

NEWSLETTER OF THE

CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY

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Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest

APRIL MEETING: AOS SLIDE SHOW ON THOSE AMAZING MINIATURE ORCHIDS

Imagine this... Like so many other orchid hobbyists, you are quickly finding your collection bulging at the seams and the available space is at a premium. And you've got more than your fair share of those big flashy hybrids that make great demands on both space & available light. Just imagine being able to fit dozens of orchids in the space taken by only one of standard size! Welcome to the world of miniatures! This month, CNYOS will present the AOS

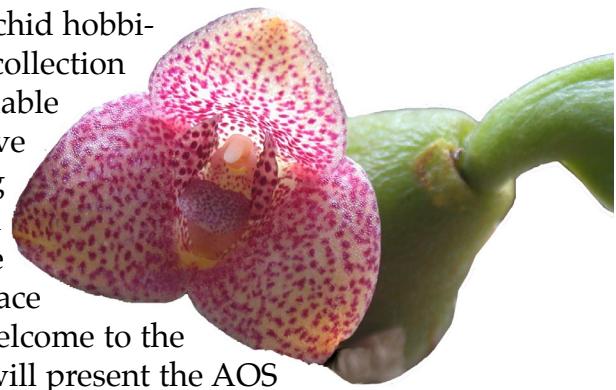
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slide show on miniature orchids (Sunday, April 6, at 2:00^{PM}). Not only is this a world of orchids characterized by some of the most bizarre and most colorful flowers of all the orchid world—but many fit in the palm of your hand and have flowers that are proportionally HUGE compared to the size of the plant. Think in terms of a Cattleya or Phalaenopsis with flowers as large as the plant itself! Contrary to popular belief, not all are difficult. And there are many more hybrids in miniatures than there used to be—we're not necessarily talking about the compact versions of familiar orchids (minicatts, compact multiflora Phals, small-statured Paphs, etc.), but Pleurothallids, miniature Dendrobiums, many Bulbophyllums and many, many others. The easy-to-grow *Trias picta* above has flowers the size of your thumbnail. The miniature Bulbophyllum to the left blooms in a 2" pot. *Lepanthes escobariana* has

magnificent translucent yellow flowers that are larger than the plant's leaves, and requires low light & medium to high humidity. A blooming size plant will fit comfortably in a 1 inch pot!

Please join us for this informative slide show, as well as some spring planning & our regular monthly activities.



**MARCH MEETING: TAKING ORCHID
SEEDLINGS OUT OF COMPOST**

At the last meeting of the Central NY Orchid Society, VP Judi Witkin showed members how to remove orchid seedlings from compost and plant them up individually. Several mini-catt community pots were purchased from Exotic Orchids of Maui. During the meeting, members

broke into small groups to work with the seedlings, which were available for only a few dollars each. The meeting was a welcome hands-on diversion from our regular presentation-type program.

**CNYOS PARTICIPATES AT CENTRAL NY
FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW: MARCH 13-16**

Over the St. Patrick's Day weekend, members representing CNYOS made their annual appearance at the CNY Flower & Garden Show. The club had a nice display (thanks to Dianne

Bordoni, Valerie Introne, and Deb Coyle) and had available information on orchid culture and the Central NY Orchid Society. In addition, the club had a raffle and sold orchids to the public as a fund-raiser. Although not as successful as in past years, our participation still brought in more than \$500 to be put toward future events and programs. In addition, there seemed to be a lot of interest in CNYOS, which hopefully will translate into new members. Thanks to all of our members who generously gave of their time and energy to make this (hopefully) annual event a success.

ORCHIDS FOR SALE AT OUR APRIL MEETING!

Although the club's sales were good at the Flower & Garden Show, we do have a few left over orchids. These will be for sale at the next meeting—nearly all are in bud or bloom (Paphs, Phals, and one Miltoniopsis), and will be sold for close to cost.

