

Harrogate Orchid Society

Email: editor.hosnews@gmail.com

Newsletter January 2021



Dear Members,

Hope this finds everyone well and safe. Some of you may well have had your jabs by now which can only be good news. A step closer to us all being able to meet up again in person. In the meantime, do please consider joining one of the Zoom meetings. If you're unsure how they work, do get in touch for some help.

We have a mix of items included for your delectation this month. Sincere thanks to those sending pieces for inclusion. Please keep them coming.

Best wishes,

Liz, Editor

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Saving Heat Loss in the Greenhouse

Selwyn Green

My greenhouse is 10ft by 8ft. Looking at the inside, I noticed running along the length between the apex and the eaves was an aluminium 'T' shaped bar. So, thinking that in winter heat is going right to the top and being wasted I decided to do something about it.

I measured across these two bars then set off to the local timber yard where I bought nine lengths of 2x1in timber, an inch longer than the distance across the bars. Then with a small piece of wood I kept sawing at an angle until I got a snug fit with the angle of the bar. Measuring twice and cutting once, I cut the lengths with the correct angle using the small piece of wood as a template. I then slotted them in, equally spaced, at an angle and pulled them straight across, thus wedging them tight. Then with a full length of bubble plastic spread over these new bars, I have lowered the wasted space and saved a lot of heat.



I have had **Cattlianthe Jewel Box 'Scheherazade'** for getting on for 20 years and in 2020 I decided that it deserved a new, larger hanging basket which it now has.

During re-potting in August, I thought it would be a good idea to remove a 'sprig' of 3 or 4 canes to produce a new plant in case there was a catastrophe with the old plant. The new plant was placed on the bench in a mixture of cattleyas and dendrobiums and ignored save for watering at the same time as the other pots.

Over two or three months, the five or six leaves began to lose their green colour so I moved the pot to a different position where I could keep an eye on it. Of course in a more prominent position, it was like watching one's child growing up ... you don't notice until it is bigger than you!

Well, the plant did not grow bigger like children but the leaves turned yellow with brown streaks which are visible in the photo (left). My brain finally noticed the colour change and I inspected the plant more closely. Moving the large yellow leaves to one



side I can now see that there are two new growths which are visible in the second photo.

I suspect that the yellowing of the leaves may have been the result of the plant using the food available in the leaves to sustain the growth of the new shoots.

Why there are brown flecks all over the leaves is not so easy to explain.

The leaf on the new shoot at the back of the pot shows no sign of 'spotting' and nor do the two green leaves on two different older canes.



I wonder if anyone else has seen this phenomena on yellowing leaves? It is restricted to this one plant and before you comment.....the white flecks on the base of the canes is not an insect invasion! **Tony Garthwaite**

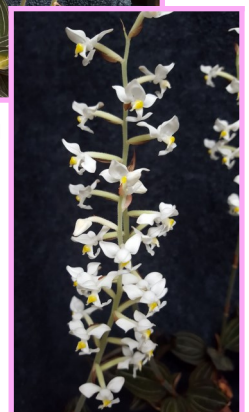
TABLE DISPLAY



My favourite Phalaenopsis for markings, with me since 2016.



Ludisia discolor a regular flowerer, but I love the foliage.



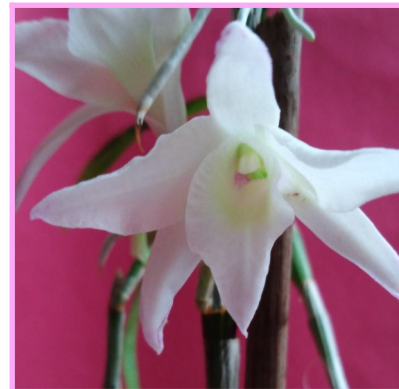
Both are bathroom windowsill growers. Oh, how I wish I had a larger bathroom windowsill!

P Hunter



***Pterostylis* ?**

This is growing in my cool back bedroom. When all the leaves have died down it goes into my plastic greenhouse and left dry until new shoots appear and I bring it back indoors.



This Dendrobium is labelled ***Den suessii* var *madri***. Googling produces no results whatsoever! I think it could be ***Den moniliforme***. Any suggestions anyone?

