

The International Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

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ODONTOGLOSSUM BLANDUM – no longer endangered

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Sometime between 1863 and 1865, an attractive orchid with white spidery flowers was discovered in the mountains of northeastern Colombia. It apparently grew epiphytically on moss covered stems of Melastomaceous trees. The lucky discoverer, Henry Blunt, was sent to South America on a plant collecting trip for the British orchid firm Messrs. Low & Co. Very sadly, none of the plants he shipped back arrived alive. Subsequent collections by others rendered the same fate. Not until when a few plants from a miscellaneous shipment, sold at Mr. Stevens' Rooms to the Royal Horticultural Society and flowered in the greenhouses at Chiswick in 1871, did this challenging species reveal its true beauty in a living state. Heinrich Gustav Reichen



Odontoglossum blandum from Colomborquideas, cultivated by Jan Sönnemark. Photo by Jan Sönnemark.

bach described it in Gardener's Chronicle in 1870 as *Odontoglossum blandum* Rchb.f., based on a dried specimen. The specific name refers to the charming, or pleasant qualities of the plant. Reichenbach also condemned the reckless method of collecting masses of desirable orchids and letting them die along the way rather than selecting some fifty plants of a good species and take good care of them to ensure their survival in the transport. Later correspondence from Wilhelm (Guillermo) Kalbreyer to James Veitch & Sons orchid nursery indicated that *Odontoglossum blandum* rapidly disappeared from the original location on Alto de Camerone, an offspring of the Eastern Cordillera near the city of Ocaña, because of the senseless plant pillaging.

Apparently this species has been rare in cultivation ever since its original discovery. The reason for this may be that it is a naturally rare plant, perhaps com-



Odontoglossum blandum from Puno, southern Peru. Photo by Stig Dalström.

along the road between the towns of Bucaramanga and Pamplona (J. F. Posada, pers. comm). Recent collections also show that this species is distributed throughout the Andes, from western Venezuela to southern Peru. César Vargas collected it in the Cuzco area in 1964, and David Bennett found a plant near Oxapampa in central Peru in 1967. Plants began to appear in Ecuador about ten years later, and this species is currently known from the Cordillera del Condor in the south and the forests above Chiguinda in central Ecuador. In addition, plants have also recently been found in Puno, southern Peru, very close to the border of Bolivia, which makes this, at one time considered endangered species, the most widespread in the entire genus. That still leaves a big empty leap from northeastern Colombia to central Ecuador, which prompted Leonore Bockemühl to raise some question-marks about relationships in her treatment of the genus (Bockemühl 1989). Perhaps we were dealing with more than one species here?

In 2001, during a plunge into the immense orchid herbarium at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna (W), an undetermined *Odontoglossum* specimen was discovered. It was collected in 1880 by Friederich Lehmann, in the mountains near Sibundoy, southeastern Colombia, at an elevation of 2000 m (6000 feet). After a closer examination it turned out to be an *Odontoglossum blandum*. This missing link in the chain of geographical distribution was anticipated simply because it fits the general



Odontoglossum blandum from Guarumales, Ecuador, cultivated by Angel Andreetta. Photo by Angel Andreetta.

bined with some difficulty to keep it alive for any length of time. It is, however, by no means extinct in the wild. Plants are still found in northeastern Colombia, particularly near the town of Ocaña and

pattern of how *Odontoglossum* species often occur in nature. We tend to use the word “endemic” too liberally when in fact we only know too little. Just because a plant has not been reported from a certain area does not necessarily mean that it does not exist there. Plants of *Odontoglossum blandum* seem to be naturally rare, however, or at least difficult to find. This in turn may be due to looking in the wrong place, of course, but they also tend to grow high up in trees, well out of sight and reach for collectors. Without flowers and for an untrained eye the plant looks like any other Oncidiinae of intermediate size, and even in full bloom it can be



Odontoglossum blandum in situ from Oxapampa, central Peru. Photo by Stig Dalström.

hard to detect due the moderate size and the spidery

appearance of the flowers. Unfortunately, one of the known localities in Ecuador is rapidly being deforested and it is probably safe to claim that *Odontoglossum blandum* is locally endangered, not due to over collecting but to habitat destruction. Ironically, saving orchids from cut trees that are to be burned provide valuable information that is difficult to obtain otherwise.



Odontoglossum blandum “western form”, supposedly from Chiguinda, central Ecuador and cultivated by Ecuagenera. Photo by Stig Dalström.

