



Journal  
of the  
Native Orchid Society  
of  
South Australia Inc



# **NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5061**

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation from the Management Committee no person is authorised to represent the society on any matter. All native orchids are protected plants in the wild. Their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

## **PRESIDENT:**

Bill Dear  
Telephone: 82962111

## **SECRETARY:**

Cathy Houston  
Telephone: 8356 7356

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

David Pettifor Tel. 014095457

## **COMMITTEE**

David Hirst  
Bob Bates

Thelma Bridle  
Malcolm Guy

## **EDITOR:**

Gerry Carne  
118 Hewitt Avenue  
Toorak Gardens SA 5061  
Telephone/Fax 8332 7730  
E-mail [gjcarne@cobweb.com.au](mailto:gjcarne@cobweb.com.au)

## **TREASURER**

Iris Freeman

## **LIFE MEMBERS**

Mr R. Hargreaves  
Mr L. Nesbitt  
Mr R. Robjohns  
Mr D. Wells

Mr G. Carne  
Mr R. Bates  
Mr R Shooter

Registrar of Judges:

Reg Shooter

Trading Table:

Judy Penney

Field Trips & Conservation:

Thelma Bridle Tel. 83844174

Tuber Bank Coordinator:

Malcolm Guy Tel. 82767350

New Members Coordinator

David Pettifor Tel. 0416 095 095

**PATRON: Mr T.R.N. Lothian**

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc. while taking all due care, take no responsibility for the loss, destruction or damage to any plants whether at shows, meetings or exhibits.

Views or opinions expressed by authors of articles within this Journal do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Management. We condones the reprint of any articles if acknowledgement is given.

**Journal cost \$2 per issue. Family or Single Membership with subscription \$15.**



**JOURNAL OF THE  
NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY  
OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.  
JUNE 2001                      Vol. 25 No. 5**

CONTENTS THIS JOURNAL

Title	Author	Page
Diary Dates		41
May Meeting		42
How it is Done: <i>Liparis reflexa</i> & <i>Spathoglottis plicata</i>	Reg Shooter	43
For your Information - NOSSA News		44
Field Trip Information	Thelma Bridle	45
Report on Field trip to Hindmarsh Island	Thelma Bridle	45
How John Gay Grows his Dendrobiums and Gadgets he Made to Help	Bev Gay	46
<i>Pterostylis</i> Hybrid Registrations	Les Nesbitt	47
<i>Bulbophyllum schillerianum</i>	Len Field	48
<i>Dockrillia pugioniformis</i>	Len Field	49
The Swamp Antechinus and two Endangered S.A. Orchids	Bob Bates	49
Technology for Country Folk,	Bev Gay	50

JUNE MEETING

Tuesday, 26 June, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and Trading Table. A panel comprising Reg Shooter; Les Nesbitt, Les Burgess, Noel Oliver, Kevin Western and Wally Walloscheck will answer any questions that you might have on growing orchids, on shadehouses and glasshouses, on the conservation of orchids, etc.. anything concerning Australasian native orchids. If you prefer not to be oral with your questions, you can write them down on pieces of paper and place them in the question box which will be available on the evening.

Bring lots of orchids all that you may have in flower as it is these that attract many of our Members to our meetings.

DIARY DATES

2 August *Caladenia behrii* weeding event with TPAG  
 1-15 September Yorke and Eyre Peninsula Field Trip  
 15-16 September NOSSA Spring Show  
 24-28 September First International Orchid Conservation Congress, Perth, WA  
 2003 16TH Australian Orchid Conference Adelaide, hosted by O.C.S.A.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 4 July at the home of Thelma Bridle. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT JUDGES MEETING

SATURDAY 7 July at the home of Reg Shooter 9:30 am

## MAY MEETING

## Guest Speaker

NOSSA Life Member, Don Wells presented a talk about his observations of orchids in the wild and how he endeavours to emulate those growing conditions through his own cultivation of native epiphytes. Twenty-five years ago he and his wife planted a rainforest at their home. They are only now reaping some of the benefits of this. Don demonstrated how to mount a small plant and then continued with a discussion of a wide variety of different mounting materials. In orchid rich areas Don and his wife have observed apparent associations between the orchids and ferns: On the table he had a *Cymbidium suave* growing on top of a live Elk fern. Also he mentioned that they had observed a link between the wind factor (particularly up-draft situations) and the increased occurrence of orchids. From their observations he has made his own compost for use with the orchids. He concluded by showing a range of slides which illustrated the orchids in situ and the conclusions they have drawn. Thanks to Don for a well prepared and presented talk - always a joy and great experience to have Don address our meetings.