Liz Groves

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From Eric Young

Selwyn Green

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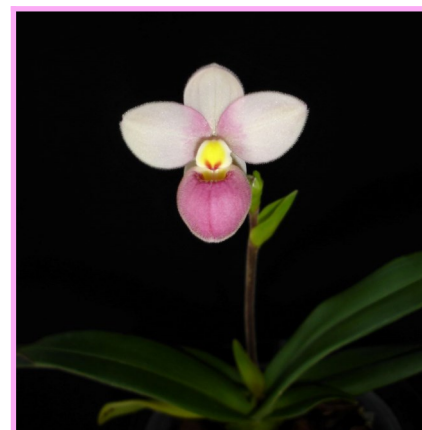
***Phragmipedium Longifolium* var *album* "Fox Valley Mint" x self**



Phragmipedium Schlimii* var *Manzurii

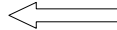
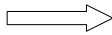
Dec 2020 and still in flower

***Phragmipedium*
Lynn Evans Goldner .**



Patricia Hollings

Angraecum Crestwood 'Tomorrow Star's opened on Christmas day with three spikes and twelve flowers, roots everywhere impossible to move plant



Milt. Melissa Baker



Rstp. Aldgate (Faldouet x Sarah Ruth)



Rstp. Mary Smallman (antennifera x brachypus)

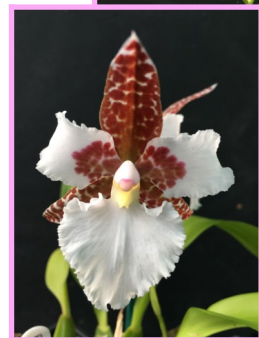
John Gay



Oncidium nobile (syn Odontoglossum pescatorei) from Columbia cool grower and very famous in Victorian times. Always a bit tricky to grow but well worth the effort if you can find any plants these days.



Rhyncostele rossii Another cool grower from Mexico and Guatemala, etc. Much easier to grow



Paphiopedilum superbiens var curtisii warm grower from Sumatra.



Paphiopedilum tranlienianum warm grower from North Vietnam



All these orchids grow in my standard bark mix of 60% medium grade bark plus perlite, horticultural foam and sphagnum moss with added limestone chippings for the Paphiopedilums. In my conditions these plants require regular watering throughout the year but with very little feed in winter. For those growers without additional lighting in winter great care should be taken with watering during this period.

Ian Dorman



Anathallis regalis from Ecuador
This plant is very floriferous, flowering twice yearly

Paphiopedilum villosum
var. **annamense**



Phragmipedium Jason Fischer "Crimson King" (FC AOS)
(Memoria Dick Clements x besseae). 9 years ago this was my most wanted plant. I found this awarded one in Germany for me. Very vigorous, produces 2x flower stems yearly

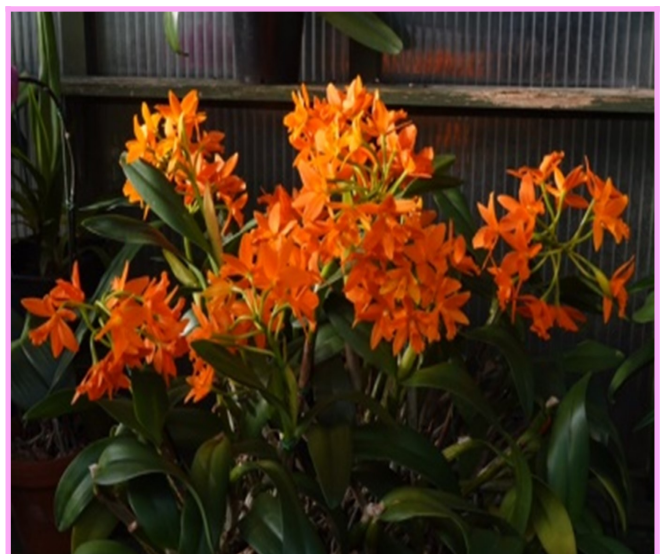
Paphiopedilum Lady Isobel
(*P. rothschildianum* x *P. stonei*)



Rhyncattleanthe Young-Min orange "Hsiang Yu Orchids".
Purchased from Chantelle Orchids 9 years ago and has flowered every spring for Harrogate Annual Show. I hang it up high in the warm section where it thrives.



