

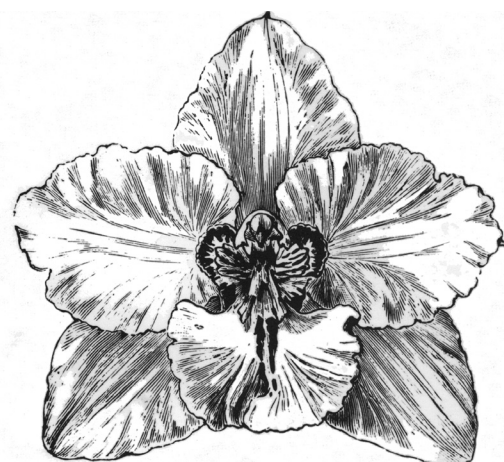
# The International Odontoglossum Alliance Journal

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## THE BIRTH OF AN ODONTOGLOSSUM RESERVE?

Stig Dalström

In December of 2018, Orchid Conservation Alliance trustee Steve Beckendorf and I were invited by Polish orchid scientist Dr. Marta Kolanowska to visit an orchid conservation project nick-named “La Palma, located near the town of Sibundoy in the Colombian State of Putumayo. The project is headed by Kolanowska together with local orchid conservationist Ramiro Medina and his staff. The area in question is situated in the forested mountains not far from the town of Sibundoy and is covered by primary and to a lesser degree secondary forest. The planned reserve itself is surrounded by more or less protected privately owned primary forest, and with the Putumayo river constituting one border. The reserve is easy to reach by foot or by any kind of terrain suited vehicle. An old and abandoned farmer's house is located in a small clearing on a ridge overlooking the valley below where the river

runs through. The location of this house is planned to become the research center for the reserve.

We were blessed by good weather and took the chance to climb the densely forested slope behind the old house. It is a challenging incline but we were all impressed by the density and richness of the cloud forest and saw quite a variety of orchids along the meandering trail. Very few species were in bloom but a couple of maxillarias, some *Lepanthes* and other pleurothallids, and higher up a *Masdevallia* cf. *parvula* were in bloom. There were several species of *Odontoglossum* growing along the trail as well but only a small plant of *Odm. mirandum* (“*reversum*”) was in bloom. What looked like large clumps of *Odm. luteopurpureum* or possibly the recently described *Odm. paniculatum* could be seen and it will be interesting to see if they are in bloom in August when Steve, Peter Tobias and myself are

planning to return to La Palma for a second look. *Odontoglossum crispum* is relatively common in the area and most certainly grows in the reserve as well. As a matter of fact, more species of *Odontoglossum* are known from the Sibundoy area than anywhere else to my knowledge. What makes this place so special is that several species that are commonly found in Ecuador occur here, as well as many “typical” Colombian species. There are also some alleged hybrids reported with the single plant of *Odm. x wendlandianum* discovered and currently safely growing in Ramiro’s greenhouse. This cross is believed to be between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. crinitum* and both species are present in the area. But some of Ramiro’s private photos also showed what looks like a cross between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. lehmannii* as well, and possibly *Odm. crispum* x *Odm. paniculatum*. In other words, this is a very exciting place to explore and I look forward to spend much more time there in the future.

I am truly impressed with the location of this planned orchid reserve and expect it to become a much needed refuge for all kinds of biodiversity in general and of course, orchids (read *Odontoglossum*) in particular. It is also a very suitable area for all kinds of primary forest studies and research. It is beautifully located, easy to get to but still remote and isolated enough to be undisturbed by any kind of urban activities. The flora is rich and promises to include many new discoveries provided the proper protection and attention can be maintained and secured. If there ever will be a special *Odontoglossum* Reserve, I believe this is it!

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Fig. 1: The road from the city of Pasto in southern Colombia, across the eastern cordillera and eventually down into the Sibundoy valley provides some spectacular views along the way.





Fig. 2: The little town of Sibundoy is a place where you can find a good hotel, decent food and sometimes great weather.



Fig. 3: The hike to the La Palma reserve follows Rio Putumayo in a pleasant atmosphere and offers an easy enough exercise.





Fig. 4: Marta Kolanowska to the left figures out where to go to show-off the reserve to excited visitors.



Fig. 6: The Sibundoy area has been visited by many collectors and botanists through the year, all looking for the “Star in the Game”, the highly variable *Odontoglossum crispum*.



Fig. 5: The small-flowered form of *Odontoglossum mirandum*, also known as *Odm. reversum* is very common in the general area and flowers in November – December.



Fig. 7: Steve Beckendorf gets close and personal with a beautiful *Odm. crispum*.





Fig. 8: *Odontoglossum crispum* is rather common in the Sibundoy area and the sparkling white flowers are easy to spot.



Fig. 9: Marta Kolanowska admires an attractive display by an *Odm. crispum*.





Fig. 10: Local orchid conservationist and grower Ramiro Medina enjoys spending time in his greenhouse.



Fig. 12: *Odontoglossum x wendlandianum* has an attractive flower that displays features of both alleged parents.



Fig. 11: The extremely rare natural hybrid *Odm. x wendlandianum* is an alleged cross between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. crinitum*.





Theodore Pauwels' destroyed *Cattleya*-house with in front poppies, symbol of WW1 (photo-compositie).

Since the mid nineteenth century the culture of orchids in Belgium evolved in circles of the very rich part of the population to a 'to show off' activity and we find information about two important growers with the name Pauwels.

One of them, Florent Pauwels, was a wealthy resident of Deurne near Antwerp where he was mayor. Florent Pauwels was a non-commercial plants lover and collector who also had a huge garden with greenhouses.

The other Pauwels, Théodore, was a professional plant grower from Merelbeke nearby Ghent. Starting with his nursery from the end of the nineteenth century, he acquired name and fame in Belgium and abroad and became a well-known and important European orchid grower/importer.

In 1929 Flandria N.V., a horticulture company in Bruges, bought Pauwels'

orchids. Flandria closed business at the end of the nineties of last century. Pauwels' House, the 'Villa des Orchidées', still exists and is now a villa in which: "... you can, in a green environment and undisturbed sit in the lounge and enjoy a drink ..."

The Orchid nursery of Frank Coupé is located right next to 'Villa des Orchidées'.

Theodore Pauwels registered op 1-11-1911 *Paphiopedilum (Cypripedium) Alma Gevaert*, a hybrid between *Paphiopedilum lawrenceanum* en *Paphiopedilum Maudiae*.

**100 years after the Armistice in 1918, three important reasons for this article.**

There are three main reasons to write this article about Théodore Pauwels who was, as already mentioned above, well-known in Europe especially as a breeder and importer of orchids.

Théodore Pauwels - before, during and after World War 1.





*Paphiopedilum* Alma Gevaert

© Jeanne Holgate / RHS Library Collections.

- First came a question from the Swiss Rudolf Jenny if I could find information about Florent en Théodore Pauwels. Rudolf Jenny, author of many articles on orchids and also the books as f.i. '...of men and orchids...' and 'The Stanhopea Book'. He also questioned whether the two were brothers or family. That they were in fact neither family nor brothers.

Go to

[www.riks.be/boekofmenandorchids.html](http://www.riks.be/boekofmenandorchids.html)

and

[www.riks.be/boekstanohepeajenny.html](http://www.riks.be/boekstanohepeajenny.html)

- The second reason, after Rudolf Jenny had made me curious, was the info I had from Jean Pauwels and Chris Loncke. Jean Pauwels is a descendant of Théodore Pauwels and also a member of our local orchid club, Chris Loncke is a *Cattleya*-grower from Loppem, member of our orchid society. He specializes in old, first generation *Cattleya*-hybrids.

- The third reason was a short article in 'The Orchid Review' of 1919 in which mention is made of the bombing of Merelbeke station just before the signing of the Armistice. During this bombings the nursery of Pauwels was completely destroyed.

The latter alone, exactly 100 years after the end of World War 1, is a major reason to pay attention on Theodore Pauwels. Photos from that time are hard to find. One photo of very poor quality was published in 'The Orchid Review' of 1919 and shows Pauwels' by the bombings destroyed *Cattleya*-house (see previous page). That was one of the 4 pictures that were sent to the redaction.

In this article I will try to give a brief overview of the then important orchid nursery Pauwels from Merelbeke that hundred years ago was destroyed by bombing and this is very shortly before the Armistice on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918.

It was not evident to find information. From Jean Pauwels I've got copies of a catalog, via Chris Loncke, I received from another family member, Roger Bonte, permission to use some of Pauwels' aquarelles, some made by Alfred Goossens. From Roger Bonte I also received some pictures.

Frank Coupé: go to

<http://www.orchidee-coupe.com/>



Villa des Orchidées.  
old postcard.  
photo by Roger Bonte.



1899:  
Pauwels' orchid hunters  
with plants packaged in  
boxes on the way to the port.  
photo by Roger Bonte.





Pauwels' exhibit at the autumn floralies of 1913.



The entrance of Pauwels' greenhouses.  
photo by Roger Bonte.

### Revue de l'Horticulture Belge et Étrangère.

In the 31<sup>th</sup> volume, 1905, on p. 277 we find a short note where we read that Pauwels showed *Lc. Amarylloso* on November 19<sup>th</sup> 1905 during a meeting of the 'Société Royale Linnéenne de Bruxelles'. It was very cold but dry outside and many plants, about 120, were presented. Two of those plants had seedpods. The jury awarded that hybrid with a 'Certificat de Mérite'. Pauwels also received a 'Certificat de Mérite' for his *Phalaenopsis sumatrana* 'Pauwels variety'.

Also this is noted about *Lc. Amarylloso*: "This *Laelia Cattleya* has been sown on April 12<sup>th</sup> 1903, so this hybrid has only 2 years of age. The plant was in flower since November 10<sup>th</sup> november." About the *Phalaenopsis* we read: "The spike is longer than on the type plant, the flowers are bigger and the branching of the flower spike seems to be clear characteristic."

Such note was not the first, nor the last for plants that Theodore Pauwels presented at judging's.

In volume 39, 1913 we see on p. 380 a photo of Pauwels' exhibit at the autumn floralies of van 1913. His exhibit had an area of 200 square meters in which more than 600 flowering plants were presented.

In volume 32, 1906, Theodore Pauwels is mentioned for the first time as cooperator for the monthly magazine 'Revue de l'Horticulture Belge et Étrangère'. However, in a few previous years he wrote some articles

## An impression.

We'll try here, based on texts and photographs, to give an impression of Theodore Pauwels. From the beginning of the twentieth century he is regularly mentioned in several European publications that were dedicated to horticulture.

In Vol. 19 of the 'Revue de l'Horticulture Belge et Étrangère', 1893, p. 68-69 he wrote an article about *Richardia africana* var. Little Gem. This is his first 'appearance' in the world of horticulture that we have found.

In 'Occasional Papers from The RHS Lindley Library', March 2010, p. 34 we read that Pauwels' carrier started as orchid-collector voor Sander before he became a professional plant grower with his own nursery.

Roger Bonte wrote me: "I do not know if you knew that my grandfather Theodore Pauwels stayed for 4 years in Colombia: from 1894 to 1899. After that, there were a multitude of orchids imported to Merelbeke from Medina. I have a few pictures of the orchid hunters in Medina. If interested I can send you this." What Roger did.



*Odontoglossum crispum*  
'Eclair',  
Original aquarel in the archives of Roger Bonte. Photo with permission from Roger Bonte via Chris Loncke.



and became listed in the results of judging's.

For example, he wrote an article on *Phalaenopsis amabilis rimestadiana* (vol. 29, 1903, p. 88-89) in which we read, among other things, how plants for export from their habitat in Java were prepared for the 6-week transport by boat to survive. He notes: "... the plants that did not die along the way, died a few days after they were taken from the 'caisses vitrées' (glass boxes or wardian cases) in which they were isolated from the air during 6 weeks." Then he gives some important tips to avoid this. This article was illustrated with 3 page-large photos.

A year later, on the occasion of a new import at Pauwels' nursery, Ch. Peynaert pays attention to the proper way in which the plants were packed and the good condition in which they arrived at the nursery. Pauwels imported that day 15.000 plants (!!!) of *Phalaenopsis amabilis rimestadiana* in addition to other interesting orchid species. The quality of that import motivated Pauwels to: "... next year to try again to import *Vanda lowii*..."

### The Orchid Stud Book.

Also abroad Theodore Pauwels made name with his orchids.

In 'The Orchid Stud Book, 1909', one can read an article about the history of the hybridization of orchids from the first entry by Lindley, the hybrid in the 'Exotic Nursery, Chelsea' by James Veitch namely *Calanthe Dominii* in 'The Gardener's Chronicle', 1858, p. 4, till the date of publication in 1909.

Two of Théodore Pauwels' hybrids are noted referencing to results of judging's in month or weekly magazines:

p. 269: 7b. *Lc. x Amarylloso* (*C. Harrisoniana x L. flava*), Rev. H- Belge, 1905, 277.- Pauwels, 1905 (zie hierboven) en p. 269: *Lc. x* (unnamed), G.C. 1905, ii. 414.- Pauwels. (zie hierboven) p. 302: 339a.