## Plants Benched

Terrestrial Species: *Corybas anconitiflorus*, *Pterostylis collina*, *Pterostylis torquata*, *Pterostylis fischii*, *Pterostylis sanguinea*, *Pterostylis reflexa*, *Pterostylis* aff. *obtusata*, *Pterostylis obtusata*, *Pterostylis longipetala*, *Leporella fimbriata*, *Eriochilus cuculatta*, *Spathoglottis plicata* (not for judging)

Terrestrial Hybrids: *Pterostylis* x *furcillata*, *Pterostylis* x Trunkfish

Epiphyte Species: *Dendrobium bigibbum*, *Dendrobium tetragonum*, *Dendrobium lithocola*, *Liparis reflexa*

Epiphyte Hybrids: *Dendrobium* Allyn Star (x2), *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon (x3), *Dendrobium* Kim Heinze, *Dendrobium* Colonial Campio, *Dendrobium* Jesmond Treat x *Dendrobium* Gai Ellen, *Dendrobium* Superbiens x *Dendrobium* Princess Stephanie

## Popular Voting

Best Terrestrial: tie between *Pterostylis collina* grown by David Pettifor and *Leporella fimbriata* grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Epiphyte: *Dendrobium* Colonial Campio grown by John and Bev Gay

## Judges' Choices

Best Epiphyte Species: 1st *Liparis reflexa* grown by Malcolm Tiggerman  
2nd *Dendrobium tetragonum* grown by Brendan Killen  
3rd *Dendrobium bigibbum* grown by Les Nesbitt

Best Epiphyte Hybrids: 1st *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by John and Bev Gay  
2nd *Dendrobium* Superbiens grown by Brendan Killen  
3rd *Dendrobium* Princess Stephanie grown by Brendan Killen

Best Terrestrial Species: 1st *Pterostylis reflexa* grown by Malcolm Guy  
2nd *Pterostylis obtusata* grown by Malcolm Guy  
3rd *Pterostylis collina* grown by David Pettifor

Best Terrestrial Hybrids: *Pterostylis* x *furcillata* grown by David Pettifor  
*Pterostylis* x Trunkfish grown by David Pettifor

Judges' Plant of the Night *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by John and Bev Gay

John Gay provided the commentary for the epiphyte orchids, Les Burgess provided the commentary for the terrestrials.

Malcolm Tiggerman benched an excellent specimen of *Liparis reflexa* in the epiphyte section. This is a much-maligned species being referred to as the 'wet dog' orchid in reference to its rather obnoxious smell resembling that musty odour given off by a wet dog.

I remember visiting the mountains behind Wollongong whilst attending the 1st Australian Native Orchid Conference in Wollongong in 1990. Long before we saw the rocks which were covered in *Liparis reflexa* growing in association with *Dockrillia striolatum*, we could smell the familiar odour of wet dog.

As with all things in nature everything has a purpose. The smell we humans think of as objectionable is heaven to the small fungus gnats which pollinate this species, confusing the perfume with their normal habitat smells of fungus. They can be seen in their hundreds visiting the small green flowers. This is obviously a very successful subterfuge as the plants we saw carried numerous seed capsules.

*Liparis reflexa* is a good orchid for the novice grower to start with. It is very hardy withstanding extremes of temperature from 40c to -2c. Unlike many other orchids which, when not in flower, can look very ordinary, *Liparis reflexa*, with its small green pseudobulbs and evergreen leaves always looks attractive. It does not require any special treatment. A covering of 50% shade-cloth is ideal. This orchid is a lithophyte more than an epiphyte meaning it prefers to grow on rocks rather than trees. This gives a clue to its cultivation requirements. The roots like to dry out slightly between waterings, therefore the growing medium must be free draining. Like many other orchids it is intolerant of 'wet feet'. Failure to provide these conditions can quickly result in root rot with subsequent loss of the plant.