1. Treasurer's Report- \$4,000.
2. Thanks to Margaret Tupper and David Ditz for the refreshments.
3. Dianne and Deb bought light bulbs for club members, they will be sold for \$7/bulb. Contact Dianne Bordoni for availability.
4. Flower and Garden Show—members were encouraged to volunteer (2 per time slot). The club was given 4 badges to gain entry into the Show, and purchased an additional 11 at \$5/badge. These badges will be picked up the Tuesday prior to the show and then mailed to participants. The badge must be visible upon entering the parking lot. Plants are being ordered for sale to the public. A few cache pots will also be sold. There will be detailed instructions for sales at the booth. Members will receive a 10% discount, those who participate, a 15% discount.
5. GROS (Genesee Region Orchid Society Show, Rochester NY, 3/29-3/30). Jeff Stuart, Cheryl Lloyd, and Barbara Weller will set up on Thursday, 3/27. David Ditz and Ken Renno will take down on Sunday. Send your registration information to Jeff, if you have questions on spellings, hybrids, etc., contact Iris Cohen.
6. April meeting will be a video on all kinds of miniature orchids.
7. Proposal floored by Iris Cohen: If we have an out of town guest at a meeting who is a paid member of his/her home town orchid society, he/she gets one free raffle ticket with the ones he buys. The proposal was passed.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary**

Photo credits page 1: All photos taken and digitally processed by Jeff Stuart, © 2003

CNYOS CALENDAR

- April 6** **Regular Meeting:** AOS Slide Show on Miniature Orchids by Moises Behar, corresponding member of the AOS Education Committee.
- April 10-13** **23RD Greater New York International Orchid Show**, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY. Contact: Carlos Fighetti, 4325 Piermont Rd., Closter, NJ 07624; (201) 767-3367.
- April 12** **Men's Garden Club of Syracuse and Phoenix Flower Farm/PFF Landscaping** present “**Shades of Night**,” the 9TH annual Spring Gardening Seminar, with Judy Glattstein & Cathy Barash. Call 315-451-2969 or 315-655-9124 for registration info (\$35). Craftsman Inn, Fayetteville.
- April 20** **Regular Meeting of the Southern Tier Orchid Society**
- April 25-27** **Southern Tier Orchid Society Spring Show**, Oakdale Mall, Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY.
- May 4** **CNYOS Annual Orchid Auction!!!**
- June ???** **Annual Summer Picnic—details to be announced.**
- July 26-27** **Parkside Orchid Fest 2003!** Parkside Orchid Nursery in Ottsville, PA. Two day educational & sales event (free admission). At least 20 orchid vendors scheduled to participate. Contact Info: (610) 847-8039, http://www.parksideorchids.com/fest_2003.htm

Wanted: *Brassavola nodosa* in Bloom!

Iris Cohen is looking for a blooming *Brassavola nodosa* that she can borrow to display at a charity event. If you have one in bloom—and are willing to part with it for a few days—please contact Iris (461-9226, IrisCohen@aol.com) bring it to the next meeting.

GROS News: NEWS FROM THE GENESEE REGION ORCHID SOCIETY

GROS will wind-down during their next meeting after putting on a successful spring show. This month's invited speaker is **Andy Easton**, presenting “**Six Decades of Orchid Culture Change**.” Andy is an AOS Senior Judge and an expert on Cymbidiums, Odontoglossums (including the warmth-tolerant species and hybrids), Paphiopedilums (mottled-leaf alba varieties), and Cattleyas.

Andy has been a professional orchid grower and hybridizer since 1973. He has been the owner of Geyserland Orchids in New Zealand since 1983, and he is currently the Director of Operations and Education at the American Orchid Society.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 25, No. 6, March 2003, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.

Cypripedium Alliance

<i>Paph. Vanguard</i> (<i>moquettianum</i> x <i>rothschildianum</i>)	Ditz
<i>Paph. villosum</i>	Coleman
<i>Phrag.</i> unknown	Bordoni
<i>Phrag. Mary Bess</i> (<i>besseae</i> x <i>caricinum</i>)	Introne
<i>Paph. Red Prince</i> x <i>callosum</i>	"
<i>Paph. callosum</i>	?
<i>Paph. Papa Röhl</i> (<i>sukhakulii</i> x <i>fairrieanum</i>)	Stensland

Cattleya Alliance

Unknown hybrid*	Lowell
<i>Sc. Mini Collins</i> (C. Michael Collins x S. Arizona)	Cohen
<i>Slc. Frank's Valentine</i> (California Apricot x Precious Stones)	"
<i>Slc. Seagulls Andy Sean</i> (Hazel Boyd x Dixie Jewels)	Ditz
<i>Pot. Douglass North</i> (<i>Slc. Helen Veliz</i> x <i>Blc. Orange Nuggett</i>)	"
<i>C. intermedia</i>	Bordoni
<i>B. nodosa</i>	Ufford
<i>Bl. Yellow Bird</i> (Richard Mueller x <i>B. nodosa</i>)	Coleman