In recent years plants of an enigmatic taxon have appeared in various collections. They are sometimes called *Odm. “constrictum”*, sometimes *Odm. “sanderianum”* or *Odm. “blandum”*, and sometimes a “new species”. The natural origin appears to be “Serranía de Los Paraguas” on the western cordillera in Colombia (Andrea Niessen, pers. comm.) where no “regular” looking *Odm. blandum* has been reported. But several plants were also encountered in Antioquia by the German collectors Friederich Lehmann (Lehmann 7267, K) and G. Schmidtchen (Schmidtchen s.n., sheet 10812, W). Schmidtchen determined them as “*O. aspidorhinum*”, and Lehmann wrote “*Odontoglossum conf. O. aspidorhinum*” for his collection. In Lehmann’s case the



Odontoglossum blandum “western form”, supposedly from Chiguinda, central Ecuador. Photo by Stig Dalström.

eastern Ecuador as well, where it was collected together with a bunch of *Odm. blandum* in a deforested area near Chiguinda, Morona Santiago, by Iván Acáro who worked for Ecuagenera at the time. While the coloration of the flowers looks quite different from a regular *Odm. blandum*, the morphology is amazingly similar. When comparisons are made between individual *blandum* flowers of widely scattered populations, from western Venezuela to southern Peru, a great diversity can be seen within the species, both in shape and color, which makes it very difficult to justify treating the taxon from western Colombia as a distinct species. The only more “consistent” differences that has been noticed is the white flowers spotted and marked with brown, and generally only one apical leaf per pseudobulb for *Odm. blandum*, while the other taxon has pale yellow flowers spotted and marked (often striped) with brown, and sometimes two apical leaves per pseudobulb. But due to the few specimens available for examination of the “un-named” orchid, the vegetative consistency and taxonomic value of this difference is uncertain. To simplify matters I prefer to treat this “western” taxon as a regional color form of *Odm. blandum* only.

plants were discovered near Yarumal in the forests of Briceño and Santa Barbara. Where in Antioquia Schmidtchen found his plants is unknown to us. But since he collected for Sander it is possible that living plants may have existed in Europe, at least for a while. No records of living plants ever appearing in past shows or meetings, or scientific descriptions matching this taxon have been found by though.

In the year 2000, one plant supposedly appeared in

Thanks to the efforts by many *Odontoglossum* fans in several countries, many of the geographical forms *Odontoglossum blandum* is propagated and distributed among growers so that plants hopefully will be surviving at least in cultivation even though the natural habitats disappear with an alarming rate.

Stig Dalström
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Study of geographical forms of *Odontoglossum blandum*. Photo by Guido Deburghgraeve.

Odontoglossum cirrhosum, an interesting and relatively ignored *Odontoglossum* species.

I have grown this species for years. It is always a bit scrappy looking and is definitely a cooler grower but when it blooms, it will put it all on the line producing a 2-3 foot inflorescence with many spidery flowers. My experience has taught me to break off some of the flowers as the plant will easily become depleted and the bulb shriveling can be severe. There seem to be a wide range of color forms and thanks to Bob Hamilton, we can now even access a



Odm. cirrhosum 2n

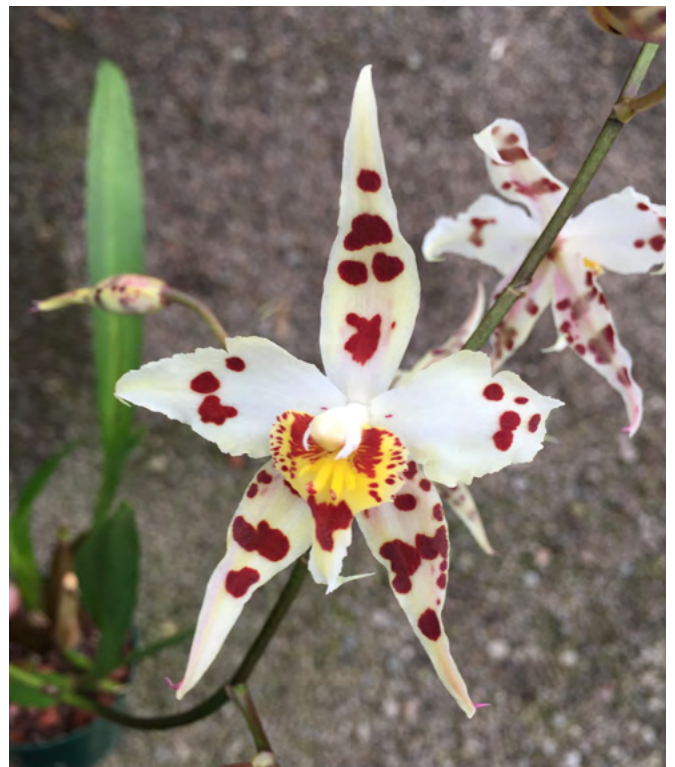
tetraploid strain. Just this past August I was privileged to see a blooming plant of *Odm. cirrhosum album* for the first time at Orquifollajes in Medellin, Colombia. Some of the darker marked regular forms are a bit suspect as far as I'm concerned. Natural hybrids occur more easily in the aseasonal *Odonts* than in most other groups and I suspect there has been and still is, quite a bit of miscegenation that occurs! For example Larry Sanford's recent AM/AOS to *Odm. cirrhosum* 'Gorey Castle' does not strike me as 100% *Odm. cirrhosum*. Of course this is only my opinion but there has always been a secretive side to English *Odont* breeding and