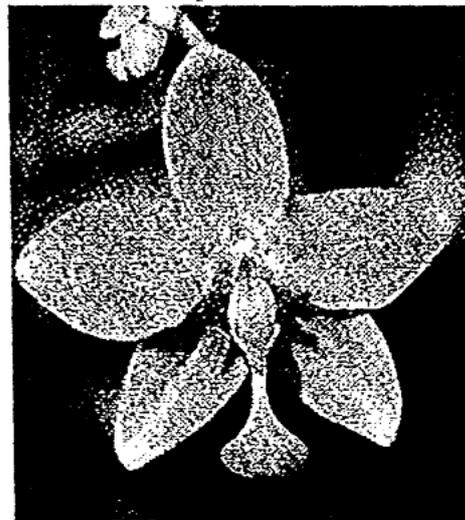
*Liparis reflexa* is not a heavy feeder; an occasional application of a general fertiliser during the summer months is all that is required. The leaves and pseudobulbs are of a succulent nature, the worst pests are slugs and snails which are easily controlled by means of baits many, of which are now not harmful to pets.

This is a very rewarding little orchid to grow and with a little attention to culture and ignoring the smell, a specimen such as Malcolm benched is readily attainable. The judges liked it, -they nominated it the epiphytic species of the night. Congratulations Malcolm.

In the terrestrial section the usual subdued green and brown colours of the *Pterostylis* species was disturbed by a colourful tropical orchid this month, one that is rarely seen on our benches. *Spathoglottis* is a wide spread genus of around 40 species distributed throughout Asia from India in the north to Southern China, into New Guinea and Malaysia. There are two species in Australia. *Spathoglottis plicata* and *S. paulinae*, - the species at the meeting was *S. plicata*.

The name *spathoglottis* is from the Greek, spathe, a blade, glotta, a tongue or lip. It refers to the flat blade like labellum of this genus.

The plant benched was not eligible for judging as the grower had not owned it for more than six months as required by the judging standards. We should see more of these orchids in the future as they have been on sale through nurseries and supermarkets locally. Beware of the information on the glossy label attached which states 'This orchid can be grown in a garden bed in the open'. This information applies to tropical areas only; our winters are too cold and wet which would rot the pseudobulbs.



*Spathoglottis plicata* is an easy orchid to grow if the right conditions can be given. Being a tropical species ideally some protection during our colder winter months would ensure success. A minimum temperature of 10c would suffice however heat is not an essential requirement. A protected shade house with a solid roof enabling the compost to be kept on the dry side would be satisfactory, under these conditions the plant would become deciduous, losing its leaves, sending up new growth in the spring when normal watering should resume. In a heated glass house the orchid retains its leaves throughout the year sending up the occasional flower through the year with the main flush in the late autumn early winter.

A growing medium of a free-draining, loamy compost which remains damp but not wet suits this species, placed in a squat pot, for preference in a sunny, but not indirect sun, with a fortnightly feed of a general fertiliser should ensure regular flowering.

If you are lucky enough to see a plant at your local nursery or supermarket buy one and give it a go.

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION 'NOSSA' NEWS

##### Single bed-frames to give away

A firm in Adelaide has 300 bed-frames to give away before the end of June. They do not meet quality control standards and will be sent to the tip if not taken away before the new financial year. They are ideal for benches etc. in the shadehouse. They are painted steel, not galvanised. For anyone wanting further information, please contact Bill Dear on 82962111.

The winner of the Original Oil Painting which was drawn at the Annual Dinner was Di Schmit (one of our members). Congratulations to Di. Many thanks to Sylvie Creed for donating the painting, which she herself painted, to NOSSA for the raffle.

##### NOSSA's 25 Anniversary

Next year marks NOSSA 's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. At its time of formation (inaugural meeting 22 March 1977), many felt that the Society would see a short life! Well, 25 years on and we are still going and growing strong. Of the 44 Foundation Members, several remain as Members who regularly attend meetings. More details about all of this in a later Journal. However, now is the time to begin thinking about locating photographs and other 'memorabilia ' that you might have at home that might assist in presenting a historical review of NOSSA and its endeavours. All items will be returned of course. Material is not yet required.