Vandaceous

<i>Phal. Brother Spots Way</i> x <i>Brother Purple</i>	Coleman
<i>Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope</i> (<i>amboinensis</i> x Redwine)	"
<i>Phal. Little Steve</i> (Steven Ai x <i>equestris</i>)	Tupper
<i>Phal. Gene Wentz</i> (Brother Sally Taylor x Brother Pirate King)	Cohen
<i>Phal. Brother Sara Gold</i> (Sara Lee x Taipei Gold)	"
<i>Phal. Strawberry Wine</i> (Queen Spot x Brother Purple)	Weller
<i>Phal. Gold Tris</i> (Taipei [sic] Gold x <i>equestris</i>)	Bordoni
<i>Phal. schilleriana</i>	Ufford
<i>Phal. celebensis</i>	"
<i>Phal. philippinense</i>	"
<i>Phal. Sogo Yukidian</i> (sic) (Yukimai x Taisuco Kochdian)	Introne
<i>Phal. Baldan's Kaleidoscope</i>	Tupper

Oncidium Alliance

<i>Hwra. Mini-Primi</i> (<i>Rdcm. Primi</i> x <i>Lchs. oncidiodoides</i>)	Cohen
<i>Comp. xmaloi</i> / Afterglow (<i>speciosa</i> x <i>falcata</i>)	"
<i>Rhynchostele cervantesii</i>	Stuart
<i>Rhynchostele rossii</i>	"
<i>Trpla. tortilis</i>	"
<i>Milt. Red Woodham</i> x Dennis Kleinbach	Tupper

Dendrobium

<i>Den. Spotted Gem</i> (Nora Tokunaga x <i>atrovioletaceum</i>)	Introne
<i>Den. mohlianum</i> (sic)	Witkin
<i>Den. Kuniko</i> (<i>victoria-reginae</i> x <i>goldschmidtianum</i>)	"
<i>Den. lawesii</i>	"
<i>Den. Memoria Margery Ummer</i> (Nagasaki x Yukidaruma)	Lowell
<i>Den. goldschmidtianum</i>	Coyle

Pleurothallid Alliance

<i>Pths. sp.</i>	Witkin
<i>Dryadella zebrina</i>	"
<i>Masd. attenuata</i>	Coleman
<i>Platystele umbellata</i>	Coyle

Miscellaneous

<i>Oberonia longifolia</i>	Witkin
<i>Cym. unknown</i>	Braue
<i>Trias picta</i>	Stensland

*This plant was sold as *Sophronitis (Laelia) macrobulbosa*, which some authorities refer to *S. gloedeniana*. However, it is obviously something else. For a picture of the true species, go to:

<http://www.edit.ne.jp/%7Efkoichi/ophoto/c/lmacrobu.jpg>.

(Sorry, we are not yet able to embed Web links in printed matter.) Suggest you post a photograph on OrchidWeb and see if someone can identify it.

Iris Cohen

CNYOS Members Set Up Display at GROS Show

In what can only be described as a demonstration in patience and tolerance, members Barb Weller, Cheryl Lloyd, and Jeff Stuart made the trip out to Rochester on March 27th to set up the club's display at the GROS Show. After a bit of "inspiration" and a tremendous amount of good luck, a display was put together that suggested unpacking large shipments of orchids—several crates, of various shapes and sizes, were packed with blooming orchids nestled in excelsior & Spanish moss as packing material. Recognition is surely deserved by Dianne Bordoni, who courageously scaled a daunting summit of mulch to retrieve more than enough excelsior for the cause! The display's crowning achievement was the addition of a crow bar to complete the illusion! I mean, come on—how many orchid displays have you seen that included a crow bar??!

CLUB REMINDERS

Orchid-Growing Supplies are now available, including fir bark, sphagnum, sponge rock, charcoal, and 40W fluorescent tubes. Call Dianne Bordoni for details on pricing and availability (446-3836).

The **CNYOS Club Library** is now located at St. Augustine's church. Make arrangements with Val Introne (682-8595) if you want to borrow an item from the Library.

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR
BLOOMING ORCHIDS FOR THE MONTHLY
SHOW TABLE!!!**

CNYOS is Now On-LINE!