numerous participants have been known to fudge on registrations over the years, including the Eric Young Foundation. There are still some of us old-timers who know the real story of *Oda*. Jumbo for example! The question must be asked,



Odm. cirrhosum album 'Orquifollajes'

what enables a spidery species like *Odm. cirrhosum* to so readily fill in the spaces and produce solid form in its offspring? I would suggest firstly that it is a flower with strong midribs to its seg-



Odm. cirrhosum 4N

ments. Beyond that, there is just the wonder of nature and maybe a dash of things like *Odm. pescatorei* that add a special spice to the hybrid brew!



(Odm. pescatorei ('Bulls' X 'Plush'), an outcross by Keith Andrew

It is no secret that I regard some English *Odont* hybridizers with disdain and I would single out the Charlesworth Company for particular criticism. They became so pre-occupied with their inbred strains of *Odm. crispum* that it could accurately be said they could not see that the future of *Odont* breeding lay along much wider and distinctly different avenues. Let me use the *Odm. cirrhosum* hybrid *Oda. Heatonensis* to make my point. Charlesworth registered it in 1906, made a few crosses from it that went nowhere and after a 1921 registration, totally ignored the line. This rather closely matched the lack of interest in *Odm. cirrhosum* itself, which did not have one single registered offspring between 1925-1964!

Keith Andrew found a plant of *Oda. Heatonensis* at Keeling's Nursery in Yorkshire and took it back to Plush. The hybrid was named for the English town of Heaton, which is right up in the North-

East near Newcastle. I remember when Keith and Brian Rittershausen made their first trip to the US in 1974, he arrived with a first division of Bulbarrow 'Friar Tuck' but maybe even more importantly, some seedlings of two *Oda. Heatonensis* hybrids, one that would be named *Oda. Nicholas Andrew* in 1980 and the other that would become the seminal hybrid *Oda. Shelley* in 1981. From the Shelley group we bloomed *Oda. Shelley* 'Breath of Spring' from which all our Shelley hybrids emanated.



Oda. Shelley 'Spring Dress' AM/RHS

When I was at the BOGA Show in 1981, displaying some of our new hybrids, I was invited to join the committee. They were a diverse group, some smart orchidists but largely a bunch of old bluffers who are often found in hidebound old-fashioned organizations. Sources tell me the RHS Orchid Committee is much worse now!! Anyway, being the BOGA Show, that meant that a lot of plants were exhibited. More than 30 were considered. I noticed two lonely plants set aside on an adjacent table, unloved and alone. The chairman of the committee was a gin-ridden old bombast by the name of Maurice Mason VMH. Pompous and condescending to all and sundry and typical of that British class who inherit and do little to make the world a better place. Anyway as they were finishing the judging,

Mason announced that he had appointed a screening committee that had eliminated two plants and he announced that he “doubted anyone would need to consider the screened pair”. Up jumped Eric Young who of course was not intimidated by Mason or anybody else. “Mr. Chairman” he intoned, “I would like the *Oda. Heatonensis* X *Odm. peccatorei* seedling to be judged”. Silence and several very red faces..... “Oh, very well” commented Mason, “any proposals?” Eric nominated the plant and the vote was taken with Keith Andrew having been sent out of the room. Hands went up in favor, followed by those against with the plant gaining the AM/RHS. Only Mason and the pair on his screening committee voted against! Keith Andrew felt totally vindicated, he knew what he had as did people like David Stead, George Black and of course Eric Young.