Trading Table. Items are needed for the trading table. Items don 't have to be orchids.

Journal Articles are sought (from you the reader and others). Make 2001 your year to contribute. We need articles about your own experiences in growing or seeking native orchids.

Library: NOSSA has a very extensive Library from which all Members are encouraged to borrow. Now located in the back of the hall!

Judging Classes Any Member wishing to join the group will be made very welcome. The classes are not technical or difficult and participants are not required to sit tests or exams. In addition to judging matters general discussions on all aspects of Australian Native Orchids, both terrestrials and epiphytes are examined. The meetings are held usually once a month on Saturdays from 9.30am to noon. If you are interested in joining the group feel free to talk to Reg Shooter either at a meeting or by phoning him on 82352323

Subscriptions are now overdue and should be forwarded to The Treasurer. A Family membership is \$15-, a Single membership is \$15-.

## JULY FIELD TRIPS

Sun 1" July Halbury Scrub weeding and orchid identification  
Meet on the Balaklava to Auburn Road on the right hand side of the road just before Halbury at loam.

Sat 21" July Jenkins Scrub and Cromer Conservation Park  
Meet at Mount Crawford Information Centre, Warren Road at loam.

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP TO HINDMARSH VALLEY 2715101  
by Thelma Bridle

NOSSA finally managed its first field trip of the year!! Other trips had been cancelled due to dry conditions and lack of orchids, so it was really good to be out looking for orchids again. Unfortunately, but not surprisingly we met in the rain at Myponga, but by the time we reached the Mount Billy Conservation Park the sky was clearing and the many coloured *Epacris impressa* looking very bright flowering on the sandy ridges along the roadside.

Just inside the gate the green form of *Acianthus pusillus* was in flower. A sleepy lizard was sunning itself and there were many birds and orchid leaves about as we made our way to the creek. The 9 NOSSA members walked along the creek counting *Pterostylis bryophila* flowers. In all 300 flowers were found along here, in the easily accessible areas. Bandicoots are still very active in the area, but we never seem to see them. *Acianthus pusillus* flowers were tall and numerous in the damp, humid conditions of the valley and there were many rosettes of *Pterostylis curta*, *nutans*, *pedunculata* and *nana*, all of which will flower profusely over the next few months. We were surprised to find a colony of *Pterostylis bryophila* growing right beside the fire track is spreading rapidly, having only established at this spot over the last 2 years.

Another population of *Pterostylis bryophila* in the park, amongst bridal creeper was more overgrown this year than last. Release of the rust control for *Myrsiphyllum* sp. was obviously quite unsuccessful. Further research is continuing into *Pterostylis bryophila* and bridal creeper control in this area. 170 flowers were counted, but unless some fairly quick action is undertaken, the orchids will be smothered and disappear. Last year NOSSA was requested not to weed bridal creeper in the area due to the trials, but it now rapidly re-growing and will certainly need to be treated again next year.

We lunched at Hindmarsh Falls in the company of blue wrens and a shy pair of scarlet robins, keeping their distance and playing chase me in the trees. The creek and falls were in full spate following the recent heavy rains. About 20 *Pterostylis bryophila* rosettes were counted but no flowers. Unfortunately the decline of this species here continues. A number of other winter-flowering orchids were in evidence

Orchids recorded:

*Acianthus pusillus* f MB,HF

*Diuris* sp. 1 MB

*Glossodia major* 1 MB

*Leptoceras menziesii* 1 MB

*Microtis* sp. 1 MB,HF

*Pterostylis bryophila* f (I) MB,(HF)

*P. curta* 1 MB

*P. nana* 1 MB,HF

*P. nutans* 1 MB,HF

*P. pedunculata* 1 MB,HF

*Thelymitra* sp. 1 MB,HF

## HOW JOHN GAY GROWS HIS DENDROBIUMS - AND GADGETS HE MADE TO HELP

by Bev Gay

John started his talk (April meeting) by saying that if your Orchids were growing alright, then don't alter what you are doing. He was pleased with the way his plants were growing and flowering, and explained his potting method.

