

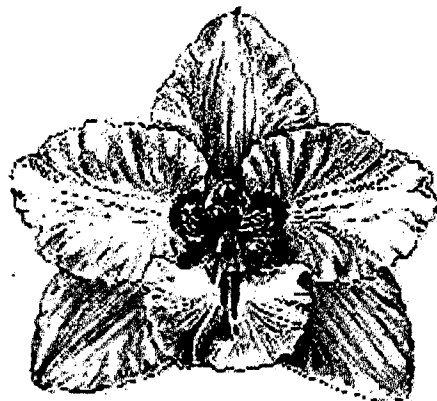
Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

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CYRTOCHILUMS, SOME NEW AND SOME FORGOTTEN

Stig Dalstrom

When I agreed to treat the genus *Odontoglossum* for the Swedish/Danish *Flora of Ecuador* project, more than 25 years ago, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I did see a great opportunity, however, to unfold some of Nature's enigmatic mysteries regarding confusing orchid species that I had come across during a trip to Ecuador in 1979 together with some friends. We had collected some *Odontoglossum* plants that I could not identify and it annoyed me. I had already developed a "fancy" for this genus since they seemed to grow well under my rustic care in Sweden, and even flower from time to time. Of course, none of the species I grew as "odontoglossums" in those days remain in the genus today (aside from the fact that some people want to remove the genus from the taxonomic map altogether). In any case, there was very little information available about these plants at the time, so in the back of my mind I decided to do something about it. A good thing with being a complete and clueless beginner is that you have no idea how complex reality can be, and therefore have no doubts that you can handle the situation.

One of my earliest observations was that the genus *Odontoglossum* consisted of groups of very different looking species. I could see how the artificial "angle of the lip" feature had allowed placing most of the species in that genus, but there were many exceptions. In those days the lip, at least the base of it, was supposed to be parallel with the column for the plant to be considered an *Odontoglossum*. Well, some species displayed this feature very clearly, such as *Odm. cirrhosum*, *Odm. hallii*, while others did not. I could also see many other types of orchids that did have a lip parallel with the column, but were still considered to belong to other genera. Clearly, something was crooked and needed to be straightened out.

Some thirty years later, I still wrestle with these plants but believe I am beginning to get a firmer grip of what they are and how they evolve. Another of my earlier conclusions was that some species complexes simply had to be removed. They did not belong in *Odontoglossum* at all, but rather together with some species that were considered to be oncidiums (and a few other genera) at the time. Therefore, I could not solve the *Odontoglossum* mess until I had removed those species that did not belong in the genus. But where would I put them? I wanted to unite them with some of the “oncidiums” but that genus was as messed up as *Odontoglossum*.

During this time Leonore Bockemühl came along and told me she was working with the same group of plants. I met her in Quito many years ago and we discussed our experiences with the plants involved. It was clear that we shared some ideas but differed on others. She wanted to keep species such as “*Odm.*” *angustatum* and “*Odm.*” *ramosissimum* in the genus but remove smaller-flowered species such as “*Odm.*” *myanthum* and “*Odm.*” *retusum*. She had no clear idea where to place them though, other than in a broadly defined “*Cyrtochilum*”. I agreed with her that *Cyrtochilum* was the most logical place, but argued that this should also include *angustatum*, *ramosissimum* etc. Leonore disagreed, however, and in her monographic treatment of *Odontoglossum*, kept most of the larger flowered species of the *Odm-Cyrtochilum* complex in *Odontoglossum*, while simply dumping the others without a defined placement. This “dumping” also included *Odm. astranthum*, *multistellare* and *velleum*. Bockemühl believed they belonged in a broadly (un-)defined *Miltonia* complex.

I did not agree with Bockemühl’s views and explained my opinion in a lecture at the WOC in Miami, 1984, entitled “What is an *Odontoglossum*?” Here, I laid out my theories how to treat this group of plants and suggested that the “*Odm.*” *ramosissimum* complex together with the smaller flowered “*Odm.*” *myanthum* complex should be united with the “*Onc.*” *macranthum* and “*Onc.*” *cimiciferum* complexes, in *Cyrtochilum*. I based this suggestion on vegetative features in combination with floral features rather than relying on vague floral features alone. It took an additional 17 years until this transfer could be officially published (Dalström, 2001), by then supported by molecular evidence presented by Mark Chase, Norris Williams and others. Finally, I had been able to remove the species that did not belong in *Odontoglossum* without dumping them along the “roadside”. But before I had a chance to really get back to where I started, the genus *Odontoglossum*, I was asked to treat the genus *Cyrtochilum* for *Flora of Ecuador*. Since I already had most of the information available in the computer, I agreed and began studying these plants in more detail. I soon discovered that there were several previously undescribed species hiding in various herbaria, which needed attention. When I finally was able to finish the manuscript of *Cyrtochilum*, I counted ten new species for Ecuador alone. Some of these have been around in cultivation for some time, but others were totally unknown. I will list the new additions here and include photos of some of them. The *Flora of Ecuador* volume that includes the *Cyrtochilum* treatment is being printed as we speak (October 2010) and should be available from the University of Gothenburg. I suggest contacting Claes Persson at claes.persson@dps.gu.se for further details. This treatment includes full nomenclature, descriptions, line-drawings and historic notes of 70 species.

