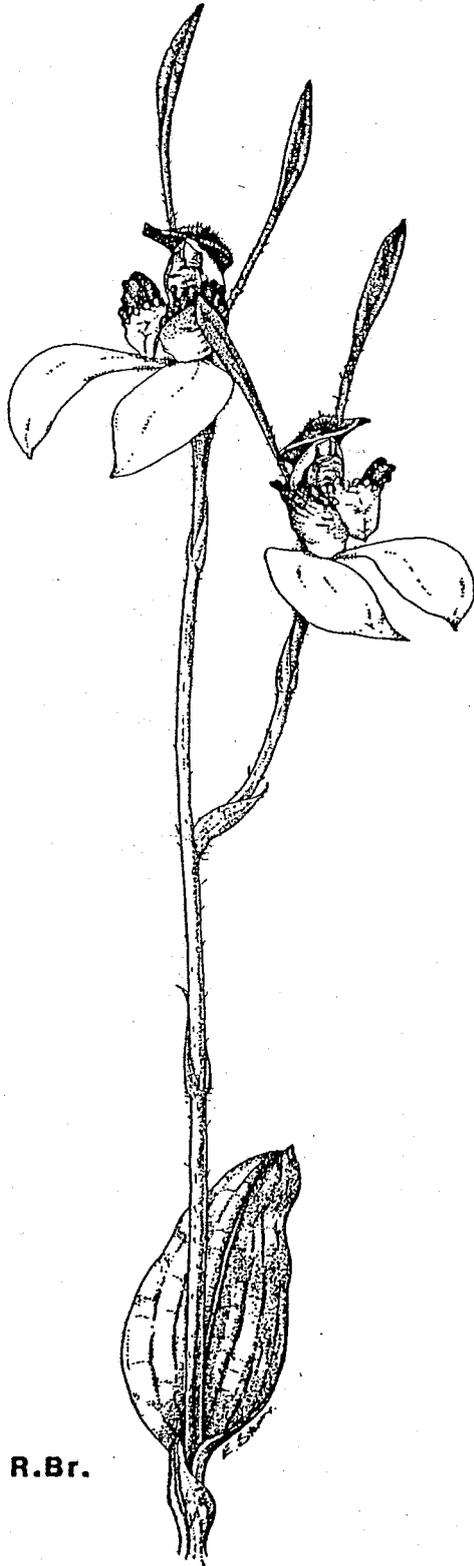


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL



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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Postal Address:

NOSSA INC.,
P.O. BOX 565,
UNLEY, S.A. 5061

Price 60c

Patron: Mr T.R.N. Lothian

PRESIDENT

Mr R. Shooter
Telephone 356 2666

SECRETARY

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Telephone 278 2917

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R.M.B. 777,
via BLACKWOOD, S.A. 5157
Telephone 388 2397

EDITOR

Mr G. Nieuwenhoven,
15 Robin Terrace,
HOPE VALLEY, S.A. 5090
Telephone 264 5825

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 24 June 1986 at 8.00pm
St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington

Mr David Seymour-Smith W.A. Young & Co., will give an account of glasshouse and shadehouse construction, from the simple "lean to" structure to those more substantial. The talk will be of interest to those contemplating building a new structure or modifying their old one.

NEW MEMBER

Mr A. Jeffery; Beaumont

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE OVERDUE!!

If you have not paid your 1986 subscription, this could be your last Journal! If your envelope covering this Journal is marked in red, then you are in default. Please pay promptly. If you have already sent your subscriptions in during the past two weeks, please ignore this reminder.

FIELD TRIP

Watts Gully/Warren Conservation Park, on Sunday 22 June 1986.