Port Pots had been used with success, however, it was felt that you still need to use an open mix that would not hold too much water, or you would not have a good root system. Reference was made to Syd. Monkhouse (whilst judging in Tasmania many years ago). He asked if he could visit the collection of the owner of the Champion *Cymbidium*. Horse manure is used by some growers, and even in Tasmania drippers are used frequently to water the *Cymbidiums*. Syd. asked would the grower tip a plant out of its pot and this revealed a very good root system, but they were only very short, because the roots did not need to go searching for water.

In most cases, John used deep pots with very coarse foam (about 1.1/2" diam.) in the bottom 1/3rd of the pot, 20 ml. Bark for the next third, and a finer bark around the top 1/3rd of the pot. This ensures plenty of air getting around the roots of the plants, and they cannot be over-watered. This practice has been used for plants (epiphytes) of most genera, John maintaining that they want the air around their roots. (Testimony of his results was the *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon 'Ern' benched and judged plant of the night).

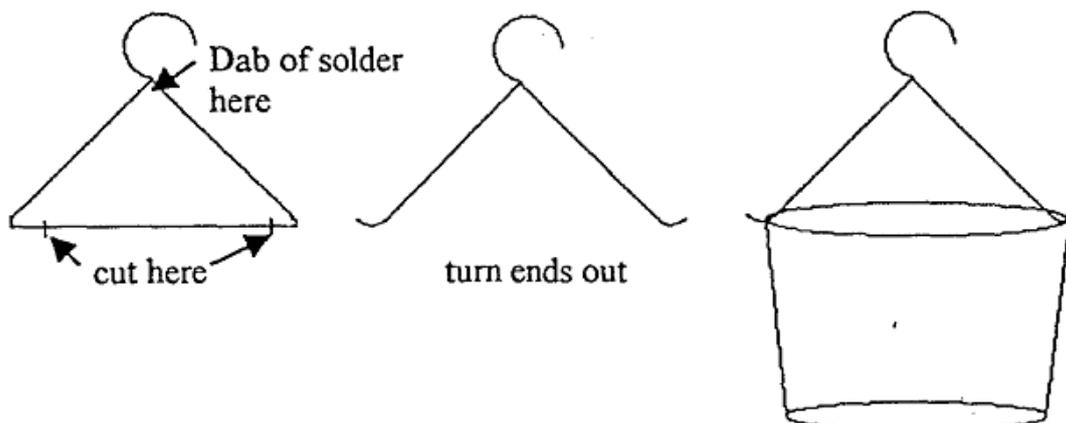
Another idea John uses when growing Orchids is cardboard inserts from Toilet rolls and Paper towelling to make ideal guides to train your spikes, if they are growing at an angle. Place the insert over the spike and carefully place the stake inside also to tension with spike; it will gradually straighten and pretty well grow up parallel with the stake.

Small tube pots are a problem, they always fall over and are a real pain to say the least. A foam box about 8" deep, with holes in the bottom. had been upended and with a "hole" saw on the drill, holes had been drilled fairly close together, and the tubes fitted snugly in to these holes. There is no way the potted tubes can tip over.

Keikis potted in October last year were shown to members; these had new growths approximately 10" high and were most impressive. The keikis were potted in a fine mix and left on the foam box right through the summer-time, on benches 2 ft. off of the ground, and under white shade-cloth 8 ft. from the ground.

Another idea was a broccoli box with similar holes drilled in the lid to hold small or larger tubes. Whilst the plants grew well, it was felt that by having extra holes either end of the box about 2" up from the bottom it would hold water and the air and humidity could circulate around the bottom of the pot.

Pot hangers can be cheaply and simply made by using a wire coat hanger. Depending how long you want them, cut the bottom part either end, straighten each wire, and then bend the bottom wire up and out, each side, about 3/4". Before potting your plant put a hole in one side, under the rim of the pot. When you have potted your plant the balance can be attained by putting a finger on the other side (opposite) will find the balance and the hole can then be drilled, and the wires inserted.



