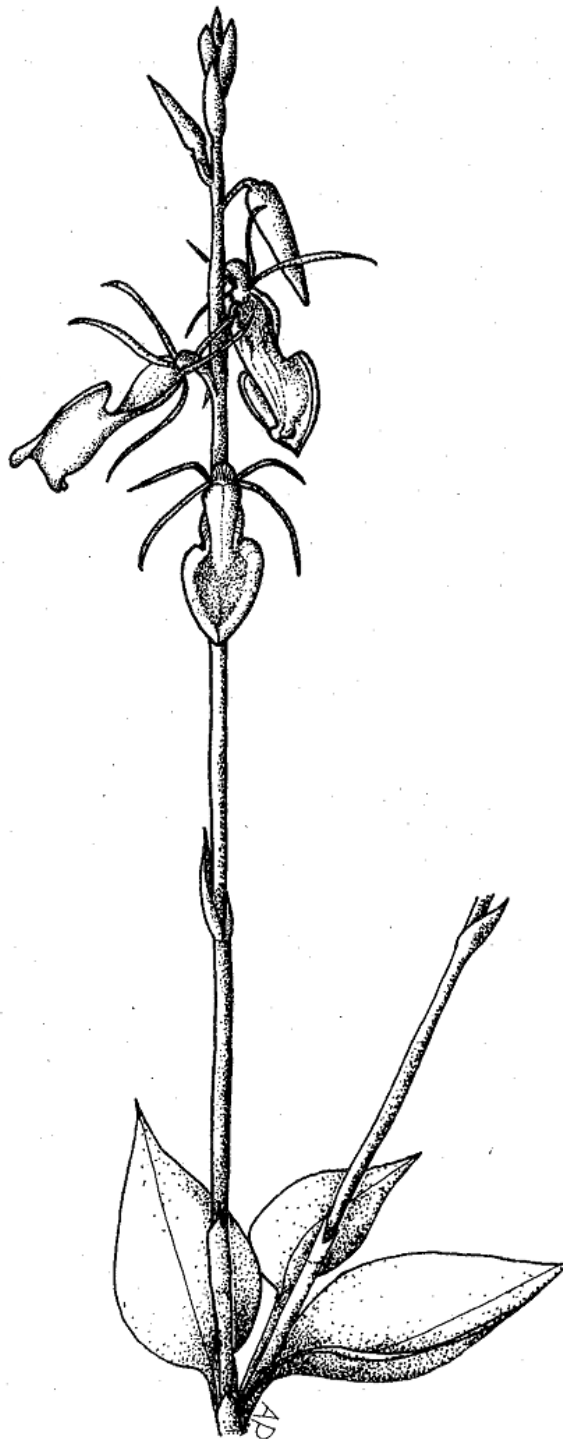


**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY**

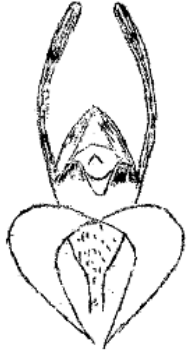
*of*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**JOURNAL**



*Cryptostylis ovata*



**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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**NEXT MEETING**

When: Tuesday, 28 May, 8.00 p.m.

Where: St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street Kensington

Subject: Panel Night: "Growing Orchids My Way?!"  
Members are requested to bring their prize and  
problem plants and, of course, any question or  
advice.

**HELP**

We need to start a collection of slides of native  
epiphytic (species) orchids. Therefore negatives  
or slides of such orchids that you may have and  
would like to contribute would be most  
appreciated.

Please contact Club Photographer, Mr Kevin  
Western, c/o NOSSA, P.O. Box 565, UNLEY, S.A.  
5061.

## G. Brooks TRADING TABLE

The Trading Table Sub-committee obtains, from various interstate suppliers, quality Australian orchid species and hybrids for sale on the Trading Table. Members are encouraged to offer plants for sale on the Trading Table, provided the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (1) Plants must be clean, healthy and free of disease or insect infestation.
- (2) Well established and rooted plants are preferred, however, bare root and recently potted plants may be accepted by the sub-committee.
- (3) A "Schedule of Plants for Sale" must be supplied with the plants.
- (4) Plants must be labelled with the full name and whether cold-, intermediate- or hot-growing.
- (5) Plants must be marked with the selling price from which the Society charges a commission of 25%.