Due to popular request, this additional excursion has been organised for Sunday 22 June. Meet outside Nesbitt's Orchid Nursery, Kersbrook at 11.00am. Please bring a picnic lunch and suitable walking shoes, as we will be walking "off the track". We hope to see a fine colour range of Pterostylis vittata, P. alata and possibly P. obtusa. Both colour forms of Acianthus exsertus and the fringed hare orchid Leporella.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

A photographic competition, open to all members of the Native Orchid Society of S.A., will be held in conjunction with the Spring Show again this year.

Any member wishing to participate, should submit transparencies to be in the hands of NOSSA by 1 August 1986. All care will be taken by the Society in the safe handling and return of transparencies, but no implied responsibility can be given.

The Society retains the right to duplicate all or any of the transparencies for its own use. Originals will be returned to the owner, unless otherwise directed. Entrance to the competition is free and there is no limit to the number of entries any one member may submit.

The three categories of competition are:

1. Close up of Australian native orchid flower
2. Australasian native orchid in-situ
3. Australasian native orchid plant in flower

There will be a prize for the winner of each category.

REPORT OF THE MAY MEETING

The May meeting was taken by Kevin Western and Gordon Brooks. They spoke about hybrids and illustrated their talk with slides. They mentioned that the first hybrid made with purely Australian plants, was registered in 1900. A cross between Phaius tancarvilliae and Phaius australis. A long pause then occurred, with the occasional hybrid still made from 1950 onwards. The number registered increased from 1970 and there has been a steady flow during the 1980's. Most hybrids coming along are among the genus Dendrobium, although quite a few Sarcochilus hybrids are now being seen.

Kevin and Gordon who dabble quite extensively in flasking and hybridising, showed the influence some plants have had on their progeny, i.e. Dendrobium tetragonum seems to impart a spidery appearance into their offspring, while Dendrobium speciosum will increase the flower count so desired by horticulturists. Of course these two parents produced the magnificent Dendrobium 'Hilda Poxon', first made by the late Ira Butler. It is a very floriferous plant producing racemes several times a year. A quick check of the third edition of the ANOS hybrid checklist reveals that up to May 1985, D. speciosum has been used 24 times, D. tetragonum 21 times and D. falcorostrum 16 times, but these are all eclipsed by D. kingianum the most popular by far, with 29 crossings. These species are amongst the most popularly grown, because of their flower colour, size, shape or number of flowers produced, not to forget their reliability to flower year after year and ease of culture.

Kevin and Gordon's talk showed us some of the trends in hybridising and mentioned that we are only scratching the surface in what is to come.

A most informative subject, thank you both Kevin and Gordon.

POPULAR VOTE

EPIPHYTES:	<u>D. bigibbum</u>	L.T. & K.M. Nesbitt
TERRESTRIAL:	<u>Pterostylis rogersii</u>	L.T. & K.M. Nesbitt

PLANTS ON DISPLAY:

A fine array of Pterostylis species in the cauline group graced the bench. Listed as follows:

TERRESTRIALS

<u>P. ophioglossa</u>	<u>P. baptistii</u>
<u>P. scabra</u> var. <u>robusta</u> (3 pots)	<u>P. reflexa</u>

<u>P. nutans</u>	<u>P. fischii</u>
<u>P. obtusa</u> (Qld)	<u>P. coccinea</u>
<u>P. truncata</u>	<u>P. alata</u>
<u>P. rogersii</u> (2 pots)	<u>P. pulchella</u>
<u>P. parviflora</u>	<u>P. abrupta</u>
<u>P. revoluta</u> (raffle prize)	<u>P x toveyana</u> = <u>alata</u> x <u>concinna</u>
<u>P. robusta</u> x unnamed from Hartley area	
<u>Acianthus reniformis</u> both brown & green forms	
<u>Eriochilus dilatatus</u>	
<u>Prasophyllum nigricans</u>	<u>Prasophyllum rufum</u>

EPIPHYTES

<u>Dendrobium mortii</u>	<u>D. bigibbum</u> (2 pots)
<u>D. 'Star of Gold'</u>	<u>D. 'Kim Heinze'</u>
<u>D. 'Ellen'</u>	<u>D. 'Hilda Poxon'</u>