CNYOS is on-line at www.paphiopedilum.net. The site is regularly updated and will be changed as the club's two crack web-masters (Jeff Stuart & Charles Ufford) have time to do so, so check back frequently!



Phalaenopsis bellina (violeta), photograph by Vagisha Sharma, with digital enhancement by J. Stuart.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

April 6

May 4

Monica Kot & Donna Coleman
Bev Costello & Joanna Kweik

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE ...

...Will have its Annual Show & Sale, the first weekend in May: Show hours are Saturday, 5/3, 2 - 9^{PM} & Sunday 5/4, 11^{AM} - 6^{PM}. Sale hours are Friday, 5/2, Noon - 9^{PM}, Saturday, 5/3, 10^{AM} - 9^{PM} & Sunday, 5/4, 11^{AM} - 6^{PM}, in Shoppingtown Mall, DeWitt. African Violets and their relatives (Gesneriads) often make great companion plants to orchids. Plants & supplies will be sold (African Violets, other gesneriads, from Ralph Robinson, Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Ethel Champion, & more). You all know the old adage, "If you can bloom a *Phalaenopsis*, you can bloom an African Violet!" Or something like that... Anyway, stop by and see what this wonderful and diverse family of plants has to offer!



DRESSLERELLA PILOSISSIMA & PLEUROTHALLIS ENDOTRACHIS

As one might expect, the SPOT LIGHT is keeping the theme for our April meeting, and focusing on a pair of miniature orchids. While small in size, miniatures are not short-changed when it comes to diversity. In fact, one could effectively argue that these little wonders exhibit a wider range in diversity of form and color than their larger-statured cousins. And these two are good examples of just that.

Dresslerella pilosissima is one of eight or so species in this small genus of pleurothallids, several of which are pubescent, that is, covered with short hairs. The genus was named after the noted orchidologist, Robert L. Dressler. *Dresslerella pilosissima* is native to Costa Rica, being found at moderate elevations. Both the leaves and the flowers are pubescent—the flower's base color is a pale yellow, and it is covered with reddish spots. The net effect is a dull rose pink. A relatively large pouch-like lip and the ample short hair gives this flower an ominous look! Intermediate to cool growing conditions suit it best with adequate moisture, however, too much moisture can cause rot. Providing adequate air movement can minimize this potential. Like many Pleurothallids, this species does well in shade. It is probably best grown mounted to accommodate the somewhat rambling growth habit.

Pleurothallis endotrachis is reasonably robust for the genus with plants that can be 6 inches (15 cm) tall. The zig zag inflorescence is flattened and barely extends above the leaves. Flowers are produced successively from the inflorescence over a long period of time. The range extends throughout Central America and into Columbia and Venezuela. Although typically found in cloud forests at moderate elevations, *Pleurothallis endotrachis* is somewhat warmth tolerant. A mix of fine tree fern, perlite, and aquarium charcoal in a clay pot is a good choice for this Pleurothallid, which can tolerate higher light levels than many others in this group. Its cheery orange colored flowers belie their fragrance, which smells akin to rotten meat!



Dresslerella pilosissima

© 2000 Greg Allikas



Pleurothallis endotrachis

© 2000 Greg Allikas

How to distinguish *Cattleya guttata* Lindley from *Cattleya leopoldii* Verschaffelt ex Lemaire

CNYOS NEWSLETTER

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Text & Photos © Greg Allikas
www.orchidworks.com

Editor's note: Last month we discussed the taxonomic confusion regarding *C. guttata* and *C. leopoldii*. Here's a simple guide on distinguishing the two.
JAS

***Cattleya guttata*:** Very tall, graceful plants, often with three leaves per pseudobulb

***Cattleya leopoldii*:** Tall, stocky plants, usually with two leaves per pseudobulb

***C. guttata*:** Flowers in the late summer from a dried sheath after brief rest

***C. leopoldii*:** Flowers in the late spring from a green sheath as soon as the new growth matures

***C. guttata*:** Side lobes of lip clasp column tightly. In profile, side lobes totally conceal column. Lip reniform, mid-lobe not broad.

***C. leopoldii*:** Side lobes do not clasp column. Wide sinuses from front view. In profile, side lobes partially reveal column. Lip distinctly reniform, mid-lobe broad.



