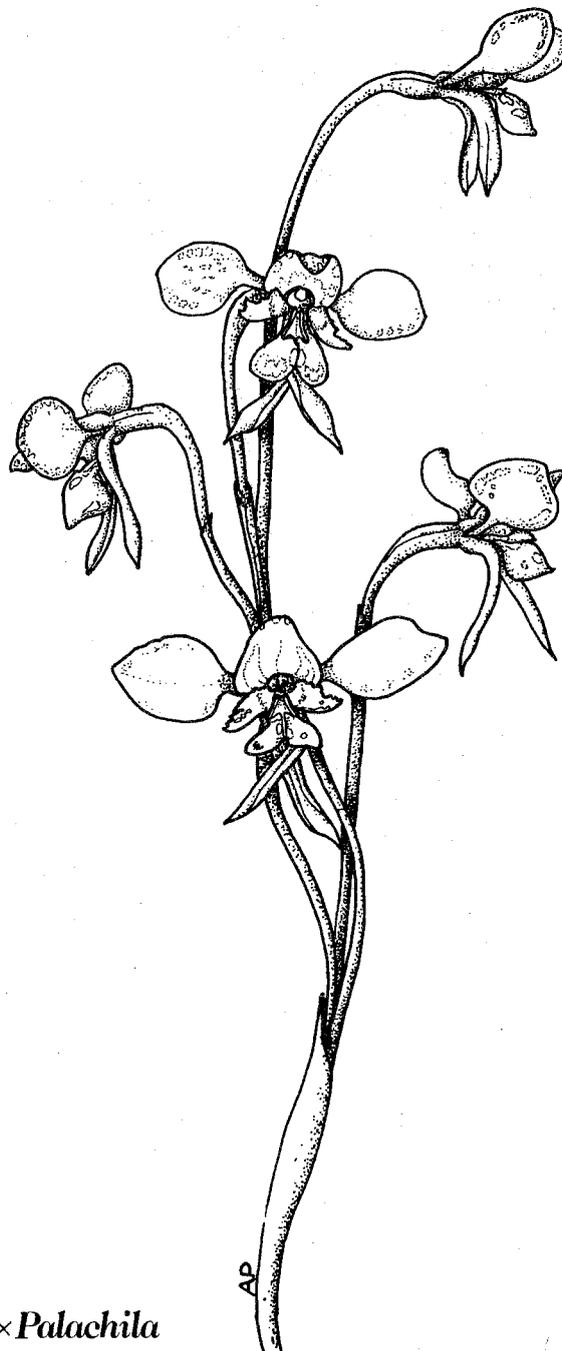


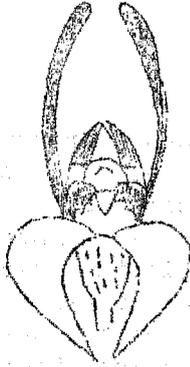
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
JOURNAL



Diuris × *Palachila*

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Publication No. SBH 1344

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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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(50¢)

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Mr P. Barnes
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NEXT MEETING

When: Tuesday, 25 October, 8.00 p.m.

Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street
Kensington.

Subject: Dr David Sparrow from the Waite Agricultural Research Institute will speak on Plant Breeding — his topic will be "Art or Science?". To quote Dr Sparrow "I will leave it up to the listener to decide".

FIELD TRIPS

CLELAND CONSERVATION PARK

Sunday, November 6

Meet at the car park just past the "Eagle on the Hill" at 2.00 p.m. Burnt area to be surveyed. (Please note the "Eagle on the Hill" has been demolished.)

NEW MEMBERS

Mr W.A. Haste
Mr A.J. Duthie
Miss L.J. Hooper
Misses C and R. Hosking
Mr T.D. Howard
Mr and Mrs E. Hume
Mr and Mrs J. McGrath
Mr and Mrs E. Thorogood
Mr and Mrs R. Fishlock
Mr and Mrs G. Brooks
Mrs J. Swinburne
Mr W. Vaughan
Mr J. Lampard
Mrs R. Creedy
Mr and Mrs H. Reni

LAST MEETING

Adrian Walter - carnivorous plant grower extraordinaire - had everyone engrossed and in stitches with his bloodthirsty tales originating last century of how virgin maidens were sacrificed to a man or woman-eating tree in Madagascar. An amusing story but nowadays we know these plants do not grow like trees but are, at the most, one metre tall (in the case of the *Saracenas* or American pitcher plants) although some *Nepenthes*, or jungle vine, with its pitchers hanging from the end of the leaves, can grow many metres up into the trees but are hardly man-eating. Most insectivorous plants do just that, trap insects and slowly digest them. They are certainly fascinating plants and we could not have had a better and more interesting teacher than Adrian to show us how they live.

