

Harrogate Orchid Society

Email: editor.hosnews@gmail.com

Newsletter November 2020



Dear Members,

Here's trusting everyone is still safe and well in this second lockdown. Hopefully, some of you will have joined in the Zoom meeting and enjoyed catching up with your fellow enthusiasts. Not quite the same as meeting in person but we must make the most of the opportunities open to us.

My thanks go out once again to this month's contributors. Do please keep sending those pictures in.

Bernard's picture of the specimen plant fits in nicely with Cedric's article on names. I'd like to say it was planned but was actually just a happy coincidence.

Kind regards to all.

Liz, Editor

Article by Bernard McDonald

I have been a corresponding member of the N.C.O.S. (National Capitol Orchid Society) in Washington U.S.A. for six years and occasionally send articles for their newsletters such as the following one.

Bulbophyllum monstabile Ames, Orchidaceae 5: 182 (1915).

Over a century ago, orchid enthusiast could only find information about orchids second-hand from the testimonies of a small number of orchid hunters, who would undertake perilous journeys to unexplored tropical regions to find them. The Orchidaceae were little-known before Ames' study and classification. He made expeditions to Florida, the Caribbean, the Philippines, and Central and South America, with his wife creating scientifically accurate drawings of the plants they catalogued. The Ames' work was published in the seven-volume *Orchidaceae: 'Illustrations and Studies of the Family Orchidaceae'*. They also developed the Ames Charts, illustrating the phylogenetic relationships of the major useful plants, which are still used today.

His interest in orchids was lifelong and was stimulated by his numerous expeditions, particularly to the Philippines where he discovered many new species including *Bulbophyllum monstabile*. Which he found at 500m altitude, on the island of Leyte; part of the Visayan Islands which lie between Luzon and Mindanao.

I haven't seen any information or any description of this plant, however I will try and describe my plant of this species the best I can.



The pseudobulbs which are spaced 3 inches apart are 5" long, cylindrical and somewhat flattened and with longitudinal grooves. Leaf: petiole 2" long; blade elliptic to ovate, 9" long and 4" at its widest point, acute. Inflorescence: approx. pendulous; Up to four flowers. Floral bracts ovate, up to 1½ inches long; partly, covering a third of the flowers; dorsal and lateral sepals; 4" long, petals 1½" long. Colour dark purple red.

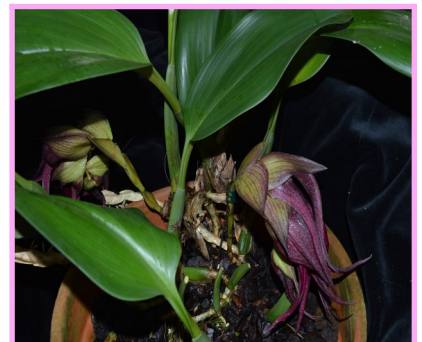


Image of Ames original drawing (OVER 100 YEARS OLD) [overleaf in Cedric's article]. I include this drawing to show that Ames copied the heavy bracts at the base of the flowers.

WHAT'S IN A WORD

By

Cedric Maunder

The previous article introduced the idea of a classification of living things, and mentioned one of the first workers in this field, Linnaeus. Many others contributed to the task of identifying and sorting out the myriads of species occurring throughout the world. Later in the series I hope to return to this subject and mention some of those involved in classifying orchids, both in the past, and in recent times.

For the present we will concentrate on the lower part of the table and consider the names of individual plants, leaving wider groupings until later.

Orchid Names

Beginners will come up against the Latin names of orchids at an early stage of their interest, since trade catalogues, books, and other enthusiasts, all commonly use these names. We soon meet names like *Odontoglossum crispum*, *Sophrinitis coccinea*, *Paphiopedilum bellatulum*, or *Vuylstekeara Cambria* 'Plush'. We will also notice that there are other orchids having similar names, e.g. *Odontoglossum grande*, *Laelia crispa*, or *Dendrobium bellatulum*. In time one comes to recognise many such names and associate them with the plants they represent, and many people will perhaps be content with that.

Others will wonder about these names and possibly be puzzled by some of their features, for instance why is it *Odontoglossum crispum* but *Laelia crispata*; what is the relationship between *Odontoglossum bellatulum* and *Dendrobium bellatulum*, and why does the *Vuylstekeara* have three names all beginning with capital letters? In order to answer these and other questions it will be necessary to discover the rules and conventions governing the names of species and hybrids, and indeed to define what species and hybrids are.

Since hybrids are formed by the cross breeding of different species it will be best to consider species first, later we will find even the names of complex man made hybrids, like the *Vuylstekeara* mentioned above, easy to understand.

