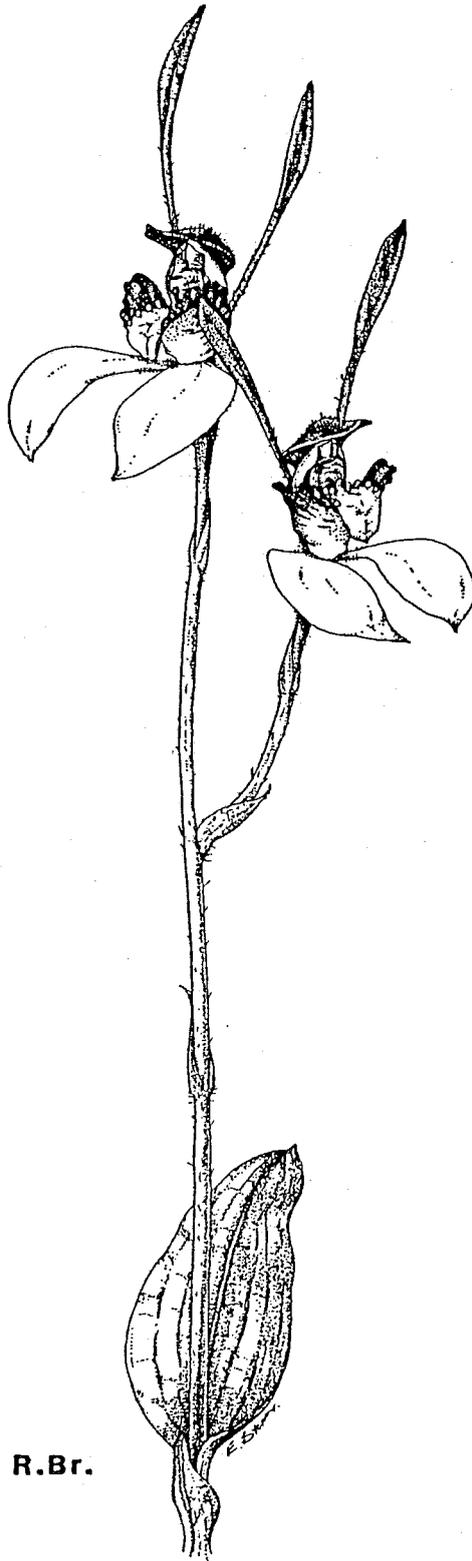


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
of
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JOURNAL



Caladenia menziesii R.Br.

Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. SBH 1344

Volume 10, Number 6
July, 1986

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

Mr W.K. Harris
Telephone 278 2917

VICE PRESIDENT

Mr K. Western

TREASURER

Mr R.T. Robjohns

COMMITTEE

Mr R. Bates
Mr G. Brooks
Mr G. Nieuwenhoven
Mr J. Jacobs

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr R. Hargreaves
Mr H. Goldsack
Mr R.T. Robjohns
Mr J. Simmons
Mr L. Nesbitt

TRADING TABLE CONVENOR

Mr G. Brooks
Telephone 352 3025

TUBER BANK CONVENOR

Mr W. Walloscheck,
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

Contents:

Page	51	Report of June Meeting
	52	Plants On Display
	53	<u>Dendrobium Hilda Poxon</u>
	54	<u>ABC Of Dendrobiums</u>
	54	Orchids And Fire
	56	An Invitation To Melbourne
	57	<u>Pterostylis Rogersii</u>
	58	What Is Being Grown In Adelaide: Temperate Terrestrials
	59	S.A. Rarest Orchids: No. 22 <u>Pterostylis setifera</u>

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 22 July 1986, at 8pm, St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.
 "Out on a limb with epiphytes" — a panel discussion. Please bring along your problem plants and plenty of questions.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr & Mrs G. Carne, Toorak Gardens
 Mr C.R. Roberts, Port Pirie
 Mr J. Cannon, Tasmania

COMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday 20 July 1986, Morialta Falls. Afternoon only. Meet at Kiosk 2.00pm. We will walk the ring route via the main falls.