*P. x Leon* (*x Leeanum x gigas*? (Prewettii).- Pauwels, 1906 en p. 302: *C. x Leon*, Chron. O. ii. 74.-Pauwels.

'Rev. H- Belge' is a reference to 'Revue

de l'Horticulture Belge et Étrangère', 'G.C.' to 'The Gardener's Chronicle' and 'Chron. O.' to 'Chronique Orchidéenne'. This last one was a monthly annex to the famous and rare 'Dictionnaire Iconographique des Orchidées' by Cogniaux & Goossens. For the author of 'The Orchid Stud Book' the meaning of 'gigas' it is not clear, that's why he puts 'Prewettii' in parentheses. In what website 'plantilus.com' informs, we think that the author assumes that both names are synonym names. Go to:

<http://plantilus.com/plantdb//>

[PaphPrew/index.html](http://plantilus.com/plantdb//PaphPrew/index.html) and read this note: "Pictured in Dict. Icon. Orchid. *Cypripedium* hybrid #23 in 1898. Note could also be *Paphiopedilum Prewettii* (1897) in which case it is a synonym of *Paphiopedilum Gigas*." When clicking on *Paphiopedilum Gigas* we see: Seed parent *Paphiopedilum Harrisianum*, Pollen parent *Paphiopedilum lawrenceanum*, Previously known as *Cypripedium Gigas*.

With the plate in 'Dictionnaire Iconographique des Orchidées' we read: "*Cypripedium Prewettii*, Hort."



*Cypripedium Prewettii*

pl. 23 in vol. 4 of  
Cogniaux, A., Goossens, A.,  
Dictionnaire iconographique  
des orchidees,  
*Cypripedium*, 1896-1907.



*Vanda suavis pallida*,

RHS First Class Certificate,  
Londen 7-03-1908.

Original painting from the  
archives of Roger Bonte.  
photo with permission from  
Roger Bonte  
via Chris Loncke



*Cymbidium Pauwelsii*.

Th Pauwels, Meirelbeke,  
Ghent, Belgium,  
Award of Merit 14.2.1911.

© RHS / Courtesy of the RHS  
Library Collections



The Gold Medal and the Art Work given by Firmin Lambeau. photo in 'The Orchid World' vol. III, juni 1913.



Furhter we read that also other Belgian orchid growers , amateurs and professionals, such as Vervaet, Janssens en Putzeys, Lambeau, Vincke and others grew hybrids and made new hybrids. Mostly they presented flowering plants to judging committees, so they were not the breeders themselves but had bought the plants that ware grown by their nurserymen. Those knew a lot more about orchid culture of their employer. They didn't have a good wage at all while their rich employers showed of and planted the feathers on their hats.

### Chronique Orchid enne.

In het volume II, 3 dd. September 1904 we find a publicity for Pauwels' 'Villa des Orchid es' nearby 'Meirelbeke-Station lez-Gand-Belgique'. In that volume II more publicity for Pauwels' nursery is published. In the same volume II, 3 dd. July 1904 we read that Pauwels exhibited a nice lot of *Phalaenopsis grandiflora* at the International exhibition in D usseldorf on 1 till 3 May 1904. In volume II, 8 we read that he received a 'Diplome d'Honneur' at the horticultural meeting in Brussels on March 18<sup>th</sup> for his *Odontoglossum crispum* 'Th. Pauwels perfection'.

In volume II, 10 in the article 'L'art floral' we read about an exhibition organized by the 'Soci t s royales Linn enne et de Flore et Bruxelles-Attractions' on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 1906: "...The orchids were admirably represented, not only by the flowering plants but also by cut flowers. Multiple amateurs and professional growers were on this Floralties which, let us hope, will annually take place..." In addition to some in that time renowned amateurs such as f.i. Firmin Lambeau, also Th odore Pauwels from Merelbeke and Vuylsteke from Lochristi were present: "In Pauwels' exhibit we saw more than hundred flowering plants (Note R.N.: here I take over the spelling of those days) a nice *Brasso-Cattleya* Mme Maron; a *Cattleya* Wigan; *Laelio Cattleya* Haroldiana. A very beautiful group *Cypripedium*: *Maudiae*; *Leeanum*; *insigne*; *Sanderae*; L on (*Leeanum giganteum* x *Prewetti* magnificentum) a hybrid exhibited for the first time; *Thalia*, *insigne* M. Millie Dow; a *Cymbidium* *Steppeanum* (*Cymbidium* *Mastersi* x *giganteum*). Two *Vanda c erulea*-plants with 5 spikes having more than 100 flowers. We also saw a magnificent *Cattleya gigas* Rex with 13 flowers on 3 flower spikes..."

### The Orchid World (1911-1916).

In these publication we find, between others, the results of judging events in England, also those at the RHS. Pauwels is often mentioned.

In Vol. II 1912 on p. 146 we find this short text about *Eulophiella Hamelinii* (spelling in 1912) referring to an new, useful catalogue published by Pauwels: "In a useful new catalogue of Orchids just published by Mess. Th. Pauwels and Co., Meirelbeke, Ghent, several illustrations of meritorious plants are given. One depicts a large specimen of *Eulophiella Hamelinii*, which, with its mass of roots, is about seven feet in height." An accompanying note states: "This very rare species is the Queen of Orchids. Many attempts to introduce it have failed, in spite of the great expense and the care taken in collecting it. This year, thanks to the experience



Theodore Pauwels in 1913. photo in Livre d'Or du Monde Horticole, Floralties Gantoises 1913.



and devotion of the collector, we have introduced about thirty fine plants in perfect order. This wonder comes from Madagascar, where it grows on the stumps of the Pandanus in very damp places, rather exposed to the sun. For successful cultivation a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees is required. It should be cultivated with a mixture of *Polypodium*, *Osmunda*, oak, or beech leaves, and *Sphagnum* moss. The plants should be placed in a damp house where a good light is obtainable. This superb Orchid produces one or two flower spikes about three feet in length, each one carrying from twenty to thirty flowers equal in size to those of a large *Phalaenopsis Rimestadiana*. They are of a very bright rose color, the labellum being of a deeper rose, stippled with golden-yellow."

In Vol. III, June 1913 we see on p. 206 that Pauwels received a special price: "The Large Gold Medal and the Work of Art offered by M. Firmin Lambeau for the most varied and meritorious collection of Orchids at the Ghent Exhibition, 1913. Awarded to MM, Th, Pauwels & Co., Meirelbeke, Belgium." (photo on previous page)

In Vol. IV May 1914 Pauwels' name is mentioned for the last time on p. 187: "*LaelioCattleya Giganceps* - Mons. Th. Pauwels, Meirelbeke, has recently flowered this vigorous hybrid between *C. Warscewiczii* (gigas) and *L. anceps*." After May 1914 we didn't find any note about Theodore Pauwels: there is war going on in full intensity on the continent, so bringing plants to foreign judging is impossible and everyone has other concerns.

**Note.**

*Eulophiella hamelinii* Baill. ex Rolfe, *Eulophiella peetersiana* Kraenzl. and also *Grammatophyllum roemplerianum* Rchb.f. are synonym names for *Eulophiella roempleriana* (Rchb.f.) Schltr. This is a terrestrial growing orchid species from Madagascar.

**The Gardeners Chronicle**

We find a first mention of Theodore Pauwels on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1900 on p. 12. He received a

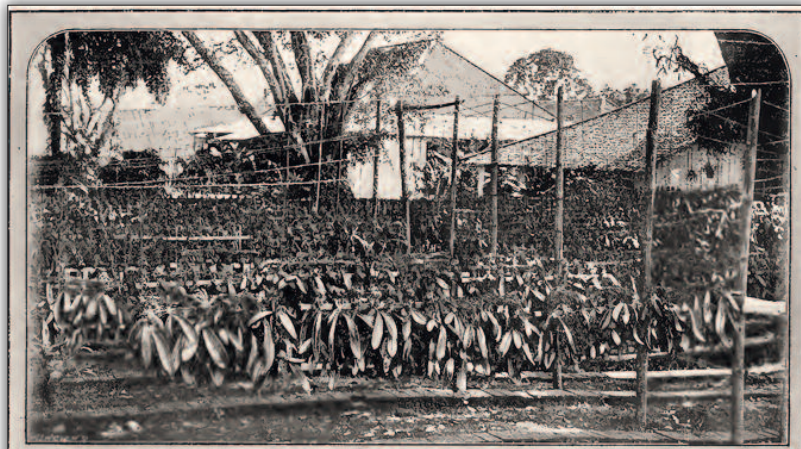


FIG. 100.—M. RIMESTADT'S ORCHID-GARDEN IN JAVA. (SEE P. 306.)

certificate for a flowering *Cattleya mendeli* at a judging in Ghent (no date specified). Such results of judging events in Belgium were regularly published in this English horticultural weekly magazine.

In the edition dd. Saturday Oktober 25<sup>th</sup>, 1902 we see on p. 303 a photo and on p. 306 this text: "*Phalaenopsis amabilis* var. *Rimestadtiana*. The beauties and good qualities of this very fine new form of the plant known in gardens as *Phalsenopsis grandiflora*, have been noted in these columns on several occasions, and now, by the kindness of M. Theodore Pauwels, of Meirelbeke, Ghent, we are enabled to give a view of the Orchid garden of M. Rimestadt, its discoverer, at his home in Java. The plant grows, it is said, at a greater elevation than any other species of *Phalaenopsis*, and hence it is believed that it will, judging from its freegrowing habit, and the freedom with which it produces its large white flowers, take its place in gardens as a decorative subject, and as a plant to be grown in quantity for cut flowers, the value of which, as they are generally produced in winter and spring, cannot well be overrated. All who know these Javan *Phalaenopsis* in their native habitat agree that their frequent failure in gardens may be attributed to their being kept too warm and close under cultivation. A note accompanying the plate of *P. amabilis Rimestadtiana* in *Lindenia*, vol. xvi., contains much information on this point collected by

Mr. Rimestadts orchid garden in Java. photo in The Gardeners Chronicle dd. October 25<sup>th</sup> 1902.



Ed. Kromer, Theodore Pauwels' orchid collector in Brazil here with the Chief of the Roraima-stam. photo in Revue de l'Horticulture Belge et Étrangère, p. 133, 1906.



#### ODONTOGLOSSUM PAUWELSII.

AN interesting and pretty natural hybrid has appeared in the establishment of M. Th. Pauwels, Meirelbeke, Ghent, of which the inflorescence and an old pseudobulb has been sent. M. Pauwels states that it flowered out of an importation of *O. Pescatorei* received from Ocana last year, and is the only plant presenting any difference so far, though a good many plants are still unflowered. It is much nearer to *O. blandum* than to *O. Pescatorei*, having rather narrow acuminate sepals and petals, but the column wings are broad and strongly toothed, not extended into a simple cirrus, as in *O. blandum*. The lip, again, has more of the *Pescatorei* shape, and the characteristic side lobes of the crest are present in a reduced form. *O. blandum* is also a native of the Ocana district, and the present plant is evidently a hybrid between the two. The flower is rather larger than in *O. blandum*, and the sepals and petals rather broader and less acuminate, the colour being white, with about eight to twelve roundish dark purple spots. The lip has the almost typical *Pescatorei* shape and strong constriction at the sides, with a deep yellow, four-lobed crest, approaching that of *O. blandum*, and small side crests like those of *O. Pescatorei* reduced. The colour is white, and there are two purple spots on the front lobe, and a few others on the crest. The column wings are broad, strongly toothed, and end in a small cirrus in front. It possesses the most unmistakable combination of characters of the two species mentioned, and those desiring to possess this pretty little plant should repeat the cross.

R. A. ROLFE.

Text in 'The Orchid Review',  
1909, p. 68.



*Phalaenopsis amabilis rimestadiana*,  
photo illustrating  
Pauwels' article  
on p. 88-89 in  
Revue de l'Horticulture  
Belge et Étrangère, Vol. 29,  
p. 88-89, 1903.

Messrs. Linden, the original importers of the plant, by whom also the suggestion is made that, under cultivation, the *Odontoglossum*-house would suit the plant best. Possibly that method of culture would answer in summer, although in winter it would not probably be satisfactory. *Phalaenopsis amabilis Rimestadiana* is brought forward as a plant likely to prove a rival to *Odontoglossum crispum* in public favor, and if its culture prove as easy as it is supposed to be, this is not unlikely, especially as its fine and durable flowers are available when those of *Odontoglossum crispum* are not obtainable. The illustration shows that Mr. Rimestadt cultivates very successfully other kinds of Orchids, but the *Phalaenopsis* is his favorite flower. In its cultivation an even temperature all the year rather than a high temperature is the object to be aimed at, and to grow the plants on blocks or rafts, as shown in the illustration, instead of in baskets or pots, as they are generally grown in gardens, would be worth trying.

Theodore Pauwels exhibited his plants in foreign countries as also other Belgian orchid and plant growers did.