I could find material and documentation of 70 valid species of *Cyrtochilum* in Ecuador. A few more have been reported but no material could be found to verify this, or the report was so dubious that I simply concluded that it must be wrong. No doubt, there are more species to be found in the deep valleys and unreachable slopes of the Andes in Ecuador, but I can deal with them as they “decide” to reveal themselves.

Wesley Higgins and I are currently considering publishing an illustrated field guide of the genus *Cyrtochilum* in Ecuador, which would include color photos of all and their habitats (except for a couple of the species where a line drawing will have to do), maps and other useful information not included in the scientific treatment in the *Flora of Ecuador*. We are planning to publish this ourselves since the topic is too narrow for most other publishers. Perhaps the Alliance would be interested in this project?

A notable addition to the genus is *Cyrtochilum hirtzii*. This species has been found only twice in the Pastaza valley of central Ecuador, both times by Alex Hirtz. The attractive flowers show resemblance of two other species that occur in the area; *Cyrt. cuencanum* and *Cyrt. halteratum* and a possible natural hybridization has been considered. But since both collections of *Cyrt. hirtzii* are virtually identical and easily recognized, I prefer to treat them as a distinct species for the time being. Natural hybrids have a tendency to vary more it seems. No plants of *Cyrtochilum hirtzii* are known in cultivation.

A species that was originally described by Reichenbach in 1886 but has remained unknown in cultivation and literature until very recently is *Cyrtochilum mendax*. It was based on a collection by Lehmann, and with Colombia as the country of origin. No further data was available when I examined the type specimen in Vienna years ago. I was permitted to rehydrate a flower and make a drawing of it, which helped getting a little better understanding what this species really looks like. It became clear that it belongs in the *Cyrt. halteratum* complex, together with *Cyrt. geniculatum*, which I thought it was synonymous with for a while. When I realized that they were different species, I compared it with another enigmatic species in this complex; *Cyrtochilum portillae*, which also share the basic features with *Cyrt. mendax*, and treated them as synonyms for a while.

This was unfortunate since the very distinct *Cyrtochilum portillae* ended up being labeled *Oncidium (Cyrtochilum) mendax* in Cal Dodson's magnificent treatment of the Native Ecuadorian Orchids (NEO). I had simply forgotten that I thought they were the same when discussing the species with Cal. At the time of the publication of NEO I had realized that these two entities represented distinct taxa and should be treated as such. My mistake in other words! The reason behind this latest decision was the discovery of a color slide of *Cyrt. mendax* in the Selby Gardens slide collection. This flower corresponded well with the drawing of the type and was from the Popayan area in Colombia, where Lehmann also resided.

Some years later and during my work with the *Flora of Ecuador* I had requested herbarium specimens of *Oncidium/Cyrtochilum* specimens on loan from all the main herbaria in the United States, and was stunned to find a second Lehmann collection of *Cyrtochilum mendax*. This time from Sibambe in central Ecuador. When locating the town of Sibambe on a map I realized that I had been through that area several times, and with a heavy heart also realized that not much forest remain there. I feared that *Cyrtochilum mendax* might be extinct, at least in Ecuador, due to deforestation. It was therefore quite a surprise to receive some pictures of an unknown *Cyrtochilum* species that had turned up in central Ecuador, somewhere near the town of Riobamba. The pictures were sent by Harry Zelenko, and he mentioned that a plant had been found by a local collector. I first thought it was the rare *Cyrtochilum halteratum* and I sent Harry a drawing of it. But he insisted that the flowers were different and asked me to look again. I did so and realized that it was the long lost *Cyrtochilum mendax*. I have since been able to examine the details of the flower and there is no doubt about the identity. The city of Riobamba is not that far from Sibambe and efforts are now underway to secure more plants

for propagation. It is a very nice and colorful flower and should be an appreciated addition in any collection.

List of new *Cyrtochilum* species described in Flora of Ecuador, 2010:

Cyrt. colobium: similar to *Cyrtochilum confertum* (Rchb.f.) Dalström but differs in a smaller and elliptic lip, a shorter column, and a much smaller plant habit.

Cyrt. ferrugineum: similar to *Cyrtochilum colobium* Dalström and *Cyrtochilum sphinx* Dalström & Calatayud, but differs in the ventral lobes of the column ending below the stigmatic surface.

Cyrt. flavostellare: similar to *Cyrtochilum macranthum* (Lindl.) Kraenzl., but differs in a smaller, yellow colored and starshaped callus.

Cyrt. fredericae: similar to *Cyrtochilum graminoides* Dalström, and *Cyrtochilum hoeijeri* (Dalström) Dalström, but differs by having orange, versus brownish flowers. It differs from *Cyrtochilum rhodoneurum* (Rchb.f.) Dalström, and other species of the former genus *Neodryas*, by the spreading lateral sepals.

Cyrt. hirtzii: similar to *Cyrtochilum halteratum* (Lindl.) Kraenzl., but differs in the more complex, digitate callus of the lip.

Cyrt. midas: similar to *Cyrtochilum cimiciferum* (Rchb.f.) Dalström, and *Cyrtochilum williamsianum* (Dodson) Dalström, but differs in the larger habit and the whitish flowers.

Cyrt. parvibrachium: similar to *Cyrtochilum ramosissimum* (Lindl.) Dalström, but differs in the presence of distinct arm-like wings on the column.

Cyrt. sphinx: similar to *Cyrtochilum ferrugineum* Dalström & D. Trujillo and *Cyrtochilum colobium* Dalström, but differs in the projecting rostellum of the flower, and broadly rounded ventral lobes of the column.

