

Harrogate Orchid Society

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Newsletter October 2020



Dear Members,

Hope this finds everyone well and happily growing your orchids.

I'm afraid there will be no meetings until 2021 now and as of yet, we have no dates. So a couple of us were wondering how many people would be interested in having a virtual Zoom meeting? It would be just a quick catch-up to see how we fare with the technology and if all went well we could arrange something longer and possibly with a speaker. Do please let me know your thoughts. North of England Society had a Zoom on Sunday about Vandas by George Barnes and it is now in the Cloud. To access and watch, you can use this link and password: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/o4_rI5O_8MzJ0pwCzoayQ4LATJJzhRy9hMJ8iOecnDbuoXWKfg4tp9ZDa9kI_6n3.t2B0cNbCRjEZIJf9

Access Passcode: vanda2020@

Unfortunately, no one won the all expenses paid trip for two to Costa Rica to see the native orchids last month. The identity of 'Orchidology' remains a secret!!

My thanks go out to this month's contributors, especially to Silvia Maunder for permission to use her late husband, Cedric's, article. PLEASE keep sending me your photos, and/or articles.

Best wishes,

Liz, Editor

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What's in a Word?

by Cedric Maunder

taken from

The Orchid Review January 1985

This is the first in a series of articles intended to help in the understanding of the names and some technical terms used in describing orchids. I hope that beginners and those who have found orchid terminology to be a problem will find these notes useful.

Orchid names have been established according to scientific classification, so perhaps we should start with a look at that.

Scientific Classification

Classification is to arrange items into classes, thus making the similarities and differences between various items. Plants and animals had no doubt been classified to some extent from very early times, and some common plants still are known by the names given to them in ancient times. Several guides to herbs had been published from the times of the ancient Greeks and Romans to the eighteenth century, and since Latin was used by all educated men throughout Europe, herbals were written in this language whatever the nationality of the writer.

This ensured that scholars in different countries could understand each other, and it was natural that when someone began a proper scientific classification, he should use Latin for his descriptions. (No doubt similar treatises were compiled in China, Japan and other seats of ancient learning, but that is a different story.)

Con't

Linnaeus

Most people will have heard of this outstanding eighteenth century scholar who was the 'someone' who began proper scientific classification. He was born in Sweden in 1707 and was christened Carl, his father being Nils Ingemarsson.

Names in Sweden at that time were made up of a baptismal name followed by the father's name combined with "son" or "dotter" depending on sex. This evidently led to some confusion from so many similar names, for on entering a university it was necessary for a student to acquire a surname. Nils Ingemarsson chose the Linnaeus referring to a notable linden tree after which the family land was named (at that time the linden tree was called "linn" in Swedish), and Carl followed his father's example, becoming Carl Linnaeus.

The usefulness of a knowledge of Latin at that time is indicated by the fact that Linnaeus, who spoke only Latin and Swedish, was able to travel widely throughout Europe visiting England, Holland, France and Germany conversing mainly in Latin.

Whilst in Holland he studied Medicine, and the title page of his "Fundamenta botanica", published in Holland, indicates that he obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Later, after his return to Sweden, he became Professor of Medicine at Upsalla. Still later in his career he became Professor of Botany at that same University, and it is as a botanist that his fame persists. Linnaeus really took classification by the scruff of the neck, simplifying and standardising terminology and establishing firm principles for describing and discrimination between different plants and animals. It was fortunate that he had done this, since a flood of new discoveries were being brought in by explorers and improved microscopy was revealing previously unknown detail. As the material and the number of people working on it increased, adherence to the principles laid down by Linnaeus allowed some semblance of order and intelligibility to be retained. Even so, slow communications caused difficulties as did the sheer volume of material. Some confusions inevitably occurred and this is one reason why the names of our orchids are still liable to revision.

Although Latin is no longer widely understood, the vast number of plant descriptions written in that language and the difficulty in deciding on a universal modern language to replace it, mean that we must continue to use Latin terminology. This is not too great a hardship for orchid growers since there are very few common English names for orchids so it is the Latin names that we come up against as soon as we first become interested in the plants.

Obviously, the full classification of living things is a complex structure, quite apart from the fact that there must be many varieties of plant and animal still undiscovered. There are still areas where argument continues as to the best system to adopt but a broad outline of one of the accepted systems is shown in the diagram below. The initial division into animal and plant kingdoms is familiar enough, but even in that apparently simple distinction there can be difficulties and argument. Some very simple organisms appear to have features in common with both animals and plants.

Down at the bottom of the list we are again on familiar ground since we must all have come across the names of some orchid genera and species. In the next article we'll look more closely at the various divisions of the classification, especially those of genus and species.