So we read on June 6<sup>th</sup> 1914, p. 405 a note about Pauwels' exhibit in an exhibition in St. Petersburg organized by the Imperial Horti-

cultural Society of St. Petersburg in the 'Tauride Garden' (= Tavricheskiy Sad): "In another house M. Pauwels showed a fine collection of Orchids, in which *Cymbidium Pauwelsii* made a conspicuous show. Messrs. Lambeau and Peeters also exhibited in this house, and the merit and value of their plants well sustained their high reputation." Louis Van Houtte, another famous Belgian grower presented his orchids in the same hall. This note is interesting to: "The long journey and the delay consequent on Customs formalities are a severe test for any plant, but the Orchids came through the ordeal wonderfully well considering all things."

This was the last words about Theodore Pauwels we found in this weekly magazine. at least not the Pauwels from Merelbeke but another Pauwels from near Brussels, an amateur plant grower and not related with Theodore Pauwels . WW 1, a horror ,in all its intensity is going on and will terrorize the continent.

#### The Orchid review.

In 1908 on p. 161-163 we read: "Orchids at Ghent. Visitors to Ghent during the week of its famous Quinquennial Show naturally take the opportunity of seeing some of its numerous horticultural establishments, and there are at least two in the neighborhood of the old city in which Orchids receive special attention, which we had the pleasure of seeing. We shall mention them in the order of our visit. The establishment of M. Th. Pauwels, at Meirelbeke, is famous for the recent importation of *Cattleya Lawrenceana*, which has again made that fine old species common in our collections..."

In 1913 we read in a text on p. 236 tot 238 "Orchids at Meirelbeke. ... During the intervening five years great progress has been made in hybridizing, and a number of new houses have been built, ...Passing into the first *Odontoglossum* house we found both established plants and seedlings in all stages, many of the former being in spike, and a few *O. crispum* and hybrids in bloom. The seedlings were very interesting..."

Théodore Pauwels - before, during and after World War 1.





## Between and after WW 1.

From half of 1914 Pauwels isn't mentioned anymore. Belgium is invaded by the Germans and all contact with foreign countries is difficult, even impossible.

In 1919 The Garderners Chronicle publishes on March 8<sup>th</sup>, p. 112-113, Pauwels' letter to the redaction: "Notes from Belgium. M. Theodore Pauwels sends us the following letter from Meirelbeke: Belgian horticulturists have experienced very hard times during the war, and it will take years and a great amount of energy to bring Ghent horticulture to the degree of splendor it had reached in 1914. Most horticulturists have suffered from lack of fuel others have seen their establishments and plants destroyed by bombs and by explosions from the destruction of railways and bridges, and also by artillery fire. My Orchid nursery was entirely destroyed by the artillery during the last battle that took place before Ghent on November 8, 9 and 10, 1918. No fewer than 60 howitzers were directed upon my house and Orchid houses, and of the 3,000 square metres devoted to Orchid culture only three houses were saved. Thousands of Cattleva, Odontoglossum, Cymbidium and Cypripedium hybrids, most of them ready to flower for the first time, and the result of twenty-five years' work, were destroyed in a few minutes. I had the great honor to receive yesterday (February 21) a visit from His Majesty King Albert, who wished to see the immense damage caused by the Hua (???) army to Belgian industries.."

The Orchid Review also published information about this f.i. in Vol. XXVII, 1919, January-February p.1 and p. 22-34; March-April, p. 39; May-June, p. 99-100; July-August, p. 109-110. In that last issue a photo of the damaged greenhouse is printed (see a composition with that photo on the first page of my article).

### Note.

Merelbeke station was in WW1 (1914-1918) and in WW2 as well (1940-1945) an important transport hub for the armies. That's why during both wars the stations has been bombed or damaged by artillery fires. The whole neighborhood but also a lot of houses and a neighborhood in Ledeburg en Gentbrugge have been destroyed not only by the bombings of the station but also by test bombings that missed the station

Our local O.V.V. regio Oost-Vlaanderen orchid club has his meetings nearby that station neighborhood in Gentbrugge.

### Thanks.

I could write this article with the very appreciated help of Chris Loncke, Jean Pauwels, Roger Bonte en de RHS Library Collections in Londen.

### Note.

All illustrations mentioning 'Photo by Roger Bonte' are © Roger Bonte.



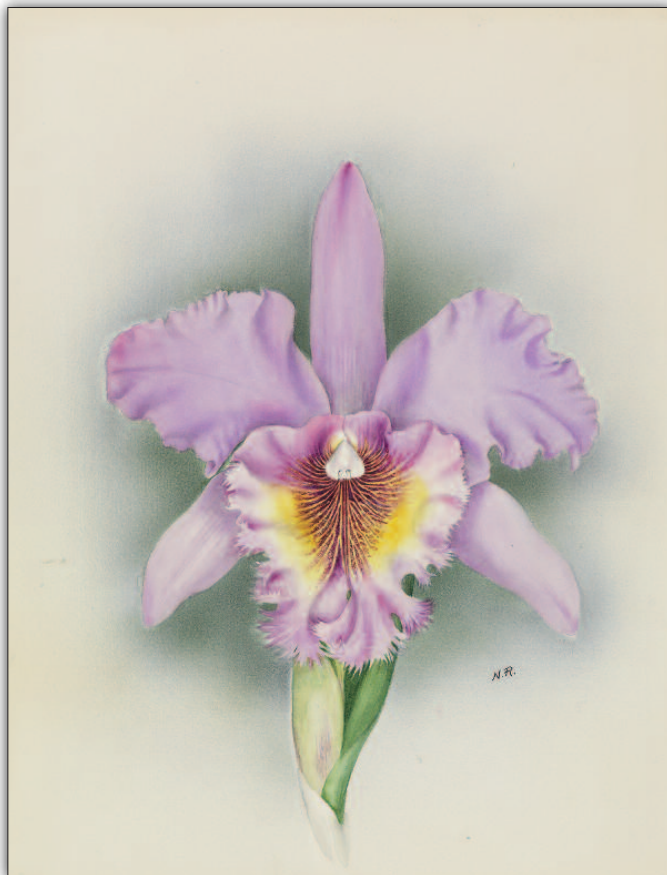
Three not named aquarels from Pauwels' legacy. photos by Roger Bonte.

*Vanda Coerulea*, photo illustrating Pauwels' article in Revue de l'Horticulture Belge et Étrangère, Vol. 31, p.64-65, 1905. ◆





*Cattleya trianae* 'Pauwelsii'  
© Dirk Hoogewijs



*Brassocattleya Senateur de Bast.*  
Th. Pauwels, Meirelbeke, Ghent, Belgium  
First Class Certificate 14.2.1911.  
© RHS / Courtesy of the RHS Library Collections.



*Miltoniopsis Pauwelsianum.*  
*Miltonia Raylei* x *Kalimeris vasilkovii* Lepollé. Ent. Th. Pauwels.  
Pauwels' Pflanzen 2/1911 (prop.)

*Miltoniopsis Pauwelsianum*  
aquarel from Pauwels' legacy.  
photo by Roger Bonte.



# Oncidium fuscatum and its hybrids

## Part 2 of 2

Jean Allen-Ikeson

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Photo by Ron Parsons



*Oncidium fuscatum*

When hybridizers write about their work, we gain much information that may help others in the future. Moir (1970) blithely reports on another hybrid, this time using *Onc. sotoanum* that most of us recognize as the previously named *Oncidium ornithorhynchum* for pollen.



*Onc. Ruffles*

This species produces floriferous sprays of miniature lavender-pink flowers on a compact plant. The resulting hybrid was named *Onc. Ruffles*. But not only did he make it once, he made it twice using the pink form of *Onc. fuscatum* and then the 'Panama' form. The latter resulted in larger, darker flowers.

Ever the experimenter, Moir reached to *Miltonia* by making a hybrid using *Miltonia spectabilis*, which is cool growing, has few flowers and a fuller form with a magnificent large lip, on 'Panama'. I suspect that the *Miltonia moreliana* was used at a time that both it and *Milt. spectabilis* were considered one and the

Photo by Lynn O'Shaunessy



*Milt. spectabilis*

same. The result was *Miltonidium* (*Mtdm.*) Royal. The color is spectacular. *Oncidium fuscatum* intensified the purple sepals and petals of the *Mil-tonia* to become nearly black with a crimson lip with a bit of a white edge and some white streaking distally. Moir's comments on this line of breeding

were that *Milt. spectabilis* kept the flowers too close together and that characteristic apparently carried forth to the fourth generation. The exception was when he did a re-make of *Mtdm. Royal* using a 4n *Milt. spectabilis*.

This brings up an interesting point. I cannot find Moir or anyone else writing about using 4n versions of *Onc. fuscatum*. Only McCully (pers. comm.) suggests that the hybrid, *Onc.*

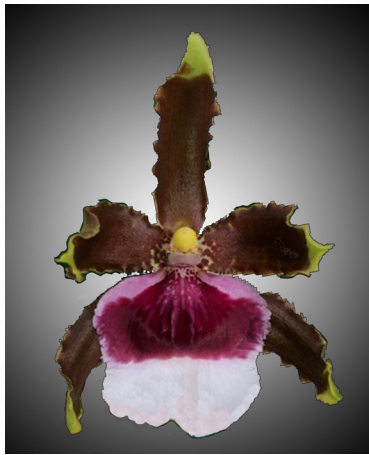


*Mtdm. Royal*

*Witch's Jewels*, appears to be 4n. It is certainly larger than you would expect at 2.5 x 3.0 inches (6.2 x 7.5 cm). The geometric mean suggests it should only be just over 2.0 inches (5.1 cm). This size is more what you would expect if it had had odontoglossum-type breeding in it rather than traditional *Oncidium* heritage. It may be that if you converted *Onc. fuscatum*, with its already longitudinally rolled sepals and petals, and convex stiff lip, which is likely shaped that way because the substance wains outward from the disk and pulls the thinner areas back and under, that the form would become grotesque. Some of this may



be because of areas of thickened pigment because the alba clones have less pigment and hence flatter lips. This is just speculation because *Onc.* Witch's Jewels is relatively flat, more so than any of the species involved.



*Onc.* Witch's Jewel

When *Mtdm.* Royal was bred back to *Onc.*

*Elegance*, which has bronze-brown markings on a yellow flower with a cream lip distally, one would wonder why he did that. Perhaps it was to spread the inflorescence out. However, the results were rather stunning, as least as far as the individual flowers. Jones & Scully received two awards for this cross named *Mtdm.* Jupiter 'Leilehua' AM/AOS. The flower was a little more open than *Mtdm.* Royal and both



*Mtdm.* Jupiter 'Leilehua' AM/AOS

awards only had six flowers on an inflorescence. But oh my, the color is blazing with deep, nearly black, maroon sepals and petals and a rich, deep crimson lip with a white border. The rich color and the lack of floriferousness, as Moir stated,

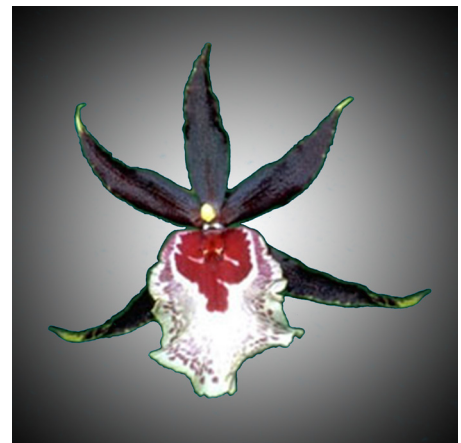
continue into the next generation of hybrids.

Moir (1970) mentions *Mtdm.* Crimson Crest by saying that he believed that taking it forward in a breeding program showed promise. Crimson Crest was a cross of *Milt. spectabilis* and *Milt. russelliana* called *Milt.* Purple Queen that was in turn pollinated by Moir with *Onc. fuscatum*. It did not live up to Moir's prediction by comparison to *Onc. Debutante's* success.

An interesting hybrid with *Brassia (Brs.) gireoudiana* registered as *Aliceara (Alcra.) Jet Setter*, made by R. K. Mizuta in 1972, perhaps was a bit before

its time with its more compact inflorescence. These days, with large commercial breeders who want plants that do not produce inflorescences over 24-28 inches (65-70 cm) because of the restraints for packing in boxes, breeders might take a second look. Moir (1978) thought long inflorescences were more desirable. He found some fertility problems in further generations that might be circumvented by using different lines. What Moir thought was a fault in shortening the inflorescence may be an asset now. Beall's received an

AM/AOS of 83 points on the clone 'Black Knight', which was described as 12 flowers and one bud on two inflorescences with dark mahogany-brown sepals and petals with yellow



*Alcra.* Jet Setter

tips, and a yellow lip with dark mahogany spotting. Another clone, 'Midfarm' AM/AOS, had 26 flowers on three inflorescences with red-maroon sepals and petals, a red-maroon crest and some red-maroon spotting on the lip. Both these flowers have color that make the *Alcra.* Jet Setter almost unique among first-generation hybrids of *Brs. gireoudiana*, better known to older growers as *Brassia verrucosa*. Other hybrids have dull color, by and large, by comparison. Clearly the red in this hybrid is enhanced by the red from *Onc. fuscatum*.