C. guttata



C. guttata

C. leopoldii



C. leopoldii



C. leopoldii

green sheath



ODONTOGLOSSUM CRISPUM: AN ALMOST VANISHED SPECIES WITH A GREAT LEGACY

by Yves Aubry, AOS Judge

Odontoglossum crispum was discovered by Karl Theodor Hartweg, in the high Andes mountains, near Pacho in the province of Bogota (Columbia) in 1841, during one of his expeditions for collecting plants for the Royal Horticultural Society of London. It was rightly named *crispum* by Lindley in 1852 in reference to the crimped edges of the flower. At the same time, Bateman, with knowledge of the Lindley's description, took upon himself to name this orchid as *Odm. Alexandrae*, after the then Princess of Wales, generating confusion which lasted for years.

It is reported that none of the plants shipped from the first collection in 1841 survived the trip back to England. The first one to flower in England was from the 1863 expedition. It was a miserable period when few of these survived cultivation because this cool and "alpine" species was grown in a "hot stove" (a term designating in the early days a hot house or high temperature greenhouse) under the supposition that the Colombian tropics were hot and steaming jungles. Its culture was regarded at that time as hopeless. It was not until they found how to lower the temperature of their glasshouses, by running water on the outside of the glass panels and having water dripping in front of the open sides to cool down the air, that growers could keep it alive and flower it. Some early sources mention that hundreds of thousands of plants were shipped to Great Britain and Europe; collectors gathered every single plant from a locality until no more could be found, before proceeding to the next site. Robert M. Grey's account of his tribulations and struggles while on a collecting trip in Colombia in 1888 mentioned that he collected over sixty thousand Odontoglossums, a great many of them natural hybrids and fine varieties of *Odm. crispum*. After cleaning and letting the plants dry, only seven thousand of them survived to reach the United States. An ultimate graphic illustration of intense collecting comes from a talk on "Threat of Extinction" given to the Cheshire and North Wales Orchid Society in 1972 by Peter F. Hunt, who reported a shipment of over a million plants of *Odm.*



ODONTOGLOSSUM CRISPUM: ONCE ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY SOUGHT-AFTER ORCHIDS IN THE WORLD, IT IS NOW RELATIVELY RARE IN CULTIVATION. ITS MARK LIVES ON, HOWEVER, IN NUMEROUS HYBRIDS.

crispum to England during the time of the legendary F. K. Sander.

The home of *Odm. crispum* is in the Cordillera in an area of about 180 miles from north to south, with Bogota midway. This species is found at altitudes varying from 7,500 to 9,500 feet, in oak stands, but rarely in dense primeval forests. It grows chiefly on trunks and main branches in partial shade and occasionally full sun. At that time there were two well-known localities for the number of plants that have been collected: Pacho, 30 miles north of Bogota, and Fusagasuga, 25 miles south of Bogota.

Odontoglossum crispum comes in an array of shapes, colors, and shades, from pure white to flush pink, but occasionally one finds in an importation, a plant of the famous and extremely rare blotched form. The variability of the flower would be associated with discrete areas; in the Pacho area are found the finest varieties, full round pure white and spotted flowers with broad overlapping sepals and petals; in the Velez area the flowers are similar but shaded rose; south of Bogota, in the Fusagasuga region, the white mauve tinted stellate flowers; while in Narino, the *Odm. crispum* var. *lehmanni* is found which bears up to 80 small flowers on a branched inflorescence. The mar-

gins of the flower segments could be from smooth to heavily serrated and variably undulated. The inflorescence of *Odm. crispum* is naturally curved or arching. An average plant will produce 8-11 blooms. Strong specimens can produce 18-20 flowers on a single inflorescence.

Odontoglossum crispum was regarded as the finest and most useful species of all orchids and one could not have too many of it. It could be seen in flower practically all year round as the bulbs completed their growth. However the main flowering season in Colombia is October to February. The extreme variability of the species was unknown and perhaps not even suspected for a while; Reichenbach says: "in those days no one could foresee the protean nature of such things." *Odontoglossum crispum* shows many variations ranging from pure white to yellow to rose, including various highly spotted flowers. In the 1901 edition of his Orchid Guide, Sander described 108 varieties of *Odm. crispum* and 27 natural hybrids having *crispum* as a possible parent. In the introduction to the genus, he recognized the highly polymorphic nature of the genus; not only remarkable for the difference between the species, but there is no other Orchid family in which so many natural hybrids occur. These are particularly abundant in the Colombian district which yields *crispum*, *triumphans*, *nobile* (*pescatorei*), *lynleyanum*, *odoratum*, etc. Intercrossing has evidently been perpetuated in these districts for ages past, and the presence of these mules, their variation from the species, and the differences in color and size exhibited between crosses from the same parent species, tend to make this genus both very large, interesting, and of great horticultural value. At the end of the 19TH century, the prices paid by orchid lovers for outstanding varieties were fabulous. In fact, it is said that no other species of orchid ever fetched such fantastic prices.

