

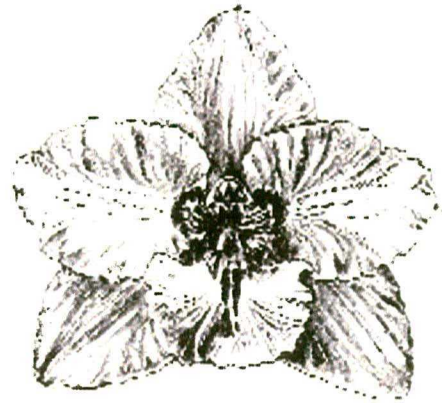
Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

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Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting for 2012

The 2012 meeting of the Odontoglossum Alliance meeting will be held in Portland Oregon November 13-18, 2012. The meeting is hosted by the Portland Oregon Orchid Society. The AOS Trustees will hold their meeting there at the same time. The meetings will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel at 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland Oregon. Their phone numbers are Tel 1-503-281-611 and Fax 1-503-284-8553. The hotel web site is www.doubbletree.com.

The show chairman is Susan Heuer, susanheuer1@gmail.com. Jim Rassmann (rassmann541@msn.com) and Tom Etheridge (Tomandluanne@rollyridge.com) are our representatives on site for organizing the Odontoglossum Alliance event. The website for the Portland Orchid Society Show and AOS Trustees meeting is www.portlandorchidsociety.org.

The Odontoglossum Alliance event will be held on Friday 16 November 2012. There will be an afternoon meeting in the hotel with several short talks. The speaker's platform has not yet been finally settled. Jim McCully of McCully Orchids in Hawaii and Juan Felipe Posada of Colomborquideas, Medellin, Colombia will each be giving talks. It is planned that there will be two more speakers for the afternoon. In the evening there will be a cocktails and dinner get together followed by our usual auction of fine Alliance plant material and other memorabilia.

The Pluerothalid Alliance has been invited to join us for the evening dinner. Should they decide to join us it is hoped that they will hold their talks in the morning session. This will allow both talks to be attended by members of both alliances.

The Odontoglossum Alliance will be entering a display of Odontoglossum Alliance material. This display will be supported by our members. Anyone who would like to contribute to supporting this display with

plant material should contact either Jim Rassmann or Tom Etheridge. Steve Beckendorf, our OA President, will be coordinating this activity with the local San Francisco members.

The Portland Orchid Society is planning to have a booth for the US Fish and Wild Life Department where they will be in attendance to issue CITES certificates to enable members to ship plant material outside of the US borders. In addition the Federal Express will also have a booth where they can take your shipment to be sent either within or outside the US. The show organization is going to great lengths to make it a pleasant and cooperative time, with amenities to make it a welcome meeting accommodating all the usual hurdles of moving plant material in and out of the US.

The Double Tree hotel web site is www.doubletree.com. To travel from the airport to the hotel is a train ride. The train goes from the airport to the hotel and is about a 30 minute ride with a cost of \$2.40/person.

So put this notice on your calendar and plan to attend. Future newsletters will add more details to this meeting announcement in the May, August and November newsletters.



ODONTOGLOSSUM X EXCELLENS VERSUS ODONTOGLOSSUM X HARVENGTENSE,
SYNONYMOUS OR NOT,
WHAT DO WE HAVE IN THAT COMMUNITY POT?

By Dr. Deburghgraeve Guido

We have a fairly good idea what most *Odontoglossum* species look like today. Riddles such as *Odontoglossum subuligerum* and *Odm. juninense* are solved and only on rare occasions are new species such as *Odm. helgae* and *Odm. platynaris* found.

At the end of the nineteenth century hundreds of thousands of *Odontoglossum* plants were imported to Europe. On rare occasions natural hybrids were found among these imports. In fact, hybridization between species in the wild came to be one of the defining features of *Odontoglossum*. This led to many speculations about the parentage of these natural hybrids. So there remain a large number of very exciting names that all fall under the category of “natural hybrid”. However, except for the fantastic lithographic images of the past, these plants are rarely seen and mostly not studied at present.

So, to the subject of the day: can we sort out the parentage of two wonderful natural hybrids, *Odm. x harvengtense* and *Odm. x excellens*, that have been confused for more than a hundred years?

I was dragged into this question by Steve Beckendorf, who forwarded me a letter from Jim Rassmann. At that time Jim had flowered a fantastic plant he thought to be *Odontoglossum x harvengtense*. Jim was justly upset that the Oregon judges denied his beautiful plant from being judged. But there were additional questions; what were the parents of Jim’s plant. Was it properly identified as *Odontoglossum x harvengtense*? Or should it be *Odontoglossum x excellens*? Or are these names synonymous and does *Odm. x excellens* have precedence?

At first sight the solution looks very simple. We consult Bockemühl’s *Odontoglossum* book (p 336, 1989) where we find that *Odontoglossum x harvengtense* is synonymous with *Odontoglossum x excellens*. Some people don’t trust that information so we go on the net to the Kew monocot checklist for a second opinion. Again, *Odontoglossum x harvengtense* is marked as a synonym of *Odm. x excellens*. So hopefully, no doubt anymore. But the international orchid hybrid register lists *Odm. x harvengtense* as *Odm. crispum x Odm. spectatissimum*, different from *Odm. x excellens* (*Odm. nobile x Odm. spectatissimum*). Who do we believe and where does this information come from? I decided to search through the early literature for a solution.

Odontoglossum excellens was described by Reichenbach in the *Gardeners’ Chronicle* (1881 p 426) as a natural hybrid between *Odm. nobile* and *Odm. tripudians*. On the other hand *Odontoglossum harvengtense* was described by Linden several years later (Lindenia, 1894) as a natural hybrid between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. sceptrum*. Its name was given in allusion to the magnificent collection of M. le Comte A. de Bousie, and was derived from his estate and village, Harveng(t), a little village in Belgium, near Mons. Although the family de Bousie doesn’t live there anymore, the house, Château d’Harveng, still exists. I do not know at this moment if there are any traces left of the orchid activity. Linden gives no anatomical description of *Odontoglossum harvengtense* and does not mention how it differs from *Odm. excellens*, but indicates its different origin.