Cyrt. tanii: similar to *Cyrtochilum articulatum* (Königer) Dalström, and *Cyrtochilum flexuosum* Kunth, but differs in the distinct digitate column wings.

Cyrt. verrucosum: similar to *Cyrtochilum viminale* (Rchb.f.) Dalström and *Cyrt. melanthes* (Rchb.f. & Warsc.) Kraenzl., but differs in a different shape of the column and by many small warts surrounding the callus of the lip.

Photo list: Page 17 & 18

Cyrt. cuencanum; photo: Andreetta
Cyrt. fredericae; watercolor by Dalström
Cyrt. halteratum; photo: Andreetta
Cyrt. hirtzii; photo: Hirtz
Cyrt. mendax, Popayan; photo: Kennedy
Cyrt. mendax; photo: Zelenko
Cyrt. midas; photo: Dalström
Cyrt. verrucosum; photo: Dalström

On Failed Hybrids

by Bob Burkey

Orchid experts are rarely shy about expressing industry-related opinions. Whether the issues are new marketing trends, falling hobbyist interests, or vagaries in judging systems, we can expect the most seasoned among us to offer provocative ideas.

Norito Hasegawa, a recognized expert on paphiopedilums and a leading hybridizer in the genus, has proposed the concept of 'failed hybrids' in reference to how certain flowers should be qualitatively evaluated. Specifically, those who attempt white complex hybrids often fall short of the mark. Only a small percentage is truly white with most in cream, pink, or other off-colored tones. Norito contends that a failed white hybrid should be scored lower regardless of empirical characteristics: i.e. even if the shape is acceptable or superior and even if the color is adequate or pleasing. The point is that as a "failed type," the resulting cultivar does not represent the ideal of why the hybrid was made and therefore it falls short of expectations.

Whether we agree with this line of thinking or not, the concept of a failed hybrid is interesting and has relevance to how we might describe lines of breeding. Some hybridizers are stingy in how many crosses they make and others are promiscuous. While one hybridizer may caution against freely flicking pollen willy-nilly, another will boast of the shot-gun approach as the most sensible method in that "you won't know what will stick unless you throw enough variations against the wall!"

Certainly making an orchid hybrid is a statistical challenge. And a maxim of statistics is that in order to succeed, you must experience multiples of failure. So it makes sense that if a "good" orchid hybrid is a one-in-a-hundred or one-in-a-thousand, then making more will yield better chances to hit the mark. But then we are also told that a monkey pounding on a keyboard will eventually produce the complete works of Shakespeare, given enough time.

Recently a spate of oncidinae hybrids have appeared at our judging tables in Hawaii that present problems when traditional criteria are applied to their evaluation. Without naming specific parents, the types of hybrids can be characterized as incongruent in their mating. That is, the chromosome mis-match is glaring. One parent may be a complex, standard *Odontoglossum* and the other a complex intergeneric *oncidium* with three or four genera intermixed. The result will often be progeny with no empirical pull to either parent. We don't see the *odontoglossum* influence, for example, and the only 'improvement' might be extra substance or a slight increase in size and/or shape. One might question the parentage in these examples, whether the plant is correctly labeled and easily discard the hybrid as unfit for judging.

In prior decades, orchid hybridizers usually bred specifically for qualities that garner awards. They picked parents to improve shape, color, and size. They bred within groups of parents that imparted best chances to achieve these goals. They selected tetraploids and cross-bred them because they yielded superior progeny. Today many orchid hybridizers are breeding to produce commercial clones. The standards for what sells do not necessarily coincide with what we aesthetically deem awardable. More and more the mass market demands "something different" which means by default: something different from what is readily available. Consumers want something they don't already have, so continuous clones of *Onc. Gower Ramsey*, *Onc. Sharry Baby*, and *Vuyls Cambria*, once staples of the mass market, are no longer guaranteed market share.

The growing appetite of the mass market beast does not recognize perfection but rather customer-appeal and shelf life—consequently a hybridizer’s objectives will be constantly changing as the sales cycles change. To satiate market demand, new and better hybrids will always need to be waiting in the wings, ready to displace what has become common and ordinary.

Naturally the wealth of the oncidium/odontoglossum alliance allows hybridizers to experiment with new lines of breeding, hoping one will “hit the commercial mark.” But mating, for example, *Onc. spheculatum*, *Onc. fuscatum*, and/or *Onc. incurvum* with *Odm. crispum* hybrids or with complex *Odontioda* tetraploids, do not produce odontocidium/wilsonara types of old, particularly as compared with the classic *Onc. tigrinum* influenced lines.

Could a ‘good’ commercial hybrid be ‘failed’ in Norito’s estimation? Certainly we could say so in the judging room. Recently, an incongruent hybrid of *Oda. Saint Clements* crossed with *Onc. Catatante* was an example which clearly confounded the judges. With a spread of 19 points, ensuing discussion showed that discrepancies occurred when one judge used ‘type and breeding’ criteria and another used ‘standards of perfection’ as criteria for evaluation. But if the *Saint Clements* has vanished from the progeny, how can the hybrid be an improvement on parentage or approaching recognized standards of perfection? Or, are the standards of perfection or improvements upon parentage to be applied in a commercial sense, i.e. has steely substance, excellent plant to spike ratio, and picture-perfect branching and flower presentation with eye-popping color?