To stop the wires unravelling at the top of the hanger a dab of solder on the twisted wires will hold them together. Should your plant grow to one side of the pot, and it hangs sideways, a strip of panty hose from one wire, around the plant to the other wire, will hold it upright.

Another suggestion John made was to hang orchids above your Cymbidiums to save bench space, using barbed wire. This prevents the hangers all sliding to the lowest point, and thus keeps them evenly spaced. Most other genera are quite happy hanging in the shade-house during summer, but need to be put under a solid roof during the winter.

#### PTEROSTYLIS HYBRID REGISTRATIONS Les Nesbitt

Listed in order of registration

Hybrid	Name	Pod parent	Pollen parent	Year	Hybridiser
Pterostylis (Ptst)	Cutie	Baptistii	<i>cucullata</i>	1982	Harold Goldsack
Ptst	Hoodwink	<i>X ingens</i>	<i>baptistii</i>	1984	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Velvetine	Cutie	<i>X ingens</i>	1984	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Elegance	<i>X ingens</i>	<i>robusta</i>	1984	R Nash
Ptst	Joseph Arthur	<i>X ingens</i>	<i>curta</i>	1984	R Nash .
Ptst	Mary Eleanor	<i>X ingens</i>	<i>cucullata</i>	1984	R Nash
Ptst	Nodding Grace	<i>curta</i>	<i>nutans</i>	1984	R Nash
Ptst	Bantam	<i>baptistii</i>	<i>pedunculata</i>	1988	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Triffid	<i>baptistii</i>	<i>plumosa</i>	1988	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Follower	Cutie	<i>furcata</i>	1988	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Sentinal	<i>abrupta</i>	<i>rogersii</i>	1989	L Nesbit
Ptst	Rogoff	<i>ophioglossa</i>	<i>rogersii</i>	1989	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Chocolate Drop	<i>pedunculata</i>	<i>cucullata</i>	1990	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Marelba	Mary Eleanor	<i>baptistii</i>	1990	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Iron Baron	<i>baptistii</i> *	<i>rogersii</i>	1990	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Tallhood	Hoodwink	<i>cucullata</i>	1990	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Dunkle	Cutie	<i>pedunculata</i>	1990	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Jack Warcup	<i>baptistii</i>	<i>furcata</i>	1991	G Nieuwenhoven
Ptst	Trunkfish	<i>truncata</i>	<i>fischii</i>	1992	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Dusky Duke	<i>pedunculata</i>	<i>curta</i>	1995	D Barnham
Ptst	Jumbuck	<i>biseta</i>	<i>woollsii</i>	1996	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Ruckman	<i>procera</i>	<i>X ingens</i>	1996	L Nesbitt
Ptst	Walpamur	<i>baptistii</i>	<i>foliata</i>	1998	K Western
Ptst	Goblin	Dusky Duke	Cutie	1999	L Nesbitt

\*The pod parent used was later identified as *Ptst procera*. It originally came via the Rev Collins from the Atherton Tableland and for many years was known in cultivation as the Autumn flowering of *baptistii*

I find it interesting that there are 24 registered hybrids, 12 in the 80s and the same number in the 90s. What will the naughties bring?

*Ptst baptistii* has been used 8 times and *Ptst X ingens* 6 times. Of all the pollen parents only two are hybrids. seventeen species have been used.

Velvetine and Goblin are both second generation hybrids combining four different species. Neither is anything special.

Some hybrids are seemingly impossible to make. *Ptst taurus* will not breed with anything and I have tried many times for miniature red greenhoods. Likewise *Ptst nutans* 'White' has been unsuccessful as a parent of albino 'whitehoods'.

*Bulbophyllum schillerianum* H.G.Reichb. 1860

by Len Field

Previous names *Bulbophyllum aurantiacum* F. Muell. 1862

*Dendrobium aurantiacum* (F. Muell.) F. Muell. 1870

*Phyllorchis aurantiacum* (F. Muell.) Kuntze 1891

*Dendrobium shepherdii* F. Muell. var. *platyphyllum* F. Muell. 1866

*Bulbophyllum aurantiacum* F. Muell. *wattsii* bailey 1913

*Bulbophyllum schillerianum* is named after an early German collector while the name *Bulbophyllum aurantiacum* we are more familiar with is from the Latin auranti meaning with the colour of orange. This is a very appropriate name for this species but Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach had predated the name that Mueller had given this orchid by two years so *Bulbophyllum schillerianum* is now the proper name for this orchid although it was originally nominated by Cunningham as a *Dendrobium*. It has the common name of the red rope orchid.