Species (N.B. singular—species; plural—species)

A species is defined as a group of organisms, the members of which do not differ from each other in any significant characteristic. Such differences as do occur can be explained either as variations due to environmental factors or as variation between individuals from different parts of the range of that species. In this latter case, individuals from intermediate parts of the range will show that there is a gradual change of characteristics across the range. Thus, although the differences may be quite marked between individuals from widely separated locations, there are only slight variations among those from adjacent locations. That differences may be due to the effects of the environment is easily seen in cultivation: the same plant may be very different both in vegetative form and in flower if given different conditions. In the same way, plants throughout the range of a species may vary in size and flower colour depending on the exposure to light, moisture and other factors.

Because of these differences between individuals there is scope for argument as to whether particular plants belong to the same species or not. Some authorities have tended to divide populations into a number of closely related species, whilst others consider them all as one species and accommodate the differences by dividing the species into smaller groups, sub-species or varieties. Thus some plants tend to have their names changed from time to time as experts of one persuasion or the other find new evidence to support their case. Fortunately many orchids species are clearly defined and only a few of those that we grow are subject to changing identity. In any case, many of these changes are ignored as far as horticultural usage is concerned.

Species Definition

When a new species is discovered it must be defined by means of a concise but accurate and detailed description. This description, written in Latin and accompanied by drawings and a "type" specimen, can be used to determine whether other plants belong to this species or not. The description can also be compared with previous ones to verify that this is indeed a new species. To give a new name to something already known, described and named is not only a waste of time and effort, but will until discovered cause confusion.

Cont'd

Ames original drawing of *Bulbophyllum monstrabile* Ames,
Orchidaceae 5: 182 (1915).

Type Specimen

This is a preserved plant from the population described in the species definition. Later work may reveal that this specimen is not typical of the species as a whole, but it will still remain the standard. Varieties will be assigned as sub groups of the originally described species, even if the varieties occur more abundantly than the type.

Genus (plural genera)

A genus, like a specimen, describes a group of organisms that have similarities to each other. In this case the group consists of one or more species and so contains a wider range of individuals. Although all members of the genus share one or more characteristic, each species within the genus will differ from the others in at least one significant respect.

Specific Name

When defined the species is given a name consisting of two Latin terms. Together these terms form the specific name of that particular species. The first term is the generic name, and identifies the genus to which the plant belongs; the second is known as the specific epithet. Together they form a unique name, since only members of a particular genus can carry that particular generic name, and within a genus all species must have different specific epithets. A word can however be used as a specific epithet in more than one genus. Thus "*bellatulum*" is used for both *Dendrobium bellatulum* and *Paphiopedilum bellatulum*, very different plants belonging to different genera. My reference books do not list the meaning of *bellatulum*, the nearest approach being *belliatulum*, seeming to indicate "a pretty little thing", or perhaps "little charmer". Certainly this would apply to both these species, and the "l" may have been omitted for ease of speaking the name. Perhaps someone has the exact translation.

That seems to have used up the allotted space and we have not as yet progressed far! The next article should cover hybrids, including complex intergeneric ones like *Vuykstekeara*. I'll also try to explain that business of *crispum* and *crispa*.

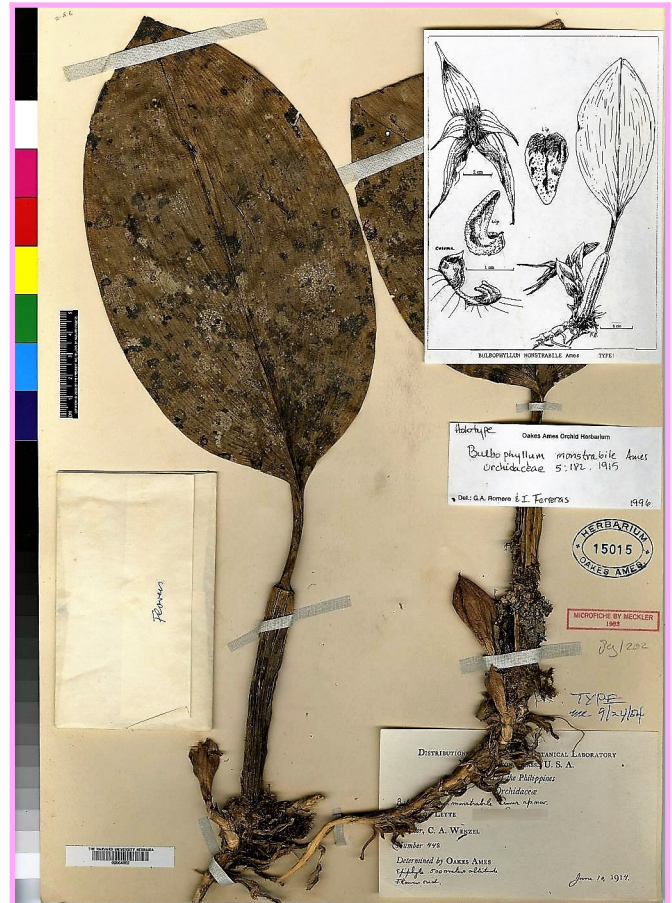


TABLE DISPLAY



Phragmipedium La Houquette (Beauport 4N x dalessandroi 2N)

