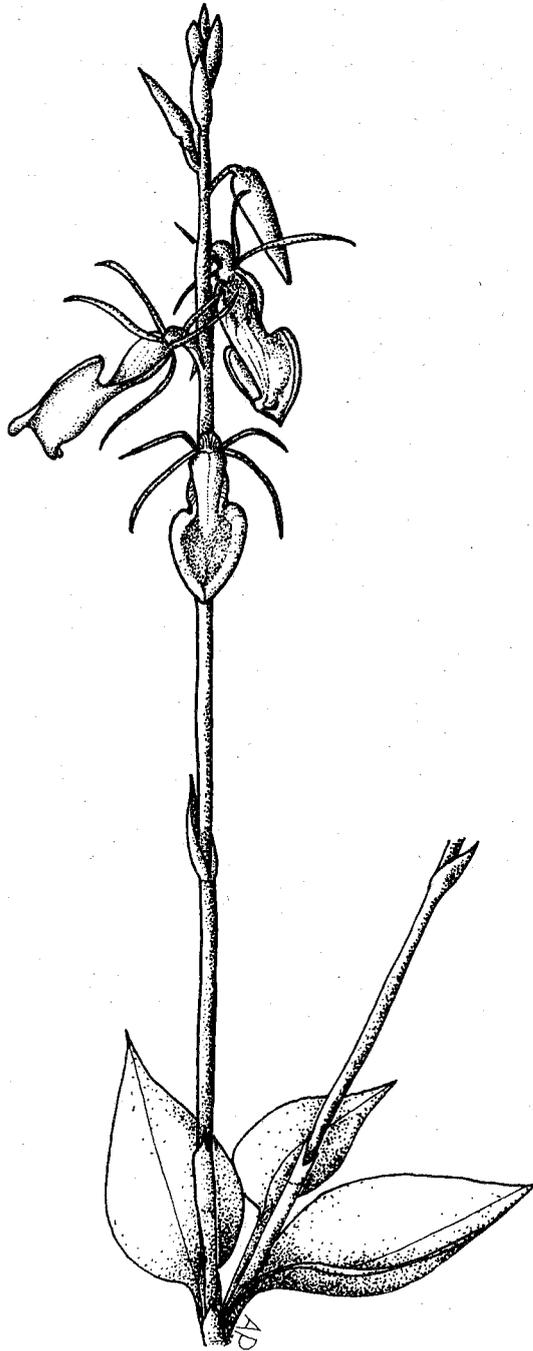


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY

of

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

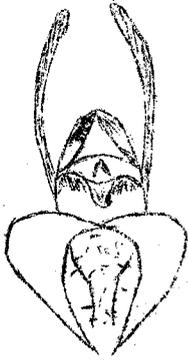


Cryptostylis ovata

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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

Volume 9, No. 2

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NEXT MEETING

The 1985 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, 26 March at 8.00 p.m. in St. Matthews Hall, Kensington, followed by the General Meeting for March.

The Speaker for the March General Meeting will be Mr L. Nesbitt who will speak on Australian Orchid Conferences.

SPRING SHOW ADVANCE NEWS

Following a suggestion by one of our members we have decided to hold a photographic competition in conjunction with our Spring Show, so all those shutterbugs out there get clicking now. More details later.

LAST MEETING

Whenever Kevin Western does something it is always well prepared and he does it full of enthusiasm. Last meeting was no different. He took us from the moment a seed leaves its pod through to sterilising, sowing, sowing medbuns flasks and how to go about it, then deflasking and into potting and potting medouns, in fact, everything you could possibly want to know about the subject. Then he, with the help of Wayne Harris, Les Nesbitt and Barry Bailey, proceeded to show us how to remove the plantlets from the flask and plant them out into pots. It will make us all more confident in future to try a few flasks ourselves.

A very absorbing practical evening, enthusiastically received by all those present. Thankyou Kevin and helpers.

P.S. Kevin has given us all his notes which will be appearing in the Journal shortly.

FRONT COVER

Once again we thank Ann Prescott for providing such a high quality illustration for our front cover. Featured this year is the summer-flowering Cryptostylis ovata.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr J. Lykos
Mr J. Rasch
Mrs E. and
Mr L. Braddock
Miss B.H. Terek

TUBER BANK REPORT 1985-85

Don Wells

The Tuber Bank faced exceptional demands this season. All orders were processed to the best of our ability, although owing to the heavy demand several late orders may have had to be spread very thinly. My apologies to these.

