

Harrogate Orchid Society

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Newsletter August 2020



Dear Members,

Hope this finds everyone well, safe and, perhaps more importantly, sane. I fear these trying times are here to stay for the foreseeable future so we must do what we can to make life as enjoyable as possible. I will endeavour to keep you all entertained with the Newsletters and to that end I shall be including articles from previous publications. I have been given copies of the communications sent out after the Society's inception in 1983 (yes, we are nearly 40 years old!) and intend to pick out various pieces of interest. I am starting with a review of the first year of the Society.

A little note from the Treasurer: there are still one or two outstanding subscriptions. If you wish to remain a member of the Society please could you contact Malcolm to arrange payment. Likewise if you should choose to cancel your membership, which we hope will not be the case.

My thanks go out to this month's contributors. PLEASE keep sending me your photos, and/or articles.

Best wishes,

Liz, Editor PS: my internet is down so Trish White is kindly emailing for me this month.



As it's August, a photo of the heather on Barden Moor. LG

Hi Everyone,

Unfortunately, still no let up with this horrible Covid virus. It is still difficult to continue our monthly meetings and exhibiting at Orchid Shows with no immediate end in sight. As such, I have taken the unfortunate decision after consulting a number of the Committee to cancel our Annual Show next year at the Pavilions in Harrogate on the 7th March. With so much uncertainty about it is difficult to see how we would get the numbers through the door to make the show viable. We were the last Orchid Society to have an Annual show in February this year before Covid necessitated every other Orchid Society to cancel their own events for 2020; this at least gave us a rare Orchid Event in 2020. I have asked Ivor to provisionally book a date with the Pavilions in March 2022 subject to the committee agreeing the terms.

I am still having discussions with RHS Harlow Carr regarding the reopening of the Learning Centre. However, this at present is far from clear since they are very much governed by National RHS policy. In the meantime, very many thanks to Liz for keeping us all in touch via the Newsletter and can I please make a fresh appeal to members to send her some ditty about your orchids.

Keep Safe & Well

John

Thrips



Many orchid growers have had infestations of Thrips in their greenhouses this summer. This includes John Gay and yours truly, hence the interest. We have been unable to identify the source of this minor epidemic and testing and tracing is not open to us!

Thrips are probably the most difficult to control of all the orchid pests. They often go unnoticed until significant damage to our plants has been perpetrated.

Thrips are very small insects, perhaps about 2mm long and half a millimetre wide so difficult to detect to the unaided eye and easily overlooked. They are very mobile and hide in flowers and flower buds.

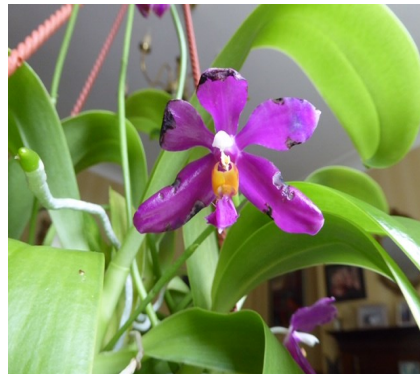
They have a high reproductive rate producing up to 12-15 generations in a year. This is accelerated in warm conditions and therefore Thrips are more likely to

strike in the summer.

Control is difficult. However it is much easier if the flying adults are eradicated before they lay their eggs. For this reason it is very important to recognise the early signs of damage and take swift action.

The species which usually attacks orchids is *Lithothrips vaneeckei* Priesner, which is black in colour. My first encounter in 2005 led me to seek the help of the Central Science Laboratory at Sand Hutton, York who identified this species.

Thrips cause damage to both the leaves and the flower spikes, but mainly attack buds or new growth. They cause brown/orange marks on leaves (see photograph) and leave blackish excrement on leaves. Thrips feed on emerging flower buds which may not open and if they do are likely to be distorted. The flowers may be deformed with stippling and brown edges (see photograph).



Flower damage can mimic viral colour break. My experience has been that Thrips particularly attack the buds and flowers of *Phragmipedium*, *Cattleya* and *Phalaenopsis*.

The most likely site to observe the adults is on the flowers so look carefully there if you suspect their presence. As I have said, Thrips are difficult to eradicate. As with many insects, they have numerous stages in their life cycle – 6 in all. The adult flying stage is when they are most vulnerable to our attempts to kill them. Most of the life cycle however is spent as eggs and larvae inside the flower buds or as pupae in the compost where they are invisible and protected from most insecticides but continue to feed and damage the plant..





Treatment recommendations

Whilst Thrips may be active all year round in the heated greenhouse, they do not reproduce at temperatures below 50F (10C).

The insecticide “Conserve” which contains Spinosad as its active ingredient is said to be the most effective treatment. Spinosad results from fermentation of natural occurring soil bacteria. As such it is less toxic than most insecticides. The recommended use is 2 applications 10 days apart. The only problem, as with so many insecticides these days, is that Conserve is not readily available especially to the amateur grower.

There are alternative insecticides to control Thrips. These include Deltamethrin, Lambda- Cyhalothrin, Pyrethrum or Neem Oil. A new insecticide Guard “n” Aid contains Pyrethrins and rapeseed oil and is specifically formulated for Thrips. I purchased some recently via a site on e Bay but have not yet had the chance to test its efficacy. It claims to control adults, larval and some egg stages.

However one thing that is clear is that such contact insecticides require repeated application to be effective. For severe infestations apply chemicals twice weekly for several weeks focussing on the emerging buds and new growths. Further it is recommended that insecticides with different modes of action are rotated to prevent resistance.