Phragmipedium Lynn Evans Goldner

(Full Circle x Pink Panther Tony)

Autumn and Winter growing conditions for my collection of Phragmipedium Orchids.



Light – Unlike in late Spring/Summer when the greenhouse has to have plenty of shading to shield the plants from the hot burning sun, the main issue in autumn/winter is to provide as much light as possible to ensure continuous growth especially now the days are getting shorter - so all my shading was finally removed early November.

Heating – As the weather turns colder I use a thermostatically controlled electric fan heater to maintain a daytime temperature of around 20/21 degrees Centigrade and a night time temp of 15/16 degrees. In the event of a Power Cut I have just purchased a Greenhouse Propane Gas Heater that can be used should I need it as a valuable back up. To try and conserve heat and also to keep heating cost down all the greenhouse inside is lagged with thick bubble insulation.

Air Movement – Another important aspect of successful Phragmipedium growing is air movement which I have provided by using an oscillating fan that is kept running all the time.

Humidity - Because I have a glass greenhouse and a concrete floor I find it more difficult to keep the humidity levels that most Phragmipedium growers like to achieve. I aim to keep my levels at 50/55 percent using a humidifier/fogger and I have to say they don't seem to mind this at all and doesn't appear to affect their growing ability in anyway.

Watering – When needed I always use Rain Water which I store in tubs in the greenhouse so as to ensure the water is not too cold and when watering which is always early in the morning I water each orchid individually from the top of the compost trying to avoid wetting any of the leaves which could cause Erwinia (rotting) if left to stand on them especially in winter.

Feed – In the Winter months I tend not to feed them as much and if I do it is with a weaker strength of fertiliser mix with plenty of plain waterings in between.

I absolutely adore Phragmipedium Slipper Orchids that originate from South America and feel such a sense of achievement when one of mine comes into flower.



My greenhouse

Phragmipedium Petite

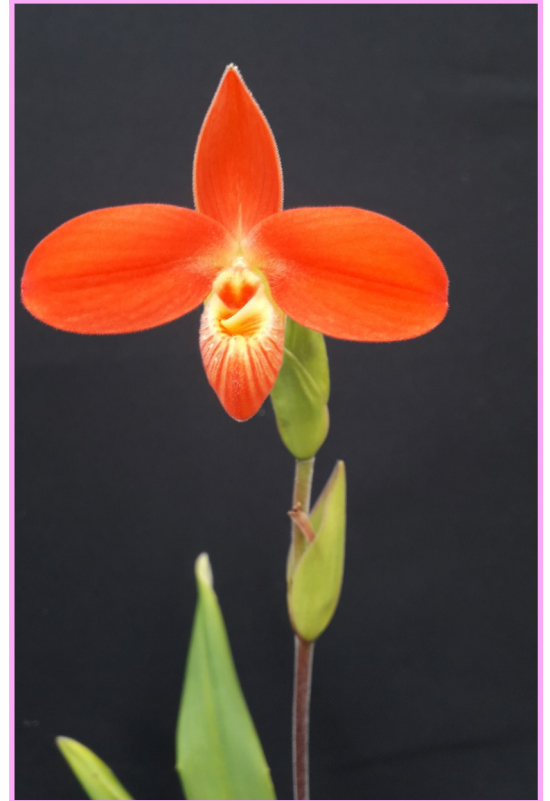
Queillette (Andreetea x besseae)

Patricia Hollings





Restrepia Rocqueberg (seketii x falkenbergii)