It has been suggested that inconsistencies in awards are more prevalent now than in years past. Perhaps because less hybridizing is being done to meet traditional award standards and more novelty hybrids are being attempted using unusual lines of breeding, judges are adjusting criteria for evaluation to meet ‘new and different’ criteria. So if a wingy dark oncidium primary hybrid is granted an Award of Merit in one judging center when a beautiful shapely and colorful *Joe’s Drum* hybrid gets screened in another center, one must question the relevance of current aesthetic judgment.

Maybe we should include in our Award Descriptions which standards the judges used to evaluate the flower. Or maybe we should indicate before scoring which criteria we will use to evaluate the hybrid, as when the team captain designates which scale to use in judging an *Odontonia*: *Miltonia*, *Odontoglossum*, or *General*. Consistency in awards would mandate a common appeal to criteria for evaluation!

Returning to Norito’s claim that we should be able to clearly determine why a hybrid was made and therefore be aware of intended expectations, we may easily dismiss many new lines of breeding as simply haphazard creations to see what will result. If the standard of success is a low bar—as an experimental exercise—then any result could be called favorable, or “successful.” Blooming at all could meet such a standard!

My Trouble with Tribbles

Robert Hamilton

I am fortunate to know and associate with some excellent *Oncidinae* growers. Amongst them is Milton Carpenter, owner of Everglades Orchids, who is a resource for the breeding of warmth-tolerant *Oncidinae*. Milton's commitment to *Oncidinae*, his long established breeding program and Everglade Orchids location in Belle Glade, Florida make it a fertile test-bed for warmth-tolerant crosses. Andy Easton is a friend, widely recognized as one of the great orchid breeders and an astute orchidist. Tom Perlite, a superb nurseryman and a great hybridizer is yet another great orchid resource, particularly for *Odontoglossums*. Tom, as owner of Golden Gate Orchids has created wonderful *Oncidinae* hybrids, grows them extremely well and shares his passion for *Odontoglossums* by making quality crosses available. I am privileged, because of location, to have easy access to Golden Gate. These three were the first growers to alert me to the potential of *Odm Tribbles*, a cross I shared with them.

A holy grail of *Oncidinae* breeding is a warmth-tolerant hybrid that maintains the beauty and form of *Odontoglossum*. Thus, it was only natural for me to share a cross that might have such potential with Milton, Andy and Tom. The grex *Odontoglossum Tribbles* has *Odm trilobum* as the pod parent and *Odm nobile* as the pollen parent. Traditionally, warmth tolerance seems better when the pod parent is the warmer growing of the two. Regrettably, the pod parent also tends to dominate for shape and size. *Tribbles* is proving to exhibit the excellent qualities of warmth-tolerance, good spike habit, round, flat flowers, vigor and it is producing some exciting progeny. The initial cross of *Tribbles* yielded copious numbers of vigorously growing seedlings.

I acquired my clone of *Odontoglossum trilobum* from the infamous Ray Rands, in the early 80's. John Leathers and I drove to Los Angeles and met Ray at his Malibu Canyon home to pick up some *Odont*s that had recently arrived from Colombia. One has to describe Ray Rands, like the others in this article as an "original". I do not remember what my plant was supposed to be. I had not ordered a *trilobum* and like all the other *Odont*s in that importation, it bloomed and turned out to be a *trilobum*, something other than it was marked. Such are the gambles and surprises that come with jungle imports. To add to the confusion, Stig Dalstrom points out *trilobums* are highly variable; this holds true for the ones I've seen blooming – no two alike. *Odm trilobum* "Hawk Hill" grows like a weed. It is not unusual for it to produce multiple sprays, 7 feet long, with 50 - 100 flowers. While it will grow cool, it grows better hot.

The other parent of *Tribbles*, *Odm nobile* (Easton prefers the previous, long accepted name, *pescatorei*) is a cool growing white *Odont* of excellent form. It is native to Colombia. My first acquaintance with *Odm nobile* were seedlings imported by Bruce Cobblestick in the 1980's from Dr. Wally Thomas of Vancouver, British Columbia. These were from the historic Charlesworth strain. Although beautiful, these *nobiles* were regrettably triploids (at least the two I counted were) making them fickle parents. A few years later, during a San Francisco visit by Brian Rittershausen and Keith Andrew, I bought a flask of a *nobile* cross from Keith. Keith made the cross with two fine diploid clones. These proved to be outstanding *nobiles* of fine form and markings, similar to the ones seen in the historic awards paintings of the early 20th Century. More recently, I've acquired excellent *nobile* plants from diploid crosses made by Philip Altmann of Warnambool Orchids, Australia. I've also had the privilege of seeing jungle strains of *nobile* at *Colomborquideas*, in Medellin Colombia but do not grow any of these (yet).

Over the years I have found collaborations productive and useful. Admittedly, I'm not the fastest seedling grower. I often see my crosses bloom in the greenhouses of others a year before my own seedlings bloom. My greenhouse tends toward the semi-wild when it comes to temperature control - not the ideal place to get seedlings quickly to blooming size. Milton, Andy and Tom all bloom crosses well in advance of me. All three bloomed the *trilobum* x *nobile* grex well before me. Because Milton planned to use the cross for further breeding program he asked me to register it. With

me being lazy and remiss in such matters, Milton eventually gave up on me and registered it naming me as the hybridizer. He asked me for a name and I followed the English orchid nursery tradition of naming grexes by conflating parts of the names from both parents. The name Tribbles was created from *trilobum* x *nobile*. The name was borrowed from the original TV series Star Trek episode: "The Trouble With Tribbles". Year's earlier, Keith Andrew had made a cross that Bruce Cobbledick had named Oda Star Trek. It seemed appropriate and fun to add to that legacy. Around this time Tom Perlite had also bloomed plants of Tribbles. Tom had a fine clone awarded and he too put Tribbles to work.