Moir moved in an entirely different direction when he made hybrids with the mostly yellow *Oncidium* species such as *Oncidium varicosum*, now called *Gomesa varicosa*. He registered *Oncsa.* Jack Pot in 1960 that he made with the 'Panama' clone (Moir 1961). *Gomesa varicosa* strongly influenced this hybrid in form although the crest of *Onc. fuscatum* remained. The markings on the sepals and petals, however, in the lone award to the clone 'Merkel' AM/AOS, are described as 'boldly contrasted chocolate', which is a more intense pigment than usually is seen on the *Gomesa* parent. The hybrid was branched, the flowers flat and with a yellow background color. The



award description states that the flowers were larger than is typical for *Gom. varicosa* hybrids with a natural spread of 1.9 inches (4.9 cm). Moir (1961), however, describes the result as a nonfading yellow and as looking like the *Gom. varicosa* parent but four times larger and with distinct red marking all over the back of the flower.

In the interim between Moir's energetic breeding program and the new wave of breeders after 2000, a few interesting and valuable hybrids were made. Perhaps most important is *Onc. Issaku Nagata*. This was a brave move. *Oncidium fuscatum* is usually a preferred pollen donor. Moir (1982) thought that *Oncidium leucochilum* also worked better as pollen. But if you look at the record of *Onc. leucochilum*, it is apparent that the vast majority of hybrids with it used the species as the pod parent. In this case, *Onc. fuscatum* was the pod parent. It is also a surprising cross given that *fuscatum* has a tendency to suffer from edema. Mc-

Cully (pers. comm.) reported that *leucochilum* is susceptible as well. Against all odds, *Onc. Issaku Nagata* garnered ten AOS awards. Oddly, it was registered in 1982, yet all these awards occurred between

1994 and 1999. Perhaps it is because it was made in Japan and it took that long for it to become available in commercial quantities or else it was remade. The latter is what happened. *Oncidium Issaku Nagata* was remade by Jeff Britt of the Rod McLelland Co. in California. What is most spectacular about this hybrid is the consistent arrangement of the inflorescence in the awarded clones in a tree-like pattern with branches with many flowers on the lower ones and a decreasing amount as you reach the top. Besides the intense coloring, it was probably the number of flowers and arrangement that encouraged breeders to make 29 hybrids, all registered since 2000 by a variety of breeders with the lion's share made by McCully.



*Onc. Issaku Nagata*

Photo by Alex Maximiano

Perhaps the most popular has been *Ons. Blackata* made by Glen Barfield. The flattened tree-like arrangement has been lost in favor of a more bush-like appearance. However the flowers are described as dark burgundy and the lip red burgundy or alternatively black cherry. The substance is waxy, which gives more depth and richness to the color. Two of the awarded clones had more than 60 flowers per inflorescence. Interestingly, the four awarded clones were grown in such disparate regions as Hawaii, Florida and eastern Canada. Only one hybrid has been registered with it and is a backcross to *Onc. fuscatum*. Unlike most backcrosses in which the form reverts back to *fuscatum*'s rolled, ruffled and convex form, *Ons. Succubus* is relatively flat and the backcross has further increased the color intensity to near-black oxblood. The clones were so consistent that Barfield was awarded an Award of Quality (AQ) from the American Orchid Society for twelve different clones presented simultaneously.

The other interim *fuscatum* hybrid of note that gained immense popularity because of its diminutive size and ease of culture is *Onc. Pupukea Sunset* registered in 1989 by R. Demoss. The pod parent was *Oncidium cheiroporum*. This odd little species has a rather unusual shape that perhaps is reminiscent of a little yellow and green angel ascending to heaven. It took a brave soul to cross these two species, although in crosses, the form of *Onc. cheiroporum* hybrids that I have seen are different to be sure but pleasant or charming, although totally out of the realm of a judging standard for *Oncidium*. I have reviewed the color on a large number of F1 hybrids of *Onc. fuscatum* and this one is nearly unique because the deep maroon, deep chestnut or red-purple markings are overpowered by the other parent in this hybrid. They are a yellow-brown, olive-brown or bronze-yellow on the sepals and petals of most clones. The compromise came with the red or red-maroon shield on the *fuscatum*-like lip retaining that parent's color. H&R was granted a CMM/AOS to the clone 'H&R' with 1090 flowers and 269 buds on ten, flowering inflorescences plus two more, budded inflorescences.

The Rod McLelland nursery made two interesting hybrids registered in 1978 and 1981. Both would figure in multigenerational hybrids, often as a way of





*Oncidium Pupukea Sunset* "alba"  
 Reprinted from the website Petrens Orchid Shop  
 www.petrensorcidshop.eu

extracting the deep color from *Onc. fuscatum* without carrying forward the form. The first was *Onc. Wildwood*, which was a hybrid with *Oncidium tigrinum*. This charming cross has a brilliant cream to white lip similar to the *tigrinum* parent and darkly marked sepals and petals. The inflorescences usually carry at least fifty flowers. The form is much flatter than the *fuscatum* parent. Nineteen hybrids have been registered using it. Notably, *Onc. Autumn Colors*



*Onc. Wildwood*

'Admiringly Autumn' HCC/AOS, brings *Onc. noezlianum* to the mix via *Onc. Charlesworthii* (1910). A *fuscatum* cross named *Onc. Copper Scarab* with *Onc. Jimbo*,

which in turn is a double *fuscatum*, resulted in charming gold-bronze flowers on typical multi-branched inflorescences. The clone 'Brass Brethren' is already available commercially. Okika registered a hybrid in 2014 with *Catatante* and *Onc. Wildwood* that was registered as *Ons.* *Top Hat & Tails*, which should be interesting from these two outstanding parents.



*Ons. Top Hat & Tails*

The other building block created by McLelland was the previously mentioned *Ons. Rustic Bridge*, which is a cross with *Rhynchostele (Rst.) uroskinneri*. They used this hybrid to make such famous hybrids as *Ons. Wildcat* and *Ons. Lorraine's Fourteenth WOC*.

*Oncostele Wildcat* is probably one of the most successful hybrids ever made in *Oncidiinae*. The AOS has granted 70 awards to the grex under its various aliases created by taxonomy changes in *Oncidiinae*. A few were granted as *Odontocidium Wildcat*, most



*Oncostele Wildcat*  
 photo by Greg Alikas

as *Colmanara* and five more recent ones as *Ons. Wildcat*. One of the more interesting aspects in hybridizing is when you come across what actual clones were used in the hybrid

and what the results were. 'A plus B' can be quite dissimilar using different clones. In this case, Hardy (1998), who worked for Rod McLelland Co., provided this information. *Oncidium Crowborough* (1965) 'Spice Island' was always used as the pollen parent. However, two clones of *Ons. Rustic Bridge* were tried as the pod parent. The first, 'Mephisto', was selected for better color intensity. Unfortunately, the fertility was not as hoped and only 125 plants



resulted. These had ‘astonishing uniformity’ with many producing two spikes on the first flowering.

The second clone of *Onc.* Rustic Bridge used to make Wildcat was ‘Hot Lips’. The fertility was so good that they remade it again the next year. The best clones were saved for future breeding or mericloning.



*Onc.* Rustic Bridge

Three color forms resulted. The first had a dark mahogany-red lip with sepals and sepals the same color except with yellow tips. *Oncostele* Wildcat ‘Bobcat’, which was mericloned, is typical and received the highest award of any of the clones with an AM/AOS of 87 points to the exhibitor Orchids by Ackers. Their plant had 132 flowers on two branched inflorescences with a natural spread of 6.4 cm. Most hybrids with *Onc. fuscatum* are generally 4.0-4.5 cm but the odontoglossum-type *Oncidium* breeding from Crowborough (1965) improved the size and the wow factor. The second had a cream to white lip with few or no red spots with butter-yellow sepals and petals with the latter dotted with red and both occasionally with a few red or burgundy bars. These have been less popular with judges although *Onc.* Wildcat ‘Jody’ HCC/AOS was awarded. The third form is probably the most common with white to yellow-gold lips often dramatically overlaid with red or red-mahogany markings. The sepals and petals are intense yellow to butterscotch usually with strongly marked, mahogany-red spots or bars. The mericlones ‘Lynx’, ‘Ocelot’ and ‘Panther’ are typically colored. Many more clones were awarded. Besides the wow factor of these clones, *Onc.* Wildcat often produces two spikes per pseudobulb and can bloom twice a year, in any month and under a wide range of temperature conditions.

Other primary hybrids were made in the interim period between Moir and 2000. *Oncidium* Ron’s Rippling Delight was registered in 1980 by R. A. Sellon, as a cross with *Oncidium schroederianum*. The color

is strong and dark, and the form reminiscent of *Onc. fuscatum*, although the flowers are a bit larger and the sepals perhaps longer from the other parent. It displays the lovely branched inflorescence that you see in so many other *fuscatum* hybrids. While it received three AOS awards, its real claim to fame is as a building block for other hybrids.

McCully has made a number of hybrids using Ron’s Rippling Delight. *Oncidium* Witch’s Jewels is an intense deep maroon. It is a cross of *Onc.* Ron’s Rippling Delight and *Onc. Reversion*, which is an offspring of the pollen parent, *Onc. Cascade View*, which in turn is a cross of *Onc. Ron’s Rippling Delight* and *Onc. fuscatum*. It is no surprise that McCully (pers. comm.) considers this triple *fuscatum* cross to be the most phenotypic hybrid he has made and believes that it is a polyploid. The substance is certainly very heavy and the size larger than expected.



*Onc.* Ron’s Rippling Delight

Photo by Maria’s Orchids

Most of the hybrids made since 2000 are not primary hybrids. They fall into three groups. First are the backcrosses to hybrids containing *Onc. fuscatum* and include such hybrids as *Onc. Jimbo*, *Onc. Succubus*, *Onc. Piquant*, and *Onc. Quisquilian*. The



*Oncostele* Succubus

second group are with odontoglossum-type or miltonia-type hybrids and include *Mtdm. Pacific Wars*, *Oip. Everglades Happiness*, *Onc. Not At All* and *Onc. Sanguine*. This mix adds full shape and more colors to the mix, while the *fuscatum* parent can intensify

the latter. Other than the few primary crosses, the third group is with hybrids of *Onc. noezlianum* that add orange or red color and include *Onc. Flaming*



Pole, *Onc.* Bob Barfield, *Onc.* Succubus, *Onc.* Jimbo, *Oip.* Edna's Dream, and *Onc.* Billet-Doux.

A successful line of breeding that I have not mentioned is with *Rhynchostele biconiensis*. Remarkably no primary hybrids were made, either by oversight or because there was some sort of genetic barrier. There are stunning examples of what it can



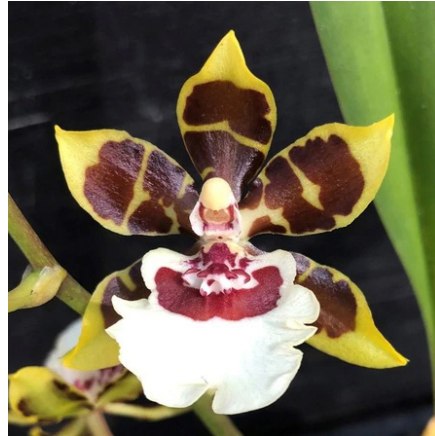
Photo by Glen Barfield

*Onc.* Blackata 'Dragon's Drool' HCC/AOS

do when it appears in the background of *Onc. fuscatum* hybrids. Perhaps most important is that it adds all-over color or nearly so to the lip when *Onc. fuscatum* is in the mix. The best example is *Onc.* Blackata, which is a cross of *Onc.* Issaku Nagata and *Onc.* Black Beauty. *Rhynchostele biconiensis* comes in as a primary cross with *Onc. leucochilum* to produce Black Beauty, which has a near-solid lip of deep pink but feathered a bit and showing a small amount of white distally. When you cross that with *Onc.* Issaku Nagata, which has half of its lip white but with red-purple basally, the result is *Onc.* Blackata 'Dragon's Drool' HCC/AOS, which has unmarked, saturated burgundy sepals and petals with a solid, red-burgundy lip. The combination spreads the color to the tip in most of the clones and this spread con-

tinues into the next generation with a backcross to *Onc. fuscatum* in the successful *Onc.* Succubus. In this case, one and one makes three because the color is far more intense than either parent.

Another example is *Onc.* Jungle Cat, which is *Onc.* Jungle Monarch crossed on *Rst. biconiensis*. Like the previous hybrid, the parent *Onc.* Jungle Monarch has a lip that is half white from its parent *Onc.* Debutante. In *Onc.* Jungle Cat, the color on the lip



*Onc.* Jungle Monarch 'Own Selection'  
Reprinted from Sunnyview Orchids

has spread to almost completely cover with garnet or burgundy as shown in the clone 'Burma Ruby' HCC/AOS, bred and exhibited by Milton Carpenter with 54 flowers on a single, branched inflorescence. *Rhyn-*

*chostele biconiensis* is perhaps an underutilized species in *Onc. fuscatum* hybrids. Neither parent needs to appear as a direct parent for the effect to work. Both are so strong in their effect that appearing as a grandparent or even great grandparent leaves its mark. However, when using *Rst. biconiensis* as a direct parent, the branching is at very acute angles. Two generations later and the panicle habit is back and the color remains (Barfield pers. comm.).