Several donations came in after the list was sent in for publication. These donations will be grown on for next year.

The exceptional demand has emptied many master pots so an extra effort will be needed during this year to find as many rescue venues as possible. Also, extra donations will be required to keep up the demand on the service. Would all members advise of any possible land clearing, house building in native areas, etc., enabling as many species as possible to be present next bank.

As usual I am indebted to the people who helped me in many ways. The job would be much harder without their generosity and assistance. All your efforts are appreciated and I look forward to having the goodwill again next season.

Your total efforts have raised a sum of \$413.15 profit for the NOSSA Club this Tuber Bank.

USES OF ORCHIDS - A LETTER

The University of Sydney
 Department of Biochemistry
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2006

The Editor
 NOSSA Journal

I get much pleasure from the Journal with its varied and stimulating articles including "Methods and Madness of an Orchidologist". However having read Ray's last article where he states, inter alia, "Few are or have been used by man" (Journal, Dec. 1984, p. 108), I must make a friendly protest.

Now fair go Ray, this is a subject dear to my heart and there are many records of orchid use. Many species have been used for various purposes in many parts of the world including Australia, and some few of these uses are still current. You must read three articles:

- (1) Uses of Australian Orchids by Aborigines and Early Settlers, L. Lawler and M. Slaytor, Medicinal Journal of Australia (1970) 2: 1259-1261.
- (2) Ethnobotany of Australian Orchids, L. Lawler, Proceedings of the Orchid Symposium 13th International Botanical Congress, Sydney, 1981: 86-88.
- (3) Ethnobotany of the Orchidaceae, L. Lawler, in, Orchid Biology Reviews and Perspectives Vol. 3, 1984, J. Arditti Editor, 27-149, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, U.S.A.

I still have a few reprints of (1). If any reader would like one, please write to me at the above address.

There are still some copies available of (2) from Ian Chalmers, 25 Turriell Point Road, Caringbah, N.S.W. 2229, at \$6 post-paid.

Reprints of (3) are not available so you must consult this book in your library.

Another article pertinent to this subject is: Ecology of Root Use by the Aborigines of Southern Australia, B. Gott, Archaeology in Oceania, (1982) 17, 59-67.

Good wishes to the Editor, contributors and readers.

Yours faithfully

(signed) Len Lawler.

WANTED!

The Committee would like to hear from anyone who could make a small area of a garage or room available for storage of our Journal printing matter: paper, ink, printing machine.

Contact the Secretary or Roy Hargreaves.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY - 26.2.85Terrestrials

Pterostylis aestiva was the only terrestrial on display. A summer-autumn flowering greenhood very similar to P. decurva it should be kept slightly damp and cool during summer to make it flower.

Popular Vote: Pterostylis aestiva grown by G.J. Nieuwenhoven.

Plant Commentary: G.J. Nieuwenhoven.

Epiphytes

Although the display was not very large some fine plants were on display. Four pots of Sarcochilus ceciliae especially caught our eye. Its delicate pink bell-like flowers are produced for several weeks. The various growers confessed to growing them in either an unheated or, in one case, a heated glasshouse watered a couple of times a day and growing on and in mixes of bark, scoria and charcoal. They are always a favourite.

Also present was a large specimen of Dendrobium monophyllum mounted on bark with a cork sheet behind that. Den. Hilda Poxon, with its spidery yellow flowers, is seen at almost every meeting. A testimony to its reliability as a regular flowerer. D. cucumerinum mounted on cork with roots going in every direction. The first D. bigibbum of the season with its purple flowers was a pleasure to see. These plants of course need heat to be able to flower. Liparis coelogyneoides is not often seen in flower, probably because it blooms during summer inbetween meetings. Parachilus Riverdine: this hybrid, growing in marble chips, is still a young plant. The flowers resemble those of Sarcochilus hartmannii but seemed slightly smaller. Finally Cadetia taylori, a small flowered plant not unlike a small dendrobium with white crystalline blooms, very attractive.

Parachilus Riverdine (Pteroceras hirticalcar x Sarcochilus hartmannii)

Sarcochilus ceciliae (4)

Dendrobium cucumerinum (2)

D. bigibbum

D. monophyllum

D. Hilda Poxon "Heather"

Cadetia taylori

Liparis coelogyneoides

Popular Vote: Sarcochilus ceciliae grown by Wayne Harris.