My belief is that the uniqueness of *Oda. Heatonensis* has led to full shape in its primary offspring that one does not see in all *Odm. cirrhosum* primary lines. *Cochlioda sanguinea* is the secret weapon. We have made many hybrids from *Oda. Shelley* and its progeny. They grow easily and bloom prolifically. The range is quite broad ranging from award-winning types like *Oda. Shelley Anne* to the Brazilian Miltonia influenced hybrid of *Vuyyls. Memoria Marion Sheehan* to the quirky, perky tra-



Oda. Shelley Anne

ditional *Vuyylstekeara* hybrid named Howard Liebman (*Oda. Shelley* X *Mps. Athene*) which its name

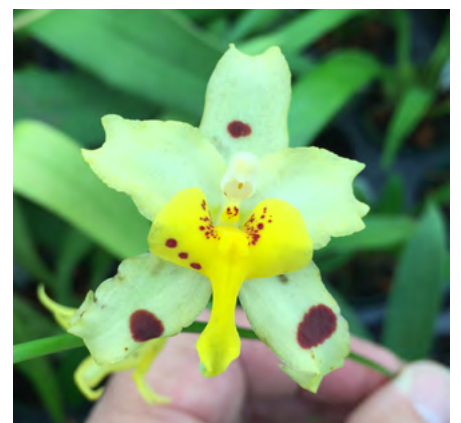
sake has managed to kill off! I used to delight in describing it as “small but perfectly formed”! *Oda. Shelley Anne* was first seen at the 13th World Orchid Conference in New Zealand. The cross is of a high standard, ploidy unknown but they all seem quite fertile. With the reduced interest in hybridizing in *Odonts*, the grex has been little explored.



(*Oda. Shelley* x *Mps. Venus*)

Recently I observed the Bob Hamilton hybrid of *Oda. Shelley* X *Mps. Venus* and it really was cause for comment. For the first time ever I observed in two seedlings the complete reduction of the typical *Mps.*-induced broad lip. Quite remarkable especially as both parents could be expected to be diploids. I attribute the lip reduction to *Odm. cirrhosum* influence but certainly this is the first *Vuyylstekeara* hybrid I have seen with such a reduced lip.

One of the prettiest of the old *Odm. cirrhosum* hybrids is *Oda. Keighleyensis* (*Cda. noezliana* X *Odm. cirrhosum*) registered by Charlesworth in 1908. But despite its instant ap-



(*Odm. Serendipity*)

peal it has not really been a significant parent. One hybrid from it is *Oda. Taylor Barfield* (*Keighleyensis* X *Odm. Serendipity*) and it is cute though my experience is that the flowers are rather short-lived. *Odm. Serendipity* (*Odm. cirrhosum* X *Odm.*

praestans), registered in 1999 by J & L Orchids, another *cirrhosum* hybrid is itself a very easy grower and quite prolific in its flowering. *Odm.* Serendipity clones have been widely propagated and are seen all over the world. Possibly the Keighleyensis line has been plagued by infertility issues and also it does not seem to have advanced beyond diploid ploidy.

Keith Andrew seems to have a particular affinity for the *cirrhosum* line. He made *Oda.* Star Trek with his *Oda.* Shelley 'Spring Dress' AM/RHS X *Oda.* Phoenix and the cross was variable in shape and



Oda. Star Trek 'Tiffany' (owner, Tim Brydon)

colors but very good overall and a parent of note. John Miller, our long serving Odontoglossum Alliance stalwart made the sensational *Oda.* Trish 2007, (*Oda.* Star Trek X *Odm.* *pescatoreii*) which is one of the most shapely and dramatically marked *Odonts*



Oda. Trish #28

I have ever seen. To think that this quality has appeared in just four generations is little short of astonishing! The recent Hawk Hill hybrid of *Oda.* Prince Vultan X *Oda.* Shelley is one of the prettiest new



Oda. (Prince Vultan X Shelley)

Odonts of this century. Their triangular lips are a petite reflection of an *Odm.* *cirrhosum* grandparent. There's lots of interesting pathways that the *cirrhosum* line could be taken

in. We have used the remake of *Odm.* Elaine (*Odm.* *cirrhosum* X *Odm.* *harryanum*) from Padre Andretta in a number of useful hybrids and today we would be adding Oryzalin to spice things up. One of the real head-scratchers is *Odm.* Venilia (*Odm.* *cirrhosum* X *Odm.* *pescatorei*) that Charlesworth registered in 1909 and which stayed dormant until 2006 when it had its first registered offspring! The reason for this would appear to have been that Charlesworth had not seen any