PLANT COMMENTARY (R. Bates & L. Nesbitt)

Bob mentioned how 15 species of Pterostylis were on display out of 100 presently known species. Also on display, were a natural hybrid between Pterostylis scabra robusta and an unnamed species from the Hartley area in the Mallee. Prasophyllum nigricans collected near Mt. Remarkable in the Flinders Ranges, turned out to be a new record for the area. A beautiful potful of large red Pt. rogersii caught everybody's eye. These hail from W.A. and Bob pointed out how the tip of the labellum curves right under, unlike other Pterostylis.

Two different clones of Pt. abrupta (newly described in the Orchadian), from the Barrington tops in N.S.W., were on display for the first time. A pot of Pt. baptistii grown on the southern side of an iron fence amongst Cymbidium species in Cymbidium mix. It just shows what providing the right conditions for your plants can do.

Les commented on the small range of epiphytes on display, including two fine pots of the lovely D. bigibbum. These need to be kept at a minimum of 15°C and kept fairly dry during winter. In Adelaide they seem to grow best in pots (shallow), filled with pine or fir bark, some gravel is optional. D. mortii is not often seen, but those who grow it will find it flowers 2 or 3 times in succession over a few months, and D. 'Kim Heinze' a nice small plant, with good flower colour and shape.

FIELD TRIP REPORT (P. Reece)KUITPO FOREST - 3 MAY 1986

This excursion was led by R. Bates to the Knott Hill section of Kuitpo Forest near Meadows. The highlight was watching various native bees in the act of pollinating open flowers of Eriochilus cucullatus. A collection was made of 3 bees of differing appearance, all seen in the flowers.

A small group of 6 persons met at Meadows at 2.00pm, plus the leader's three daughters. We were joined by 4 more enthusiasts soon after starting out in the field.

This was the first sunny day after a long cold snap of about 10 days, with an estimated maximum temperature 22°C, being 5°C higher than any day during the cold spell.

We drove into the Forest off the Mt. Panorama ridge road and came across dozens of Eriochilus cucullatus in single flower, on the floor of the pine forest in carpets of pine needles. The damp dark conditions had reduced the size of each flower.

To the south, we came to a fire break running eastwest and some more E. cucullatus were seen in flower. On looking closer, we found the fire break to contain hundreds of E. cucullatus in flower with almost as many native bees sitting on the flowers. Our leader pointed out one bee that he had captured with some pollinia stuck to its head!

The group observed several bees separately pulling pollinia out of the Eriochilus flowers and 3 bees were collected for later identification, as they were all different in appearance. Some photos were taken of the bees sitting on the labella facing the anther.

So for those orchid enthusiasts who stayed home, you can read about it in the Journal. Some might say it was luck, but some experience is required before such luck can be put to use. It seems the orchid hunter can gain by being in step with the weather, as the daily lives of these plants depend completely on their environment. I am certain the group gained from the experience to later, perhaps, go on and intercept other pollinators at work on other species of orchid.

The next location to be visited was Knott Hill fire break. After some searching, a dozen Leporella fimbriatum were found in flowers, somewhat less than most years. The dry summer and late break to the season reflected this. A few Prasophyllum rufum had just finished flowering. The formal trip ended here and the leader was thanked. Three others, including the author, went on along Peter Creek Road to the Sawmill Scrub for a look, after the group had dispersed. There the orchids were struggling to awake, but several large Eriochilus flowers were seen plus some newly emerging leaves of Leporella fimbriatum with red longitudinal veins on the underside of the leaf.

Places Visited:

1. Kuitpo Pine Forest
2. E-W Fire Break
3. Knott Hill
4. Sawmill Scrub

Orchids Seen:

IN FLOWER	* <u>Eriochilus cucullatus</u> (1), (2), (4) <u>Leporella fimbriatum</u> (3)
PAST FLOWER	<u>Prasophyllum rufum</u> (3)
IN LEAF	<u>Leporella fimbriatum</u> (4)

*Pollinators seen in action on this species.