The initial misallocation of the parents of both plants (*Odm. nobile x Odm. tripudians* and *Odm. crispum x Odm. sceptrum*) by such experienced connoisseurs proves how difficult such speculations were, and still can be. As will be explained below, I now think the second species involved in both plants is *Odontoglossum spectatissimum* and not *Odm. tripudians* or *Odm. sceptrum*. A series of articles about *Odontoglossum* natural hybrids by Rolfe was published in the first three issues of *The Orchid Review* (1893-1895). Very interesting here is the in-

formation on pages 200-201 (1894), about *Odontoglossum nobile-triumphans*. Among some plants found in nature of this hybrid he mentions the first man made crosses between *Odm. nobile* and *Odm. spectatissimum* proving these are the true parents of *Odm. x excellens*. Remarkably he places here *Odm. x harvengtense* as a synonym for *excellens*!! Is it here that we have to look for the start of the confusion?

In a later issue of The Orchid Review (1904) Rolfe writes an article about "*Odontoglossum coradinei mirabile*" (see this volume p?). He determined this plant as a natural hybrid of *Odm. crispum* but different from the *Odm. x coradinei* (*crispum x lindleyanum*) he knew at that time. But most importantly he cites an artificially raised hybrid between *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. spectatissimum* as *Odontoglossum x Loochristiense* (named after the village of Lochristie in my country Belgium, now world renowned for its {disappearing} *Azalea* culture). He recognizes this hybrid to be the same as *Odm. x harvengtense*, the latter name to have priority, with the excuse that it was not known in 1894 that *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. spectatissimum* grew in overlapping areas.

In 1909 Rolfe publishes a book about artificially made orchid hybrids, the Orchid Stud Book. In the section about *Odontoglossums* (p 22), the crosses of *Odm. spectatissimum* with *Odm. crispum* and *Odm. nobile* (and the reverse) are mentioned as *Odontoglossum x harvengtense* and *Odontoglossum x excellens*.

Herewith I offer my opinion, which I believe clearly proves the origin of both natural hybrids: *Odontoglossum x harvengtense* is a hybrid with *Odontoglossum crispum* and *Odontoglossum spectatissimum* as parents; *Odontoglossum x excellens* is *Odontoglossum nobile* by *Odontoglossum spectatissimum*.

Rolfe describes the plant *Odm. x excellens* as follows in the Reichenbachia: "this superb odontoglossum is a natural hybrid between *O. Pescatorei* (*nobile*) and *O. triumphans* (*spectatissimum*), between which it is fairly intermediate in character. The habit of growth strongly resembles that of the first-named parent, while the flowers approach more nearly those of *O. triumphans*. The sepals are bright yellow, paler towards their centers, and bear a number of large chestnut-brown blotches, which sometimes coalesce in two or three irregular transvers clusters. The petals are similar, but usually with only one cluster of spots, situated on their upper halves. The lip is white with several chestnut blotches on the blade, which usually unite into one large, irregular blotch in front of the crest, which itself is deep yellow, with a few chestnut markings. The column wings are intermediate in shape and nearly entire."

I have not found any literature describing the anatomical differences between the two hybrids. Depending upon the quality of the parents, I think the variation must be considerable. One can try to compare the lips in the book of Duval (les *Odontoglossums*, 1900), but this seems very difficult to me. Compare in the illustrations, included in this issue, the lip of the flower of Jim's and Juan Felipe's plants of *Odm x Harvengtense*, all raised from the same cross to realize how different they can be. And I have to agree with Steve in his letter to Jim that even the determination of the lithographs in the past is questionable.

Look at the magnificent *Odontoglossum pescatorei* Prince of Orange in Lindenia (1894-95: CDXXXIX). The possible hybrid origin of this magnificent plant was already mentioned in the accompanying text, and the origin of the illustrated plant is the same as the origin of the plant that led to the description of *Odm. x Excellens* in the Gardeners' Chronicle. Are they the same clone? A very nice painting of this plant is also to be seen in the RHS Awarded Orchids Paintings Collection.

Interesting is the remark by Rolfe at the end of his comment on *Odontoglossum x excellens* in Reichenbachia (S.S.I p41.): "We cordially endorse the hope expressed by our most eminent authorities that in time the results of artificial hybridization at home will assist the amateur and the professional grower in determining the parentage of many of the natural hybrids which at present is only a matter of conjecture". Since a possible natural hybrid was the start of my *Odontoglossum* rage (*Odm. x hennisii*) I am particularly interested in natural hybrids. I have taken this quote as a challenge and am trying to prove what the parents are (or are not) for several natural

hybrids.

The photos of my *Odontoglossum* x *Excellens* are to be seen in that context. It is a cross between my *Odm. spectatissimum* 269 and *Odm. nobile* 080, a remake of that natural hybrid. The photos are from the first flower of the first flowering (small) seedling. The spots are quite variable on each flower of the spike. Notice how similar the lips are on this flower and on all the paintings of *Odm. X excellens* and how different they are from all the *Odm x harvengtense* paintings and the *Odm. X Harvengtense* plants from Juan Felipe's cross.

(Note: I quote the old species names as they are used in the old literature. Changes in nomenclature have now made *Odm. pescatorei* synonymous with *Odm. nobile* and *Odm. triumphans* with *Odm. spectatissimum*.)

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And personal communication as letters

May I thank herewith Steve, Stig, Jim, Bob and Juan Felipe for their support, advice, comment and photos.

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THE ORCHID REVIEW, July, 1904. 198-199

ODONTOGLOSSUM x CORADINEI MIRABILE.