Phalaenopsis
Unnamed
hybrid



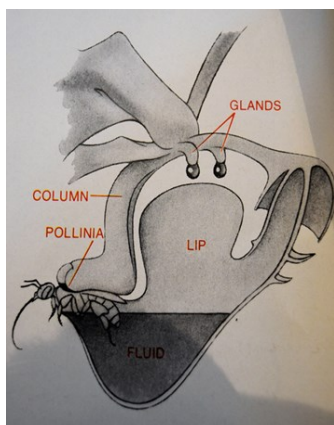
Hilary Hobbs

Orchid floral adaptation to attract specific pollinators.

The presence of the labellum as a landing platform for insect pollinators and reduction of the stamens and pistil of an orchid flower, to a single structure termed as the column, is certainly the apex of floral adaptation to insects as pollinating agents. Once achieved, this combination provides a foundation for all kinds of specializations for attracting specific pollinators. A large number of orchids are nectar-less and have developed other means of attracting pollinators, largely consisting of deceptive attractants in one form or another. The most exciting and unusual examples of deceit, traps, and manipulation of pollinators are to be found in those orchids that are pollinated by male euglossine bees. Flowers that are pollinated by euglossine bees are based on the attraction of the male bees to the odour of the flower. Pseudocopulation as a means of pollination was first reported over 100 years ago, in two parallel systems. *Correva and Pouyanne* made observations of European *Ophrys* orchids. While in Australia, *Cryptostylis* orchids were reported to use the same sexually deceptive strategy, in which insect pollinators attempt copulatory or courtship behaviour with the flower, thereby transferring pollinia. Insect sexual attraction is induced through chemical and physical mimicry of female insects. Pollination by sexual deception is now known to be a phenomenon that has evolved independently multiple times on different continents. There are several hundred confirmed cases in the Orchidaceae, with many more likely to be discovered with future studies, indicating that this pollination strategy may be more common than currently known.

Coryanthes macrantha

Bucket orchids are an excellent example of coevolution and mutualism, as the orchids have evolved along with orchid bees (the tribe Euglossini) and both depend on each other for reproduction. In nature these orchids are encountered in so-called ant gardens. The symbiotic occurrences provides benefits for both; ants get nectar from extra-floral nectary's and can use the root ball for construction of their nests. The *Coryanthes* plant is protected and fertilized by the ants. The pollination biology is also very fascinating. Whilst collecting fragrance compounds *below the upper part of the lip*, the male euglossine bee falls into the liquid filled bucket. There is no escape flying because its wings are wet. The only way out is to climb up the (callus of lip) and to pass through the tunnel picking up the pollinia. After the bee is set free he can dry his wings and escape.