Many thanks to him and his wife Ann for coming along.

ON THE BENCH

Several plants were displayed for the first time. *Dendrobium kingianum* var *silcockii* with snow white flowers veined with red, was most attractive. Some *Caladenias* new to us included the bizarre *C. multiclavia* and the amusing *C. barbarossa* with its insect-like labellum, as well as the very rare *C. cristata* from Western Australia and *C. ovata* from South Australia. What contrast there was in the terrestrials! There was a plant of *Prasophyllum elatum*, 120 cm tall with fifty flowers and nearby a pot of *Chiloglottis gunnii*, each plant with a single flower right at ground level. Les Nesbitt told us that the only way to grow this species is to keep it very cool and damp from June at least until January. Many pots had dozens of seedlings and these included *Caladenia patersonii*, *C. clavigera*, *C. ovata* and *Elythranthera brunonis*. There were several unnamed *Prasophyllums* and *Pterostylis* of the rufa group on display.

Commentaries: Epiphytes - Wayne Harris. Terrestrials - Les Nesbitt.

Popular Votes: *Sarcochilus hartmanii* and *Caladenia patersonii*.

Plant List:

<i>Dendrobium</i> "Bardo Rose"	<i>D. kingianum</i> var <i>kingianum</i>	<i>D. speciosum</i> var
<i>D. x delicatum</i>	<i>D. kingianum</i> var <i>silcockii</i>	<i>pedunculatum</i>
<i>D. "Ellen"</i>	<i>D. linguiforme</i>	<i>D. teretifolium</i>
<i>D. gracilicaule</i>	<i>D. tetragonum</i>	<i>Sarcochilus hartmanii</i>
<i>Caladenia barbarossa</i>	<i>D. longifolia</i>	<i>P. patens</i>
<i>C. catenata</i> (pink and white)	<i>D. punctata</i> (large plants with 10 or more blooms)	<i>P. patens</i> var <i>pruinosum</i> and other <i>Prasophylls</i>
<i>C. clavigera</i>	<i>D. sulphurea</i>	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>
<i>C. cristata</i>	<i>D. longifolia x D. pedunculata</i>	<i>P. boormanii</i>
<i>C. dilatata</i>	<i>Elythranthera brunonis</i>	<i>P. cucullata</i>
<i>C. menziesii</i> (2)	<i>Glossodia major</i> (2)	<i>P. hamata</i> (N.S.W.)
<i>C. ovata</i> (red flowered)	<i>Prasophyllum brainei</i>	<i>P. gibbosa</i> (N.S.W.)
<i>C. multiclavia</i>	(delightful perfume)	<i>P. pusilla</i>
<i>C. patersonii</i>	<i>P. elatum</i> (2)	<i>P. rufa</i>
<i>Chiloglottis gunnii</i>	<i>P. fitzgeraldii</i>	<i>P. x ingens</i>
<i>Ch. trapeziformis</i>		<i>P. hildae</i>
<i>Diuris laxiflora</i>		

A NATURAL HYBRID FROM PORT VICTORIA, YORKE
PENINSULA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

B. Bates

Caladenia patersonii x C. latifolia

While assessing the orchids of a small area of Allocasuarina woodland near the coast north of Port Victoria in late August this year the author came upon two small colonies of an unusual pink-flowered Caladenia (Fig. 1(b)). Other orchids flowering nearby were Caladenia deformis, C. bicalliata, Diuris palustris, Prasophyllum occidentale and Pt. boormanii, as well as a huge population of Caladenia patersonii and numerous colonies of bright pink C. latifolia.

As the unusual Caladenia was intermediate between the C. patersonii and the C. latifolia it was presumed to be a hybrid. As such a hybrid had not previously been recorded a detailed study was made.