Sunday 10 August 1986, Helmet orchid special to Williamstown area. Meet Cockatoo Valley 10.00am. We will visit Sandy Creek (*Corybas despectane*). Para Wirra and Mt. Crawford. Lunch at Williamstown.

Orchids '86 will soon be upon us, please make a commitment now to participate. We are particularly keen to have good specimen plants on display to show the rest of Australia we are the best Native Orchid Society around, but even a single pot would be most welcome to help fill our display. Assistance will be provided with transport for those requiring it. Please contact Jim Jacobs on 272 9245 or the Secretary Wayne Harris on 278 2917.

REPORT OF JUNE MEETING

Craig Haydock of Youngs Shade and Glasshouse suppliers, spoke on some of the products presently available and soon to come on the market. He first mentioned how shadecloth was discovered more or less by accident by Monsanto. It was manufactured as mosquito netting during World War II. The surplus at the end of the war had to be disposed of and as it turned out, the Nursery trade made good use of it and the rest is history.

Two types are available, a woven cloth which is easy to fabricate, but not very stretchy and with the advantage of giving a light penetration variation of 1%, ideal for delicate plants needing an accurate level of light. Its disadvantages are susceptibility to wear and tendency to fray.

Knitted cloth will not fray, will resist wear, but is more expensive, difficult to fabricate and has a light level variation of 16%. New knitted cloth coming onto the market now is cheaper and has a greater colour range, brown is becoming most popular with white and, wait for it, pink to be available soon. Craig also spoke on the new technologies in film for shade and hothouse covers. These have anti-condensation additives, infra red additives which retain up to 10° more warmth in a hothouse and light diffusers for more even light distribution.

A new range of glasshouses are also stocked by them. The brand name is Leisure Time with an aluminium frame made in Melbourne by Alcan. Although Craig points out it is more economical in the long run to build and maintain a plastic hothouse, no matter what you purchase, members of local clubs get a 10% discount of Youngs products. A handsome reduction for anyone contemplating updating their glasshouse or shadehouse. Many thanks to Craig for a very informative evening.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

The epiphytes were dominated by D. Hilda Poxon with 7 pots in bloom. The diminutive Dendrobium torresae which could easily be mistaken for a Bulbophyllum when not in flower, it was mounted on a piece of fence paling and grown in a warm glasshouse. D. dicuphum a lovely large flowered variety growing on cork was prominent with its pristine flowers; also likes it warm as it comes from tropical Northern Australia. It was not a large collection of epiphytes, but for a winters month a reasonable display. The terrestrials were better, with Pterostylis again dominating the bench. The autumn flowering cauline species were still in the majority, although some of the interesting species like Pterostylis vittata var. vittata from W.A. caught the eye. Also present was our local mallee form with its dark red/brown flowers as against the former all green colour. Pterostylis grandiflora is everyones favorite, a very beautiful and stately species fond of cool, moist conditions. It hails from the eastern states, common enough in the wild, but not commonly grown, it is a bit touchy in cultivation, unless the right conditions are provided. P. pauchella a more chunky flower than P. grandiflora is a rarer plant, known from a few locations in the Blue Mountains around Sydney, needing similar conditions, with a cool eastivation period in summer. P. coccinea displayed is a variable flower with a large brown/red bloom, striking in appearance, all green forms are known with some specimens being a good deal smaller than the one present.

Acianthus exertus a very well grown pot graced the bench, alongside Acianthus fornicatus. These two can be distinguished by the much larger dorsal sepal and different shape of the labellum of A. fornicatus. These species favour shaded, moist conditions and are often found growing in large colonies at the base of trees in leaf litter.