When the remarkable *Odontoglossum crispum mirabile* appeared in 1894, in the collection of Baron Schroder, it was not known that *O. crispum* and *O. triumphans* grew together. It was, however, clear that the plant was not a simple variety of *O. crispum*, and the alternative was that it must be a natural -hybrid. It, however, came home as *O. crispum*, and the other parent must be something that grew with it. Nothing then known from Bogota agreed so well with the plant's characters, and I accordingly described it as *O. X Coradinei mirabile* (*O. R.* ii. p. 198), though recognising that it was much finer than anything which had yet appeared. Just previously an *Odontoglossum* had been described and figured as a natural hybrid between *O. crispum* and *O. sceptrum*, under the name of *O. X harvengtense* (L. Lind. in *Journal des Orch.*, v. p. 7 ; *Lindenia*, x., t. 678), but as on comparison I found unmistakable evidence that *O. triumphans* was one parent, I referred the hybrid to *O. X excellens* as a variety (*O. R.*, iii., pp. 112, 201). This plant flowered in the collection of the Compté* de Bousies, at Harvengt.

In 1898 an *Odontoglossum*, which had been artificially raised by M. Ch. Vuylsteke, of Loochristi, Ghent, from *O. crispum* (female) and *O. triumphans* (male) flowered for the first time, and was described under the name of *O. X loochristiense* (*O. R.*, vi., p. 41). A little later further evidence of *O. X harvengtense* came to hand in the shape of a plant which flowered with Messrs. Charlesworth & Co. out of an importation of *O. crispum*. It was described as apparently only a distinct form of *O. triumphans*, and the question was raised whether the latter grew anywhere intermixed with *O. crispum* (*O. R.*, p. 167), a point which was almost immediately answered in the affirmative by M. Fl. Claes (*l. c.*, pp. 327, 328). Then was noted the occurrence of *O. X loochristiense* as a wild hybrid, in the collection of W. Thompson, Esq., Walton Grange, Stone (*l. c.*, p. 355), and since then a good many others have appeared, doubtless from the locality where *O. crispum* and *O. triumphans* grow together. No less than nine named varieties were recorded in these pages in 1901 and six in the following year.

We have also the information that it is a particular form of *O. triumphans*, known as variety *latisepalum*, that grows in the Bogota district with *O. crispum* (*O. R.*, x., p. 250). Lastly we have the record of an additional batch of artificially raised hybrids in the collection of W. Thompson, Esq., of Stone, five of which have already flowered (*O. R.*, xii., p. 61).

The new facts almost compel a reconsideration of the question, and it is now evident that *O. X harvengtense* and *O. X loochristiense* are forms of the same hybrid, and that the former is much the earlier name. The record of parentage must be amended, as it is clear that *O. triumphans*, not *O. sceptrum*, is the second parent. *O. X Coradinei mirabile* was again exhibited by Baron Schroder at the recent Temple Show, and furnished an opportunity for further comparison in the light of the new facts. So far as I know nothing like it has since appeared, not even among white forms of *O. X Coradinei*, some of which I have been able to compare with it. In shape and size it agrees better with *O. triumphans* than with *O. Lindleyanum*, and a comparison with their respective hybrids only confirms the impression. It appeared at about the same time as *O. X harvengtense*, and may well have come among *O. crispum* from the same region, and although I have not yet seen another form approaching it very closely, I suspect that *O. X harvengtense* var. *mirabile* is the name which it will ultimately have to bear. The figure of this handsome variety was repeated at page 12 of the present volume.

