

Journal
of the
Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc



Leptoceras menziesii

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
PO BOX 565 UNLEY SA 5061

www.nossa.org.au.

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 of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY
OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

DECEMBER 2009 VOL. 33 NO 11

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**The Native Orchid Society of South Australia meets every
4th Tuesday of the months February -November**

NEXT MEETING 22 FEBRUARY 2010

Tuesday, 22 February, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 pm. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and the trading table.

This is the first meeting for 2010

DIARY DATES

22th February 2010

first meeting for 2010

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tues, 2nd February at the home of Bodo Jensen. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Plants Benched

Epiphyte Species: *Cymbidium canaliculatum* (3 plants); *Cymbidium madidum*; *Dendrobium canaliculatum*; *Sarcochilus hartmannii*..

Epiphyte Hybrids: *Sarcochilus* Fitzhart.

Terrestrial Species: *Caladenia tentaculata*; *Diuris drummondii*; *Phaius tankervilleae*.

Terrestrial Hybrids: *Diuris* Dragonfly; *Diuris sulphurea* x *brevifolia*.

Judging Results

Open div epiphyte species

1st *Cymbidium canaliculatum*

2nd *Cymbidium canaliculatum*

3rd *Cymbidium madidum*

Grower

M & L Guy

Bodo Jensen

Les Nesbitt

Second division Epiphyte species

1st *Cymbidium canaliculatum*

Janet Adams

No 2nd or 3rd

Open division Hybrids

1st Sarco Fitzhart

Les Nesbitt

No 2nd or 3rd

No Second division Epiphyte Hybrids

Open division Terrestrial species

1st *Diuris drummondii* 1st

Les Nesbitt

2nd *Phaius tankervilleae*

Les Nesbitt

3rd *Caladenia tentaculata*

Les Nesbitt

Open division Terrestrial Hybrids

1st *Diuris* Dragonfly

Les Nesbitt

2nd *Diuris sulphurea* x *brevifolia*

Les Nesbitt

No 3rd

Popular vote results

Open division Epiphyte species

Cymbidium canaliculatum

Bodo Jensen

Second division Epiphyte species

Cymbidium canaliculatum

Janet Adams

Open division Epiphyte hybrid

Sarcochilus Fitzhart

Les Nesbitt

Open Division Terrestrial species

Equal 1st *Diuris drummondii*

Les Nesbitt

Equal 1st *Phaius tankervilleae*

Les Nesbitt

Open division Terrestrial Hybrid

Diuris Dragonfly

Les Nesbitt

Plant of the night

Cymbidium canaliculatum

M & L Guy

Plant commentary on Terrestrials given by Les Nesbitt & on Epiphytes by Reg Shooter

N.O.S.S.A. FIELD TRIPS

The last field trip for 2009 is on Boxing Day, Saturday December 26th. Meet at 9am at top carpark, Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens. Local area, morning only.
Contact, Bob Bates

Terrestrial Tips for December and January

Summer is the time to repot, assess results & make improvements for the next growing season. It is very satisfying to knock out a pot and find large healthy tubers.

Obtain & store soil ingredients, topping, & pots.

Order dormant tubers from available sources to broaden your collection.

Watering

Terrestrials need very little water when dormant. Just the occasional sprinkle to prevent tubers shrivelling. Once the tubers shoot, and some start in January, increase the amount & frequency.

Pots and mixes

Pots can be clay or plastic. I use mostly plastic as they are easier to clean and sterilise when repotting the dormant tubers. Size of pot and openness of the mix are linked as larger pots with the same mix stay wetter for longer. Recommended sizes are 125mm and 150mm standard pots and 175mm squat pots. Larger exhibition pots will need more sand in the mix to improve the drainage.

Terrestrial growers all have their favourite mix that works for them. They vary from premium potting mix, to a sand, buzzer chip, mountain soil mix to my mix of soil, sand, & humus. The mix must be free draining in winter yet retain moisture in autumn and spring. Most growers retain some of the old mix, (up to 50%) to which new ingredients are added including a little blood and bone fertiliser at repotting time in summer. Most of the orchids in cultivation prefer a slightly acid soil mix.