Thrips can also be monitored by Blue Sticky Traps. Obviously, as with all pests and disease, good greenhouse hygiene is essential including plant social distancing!

In summary therefore there are 3 main points to make if Thrips are to be controlled successfully:

- 1 Constant vigilance
- 2 Prompt recognition of the early stages of infestation
- 3 Rapid and sustained treatment

Good luck!

Hilary Hobbs 8/2020

NORTHERN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

ORCHID GROUP

HARLOW CAR

HARROGATE

NEWS LETTER NO. 2 - DECEMBER 1984



REFLECTIONS

Well, our first full year has drawn to a close, and perhaps some reflection on the year's activities is appropriate. The Group has continued to increase in size and enthusiasm, table shows are growing; at the last meeting we had reached forty plants, and the number of members present was forty-eight. Perhaps with more persuasion the beginners amongst you will bring plants for the table show, let's try and reach over a hundred during the next few months, it is possible, the North of England Orchid Society often exceed two hundred and fifty plants at just their ordinary monthly meetings.

Of course our table shows are not the only place to display your plants, why not try your hand at exhibiting at some of the organised shows your Group participate in, they are great fun and it gives you a chance to talk to other Orchid enthusiasts in other parts of the country from different Societies. Remember, you do not have to be a grower with many years experience to win, often some species not usually seen will do the trick and bring an Award. Come on, join us at the next show, which incidentally is at Grantham, but more details of that later from your Show Secretary.

Looking back over the year we have participated in three shows i.e. Grantham, the Harrogate Spring Flower Show, and the Five Societies Show at Bowden. At each show we have not disgraced ourselves and indeed, some of our members have won notable Awards.

We are expecting this coming year to increase our involvement with shows to five or six. " BUT WE NEED MORE SUPPORT " - IF YOU WANT TO HELP OR WANT MORE DETAILS, VIC SPARRY IS YOUR SHOW SECRETARY OR, YOU CAN RING YOUR HON. SECRETARY - MALCOLM WHITE, WHO IS ALWAYS MORE THAN WILLING TO CHAT ABOUT ORCHIDS.

Finally, I think you will agree that over the year there has been a varied and interesting range of topics at the monthly meetings (you must find it interesting because there are usually between forty and fifty members present, not bad for a first year). If however you have any new ideas or can think of any improvements please do not hesitate to put pen to paper or pick up a phone and ring me.

Malcolm White
Hon. Secretary

I finally managed to get to Grimwith Reservoir mid-month to check up on the native orchids. I was delighted to find a couple of Twayblades still in flower. My photos are not great as it was quite windy. I also found some Dactylorhiza spikes with seed pods. Good to know at least some species are hanging on in there. **Liz Groves**



Twayblade



Dactylorhiza

TABLE DISPLAY

My good friend Mike Gomersall died in 2019 and left me his orchids. Both have now been flowering continuously for at least 2 months. All the plants are doing well.

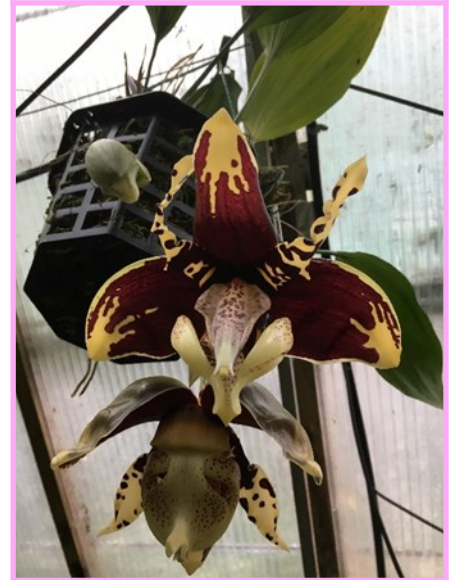
They are positioned on a windowsill. Currently they are facing NE. From October to April I put them on a windowsill facing SW. They are watered weekly with tepid water and a touch of tomato feed.

John Chester





Maxillaria cucullata is native to Mexico and most areas of Central America. These plants were taken from an exceptionally large specimen that had outgrown its mount. I prefer to grow them on bark and find they present their flowers better. I grow them in a cool to intermediate greenhouse and keep them very moist; because they are on bark they dry out very quickly. I feed once a week with whatever is on hand. This plant did not seem to mind being split and was flowering within a couple of weeks



Stanhopea tigrina var. nigrviolacea 'Matador' – this is a large, showy, and very fragrant species which flowers in the summer. It has very dark deep red markings on the petals and is a favourite of mine. I bought this at a Harrogate OS auction many years ago and have split it many times. This is grown in a moss lined basket filled with a mixture of chopped sphagnum moss and Melcourt bark. All my Stanhopeas are attached to a dripper and never dry out and grown in a cool to intermediate greenhouse.

Trish White



Oncidium High Street "Silvine"

Oncidium hastilabium x tribolum

Cross made by Cedric and Silvia Maunder and registered in 2003.

No awards

Silvia gave me this plant last year and it has flowered for the first time in my greenhouse.

I think this is a very nice cross. The plant has a tall arching spike with well spaced long-lasting flowers.

I grow this plant in the cool section with plenty of light. **HH**





Epidendrum capricornu "Amelie"

This comes from southern Ecuador to northern Peru.

CC 2016 & 2018

It is more vigorous than ever and is outgrowing the greenhouse!

Hilary Hobbs



Just room to sneak in a couple of my own plants that have been flowering non-stop for the last 18 months. Both in an east-facing window, *Scaphosepalum* behind shade.

Scaphosepalum verrucosum

And

Prosthecea cochleata

Liz Groves