R. A. Rolfe



Odontoglossum Excellens 458

=



Odontoglossum spectatissimum 269

x



Odontoglossum nobile 080



Odontoglossum Excellens Guido Deburghgraeve



Odontoglossum Excellens Bob Hamilton



Odontoglossum Harvengtense Jim Rassmann



Odontoglossum Harvengtense Juan Felipe Posada 1



Odontoglossum Harvengtense Juan Felipe Posada 2



Odontoglossum Harvengtense Juan Felipe Posada 3



Château d'Harveng



Odontoglossum x harvengtense type



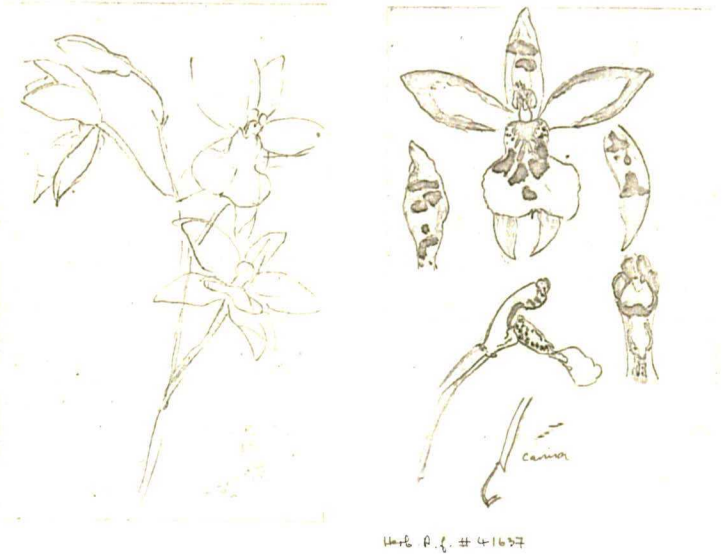
Odontoglossum Harvengtense Jim Rassmann



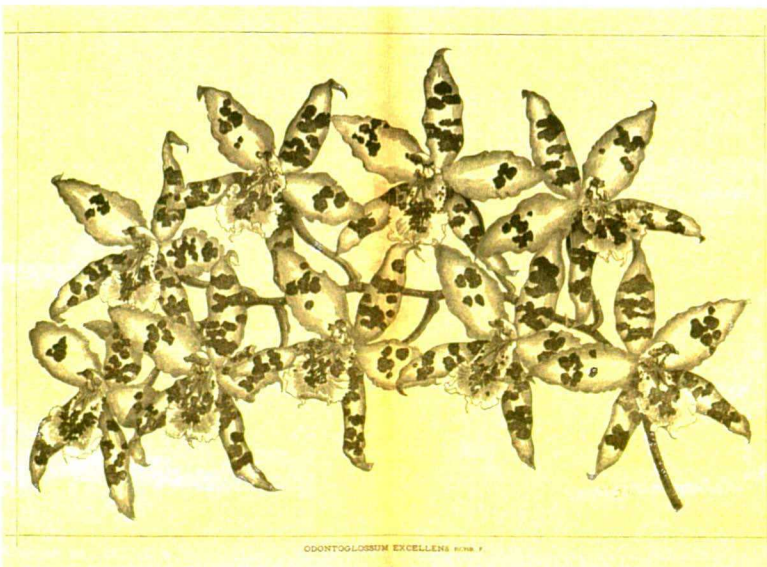
Odontoglossum x harvengtense Lindenia



Odm. nobile + Odm. xexcellens The Garden



Odontoglossum x excellens drawing type



Odontoglossum x excellens l'illustration horticole



Odontoglossum x excellens Dict. icon. des Orchidées



Odontoglossum x excellens Reichenbachia = true



Odontoglossum nobile Prince of Orange Lindenia = Odontoglossum x excellens?



Odontoglossum x excellens Nobilium Dict. icon. des Orchidées = Odontoglossum x harvengtense?

THE GOLDEN CYRTOCHILUM AND ITS ALLIES

by Stig Dalstrom

While trying to identify and classify large groups of little known plants, it usually helps to first organize them in smaller groups based on some obvious features. This is what we call “lumping”. As time and experience permit, you can return to each of the groups and sort them out one by one on a more specific level. As you dig deeper and deeper into the species groups, and the rather confusing world of orchid taxonomy, it is tempting to believe that you actually begin to understand what they really are. The morphological details of the flowers in particular sometime create patterns that you think mean something and all of a sudden you see “species” that you had no idea existed before. This can result in a plethora of new names. You have now become a “splitter”.

Unless you have a lot of experience with the species (and genera) that a “splitter” describes, the taxa can be difficult to recognize. This in turn can make you wonder whether the “splitter” in question really knows what he/she is doing, or if he/she just creates something that the ego wants to see? Then of course we have the “splinters” who have a tendency to split the plant group they work on, but consider other “splitters” as fools, and easily lump their plant groups into large “waste-basket” taxa. I personally believe that every plant taxonomist, whether a pure beginner, or the most experienced Ph.D., wobble between these three categories from time to time in their work. It is just the nature of the procedure, and also how I have approached working with the Oncidiinae.

One of the major taxonomic challenges in Oncidiinae is how to deal with plants in the *Odontoglossum* alliance. When I began working with this troublesome but fascinating group some thirty years ago, I followed the procedure that I mention above. I lumped similar species into groups in order to get at least a superficial grip on the situation. With time, studies and field experience, combined with taxonomic training provided by some of the most distinguished professionals in the field, I eventually began to “understand” more about the speciation dynamics. Natural variation and distribution patterns of the species slowly became familiar. The more I learned, the deeper I sank into the wonders of Nature until, finally, things began to make sense. Or as much sense as an ever changing and evolving mass of living organisms can provide. At this time, I realized that many “*Odontoglossum*” species really represented something else entirely. With the help of molecular guidelines, these deviating species could be transferred to a “waste basket” *Cyrtochilum*. Or rather, groups of similar and confusing species were lumped together and transferred to *Cyrtochilum*, in order to be dealt with later, once *Odontoglossum* was straightened out.

At least that was the plan. But for some odd personality trait in my own gene-pool, I do not like to leave unresolved problems behind, and got stuck with *Cyrtochilum*. I still have a couple of species complexes to straighten out before the work with *Odontoglossum* can be carried on, but I am getting close. By the way, the genus *Odontoglossum* will remain, with minor alterations, which includes the transfer of a couple of *Cochlioda* and *Solenidopsis* species into *Odontoglossum*. This is a price I hope most growers are willing to pay, and the transfer is soon to be published. Then, the only remaining task in order to completely validate *Odontoglossum* as a solid monophyletic genus, is to describe two small groups of former “*Oncidium*” species as separate genera. This is doable and is being worked on (slowly)!

Returning to *Cyrtochilum*, one of the remaining waste baskets is the *Cyrtochilum aureum* (Lindl.) Senghas complex. About nine different names have been described for this group, by five authors. Unfortunately, the type specimens are difficult to analyze for various reasons. They all look alike in a dried state, and frequently even after rehydration with ammonia. One species is based on a drawing only (*Odm. bicolor* Lindl.), a couple of species are based on single flowers (*Onc. aureum* Lindl., and *Odm. crocatum* Linden & Rchb.f.). When Rolfe

transferred *Odontoglossum bicolor* to *Oncidium* in *The Orchid Review* 3: 363 (1895), the specific epithet “bicolor” was already occupied so he called it “*dichromum*” instead, which means bicolored.

So what do we do? The answer is “fieldwork”. It is actually “easier”, and a lot more fun to study the plants in the nature and figure out just how many species really exist out there. Then you can return to the herbaria to see if the different natural entities have been described or not. Do not trust anybody but yourself! Study the types and real populations, and draw independent conclusions! Then you compare with other people’s work and see if you have reached the same result. If not, which is often the case, do it all over again in order to decide who is right and who is wrong. Ignore previous “experts” with impressive titles and pages of publications, and trust your own judgment!

In the *Cyrtochilum aureum* complex, I have been able to identify four (possibly five) different taxa. One (possibly two) of these have bicolored flowers (sepals and petals brown to reddish purple, and a yellow lip), and three taxa have pure yellow flowers. The oldest name in this group is actually *Oncidium cochleatum* Lindl., which we will return to shortly, but the most well-known name is *Oncidium aureum* Lindl., which refers to a bicolored species collected by Mathews (no. 1068) in the “high mountains of Andimarcha” (or Andimarca), which probably is located somewhere near Chachapoyas where he lived for a while. The type specimen in the Lindley herbarium at Kew consists of a drawing and a single dried flower. A better specimen with some dried inflorescences is deposited in the general herbarium at Kew. There is no reference to the color of the flower in the original description (*Sertum Orchidaceum*, 1838), but in *Folia Orchidacea* (1855), Lindley describes the flower as “apparently with a golden yellow lip, and olive coloured sepals.” Lindley has two forms of this species listed; (A) *Onc. aureum* [with *Odontoglossum festatum* Rchb.f., listed as a synonym]. “Lip as broad as long. Crest of two vertical plates, emarginate in the middle, with five slender intermediate equidistant teeth.” And “(B) *stenochilum*.” [with *Odm. hemichrysum* Rchb.f., listed as a synonym] “Lip longer than broad. Crest of two vertical plates, emarginate in the middle, with an intermediate tooth.”