This year our society will be involved in five (5) shows i.e.:

NEDOS WINTER SHOW: 18 - 19 July
ROYAL SHOW: 5 - 13 September

ORCHIDS '86: 17 - 24 September
 NOSSA SPRING SHOW: 13 - 14 September
 SGAP SPRING SHOW: 27 - 28 September

As you are probably aware, we have a very heavy commitment during September. We therefore propose to organise the shows according to the following:

1. Members of our society who are also members of the above organisations should endeavour to support the show being run by their organisation.
- e.g. Members of NOSSA who also belong to NEDOS should meet together to organise a display. NOSSA will offer support with static displays.

Members who also belong to OCSA and wish to display at the ROYAL SHOW should support this event. Wayne Harris and Kevin Western have offered to co-ordinate this event.

2. Members who wish to support all five (5) shows, please feel free to do so. Even if you are not a member of a society and wish to display your plants, your support would be welcomed by the individual show organisers.

ORCHIDS '86

This event will be very important for our society, as many interstate and overseas visitors will be here. We are sure that they will be particularly interested in seeing displays of terrestrial orchids. We should endeavour to make excellent displays of both terrestrial and epiphytes orchids.

In view of the above, the show organisers need a VERY FIRM COMMITMENT from members who have specimen sized plants. We realise that it is asking a lot, considering the fact that our NOSSA SPRING SHOW precedes ORCHIDS '86 by one week and that many of the plants displayed in the NOSSA SPRING SHOW may not be in prime condition for ORCHIDS '86.

We are looking for EXCELLENT exhibits for ORCHIDS '86. PLEASE support this request, as the show organisers do not want to be in the position of having to use "fillers".

NOSSA SPRING SHOW

Here again we ask that members commit themselves to supplying plants for this show. This will possibly mean that people who do not normally exhibit plants for various reasons, should now commit themselves, as many of the "regular exhibitors" at the NOSSA SPRING SHOW are already committed to supply plants in NOSSA'S display at ORCHIDS '86.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Even a pot or two would help. Please have a go!

Ever since we started our SPRING SHOW people have said, "I don't think my plants will be ready in time". We always end up with a good display.

THINK POSITIVELY AND HAVE THOSE PLANTS READY!!

S.G.A.P. SHOW

Members who belong to S.G.A.P. should form the "back-bone" of NOSSA'S display at this show. NOSSA will supply static displays to complement the orchids.

NOSSA SPRING SHOW & SHOWS IN GENERAL

Show organisers will be looking for many people to assist "behind" the scene.
e.g.:

to pick up plants and equipment
set up displays and dismantle afterwards
to man the exhibits ... etc.

There are many tasks to be carried out and often too few people to do them.

YOUR HELP IS REQUIRED! PLEASE STEP FORWARD AND GIVE A HAND!

JUNE MEETING

Lists will be available at this meeting, detailing all operations from supplying plants for exhibition, picking up trestles to the selling of raffle tickets. Please make a commitment and help your society.

If you think that you have not got the time, spare a thought for the people who belong to all of the clubs and will be exhibiting at all of the five shows. THERE ARE SOME MEMBERS WHO WILL BE!

HISTORICAL NOTES OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDACEAE

Herman M.R. Rupp, 1872-1956

The Reverend Rupp was one of Australia's most enthusiastic orchidologists. During his active life, he named numerous orchids and published two major works, "A Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales" 1933 and "Orchids of New South Wales" 1943, as a section of the Flora of New South Wales, National Herbarium, New South Wales. The Reverend gentleman was an enthusiastic field worker and recorder and his output of written material over many years placed him in the forefront of Australia's orchidologists.

Thelymitra cucullata 1946, Aus Orchid Review x Miss D. Southland, Young Siding, Aug. 1945.