For the first time on display at NOSSA, was the stunningly coloured Thelymitra variegata, striped and spotted. Its single flower lasted open long enough for everybody to gaze at its unique patterns and structure. Caladenia alba from N.S.W. was the first Caladenia for the season, you will probably have to change your label again as it now is officially named Caladenia catenata and what we used to call C. catenata for a while is again C. carnea. Confusion reigns supreme. Last but not least, Chiloglottis reflexa an easy plant to grow, but difficult to flower, again from the eastern states.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY

TERRESTRIALS

P. coccinea
P. robusta
P. alata
P. rogersii
P. pulchella
P. ophioglossa subsp. fusca
P. grandiflora
P. angusta
P. vittata var. vittata
P. vittata mallee form
P. nutans

P. longifolia
P. nana in bud
P. acuminata
P. concinna
P. truncata
P. x toveyana
Caladenia alba
Thelymitra variegata
Acianthus exertus
A. fornicatus
Chiloglottis reflexa

EPIPHYTES

Dendrobium terresea
D. dicuphum
D. biggibum var. biggibum
D. Hilda Poxon 7 pots
D. phalaenopsis var. alba x D. johannis nigrescens wall crest
D. ku ring gai
D. Aussie Ira x Peter
D. Chieno
D. Ellen x speciosum
Sarcochilus falcatus

POPULAR VOTE

<u>D. Hilda Poxon</u>	Margaret Fuller
<u>T. variegata</u>	George Nieuwenhoven

Commentary: Epiphytes - G. Brooks, Terrestrials - G. Nieuwenhoven.

DENDROBIUM HILDA POXON (D. speciosum x D. tetragonum)

I bought this plant nearly two years ago as a four-cane open-rooted division of an established plant. It was planted in a 7" black plastic pot, crocked to at least 3" with large stones to ensure good drainage and help prevent the pot from overbalancing, as it was top heavy. The mix used comprised large bark pieces, scoria, 1" polystyrene foam pieces and detritus from parrot cages, consisting of casuarina seed pods, small pinecones and Tristania conferta seed pods. I do not use any charcoal.

As the division had very few roots, it was staked and tied securely and produced two new growths in the Spring. It flowered the following January, but the flowers were shortlived due to the heat. It flowered again in the Autumn and continued for about three months. Once again two new growths were produced last Spring, so the plant has doubled in size in two years. It again flowered in the Summer and has been in flower now since April. Dendrobium speciosum is the dominant parent in this clone, resulting in thick, tall (1') canes and clear yellow flowers, only very faintly spotted in the coldest weather. The plant had five spikes carrying from 10 to 21 flowers, again showing the influence of Dendrobium speciosum.

I grow this plant, together with other native epiphytes, in an ARC shadehouse under 70% knitted shade cloth. It faces west and receives copious water in hot weather. When the first flower opens I transfer the plant to a fibreglass

shelter house which is open on the northern side, so the plant receives winter sun and good air movement and is kept fairly dry. It is still in the original compost. I have never used any artificial fertiliser.

Margaret Fuller

A, B, C OF DENDROBIUMS

Dendrobium mortii

Among the many diverse forms of the Dendrobium genus are a number of terete or pencil leaved species, some better known than others. One of the lesser known is D. mortii. Any orchid having terete leaves indicates preference for a dry, high light environment. The terete leaf is a modification of the normal flat leaf enabling the plant to withstand harsh dry conditions and light values with a minimum of moisture loss through the leaves. This gives the clue as to how it should be grown under cultivated conditions.

In its natural habitat which extends from the coastal plains of north-eastern N.S.W. to the Herbert River in north-eastern Queensland, D. mortii prefers to grow on trees at the edges of the forest, always at low altitudes and in the tropical areas of Queensland, can be found in the dry scrub country up to 100 miles inland, in quite harsh conditions. It is a rather untidy plant having a pendulous, sprawling habit hanging in tangled profusion. It rarely grows into large masses as does some of the similar terete species such as D. teretefolium, D. striolatum, etc., but puts out its slender 1 to 5 inch long leaves at the ends of a rambling zig-zag rhizome like growth. The one inch flowers, which are produced in ones or twos and rarely threes, are formed on completion of the new leaf and appear to be upside down with the large white frilly labellum uppermost and the lime green sepals and petals forming a fan like effect behind it. The main flowering period is in January to May with often a second flowering in the spring. The flowers that are produced in the warmer months only last a week or two, but the spring blossoms will last much longer, up to a month in ideal conditions.