*Bulbophyllum aurantiacum* var. *wattsii* has a different leaf form being shorter and broader and has many variations in leaf form that will alter under varying conditions such as light etc. This variety is no longer recognised. Other species of the genus *Bulbophyllum schillerianum* is closely related to is *Bulbophyllum lamingtonense* and *Bulbophyllum shepherdii* but has stouter leaves which are more often flat.

Found on the East Coast of N.S.W. and Queensland from the Hunter Valley in N.S.W. to the Endeavour River in Eastern Cape York. While it can be found on the Northern side of the Hunter Valley I have never found it in the Watagan Mountains although many have claimed to have found it there. On the east coast of the two states it can be found from very low elevations where it grows mainly on trees and as it travels north it can rise to elevations of 1000 metres or more where it can favour rock faces in protected areas but where ever it grows it appears to be very tolerant to both full sun or very shaded areas. This is the only member of the genus in Australia to share a range of temperate and tropical climates and while not considered a rare orchid I have not found it to be over abundant although I did find it to be very common in one area I visited in S.E. Queensland.

The plant has pendulous rhizomes that have conspicuous pseudo-bulbs well spaced apart but with erratic distance between, which can be from 5 to 15mm apart. Pseudo-bulbs are globular to ovoid being about 8mm long and 5mm wide and coloured yellowish green to dark green while the leaves that in some forms are comparatively flat while others can be almost cylindrical and up to 100mm long and 15mm wide and some have a v shaped groove on the top side.

Flowers that do not open widely are scattered along the rhizome where they appear from between bracts that are scattered along this rhizome and not from where the leaves join like most *Bulbophyllum*. In common with all the Australian *Bulbophyllum* the flowers are small but very numerous and showy with dozens of tiny orange flowers and it was from the colour of these flowers that the plant received its previous name. The flower petals are small and colourless with sepals orange and are a darker orange at the tip while the labellum is a deep orange to red. The flower is about 6mm long with the main flowering time being September to May but will flower all year round with some plants rarely not in flower.

This is one of the easier native orchids to grow and propagate and by far the easiest of all the Australian *Bulbophyllum* to grow because of its wide range of habitat, which makes it tolerant to a wide range of conditions.

Common name Dagger orchid

From the Latin Pugionis (a dagger) and Formae (a shape) in reference to the shape of the leaves.

Previous names and synonym *Dendrobium pugentifolium* Muell 1859

*Callista pugioniformis* (Cunn) Kuntze 1891.

Originally found and described by Allan Cunningham from plants found in the Illawarra area of N.S.W. in 1839 who named it *Dendrobium pugioniforme* in reference to its dagger shaped leaves. Found from near Bega on the N.S.W. South coast up to the Bunya Mountains in South Queensland. Throughout this range it is usually found in damp rainforest with a preference for trees where it forms small to large masses up to 1.5 metres growing from the limbs, also it will readily grow on rocks (lithophyte) where on these rocks it will form huge curtains that hang over the rock faces. I can recall one rock face just North West of Kempsey near the small saw mill town of Kookaburra where it had formed a gigantic mass of about 5 metres tall by 30 metres wide. This was a wonderful sight to see. In its range it can be found from the lowland coastal areas and up to the inland ranges to an altitude of 1200 metres, where it is easily recognised by its thick fleshy dagger shaped leaves with thin wiry stems which form new roots from there nodes which then easily attach to anything that they come in contact with and bury themselves into moss etc. on the host habitat while others remain aerial and form these huge tangled masses that break off easily.

Flowering takes place September to November with usually only one flower per raceme but on occasions can be two or three and take place from the base of the leaves. Flowers are coloured light green to yellow with purple to red markings on a pure white labellum or can be just pure white on the same plant. In comparison to the size of the plant flowering is very shy with flowers lasting up to two weeks. This shy flowering is more common at low altitudes.