William Nicholls

With only a primary school education, he taught himself enough Botany, Latin and Art to paint, name and describe Australian orchids, the subject of his magnificent publication "Orchids of Australia". William Nicholls' life work reflected a dedication and singleness of purpose quite unique. His work remains the most comprehensive reference currently available. He visited Western Australia in 1946 and 1948 where, assisted by local people, he did extensive field work. He named and described 13 Western Australian species, three of these have been subsequently reduced to synonymy, all were published in "The Victorian Naturalist".

Caladenia dilatata var. falcata 1949 x Nicholls, Kojonup, Sept. 26 1948.

C. ericksonae 1950 x Mrs R. Erickson, Bulgart, Sept. 27 1949.

C. longiclavata var. magniclavata 1947 x Nicholls, Les Murdie Perth, Sept. 14 1946.

C. radiata 1949 x Nicholls, Yarloop, Oct. 9 1948.

Prasophyllum grinwadeanum 1948 x Nicholls, Middleton Beach, Albany, Oct. 1946.

Pterostylis vittata var. subdifformis 1933 x Miss E. Corker, Boyupbrook, July-Aug. 1930.

Thelymitra spiralis var. pallida 1949 x Miss E. Scoulera, Yarloop, Aug. 1948.
T. spiralis var. punctata 1949 x Miss E. Scoulera, Yarloop, Aug. 1948.
T. spiralis var. scoulerae 1949 x Miss E. Scoulera, Yarloop, Aug. 1948.
Acianthus tenuissimus 1933 x B.T. Goadby, Bayswater Perth, Sept.-Oct. 1932.

Karl Domin, 1883-1952

Professor of Botany, Prague

Karl Domin wrote up and described many Western Australian plants in the journal of the Linnean Society in 1918. He named two orchids.

Caladenia filamentosa var. caesarea 1912 x Dorrien Smith, Kojunua, 1909.
C. filamentosa var. dorrienii 1912 x Dorrien Smith, Kojunua, 1909.

Cecil Andrews, 1870-1951

Principal Teachers Training College, Director of Education Western Australia, Amateur Botanist.

Cecil Andrews was a keen amateur orchidologist who with his friend O.H. Sargent around the settled areas of the Perth region and adjacent farming areas, did extensive field work. Some of these excursions extended as far south as Albany. Cecil Andrews named two orchids published in "Journal of W.A. Natural Historical Society".

Pterostylis sargentii 1905 x O.H. Sargent, York, July/August 1904.
Thelymitra psammophila 1905 x C. Andres, Kallan River, Oct. 1903.

R. Heberle

NATIVE ORCHIDS OF DEEP CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

(Continuation of article by V. Scholz in
 NOSSA Inc. Journal Vol. 9 No. 11, Dec. 1985)

Acianthus caudatus var. caudatus, A. exsertus, A. reniformis var. reniformis,
Caladenia carnea, C. deformis, C. dilatata var. dilatata, C. leptochila, C.
menziesii, C. ovata, C. patersonii var. patersonii, C. pusilla, C. reticulata,
Calochilus robertsonii, Corybas dilatatus, Dipodium punctatum, Diuris
brevifolia, D. longifolia, D. maculata, Eriochilus cucullatus, Glossodia major,
Leporella fimbriata, Lyperanthus nigricans, Microtis atrata, M. parviflora, M.
unifolia, Orthocerus strictum, Prasophyllum australe, P. elatum, P. patens, P.
rufum, Pterostylis curta, P. foliata, P. longifolia, P. nana, P. nutans, P.
pendunculata, P. plumosa, P. alata, P. vittata, Thelymitra antennifera, T.
aristata, T. canaliculata, T. catenata, T. flexuosa, T. fuscolutea

ANOS CONSERVATION POLICY:

A DRAFT CONSERVATION STATEMENT

Presented for consideration at the 1985 ANOS Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Consideration should be given to the formulation and adoption of a nationally recognised, comprehensive, Australian Native Orchid Convention, under which all Australian Native Orchids would be fully protected.
2. The identification and documentation of native orchid populations, particularly endangered species and critical habitats and sites, and the implementation of appropriate conservation and management measures for these should be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

3. The current trade in wild-collected Australian Native Orchids, particularly in the eastern states, has reached alarming proportions, and in some areas native orchid populations have been devastated. The relevant state authorities responsible for controlling this trade should strengthen and adequately police the provisions concerning the collection and sale of orchids.
4. The current system of Pickers Licences is seriously inadequate. Licences should be issued only after the nominated property has been inspected to ensure that those species listed do indeed occur on the property, and that they occur in sufficient numbers to support the application. Where Pickers Licences are to be issued for Forestry land, the area to be worked should be assessed and an estimate made of the type and number of orchids to be recovered. Where forestry operations do involve reasonable orchid populations, then local nurserymen dealing in native plants should be notified and encouraged to make application to recover such orchids from fallen timber.
5. The integrity of national parks and wildlife preserves must be maintained to ensure secure habitats for native orchids. No mineral or forestry exploitation should be allowed under any circumstances. The establishment and maintenance of adequate buffer zones, especially for sensitive forest types, should be undertaken as a matter of course.
6. The rate of destruction of pristine habitats for terrestrial orchids in pastoral and semi-urban areas is of great concern. Regional authorities throughout Australia should be made aware of the existence of any important scientific sites under their jurisdiction, and should be encouraged, through liaison with the relevant National Parks and Wildlife Services and local native orchid societies, to declare certain specified tracts of land as "not to be further developed".
7. The role of breeding programmes in the continuation and preservation of certain orchid species which are now endangered or rare in the wild should be of the highest priority. No legislative impediments should be placed upon the free production, from seed, and distribution of such orchid species.

ANOS invites you to submit any proposed amendments or additions to reach ANOS Council by June 1986. (P.O. Box C106, Clarence Street, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000)

POLLINATION OF ORCHIDS - NO. 18

Ant Attractants & Deterrent Devices in S.A. Orchids

Ants are one of the largest and most successful insect groups, and are found in almost all land habitats. In general, they are not popular creatures, but they do fulfill a purpose, being most effective scavengers and foragers. In relation to flowers, they can be either pollinators, non-pollinators or anti-pollinators.

To most plants, particularly orchids, they represent **anti-pollinators**, i.e. stealing pollen and reducing the chances for effective seed production. Our orchids have evaluated several mechanisms for preventing ants entering their flowers. Firstly, they usually place their flowers well above the ground and invite only flying insects to visit. The long climb up a slender swaying stem to an orchid flower is a strong enough deterrent for most ants, but many orchids make the trip almost impossible by covering their stems with numerous hairs,

sticking out at right angles. Often those hairs are glandular tipped and sticky, such as in the large genus Caladenia and in Glossodia and make it very difficult for six legged crawlies. If ants do make it to the flowers of a spider orchid, they still must get to the top of the column where the pollinia are situated, in many cases being distracted by the two yellow anther like glands (pseudo pollinia) at the base of the column.

Most of our orchids however, do not have hairy stems and so must hide their pollinia from ants which climb to the flowers. Thelymitra (the sun orchid) keep their flowers closed except when their pollinators are active, facing their flowers upward away from the scape. Pterostylis and Corybas have their pollinia well hidden inside the hood, Diuris actually hide their pollinia behind the stigma where only a super intelligent ant could find them.

Acianthus use a different technique; they make their flowers positively attractive to ants and I have often seen ants on the flowers feeding on the nectar secretions of the labellum. Acianthus pollinia are held well above the ants however, at the end of a slender, slipping column stalk (as if any ant should want more than nectar!).