In view of the ungainly habit of this orchid, pot culture is not a viable proposition, the only alternative is to mount it on a suitable host. D. mortii has thick fleshy roots and on a well grown specimen are quite prolific. I have tried various materials as mounts and to date the most suitable has been composite cork brick. Remove a portion of the brick from one side about 2 x 3 inches by 1 inch deep, place the roots of the orchid into this depression pack a small wad of sphagnum moss or similar material over the roots and tie securely with nylon line. Dip the whole into a bucket of water and place in a cool, shady place until new root growth is observed. When plant is established, hang high up in the shadehouse under 50% shade. Spring is the ideal time to do this job when the plant is just about to start the growth cycle for the year. Water once a week by dipping into a bucket of water during the spring and early summer when growing strongly, but keep quite dry when growth is completed in late summer and through the winter. An occasional feed with a weak solution of fertiliser may be beneficial. Pests are not a problem, apart from the odd slug that likes to have a go at the fleshy roots, but if grown high up in the house, is usually safe from this pest. The one thing this orchid will not tolerate is high humidity, manifesting its dislike by leaf spotting and fungal rots, again, if grown as suggested with plenty of air movement, this should not prove a problem.

R. Shooter

ORCHIDS AND FIRE

Reprinted from South African Orchid Journal, Vol. 17, No. 1, pages 8-9

You may raise a few eyebrows when you tell them you are off to the orchid house 'to smoke', smoke the orchids that is, well actually I'm smoking 'grass', that is I light the grass and ...

No, before you get the wrong impression, maybe I had better explain myself, before I am in over my head.

It has long been known that a veld fire stimulates many ground orchids into flower, especially in Africa and Australia, but the benefit the plants receive from these often fierce and devastating natural fires has been poorly understood. Not only do most species flower better after fire, but many are only seen in flower during the first season after a fire. Although the vegetation has often not recovered enough to affect the orchids, few or no flowering plants will be seen during the second season. Some of the Cape species affected in this way include Bartholina burmanniana, most Ceratandra species, several Corycium species, all evotas, and numerous Pterygodium, disas and satyriums; not forgetting the rare Satyridium rostratum and Pachites bodkinii, which are seen only after a fire.

After the devastating fire through the Franschhoek mountains in February 1984, the spring show of orchids was stunning. Hundreds of Disa racemosa, Satyridium rostratum and Evota bicolor were flowering near the seepage areas, accompanied by Disa bivalvata and D. atricapilla and hybrids between the two, plus numerous other species.

Though the orchids of Australia are very different from those of Africa in many ways, there are several parallels worth noting. Most are winter growing and therefore have similar cultural requirements in their growing, flowering, and resting cycles. Some are superficially similar in appearance, and many respond to fire in the same way. Some species of Pterostylis, Diuris, Prasophyllum, Lyperanthus, Thelymitras and Caladenias excel themselves after a fire, and a number of them such as Caladenia menziesii and C. latifolia rarely flower without a fire. Many people in Australia and Africa have speculated on the reasons for the mass flowering of these terrestrial orchids after fire. Some believe that the clearing of the surrounding vegetation enables these plants to receive full winter sun, which is no doubt beneficial; others believe the potassium left behind feeds the plants, resulting in their spectacular growth; others believe that the extra mycorrhizal activity after the fire does the trick, as the fungus attaches rapidly onto the orchids and feeds them; or that the heat in the ground causes a chemical change in the tubers. Everyone you talk to has a theory. All these factors may possibly contribute to the overall results, but I do not believe that these in themselves explain the spectacular results.

Necessity is the mother of invention (and discovery). Stumped by a dormancy factor in some commercially popular garden bulbs, such as narcissus species from Scilly and freesia corms from the Cape, some commercial nurseries in the U.K. and Europe tried methods of breaking this dormancy by resting the bulbs at high temperatures for three months to induce even and active growth and flowering. This method was only partially successful, so some bulbs were left in their growing beds and covered with a layer of dry straw which was then set alight. This had the immediate effect of breaking the dormancy and bringing the plants into early growth. The plants showed outstanding vigour with a much higher percentage flowering, and flowering several weeks, earlier than normal. Even the characteristics of the plants changed, as they put all their strength into flowering, with fewer and smaller leaves.