Outline of Groups within Classification

Kingdom	eg plant or animal
Family	eg Orchidaceae, Rosaceae, etc
Subfamily	eg Orchidoideae, Epidendroideae, etc
Tribe	eg Orchideae, Vandeae etc
Subtribe	eg Orchidinae, Laeliinae, etc
Genus	eg Epidendrum, Odontoglossum etc
Species (used with genus) ...	eg Odontoglossum crispum, Epidendrum radicans, etc

Disa cultivation—one man's view.

All my Disas are grown in square pots. That seems to suit them better than round ones. They grow in a mixture of seventy five per cent rough peat and twenty five per cent perlite. I buy this from Dave Parkinson, a Disa grower in East Yorkshire. All the pots stand in various ceramic containers in one inch of rainwater, winter and summer, and are never allowed to dry out. As regards feeding, this is only done twice a year in April and November with a citrus fertiliser which is n.p.k 28, 7 and 14, diluted to one



eighth the recommended dose for fruit trees. You will find moss grows on the surface of the pots but I do not remove it as it appears to give some nutrients to the plants. You will find that they produce a number of new growths and these can be gently teased out with a fine stick. They have a swollen bulb-like part and normal roots (see pic left). I plant four or five in a new pot and watch them grow quite quickly. I have some I planted in May and have been growing them outside. They will be put in the greenhouse in November.



The temperature in my greenhouse in winter is forty and up to eighty-five in summer. They do not mind so long as they do not freeze.

Happy growing!



Also:

My Bulbophyllum bought at our show in February. It is about to flower for the third time this year. It is:

Tonya Jacobs



And another plant in flower.

Selwyn Green

Phalaenopsis deliciosa

This is a miniature epiphyte plant with attractive small, but numerous flowers. It is also known as *Kingidium deliciosum* and *Doritis deliciosa*.

Distribution

Not being an expert on this particular genus, or any other for that matter, I thought it best to find out a bit more about this orchid and share with you what I found. I inherited it from our fellow member and friend David Johnson, who sadly is no longer with us. He was well versed in *Phalaenopsis* and I miss our long chats, where I learned a lot from him.

The plant

The online bit! It is found in the Himalayas, NE India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and Philippines. In India it is found in Assam, Sikkim and also reported from Western Ghats as *Kingidium deliciosum*. It is native to riverine forests and grows very near the rivers and streams at an altitude 600m and below. It is an epiphyte forming clumps at the base. It has a short stem with 3-6 long wavy leaves with undulated margins. The apex of the leaf is slightly unequal. Leaves are up to 6 inches long. The inflorescence often branches producing many flowers. The flower size is less than an inch across and is waxy with white or purple markings. Flowers are produced continuously for long periods. They are fleshy with a pink lip and darker lines. Flowers open sequentially facing in all directions. With proper care the plant will bloom for several months.



Phalaenopsis deliciosa sub sp. *Hookeriana* produces yellow flowers. This I have not seen yet! So will leave out of this article.

Culture

The plant is a miniature in nature and does well when mounted on a slab of wood or tree fern with a wad of moss. As they are miniatures, if grown in groups producing numerous flowers, makes it an interesting plant. They prefer like all *Phalaenopsis*, filtered light and morning sun. When mounted they need abundant water. In its native environment, *Phalaenopsis deliciosa* enjoys warm to hot temperatures and very high humidity so it's important to try to replicate these conditions to grow this orchid successfully. Application of 19:19:19 at half the recommended dose every week during growth period will benefit the plant. Addition of micro-nutrients and Calcium and Magnesium once a month will boost the growth.

My bit

When I took this plant over it was in a very cold greenhouse and suffering quite badly, so it went straight into my intermediate house where it sat for weeks clinging on. At this point I made time to read up on it and realised it was a very warm grower, the warmer the better, so I re-potted it in a 6-9 grade bark and put it in the warmest place I could find and watered it profusely. It responded almost straight away so fed it on some of David's 19-19-19- at 500pts/ml and the leaves changed colour, ie darker green, and within 5 weeks it had thrown off a flower spike and duly flowered. It was a joy to watch it react to the proper environment so thought I would share it with you. I have now got all my Phals growing better so hey! the good times are coming.

Windowsill Orchid Growing.

This is an amateur article written by an amateur Orchid grower.

I had only been to 3 meetings at Harlow Carr before Covid 19 turned our daily lives upside down. I had enjoyed those 3 meetings, particularly the table displays—wow what plants, and such knowledgeable people.



I had gained 2 orchids, a Dendrobium and a “You tell me”. Both are flourishing!!! The “You tell me” has gone from 3 leaves wrapped in moss in bark to 7. Wow! These 2 orchids were offered from the October (I think) lady speaker at the end of her talk.

So.... Which Orchids do I grow and how?

The bathroom windowsill is full of Phalaenopsis with a few boarders that live there all year. The boarders are a Cambria, Paphiopedilum Freckles, Bulbophyllum guttulatatum and Ludisia discolor

all of which do flower on an annual basis, the amount of flowers varies.