Plant Commentary: J. Simmons

S.G.A.P. AUSTRALIAN PLANT SALE

The Society for Growing Australian Plants is holding its 1985 Australian Plant Sale this year on Saturday, 30 March and Sunday, 31 March. It will be staged on the Unley Village Green behind 74 Edmund Avenue, Unley and most plants will cost \$1.00.

NEW TERRESTRIAL HYBRIDS

Les Nesbitt

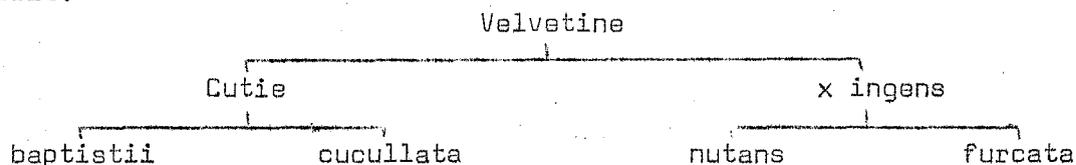
Notification has been received from the Royal Horticultural Society in London that three new terrestrial hybrids have been registered:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parentage</u>	<u>Registered by</u>
<u>DIURIS</u>		
Harlequin	= longifolia x punctata	L.T. and M.K. Nesbitt
<u>PIEROSTYLIS</u>		
Hoodwink	= x ingens x baptistii	L.T. and M.K. Nesbitt
Velvetine	= Cutie x x ingens	L.T. and M.K. Nesbitt

Diuris Harlequin grows to 350 mm tall. The plant has 3 or 4 leaves to 180 mm long x 10 mm wide at the base. This hybrid carries 4 to 6 flowers up to 30 mm across the petals. The flowers are cream-brown overlaid with purple, which, if it were a cymbidium, would be judged in the "any other colour" class. Plants are easy to grow but do not multiply. The tuber is a long, thin vertical tuber with a fork at the bottom end.

Pterostylis Hoodwink produced a flower intermediate between the parents. The first flowering in October 1984 on a plant 180 mm tall had a single large green and white flower which leant slightly forward. I expect the x ingens influence to produce robust plants with tall flower stems to 400 mm high as the plants mature. It should multiply freely. This cross was made in using P. baptistii "Janney" which is a spring-flowering baptistii of superior form.

Pterostylis Velvetine was also made in 1980 and the first three plants flowered in October 1984 out of a batch of about 20 small plants. The flowering plants were only 100 mm tall but each carried one large green, white and brown flower. The front surfaces of the ventral sepals had a velvety texture but the brown colouration of P. cucullata in this area has been lost. One of the plants was dark brown on the top of the hood but the other two were very pale brown. The forward lean of P. nutans and narrow pointed galea of P. furcata show in the hybrid even though it is a second generation hybrid.



These seedlings are already multiplying and should form tall robust plants in another year or so.

ORCHID CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA - AUGUST MEETING

On August 1 the Orchid Club of South Australia's guest will be Dr. Kingsley Dixon, Kings Park Botanic Gardens, Perth, Western Australia. One of the outstanding presenters in the orchid field Dr Dixon will be giving an illustrated talk on terrestrial and subterranean native orchids and report on flasking techniques for them.

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 31 December, 1984.

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions -		
1984	1027.00	
1985	<u>179.50</u>	1206.50
Donations -		
N.E.D.O.S.	20.00	
Sundry	<u>31.10</u>	51.10
Badges		12.00
Publications and Journals		1300.30
Tuber and Seed Bank		273.65
Raffle Proceeds		324.60
Show Admission		276.65
Trading		
Plant Sales Profit		1437.50
Commission and Sundries		191.80
Sale of Peatmoss		28.00
Insurance Claim		189.00
Bank Interest		264.77