Tests were made on the soluble potassium salts left behind, and the effect of the heat etc., but the real breakthrough came when they tested the smoke itself. It was found that the smoke from the burning vegetation contained various gases, of which ethylene and carbon monoxide were of special interest because they are known to have hormone-like properties. From experiments done in Japan, it was found that a concentration of smoke containing about 100ppm ethylene and 2000ppm carbon monoxide at 32°C would break dormancy of freesia corms (Imanishi 1983). Ethylene has been used for many years to ripen fruit such as bananas and apples, etc., and only recently to break dormancy in bulbs, but never to my knowledge has it been used to stimulate orchids into flower. So in August 1985 I thought I would try the smoke technique with a pot of Satyridium rostratum, which had grown well, but had never shown any sign of flowering. The plants had stopped growth a month or so before. I placed the pot into a black garbage bag and puffed some smoke in using a bee smoker, and sealed the bag for 10 hours. I took the pot out and placed it on the bench with a label, giving the date of treatment. Three weeks later I noticed some new growth emerging, and within a week it was clear that two of the plants were coming into flower. By the beginning of December, one of the plants was in full flower and the other well on its way. Though these plants were smoked in the middle of their growing season, I would not think this a good practice, in case they are burnt. The ideal time to treat them would be at or near the end of the growing season when the foliage is dying back or in the dormant tuber stage; this is when the fire would be expected in nature, thus getting the plants off to a stimulated start.

Obviously, the amount of smoke penetration into the growing-medium and affecting the tubers would be considerably less than the surrounding air, but the tubers would be in contact with it for a much longer period of time. It has been reported by Tompsett from recent trials, that as little as 5ppm ethylene can give the same results as higher doses in experiments with freesia corms. Not much is known about the physiological changes which take place in bulbs, corms or terrestrial orchid tubers treated in this way, but it was stated by Professor Schelpe (1970) that a rapid conversion of gummy polysaccharides to soluble disaccharides and monosaccharides was observed in watsonia corms after a fire, leading to a rapid mobilising of the food reserves.

Such studies have yet to be done in the orchids and many other geophytic plants, such as the many species of Cyrtanthus (fire lilies) which may be brought into flower within seven to ten days after a fire.

Tests must be done to determine which materials should be burnt for best effect. From the little information available, dry grass or oat straw would appear to be best. It has been speculated that the dry leaves of the species to be treated may give best results, but there is no proof that this is so.

It is true that orchid lovers and growers the world over, will go to great lengths to flower their little treasures to perfection, and some may feel I am 'grasping at straws' to achieve that end; but if it gives the desired results, it will add yet another dimension to the already fascinating subject of growing orchids.

References:

- TOMPSETT, A.A. 1985: Dormancy breaking in bulbs by burning over.
 IMANISHI, H. 1983: Scientia horticulturae, No. 22 p. 51.
 SCHELPE, E.A. 1970: Fire-induced flowering among South African indigenous orchids. South African Orchid Journal June p. 21.

Jim Holmes
 Cape Orchid Society

AN INVITATION TO MELBOURNE ON THE LONG WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 10TH-13TH

Dear NOSSA friends,

Would you like to:

- . see Anglesea's carpet of terrestrials in the middle of spring,
- . visit natural sites and orchid houses in Belgrave and North Croydon, Warrandyte and Templestowe - outer suburbs east and northeast of Melbourne,
- . see some of the Terrestrial and epiphyte collections of ANOS (Vic) growers,
- . hear Geoff Carr (consultant botanist, specialist in ecological horticulture, and acknowledged expert in orchidaceae), talking on Caladenia of the Eastern States of Australia (on Friday night),
- . enjoy the hospitality of Helen and Barry Richards at a BBQ dinner with ANOS (Vic) people,
- . soak up whatever the ordinary (non-orchid growing) Melbourne has to offer if there is any time left.

.....Then here is what to do!

Let George Nieuwenhoven or Wayne Harris know that you will be in the NOSSA party, and whether you would like me to make a motel booking. The motel will be the California Motor Inn, 138 Barkers Road, Hawthorn (corner of Power Street). The rates are:

Single	\$46 per night
Double	\$50 per night
Family	\$60 per night
	(\$25 deposit each room)

Please give me an idea of how long you will be here and if you would like our assistance in anyway.