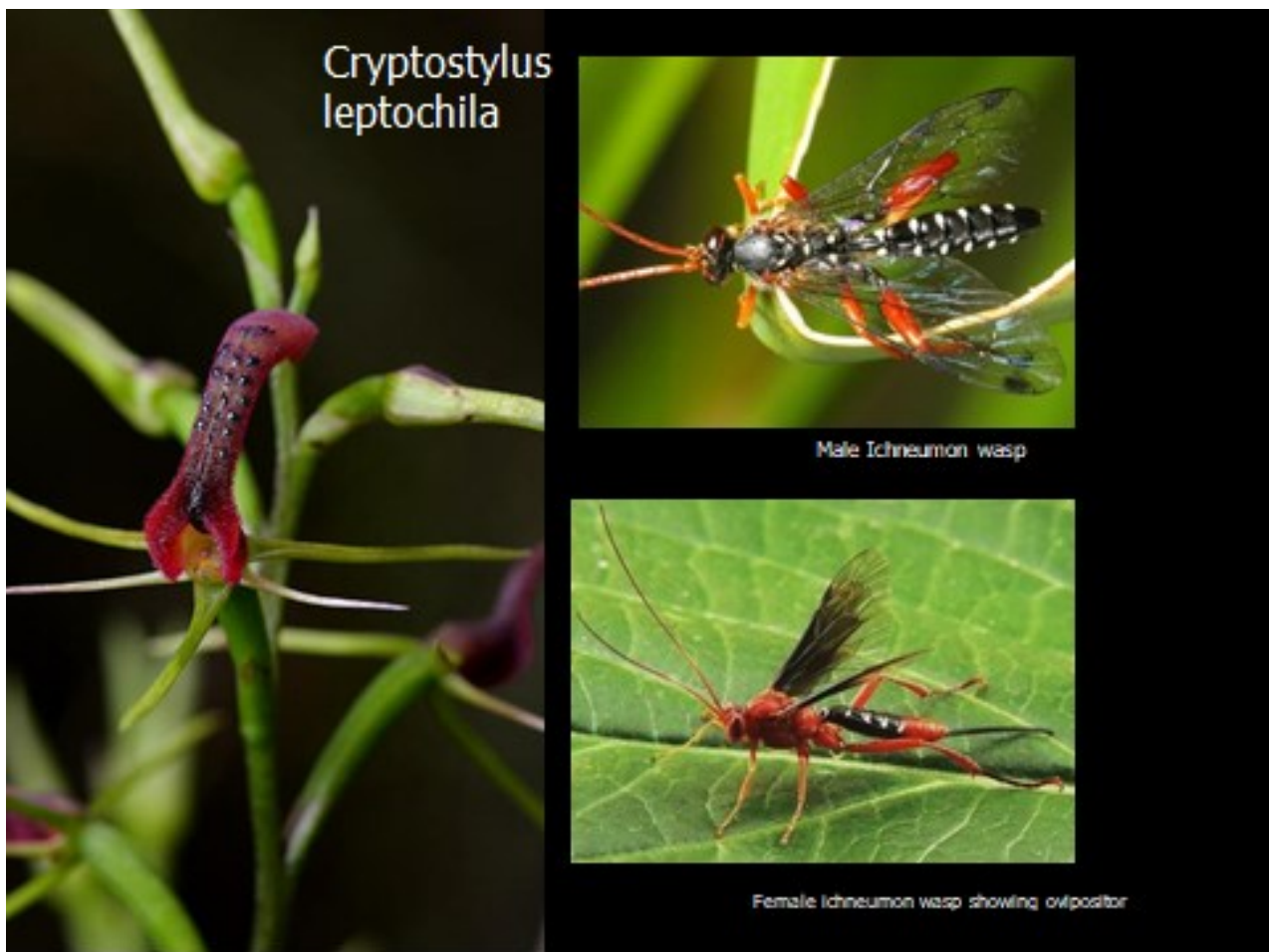


20 years ago I pollinated this species by entering the tunnel with a toothpick and removing the pollinia which I placed on the other flower. Yes, I was successful with the pollination...

Cont'd

Cryptostylis leptochila is one of the few evergreen orchid genera in Eastern Australia. Distinct with erect leathery leaves and being dark green on the upper surface and purple underneath make it difficult to detect amongst dense vegetation. The petals and sepals have been reduced to an absolute minimum, the conspicuous part of the flower is the decoy lip. Australian terrestrial orchids of the genus *Cryptostylis* are pollinated by ichneumon wasps of the genus *Lissopimpla*.

Inflorescence erect, 15–40 cm long and 4–15-flowered. Sepals: 13–20 mm long, green. Labellum narrow-oblong, 15–20 mm long, 4–5 mm wide, contracted above the base enclosing the column, then abruptly erect, with recurved margins, recurved at the tip, upper surface minutely hairy, lower surface glabrous, maroon with black central stripe and a row of 6–9 black spots on each side. The anther, with irregularly toothed margins. The flower secretes chemical compounds which release pheromones similar to that produced by the female *Ichneumon* wasp which the male above finds irresistible and is driven into a mating frenzy. The wasp, after backing into the stigma, attempts to copulate with the flower by bending its body into an arch, with the base of the lip of the flower held by the claspers of the wasp. The upper side of the apex of the abdomen comes in contact with the viscidium, and the pollen becomes cemented in place. The wasp, after a short pause, then flies to another flower, and delivers the pollinia to the stigma.



Cryptostylis mating