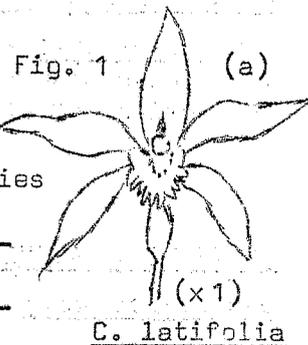
It was observed that plants of C. patersonii near the hybrids had flowers with very small labella (as the area receives only 400mm rain per year it is near the limits of the "common cream" form of C. patersonii). It was considered that this feature was significant in the causation of the hybrids as C. latifolia and C. patersonii are commonly encountered flowering together without hybrids, indeed it would be difficult for such hybrids to be produced as C. latifolia has a very small labellum and is not in the same section of the genus as the normally large-flowered C. patersonii.

The population ecology of either species has not been documented but the author had recently observed a black thynnid wasp transferring pollinia in C. patersonii. Observations of many flowers of both species in the area showed that both were commonly visited by hover flies and that many had become trapped in the C. patersonii. In one case a fly was seen to be carrying pollinia from C. patersonii and although this fly did not enter a C. latifolia flower while being watched it is likely that the non-selective hover flies were responsible for the formation of the hybrids.

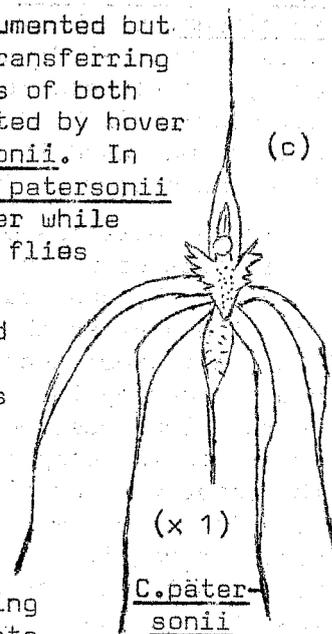
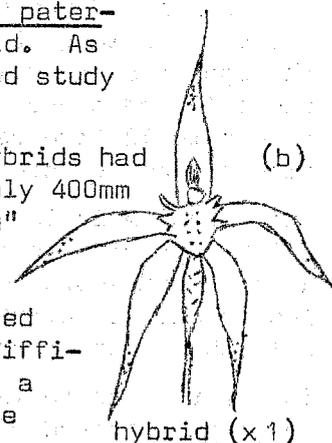
The Caladenia patersonii were the same creamy colour and general "spidery" appearance as those of the climbing plant Clematis aristata, which festooned numerous shrubs in the area and provided nectar for the flies. This is a probable example of floral mimicry. Although hover flies do not usually pollinate orchids the frequency of their visits to orchids in the study area is bound to cause some accidental pollen transferral.

Description of the Hybrid: plants 10-30 cm high, forming small colonies by vegetative increase; leaves oblanceolate, 3-5 cm long, slightly hairy; flower pale pink, not perfumed; the sepals and petals linear-lanceolate, not clubbed but with slightly glandular tips; dorsal sepal 2.5 cm long, erect; lateral sepals 3 cm, rigid; the petals 2.5 cm spreading at right angles to the sepals; labellum white, trilobed, the side-lobes pink striped, all lobes with fringed margins; calli white, in two converging rows meeting about the midpoint of the labellum; column with functional anthers and stigma.

No evidence of back crossing was observed and none of the hybrids was observed to set seed. The author has for some years been attempting to make



C. latifolia



C. patersonii

A Natural Hybrid from Port Victoria (contd.)

a C. patersonii x C. latifolia but although seed has been produced no seedlings have been raised. A collection of the putative hybrid as well as collections of all other species mentioned are now at the state herbarium.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE HYBRID No. 5

Reg Shooter

Dendrobium Wonga

This orchid always excites interest whenever it is shown, mainly because, unlike many of the native hybrids, Wonga "sits up and looks at you". The flowers are large (up to 3.5 cm across) and varying in colour from white through cream to yellowish green with nicely marked, flat labellums spotted and splashed mauve. They are carried on strong, upright peduncles with from 5 to 12 flowers on the rhachis and, as mentioned, the individual flowers face upwards, giving an overall pleasing effect.