When Andy Easton returned to California we began a more serious collaboration. Andy had very specific goals for Odont crosses and I had good parents available to pair with his lines. I got him to grow some of my seedlings and given his better growing, to bloom and evaluate them. At the beginning of 2010 a truly outstanding cross bloomed that had Tribbles as one of its parents. The cross was made between Oda Burning Bed "Faust", a terrific red Oda and Tribbles. Andy brought a couple of these to the Odont Alliance dinner in San Francisco in February. Although only first bloomers, in small pots, they were superb and as true a red as any Oda I've seen. Substance was also terrific. Andy has since named the cross, Oda John Miller. It is certainly a cross that needs to and will be remade.

Historically, my introduction to *trilobum* hybrids was via Brian Ritterhausen's Burnham Nursery. Oda Honiton Lace was a plant available in the 1980's. I believe the plants in the US were seedlings produced by Burnham. This was the first *Oncidinae* cross incorporating *trilobum* and registered by Burnham in 1980. One clone "J.E.M." received an AM-AOS. Since then *trilobum* has continued to be used to make new grexes. I am growing a cross made by Dr. Howard Liebman and I note Helmut Rohrl of La Jolla, CA has registered crosses.

Tribbles owes its origin to the influence of two great English orchidists, Brian Rittershausen and Keith Andrew. Over the years these two maintained a close friendship. Brian Rittershausen was confident *trilobum* was a neglected species and would prove a valuable parent. He wrote so in the *Odontoglossum* Alliance Newsletter. For the other half of the cross, Keith Andrew's advice, to make more use of *nobile* as a parent, proved right-on. Keith often takes, in the words of Bob Burke, "the road less traveled". Instead of aiming for size, Keith aims for beauty and novelty. Keith has used *nobile* lines with great success.

Tribbles was the result of listening to these two. Had it not been for their San Francisco visit, I likely would have ignored both parents. In this hobby it pays to be a good listener, particularly when in the presence of "the great ones". I was fortunate, for a brief intersection in the late 80's, with these two greats.

Brian has now passed from our graces. I thought it fitting to share this story for what it owes to the prescience and perseverance of Brian Rittershausen and to his friend, Keith Andrew.

Note: Steve Beckendorf reports that *Odontoglossum trilobum* is no longer an *odontoglossum* but an *oncidium* named *Oncidium aurarium*

Brian Rittershausen

Born January 10, 1936 Died September 23, 2010

Seventy five is not such a great age these days so it is sad to report the passing of our good friend Brian Rittershausen. The trade-off is that Brian could well have died some years ago and he carried on with an enthusiasm and interest in orchids that undoubtedly lessened the impact of his ill-health and gave him the opportunity to work with his sister Wilma to complete the fascinating history of Burnham Nurseries and the Rittershausen family. Brian also tracked down the two grandchildren of the venerable H. G. Alexander and copied their treasure trove of orchid memorabilia for future generations of serious orchidists. Although a great

orchid trader and a most honest one to boot, Brian always had a great sense of orchid history and a respect for those orchidists who preceded him in the trade.

My first orchid book, *Successful Orchid Culture*, which cost me \$70 in New Zealand in 1958 was written by Brian's father. I still have it and feel in a sense that I have known the family since then. It was dedicated to "My son Brian" but when I read it, cover to cover, I never dreamed that I would ever meet the man. Brian was a person whom you met and if you were crazy about orchids, you were immediate friends. I had known Keith Andrew first, boring him to tears with schoolboy letters full of questions about Cymbidiums. Brian was, I am sure, grateful he was spared that task! By the time we met, I was in the orchid business too. Keith must have been a good teacher.

In those days, Burnham Nursery was a species specialist with other popular lines of cooler-growing orchids like Cymbidiums to help pay the bills. Brian's father did not make old bones so it was his amazing mother, Wilma and Brian who constantly innovated and moved Burnham forward. Brian had a particular skill in putting quite elaborate deals together. One that I was involved in shortly after commencing orchid business in Santa Barbara in the late 1970's was a three way trade where I supplied Cymbidiums to a nursery in Britain who paid money to Gloria Cotton for her collection of *Lycastes* which Brian shipped to me which I then sold on to Japan. He loved this sort of marketing exercise.

Around that time, American Airlines was starting direct flights, LAX-LHR and to drum up business, they would ship LD3 containers of any weight for under \$2,000. I would set up these containers with plants from McLellans, Gallup & Stribling, Stewarts and of course in-pot, spiked Cymbidiums from my own nursery. Just packing these containers for maximum loading became an acquired skill and we moved great quantities of plants in those sensible pre-CITES days. It was always hard to beat a deal from McLellans who had a wide range of quality plants.