The care of these orchids is mainly water when dry, mist when I remember by a hand spray and Phalaenopsis food every other or sometimes every third watering. The Phalaenopsis have been repotted over the years and my oldest has probably been with me 13 to 15 years, something must be right!!!



The second batch of Orchids that all travel together spend their summer months on a north facing windowsill and their winter months in the conservatory. This allows for slightly better light but a dip in temperature as the conservatory is unheated.



A brief summary of the north window/conservatory consists of several varieties of Coelogyne: cristata var. alba, cristata Chatsworth, houettneriana. Then there is my favourite :Ochracea var. lemoniana because of the perfume - beautiful. The last but not least of the Coelogyne (the reason I was asked to put pen to paper) is triplicatula. This is flowering now and I put a picture on the Society’s Facebook feed.

Then there are several Oncidium Twinkle (coming into flower), Brascidostele Gilded Tower, a couple of Dendrochilum, and a few other random babies.

Unfortunately for me the Covid situation has stopped my learning. I would have loved the “Back to basics” talk and “Cool growing orchids” talks.

Ah well, like everyone else, all I can do is wait it out!

Pat Hunter

Editor’s note: “You Tell Me” is Pleurothallis restrepioides

TABLE DISPLAY



Cattleya maxima



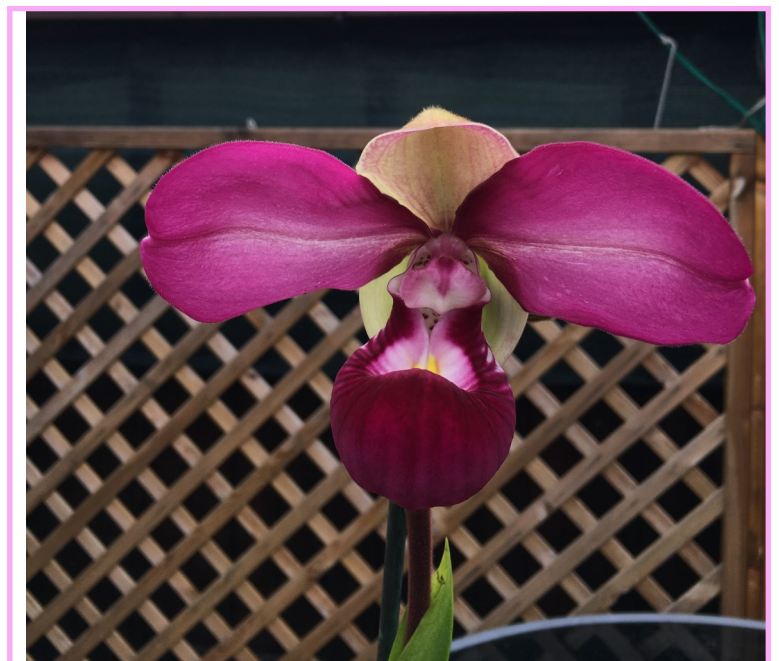
Paphiopedilum charlesworthii f album



Paphiopedilum insigne

Phragmipedium kovachii

Ian Dorman

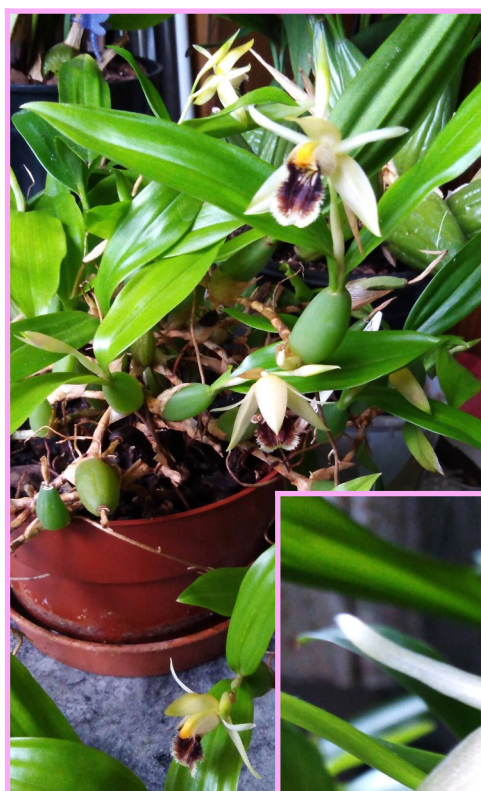


Paphiopedilum bought in January from the Solihull show as a bare-rooted plant.

Selwyn Green



Coelogyne barbata (above) doing its annual thing. I've only ever managed one spike despite most years it makes 2 bulbs.



Coelogyne fimbriata (right) is gradually developing into a good sized plant, with its best show of flowers so far. I've had it about 4 years.

Liz Groves