The plant habit is compact, throwing up several new canes each spring quickly growing to specimen size. The pseudobulbs are slender, attaining a length of approximately 30 cm. They are sheathed throughout their length with an attractive silver-grey bract and carry from between 3 and 5 leathery dark green leaves.

The hybrid was registered by David Cannons in 1979 using the species D. speciosum crossed with the primary hybrid D. Hastings (which is D. kingianum x D. fleckeri). Most of us are familiar with D. kingianum and D. speciosum but the species D. fleckeri is not very often seen probably because the 1-3 flowers it carries are only produced spasmodically. However, the flowers are a beautiful yellowish green, fully opening and do not hang their heads but sit up, erect. Obviously this was the reason the species was used in the cross hoping to introduced this desirable habit into the progeny. This has been done admirably.

In South Australia D. Wonga grows quite happily under 50% shade conditions, it is best grown in a pot rather than mounted. I use a compost consisting of pinebark, charcoal and a little scoria. Like most orchids it is best repotted just as the new canes appear and before the new roots get too long, a maximum length of 1 cm being the ideal — making sure they are not damaged during the operation. At this stage be careful with the watering — the plant does not require large amounts of water until the roots get down into the compost when, provided it is well drained, it can take all the water you can give it (within reason) during the growing season. An occasional feed with a half strength, organic-type fertiliser is all the nutrient required. I feel that if given large quantities of fertiliser huge plants will be produced at the expense of flowers; this applies to most Australian native epiphytes in my experience.

The only real pest I have to contend with are caterpillars, particularly the very small looper type that get into the new growth and cannot be seen until the disfigured leaf appears some weeks later. However, spraying with "Dipal" at fortnightly intervals appears to answer the problem. It is not a very long lasting spray but very effective and ecologically acceptable as it only kills caterpillars and not any of the beneficial insects such as spiders, lacewings, etc., which help to keep thrips, aphids, etc., at bay.

NOSGA SPRING SHOW 1983 — PRIZE LIST

Class	Description		Orchid	Grower
1	Den kingianum	1st	Den kingianum	L. Chambers
		2nd	Den kingianum	Mick Ryan Orchids
2	Den speciosum	1st	Den speciosum	M. Fuller
		2nd	Den speciosum	A. Phillips
3	Den species other than class 1 or 2	1st	Den tetragonum	R. Robjohns
		2nd	Den striolatum	H. Goldsack
4	Epiphyte species other than Den.	1st	Sarcochilus falcatus	H. Goldsack
		2nd	—	
5	Den hybrid having D. kingianum parent	1st	Den Bardo Rose "Kenna"	L and R Moore
		2nd	Den Ellen	L and R Moore
6	Den hybrid other than class 5.	1st	Den Judy Leroy	W.K. Harris
		2nd	Den x gracillimum	H. Goldsack
7.	Epiphytic hybrid other than Den.	1st	—	
		2nd	—	
8	Caladenia species	1st	Caladenia patersonii	R. Bates
		2nd	Caladenia patersonii	R. Bates
9	Diuris species	1st	D. longifolia	M. Fuller
		2nd	D. longifolia	G. Nieuwenhoven
10	Glossodia species	1st	G. major	R. Bates
		2nd	G. major	M. Fuller
11	Prasophyllum species	1st	P. patens var prunosum	G. Nieuwenhoven
		2nd	P. ringens	R. Bates
12	Pterostylis species	1st	Pt. cucullata	H. Goldsack
		2nd	Pt. boormanii	G. Nieuwenhoven
13	Terrestrial species other than classes 8 to 12.	1st	Elythranthera brunonis	G. Nieuwenhoven
		2nd	Thelymitra longifolia	H. Goldsack
14	Terrestrial hybrid	1st	Diuris Pioneer "Megalon"	R. Bates
		2nd	Diuris palachila	G. Nieuwenhoven

Champion Epiphyte 1-7	Den. Bardo Rose "Kenna"	L. and R. Moore
Champion Terrestrial 8-14	Pterostylis cucullata	H. Goldsack
Champion South Australian species 8-13	Pterostylis cucullata	H. Goldsack
Champion Australian Native Hybrid 5, 6, 7 and 14	Den. Bardo Rose "Kenna"	L. and R. Moore
Champion Native Orchid of the Show	Den. Bardo Rose "Kenna"	L. and R. Moore