When you have a parent such as *Onc. fuscatum*, which has such dominance for color, floriferousness and arrangement, then the hybridizer has the luxury of using it two or three generations back and still obtaining the desired results while softening the rolled or convex form of the species itself. You are not always this lucky. Sometimes you get the reverse: the undesirable characteristics persist while the desirable ones fade. On the whole, *Onc. fuscatum* behaves itself.

This effect is not just hit and miss. The weight of numbers of strong hybrid parents that have gone on to create lines of their own is amazing. It is interesting when you see these lines mixed and perhaps backcrossed to the species. *Oncostele* Rustic Bridge,



*Ons.* Wildcat, and perhaps *Ons.* Linda Isler are each becoming one of these. *Oncidium* Debutante hybrids are also creating dynasties of their own such as Sphacetante (and its hybrid Catatante), *Onc.* Jungle Monarch and *Ons.* Lorraine's Fourteenth WOC. *Oncidium* Issaku Nagata, *Onc.* Ron's Rippling Delight, *Onc.* Wildwood, *Onc.* Pupukea Sunset, and others are all important in subsequent generations.

What does the future bring? I would like to see a greater use of *Rst. biconiense*. But I think it is time

to go back to the species, collect outstanding clones and line breed a better parent. One of the problem with this is that selfing is such a great tool for the hybridizer.



*Oncidium* Irish Mist 'Wintergreen'

Reprinted with permission from James McCully

Unfortunately,

*Onc. fuscatum* can resist selfing but will take sib crosses. But the difference this makes is evident in the line-bred alba *Onc. fuscatum* that McCully (pers. comm.) has developed. He then made *Onc.* Irish Mist with it using *Onc. multistellare* for pollen. The result was a flower with soft green or chartreuse sepals and petals with some white around the edges and a lip that is more yellow with the distal half white and a picotee around the basal half.



*Oncidium* Debutante 'Fredensborg'

Reprinted from the website Larsen Twins Orchids  
www.larsen-twins.dk

McCully (pers. comm.) has also been remarking some of the important hybrids with superior parents to make a better breeding parent with the characteristics that he wants.

He remade *Onc.* Debutante using 'Weltoni' and an *Onc. carciniferum* that he selected for less cupping that he purchased from Andy's Orchids. This remake has a well-formed inflorescence, something for which McCully strives. He used it to remake *Onc.* Pacific Pagan, which turned out to be much more com-



*Onc.* Pacific Pagan

Photo from Pelican Coast Farms, Inc.

pact that the 'Kilauea' clone more commonly seen.

He also remade *Onc.* Ruffles using a clone that resulted from his first stage of developing a good alba, discussed previously, which was very light colored and had a compact inflorescence similar to 'Weltoni'. This was crossed with *Onc. sotoanum* 'Stinky Pinky' AM/AOS. This remake of Ruffles was crossed



*Onc.* Ruffles

to that universal favorite, *Onc.* Sharry Baby. The result was a highly saturated, nearly solid colored, pinkish red-purple flower called *Onc.* Heaven Scent, which was flatter than *Onc. sotoanum* or *Onc.* Sharry Baby. This is part of the future: going

back and remarking the best hybrids with improved parents, selfing and sibbing the species, and then





*Onc. Heaven Scent*  
Photo from Mauna Kea Orchids

doing careful selection for better breeding parents. Complex crosses with *Onc. tigrinum* have perhaps also been underutilized in complex crosses. There have been a few. Perhaps breeders have worried that they will just get the

large, dominant yellow lip. And perhaps the yellow leads to too many brown colors. Rod McLelland Co. made an interesting cross with *Onc. Rustic Bridge* called *Onc. Rustic Tiger* that was granted two AOS awards. The lip has lavender streaking and no solid patches while the petals are barred rather than mainly solid colored. Hwuluduen has registered a few hybrids more recently in Taiwan but we are just not seeing them at the judging table. McCully has tried crossing *Onc. tigrinum* on *Onc. Space Race*, which is a double *fuscatum* cross from *Sphacetante* and *Pupukea Sunset*. He registered it as *Onc. Twisted Gold*.

A rather nice hybrid was registered by Gold Country from an unknown hybridizer and called *Onc. Ever-Lasting*. *Oncidium tigrinum* was the pod parent while *Onc. Wildcat* provided the pollen. The clone '9' received an HCC/AOS in Houston in 2001.

There are some forms of the species that are flatter and have a less pronounced shield shape on the lip. Most breeders from Moir onward have used a cross of 'Weltoni' with other variants as the basis of their breeding program. 'Weltoni' is both an asset and a curse. While it has the most desirable growth habit of any of the variants, the yellow background on the sepals and petals produces a red-brown or chestnut markings on the sepals and petals. You find a clearer red-purple with the forms that have a white or near-white background. While 'Weltoni' is useful for color down the line in producing hybrids such as *Catatante*, I wonder what we would have had if hybridizers had been working with red-purples rather than red-browns. Moir (1970) commented on this when he made hybrids using both 'Panama' and 'Weltoni' on the same species. For example, *Onc.*

*Lustre* was first made with 'Weltoni' using a clone that he received from a friend in Puerto Rico (Moir 1961). The result was a bronze flower with a red bronze lip. When he later remade it with 'Panama', the result was "a glorious spray of yellow." The lip on the species always has a white or a light cream and you do not see the brown colors on the basal half.

You might say, why are hybridizers not making these warm-intermediate species more adaptable to cooler growing conditions? They have. The use of *Onc. noezlianum* and odontoglossum-type oncidiums does just that. The biggest market for these hybrids is Europe and the UK. They require intermediate to just to the cool end of intermediate growing conditions.

Milton Carpenter has bred the reverse: hybrids that cope with hot, muggy conditions and he also experimented with *Brassia*. But most of the *Onc. fuscatum* hybrids will grow anywhere except under very cool conditions.

You might think that *Onc. fuscatum* started out as an underdog species. It did not have the large, showy flowers of odontoglossum-types or the flat form of *Onc. tigrinum* or the long, pointed sepals and petals and charm of arching inflorescences of *Brassia*. But it ranks eleventh among the *Oncidiinae* species for most offspring awards and sixth for most hybrids in this group. And that is only the first generation. It is not the only species in orchids to become a star because of its breeding characteristics. *Guarianthe aurantica* ranks second for most offspring awards in *Laeliinae* because the species transmits great color and floriferousness even though its flowers are crowded and badly cupped. In both cases, hybridizers have been willing to experiment, make use of color or physical characteristics and look forward to the big picture.

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Deutsche Orchideen-Gesellschaft (D.O.G)  
Welcomes IOA to the International Orchid  
World Exhibition  
Dresden 28-31 March 2019

Richard Baxter

Every year Dresden celebrates Spring at the vast Messe exhibition complex with a huge floral and household show “Dresdner Ostern”, where D.O.G stage the centrepiece which is the biggest orchid show in Europe. Several months ago when Andy Easton was in Germany it was suggested that IOA might exhibit at this International Orchid World in 2019. Subsequently, the IOA Executive agreed to go ahead, but in addition to mounting an exhibit we should provide a series of lectures promoting our Organization and *Odontoglossums* in general. The next 12 months saw a hive of activity planning and preparation including possible logistics for a sales booth.

An international mix of IOA members travelled to Dresden including Bob Hamilton (IOA President, California), John Leathers (IOA Journal Editor, California), Andy Easton (New Horizon Orchids, Colombia), Juan Felipe Posada (Colomborquideas, Colombia), Francisco Villegas (Orquifollajes, Colombia), Sam Cowie (Leaf and Limb, Australia), and myself from the UK. D.O.G made us very welcome and arranged all accommodation and facilities. Large numbers of plants were shipped from Colombia to provide specimens for the exhibit and for the sales stall, all the CITES formalities being cleared at Hamburg. English and German versions of an IOA explanatory leaflet were printed for the display.

The show opened to the public on Wednesday with expectation of 65,000 - 80,000 visitors during the next 5 days. I did not arrive at Dresden until Wednesday, so missed helping to set up the display during Tuesday. The exhibit was about 3 metres square at table height, with a branch structure and bark chips for covering the base supplied for us in advance. One side of the display featured *Odontoglossums* while some magnificent *Cymbidiums* festooned the other side. I understand that the warm local hospitality kicked in again when people building other displays loaned items for finishing touches.



Setting up the IOA exhibit at the show  
Foreground - from left to right: Francisco Villegas and  
Juan Felipe Posada  
Background - from left to right: Robert Hamilton, Sam Cowie  
and Andy Easton

When I arrived at the show on Thursday morning I was able to help at the sales stall unpacking and pricing plants from some of the remaining Colomborquideas and Orquifollajes transit boxes. I was very impressed by the attention to detail which had been taken in Colombia preparing the plants which arrived in such fresh condition. Throngs of people passed through the exhibition hall each day and trade was brisk. By the time the show closed on Sunday every one of the Colombian plants had been sold. The final few remaining *Masdevallias* etc. were sold at the last minute to a group from the Polish Orchid Association. Looking around other orchid trade stalls on Sunday afternoon gaps evidenced that they had a pretty successful event too.

There was so much to see at this exhibition giving the opportunity to touch base with several EU trade nurseries which I knew from previous travels and get to know new contacts. Marei Karge-Liphard (Orchideengarten Karge, Dahlenburg) was well known to us and particularly helpful with guidance - and occasional conversation translation. Marei is the EU agent for Colomborquideas so I shall keep a keen





An overlook of the orchid exhibits

eye on her stock lists for the next few months before UK leaves the EU when CITES will complicate the current free movement of orchids between us.

Orchid Society and trade exhibits were generally complex constructions and very high standard. The adjoining halls were busy exhibiting and selling everything from plants to chocolates; saunas to horticultural equipment; clothes to furniture; in fact almost anything. Trade seemed brisk judging by what visitors were carrying around.

The main event for IOA was on Saturday afternoon when D.O.G had arranged a separate hall for us to host an open meeting for a series of *Odontoglossum* based talks. All the speakers used English so a translator supported each presentation making it easier for our German friends. First up was Sam Cowie from Leaf and Limb in Queensland, Australia, who gave us an interesting insight into his operation near Brisbane and his techniques for successful *Odontoglossum* Alliance culture in the tropics. Next, Guido Deburghgraeve from Belgium gave us an overview of the eagerly awaited book which Stig Dalström will be publishing combining his life study, with others, of the genus *Odontoglossum*. It would be good if digesting such explicit information tips the scale to convince the academics that *Odontoglossum* does, in fact, deserve to be returned to distinct genus

classification. Andy Easton spoke next about his development of new *Odontoglossum* hybrids. The afternoon concluded with a fascinating talk by Juan Felipe Posada describing native Colombian *Odontoglossum* species, how his nursery (Colombo-rquideas in Medellin) is improving lines and reintroducing them for modern breeding and distribution.

During the closing hours of the exhibition on Sunday the organizers visited each sales stall to collect dues for space and facilities, but there was a nice surprise for IOA because D.O.G deemed the

IOA exhibit to be a “visiting organization without sales” so instead of paying dues we were awarded a substantial donation, which helped to defray costs/shipping etc.. This was coupled with the hope that IOA and the Colombian nurseries would return another year.

With so many interesting people to meet and things to see my time seemed to go very quickly. Yes, I did weaken and buy a few plants (some pre-ordered) knowing that once UK leaves the EU the sources for fresh *Odontoglossum* plants will become even more difficult than today. Sadly, the genus is not popular on our shores since the passing of the great growers of yesteryear, in fact it is difficult to identify other dedicated growers.

As I left Dresden I reflected on a most interesting and enjoyable few days due in no small part to the warm welcome and assistance afforded throughout by the D.O.G. Meeting other IOA members from around the world is always a joy but this time there was a very clear message that IOA has left its mark as being absolutely on the EU orchid map. Monday was departure day, home for me, further EU vacation travel for others and visits to specialist growers in the Netherlands for the Colombian commercial group. I certainly look forward to my next visit.



Some of the Odontoglossums from the Show



*Odontioda Little Marie*



*Vuylstekeara Ruber Holoserica*



*Odontioda Goldberg*



*Odontioda (St. Clement x Florence Stirling)*



*Rhyncostele x humeana*



*Wilsonara Amulos Ignis*



## Why make this book?

Stig Dalström


When I began growing orchids in the early seventies it was possible to order tropical plants from all over the world through the Dutch company Floricultura. A catalogue was published every year with long lists of available orchids from many countries, and plants were delivered by regular parcel mail without any legal issues. Most of the times I received what I had ordered, but occasionally there were some bonus plants or replacement plants included. My knowledge about most of the offered species and how to cultivate them was virtually non-existent at the time so there was a great deal of trial and error involved (with a heavy impact on the latter). Strangely enough, some plants not only survived, they also grew well and flowered regularly. For a young and budding plant novice this was the addictive stimulation that got me into the exotic world of orchids.

Living in Sweden at the time, plants that prefer a cooler and relatively low-light conditions, such as *Odontoglossum* and *Coelogyne* did better in my care than, say *Cattleya* or *Vanda* species. Consequently, I liked the cooler plants better since they seemed to “like” me in return. At least they responded tolerantly to the conditions I could offer on a crowded window sill. Some of the best growing species were Central American members of the genus “*Odontoglossum*”. Today they are all transferred to other genera, but at the time they triggered a fascination for this kind of orchids. For some reason Floricultura never offered any real *Odontoglossum* plants from the Andean region of South America. The solution to that problem was to go there and see them for myself. My first trip to Ecuador took place in December of 1979, and that was an eye-opener that would change my life forever.