The Sub-committee welcomes the sale of members' plants through the Trading Table as a source of locally-grown plants for the novice grower. The Trading Table is also a means of spreading good clones of Australian orchids among the members.

## THANKS

Laurie Chambers-has volunteered to run our Library. We thank him for taking on this important part of our Society.

## NEW ORCHID NAMES

In May 1984 the University of Western Australia Press published "Orchids of South West Australia", by Noel Hoffman and Andrew Brown. This remarkable book includes a number of previously undescribed species, some of which were formally named in a paper in *Nuytsia* (Vol. 5, No. 1, pages 53-62), published last October. For users of Noel and Andrew's book these may be correlated as follows:

Page	Genus/Species
40-41	<i>Thelymitra variegata</i> var. <i>apiculata</i>
92-93	<i>Caladenia wanosa</i>
114-115	<i>Caladenia infundibularis</i>
124-125	<i>Caladenia uliginosa</i>
176-177	<i>Caladenia amplexans</i>
222-223	<i>Drakes thynniphila</i> ,
300-301	<i>Pterostylis dilatata</i>

Alex. George, Bureau of Flora and Fauna, Canberra.

First discovered in April 1932 by Mr. R. McNall at Fitzroy Falls (New South Wales), *Pterostylis pulchella* was found growing on rocks and associated with *Liparis reflexa*. It was described by Mrs Pearl Messmer and is found in very few localities in the Blue Mountains.

*Pterostylis pulchella* is one of the cauline-type autumn-flowering greenhoods. The stem clasping lance-shaped leaves gradually increase in size from the base upwards, with the bottom one being hardly more than a bract in the plant being discussed. Number of leaves is approximately five.

The flower is fairly large, 2 - 3.5 cm long, striated brown-red at the top and green with white near the base with the colours fusing where they meet.

It is rather broad on top with the tip of the galea arching between the petals, the lateral sepals stand gracefully erect.

One of the most distinct features of the flower is its bifid or divided-into-a-cleft labellum. Rather broad and curved, it protrudes from the galea.

Non-flowering plants produce a rosette only. Although not as graceful as *Pterostylis decurva* it is nevertheless a beautiful plant.

It is not common in cultivation in South Australia and the first specimens were obtained from A.N.O.S., Victoria. Flower production is rather shy and is probably related to the size of the tubers produced the previous season. Optimum tuber size is approximately 12-15 mm. They are white and globular.

Multiplication of tubers is rather slow but this may be affected by cultural conditions provided. A shady spot amongst your pots containing *Corybas* would suit. *Pterostylis pulchella*, being a mountain dweller, appreciates cool conditions during summer.

My plants are watered slightly earlier in the season than my winter-, spring-flowering species (early March). In fact, treat it like *P. decurva*, *P. coccinea*, *P. revoluta*, etc. Although it will no doubt adapt to a variety of soil mixes I use a mix of crumbly hills loam and washed sharp sand 60/40. A topping of pine needles, casuarina needles, etc., will prevent soil splash during heavy downpours.

#### References

W.H. Nicholls, Orchids of Australia.



## ORCHIDS ON DISPLAY

## Epiphytes

Speaker: Mr G. Nieuwenhoven

*Dendrobium bigibbum*, *D. Hilda Poxon* "Kenna", *D. couldi* x *lineale* "Kui Blue", *D. bigibbum* var *superbum* sub var. *compactum*, *D. "Mini Pearl"*, *D. Ellen*, *Sarcochilus hartmannii* x *Pt. hurticolor*, *Liparis reflexa*.

*D. bigibbum* varies in colour from deep mauve to white. They prefer a heated glasshouse and are affected by frost. *Liparis reflexa* is relatively easy to grow and needs some shade, but watch out as it has quite an odour. *D. couldi* x *lineale* "Kui Blue" is a hybrid of New Guinea and needs to be grown hot (minimum of 15°C and flowers very well. *D. "Ellen"* needs to be watered once a week.

Popular Vote: *D. couldi* x *lineale* "Kui Blue" - Mr J. Jacobs, and  
*D. bigibbum* - Mr L. Nesbitt.