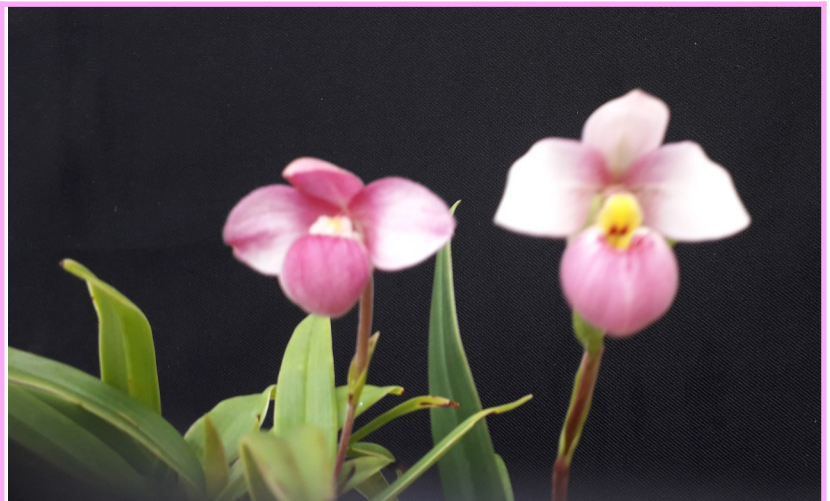
Phragmipedium Jersey (phragmipedium besseae x phragmipedium dalessandroi)



Phragmipedium Lovely Lynne (phragmipedium Fritz Schomburg x phragmipedium Peruflora's Cirila Alca)

Phragmipedium fischeri (left) phragmipedium schlimii - are they the same species?

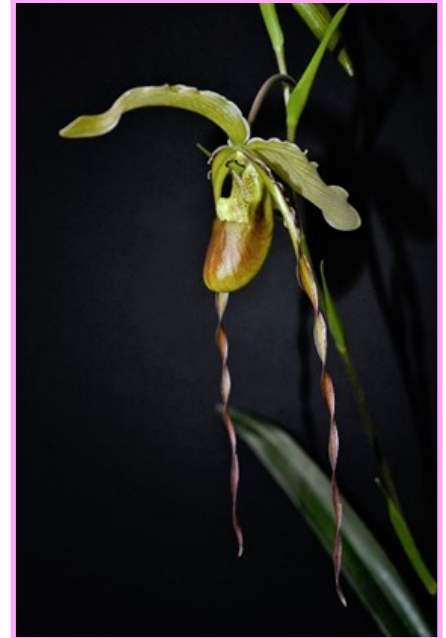
John Gay





Maxillaria triloris – this is a medium sized species with flowers similar to those of Maxillaria luteo-alba but on a shorter stem and is native to South America. I grow this in a bark mix in my cool greenhouse and keep it watered all year round, less in winter but always kept moist.

Trish White



Phragmipedium Mont Fallu (longifolium x grande) a cross made by the E.Y.O.F. in 1992 – I have had this plant for seven years and grow it in rockwool cubes in my intermediate greenhouse, water is provided by filling a plastic saucer to the top and left until dry when I will refill it to the top again.

Malcolm White



Phragmipedium Grande

Baccus Paulesu

Acianthera luteola

Trish White

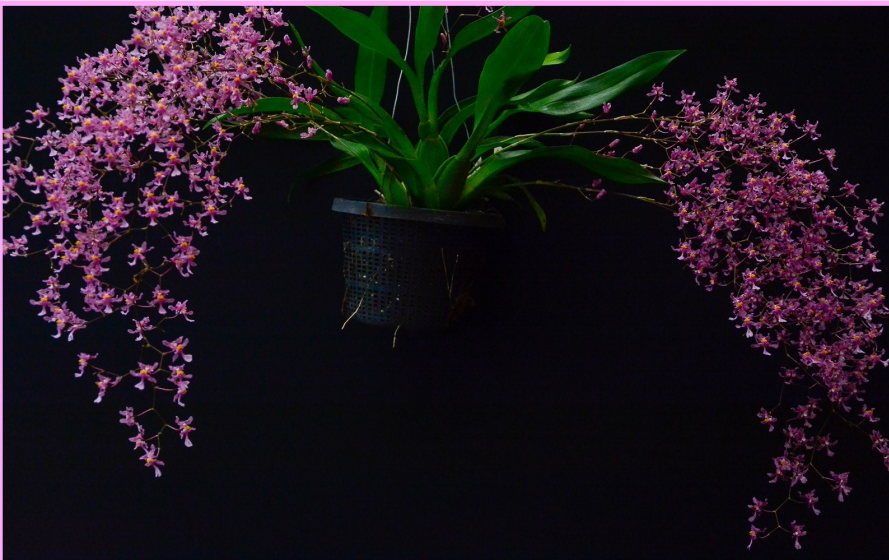


3 from Malcolm White

Dendrobium magnum



Lycaste longiscapa x Wyld Wine x Aphrodite – I have had this plant since 2003 and it tends to flower on a regular basis growing in my intermediate greenhouse. I grow it in rockwool with the bottom of the pot sat in a plastic saucer, I top this saucer to the top when I water and do not water again until its dry.



**Oncidium
ornithorhynchum**