Hybridization

The "Gold Rush" hybridizing period of Odontoglossums happened during the first 50 years of the 20TH century. For *Odm. crispum*, it peaked in the 30's. The registrations of hybrids were dominated by such famous names as Charlesworth, Sander, Vuylsteke, and Crawshay—all commercial growers or landed



ODONTOGLOSSUM CRISPUM V. FUSA: THE VARIETY FROM FUSAGASUGA HAS WHAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A MORE ETHEREAL FLOWER, MORE STAR-SHAPED AND DELICATE. IT RETAINS CHARACTERISTICS TYPICAL OF THE EARLY COLLECTED SPECIMENS.

gentry. Most of the activities around the hybrid creations took place in England and Belgium. All these hybridizers aspired to the common goal of gaining awards of merit and first class certificates from the Royal Horticultural Society. *Odontoglossum crispum* is surely the most important species beyond any Odontoglossum (and intergeneric) hybrids, promoting flowers of size and good shape. But another species that was also heavily used by the early hybridizers was *Odm. pescatorei*, a similar species to *crispum* which has extra appeal in that it has a branching inflorescence, giving it an almost "Christmas tree" habit.

The natural genus, which has been most widely used in conjunction with Odontoglossum is Cochlioda—mainly the brilliant little red *Cda. noeziiana*—which has produced a whole hybrid race of Odontiodas, many of which are infused with a greater intensity of



COCHIOLDA NOEZLIANA: THE BRILLIANT RED COLOR OF *Cda. noezliana* MAKES IT A VERY DESIRABLE ORCHID IN ITSELF. HOWEVER, THIS SPECIES IS ALONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE RED AND ORANGE PIGMENT IN PRESENT-DAY ODONTOIODA HYBRIDS.

color than in the pure *Odontoglossum* species. The resulting intergeneric hybrids would also mature much faster and be more warm tolerant, making them more accessible to the general orchid grower.

Judging *Odontoglossum crispum* and its hybrids

In many of the early hybrids, the starry flower shape was prominent but with the evolution of home-raised *Odm. crispum* from the finer natural forms, and the interbreeding from the forms with broader segments (i.e., line-bred), arose the classic "modern" round flowers, which "fill a circle." Just before the First World War, Charlesworth presented a group of line bred plants to which we refer as *Odm. crispum*

'Premier Type' (or 'Charlesworth Premier Type'; see photography in the AOS Bulletin, 1956, 34(9): 778). The perfection of the petals and the size of this white flower had never been seen before, and ever since then all of its descendants have been definitely marked and can be easily traced in most modern hybrids. It was suspected for many years that all the 'Premier Type' plants were polyploid, which was confirmed when chromosomes were counted (all were tetraploid).

A fine *Odm. crispum* must have flowers of good size, supported by a strong stem, pleasingly spaced on the inflorescence, and overlapping just enough without creating a crowded effect—but its essential qualities are the perfection of the form, the substance, and the texture. The petals must be round with a tendency to join each other over the upper sepal. The lip in *Odontoglossums*, which should be flat, will always be rather small; but effect must on the whole be harmonious, and the rounder the shape, the more perfect the flower.

These are the ultimate criteria, which are rarely met all at once. The larger and heavier flowers of the hybrids and line bred *Odm. crispum* yield more weight on the stem. Appropriate staking may preserve the arched inflorescence from collapsing under the weight of 10 – 15 flowers, but in many instances, the grower stakes the flower scape vertically, which may, in turn, reduce the balance of the plant. When spots or blotches are present, one cannot expect regularity from one flower to the other; as well as for flower spacing, most important is the harmony of the whole inflorescence. One cannot judge an *Odontoglossum* using *Phalaenopsis* criteria, because the plants behave in a different and specific manner.

Where have all the *Odontoglossum crispum* gone?