## Terrestrials

Speaker: Mr L. Nesbitt

*Eriochilus cucullatus*, *Caladenia aphylla* (in bud), *Prasophyllum rufum*, *P. striatum*, *P. archerii*, *Pterostylis coccinea*, *P. baptistii*, *P. truncata*, *P. pulchella*, *P. reflexa*, *P. revoluta*, *P. daintreana*.

April is the month in which the flowering period for orchids begin. *Eriochilus cucullatus* always flowers in April. Most of the pots need to be kept moist, but do not allow them to become dry. Hand water with rain water if necessary. *Prasophyllum rufum* has a tuber as large as a grape but curiously its flowers are so small one needs a magnifying glass to fully appreciate them.

Popular Vote; - *Prasophyllum baptistii* - Mr L. Nesbitt.

## MICROTIS ON EYRE PENINSULA

R. Bates

Until 1982 only one *Microtis* (onion orchid) had been collected on Eyre Peninsula. This was *M. unifolia* (Forst.f) Reichb.f which is common from Port Lincoln west to Ceduna and north to the Gawler Ranges in a wide variety of habitats; from coastal sand dunes and salt lake margins to rock outcrops far inland. I had been told that there had once been a number of swamps near Port Lincoln and in September 1982 surveyed the area carefully. It was a drought year but about 15 kilometres east of Wanilla a very large area of swampland was located. Nearly all of it was turning saline and most was in overgrazed paddocks but one or two small vestiges of native vegetation were found and in one of them *Microtis orbicularis*, a very rare orchid in South Australia, was located.

In November 1984 the area was visited again and several large colonies of *Microtis atrata* were located - an extension of known distribution of several hundred kilometres. To cap it off the swamps which had previously yielded *M. orbicularis* was found to have *M. parviflora* in flower, another first record for the region.

In another area the *M. unifolia* were found to have larger than usual labella indicating influence perhaps of *M. rara* which was however, not located. It does seem likely that all of the South Australian *Microtis* probably occurred near Port Lincoln before settlement. What other swamp loving orchids must have occurred here? We will never know!

Although not mentioned in my previous paper on the status of *T. x juncifolia* H.M.R. Rupp, in "The Orchids of New South Wales", had *T. juncifolia* Lindley and *T. lilacina* F. Muell. ex Lindley synonymous with *T. ixioides* Sw. Further, after examining material labelled *T. aemula* Cheeseman at the Adelaide Herbarium, it is my opinion that this taxon should not be included with plant(s) presently known as *T. x juncifolia*. M.A. Clements (1982) has *T. lilacina* and *T. aemula* synonymous with *T. x juncifolia*.

Having taken a sometimes dissenting but, it is hoped, well reasoned stance in the principal paper and the notes above, the reader may well ask what answers I would offer to many of the questions implicit in the discussion. I know I am treading on potentially dangerous ground, and am, in fact, inviting criticism by entering into an area best left to professional botanists, but, as an amateur, I feel I can afford to "stick my neck out", using commonsense and the evidence before me.

Of course, nothing can be certain until further work is done and indeed all of the uncertainties may never be resolved, but field observations and examination of herbarium material and records lead me to believe:

- The plant listed and described in the 3rd edition of Black's Flora of South Australia as *T. decora* Cheeseman is not totally consistent with *T. truncata* R. Rogers which has been reduced to synonymy with it. Certainly, the column illustrated (Fig. 455) differs from the drawing published by Dr Rogers in 1917.
- The above-mentioned description and illustration of *T. decora* more closely fits characteristics of putative *T. ixioides* and *I. nuda* hybrids seen in Victoria, although not in every respect
- *T. truncata* R. Rogers is almost certainly a hybrid between *T. ixioides* Sw. and one of the *T. pauciflora* complex.
- The plant illustrated by Nicholls, which he called *T. ixioides* var. *truncata*, is almost certainly a hybrid between *T. ixioides* and one of the *T. nuda* complex.
- Since the same name cannot be applied to two different hybrids it will come to be accepted that Nicholls was in error when he reduced Rogers' *T. truncata* to varietal status,
- The use of the name *T. x juncifolia* will be discontinued, because *T. juncifolia* will be accepted as being synonymous with *T. ixioides*.
- *T. decora* in New Zealand is likely to be a hybrid between *T. ixioides* and *T. longifolia* J.R. et G. Forster.
- The New Zealand species *T. longifolia* is obviously allied to the spp, *T. pauciflora* and *T. nuda*, but since the relationship of the Australian spp. to this taxon is at present uncertain, the legality of using the name *T. decora* to refer to Australian plants must also be uncertain.
- It is likely that *T. truncata* R. Rogers will eventually be accorded hybrid status *T. x truncata* (applied to *T. ixioides* x *T. pauciflora*) and become an accepted name.
- The putative hybrids *T. ixioides* x *T. nuda* and *T. ixioides* x *mucida* are, in reality, presently unnamed.
- If the name *T. decora* gains general acceptance in Australia, it will be because further study has revealed either the *T. pauciflora* complex or the *T. nuda* complex (or both) to be synonymous with, or varieties