Odm. Venilia



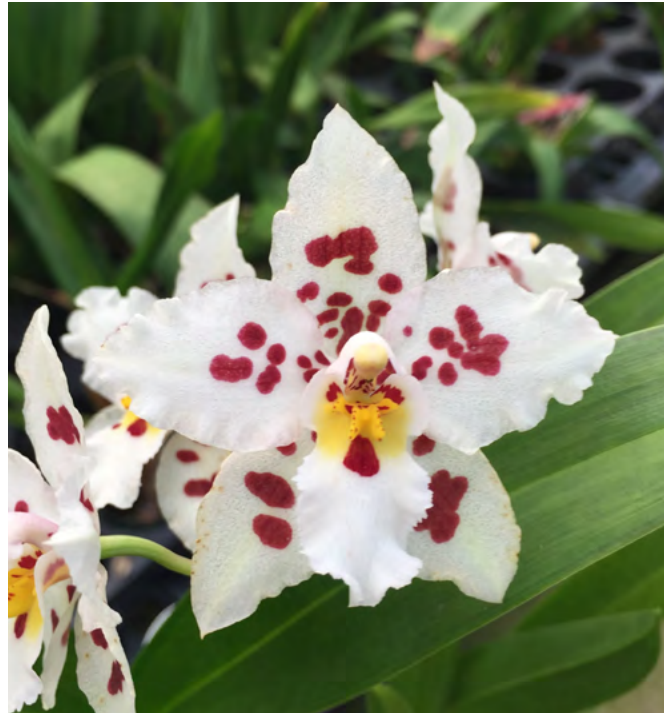
Odm. Roy Wittwer 'Woolsey' 6n

potential in *Venilia*. As the result of doing some historical research of *Odont* pedigrees, Bob Hamilton was encouraged to remake it. So all the contemporary *Venilia* breeding traces directly to California. As usual, Bob doesn't reinvent the wheel so he treated the seed of the crossing with Oryzalin to produce both diploid and tetraploid results. He also crossed a diploid *Venilia* with *Oda*. Jim Mintsivaris a tetraploid and treated the seedlings with Oryzalin. The resultant cross, *Odm. Roy Wittwer* has been very interesting and the hexaploids iterations crossed back to diploid *Odonts* will keep *Odont* en-



Cyrt. leopoldianum X Oda. Shelley

thusiasts in keen anticipation. Nothing wrong with the triploid forms either, they are showy and extremely vigorous.



Odm. maculatum X Oda. Trish

Recently a range of *Odm. cirrhosum* lines are delighting the purists. Crosses like *Cyrt. leopoldianum X Oda. Shelley* are stunning on their first blooming with bulbs no larger than



Odm. Mem. Ken Girard X Odm. cirrhosum

a walnut. Who knows how impressive they will be at maturity? *Odm. maculatum X Oda. Trish* is giving cute minis with broad *Vuylstekeara*-like lips. *Odm. Mem. Ken Girard X Odm. cirrhosum* is just delightful! Get onboard with *Odm. cirrhosum*, it's going to be a fun ride.

Andy Easton
November 2016

Odontoglossum Pesky Trance First Steps

Six years ago a surprise arrival of some beautiful fresh pollen that turned out to be (*Odm. astranthum* x *Odm. pescatoreii*) 4N. I wasn't exactly sure what this might look like until the donor, Andy Easton posted me a picture and the name: Pesky Trance 'Pacifica' 4N.