Many of the surviving wild-collected plants in Europe vanished during and between the two World War periods. Survivors still may be found in a limited number of private collections that can provide the cool environment they need. Commercially, there are even fewer locations where *Odontoglossums* are still grown, but include England, on the Pacific coast of

the USA, in New Zealand, and southeastern Australia. The most important orchid growing areas like Thailand, Taiwan, and Hawaii cannot grow them because they are warmth intolerant—and their slow growth makes them non-competitive for the pot-flower market. Today, only a handful of hybridizers is producing Odontoglossums, which makes the supply very limited for the hobbyist. Rarely one can find wild collected plants offered by a Colombian nursery, but when available these flowers are of inferior quality to the line bred grexes.

What is the future of *Odontoglossum crispum* and its hybrids?

The species has almost disappeared from collections and only once in a while can we see a plant exhibited for judging or at shows, but what we see more regularly are some of its hybrids; the main living legacy for this once superstar of the orchid world. An *Odontoglossum crispum* renaissance would be possible only if cool growing installations become more affordable to maintain.

Acknowledgements

Harold Koopowitz, Phillip Cribb, Bill Fogarty, and Tom Perlite

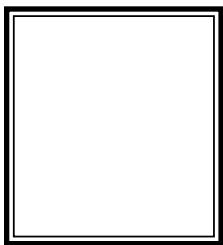
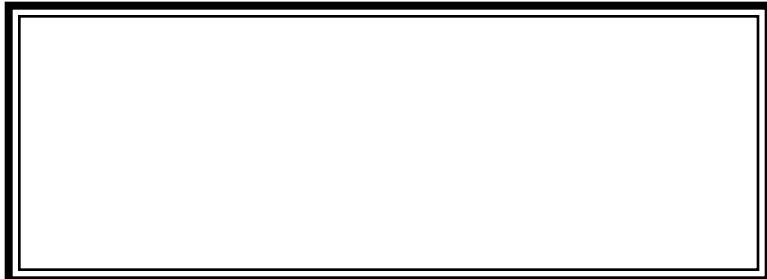
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- Odm. crispum* (page 8) and *Odm. crispum* v. *fusa* (page 9) courtesy Andy's Orchids, <http://www.andysorchids.com/>
- Cda. noeziiana* courtesy of Darrin Norton, Mountain Orchids: <http://www.mountainorchids.com/>

Southern Tier Orchid Society Show: April 25-27

With the GROS Show recently under wraps, now it's time for the Southern Tier show, held at the Oakdale Mall, Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY (near Binghamton). STOS puts on a good show and has never failed to display at our annual Fall Show and Sale, so it's important that we reciprocate—especially if we want them to continue returning!!! You probably know the tune by now—we need your help and your plants! **Volunteers are needed for set-up on Thursday the 25th.** Charles Ufford and Kim Boronczyk have already volunteered to break the display down on Sunday the 27th. **Please consider volunteering to help set up the display;** three people are needed, two to work on the display and one to handle registration. STOS has allowed pre-registration by e-mail in the past, which should make that task a bit easier. *Information on getting your plants to the show and preregistering will be provided once we have a team to set up the display.* However, the same requests apply as for the GROS show: Please include your list of plants in your box, label each pot with your name and the name of the orchid, and label your box so it can be returned to you. Remember to make sure that your plants are disease and pest free, and properly staked and groomed. And take some time to drop by to support our friends to the south and see the STOS show!

April 6: AOS Video on Miniature Orchids.
April 25-27: STS Show (at the April 24)



This Sunday, April 6!
Next Meeting:

Syracuse, NY 13210-3309
351 Kensington Place
Your local AOS & Orchid Digest Affiliate
THE CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY

Central New York Orchid Society

Presidents: Deb Coyle (315) 445-9106
Dianne Bordoni (315) 446-3836

Vice President: Judi Witkin (315) 422-0869

Treasurer: Elinor Burton (315) 682-6274

Secretary: Barbara Weller (315) 468-5039

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Stuart (315) 471-1404

The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Rd, Baldwinsville, at 2:00^{PM} on the first Sunday of each month from September through June. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 family. Dues should be paid to the CNYOS Treasurer, Elinor Burton.

THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST

The **CNYOS Newsletter, *The Orchid Enthusiast***, is a publication of the Central New York Orchid Society and is distributed to the Society's members ten times per year, prior to all club meetings, events, or functions.

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