A Follow-Up On The *Thelymitra* X *Juncifolia* Discussion (contd.)

- of *T. longifolia*, in which case the name *T. decora* Cheeseman (1906) must take precedence over *T. truncata* R. Rogers (1917) in accordance with the rules of priority.
- If *T. decora* gains general acceptance in Australia it will probably be accorded hybrid status *T. x decora*, referring to *T. ixioides* x *T. longifolia*.

## ORCHID INDEX

## (1) Native Ground Orchids. L. Nesbitt~

Cultural notes for terrestrial native orchid growers.  
This article has been divided into two sections, the first dealing with deciduous type; and the second with evergreen types.  
South Australian Orchid Bulletin, Issue No 3, April 1985, page 2.

## (2) Dendrobiums are the Shot?, R. Shooter

Cultural notes and other comment on this hardy family of plants.  
South Australian Orchid Bulletin, Issue No 3, April 1985, page 6.

## (3) Observations on Western Australian Corybas. B. Bates.

These tiny orchids are lovers of cool, moist conditions. A short article describing these, with accompanying photographs.  
W.A. Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group, March 1985, pp 3-4.

(4) An Introduction to the Biology of *Leporella fimbriata*

An interesting article looking at the biology of this orchid.  
It also includes an illustration of the life cycle plus a chart showing data on various aspects of the orchid.  
W.A. Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group, March 1985, pp 7-14.

(5) Growing *Cymbidiums* from Backbulbs. S. Monkhouse.

An article which describes the most popular method of propagating *Cymbidium* orchids.  
Gawler Districts Orchid Club Inc. Vol, 5, No 2, March 1985, page 7.

## (6) How to Grow Natives Naturally. E. Merritt.

An article dealing with growing orchids without artificial shelter other than the walls of the house.  
The Orchidophile, Sydney Group (ANOS) Issue 2, March 1985, pp 8-9.

## (7) Natural Propagation and Growing Techniques. Eric Merritt.

An interesting article well worth reading.  
The Orchidophile, Sydney Group (ANOS), Issue 2, March 1985, pp 9-10.

(8) Cultivation of *Sarcochilus* for Beginners. L. Montuoro.

A brief but helpful article for beginners.  
Warringah Group of ANOS, March-April, 1985, page 2.

The species *D. bigibbum*, belongs to the sub-genus *Eu dendrobium*. The sub-genus is further subdivided into a number of sections and *D. bigibbum* belongs to the sections *Phalaenanthe*. Other species in that section are *D. dicuphum*, *D. phalaenopsis* and *D. Williamsianum*. All are from the Timor, Torres Strait, New Guinea and Cape York Peninsula regions.

*D. bigibbum* was described by John Lindley in 1853, from plants collected on Mount Adolphus Island in Torres Strait. They were sent to London where they were grown and flowered.

For more than one hundred years confusion has existed over the named *D. bigibbum*, *D. phalaenopsis* and *D. schroederianum*. In 1880 Robert Fitzgerald, the noted Australian amateur botanist, published a description of *D. phalaenopsis* based on a plant which apparently had been collected "near Cooktown". In 1885 the English botanist, Joseph Hooker, identified some plants from the Tanimbar Islands as *D. phalaenopsis*. Since that time no plants corresponding to Fitzgerald's description have been found in Australia. It is now considered that the plant from "near Cooktown", was in fact a cultivated plant from elsewhere.

The difference between *D. bigibbum* and *D. phalaenopsis* is not immediately obvious, therefore it became quite common to identify *D. bigibbum* as *D. phalaenopsis*.