Due to beginner’s luck or not, I managed to find a number of plants that were called “*Odontoglossum*” in those days. Some were easy to identify, such as *Odm. cirrhosum* Lindl., and *Odm. hallii* Lindl. But there were also other plants that had rather similar but yet different-looking flowers. They were all yellow with brown spots in various combinations and rather confusing to my untrained eyes (little did I know that they were still going to confuse me forty years later). In addition there were other plants that looked vegetative quite different and in some cases belonged to *Odontoglossum* and in other cases to *Oncidium*. Today we call these plants “*cyrtochilums*”, but in those days most of them were considered odontoglossums or oncidiums depending on the angle between the column and the lip of the flowers. To me, the “*cyrtochilum-odontoglossums*” seemed more closely related to the “*cyrtochilum-ocnidiums*” than to other odontoglossums, a fact that was proven by molecular evidence many years later. In any case, the accepted taxonomic relationships at the time seemed rather strange and did not make much sense to me so I decided to learn more about it and try to figure out what was going on.

### The *Odontoglossum* Story

By Stig Dalström  
Guido Deburghgraeve, MD  
Wesley Higgins, et al.



Coming in 2019, the most comprehensive treatment of *Odontoglossum* since James Bateman’s classic *Monograph of Odontoglossum* in 1874. **The *Odontoglossum* Story** is a monographic treatment with a new classification of the genus, which is divided into 6 sections, and further subdivided into series of similar species. This revised classification is based on the latest DNA science combined with morphological characteristics. The book presents all 77 species currently recognized in the genus. Nine natural *Odontoglossum* hybrids are also included as samples of the prolific tendency of many species to cross-pollinate with other sympatric members of the genus.

Each species is fully described and illustrated with a line drawing as well as with brilliant photographs. Many are taken in the natural habitat. Each species distribution is visually demonstrated with a map and by citations of examined herbarium specimens. Additionally, the story behind each species is presented in layman’s terms which make this monograph enjoyable reading.

The book includes 6 introductory chapters that trace the early days of European “*Odontoglossum*-mania”, early culture and hybridization, and other related topics by guest authors Alex Hirtz, Phillip Cribb, Rik Neiryck, Peter Sander, Gerhard Vierling and John Miller. The introduction to the orchid family includes morphological traits, evolution of Orchidaceae, and the concepts of modern classification using natural monophyletic groups.

The book concludes with two chapters of cultivation by guest authors Andrey Romanko and Brian Phelan. The monograph is fully referenced with a comprehensive list of references, a glossary and an index. The audience for this book is any orchid lover from the taxonomist to the horticulturist and from the hobby grower to the book collector.

Submit your email address to [Odontoglossum@comcast.net](mailto:Odontoglossum@comcast.net) to be notified when the book will be available.



## Recent Odonts from Tim Brydon

Bob Hamilton

The following are photos of recent hybrids made by Tim Brydon, San Francisco, California. Tim is a highly regarded *Odontoglossum* and *Odontioda* grower and hybridizer. The formative meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance occurred in 1985 in Tim Brydon's living room in his San Francisco, Victorian home. Tim grows in a greenhouse attached to his home and another on the Pacific Coast. Besides breakthrough hybrids Tim is an internationally recognized stained glass artist and expert on the lamps and windows of Charles Comfort Tiffany.

Two first bloom seedlings from a sibling cross made with *Odm* Jim Mintsiveris, a black on white *Odontoglossum* first made by Tim Brydon and registered in 1997. *Odm* Jim Mintsiveris has been used as a parent with more than 65 progeny. The contrast between the dense pure white and intense markings is stunning. The sibling cross is yielding superb progeny.



*Odm.* Jim Mintsiveris ('Steinway' x 'Black and White')  
Clone #1



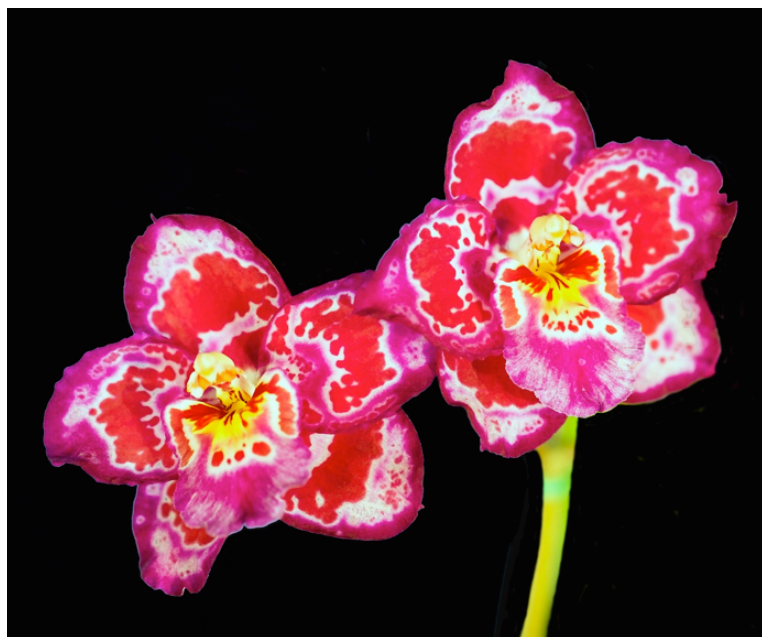
*Odm.* Jim Mintsiveris ('Steinway' x 'Black and White')  
Clone #2



Recent seedlings from Tim Brydon unregistered hybrids made to improve color and pattern



*Oda.* (Tiffany x Joe's Drum)



*Oda.* (Patricia Hill x Peter Timoney)



*Oda.* [Aviewood x (Blue Poole x Torlana) x Peter Timoney]

## Hybridizing Notes

Andy Easton

### *Odm Wycrisp 'Blue Label'*

Such an unimaginative name for a rather lovely orchid! A 1980 J & L registration of a Lee Kuhn hybrid. This is not one of the originals and as there are no photos in OrchidWiz, I cannot make any comparison between this flower and two that were awarded in the early 1980's. At Colomborquideas, a blue label indicates a high quality plant and I think you may agree this flower oozes class. Once again, the British got things all wrong when they conflated *Odm harryanum* and *Odm wyattianum* for many years. When one looks for *Odm Crispo-harryanum*



in OrchidWiz, there are only three images of paintings and no actual photo images. The paintings differ rather alarmingly which suggests to me that *Odm harryanum* and *Odm wyattianum* have been confused for a long time. In my limited experience, the *Odm Crispo-harryanum*s are much paler than the *Odm Wycrisps*.

Just looking at this flower, one has to ask why it has not been used as a parent. Maybe the color is a bit brownish but I'm sure a dose of *Cochlioda noezliana* would brighten things up! The actual parallel crossing of *Odm Crispo-harryanum* X *Cda noezliana* was registered in 1910 as *Oda Leeana* and went absolutely nowhere..... So often I research what should be fundamental building blocks in the

Odont Alliance and I find they are total dead ends! One has to ask whether some of these famous names in Odont hybridizing were possibly blessed with rather limited vision!!

One interesting piece of information, I sib-crossed two spectacular forms of *Odm wyattianum* recently and much to my surprise, the pods ripened and dehisced at around six months. I was certainly unaware of this trait and although we were able to sterilize and sow dry seed, I will have to be much more alert in future.

### *Oda Una (Odm hallii 4n X Oda Charlesworthii 4n) #1*

Ring out the new, ring in the old, in this case. That fellow from Pacifica made the cross.... I wonder if he knew that it was made as a diploid in the early 20th Century and registered by Armstrong and Brown in 1917. Well this handsome flower must have given rise to some wonderful offspring, right? WRONG! there is no record of any award to *Oda Una* or one hybrid coming from it! As I suggested in an earlier comment, can anyone be so short-sighted as to



ignore the possibilities that this hybrid offered?? Seems like that was the case. For me, *Odm hallii* has always been a bit of a wild card. The Beall Orchid Company made some useful hybrids with an *Odm hallii* that carried alba genes and when crossed to



*Odm crispum* 'xanthotes', 50% albas appeared. My *Odm* Hallio-crispum album came from that pairing and it has been a wonderful parent for almost 40 years now. The inflorescence of this pictured plant is rather long and I have attempted crosses with a sibling that is not quite as colorful but which is blessed with a strong stem. Surely Una has been seriously overlooked, "she" is a beauty!

#### *Oda* (*Odm* Extraria X *Oda* George McMahon) 'Colombo' 4n

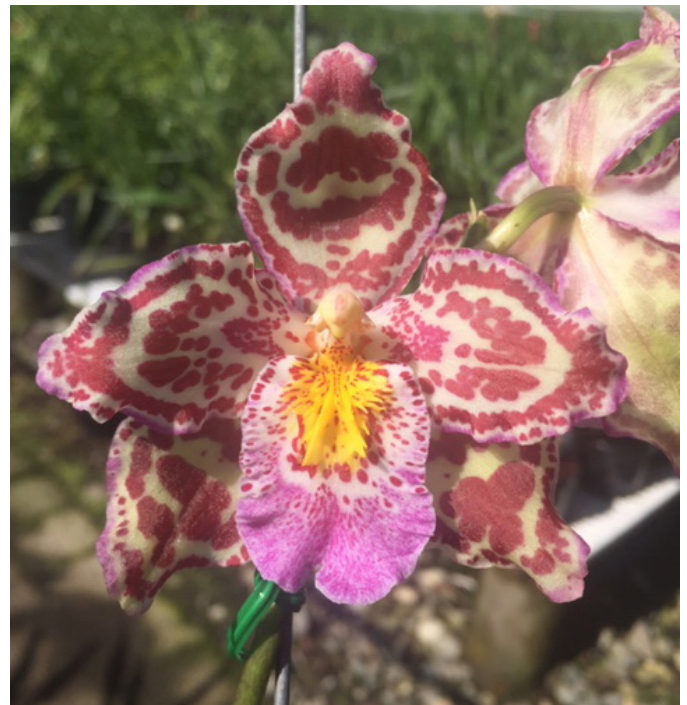
Seeing a hybrid like this reminds me that we might be just a generation or two away from genuinely green Odonts! The particular *Odm* Extraria used in this crossing came from an inspired Mansell & Hatcher remake of the 1920 hybrid using an alba *Odm* laeve and *Odm* *crispum* 'xanthotes'. This diploid was then pollinated with the triploid but highly fertile *Oda* George McMahon 'Oro Puro' and this is the only tetraploid I have seen to date, The flower is amazingly full thanks to the GM but the lime green color is all Extraria. Of course it would be easy to cross this with an alba green *Beallara* that we have but the plan is to be a little more daring and cross it with one of the greenest 4n *Odm* Rolfeae seedlings



that are at Colomborquideas in abundance. While I suspect it will be a disappointingly confusing Odon-toglossum Alliance Supplement the AOS will put out this year with heaps of unintelligible (and unintelligent!) name changes, should readers get a spark of interest in Odonts, the IOA will be very well positioned to gather them in..... and educate them about the correct names!

#### *Oda* Juliana 'The Queen' 4n

Finally something that is registered! That's only because it is a remake of a 1924 hybrid. Of course Chase and his taxidiot friends have complicated matters by forcing the *Oda* Charlesworthii 4n to need designating as (1908) after the name. This was crossed with a tetraploid *Odm* *harryanum* to make the hybrid *Oda* Brewii. I was given the 4n Brewii and used it with a 4n *Odm* *pescatorei* to make *Oda*



Juliana 4n. For me this is an exceptionally handsome flower and guess what? Those great English Odont hybridizers made but one hybrid with *Oda* Juliana, in 1930 at Charlesworth and that was it. I know the plant would have been diploid but even so this should have been a parent that by now had created a dynasty! This is why it is so exciting to revisit these pathways in the 4n state and essentially bounce up to a quality modern Odont is just one or two generations.