1983 SHOW REPORT

Reg Shooter

When we put on our first Native Orchid Show in 1982 it was an unqualified success, I thought for a number of reasons: one, it was the first show of its kind in South Australia; two, we were fortunate enough to get an advertisement on the A.B.C. television Garden Show on the Friday preceding the show; and three, members enthusiasm was high. So as this year's show time drew near I had a nagging thought at the back of my mind that perhaps last year was a flash in the pan and that the public would say we went last year we won't go this year. I needn't have worried. This year was bigger and better than ever, we had well over 1000 paying visitors, the trading table sold everything in stock — so much so that a couple of the table's operators were flying around Adelaide on Saturday afternoon trying to purchase more stock. The raffle prize had to be seen to be believed: it was a magnificent plant of Dendrobium speciosum.

But of course the main object of the show was to exhibit to the public Australasian Native Orchids and I thought this year's plants were superb — even better than last year, and of course we didn't have a devastating frost a few days before the show as we did last year.

A show like this involves a lot of work by a lot of people and I would like to thank them all: the ticket sellers, information attendants, trading table workers, members who potted up plants and nursed them for months for the trading table and last but not most importantly the exhibitors, with a special thank you to the South Coast Orchid Club for their exhibit.

I will refrain from mentioning individuals as the list would be too long and I would be bound to forget someone, however you know if you assisted in any way and to you I say on behalf of the committee thank you, and I am sure you enjoyed the experience — I know I did.

REPORT ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE EVERARD AND MUSGRAVE RANGES

R. Bates

The Everard Ranges (highest point Mt Illbillie, 917 m) and the Musgrave Ranges (Mt Woodroffe, 1450 m) lie in the desert region of South Australia's far north. Both are largely within the North West Aboriginal Reserve and a permit is necessary before entering. No orchids have ever been recorded within 500 km but in May this year I journeyed to the area to collect and photograph plants and took the opportunity of making an assessment of the likelihood of orchids occurring there.

From Adelaide to Woomera the country was in good condition following heavy rain in March and April but from Coondambo to the new town at Marla (a distance of 600 km) the country was in the grip of a two-year drought and hardly a green leaf was to be seen. I am quite sure that no orchids exist in that barren landscape. From Marla I travelled to the Everards via Indulkana and Mimili. The closer I got to the ranges the better conditions became. The plains around the Everards were well grassed and the numerous granite outcrops were covered with shining green native figs. It was exceedingly pretty country with the range showing purple in the distance, the plains glowing yellow and dotted with red granite rocks splashed with green shrubs.

Report on a Field Trip to the Everard and Musgrave Ranges (contd.)

Although I spent little more than a day in the Everard Ranges I was impressed with their beauty - rounded granite domes and huge red boulders lay all about and between the hills were pretty tree-lined creeks with clear waterholes full of tadpoles. The hills were dotted with beautiful wildflowers - the purple and yellow lilies (Calostemma), the leafless mint bush Prostanthera nudula, a plant endemic to the area with its pale blue flowers; wattles I had never seen before such as Acacia strongylophylla and A. symonii, were massed with yellow and everywhere the fig trees festooned with the tropical vine Pangorea doratoxylon with its magnificent sprays of cream and violet blossoms.

In the deep shade of the narrow gorges grew Raulinquin magniflora with pink star-shaped flowers and Hibbertia glaberrima with yellow blooms up to 8 cm across, the latter a shrub up to 2 metres tall and most unlike any of our local Hibbertias. Another endemic was Melaleuca corrugata with flowers which open pink, then turn yellow, and finally fade to white. There were numerous forms under the rocks and on ledges and in damp seepage areas grew the damp-loving Ophioglossum, the adder's tongue.

I expected at any moment to find orchid leaves but there were none. The country of course looked ideal for Pterostylis of the "rufa group" and as the area is very extensive I would certainly not suggest that it is impossible that there could be orchids there.

I travelled on to the Musgraves via Fregon and Ernabella. I inquired about the track which on my map showed to enter the Mt Woodroffe area and was disappointed to hear that it had been washed out so I had to be content with exploring the rocky area along the Alalka Creek about 40 km north east of Mt Woodroffe. The Musgraves are extremely rugged and walking is made difficult by the prickly Triodia basedowii, its spiny leaf points easily pierce the thickest clothing and break off in the skin.