While usually found in cool shady positions it can also grow in more sunlight where it will flower much more. In nature it crosses quite readily with *Dockrillia striolata* and also natural crosses between it and *Dockrillia linguiformis*, *Dockrillia schoenina* and *Dockrillia mortii* have been recorded.

Culture. This would be one of the hardiest of all orchids and is quite easy to grow, which is equally happy if grown as either an epiphyte or a lithophyte. So if you have a nice shady tree or large rock face in your garden this is the ideal plant to grow on it, as long as it has a high sheltered position with good air movement, high humidity and kept moist at all times within a frost free area with minimum temperature slightly above zero degrees. It should be hung high to allow for its pendant habit and if grown in a bush house it would prefer to have a little heavier shade than most of the other natives with the atmosphere a little moister and hung up high on a slab (It is not fussy about what kind of host slab).

#### THE SWAMP ANTECHINUS AND TWO ENDANGERED SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GREENHOODS by Bob Bates 8-6-01

When Mark Bachman was a Uni student in Adelaide in the late 1990's and doing a post graduate thesis on the endangered Swamp *Antechinus* he probably didn't realize how much it would affect his life. His studies meant that he had to spend a lot of time in the Silky Tea Tree swamps of the South East. A grant through the Nature Conservation Society extended his work and soon led to a full time job as a 'conservation biologist' based at Mount Gambier. His work meant that not only could he continue to study the tea tree swamps but that he had the money, time and backing to have the swamps afforded conservation status. It also meant that he was to meet and assist Andrew Pritchard and Ann Craig who were writing recovery plans for endangered orchids of the SE. Mark promised to help by keeping an eye out for the endangered swamp greenhood *Pterostylis tenuissima*, which like his *Antechinus* was known only from the tea tree swamps.





As far as we knew *P. tenuissima* survived only as a declining population in Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park. It had once been collected near Millicent but was now extinct there. But... Mark was able to show that the swamp greenhood occurs in at least six swamps in the SE all the way up to Lake Hawdon North between Robe and Kingston, quite an extension of its known distribution. Together with Andrew and Ann he managed also to find a population of the small sickle greenhood *Pterostylis* aff. *falcata* which was thought to have possibly become extinct in the SE. (This is the same species recently rediscovered in the Southern Lofties by Mal. Houston!)

The best part of the story relates to Mark's work as a conservationist -many of the new locations for the greenhoods are now being afforded conservation status. We really are lucky to have people like Mark, Ann, Andrew and Doug Bickerton extending the conservation of endangered orchids throughout the

State, especially as NOSSA is part of an extensive team working with these conservationists.

#### TECHNOLOGY FOR COUNTRY FOLK submitted by Bev Gay

LOG ON: Makin a wood stove hotter

LOG OFF: Don't add no more wood

MONITOR: Keepin an eye on the wood stove.

DOWNLOAD: Getting the farwood off the truk

MEGA HERTZ Wen yer not kerful getting the farwood

FLOPPY DISC: Whatcha git from tryin to carry too much farwood

RAM: That thar thing whut splits the farwood

HARD DRIVE: Getting home in the winter time

PROMPT: Whut the mail ain 't in the winter time

WINDOWS: Whut to shut wen it's cold outside

SCREEN: Whut to shut wen it's blak fly season

BYTE: Whut them dang flies do

CHIP: Munchies fur the TV

MICRO CHIP: Whuts in the bottom of the Munchie bag

MODEM: Whut cha did to the hay fields

DOT MATRIX: Old Dan Matrix 's wife

LAP TOP: Whar the kitty sleeps

KEYBOARD: Whar you hang the dang keys

SOFTWARE: Them dang plastic forks and knit's.

MOUSE: Whut eats the grain in the barn

MAINFRAME: Holds up the barn roof

PORT: Fancy Flatlander wine

ENTER: Northerner talk fer "C'mon in y 'all"

RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY: When ya cain 't 'member whut ya paid fer the rifle wen yore wife asks

MOUSE PAD: That hippie talk fer the rat hole