Lindley described *Odontoglossum bicolor* in Bentham’s *Plantas Hartwegianas* (1845), based on a drawing by Mathews, who in turn had copied another drawing, which was based on a Ruiz and Pavón collection (no. 112), a plant from Palca in central Peru. The color of the flower is described by Lindley as “*Flores violacei, labello magno luteo*”. A specimen of this particular Ruiz and Pavón collection later turned up as the type of *Odm. festatum* Rchb.f. (*Bonplandia*, 1854), which Lindley listed as a synonym of his *Onc. aureum* in *Folia Orchidacea* (1855). Reichenbach describes the color of *Odm. festatum* as having red-brown sepals and petals and a golden yellow lip (“*Hüllblätter roth-braun, Lippe goldgelb*”).

Warszewicz had also collected this orchid somewhere in Peru (“Sources of the Marañón”, which, incidentally, covers a huge area on the eastern slopes of the Andes). His bicolored specimen became the basis for Lindley’s *Onc. aureum stenochilum*, and also for the synonymized *Odm. hemichrysum* Reichenbach & Warsc., for which the color of the flower was described exactly as for *Odm. festatum* (“*Hüllblätter roth-braun. Lippe goldgelb*”).

If anybody is still with me here, we can summarize that the first collection of this bicolored species was done by Ruiz and Pavón, but the name “*Odontoglossum bicolor*” was not scientifically described until later. Mathews copied a drawing of the Ruiz and Pavón 112 specimen and the drawing was later seen by Lindley, who described the depicted flower as *Odm. bicolor* (1845). After the death of Hippólito Ruiz López in 1816, poor Pavón apparently struggled to survive by selling herbarium specimens from his and Ruiz’ famous Peruvian expedition. Reichenbach eventually received a specimen of the 112 collection, which he thought was a new species and described as *Odm. festatum* (1854). The following year Lindley “sank” *Odm. festatum* into synonymy of his *Onc. aureum*, which represents the oldest scientific description of this bicolored species. Lindley also, unknowingly, “sank” his own *Odm. bicolor* into synonymy of *Onc. aureum* in the process.

Now, to complicate the situation slightly, none of the here mentioned collectors bothered to include the pseudobulbs and leaves in their dried specimens. It is understandable since vegetative features are awkward to deal with, but regrettable because they sometimes tell us how to separate floristically similar taxa. By visiting the areas where these plants grow, however, it is possible to get a better understanding of what you are working with. After having spent some time in the Huasahuasi forests near Palca (what is left of it), my conclusion is that we have two vegetative “forms” of *Cyrtochilum* (“*Oncidium*”) *aureum* that may indicate separate species, or not. The typical form of *Cyrtochilum aureum* has a caespitose habit where the pseudobulbs are clumped together. In the Palca area, above the village of Huasahuasi where Ruiz and Pavón evidently collected orchids, we find a smaller plant with a creeping rhizome. It would be easy to assume that this is the same thing as the Ruiz and Pavón no. 112 specimen, but it is not certain since they did not preserve any vegetative parts (at least not seen by me). The flower morphology is similar though, albeit slightly smaller for the creeping plant. Keeping in mind that some *Cyrtochilum* species alter their growth habit depending on where they grow, from caespitose under brighter conditions to creeping in shadier locations, my conclusion is that the creeping plant also represents *Cyrtochilum aureum*. A revisit to the area is planned for the fall of 2012.

Rolfe originally came to the same conclusion, that *Odm. bicolor* really was a synonym of *Onc. aureum* (The Orchid Review 3: 69, 1895), but later changed his mind when he saw some large flowered plants introduced from Peru by Sander & Co. Rolfe then concluded that *Odm. bicolor* really was a good species, superior and different from *Onc. aureum*. When he intended to transfer it to *Oncidium*, however, he realized that the name “*Onc. bicolor* Lindl.”, already was occupied. He therefore named it *Oncidium dichromum*. I erroneously included this epithet as “*Odontoglossum dichromum* Rolfe” in my synopsis of *Cyrtochilum* (2001), and unfortunately the Kew Monocot Checklist accepted that name. It is also listed as being described in 1865, which is wrong. The correct year is 1895. *Mea culpa!*

Let us return to the complex of yellow flowered species, which we often call “aureum” due to the lovely yellow color. The first name for this group, however, is probably *Oncidium cochleatum* Lindl., and refers to a plant collected by Jameson on the páramo near Saraguro in Ecuador (Lindley described and listed it as the number before *Onc. aureum*, in *Sertum Orchidaceum*, Sept. 1838). When visiting this area, it is possible to find two yellow colored species of this complex growing together. One that has a small but distinct callus on the lip, and one without a callus, or with just a low hump at the base of the lamina. Lindley used a specimen of the first category as the type for *Onc. cochleatum*, but almost simultaneously described what appears to be the same species, as *Cyrtochilum mystacinum* in the Botanical Register 24, Misc. 38, 1838, based on a plant from “Peru” that flowered in the collection of a Richard Harrison, Esq. of Aighburgh, in 1837. It is also featured with an illustration in the Botanical Register: pl. 62, 1839. I am not certain, which description was published first and which name would therefore have priority; “*Cyrt.* *cochleatum*”, or *Cyrt. mystacinum*, but chose to use the former here, and synonymize the latter. An official transfer will be published later.