Brian saw the writing on the wall for species importation so he wisely diversified into clones and selfed strains of superior types. He had a close and rewarding relationship with Vacherot and Lecoufle whose laboratory was turning out excellent stock. He travelled widely, often with Keith and became known to orchid growers all around the world who previously had known he and his sister only through their orchid books. We often drove together quite long distances in the Western States and we told tales of orchid history and laughed a lot.

Brian and Ann occasionally travelled to the US with their only daughter Sara. She was a typical pre-teen and not at all interested in orchids. Time passed and when I was back living in New Zealand in the 1990's, Sara decided to pay us a visit. She was by then working at Burnham. I was busy, with a national show and she just fitted in like she had been there all her life. When I saw her driving off with a van full of our orchids to a city she had never visited before, I knew Burnham Nursery had no worries for the future. The third generation of Rittershausen orchidists was quite up to the challenge.

To the best of my knowledge, the only other English orchid nursery that has carried on into the third generation was the famous firm of Sanders so in that respect alone, Burnham has a special place in British orchid history. Brian was not a particularly sentimental person and I suspect any plant in the nursery would have been for sale at a price. He taught me that one has to sell to survive and he always honored the terms of any deal to the letter. He tended to disparage his orchid abilities severely. I remember complimenting him on the beautiful trays of young *Odonts* they were growing and he confided in me that he had no idea why they were doing so

well at that particular time. He had no time for the freeloaders who are anti-nurseries and who participate in making unreasonable regulations that actually hamper the enjoyment of orchid collecting and cultivation. He lived to enjoy all the accolades that the British bestow on their horticultural identities and unlike some of the other honorees, he deserved every bit of recognition he received.

I will leave the last word to Keith Andrew. He wrote: "I will miss him a lot. Brian was more like a brother to me and of course he was my Best Man over 50 years ago. Now there is just me from the old school but I am still making crosses....." We are losing these great figures of our orchid history with their prodigious memories, who will replace them?

Andy Easton

I recently had reason to write Brian asking if he had the original photos of his article on "The History of Odontoglossums in Great Britain". He, unfortunately, said he did not. I had printed his article in our first newsletters in three issues. and again in the Compendium we published for the World Orchid Conference in Vancouver. At the time I was cutting and pasting photos from a Xerox copy. It was before the days of easy scanning. Also I could not use color although most of the photos were in black and white. In memory of Brian I am enclosing, as a separate document, his well written and interesting article.

John Miller

Odontoglossum or Oncidium?

In early December 2010 the Advisory sub-Committee on Orchid Registration (ASCOHR) under the chairmanship of Johan Hermans will meet to discuss the recommendation for the nomenclature changes to the Odontoglossum-Oncidium group based upon the DNA research. The current recommendation is for Odontoglossums to be included in the Oncidium group. The committee has requested that they are especially looking for alternative interpretations and any scientific evidence supporting their recommendations. Mr. Hermans has asked that recommendations be received by the committee by the middle of November. Both Stig Dalstrom and Steve Beckendorf are submitting alternate proposals supporting a classification that would leave Odontoglossums as a separate group. Steve has taken the original DNA data and done his own analysis to support his recommendation. The results of the meeting will be known sometime in December. In the February 2011 Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter we will publish the results of the ASCOHR's deliberations along with the material submitted by Stig Dalstrom and Steve Beckendorf. We hope to have a report at the same time of the detailed deliberations of the RHS sub-Committee

Two Orchid Show Announcements

19th AOC Conference & Show
Perth, Western Australia
11th to 16th September 2012

Bulletin No2 September 2010

Dear Orchid Aficionado

Even though it's been a long time since our first Bulletin for the **19th AOC Orchid Conference** in Perth, 2012, the Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes and we finally have some REALLY GOOD NEWS!!

The funds to ensure the success of the 19th AOC Orchid Conference have at last been forthcoming with a grant from the Western Australian Lotteries Commission, "Lotterywest". We are most grateful to Western Australian Government for their far sighted outlook in supporting ventures such as ours.

The 19th AOC Conference Committee can now proceed with planning the future of the event in the secure knowledge that even though we are aiming high, our aims can be achieved.

And more GOOD NEWS!

The Conference Committee are proud to report that the prestigious **Burswood Entertainment Complex** has been chosen as the venue for the 19th Australian Orchid Conference in 2012.

All major activities (exhibition, vendors, lecture program) of the 19th AOC Conference & Show will be held under the same roof.

The Orchid Exhibition and Vendors will be in the huge **Burswood Grand Ballroom** which covers over 1800 square metres and boasts wide access for exhibitors when setting up their orchid displays, a stage, sound system and a six metre ceiling.

This does not include the huge Foyer with an area of 1500 square metres, which is available for Conference use, as are the dedicated reception and registration areas.

The Lecture Program will take place in the aptly named **Botanical Room** a short walk away on the floor below. Both escalators and lifts are available for movement between the two areas. The Botanical Room is equipped with state of the art facilities including inbuilt sound systems, digital projectors, and screens. Covering a floor area of 389 square metres, the Botanical Room can seat 350 people when in theatre mode.

The focus of the Burswood Entertainment Complex is the 24-hour Burswood Casino, while the Complex also includes two, world class hotels, (see our **Accommodation Page** for these and other hotels in the area) numerous restaurants, bars, theatres, hotels, internet, business centre, a nightclub, 18-hole public golf course, day spa, retail outlets, swimming pools, gymnasiums, saunas, tennis courts, bicycle hire and riverside cycling trails, you will have more facilities and services than you could possibly require.