PAYMENTS

Library - Books	59.00
Projection Screen	241.14
Visual Display -	
Stands	323.89
Enlarged Prints	248.84
Debenture - Orchids '86	500.00
Trestle legs	12.62
Polyweave	61.15
Sign	58.00
Postage and Telephone	633.59
Stationery	320.39
Publications	1221.30
Typing Journal -	
Honorarium	175.00
Rent of Hall	150.00
Insurance	246.40
Aust. Orchid Foundation	25.00
Society for Growing Aust.	
Plants	25.00
Aust. Native Orchid Society	17.50
Orchid Club of S.A.	10.00
Raffle Licence	5.00
Christmas Social	17.08
Show Expenses	68.00
Refund Overpaid	.
Subscriptions	7.00
Tax, etc. on cheques	10.56
Sundries	43.80
	<u>4480.26</u>
Excess Receipts over	
Payments	<u>1075.61</u>
	<u>\$5555.87</u>

Cash Statement

Cash at Bank 1.1.83	3579.98	
ADD Excess Receipts	<u>1075.61</u>	\$4655.59
Cash at Bank 31.12.84	4614.59	
Cash on Hand 31.12.84	<u>41.00</u>	\$4655.59

(signed) R.T. Robjohns
Honorary Treasurer.

I have examined the books and records of the Native Orchid Society of South Australia and certify that the above Statement of Receipts and Payments is in accordance with the books and vouchers produced.

(signed) N. Christoph
Honorary Auditor.

11 February, 1985.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1985-1986 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following nominations have been received:

President:	Mr R. Shooter	Committee:	Mr R. Bates
Vice President:	Mr K. Western		Mr G. Brooks
Secretary:	Mr W. Harris		Mr D. Harper
Treasurer:	Mr R. Robjohns		Mr J. Jacobs

The Management Committee also recommends that the Annual General Meeting confer Honorary Life Membership on:

Mr R. Robjohns
and Mr J. Simmons

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

As noted last month the Society is moving towards incorporation and with this some changes are necessary to the Constitution. It is also an opportunity to modify some aspects of the Constitution, the most important of which is noted below.

In accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution - "Alteration of Constitution" - notice is hereby given to amend the Constitution by inserting the following amendment as Article 2 - "Repeal" - "All the rules of the Society heretofore in force are hereby repealed." If this amendment is carried it will ease the passage of an essentially new "Rules and ByLaws" of the Society as recommended by the Management Committee.

The most significant change proposed by the Committee relates to Alteration of the Rules. It will be proposed that the following Rule be adopted.

"Alteration of Rules

- (1) Every proposal to repeal, alter, add to or vary any existing rule of the Society shall be referred to the Management Committee in writing and signed by at least ten (10) financial members for consideration.

The Management Committee shall then at a subsequent General Meeting of the Society and within ninety (90) days submit its report to the Society.

The Society may, at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting called for that purpose, by a resolution approved by not less than two-thirds of the members voting, repeal, alter, add to or vary any existing rule.

- (2) Any alteration in the rules shall be duly filed with the Registrar of Companies in accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act, 1956-1965."

Any members wishing to peruse a copy of the proposed Rules and ByLaws of the Society should contact the Secretary. A limited number of copies will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

W.K. Harris, Secretary.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE
STATUS OF THELYMITRA X JUNCIFOLIA

R. Markwick

Since Thelymitra juncifolia Lindley (1840) is the earliest taxon, M.A. Clements in 1982 accepted this name and reduced others to synonymy. He was of the opinion that this plant almost certainly resulted from hybridisation of T. ixioides and T. pauciflora R.Br. and accorded it hybrid status, T. x juncifolia (1982).

As a result, a succession of names invented by other botanists to refer to this plant, or, perhaps, a group of morphologically similar plants, were reduced to synonymy as follows:

T. x juncifolia, Syn: T. lilacina F.Muell, ex Lindley (1854-55),
T. truncata R.Rogers (1917), T. aemula Cheeseman (1919), T. ixioides
Sw. var. truncata (R.Rogers) Nicholls (1943).

Although T. decora Cheeseman (1906) is recorded in the third edition of the Flora of South Australia, according to Clements, this taxon has not been positively identified as occurring in Australia. Plants under this name were accepted by him as referable to T. x juncifolia Lindley.

Interestingly, when referring to Weber and Bates' reduction to synonymy of T. truncata R.Rogers and T. ixioides var truncata (R.Rogers) Nicholls to T. decora Cheeseman, R. Bates (1979) stated:

"The material, including type of T. truncata from Adelaide herbarium was sent in 1977 to Dr L.L. Moore of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Botany Division, Wellington (N.Z.), who on comparison with the type of T. decora decided the two taxa to be synonymous. T. decora appears to be a hybrid with T. ixioides Sw. as one of the parents."