## Vuyls (La Robeline X *Oda Charlesworthii* 4n) #1

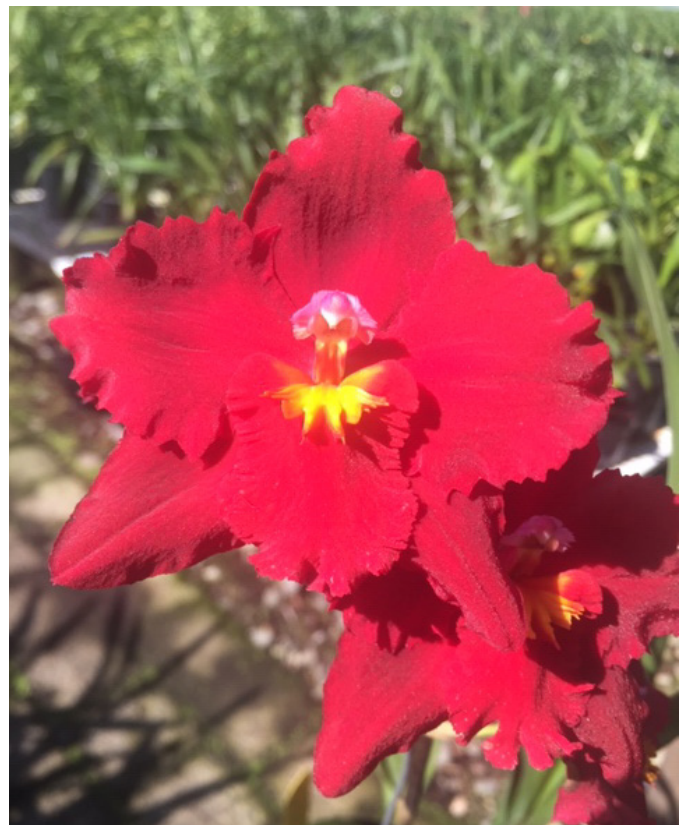
I made this cross back in Salinas on a plant that Bob Hamilton kindly shared with me. It was probably a bloomed cull from the EYOF but it seemed to have potential so a cross was made using *Oda Charlesworthii* (1908!) as the pollen parent. In my analysis of the La Robeline ancestry, it was absolutely full of *Odm crispum* and I'm not much of a *crispum* fan. At least the so-called *Odm crispum* that the British have been cheating with for eons! As an aside, some very exciting new *Odm crispum* collections are now appearing in Colombia so I may get much more interested in that species in the very near future.



The selection of *Oda Charlesworthii* 4n was deliberately designed to infuse the crossing with substantial *Odm pescatorei* influence. In one hit, the influence of *crispum* and *pescatorei* has been balanced and this, the front-running seedling of a rather small population, is quite delightful. For me, the lip is what has to wow and I believe we have achieved a very satisfying result. One hopes for more of the same and maybe even better as the other seedlings come to maturity.

## *Oda* (Susan Preston Richards X Drummer Harry) 'Red Tide'

For me, this is just about as good as a red *Odontioda* can get! It has size, brilliant color and a full lip. It grows easily and the grex which has been blooming out in profusion over the past six months at Colomborquideas is remarkably even in quality. The plants desperately needed to be potted up so we pinched out a lot of spikes and this one was snipped back to four flowers as it was opening. No need to stress a plant that is this good. There are some very fine SPR selections in Colombia and both Orquifollajes and Colomborquideas have had outstanding results with their progeny.



Susan Preston Richards was registered by Tom Etheridge (boy, he sure seems to be missing in the Odont action now!) but hybridized in Pacifica. Its pod parent, Petit Port is no slouch for color or shape and the pollen parent, Tricky Woo, was a Mansell & Hatcher origination. I really think M & H (David Stead) never received the credit due for exemplary Odont hybridizing during the tricky period when Charlesworth and Stonehurst were in their death throes. Thanks to OrchidWiz I can report the strange AOS award profile for varieties of SPR..... one award in Ohio for Larry Sanford, one



award in Florida of all places, for RF Orchids (probably a blooming pot plant sold from CA) and the third to Tom Etheridge in Oregon. Drummer Harry the other parent, is a hybrid of *Oda* Harry Baldwin X *Oda* Drummer Boy, which was made and registered by Bob Burkey using a Keith Andrew registered pod plant which was actually bred by Mr. Baldwin and a Keith Andrew bred pollen parent that was registered by Burkey. If this all sounds a bit incestuous, remember the modern *Odontoglossum* world is rather close and sharing of plants and pollen helps keep us all up to speed.

*Odm* (Robert Strauss X *pescatorei*) X *Oda* Prince Vultan 4n

Two tetraploids of very different lineage combined here. One was a traditional English *Odontoglossum*, attractively marked with blotches on a white background with a relatively compact inflorescence. The other parent was at the time of the crossing, a wildcard. *Oda* Prince Vultan is a very interesting hybrid between *Cda sanguinea* and *Odm pescatorei*



that was sensibly treated with oryzalin in the mother flask. I had both diploid and tetraploid forms but the tetraploids are so superior I have concentrated on using the higher ploidy forms in hybridizing. There are two dismal AOS awards to the grex, an HCC in 2011 to what appears to be a diploid iteration and then an AM in 2013 to an immature plant that carried only 25 flowers on two inflorescences. On a strong

plant, Prince Vultan can give multi-branched spikes of 30 or more blooms. One of the charming features of the hybrid is that many of them have a pale, almost white lip that contrasts attractively with the darker lilac segments. These two seedlings, the two first bloomers of the cross, show a rather bolder lip than anticipated with attractive contrasting segments. Size is greater than expected, almost 3" in diameter. Both plants are carrying at least a dozen blooms apiece and we will try pollination on each of them. I am tempted to use a good *Odm* Rolfeae 4n on one and maybe an *Oda* Trish on the other to add a dash of *Oda* Heatonensis (the parent of Keith Andrew's *Oda* Shelley) to the mix. Believe me you will hear a lot more about *Oda* Prince Vultan in the near future!

*Odcdm* (Bob Hoffman x Tiger Star) #1

This is the first of a *Colomborquideas* crossing to bloom and all I can think of is: where did that color come from? Juan Felipe Posada bought two seedlings of *Odcdm* Bob Hoffman unbloomed from Pui Chin many years ago. Pui did not make the hybrid himself as far as I know. Well both the seedlings are crackers and have been awarded AM/AOS. I have no idea of their ploidy but they are very fertile and make huge pods. Would I have crossed *Odm* *harryanum*



onto *Odcdm* Tiger Butter? No! But I'm learning fast and am quickly jumping into *Odcdm* Bob Hoffman

hybrids..... In this combination the Golden Gate Orchids' cross of Tiger Star, full of *Onc tigrinum*, is back-crossed to the Bob Hoffman. The seedlings are strong, even, growers and if the first is any indication of a color pattern, we are in for some very pleasing shades. No reason to believe they won't be fertile either so in combination with some of the new Colomborquideas oranges, we will have a lot of fun.

### *Oda* ( Ruby Palace X Bonfire) 'Colombo'

A most interesting new line! Many of you will be familiar with *Odm Summit*, the hybrid of *Odm biconiense* and *Odm brevifolium*. It was a diploid registered by Henry Scardefield of New York in 1977. Possibly the most noteworthy aspect of the cross was that the awful climbing habit of *Odm brevifolium* had been tamed by *Odm biconiense* and that the seedlings had very interesting lips. Fast forward to that man from Berkeley who remade the



cross and treated it with oryzalin. I saw some of the 4n's and they were a huge improvement plus they had restored fertility. Excellent fertility in fact. A cross was made between *Oda Summit* 4n and *Oda Crystal Palace* which subsequently was registered showing Orchid Zone as the hybridizer. In 2016, one of these seedlings found its way into the hands of Ramon de los Santos, both a very good grower and the top AOS award's photographer. At a Judges' Training

Seminar in 2016 (God, these dummies need more training sessions!) Ramon's plant gained a solid AM/AOS for *Oda Ruby Palace* 'Blood Pixie'. *Oda Ruby Palace* 4n had been around since the early 2000's and it had been crossed with a medium-sized Mansell & Hatcher grex, *Oda Bonfire*. These seedlings have matured and started to bloom at Colomborquideas. In a word, the cross is outstanding and in my opinion a breakthrough for both vigor and a measure of warmth-tolerance beyond that of traditional Odont. In particular, the bold, colorful lips on every seedling to date are particularly eye-catching. We have only a limited number of seedlings from the cross, likely Juan Felipe Posada was just given a bottle to try, but I am yet to see one that is mediocre!

### (*Miltassia* Dennis Kleinbach X *Oda* George McMahon) #1

When this plant bloomed I must honestly say I doubted the recorded parentage! I checked with the hybridizer, Dr. Howard Liebman and he confirmed it but noted that all the rest of the cross were dogs. Talk about a lucky fluke, this is not a good seedling, it is an outstanding one. In a 4" pot with three,





self-erect spikes of 5-8 blooms and carrying alba genes from the *Odontioda*. Now the hope is that it will breed, with a fallback position that if it doesn't, I can see it now, being produced by the thousands at Floricultura. All their Intergenerics prefer growing at warmer night temperatures so this plant will be a natural. The color is distinctly orange and the flowers have lasted in perfection for over four weeks as of this date with no signs of deterioration. I make the prediction that the influence of the warmer growing *Miltonia* like *M. spectabilis* will be felt in the very near future and are likely to change most people's expectations of cultivation in the Odontoglossum Alliance.

*Oda (Odm Hallio-crispum X Odm velleum)*

In some senses this could be considered a more traditional Odont. It may have a slightly warmer growing profile from the *Odm velleum* influence but otherwise it is a typical "crispum type". Where did the color come from? Certainly not from Hallio-crispum but the pod parent has definitely given the hybrid a strong and floriferous inflorescence. But it's the color that catches the eye, a distinct orange toning on a



nearly 3" flower. Don't feel bad if you've never heard of *Odm velleum*.... neither had I until Bob Hamilton gave me some of the *Oda* Jaffa seedlings. The cross

was registered in 2008, as an *Oda* of course but then the taxidiots tried to change everything! We experimented with the 4n form of *Oda* Jaffa that Bob had the foresight to treat with oryzalin and this is one of the results. Why was it crossed with a diploid? Mainly just to see if the spike of Jaffa could be extended and to see if the orange color would come through. We have other 4n Jaffa combinations advanced in the pipeline but even now, it would seem to be a pathway to compact orange pot plant types where clearly the future of Odont Intergenerics will lie.

Two hybrids, one parent the same, one different.

.....with the results being very different! In any crossing, a serious hybridizer should be able to articulate a goal, expected result or whatever. In the parent *Maclellanara* Serenade we had a fertile tetraploid derived from the crossing of *Mcllnra* Pagan Lovesong, a triploid, with the diploid *Odm. Hallio-crispum album*. The goal of the crossing with *Oda* Castle de Noez 4n was to see if it was possible to move away from the dull greenish-browns that have



(*Mcllnra* Serenade x *Oda* Castle de Noez)

totally dominated hybrids from Pagan Lovesong. Apart from being slow to mature, a trait of many Pagan Lovesong offspring, the result was surprisingly good. Excellent color and a nice reflective sheen on a plant that was totally dominated by the *Oda* growth habit. OK, it did not hold a pod this blooming but I only attempted one pollination as the plant is still young. The more pertinent questions are going to come about why we made the crossing of *Mcllnra* Serenade with *Odm* Moonbeam..... well it was



*Mcllnra* Serenade x *Odm* Moonbeam

partly a mistake. I wondered whether the crossing to a white alba Odont might give us some alba offspring. Silly me! The genetic makeup of Serenade has essentially sequestered the diploid alba allele in *Hallio-crispum*. In actuality Serenade cannot give any alba progeny. To make matters worse this hideous apparition is the first of the crossing to flower. All I can say by way of contrition is that I have dumped this specimen and the other few seedlings that were dragging along behind it and I know I never inflicted any of the seedlings on anyone else!

## *Odontoglossum spectatissimum*

Andy Easton

This plant bloomed in a 2.25" pot on the last day of May 2019. It shows great promise and must surely be a very useful parent of future yellow *Odonts*. Where did yellow *Odonts* originate? Well, apart from influences like *Onc. tigrinum*, most all of the yellowness



in the group trace back to this species. Long before the current nomenclatural disaster there have always been issues with the promiscuous *Odonts*! So many natural

hybrids..... I would suggest part of the reason for this is the aseasonality of the environment in which they are found. When days and nights are approximately of equal length, seasons are replaced by blooming flushes. In reality if you're an *Odm. crispum*, you're going to be surrounded by lots of other *Odont* species when you bloom and bees can be totally undiscerning pollinators. The *Odont* variously called *Odm* Excellens or *Odm* (x) excellens is clearly the natural hybrid of *Odm. pescatorei* and *Odm. spectatissimum*. It is in the background of most modern yellow *Odontoglossums*. Pick a famous name like *Odm* Moselle, a registration from the waning days of Charlesworth Orchids in 1965. This famous yellow is 33% *Odm. spectatissimum* and when you add in the true parentage of *Odm* Excellens, this influence jumps to 40%. There is minimal *Odm. crispum* ancestry and any is outweighed 4:1 by *Odm. pescatorei*. Were one to question the current AOS judges about *Odm spectatissimum*, 90% would be clueless as to its base color and if you extended the discussion to relative influences of *spectatissimum* and *crispum* in *Odont* hybridizing, their eyes would glaze over. It's hard to get enthusiastic about growing a group where you have no idea what their current generic name is and where people who will judge them at orchid shows will be 95%+ clueless!



## President's Commentary

Bob Hamilton

### A Name Change - The International Odontoglossum Alliance Journal

There is a noteworthy change with this issue. First, there's a name change from "newsletter to The International Odontoglossum Alliance Journal (IOAJ). This change is warranted because the IOAJ has applied for ISSN certification and publication with this issue which should complete this process. This affiliation was suggested by Stig Dalström and executed by our editor, John Leathers. It gives additional standing to the published information and images. ISSN is an abbreviation for INTERNATIONAL IDENTIFIER FOR SERIALS AND OTHER CONTINUING RESOURCES, IN THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT WORLD. The following is excerpted from Wikipedia: An ISSN is an 8-digit code used to identify newspapers, journals, magazines and periodicals of all kinds and on all media—print and electronic with a 90 Country membership. The ISSN is especially helpful in distinguishing between serials with the same title. ISSN are used in ordering, cataloging, interlibrary loans, and other practices in connection with serial literature. The ISSN system was first drafted as an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) international standard in 1971.