And not forgetting our new Conference Logo, which contains the beautiful Western Australian flower of *Thelymitra pulcherrima*, will be used on all Conference literature and on the Conference web site. The Conference Logo is not included in this email, as some email filters will block all pictures, but you can see it on our web site.

The Committee for the 19th AOC Orchid Conference, is in discussions with some of the worlds foremost orchid authorities regarding their attendance as speakers. We expect to be able to present the most exciting line up of lecturers ever seen in Australia. More about this in future Bulletins.

Further information regarding all our latest happenings can be accessed on the 19th AOC Conference web site at
http://www.waorchids.iinet.net.au/19th_AOC_Conference.htm

Also, further information regarding the planning, show chronology, Lecture Program, Vendors, Registration, etc will be forthcoming as it comes to hand via these email Bulletins, keeping you as up to date as possible.

We urge all orchid societies to feel free to reprint this Bulletin, and anything else from our web site, in your club newsletters.

Should you have any queries or questions regarding the 19th AOC Conference, feel free to contact the Chairman, ([email](#)) the Secretary, ([email](#)) or the Webmaster. ([email](#))

The fact that you are receiving this email indicates that you are already included on our database for further updates from time to time. However, we would like to give you the opportunity to have your email address removed if you so desire. We hope you will be happy to receive our updates regarding the Good News that is happening here, but we do not want you to feel that we are inflicting you with spam. Should you wish to have your email removed from our database, please reply to this email with the word 'Remove' in the subject line.

Tony Watkinson
Webmaster
19th AOC Conference & Show

Hola Amigos!

I toured Ecuador three times in '05 and '06 and fell in love with it. It took a few years for circumstances to fall in place. Well, I've made the leap to live in Ecuador with its incredible biodiversity. I'm now helping Ecuagenera. Have you thought of visiting (again)?

I'm writing because the Cuenca orchid society, "The Asociacion Azuaya de Orquideologia," will be having it's first orchid show November 16th through the 21st 2010. We have AOS judges coming but more are welcome. Perhaps you can help us if you or a friend is qualified. We do still need an AOS Judging Chair. Orchid societies from across Ecuador and this region will exhibit. You will see a diversity of orchids that one might not see in other shows.

Now is a good time to visit for another reason. Ecuagenera has stepped up to provide tours at about half price. These convenient tours of just 15 orchid lovers are scheduled before and after the show. The 10 day tours, as usual, are inclusive of most expenses. All for just \$1000. I'm sending a second email with a brochure of the tour itinerary for your consideration.

You'll see a diversity of orchids from the warm lowlands to the cool cloud forests ranging from near sea level to an elevation of 8300 ft. The dates for the first tour are Nov 12-21. The second tour is Nov 16-25. Arrival/departure will be through the airport in Guayaquil (GYE). Airfares are less now too. I just looked at flights from 'MIA' roundtrip to 'GYE' Nov 12-21: Avianca \$450, AA nonstop \$620. Both included tax/fees.

This will be a significant event with people attending from across the region and internationally. If you would like to take part, please reply to this email or to the contacts listed below.

Come join us!
Lee

Lee Bredeson

Past President of DSOS
Formerly of Hilton Head Island, SC, USA

p.s. I'm sending this per BC (blind copy) to keep your email address private.

Ecuagenera Cia. Ltda. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 01.01.1110, Cuenca, Ecuador
Tel: 593-7-2255-237 Fax: 593-7-2255-236 Email: sales@ecuagenera.com
Website: www.ecuagenera.com

Dear Orchid Specialty Group,

Please forgive the generic salutation, but I am using an old list that may not have the latest contact information. If you see there are any specialty groups that I have omitted, please let me know.

At the AOS Members Meetings and meetings of some of your groups in Oklahoma City this spring, I had the opportunity to speak with a few of you personally. Carlos Fighetti sat in for awhile at the meeting of the Publications Committee and mentioned how some groups were having a difficult time continuing their printed publications. Other than the cost of printing, which if anything is less expensive than days gone by, it is the cost of postage that has become a burden for all of us. At our meeting we talked about possible solutions including producing a large magazine quarterly that could include a 12 or 16 page section that could be a specialty publication (much as we were doing Lindleyana as a magazine within a magazine), or perhaps poly bagging a group's publication with ORCHIDS and sending it to members who belonged to both the group and the AOS. These were just "top-of-the-head" ideas and not in any way meant to be proposals.

Unfortunately, I heard reports that my comments may have been construed as the AOS wanting to absorb or take over the specialty groups. Let me assure you that in the current sour economic climate and ever-changing society, it is a full time job dealing with our own problems. We certainly do not need to take on yours too.

In June I was in Southern California for the Orchid Digest Speakers Day. Harold Koopowitz and I were talking and we both acknowledged the fact that not only is the economy poor, but society and the way people access information has changed so profoundly in the past decade. We are all struggling to understand where and how we fit and what we must do to adapt and survive. One other thing that Harold and I agreed on is that now, more than ever, we need to work together. The more we prosper individually as organizations, the more it benefits all of us.