The Alalka area contained some beautiful gorges with deep pools of clearest water and splashing over rocky ledges were most unexpected waterfalls. In many places were beds of soft green moss and liverworts and by one spring grew numerous plants of the sundew Drosera indica which had trapped and was digesting some brightly coloured butterflies. (This plant had not been collected in South Australia for almost 100 years). Amongst rocks by the creek grew small bulbous lilies such as Wurmbea (early Nancy) and Arthropodium (Vanilla Lily) and as these have similar requirements to our orchids my hopes of finding some were greatly raised, however, if indeed they do occur in the area they must be very elusive as I searched from plains to peaks over 1000 metres high and located none.

From one peak the summit of Mt Woodroffe, South Australia's highest mountain could be seen and, despite the clear skies elsewhere and forecast for fine weather, a small bank of clouds was forming over that distant mountain and later appeared to drop showers. Perhaps it has its own microclimate and, if this is the case, then the most likely place for finding orchids would be about that peak - probably at the base of large flat rocks among the native pines which are reported to grow in the vicinity. Only two previous expeditions to the area have made plant collections and none of the botanists on either was in the habit of collecting orchids so the likelihood of finding them is still high. I am already planning my next trip: it will probably be in one September after favourable winter rains.

FIELD TRIP TO HAHNDORF AND MOUNT BARKER

R.J. Markwick

On 20 August, 1983, seventeen people enjoyed a cool but sunny afternoon's excursion into the hills near Hahndorf and to Mount Barker summit, to search for late-winter and early spring flowering orchids in two dissimilar habitats.

The first location on a church reserve north-east of Hahndorf (1) comprises sloping land at an altitude of approximately 420 metres. Eucalyptus obliqua, although mostly of slender girth, provides a moderately dense canopy over an understorey of native shrubs, grasses and weeds. The loamy soil is reasonably deep and, at this time of the year, the total environment is quite damp. Notable species occurring here are Corybas diemenicus, Acianthus caudatus and numerous Pterostylis nutans, including a semi-albino form. In addition to these three, Pt. nana, Pt. pedunculata and A. exsertus were seen flowering on the day.

In comparison, Mount Barker summit (2) is quite different. At an altitude of 517 metres, the environment is steep and in parts rocky. The soil is generally not deep, but supports a low open forest consisting mainly of Eucalyptus fasciculosa and E. leucoxylon. Here, there is a variety of habitats comprising sheltered rocky areas; open rocky areas; understoreies grading from little more than grassland to moderately dense low scrub; open areas with shallow soil, supporting populations of Pterostylis cycnocephala and Pt. biseta; sheltered areas of deeper soil which stay damp longer, supporting Corybas sp., Acianthus sp., and Pterostylis sp. (not of the rufa group); and canopy cover grading from moderately dense to quite open providing different levels of shelter and shade. Notable species found were Caladenia latifolia, Pterostylis cycnocephala, Pt. biseta and Thelymitra aristata. In addition to the C. latifolia and Pt. cycnocephala mentioned, Pt. nana, Pt. pedunculata, Corybas diemenicus and Caladenia deformis were seen in flower. The different orchids found at Mount Barker compared with Hahndorf are largely a reflection of the different environments, and in the smaller geographical context, environmental factors also influence the distribution of species on the Mount itself.

After the majority had gone home, a small group of diehards ventured into a nearby paddock which has been grazed by sheep for many years. We were surprised to see half a dozen or so orchid species still surviving, although they were generally confined to rocky outcrops which provide a degree of shelter. It was pleasing to see a large number of C. latifolia still surviving in one small area despite all the odds, although these are known to represent only a remnant of what was once an extensive colony.

