

Massachusetts Orchid Society

P.O. Box 1041
Medford, MA 02155



AUG 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Minute Minutes

Message from the President

August BBQ Potluck Details

July Show Table Results

Upcoming Events

Welcome New Members

Article: "Orchid Lust" by Steve Kirincich

Article: "Aerangis Name Game",
by Brenda Oviatt and Bill Nierson

The AOS Corner: *Greenhouse Chat
with Ron McHatton and Seasonal
Care*

Officers, Directors & Chairs



Minute Minutes Notes from the Board

- ◆ September Auction call for donations! It's time to start looking over your orchids- *whether you're a windowsill, greenhouse or under lights grower* – for our September auction. Plant divisions, seedlings, keikis, or simply orchids you're ready to part with are what we're looking for. We also take books, magazines, growing equipment or potting materials. In short, anything related to orchids and their culture will be accepted.

Please support MOS with one of its biggest yearly fundraising events. To donate, contact Mike Badia, mikeb@massorchid.org or Amanda Larson, amandal@massorchid.org. There will also be new plants from some of our most popular vendors.

Only plants that are healthy, disease and pest free will be accepted.

--Thank you!!

- ◆ Show meetings for our November show have begun. The zoom meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month and the next meeting will be August 10th, at 7:30pm. If you're interested in joining, be sure to email show@massorchid.org, or speak with Brigitte Fortin.
- ◆ MOS treasurer Amanda reports that currently MOS assets are approximately \$54,000. Upcoming expense will be for buying orchids from vendors and virus tests from local donations.
- ◆ The board has noted rising costs for speakers, housing, transportation and intersociety communications. One idea to save money being explored is to hold one of our meetings "virtually" each year, much like we did during COVID. This might be a greenhouse or a special collections tour, or we could host a speaker for whom it 's not feasible to travel; for instance, someone from abroad. This would help raise MOS visibility, potentially attract new members and provide different learning experiences to members.

- ◆ At the last board meeting, newsletter editor Anne Pfaff gave a big shout-out to Steve Kirincich, for sharing his wonderful articles with us about orchids and their care. Be sure to catch his *Orchid Lust* on page 9 this month! Anne also acknowledges Jeff Feldman for his continued support meticulously proof-reading the newsletter each month, in addition to his other writing contributions.

And remember folks, if you have orchid related articles you want to share, or you're interested in reading about a specific topic, Anne will research and post in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. Become a contributor! It's more fun to share orchid knowledge with each other! 😊

Submissions are due 14 days prior to monthly meetings. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post or advertise.

Got extra orchid supplies you want to unload? Looking for garden swaps? Advertise right here in our new Minute Minutes Member's Classified section. Email Anne at newsletter@massorchid.org to post in the next newsletter.

We are always interested in suggestions for speakers and topics, and special programs for upcoming general meetings. Email your thoughts to mos-board@googlegroups.com.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/massorchid and Instagram at www.instagram.com/massachusettsorchid.



Raffle Tickets and Name Badges Now at the Membership Table

Please remember to pick up your raffle ticket before the start of the meeting at the membership table, located near the entrance to the hall. Every member receives a ticket, and you'll get another if you bring treats to the hospitality table. You'll also get a ticket for each orchid you bring in for the Show Table.

Membership Committee
Jeff F., Li-An S. and Maryelisa B.

Message from the President

I apologize for not getting the Show Table complete at the July meeting, but when I saw 52 members hanging on every word that Fred Clarke spoke, I didn't have the heart (or interest) in interrupting him. Fred always has a compelling talk and we were fortunate to have him.

Congrats go to Ron Maloney for winning the People's Choice for his Ctsm. Adriana Feitoza...a beautiful plant.

By now you should have received your email invite to the BBQ (below). Note that the BBQ replaces a general meeting in August. If you haven't done so already, please register ASAP so that our shoppers will be sure to get enough lobsters err, burgers and hotdogs to feed you. And for our newer members that haven't been to the BBQ, the Richter's have a large, automated greenhouse with 1000's of orchids for you to tour.

We are in the middle of a very busy time for MOS. Our Annual Auction is in September. The Committee is busy planning this event, and there will be some very exciting plants for you to bid on. Also, Brigitte Fortin, Show Chair, is already in gear for our "World of Orchids" Show, Nov. 3-5. The show committee meets each month and this is our premier event each year, requiring several volunteers to help. Once again, this is a great opportunity for newer members to lend a hand, have some fun and make new friends along the way.