Earlier (1978) Bates had made the point that:

"When Rogers described T. truncata he was unaware that it had previously been named T. decora in New Zealand."

Examination of literature shows general agreement among the various authors for most of the characteristics of the plant(s) under discussion. It is generally described as being of slender habit, growing variously 30-40 cm high with narrow channelled leaf, the stem carrying two, sometimes three, sheathing bracts. Descriptions of the flowers vary somewhat, 2-6 being the usual number quoted, sometimes up to 9, carried in a terminal raceme, colour mauve to blue, lateral petals and dorsal sepal usually spotted. The anther is described as being well marked with a considerable portion showing above the stigma, although for Tasmanian material Winifred Curtis states that it is concealed by the stigma. The stigma is usually described as large, somewhat quadrangular, with the viscid disk in a deep depression in the upper border. Descriptions of the columns vary. There does not seem to be consensus among the authors, and perhaps this is because they are describing features from plants arising from different origins.

Bates (1980) has described three slightly different forms found in South Australia, supposing them to be hybrids with T. ixioides as one of the parents, and T. nuda, T. pauciflora and T. mucida as the other three parents respectively. This group of morphologically similar plants he discussed under the heading of T. decora. I have photographed the latter two

Some Thoughts on the Status of *T. x juncifolia* (contd.)

in the southern Mount Lofty Ranges but have not yet encountered the putative *T. ixioides* x *T. nuda* in South Australia.

On a finer point of nomenclature, if the original plant (type) of a named hybrid, for example *T. x irregularis*, can be clearly shown to be a cross between *T. ixioides* and *T. carnea*, then, no matter how similar in appearance, another hybrid such as *T. ixioides* x *T. rubra* cannot be included under the name *T. x irregularis*. Similarly, *T. ixioides* x *T. nuda*, *T. ixioides* x *T. pauciflora* and *T. ixioides* x *T. mucida* cannot be treated under one hybrid name (whatever it may be) no matter how similar. (pers. comm. R. Bates 1984). Here is food for thought. What is *T. decora* proves to be *T. ixioides* x *T. longifolia* J.R. et G. Forster, and, as some authors suspect, the latter taxon does not occur in Australia? The range of *T. decora* in New Zealand is sympatric with *T. longifolia* (being more extensive than that of *T. pauciflora* which is confined to the North Island and the northern half of the South Island) and it flowers at the same time.

The two local forms seen by me would seem to generally accord with Dr. Rogers' description of *T. truncata*, but there are variations. He described the column as being hooded with a single glandular lobe in the form of a truncated cone, with the upper border horizontal and slightly denticulated. The illustration (Plate XVII) accompanying his description clearly illustrates this. I have photographs of plants where the column hood is neither particularly glandular nor denticulate, and it is my observation that the upper border is rarely horizontal.

Rogers described the colour of his *T. truncata* as blue with the lateral petals spotted. Although colour is not generally regarded as a firm guide in any determination, this is the colour most often presented by the putative *T. ixioides* x *T. pauciflora*. Very probably, this is the form described by Rogers. In my experience, a feature of the putative hybrid *T. ixioides* x *T. mucida* is the distinctive lavender-mauve colouration, which also extends to the column tissue. This colouration is also very noticeable in Victorian material presumed to be *T. ixioides* x *T. nuda* from Lake Fyans, Victoria.

The third edition of Blacks Flora (1978) describes *T. decora* and illustrates the dark sub-terminal part of the column as tuberculate, agreeing with Dorothy Cooper's description of *T. decora* for New Zealand material, and Winifred Curtis's description of *T. truncata* for Tasmanian material. Of the South Australian plants that I have seen, I would describe this part of the column as being only very slightly glandular or ridged. Nicholls' illustration of *T. ixioides* var *truncata* based on Victorian plants, very clearly shows numerous dark purplish-blue tubercles on the post anther lobe of the column, and does not compare with anything I have seen in South Australia, although as already stated, I have not yet seen the South Australian form of the putative *T. ixioides* x *T. nuda* mentioned by R. Bates.

Dr Rogers, in describing the column of his *T. truncata*, neither mentions tubercles on the sub-terminal part, nor does Rosa Fiveashe's illustration accompanying his description suggest that any such processes were observed on the type material.

(to be continued
next month.)