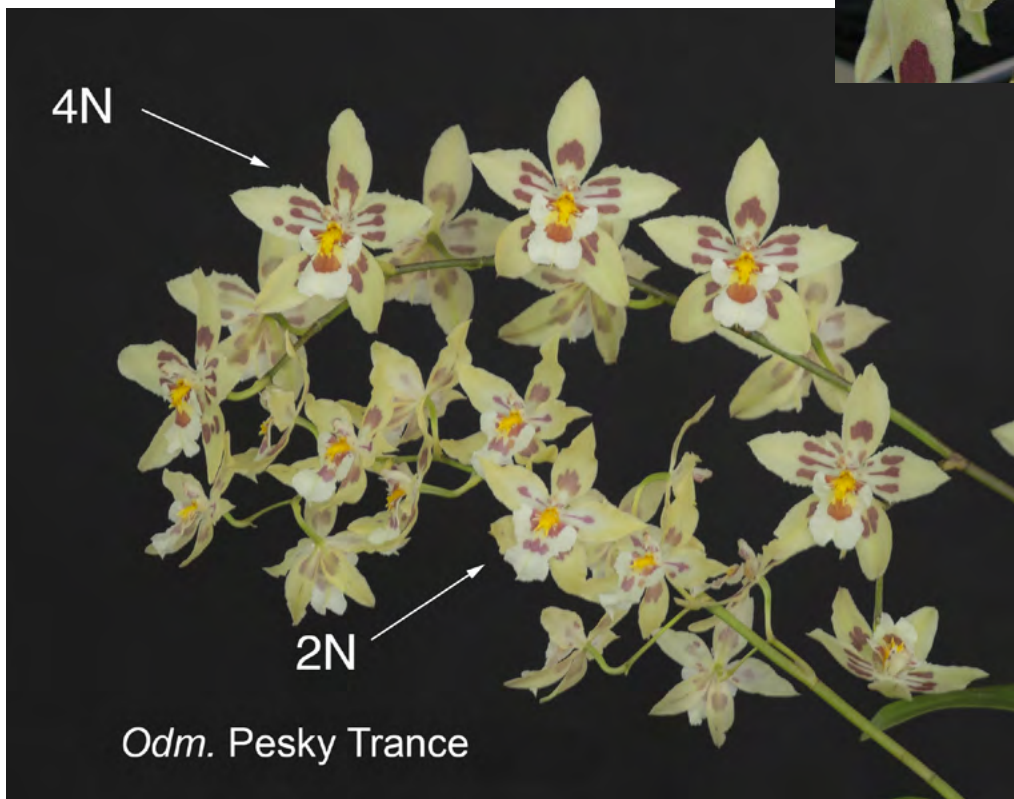
Odm. astranthum



Odm. pescatoreii, a colchicine treated descendant of Keith Andrews' sib cross of nobile, 'Bulls' X 'Plush'



Odm. Pesky Trance



Odm. Pesky Trance 2n vs 4n. Notice the larger number and more pronounced striping in the 4n



Oda. (Mem. June Appleby 'Beenak' x Pesky Trance)

With quite a selection of *Odont.* in flower, and no idea what might make a sensible hybrid, I firstly used it on known breeders that are most likely tetraploid; *Oda.* Mem. June Appleby and *Oda.* Aviator. These have given solid results in the past. Also others such as *Oda.* Glenrowan, a big pink, and Red Cougar, a solid red, which are possibly diploid. These are the crosses that had fertile seed many others didn't take or had no seed when harvested. One other cross germinated but the parent is unknown, just for fun we have kept a flask full to see what turns out. I have since found the label buried in the pot and it is *Oda.* Shelley Anne, I think it will be a lovely match and produce very pretty pinks.

Last year the first seedlings flowered from the *Oda.* Red Cougar mating and shortly after the first with



Oda. (Aviator 'Bold Pink' x Pesky Trance)



Oda. (Red Cougar 'Impressive' x Pesky Trance)

Oda. Aviator. Observations on the plant growth show strong growth and quite rapid development. Good bulb progression and flowering from the second and third bulb. Our growing conditions are somewhat harsh with hot summers and cold winters. We use some evaporative cooling but frequently run into glasshouse temperatures exceeding 35°C. In winter we try to hold 8°C but fall lower on occasion. Our growing medium is Orchiatea bark using 'Classic' for tubes and 'Power' for 100mm+ pots. We de-flask into Orchiatea 'Precision'. Our main fertiliser is Osmocote 8-9 months High K supplemented by Seaweed or Fish Emulsion. So much for how we grow them, but what is the purpose of using this Pesky Trance as a parent? Not having grown the plant myself I naturally asked Andy for some information. Though the flower is attractive it is not exactly WOW look at me!!! The main feature is the geometric pattern and very flat somewhat star shaped bloom. Colour is white with a hint of green, the markings dark maroon-brown. Importantly for those of us in harsher climates it seems to have some heat tolerance and grows exceptionally well. Now that is not something you experience with *Odm. pescatoreii* nor many of its hybrids as a general rule. And that's a shame because it's a beautiful thing and makes lovely progeny. We already have hybrids bred from *Odm. Tribbles* (*pescatoreii* x *trilobum*)



Oda. (Red Cougar 'Impressive' x Pesky Trance)

which have proved exceptionally durable in our climate, so we expect *Odm.* Pesky Trance to be comparable in this area. As you will see from the photos they are mostly stamped with horizontal markings on the petals so evident in Pesky Trance. Colours in the main are a little muted even when used with the strong red *Oda.* Red Cougar. One seedling only has blotches of colour and has broken the mould so to speak. So we will see more variation as we progress. The larger plants are car-



Oda. (Red Cougar 'Impressive' x Pesky Trance)