Lee Hayles (Social Secretary - ANOS (Vic))

HISTORICAL NOTES OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDACEAE

The June 1986 NOSSA Journal saw the last of a series of short articles of people involved in collecting, naming and describing the 109 terrestrial orchids that had survived taxonomic revision.

As guest speaker at the August 1983 meeting, my slide talk covered the 127 years from Archibald Menzies first collections at or near Frenchman's Bay, Albany, during Vancouver's exploratory visit to KING GEORGE'S SOUND in September 1791, through to the last visit of Will Nicholls in 1948.

The emphasis, both during the talk and in the supporting papers, was to give recognition and appreciation to the English, European and Australian taxonomists and the people who did the fieldwork to make this possible. The work was not, and is not anything remotely like the full story.

To conclude, we modern orchidologists, might ponder the advantages we share in transport, access, communications, records and literature we take for granted. To the early collectors, these advantages were either non-existent or at an elementary level, in spite of this, a solid foundation of knowledge and records has been handed on for all to share.

R.L. Heberle

PTEROSTYLIS ROGERSII

Pterostylis rogersii is a cauline, colony type greenhood which is found only in southwest Western Australia. Although it is a member of the greenhood group, there is no green in the large flowers which are white with heavy red stripes and shadings. It is a most attractive species. Non-flowering plants have a compact rosette of up to 15 pointed leaves which are grey/green and have a glistening appearance. It is easy to grow and it multiplies readily, but is not so easy to flower. P. rogersii is still scarce in cultivation.

The pot which won the popular vote at the May meeting, was the best that I have grown and probably ever will grow again. Fifteen large tubers were planted in summer in a 180mm squat plastic pot in my usual terrestrial mix. The pot is in my 50% shadehouse and gets extra shade from the back fence. All of the tubers except one produced flowering plants up to 235mm tall. All flowers were fully open. The largest flower was 65mm from top to bottom. Width across the galea was 27mm.

The labellum of P. rogersii has a peculiar curl at the tip unlike any other Pterostylis. This species was named after Dr R.S. Rogers, the eminent South Australian doctor and orchid botanist of the first half of this century.

Les Nesbitt

WHAT IS BEING GROWN IN ADELAIDE: TEMPERATE TERRESTRIALS

(Continued from NOSSA Journal May Vol. 10 No. 4)

Drakea: There are 4 named Drakea all of which are being grown in the Adelaide area, either in pot cultivation or "in the bush".

Elythranthera: This Western Australian genus has 2 species, E. brunonia and E. emarginata. Both are being grown in Adelaide and have to be flowered from seed. Leaves are very late to appear (June or July) each year.

Epiblemma: The single species has been tried but has apparently never flowered here.

Eriochilus: All three species are being grown. E. cucullatus and E. dilatatus are thriving, but E. scaber has not flowered.

Gastrodia: Has been tried, but never raised to flowering.

Glossodia: Both species were displayed at our NOSSA Spring Show in 1985, but neither are easy to grow.

Leporella: The single species L. fimbriata has been grown and flowered for some years at Black Hill Native Plant Nursery, but elsewhere growers have not reported success.

Liparis: All the temperate species are being grown and one species L. reflexa is very common.

Lyperanthus: There are four species of Lyperanthus, only one species of which is doing well in cultivation. This is L. suaveolans, the fragrant eastern states species. L. nigricans is also commonly grown, but does not flower well. L. serratus and L. forrestii are each being grown by only one person and have not flowered in Adelaide.

Malaxis: The one temperate species M. latifolia does well in Adelaide.

Microtis: All species are being grown. Two species M. parviflora and M. unifolia do exceptionally well. M. nana and M. alba are growing and multiplying, but rarely flower. M. atrata and M. orbicularis have been flowered, but M. pulchella and M. globula exist in the vegetative underground state only.

Monadenia: Although introduced from South Africa M. bracteata has often been grown, but from its poor showing is unlikely to ever become a weed in South Australia.

Orthoceras: Commonly grown and flowered, and has been raised from seed, but has never thrived.

Paracaleana: Both P. nigrita and P. minor are in cultivation and have occasionally flowered, but both generally die out in pot culture after a few years.