Prasophyllum and Microtis make no obvious attempt to deter ants, indeed ants often do steal pollinia from flowers of these genera, but they can well afford to lose some pollinia as they are multiflowered orchids! With Microtis, ants may even be successful pollen nectars, the tiny flowers are just the right size for ants and have a nectary at the base of the labellum just below the pollinia. The Microtis labellum is actually pressed down against the ovary, so that ants can easily climb up it. As the ant feeds, its head presses against the anther and the pollinia are glued on. But worker ants are not very successful at transferring pollen even on Microtis. No "self respecting" ant is going to walk far with 'food' stuck on its head. Generally the pollinia are soon scraped off.

The hyacinth orchids Dipodium, also attract ants: not to the flowers, but to their stems. There are extra floral nectaries at the base of each pedicel. The ants usually are too busy feeding from these to bother climbing the slender pedicels to the flowers, from which they may steal the pollinia. The presence of ants on the stem may also act as a deterrent to plant predators such as sap sucking bugs.

South Australia does however, have a unique orchid, Leporella, the fringed hare which is the only orchid (or indeed flower) in the world known to be pollinated by sexually attracted ants. The orchid flower produces a chemical copy of the virgin ant 'queens' sex pheromone used to attract the males. The winged males fly upwind to the Leporella flower and move onto the labellum, pseudocopulate with it and as they do so remove part of the pollinia.

There really is more to the pollination of our orchids than meets the eye. Next time you find an orchid in the bush (or perhaps in your orchid house), why not see if you can work out some of the other ways orchids protect their pollinia from anti-pollinators, such as ants. Or if you find ants on orchids try to discover what they are doing there!

R. Bates

PTEROSTYLIS PARVIFLORA

One of our daintiest orchids is Pterostylis parviflora, with its neat green and brown flowers produced during autumn. It occurs in South Australia's southeast in small numbers, but is mainly found in Victoria, N.S.W. and Tasmania, from coastal areas to Alpine districts.

In typical cauline fashion, the scape or flower stem comes straight from the tuber, without usually forming a rosette and may produce from one to thirteen flowers in succession.

W.M. Nicholls, states that P. parviflora roughly embraces three forms; coastal, inland and alpine. The coastal form is a small slender plant up to 18cm, with few flowers and pale colours. The inland form is often tall up to 60cm with dark green and brown or crimson flowers, and the alpine form being stout, but low of stature and fleshy (the latter being regarded as P. aphylla). The plant illustrated came from the Albury area and has the colour and habit of the inland form, although some discussion at the May meeting between the owner and one of our local experts, suggests this form to possess affinities to both P. parviflora and P. aphylla, as the plant seems to be self pollinating, a trait usually exclusive to P. aphylla, although the possibility that natural pollinating agents occur in Adelaide cannot be excluded.

I have observed P. parviflora in Canberra and the Grampians in Victoria, and on both occasions were growing in sandy soil on hillsides. They appear to favour well drained sites, although in areas receiving regular rainfall. In appearance and habit, it seems to belong to the same group of plants as P. longifolia, vittata, daintreeana and sargentii, although it lacks the fairly large stem leaves of the former species.

In cultivation it is probably as difficult to keep in good health, as plants are rarely seen at meetings and if they do so, generally disappear again after a couple of years until the next person obtains a few tubers. It occurs commonly enough in the wild, therefore up to now, we do not appear to have discovered its secret cultural desires as yet, but we are working on it. The main problem seems to be in getting it through its dormant cycle, although this problem is not confined to P. parviflora.

This species reproduces only one new tuber each season, so if you want it to multiply, the new tuber will have to be removed from the plant about September so forcing it to produce a second. This method works very well with many species and should work with P. parviflora.

W.M. Nicholls reports that numerous seedlings are often found, so sowing some seed around the parent plant is worth a try. In closing, P. parviflora is a lovely little plant and even though its flowers are not large, it has captured my imagination and takes pride of place in my collection.

G.J. Nieuwenhoven