Oda. (Red Cougar 'Impressive' x Pesky Trance)

rying 10-12 flowers but are still in 85mm tubes on the third bulb. Most are in 50mm pots carrying 4-5 blooms off the second bulb. That's quite precocious flowering and bodes well for future productivity. As for the future I'm sure a jump to the *Odm.* Tribbles line is a must. I also have *Odm. pescatoreii* 'Bulls' and 'Plush', a plant I obtained from Keith Andrew many moons ago. It has bold maroon blotches that may be a good match for the *Odm.* Pesky Trance pattern. More importantly it is still alive and kicking after all those years. Which reminds me; I have a lovely *Odm.* Ardentissimum probably a diploid but it never misses a beat hot or cold, just to add a dash of *Odm. crispum.* Anyway that's as far as the journey goes to date. I'm sure it has a long way to go and this is just a teaser based on the dozen or so seedlings flowered so far. Many thanks to Andy for sharing pollen and knowledge to kick along our rather narrow breeding pool in an import restricted Australia. Here's hoping we can do it justice. In regard to the ploidy mentioned in this article I am really just making guesses based on my experience. None are counted so I could well be wrong.

Clive Halls
Mt Beenak Orchids
Australia

President's Message

The quote, "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results", is often attributed to Einstein. From some cursory sleuthing it is not likely that Einstein said or wrote this. There are verifiable searches that give attributions to Mark Twain, Rita Mae Brown, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Regardless who said it, it is a salient statement.

I received a call from our International Odontoglossum Alliance Secretary John Miller to hold off on publishing this newsletter. For those who don't know; John's been the backbone of the IOA. John Miller is a successful engineer who played a pivotal role in the Apollo Mission and the former CEO of a major corporation. Simply put, John is good at deconvoluting issues and getting things done! The reason John asked for a pause in publication is simple; the IOA treasury is low on funds and the annual printing and mailing of the newsletter is costing more than dues bring in. To make matters worse (or better?), the newsletter has increasing content, with more color pages as can be seen in this issue.

What to do?

After some conversation we agreed to an experiment, "let's make it free, via e-mail". And so it is with this issue. IOA members with e-mail addresses are receiving this edition of newsletter as a pdf attachment. And, IOA members who want a hard copy can send an e-mail to our newsletter editor, John Leathers (jjleathers@comcast.net) and he'll print and mail them one.

It is obvious a free newsletter, sent as an attachment, can be forwarded to non-members. Perhaps that's great? There's a paucity of good stuff being written on orchids these days and particularly Odontoglossums and allied genera. Raising interest has value. Can we or should we do this forever? That question is yet to be answered.

The IOA is a non-profit with a mission to further interests in *Odontoglossums*, a beautiful orchid genus, with a terrific history. Do we need money to operate? Yes, we need money to hold meetings, support orchid events, present awards to growers as we recently

did in Colombia and to support members who do research. Can we keep a revenue stream if the newsletter's free? I am guessing we can. Keep in mind, membership dues have never been great enough to pay for the cost of publishing the newsletter. Much of the IOA treasury has come from our plant auctions which are held concurrently with a general meeting. The sad part of this revenue stream is bidding on plants is limited to attendees and we are an international organization. Of late, the IOA General Meeting has been held in concurrent with the San Francisco Orchid Society's annual show. This year, that show has contracted. The show had to move because the administrators of its former venue, Fort Mason – Golden Gate National Park have raised rental costs so high revenues from the show no longer pay for operating costs. Perhaps readers can see some irony in the Golden Gate National Park system killing a Golden Goose?

Elaborating on auction plants, it is possible we can continue to offer select plants, perhaps by some online auction site like EBAY. Doing that is yet another task given a paucity of volunteers. And, the insanity of CITES makes shipments overseas untenable. Sadly, it is unlikely either the RHS or AOS can undo that fiasco.

So consider this issue of the newsletter a test drive. It will be great to have comments and suggestions from members in our next edition – ideas are welcome! And finally, is it worth belonging and paying your dues? That depends on who you are. I'll send my check because I believe we are doing good things by preserving and continuing an extraordinary legacy.