Phaius: The temperate species are both being grown here and P. tancarvilliae is particularly common and often displayed at shows.

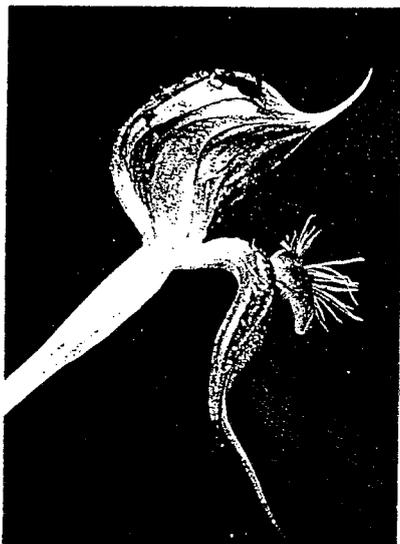
Prasophyllum: Most of the true Prasophyllum are being grown. Exceptions are P. flavum (a "saphrophytic" species), P. morganii a species perhaps extinct, P. triangulare (a rare and endangered W.A. species), and P. sub-bisectum (also probably extinct). Some prasophyllums such as P. rogersii and P. brainei do very well in cultivation. The Autumn flowering species (Micranthum) are a different matter. Many of the species are either unknown or are of doubtful status. Most of the better known ones have been flowered in Adelaide, but even these seem to die out after a few years. Although P. nigricans, P. rufum and P. archeri are commonly displayed at meetings and half a dozen other species have been seen in flower here.

Pterostylis: This is perhaps the most successful genus in cultivation and almost all of the many species are being grown. The only exceptions I can find are P. aphylla (which curiously enough has been in the past raised from seed by the symbiotic flasking method!), P. dubia and P. russellii (not known to me). The named hybrids P. x conoglossa and P. x furcillata are also not in cultivation. Some little known species such as P. angusta and P. fischii have done extremely well and even such odd species as P. ceriflora (gibbosa), P. woolsii and P. setifera of the "Rufa group" have been flowered in Adelaide. There are also many un-named taxa being grown. The recently named P. abrupta for example is so common that it is available from our local native orchid nursery. One grower was noted to have in a single 10cm diameter pot, 5 different un-named Pterostylis from Western Australia.

Spiranthes: Several forms of S. sinensis are in cultivation, both pure white and bicoloured. A few non-Australian Spiranthes are also being grown.

Spiculea: The single species has done well in Adelaide being displayed most years in flower.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S RAREST ORCHIDS
NO. 22 PTEROSTYLIS SETIFERA



The recently named Pterostylis setifera, Clements, Matthias and Jones is one of the dry land greenhoods of the 'rufa group'. All these species have a rosette of leaves quite flat on the ground, and a spike of several flowers with recurved lateral sepals and an irritable labellum which flicks back against the hood when touched.

P. setifera (illustrated) can easily be recognised from the orchid lateral sepals; these jut out at 90° from the ovary for 2-3mm before suddenly bending downwards at 90° again. The apex to the dorsal sepal hooks upward and the labellum which sticks well out on a long claw has yellowish rather than the usual white hairs or 'setae'. The name setifera means 'beset with bristles or hairs'.

P. setifera is quite common in rocky parts of N.S.W. and southern Qld., but becomes less common in Victoria where it is known only from the north. Its distribution just reaches into South Australia along the border with Vic. and N.S.W. in red, sandy soils under mallee. It has been collected in the Danggali Conservation Park. North from there it tends to grade into an un-named species which extends as far west as the Flinders Ranges and is common in western N.S.W.

P. setifera has often been benched at NOSSA meetings, being one of the more easily grown 'rufa group' species. It has even been raised from seed by symbiotic flasking methods at Waite Station. My plants have done well in a small pot filled with gravelly loam and topped with leaf litter. Recent estimates put the number of rufa group species at close to 30. P. setifera is only about the 8th of those to be named. Three more will be named in the new South Australian Flora due out in August.

R. Bates



Last month in the article on Pterostylis parviflora, we omitted the sketch of the species. It is reproduced here.