year.

I grow the plant in the warm section with lots of light and spray the roots every day. It won the best in the class of Vandaeae in the recent virtual BOS judging event.



Oncidium hastilabium

From Venezuela to South America.

I grow this in the cool section and keep fairly moist all year round.

Dendrobium Tortile

From South and East Asia

This is grown in the warm section.



Anathallis regalis

From Mexico, Central & South America and West Indies.

I grow this in the cool section with plenty of light and high humidity

Paphiopedilum praestans

From New Guinea.

I grow this in the warm section. I keep it very moist all year round and only repot when necessary.

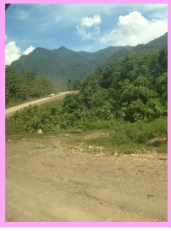
It needs plenty of light to flower well.



Hilary Hobbs

Coelogyne cuprea by **Matt Richardson**

The copper coloured Coelogyne.



I first encountered this beautiful and unusual Coelogyne in 2014 while on an expedition to see Nepenthes (monkey cups), a genus of carnivorous plants I have a passion for.

This trip took me to Borneo and the first (of three) mountains we climbed was Gunung Murud (2424m) the highest Mountain in Sarawak, Malaysia.

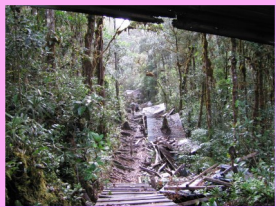
Our route took us, by plane, a short hop from Kota Kinabalu down to Lawas towards Brunei.

The following morning we travelled for some seven hours by 4x4 along the logging roads into the heart of the Kelabit Highlands. Our destination was Apple Lodge in Ba Kelalan a small and basic tourist lodge in a little farming community, whose inhabitants were once famed for their drunkenness and war-mongering!



The next morning we loaded up again and drove another couple of hours to the jump off point at the foot of Gunung Murud. (about 800masl)

A steep two hour climb took us to just over 2000m to Jambatan Sukacita (Joy Bridge) (pic right)



A decaying boardwalk, (pic left) constructed along part of the ridge to aid the biennial pilgrimage trail to Church Camp, a cluster of wooden shacks now providing rudimentary shelter for about 1000 pilgrims, built up around the Christian church erected on the near summit plateau in 1985 (pic right)



A little before reaching the Joy Bridge, I found it down on the end of a 3ft spike at about intermediate climate. It was in bright steep sloping, well draining run-off springy fine root fibres and moss, well



spotted this single flower bobbing up and down on the end of a 3ft spike at about 1800m altitude. This translates to a cool to dappled shade under a high canopy, in terrain made up of humus soil retained by watered year round.

Upon my return to the UK I did a bit of research to identify some of the plants I had seen and of all the orchids, I managed to find a guy in Germany that had a Coelogyne cuprea cutting available for sale. By April 2015 I had a 3 bulb cutting and proceeded in mounting it on a piece of tree fern trunk that mimics well the fibrous rooty natural substrate it was found in, retaining moisture within.

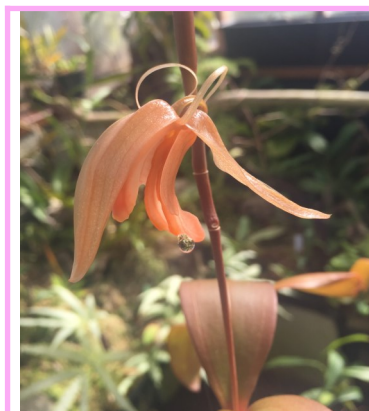
I keep a 16 x 28ft cedar greenhouse mostly dedicated to highland cloud forest plants, cool growing occurring above 1000masl. Minimum 10c and a maximum of 27c with high humidity and good air movement.



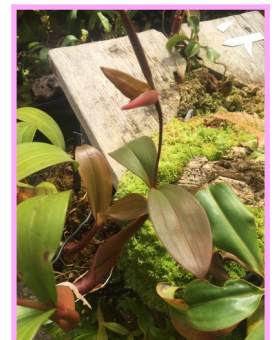
This plant has grown really well for me in my conditions, Each flower spike produces a single flower sequentially at a rate of about a flower per month, non stop, each zig and zag on the spike indicating a spent flower (each lasting 7-10 days). So, as one can see, it has been in constant flower now for over 2 years.

New copper coloured growths add to the display and at our year, all four spikes held a fresh perfectly timed display, for best Coelogyne!

Since then it has continued on growths maturing.



sending up more spikes annual show earlier this flower, providing a culminating in a rosette



and has another spike and more new

Potting Mix Survey July 2020

GENERA	POTTING MIX	BRAND	COMMENTS
Oncidium	medium bark, Perlite, Sphagnum moss (HH)	Orchiata	I find it a softer bark than some brands Portuguese bark is good but in short supply after a number of forest fires.
	Medium bark, sometimes mixed with Perlite (TW)	Melcort	
	Medium Bark, no perlite or moss, as without these mix remains open longer, more air can reach the roots. Mix also dries out quicker. (MW)	Melcort,	
Phragmipedium	Rock wool, Perlite (HH)	N/A	
Paphiopedalum	Medium bark, Sphagnum moss, Large perlite (HH)	Orchiata bark	
Coelogyne	Bark, Moss, perlite (HH)	Orchiata bark	
Phalaenopsis	Bark, Moss, perlite (HH)	Orchiata bark	Portuguese bark is good but in short supply after a number of forest fires.
	Medium Bark, no perlite or moss, as without these mix remains open longer, more air can reach the roots. Mix also dries out quicker. (MW)	Melcort,	
Maxillaria	Medium bark, sometimes mixed with Perlite (TW)	Melcort	I find it a softer bark than some brands
Cymbidium	Medium bark (TW)	Melcort	Have tried Orchiata but find it too hard
Stanhopea	NZ moss to line a basket and then chopped moss and bark (TW)	NZ moss and Melcort	NZ moss from a renewable source
Dracula	A mixture of chopped NZ moss, bark and Perlite (TW)	As above	
Masdevallia	A mixture of chopped NZ moss, bark and Perlite (TW)	As above	
Thunia	I treat them as terrestrials, using grow bag tomato bag mixture with 20% Perlite added. (MW)		Must use branded product which is sterilised etc.
Lycasta	Grow well in a mixture of sphagnum moss and Perlite (MW)	N Z moss	Can grow as terrestrials or epiphytes
Pleione	They like an open gritty mixture which is suitable for Alpines, need regular feeding (MW)		Make up your own, refer to web site of references for making up Pleione compost mixture
All species	Still experimenting (LG)	Orchiata	But not experienced enough to really comment

Interesting to note that Writhlington School use ONLY bark – what looked like medium to large - for all their plants and do not add moss when mounting.

HH – Hilary Hobbs

TW – Trish White

MW – Malcom White

LG – Liz Groves