I look forward to seeing you at the BBQ. I plan on being behind the grill to cook and serve you.

See you on the 12th,
Ralph D 11



The MOS BBQ is right around the corner. Join fellow members and have a fun time!

When:

Saturday, August 12th

Rain Date: August 13th

Where:

Bob and Marcia Richter's

[283 Elm Street, No. Reading, MA](#)

The Society will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers and drinks.

Members, please bring:

Side Dish, last name A-H

Salad, last name I-N

Apps and

Desserts, last name O-Z

Or course, if you have a favorite dish, you're welcome to bring it instead.

Chairs are limited, so you may want to bring your favorite lawn chair.

See you there!



MOS Show Table Results, July 2023

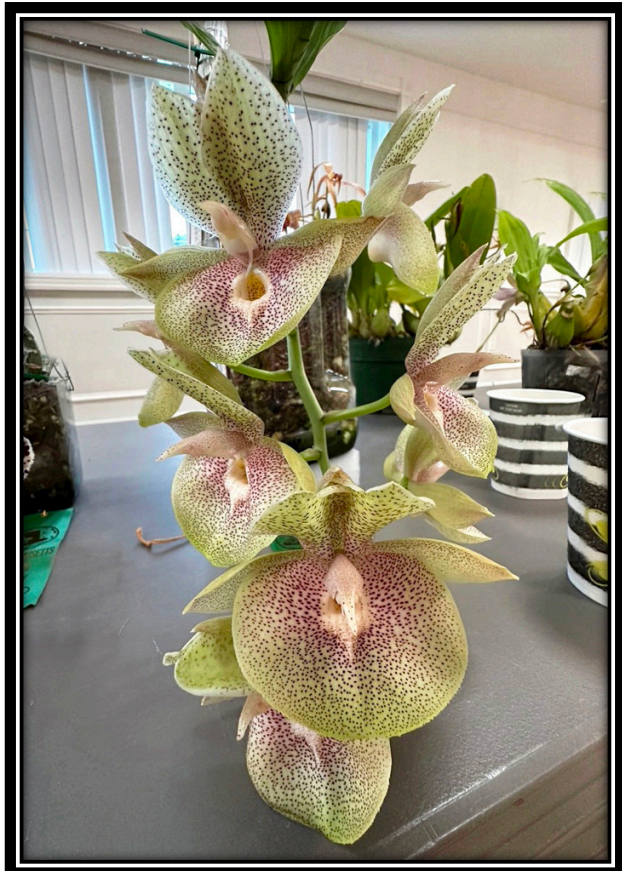
Judges: Steve Ki., Anne P., Daryl Y., Bob R., Mike B.

Scribe: Brigitte F.

Total Ribbons: 17

Name of Orchid	Name of Exhibitor	Light L,M,H	Temp W,I,C	Growing Location: Lights, Windowsill, Greenhouse? Judges' or Exhibitor's Comments?
Phal. Mini Mark	Danielle B.		W	Under lights in a modified Ikea cabinet
Paph. dianthum x sib	Mike B.		I	Under lights
Epi. oerstedii	Daryl Y.		W	Greenhouse
L purpurata v. carnea	Linda A.		C	Under lights
Pot. Dream Circle 'Lone Jack' x AM/AOS x Pot. California Queen 'Red Angel' SM/JOGA	Anne P.	H	I	Greenhouse; summer outside
C. Brabantiae 'Sentinel's Hot Pants', AM/AOS	Anne P.	H	I	Greenhouse; summer outside
Cleisocentron gokusingii	Anne P.	M	I	Greenhouse; summer outside
Ctsm. Elsa Juan	Ron M.		W	Lights; summer outside
Ctsm. De Adriana Feitoza	Ron M.		I	People's Choice. Lights; summer outside
Lycaste tricolor	Li-An S.		I	Lights; summer outside under full sun
Bulb. Jersey	Daryl Y.		W	Greenhouse
Encyclia mariae x sib	Anne P.	H	I	Greenhouse; summer outside. Cool in winter
C. forbesii	Anne P.	M/L	I	Greenhouse; summer outside.
Den. bensonii	Nadine		W	Window in a glass bowl
Den. secundum	Mike B.		W	Lights
Den. Hibiki	Mike B.		W	Lights
Tolumnia variegata	Daryl Y.		W	Greenhouse

*Congrats to Ron Maloney for his People's Choice Award, Ctsm. De Adriana Feitoza! Pictured here with breeder Fred Clarke, who knows a winner when he sees one!
To read Ron's culture notes go to page 9.*





Ctsm. Elsa Juan, Ron M.