This led to much confusion when it came to naming parents when registering hybrids. As an example the hybrid *D. Suzanne* was registered as a cross between *D. tetragonum* and *D. phalaenopsis* by Willersdsdorf in 1965, however, as the originator is reported to have stated he collected the parent plant *D. phalaenopsis* from the bush near Cooktown it is confidently assumed that it was *D. bigibbum*. A few years later, in 1979, the confusion was compounded when W. and G. Cannon registered a cross between *D. tetragonum* and *D. Pee Wee*. Because the R.H.S. accepted the original registration as using *D. phalaenopsis*, there are now two differently named hybrids *D. Suzanne* and *D. Pee Wee* with the same parentage.

There are several recognised forms of *D. bigibbum*, however, as far as the average grower is concerned *D. bigibbum* var *superbum* and *D. bigibbum* var *compactum* are the two most obvious varieties. *D. bigibbum* var *superbum* (the true "Cooktown orchid") has slender stems 6-48 inches tall with 3-12 leaves confined to the top half of the stem; the racemes are 4-16 inches long and bear from 2-20 usually reddish-mauve flowers about 1½ inches in diameter, however, the colour is variable and a rare white form does exist.

The sub-species, *D. bigibbum* var *compactum*, has short robust stems 3-10 inches long with flowers closely resembling those of sub var *superbum*. This sub variety should not be referred to simply as *D. compactum*; another species of that name exists being a very small compact plant about 8 inches high having small dull white flowers endemic to China and described by Rolfe in 1913. It has rarely, if ever, been seen since.

Unfortunately hybridists for a number of years used the shortened name and to correct a long sequence of errors flowing from this careless registration it was necessary for the R.H.S. to publish notice in the "Orchid Review" for January 1978 advising that some 20 hybrids had been registered having *D. compactum* recorded as a parent when, in fact, it should have been *D. bigibbum* var *compactum*.



RICHARD SANDERS ROGERS, 1862-1942

Surgeon

Dr. Rogers was considered to be the foremost authority on Australian orchids for his time. He named and described 79 species and contributed numerous papers published in the Royal Societies of Australia and overseas. His contribution to knowledge and research was recognised by being awarded his degree of Doctor of Science at the Adelaide University in 1936. His thesis on orchids was acclaimed by authorities in England. Dr Rogers visited Western Australia with his wife, Jean, in 1919, after corresponding with many Western Australian enthusiasts. He named sixteen species, three have been reduced to synonym and one considered an aberrant species. Rogers named and described the underground orchid *Rhizanthella gardneri* currently being researched with funding from the World Wildlife Authority.

- Caladenia bryceana* 1914 x Bryce MacIntyre, Pallinup River, Sept. 1914.  
*C. cristata* 1923 x E. Simpson, Miling, Sept 1923.  
*C. lavandulacea* 1927 x F. Stoward, Beverley, Sept 1926.  
*C. radialis* 1927 x F. Stoward, Beverley, 13 Sept 1927.  
 x E.H. Ising, Beverley, 1 Sept 1913.  
*C. sigmoidea* 1938 x L. Horbury, Kumari, 25 Aug 1937.  
*C. triangularis* 1927 x E.T. Goadby, Highbury Sept 1924.  
*Prasophyllum regium* 1918 x R. Pulliene, Manjimup, Dec 1917.  
*P. lanceolatum* 1920 x Symes Johnson, Albany, 25 Sept 1919.  
 x MPSWE Gourke, Murask, 4 Sept 1907.  
*Rhizanthella gardneri* 1928 x J. Trott, Corrugin, 23 May 1928  
 x J. Plant, Shackleton, June 1928.  
*Thelymitra sargentii* 1930 x O.H. Sargent, Bencubbin, Oct 1924.  
 x R.E. Edmonson, Bencubbin, Oct 1929.  
 x B.T. Goadby, Dalwalling, Oct 1929.  
*Pterostylis allantoidea* 1938 x L. Horbury, Kumarl, Aug 1937.  
*P. scabra* var *robusta* 1927 x E.T. Goadby, Perth Fremantle Swanbourne,  
 July 1927.  
*Drakaea jeanensis* 1920 x Jean Rogers, Ravenswood, Sept 1919.