Orchids seen (locations indicated by number)

<u>in flower</u>	<u>basal leaves</u>	<u>C. latifolia</u> 2
<u>Acianthus exsertus</u> 1	<u>Caladenia latifolia</u> 2	<u>Diuris maculata</u> 2
<u>A. caudatus</u> 1	<u>C. menziesii</u> 1	<u>Glossodia major</u> 1
<u>Caladenia deformis</u> 2	<u>Eriochilus cucullatus</u> 1	<u>Pterostylis biseta</u> 2
<u>C. latifolia</u> 2	<u>Microtis unifolia</u> 2	<u>Pt. pedunculata</u> 1
<u>Corybas diemenicus</u> 1, 2	<u>Thelymitra pauciflora</u> 1, 2	<u>Thelymitra aristata</u> 2
<u>Pterostylis cycnocephala</u> 2		<u>T. luteocilium</u>
<u>Pt. nana</u> 1, 2	<u>in bud</u>	<u>T. rubra</u> 1, 2
<u>Pt. nutans</u> 1	<u>Acianthus caudatus</u> 1	
<u>Pt. pedunculata</u> 1, 2	<u>A. reniformis</u> 1	<u>seed pods</u>
	<u>Caladenia dilatata</u> 1, 2	<u>Acianthus exsertus</u> 2

(1 - Church Reserve north east Hahndorf.) (2 - Mount Barker summit.)

JAMES DRUMMOND, 1784-1863Gardener, Colonial Botanist and Explorer

James Drummond of Captain Stirling's colonising party, which arrived at the Swan River in 1829, later became official gardener to the Colony and commenced botanical exploration that continued for 15 years. He was an indefatigable collector and ranged far and wide; to the Murchison River in the north, Albany in the south and the Barren Mountains in the south-east, and inland to the edge of the desert country. All this without roads, bridges, very few settlements and negligible communication. He has been criticised by modern professionals for lack of data on collecting localities — scarcely valid in these circumstances.

Drummond's contributions to English and European botanists and herbariums were made under the most arduous and difficult conditions on horseback and foot. His dedication to botanical knowledge was recognised by 70 species of flora being named in his honour. He recorded approximately 60 terrestrials, of these 39 have survived botanical revision as first collections.

Named by Lindley 1840 Vegetative Sketch Swan River Colony:

Caladenia discoidea, C. gemmata, C. hirta, C. marginata,
C. reptans, C. sericea, C. patersonii var longicaudia,
C. filamentosa var denticulata, C. filamentosa var filifera.

Paracaleana nigrata

Diuris laxiflora

Drakea elastica

Eriochilus dilatatus, E. scaber

Leporella fimbriata

Lyperanthus serratus

Microtis atrata

Prasophyllum ovale, P. parvifolium, P. giganteum.

Pterostylis barbata, Pt. scaber.

Thelymitra crinata, T. antenifera, T. villosa, T. campanulata,

T. variegata, T. spiralis, T. fuscolutea var stellata.

Spiculea ciliata

Named by Reichenbach 1871 Additional plants to Systematic Botanical Science:

Caladenia barbarossa, C. multiclavia, C. saccharata.

Prasophyllum drummondii, P. fimbria, P. hians, P. ovale var triglochis.

Named by Bentham 1873 Flora Australensis:

Caladenia drummondii

Pterostylis recurva

PLEASE NOTE

Our Christmas meeting raffle prize will be a shade-house watering kit to the value of \$50.00.