What I was trying to initiate in Oklahoma is a willingness to do whatever we can to help inform our members about your specialty group. Beginning with our January issue of ORCHIDS, I would like to devote 2/3 of a page as sort of a "bulletin board" for the specialty groups. If you have an event or educational opportunities to offer your members, this would be a good place to announce it. Perhaps there have been some nomenclature changes within the orchids you specialize in...you might want to publish a website link. You might want to announce the topic of an upcoming newsletter. These are uncharted waters and I am not sure what kind of participation we will get, but we will initially start publishing a "Specialty Group" column twice a year: in January and in June. Please try to keep your text to 200 words or less and use web url's when possible for readers to go to for more information. Deadline for inclusion in the January issue will be Friday, November 5. Text should be sent directly to the editor, Jim Watson at jwatson@aos.org.

Regards,
Greg Allikas

Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting to be Held in San Francisco 3-6 March 2011

The next meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance will be held in San Francisco at the time of the San Francisco Orchid Show 3-6 March 2011. The Preview Party is on Thursday night, 3 March 2011. We are having a joint meeting with the Pluerothalid Alliance on Saturday 5 March commencing at 6:00 PM. We have decided to repeat the location of our meeting that we did in February 2010. We had little time to explore options although we checked on the AOS Trustees meetings. Their meeting in 2011 is in Louisiana and we thought there would be almost no representation of the Odontoglossum Alliance. Instead we decided to start planning now for a location other than San Francisco for 2012.

The meeting will be held in the Firehouse at the Fort Mason Center which is located adjacent to entrance to the Orchid Show. The venue for the meeting commencing at 6:00 PM begins with a cocktail hour followed by dinner. We will have two speakers, one from each organization. Following the talks will be the auction of fine material. Featured wines will be served before and with dinner. The menu will include choices of roast turkey and baked ham. Members of both Alliances living in the area will contribute by providing a variety of appetizers and specialty dishes. In recognition of the economic climate we tried to make the individual cost as attractive as possible for members to attend. Two talks are planned: One by each of the Alliances (OA and PA). As usual there will be an auction of fine material from both alliances. I expect to see some premium Odont divisions available as well as some new hybrids in the auction.

We will see if several local greenhouses can be available for touring on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Later in the newsletter is some material on local motels close to Fort Mason.

Several venues were considered and the overriding factors were the current economic climate and the success of last year's meeting. It is hoped this decision will be attractive to many of our members and that we will have a good turnout.

Tickets to the Preview Party and the show can be obtained over the internet. The address for the web site where these can be ordered is found is:

<http://www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.html>

We expect the cost of the dinner at the meeting to be reasonable. In the February 2011 newsletter we will have firmed up on the total program as well as the costs. In addition we will have information on how to make a reservation. Last year all the cost was covered by donations of food and wine from the members of the Pluerothalid Alliance and the Odontoglossum Alliance. Also both organizations provide payment for the location and some of the other items. Thus attendees had no expense at the meeting. That is unless they bid and acquired some valuable items at the auction.

We look forward to a good crowd. In this November newsletter are some details on the meeting. This includes suggestions as to hotel locations close to the show. More details on the meeting will be in the February newsletter.

The San Francisco Orchid Show is the best show in North America to see Odontoglossum alliance material in the show. The sales area is huge with many opportunities to acquire high quality and unusual mate-

rial.

A good web site to look for hotels is: www.sftravel.com. The specific page is <http://www.sanfranciscovisitor.com/bgt.html>. A selection of hotels picked from the web site follows.

Travelodge by the Bay (415) 673-0691

1450 Lombard St. San Francisco, CA 94123

Lombard Motor Inn (415) 441-6000

1475 Lombard St.

Francisco Bay Motel (415) 474-3030

1501 Lombard St.

Redwood Inn (415) 776-3800

1530 Lombard St.

Town House Motel (415) 885-5163

1650 Lombard St.

Star Motel (415) 346-8250

1727 Lombard St.

Cow Hollow Motor Inn* (415)-921-5800

Lombard Street

S F Motor Inn (415) 921-1842

1750 Lombard St.

Coventry Motor Inn (415) 567-1200

1901 Lombard St.

Ramada Limited (415) 775-8116

1940 Lombard St.

Buena Vista Motor Inn* (415) 923-9600

PO Box 475517 San Francisco, CA 94147

Chelsea Motor Inn (415) 563-5600

2095 Lombard St San Francisco, CA 94123

Motel Capri (415) 346-4667

2015 Greenwich St.

Hotel Del Sol (415) 921-5520

3100 Webster St.

Best Inn (415) 776-3220

2850 Van Ness Ave San Francisco, CA 94109

These hotels are within a couple of blocks of Fort Mason. These appear to be clean and comfortable, but not elegant. The web site offers reviews of the hotels. The ones marked with an * I have stayed at for previous meetings and shows. They are clean, neat, not elegant, reasonably priced and with parking. I often walked to the show from these hotels.

The meeting to be held on Saturday evening will be in the Firehouse which is adjacent to the show in the Fort Mason Complex. The address is:

Fort Mason Center
Landmark Building A
San Francisco, CA 94123
Phone 415-345-7500



Cyrt. cyuencqanum



Cyry. fredericae



Cyrt. halteratum



Cyrt. hurtz



Cyrt. mendax; photo: Kennedy



Cyrt. mendax; photo: Zelenko



Cyrt. midas; photo: Dalstrom



Cyrt. verrucosum; photo: Dalstrom



Odontoglossum Blandum



Oda. Tribbles 'Pacific Pearl'



A closeup of Oda. Tribbles 'Pacific Pearl'
Hybridized by Robert Hamilton, grown by Tom Perlite, a 7 foot spike