Lindley described the species without a callus on the lip as *Odontoglossum rigidum* in Bentham’s *Plantas Hartwegianas* (1845), based on a collection by Hartweg from the Loja area. In *Folia Orchidacea* (1852), Lindley also mentions a collection from the “heights of Chachapoyas” by Mathews (a drawing is in the Lindley herbarium), which he incidentally lists before the Hartweg collection. Unfortunately, I have not been able to locate any real specimen that corresponds with this drawing. Theodore Hartweg’s excellent dried type specimen, on the other hand, is well preserved in the Lindley herbarium. A drawing of a flower on the same sheet, presumably by Lindley, displays the lack of callus on the lip very clearly. I conclude therefore that Mathews’ specimen (if it exists) probably is the same species since his drawing also show a lack of callus other than as low humps, or angles, at the base of the lamina. It really does not matter since the type specimen is very clear, but I will keep searching for plants in the Chachapoyas area next time I pass by.

Linden and Reichenbach described *Odm. crocatum* in Gardener’s Chronicle (1869), most likely based on a col-

lection from the Loja area by Krause and Wallis. The single dried flower in the Reichenbach herbarium, which most likely represents the type, displays the same morphological features as “*Cyrt.*” *cochleatum*. The Reichenbach orchid herbarium, by the way, is today inserted in the general herbarium of the Museum of Natural History in Vienna.

Finally, we have a yellow flowered species from Bolivia, which has a distinct callus at the base of the lip lamina, but differs from “*Onc.*” *cochleatum* in having a very long “stalk”, or lip-base, a longer column with differently shaped wings and a different looking callus on the lip. Plants of what appear to be this species was collected by Mandon in 1859, near the town of Sorata, northeast of La Paz. There are dried specimens both at Kew and in Vienna, all labeled “*Odm. rigidum*”, probably due to the long-stalked lip. There is no color description on the herbarium sheets, unfortunately, and since the flowers are rather dark in a dried state, it is difficult to decide whether they are bicolored or yellow.

Cyrtorchilum aureum occurs in southern Peru at higher elevation, almost 4000 m, and has also been found in Bolivia. A plant was collected near the town of Coroico at 2900 m, in 1999, by Roberto Vasquez (no. 1745), and labeled “*Odm. bicolor*” by him. The yellow flowered species, however, is found further south, to the east and southeast of Cochabamba, also at high elevation ca 2800-3000 m, where plants grow terrestrially along road cuts or epiphytically on mossy branches, which is unusual for this group of plants. This species seems sufficiently different from *Cyrt. aureum* to be recognized as distinct.

In summary we have the following species so far:

Cyrtorchilum aureum (Lindl.) Senghas.

Synonyms: *Odontoglossum bicolor* Lindl., *Odontoglossum festatum* Rchb.f., *Odontoglossum hemichrysum* Rchb.f., and probably *Odontoglossum dichromum* Rolfe.

“*Cyrtorchilum*”(*Oncidium*) *cochleatum* (Lindl.) Dalström (transfer unpublished).

Synonyms: *Cyrtorchilum mystacinum* Lindl., *Cyrtorchilum crocatum* Linden & Rchb.f.

“*Cyrtorchilum*” (*Odontoglossum*) *rigidum* (Lindl.) Dalström (transfer unpublished).

Cyrtorchilum n.sp. (Bolivia, to be published).