A topping layer covering the surface of the pot is very important for healthy leaves and to minimise erosion from water dripping off the shade cloth roof. I prefer chopped up sheoak needles but *Pinus radiata* needles are OK. Other growers use gum nuts or fine gravel or leaf litter from hard leaved native plants. The leaf litter layer is replenished each autumn.

Preparing exhibition pots

For exhibition work the aim is to have large pots with lots of plants all flowering at once in time for a show. It is not an easy task. At repotting time select large tubers of about the same size and arrange them in concentric circles in the selected pot with the shoots on top. Cover with about 25mm of soil mix and then a topping layer. Exhibits with 50 large flowering plants in a 300mm pot can be eye-catching.

Some terrestrials only flower after a bushfire. They can be forced into flowering by using the banana treatment or smoky water. The banana treatment works well on *Leptocerus menziesii*. Place the dormant tubers in a shallow dish and put the dish in a plastic bag with a banana skin for two weeks. The banana gives off ethylene gas, which affects the tubers, and they flower the next spring. Give the tubers a rest for a year before trying the treatment again or you may lose them. Some growers make smokey water by burning sticks and leaves and bubbling the smoke through water. The resulting smokey water is then poured over the orchid pots to simulate the effects of a bushfire.

Housing and benching

A terrestrial house should be sealed to keep out birds and animals and have shade cloth or wire mesh sides to allow the breeze to move through. I prefer a roof of angled 50% shade cloth but other growers use a solid roof of plastic or fibreglass. A solid roof means you have to water your pots by hand which is more work. It is very important that winter sun reaches your plants so site the shadehouse away from the winter shadows of buildings and evergreen trees.

NOSSA special excursion to see *Oligochaetochilus* sp. 'Rock Ledges' R. Bates

This very successful trip made under ideal conditions and with seven NOSSA members present, began on private property between Ironbank and Scott Creek in blue gum woodland on steep slopes, in hard soils. We soon counted nearly a hundred specimens in flower and then began a complete orchid survey of the ten hectare property, turning up more than fifty orchid species, most in flower. This was something of a record and proves that our national parks generally do not include the best orchid habitats. Species 'Rock ledges' is considered nationally endangered and is restricted to rocky slopes in higher parts of the Adelaide Hills, the plants are about 5 cm tall with 1-8 reddish green flowers with short, sharp lateral sepals.

The species is likely to be named '*aculeata*' accordingly. Plants may elongate to 20 cm tall in a good spring, something we rarely get these days.

Several other rare and endangered species occur on the same block and we found the rare spider orchids, *Arachnorchis behrii*, *A. leptochila* and *A. rigida* in flower. Other rarities included (amongst some 20 different sun orchids) *Thelymitra carnea*, *T. batesii*, *T. grandiflora*, *T. x irregularis*, *T. x chasmogama* and *T. x truncata* all in bloom. Two undescribed sun orchids were also seen in bud. Rare greenhoods seen included *Pterostylis foliata*, *P. curta* x *P. pedunculata* and *Plumatichilos* sp. 'Woodland'.

After morning tea we moved on to Scott Creek CP and climbed a small ridge near Eys tunnel, to our surprise adding several rare orchids not seen in the area before ie *Prasophyllum fitzgeraldii* (12) and *P. pallidum* (50) as well as *Thelymitra batesii* in good numbers. There was more to come as we relocated the *Oligochaetochilus* sp. Rock ledges in better numbers than had been seen since 1988. In addition a 'lost' population of the endangered *Arachnorchis gladiolata* was later rediscovered at the same site by the Houstons. Not bad for a few hours work! Thanks to Joe Quarmby (DEH) for organising this excursion at short notice.



New Orchid records and extensions of known distribution in South Australia in 2009: R Bates

As reported in an earlier journal the excitement of new finds began early in the year; with midge orchids (*Corunastylis*) found right across the Nullarbor, the first record of any midges from west of Ceduna. This was made even more interesting by the fact that the most common species seen was undescribed.