### Dresden Orchid Event Summary

The DRESDNER OSTERN mit Internationaler Orchideenwelt Garden, Pet, Handicraft, Hobby & Leisure Exhibition is a truly remarkable orchid event ranking as one of the top orchid exhibitions and sales – world class! In 2017 Dr Klaus Wächter of the Deutsche Orchideen Gesellschaft, (The German Orchid Society or DOG) extended an invitation to the IOA to exhibit and present a program at the March 2019 Dresden event. In this issue of the IOAJ Richard Baxter's excellent narrative encapsulates his experience. Appended are further comments regarding the event.

For the Dresden show blooming plants provided from the collections of Colomborquideas (Colombia), New Horizon Orchids and Orquifollajes (Colombia) a 3-meter square exhibit were staged on a raised

platform. Upon our arrival at the venue we were greeted by Dr Wächter of the DOG and DOG's Vice President Franz-Josef Richardt and Angelika Richardt. In addition, Marei Karge-Liphard of the historic OrchiDEENGARTEN, Dahlenburg provided the IOA exceptional support. Highest compliments to the friendly assistance and hospitality these and others provided. D.O.G. President Bernd Treder recently provided the forms for IOA participation in the 2020 Dresden event. Given the acceptance criteria for participating in this event we must have done something right.

The booth was staged by IOA Webmaster Richard Baxter (UK), Sam Cowie (Australia), Guido Deburghgraeve (Belgium), Andy Easton (Colombia), John Leathers (US), Juan Felipe Posada (Colombia), Francisco Villegas (Colombia) and me (US) which made for international representation. The plants arrived in good condition considering their flight from Colombia and the various delays for customs, inspection and transport. Five days later, at the end of the event, they were no longer at their peak. Given logistics the display looked great. The exhibit's sign was based on a recent photo Guido took of *Odontoglossum crispum* in a Colombian forest in 2018. IOA Promotional material was on hand.

An auditorium, equipped with a laptop and digital projector, was provided as the venue for four IOA presentations. Attendance to the lectures included IOA members from the US, Colombia, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands and beyond.

The program began with a presentation by Sam Cowie, whose production nursery is located within the Sunshine Coast of Australia where he produces wholesale blooming *Oncidinae*. His nursery, Leaf & Limb produces plants in a climate not usually considered conducive to temperate orchids. Sam Cowie's plants are consistently ranked the best of their kind by his Australian customers. Sam gave details of his unique design for shade-house structures to adapt plants to his specific conditions as well as his unique growing methods. The plants he showed looked terrific. While not germane to orchid growing Sam's apparel was a surprise for typical Dresden apparel for the month of March. The outside temperature varied between 2 – 8 C; however, and without fail, Sam wore shorts and silk short-sleeved shirts with

tropical motifs demonstrating his stamina as well as the dress code of Australians. Sam managed to bring the tropics with him.

Guido Deburghgraeve of Belgium introduced the forthcoming *Odontoglossum* book by authors Stig Dalström, Wesley E. Higgins and Guido Deburghgraeve. Guido is a medical doctor, noted *Odontoglossum* species grower and orchid explorer who treks the neo-tropical Andes. He's a superb grower of *Odontoglossum* species with a recently discovered *Odontoglossum* species, *deburghgraeveanum* named for him. Guido's extraordinary photography greatly enhances the book. The book encapsulates 40 years of field work and taxonomy of Stig Dahlstrom and colleagues. From the slides Guido presented the book is visually stunning. Soon to be published this tome will be the most comprehensive description



*Odontoglossum deburghgraeveanum*  
Photo: Stig Dalström

and illustration of the genus *Odontoglossum* to date, a notable achievement.

Andy Easton began his talk with a real-time display of the new pair of risqué ladie's "knickers", presented as a joke, at dinner the night before. Easton is a notorious

prankster and he cannot be faulted for modesty! His presentation quickly became serious showing and detailing his recent hybridizing efforts at his nursery, New Horizon Orchids. His creations are made by using both new, unique lines and well established vintage plants such as *Odontioda* Heatonensis (1909) and *Vuylstekeara* Cambria (1927). Andy Easton is well recognized for his avant garde approach to orchid hybridization in many genera with a remarkable history of success. His lively talk provided visual proof there are new directions and exciting pathways going forward. It's noteworthy some of these new lines were already available from vendors in the selling exhibition hall!

The last presentation was given by Juan Felipe Posada of Medellin, Colombia who began with an overview of his nursery, Colomborquideas. He then proceeded with an introduction to Colombian species and showing new hybrid lines produced at Colomborquideas. Colomborquideas is located in a temperate Andean valley near Medellin, in the Department of Antioquia, Antioquia being one of the 32 departments that makeup Colombia. Colomborquideas was established in 1972 with Juan Felipe Posada owner and manager. Besides Colomborquideas, Juan Felipe was and remains instrumental in developing the Medellin orchid society and significant conservation efforts. The Medellin society has more than 250 members. Colomborquideas remains at the forefront by demonstrating conservation via ex situ propagation. Coincidentally, Juan Felipe and Andy both showed a plant of an exciting new albanistic intergeneric with unique qualities derived from *Vuylstekeara* Nova. They are collaboratively developing further generations.

What made these talks a great success was the accurate and rapid translations from English to German provided by Christian Zelinski-Meyer. Christian was able to capture the nuances, content and the humor of these presentations, a remarkable skill. The IOA owes Christian huge thanks for his contribution!

While in Dresden editor John Leathers and I had a chance to meet up with fellow *Odontoglossum* grower Norbert Dank and his wife Birgit who gave us a vigorous walking tour of Dresden. Of note were the Zwinger Palace built in Baroque style, the



Frauenkirche, a beloved Lutheran church painstakingly restored and the Semperoper opera house. The later structures were rebuilt following their destruction at the end of WW II. Dresden has an excellent train system facilitating easy access to most locations; however, as avid walkers we mostly just walked. I cannot say enough good things about the Dresden experience. Perhaps the greatest eye-opener was the excellent quality of the plants on exhibit, their growing and the superb staging of exhibits. You will not find better. The diversity of orchids was greater than shows in the United States. The hospitality of Germans and German growers was extraordinary. Dining about town proved the cuisine terrific with the IOA group having a great time together on several occasions with lots of laughs with help from German wine - no one should ever doubt the quality of German wines!

Dresden 2019 was a memorable orchid event.

### Medellin Colombia Orchid Event, Orchids, Flowers and Handicrafts

This annual event occurs the first week of August. It ranks as the largest and most elaborate orchid show in the Americas attracting more than 100,000 visitors to an architecturally spectacular event space in the municipal Joaquín Antonio Uribe Botanical Garden. Attendance at opening night dinner exceeds 2000. Colombians are masters of the tango and keen to demonstrate it. This year will see the largest contingent of North Americans attending the show thus far. Several principals from the IOA will attend. The IOA has in the past and will again present cash awards designed to encourage Colombian orchid grower participation. Awards are: Best *Odontoglossum* or Allied Species, Best Colombian *Odontoglossum* Hybrid, (including intergenics), Best Colombian *Odontoglossum* Species Displayed by an Amateur Grower and Best Colombian *Odontoglossum* Hybrid Displayed by an Amateur. The Medellin society keeps records designating grower-status of their members. Funding for these awards is from private donations. Also, the IOA will also present on behalf of our readers a check to go toward an extraordinary conservation site of virgin forest, purchased by the society which is being developed as both a reserve and an educational center: RESERVA ORQUIDEAS.

### Editorial – Odont Orchid Registrations

“The RHS is the International Registration Authority for orchid hybrids. If you've created a new hybrid, you can register it with us. This helps to maintain stability in cultivated plant naming, something that benefits plant breeders and buyers alike. Additionally, your hybrid will be eligible for entry into shows and to receive awards.” This statement is found at: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/plantsmanship/plant-registration/orchid-hybrids>

Regrettably, the decision made by the RHS Advisory Subcommittee on Orchid Hybrid Registration, (ASCOHR) to conflate a significant number of unique orchid genera as “*Oncidium*” significantly confuses the lineage of our *Odontoglossum* hybrids. ASCOHR is a hand-picked group, many of whom neither grow orchids nor make orchid hybrids.

Historically, the RHS orchid registry was begun by the great orchidist Frederick Sander whose purpose was creating order for orchid hybrid ancestry. The registry was turned over to the RHS in the early 1960's by the Sanders offspring for shepherding perpetuation.

ASCOHR's decision greatly compromised the usefulness of this “database” for any serious orchid hybridizer. While there are rumors that they may revisit their decision, it is unlikely the situation will improve given its leadership and the makeup ASCOHR. The American Orchid Society (AOS) and more recently the Deutsche Orchideen Gesellschaft (DOG) have rubber stamped their changes. What makes these changes absurd is that it is now virtually impossible to follow the hybrid history of orchids in several genera including *Odontoglossum*. This defeats the very purpose of an orchid hybrid registry. Making matters worse, the RHS' online search is addled - virtually useless. Because of this the OrchidWiz Orchid Database Software has become the dominant resource and tool of orchid judges and serious orchidists interested in hybrid lineage.

Admirable as it is, even OrchidWiz has issues. A recent experience using OrchidWiz shows limitations. For example, looking up grexes whose proper names are Charlesworthii, Sanderae and other seminal hybrids used in the early stages of hybridizing results

in a confusion of choices. This is the result of the former artificial genera names used to identify plants, e.g. *Odontoglossum*, *Odontocidium*, *Odontioda*, *Wilsonara*, *Vuykstekeara* have all been conflated as *Oncidium*. Not only has this created confusion for lineage it also destroys the honors given to orchid pioneers. Besides *Odontoglossum*, much the same applies to the records of several other orchid tribes, e.g. *Cattleya* and *Lycastes*.

I am not qualified to weigh in on how botanists classify plants. The topic is outside my scope. Given my career I am qualified to write about database management and how orchid hybrid data should be managed given most of us are in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Databases can have considerable “depth” and computing is fast. For example, species synonyms can easily be linked in a field thus becoming alternative search words. The same is true for using strings of letters to match for entries, i.e. type the letters “cha” and choices for various completion begin to appear in a dialogue box facilitating searches when proper spellings or recent name changes are not known. The current confusion of orchid registration is inexcusable.

What follows is an example of the negative effects of a name change. I recently did a search for the name of a hybrid made by Ecuagenera which I have used in breeding, *Cochlioda* Louis Posey (*Cochlioda noezliana* x *Symphoglossum sanguineum*). I remembered the parentage but had forgotten the name given to the grex. I had also forgotten the name change for *Cochlioda noezliana* to *Oncidium densiflora* (*Cochlioda densiflora* Lindley 1853; *Cochlioda densiflora* f. aurea Roeth & O.Gruss 2003; *Cochlioda floryi* Rolfe 1911; *Cochlioda noezliana* Rolfe 1892). *Cochlioda densiflora* is one of the most frequently used species for intergenerics. Eventually my memory kicked in. I found the data I needed. It would have saved time and frustration if it or “*Cochlioda*” had been a synonym in the search field.

To be bleaker it is unlikely the RHS will offer a solution; the RHS Orchid Committee is moribund and unlikely to have further significance for orchid hybrids. This is a sad state of affairs for a historically important and once venerable organization. It is also sad the American Orchid Society (AOS) did not approach its specialty groups before endorsing the AS-COHR changes. Of note, the IOA was the first AOS

specialty group and its past participations enriched AOS programs. The AOS has a history of making poor decisions, never missing an opportunity to miss an opportunity. I will not speak to the recent decision made by the DOG who further endorsed these changes. I suspect naivety played a role.

The ideal solution for orchid registrations would be the RHS to step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and create an accessible database which features greater depth and flexible for searches. It can contain fields for both new and classic generic names thus not destroying function. Given the leadership and makeup of ASCHOR this is not likely to happen.

I offer a thought. With the IOA Journal’s ISSN status imminent can the IOA find a way to preserve restore functionality for further *Odontoglossum* crosses? Probably; however, it is a task requiring both thought and effort. The website can link to a downloadable registration form which mimics the RHS registration form thus capturing all the needed information and more. This might make it possible to carry registrations forward to the RHS Registrar of Orchid Hybrids. Anyone submitting a registration via the IOA would have to sign a waiver stating the registration can be carried forward for registration via the RHS, assuming it is possible. This would make awardable plants of a grex fit the criteria for such awards. If there were cooperation from OrchidWiz the information would be available to those who use that program. IOA registration costs would be zero. One challenge is hybrid names will have to be juried to make sure they are not duplicating existing names, abusive, or meant as personal attacks. Perhaps we can even provide the model for growers of other orchid tribes who are experiencing a similar disruption of lineage?

Creating this opportunity is not a simple task. Someone has to do the work. I encourage feedback via letter, to the editor.

Bob Hamilton – IOA President