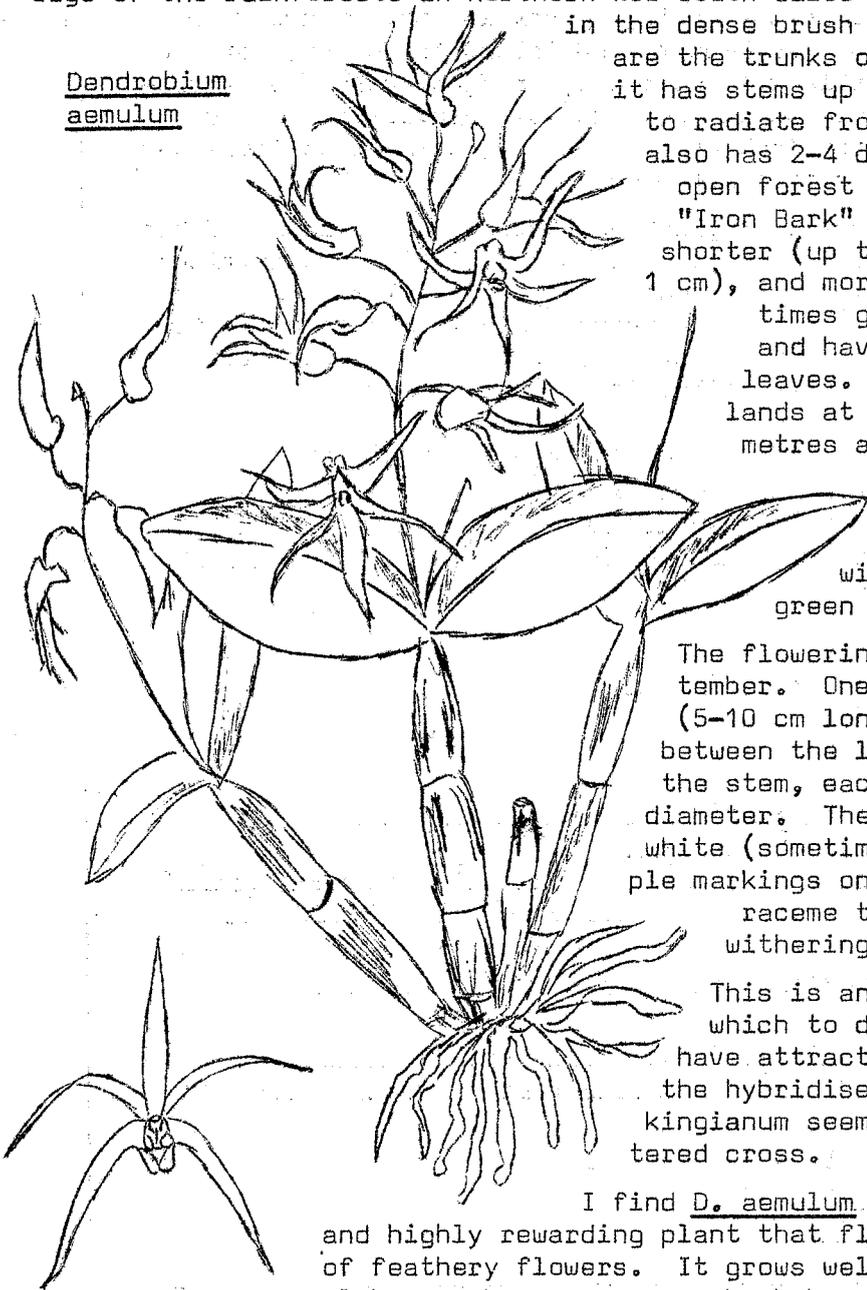
GROWING EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

R.T.R.

Dendrobium aemulum (Iron Bark Orchid)

There are several growth forms of this orchid due probably to the wide variety of habitats, the flowers of all forms being similar. It has a range from the Clyde River in south eastern New South Wales to the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland.

Those growing in the rainforests of New South Wales and Queensland have straight stems up to 20 cm long with 2-4 shining dark green leaves. On the edge of the rainforests in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland in the dense brush forest, the principal hosts are the trunks of "Brush Box" trees where it has stems up to 30 cm long which tend to radiate from a central point. It also has 2-4 dark green leaves. In the open forest areas its hosts are the "Iron Bark" eucalyptus trees, it has shorter (up to 7 cm), stouter (up to 1 cm), and more crowded stems, sometimes growing into large mats and having 2-4 yellowish green leaves. On the Atherton Tablelands at an altitude of around 750 metres and with callitris trees as its favoured host, it has very slender stems of about 0.3 cm with usually only two dark green leaves.

Dendrobium aemulum

The flowering period is August/September. One to three slender racemes (5-10 cm long) occur terminally from between the leaves or at nodes along the stem, each raceme bearing 3-20 cm diameter. The flowers are usually pure white (sometimes pale cream) with purple markings on the labellum, the whole raceme turning deep pink before withering.

This is another of our natives which to date does not appear to have attracted much attention from the hybridisers. "Emmy" aemulum x kingianum seems to be the only registered cross.

I find D. aemulum is an easily cultivated and highly rewarding plant that flowers freely with masses of feathery flowers. It grows well mounted on hardwood slabs, cork or on a paperbark branch under 50% shade cloth. Mine get about 65% shade in mid-summer and receive an occasional spray of weak foliar fertiliser during the growing period.

Reference: Dockerill "Australian Indigenous Orchids".