If autumn discoveries were surprising, winter ones were better as a species of helmet orchid, *Corysanthes*, new to science, was located in good numbers on Fleurieu Peninsula and later York Peninsula and tagged as *Corysanthes* sp. Fat dwarf.

In the same area an additional subspecies of *Corysanthes despectans* was recognised and tagged as *Corysanthes* Red-eyed ghost as it is a stable form seen before in SL, EP and YP but dismissed as an albino. In view of the fact it forms stable colonies and has a bright red patch on the column it can not be regarded as a mere albino. See images below... In addition to these new taxa a new helmet orchid hybrid: *Corysanthes diemenica* x *C. despectans* was seen at Sandy Creek.

In September it was shown beyond a doubt that what we call *Arachnorchis tensa* in South Australia is actually at least two species, as pollinators observed on the flowers of the large woodland plants were quite different from those on mallee plants. In addition the smaller 'Barossa sand-hill' form of *Arachnorchis tentaculata* is now officially recognised as a separate subspecies and has been added to the Orchids of South Australia DVD.

October studies of *Thelymitra ixioides* showed that the fat bud and narrow bud forms grow together and do not intergrade and so each is now treated in Orchids of South Australia as a separate species.

The pale, stabilised sun orchid cross between *T. albiflora* and *T. brevifolia* is now being recognised as a separate taxon on the DVD as it is locally common in parts of the Adelaide Hills. Similarly the dark bud form of *T. grandiflora* from rocky slopes in the Flinders Ranges which has a red based non-glaucous leaf will soon be treated as a separate subspecies.

In addition it is likely that an undescribed sun orchid with numerous small mauve flowers with fat brown buds from SL and SE may be worthy of species rank. It is yet to be given its tag name.

A *Microtis* from waterholes near Penola in the SE is being tagged as *Microtis* sp. Topperwein and Nicholls *Microtis biloba* is to be re-instated. June Niejalke's extensive studies of *Plumatichilos tasmanicum* in the SE indicate that the form with a very erect galea and pinched apex should probably be regarded as a separate taxon.

Extensions of range were few and small this year, obviously climate change is causing ranges of all species to decrease and any extensions will continue to be few in number. However *Corysanthes diemenica* was recorded from the southern Flinders Ranges for the first time as was *Microtis parviflora*, both of these from Wirrabara.

Hybrids not previously recorded include *Thelymitra alcockiae* x *T. luteocilium* (Wirrabara), *T. batesii* x *T. rubra* (Spring Gully), *T. carnea* x *T. juncifolia* (Belair) and *T. azurea* x *T. alcockiae* (Kangaroo Island). Thank you to all those members who have noted new hybrids etc and to NCS and AOF for funding some of these studies.



**RB, *Corysanthes despectans* x *C. incurvus*, Sandy Creek
A new hybrid for SL.**



***T. carnea* x *T. juncifolia*, first record for SA
Image by Jenny Skinner**

N.O.S.S.A Tuber Bank for 2009/2010

Jane Higgs

Available to financial members only! Closing date for orders is the last mail on the 4th of January 2010. Tubers will be posted around the 12th January 2010.

I thank all growers who have generously promised tubers, which need to reach me by the 8th of January.

NOTE: 48 lots in all.

Circle each lot number that you wish to order & mark 'Sub' by any that you would like if your first choice is not available. Lots will have from 2-10 tubers depending on supply & demand. Tubers in short supply will be issued on a first come first served basis. Please record the provenance of tubers you receive if known.

Price per lot is \$1.00.

An additional charge of \$4.50 for postage & handling costs applies.