Cyrt aureum-Canaris: Dalstrom



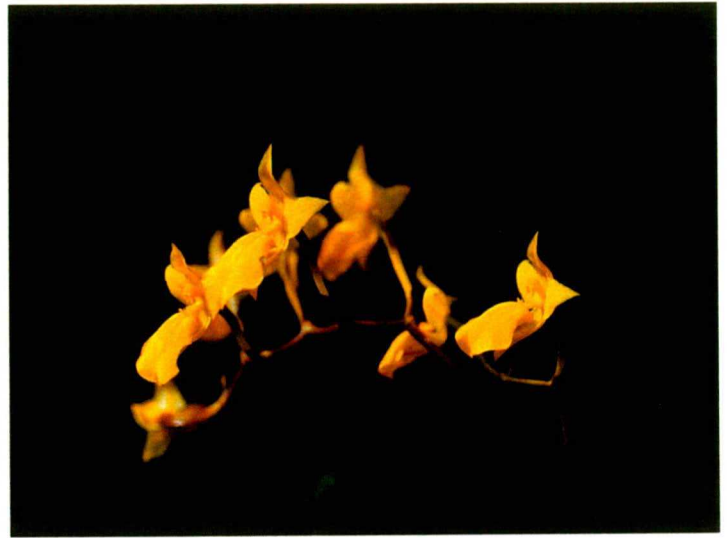
Cyrt-aurem-Puno-1: Dalstrom



Cyrt-aureum-Puno-2



Cyrt-aureum-Quillabamba: Dalstrom



Cyrt-cochleatum: Grant



Cyrt-cochleatum-Saraguro: Hirtz



CYrt-rigidum Gualaceo: Dalstrom



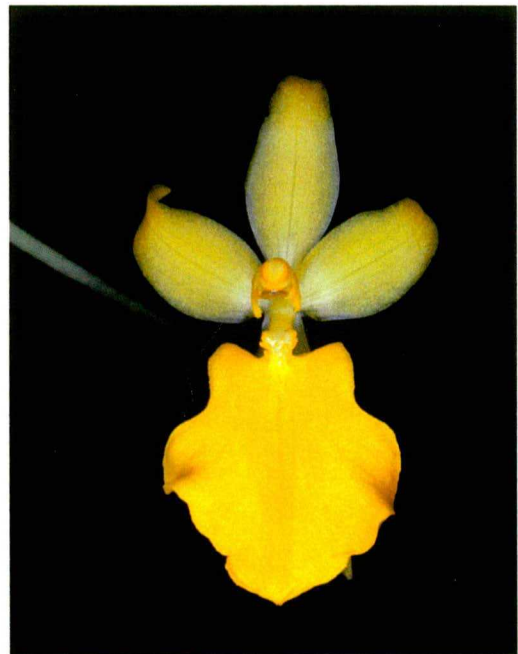
Cyrt-rigidum-Saraguro: Dalstrom



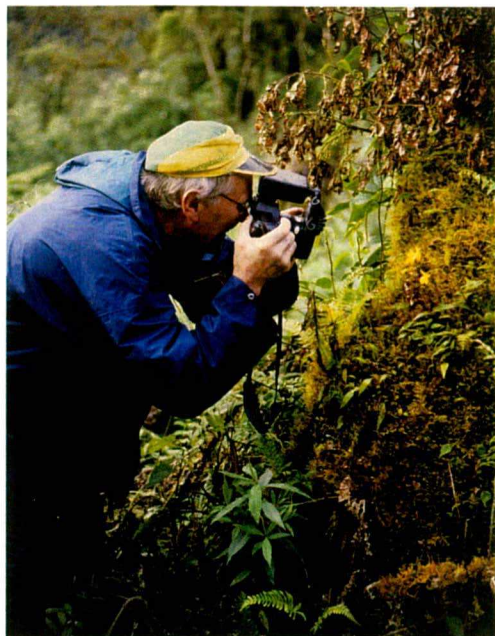
Steve Beckendorf-Cyrt-aureum-Puno-2010:
Dalstrom



Cyrt -sp-Chapare-Bolivia: Dalstrom



Cyrt-sp-MontePunko-Bolivia:
Jan Sonnemark



Jan Sonnemark-Cyrt-sp-Chapare-Bolivia
Dalstrom



CHARLES ISLAND ORCHID HYBRID GRACED CANADA STAMP

In the early 1980's my daughter Barbara and I established a small orchid nursery on Charles Island in the mouth of Pender Harbour. We named our small business Charles Island Orchids and specialized in growing and hybridizing a cool growing species called the *Odontoglossum* Alliance, including *Odontioda*'s and *Odontoglossum*'s, which originate from the South American Andes Mountains just below the freezing level. We made a special effort to improve the colour and size of the red hybrids. The red colour had been introduced earlier from a small flowered allied species called *Cochlioda noetzliana*. One of our hybrids was particularly successful giving a bright red good-sized flower with a full shape. We registered this hybrid with the Royal Horticulture Society in England (where all new hybrids are registered and named) and named it *Odontioda* ISLAND RED.

In 2007 Canada Post approached the Canadian Orchid Congress to provide flowers to be considered for a set of stamps to be used in a forthcoming issue. We were approached and submitted a picture of the blooms from a particularly good plant we named Island Red 'First Flame' a clone that had received an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society. It was chosen to be the PERMANENT stamp of the collection of four. For the stamp, a beautiful painting of the bloom was created by the Montreal artist Sigmond Pifko. The Orchid stamp collection was issued on December 27, 2007.

Wally Thomas, MD,

Harry Baldwin: The Man and His Orchid

By Russ Vernon

New Vision Orchids

A little personal history:

I began growing orchids in 1961 and shortly thereafter developed an interest in *Odontoglossums* (Odonts). The variety they displayed even within the same cross (grex) was amazing to me. If I ever were to hybridize orchids, Odonts would be my choice. Fifty years later I am doing just that. My company, New Vision Orchids, specializes in growing and hybridizing Odonts as well as *Lycaste*, *Phalaenopsis* and a few other genera. We tend to hybridize what I call "classic" Odonts.

The subject of this article, *Odontioda* (Oda) Harry Baldwin, became known to me through my friend, Pat Hill. Pat was the owner of Strawberry Creek Orchids in Mc Kinleyville, California. Pat, and for all too brief a time, John Hainsworth, grew and hybridized Odonts until the company went out of business in the early 2000's. One of Pat's goals was to produce orange Odonts. To her, the holy grail was Oda Harry Baldwin 'Orange King'. She said she had it at one time but had lost it.

One day, shortly before Strawberry Creek Orchids closed, my wife, Anita and I were visiting and going down the stud bench to buy some plants to hybridize with. As Pat and I were moving along the bench discussing plants to use, Anita's voice rang out, "Russ, weren't you wanting to get Harry Baldwin 'Orange King'? Here is one!" Pat's head shot up and I nearly fainted. Pat's holy grail was there all along! I asked if she was willing to part with it and she agreed saying, "To me it was lost. You found it, its yours."

Oda Harry Baldwin 'Orange King' has great vigor, breeds freely, has excellent shape and flower production. The flowers are a yellow-orange with butterscotch overlay and there are no spots or marks.

I am aware of three other clones, 'Hawk Hill', 'Unicorn Sunset' HCC/AOS and 'Plush Giant' HCC/AOS. A picture of 'Orange King' and 'Hawk Hill' can be found in this issue of the Newsletter. 'Orange King' received an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society in April, 2011.

Who was Harry Baldwin:

Harry Baldwin was an avid amateur orchid grower who lived in or near Sheffield, England. He and his wife, Kate and two daughters owned and operated H and K Baldwin, Ltd., a clothing store. Some sources claim they sold gentlemen's clothes while other sources said they sold elderly women's and children's clothing.

Harry had two greenhouses, one mainly for *Phalaenopsis* and one for Odonts. He made several crosses: *Phalaenopsis* Kate Baldwin, a yellow, a *Vuyksteakeara* Eunice Taylor, *Odontoglossum* Margaret Shuker and of course, *Odontioda* Harry Baldwin. Apparently, the Oda was later in his life as he asked Keith Andrew of Plush, England, to grow up the seedlings but did not live to see any of them bloom. What a shame! Keith named the

grex in his honor.

Harry helped establish the Sheffield Orchid Society which is now known as the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Orchid Society. Harry is reported to have been very generous with his orchid knowledge, and organized trips to growers such as Keith Andrew, Brian Rittenhousen, Mansell and Hatcher and Mrs. Ratcliff's. Harry was a heavy smoker and died of cancer.