FRIEDRICH LUDWIG DIELS, 1874-1945

Director of Berlin Botanical Gardens

Dr Diels visited Western Australia in 1900-1901 with E. Preitzel, teacher of Botany, Berlin. He collected extensively some 5,700 specimens of native flora. Of these 235 new species were described. "Fragmenta Phytographic", of the two terrestrials named, one has been reduced to synonym.

*Diuris purdiei* 1903 x Alex Purdie, Cannington, Oct 1933.

ROBERT FITZGERALD 1830-1893

Deputy Surveyor General, New South Wales

Robert Fitzgerald's work made a major contribution to the knowledge of the Orchidaceae. The quality of his work and the attention to detail illustrated in "Australian Orchids 1875-94" has never been, or is likely to, be surpassed. He visited Western Australia in 1881 and collected and named 12 terrestrials. Five have since been reduced to synonym by botanical revision. Those remaining are:

*Caladenia lobata* 1882 x Wharberton, Hay River, Sept 1881.

*C. macrostylis* 1882 x Wharberton, Hay River, Sept 1881.

*C. plicata* 1882 x Wharberton, Hay River, Sept 1881.

*Diuris laevis* x Fitzgerald, Denmark, Sept 1881.

*Thelymitra mucida* 1882 x Fitzgerald» Wilsons Inlet, Sept 1881.

*Drakea glyptodon* 1882 x Fitzgerald, Bunbury and Dardanua, Sept 1881.

*Prasophyllum triangulare* 1882 x Fitzgerald, Albany, Oct 1881.

#### HILDA POXON DISPLAY

Several members did bring their specimens of Hilda Poxon to the April meeting. It was observed that several mixes were being used with various results. Potting mixes consisted of ingredients such as charcoal, bark, bluestone and pine bark and even quartzite. A particular specimen was grown in a hothouse with poor results. Others were grown under sarlon cloth and shade cloth which produced healthy plants. One particular plant was grown in quartzite and fine bark and was in particularly good condition.

It was pointed out by Mr A. Phillips that large pots are more suitable for growing this particular orchid because of Adelaide's dry summers. Perhaps we may see in future Journals an article from these knowledgeable Hilda Poxon growers.

REMINDER p

Subscriptions are now due:

Single \$6.00

Family \$8.00

## ANTS FARM ORCHIDS Les Nesbitt

About May last year, soon after the start of the terrestrial growing season, I noticed tiny dark brown ants had made a nest in one of my pots of *Diuris longifolia*. I grumbled a bit but took no action thinking the winter rain would soon drown the ants. A few weeks later the ants had nests in the two adjacent pots also, so I got mad enough to get a can of insecticide and spray the top of the three pots. This had very little effect and as the weeks went by more and more pots had ant holes and ant mounds on the surface. The orchids were still growing happily so I didn't knock any plants out but I did squirt insect killer on them from a pressure pack can from time to time.

By September about 30 pots had old or active ant's nests. I reasoned that it wasn't worth doing anything then because the plants would soon be going dormant anyway, besides, the orchids were flowering and still looked healthy. The plants eventually died down but signs of the ants (which are active at night) were still there.

When I knocked out the pots I discovered that they were riddled with ant tunnels and that each tuber had one or two mealy bugs attached to it. The ants were farming the mealy bugs and feeding them on my orchids. No wonder they put up with insect sprays since they had a plentiful supply of honey-dew from their tame mealy bugs safe below ground. The ants obviously invaded new pots as the bugs multiplied and needed more food. They were even careful not to overtax each orchid with too many of the sap-sucking bugs.

Needless to say I killed every mealy bug before replanting the tubers. So far the ants have not reappeared in the terrestrial pots but as soon as they do, it will be a drop of neat dieldrin in each ant hole as I am too mean to let insects feed on my orchids if I can prevent them.

## NATIVE ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## Section 1:

Terrestrial and or epiphyte growing in natural environment.

## Section 2:

Still portrait, e.g. plant in pot, mounted plant.

## Section 3:

Close up of flower or flowers.

## Conditions:

Any photograph or slide taken by the entrant may be submitted and does not have to be especially taken for this competition.

All entries to be submitted at the meeting night, 27 August, 1985.

## Please Note:

As the winning entries of each section will be enlarged by the Club and displayed at the Spring Show, slide transparencies would be preferred. If a photograph is submitted a negative must be available.