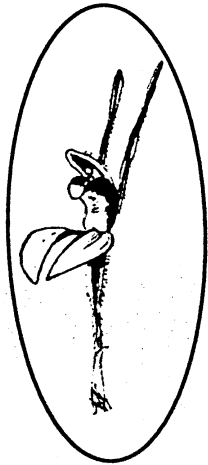
POST ORDER TO;
P.O. Box 134
MYPONGA. S.A. 5202

J Higgs

SUB

1	Acianthus pusillus	
2	Acianthus caudatus	
3	Chiloglottis trapeziformis	
4	Corybas diemenicus	
5	Cyrtostylis robusta	
6	Diplodidium abruptum	
7	Diplodidium coccinum 'red'	(limited)
8	Diplodidium laxum	
9	Diplodidium laxum	Bungonia NSW
10	Diplodidium laxum green	Calcre Hill, Wagga NSW
11	Diplodidium obtusum	Kincumber NSW
12	Diplodidium obtusum sp. aff.	
13	Diplodidium reflexum	Fernbay NSW
14	Diplodidium revolutum	Buragambill Hills NSW
15	Diplodidium robustum	
16	Diplodidium torquatum green	Ebor Falls NSW
17	Diplodidium truncatum	
18	Diplodidium truncatum	You Yang Vic
19	Diuris (sulphurea x brevifolia)	
20	Linguella nana green	Hills variety
21	Microtis fruterorum	
22	Microtis unifolia	
23	Microtis arenaria	
24	Microtis arenaria	Adelaide Hills SA
25	Pterostylis Bantam	
26	Pterostylis curta	
27	Pterostylis Jack Warcup	
28	Pterostylis (nutans x curta)	
29	Pterostylis acuminata	
30	Pterostylis curta	Lucindale. SA.
31	Pterostylis Cutie 'Harold's Pride'	
32	Pterostylis Dusky Duke	
33	Pterostylis Hoodwink	
34	Pterostylis Joseph Arthur	
35	Pterostylis nutans	
36	Pterostylis pedunculata	
37	Pterostylis pedunculata	Kuipito. SA
38	Pterostylis pedunculata	Marble Hill
39	Pterostylis x ingens	
40	Taurantha collina green	
41	Taurantha concinna	Fernbay NSW
42	Taurantha ophioglossa	(limited)
43	Taurantha ophioglossa	Red Banks Plains Q
44	Taurantha ophioglossa	Single Point NSW
45	Thelymitra frenchii	
46	Thelymitra graminea	
47	X Taurodium furcillatum	West NSW
48	X Taurodium toveyana	

Price per lot \$1.00	Name:
.....lots = \$.....	Address:
.....
Plus \$4.50 postage & packing	State
Total of order \$.....	Post Code:
Cheque/Money Order to be made payable to N.O.S.S.A. (in Australian Dollars)	



Native Orchid Society of South Australia Inc

P.O. 565 Unley S.A. 5061

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Please note subscriptions are due and payable with effect from **1st January**

I/We wish to renew membership of the Society.

NAME: Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms _____

_____ Post Code _____

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You are requested to pay in Australian Dollars.

Due to the high cost of collection, monies paid in other currencies will not cover a subscription for the full year.

**Merry
Christmas**



Cymbidium canaliculatum



Dendrobium canaliculatum



Cymbidium madidum



Cymbidium canaliculatum



Sarcochilus Fitzhart



Sarcochilus hartmannii



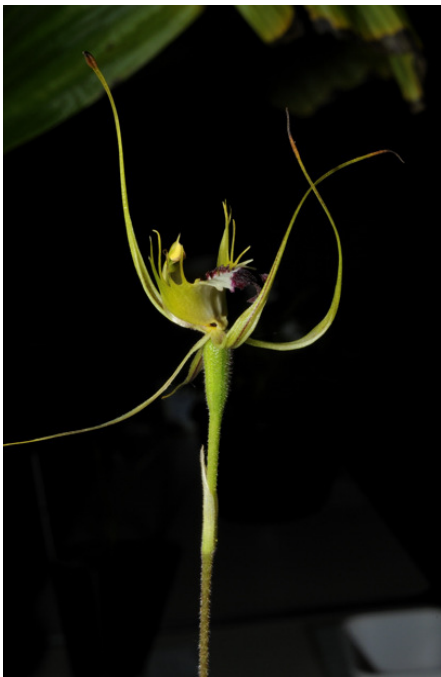
Diuris drummondii



Diuris dragonfly



Diuris sulphurea x brevifolia



Caladenia tentaculata



Phaius tancarvilleae