The Grex Oda Harry Baldwin:

Oda Harry Baldwin is a cross of Volcano with Malvern Gold. Volcano was Harry's plant and the pollen of Malvern Gold came from Miss Albright of Albright and Wilson Washing Power Company. The clonal name she used was 'Bromesburrow' and her grower was Alan Greatwood, formerly of Charlesworth Nursery. Charlesworth was the major breeder of Odonts in England for many years.

Volcano was registered in 1979 by Mansell and Hatcher and has a background of only five *Odontoglossum* hybrids through the fifth generation. Oda Malvern Gold was registered by Miss Albright in 1982 and has lots of "unknowns" in its background. Hybrids such as *Georgeous Rex*, *Excellens*, *Lady Pirrie*, and *Andersonianum* are registered with no parents listed.

Oda Harry Baldwin was registered in 1986 and Harry made the hybrid on December 5, 1981. You may recall that he asked Keith Andrew to grow up the seedlings and that Harry died before any had bloomed. Keith Andrew registered the hybrid in his honor.

Keith Andrew stated in a letter to his friend Bob Burkey of Kamuela Greenhouse in Hawaii, "There was so much seed and eventually hundreds of seedlings-so many in fact, I just bedded more than half the cross out in a mixture of peat and perlite. Would you believe it? They all grew like weeds! My stock number was 1152."

How did Oda Harry Baldwin arrive in the United States? It appears there are several possibilities. Keith Andrew brought several special clones, ('Plush Giant' and 'Orange King') along with most of his collection to Hawaii and to Glenwood Orchids. He was selling his nursery in England. He also distributed seedlings and special plants to friends. John Hainsworth and his wife were friends of Keith. John Hainsworth temporarily moved to Hawaii and Glenwood Orchids and then to Strawberry Creek Orchids in California. This may explain how 'Orange King' ended up there and then finally in my collection.

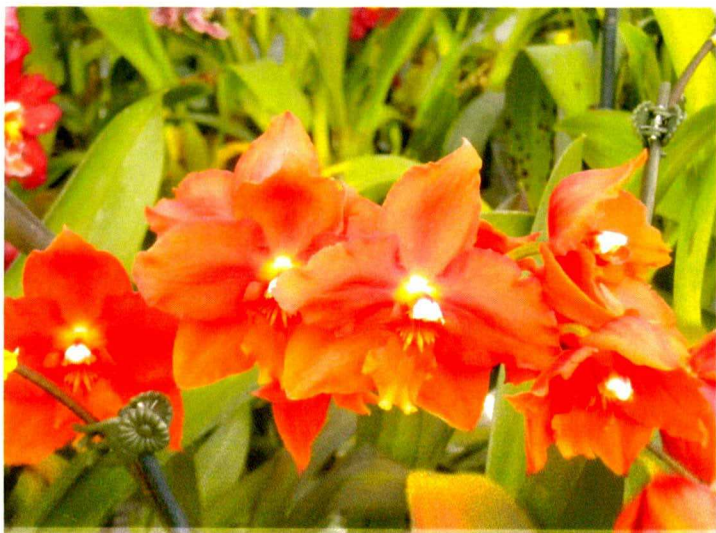
Bruce Cobbledick of Unicorn Orchids purchased a large number of plants from Keith and when he went out of business, those plants ended up in Hawaii. Cobbledick shared greenhouses with Tim Brydon and Tom Perlite (Golden Gate Orchids). Cobbledick received the award on 'Unicorn Sunset' HCC/AOS.

Tim Brydon also visited England and the British Orchid Growers' Association show over a number of years, and according to Bob Hamilton, purchased *Odont* seedlings there. He would bring back the seedlings and distribute them among *Odont* enthusiasts in the San Francisco area. This is how Bob Hamilton believes he got 'Hawk Hill' as he remembers growing it up from a seedling.

However the Harry Baldwin plants arrived, I am grateful that they did! They are each beautiful in their own right, and they have contributed significantly to the quality shown in their progeny. In a future article I will discuss Oda Harry Baldwin's influence in hybridizing.

I want to thank Bob Hamilton, John Gay of England and his neighbor/friend Howard Taylor for the information they have generously provided. Special thanks to Bob Burkey for his correspondence and telephone conversations with Keith Andrew, of England, as well as for Bob's input. Their insights of both Harry Baldwin and his orchid were invaluable.

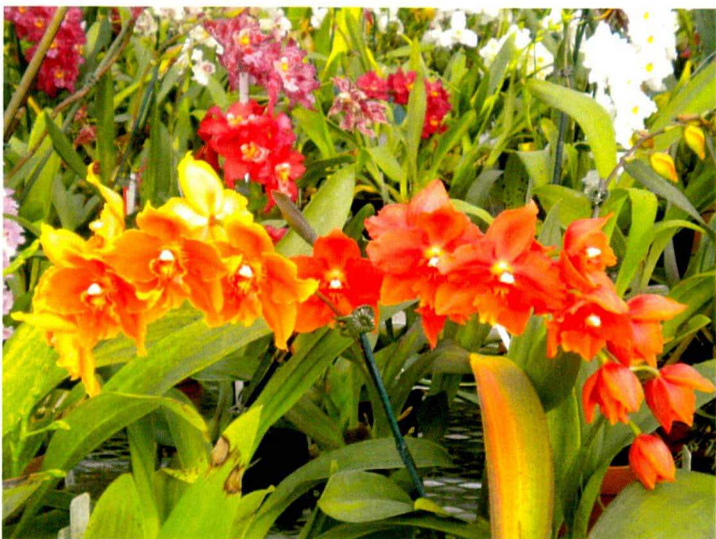
If any of the readers can add to this story or have pictures of Oda Harry Baldwin or its progeny, please contact Russ Vernon at newvisionorchids@aol.com.



Oda Harry Baldwin 'Hawk Hill'



Oda. Harry Baldwin 'Orange King 'AM'



Oda. Harry Baldwin Orange King 'Hawk Hill



Oda Teighmore 'New Vision' HCC