2017 IOA Annual Meeting

At the present time there is no calendar date for an Annual Members Meeting. One suggestion is to hold it in Medellin, Colombia in August concurrent with the annual show, which is truly spectacular. An update will be posted in the Spring newsletter

Happy New Year,
Bob Hamilton

International Odontoglossum Alliance 2017 Annual Meeting - Medellin Colombia



First week of August 2017 (the day and time to be announced)

The IOA has received an invitation from Sociedad Colombiana de Orquideología to hold the 2017 International Odontoglossum Alliance Annual Meeting concurrent with the Medellin ORCHIDS, BIRDS AND FLOWERS AND CRAFTSMEN FAIR. 2017 is the 24th year for this exhibition and fair staged in the Joaquin Antonio Uribe Botanical Garden of Medellín. This is a spectacular orchid event held over several days and the largest and most attended orchid event anywhere in the Americas. The Preview Night Dinner, on Tuesday August 1, is held under the open-air canopy area of the exhibition and features terrific food, drink and entertainment as well as the presentation of major awards to the exhibitors. Tickets can be purchased to attend this event.

The Botanical Garden of Medellín is a 30 acre (14 hectare) botanical garden in Medellín, Colombia with a large collection of plant species. The garden contains an important collection of orchids preserved in an architectural space called the "Orquideorama".

The actual day and time of the meeting IOA are still being planned. It will likely fall on a day concurrent with Sociedad Colombiana de Orquideología lecture program that is held during the show. Details will be in the Spring addition of the IOA newsletter.

In addition, details and registration for the show and IOA meeting the next newsletter will contain tour-

ist information on resort areas of Colombia, where weather is always perfect, the beaches some of the best in the world and accommodations very reasonable. Anyone planning a 2017 vacation should consider combining this event with other Colombian venues for a memorable vacation.

Bogota, Colombia's capitol, is temperate and sophisticated with attractions like the Gold Museum (no free samples!), Monserrate which can be reached by cable car or funicular, the unique Salt Cathedral and high quality shopping. If beach resorts are of interest, coastal cities such as Cartagena, Barranquilla and Santa Marta are vibrant and laid-back. You will not find better hospitality and the orchid displays are spectacular.

ORCHIDS, BIRDS AND FLOWERS AND CRAFTSMEN FAIR XXIV EXHIBITION FAIR OF THE FLOWERS AUGUST 1 TO 7 OF 2017

Judging: - AOS for plants, flowers and stands - CCO for Colombian species - Ribbons and trophies for outstanding displays.

Exposition open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.:
Wednesday August 2, thru Monday, August 7, 2017

Special events:
Cocktail opening (Dinner - Open Bar) Tuesday August 1
Dress: smart casual.

Hotel accommodation at negotiated rates can be booked through the IOA at a central city five star hotel prior to July 1, 2017. Many overseas visitors select the Poblado Plaza Hotel. There are numerous other hotels in Medellin ranging in price but always good value for a large international city location. Ask any IOA member who has previously visited this event for recommendations.

This is a spectacular event with terrific orchids, flower displays and some of the warmest, friendliest people you will ever meet.

Orchid Council of New Zealand 2016 Show

The Orchid Council of NZ hosted its National Orchid + Flower show in September 2016 at Auckland's ASB Exhibition Center. The show was open to the public for four days and, as with past National shows, attendance was terrific. The show featured a seminar series with lectures by several local and international speakers. The flower displays and quality as well as the diversity of plants were superb proving New Zealanders have both a passion for orchids and are excellent growers. With its temperate climate virtually every orchid genus can be grown to perfection - it is an *Odontoglossum* heaven

Ross and Susan Tucker who operate Tucker's Orchids, New Zealand's largest specialty orchid nursery, hosted our visit. Tucker's Orchids is located about a 20-minute drive from downtown Auckland. The Tuckers were most hospitable going out of their way to assure us and other visitors felt welcome. Tucker's Orchids had a large and very nice exhibit demonstrating their good culture and plant quality. On a humorous note their display featured a faux electric fence - KEEP OUT!



Best in Show



New Zealand is divided between two islands, the North Island and the South Island. Auckland is a city in the North Island and the most populous urban area in the country. This year the weather in September proved exceptionally wet. Nevertheless travel in the country was enjoyable and the scenery stunning. Accommodations and food are on a par with most developed country. The wines were a cut above - some of the best we've tasted and we brought home our import limit to share with friends.

New Zealanders are extraordinarily hospitable, the show well organized, and the North Island was a fun visit.



Browns Bay



Rain Forest Mont Egbert

A Note from the Editor

Growers interested in contributing articles for the IOA Newsletter are encouraged to do so! Articles of any length, including as small as a photo with caption, comments or announcements of events are welcome. I can accept most word processing and photo formats.

Please email them to rmhjjl@comcast.net. Note in the subject line such as "IOA submission" or something that helps identify its content for the newsletter is appreciated.