Paph. dianthum x sib, Mike B.



Den. bensonii, Nadine L.



Epi. oerstedii, Daryl Y.



Encyclia mariae x sib, Anne P.



Phal. Mini Mark, Danielle B.



Lycaste tricolor, Li-An S.



Cleisocentron gokusingii, Anne P.



Bulb. Jersey, Daryl Y.



Tolumnia variegata (syn. Onc. velutimum), Daryl Y.



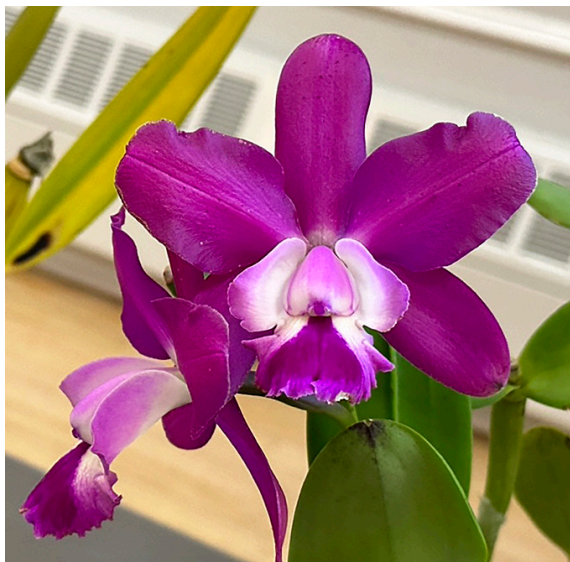
Den. secundum, Mike B.



L. purpurata v. carnea,
Linda A.



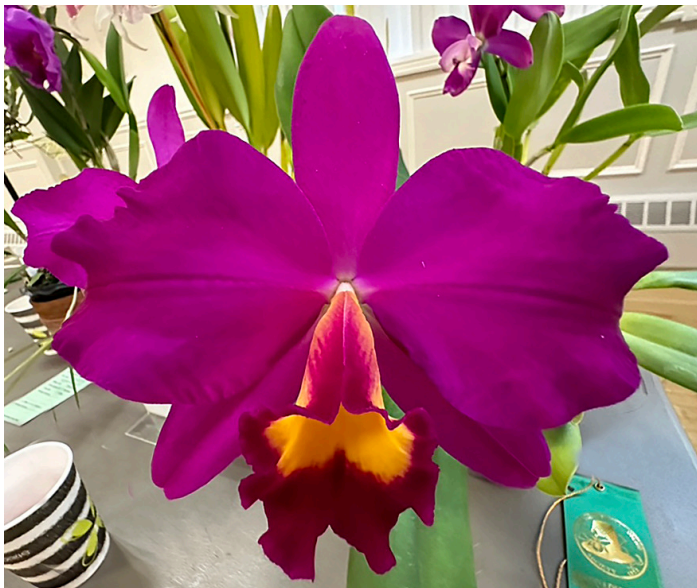
C. forbesii, Anne P.



C. Brabantiae
'Sentinel's Hot Pants'
AM/AOS, Anne T.



Den. Hibiki, Mike B.



Pot. Dream Circle 'Lone Jack' AM/AOS x
Pot. Calif. Queen 'Red Angel' SM/JOGA, Anne P.

UPCOMING EVENTSMonthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

05 Aug 2023 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

No August meeting - Our annual BBQ instead!

Date: 12th Aug (Rain Date: 13th Aug)
 Time: 1:00-4:00
 Place: Bob and Marcia Richter's
[283 Elm St.](http://283-Elm-St-North-Reading-MA)
[North Reading, MA](http://North-Reading-MA)

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

02 Sep 2023 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting

12 September 2023 7:30 PM
Annual Auction
Note: there will be no Show Table
 Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
 Winchester, MA

Monthly AOS Judging at Tower Hill

07 Oct 2023 10:30 AM
 Tower Hill Botanic Garden,
 11 French Dr., Boylston, MA
 Please visit our website: nejcaos.org

Monthly Meeting - TBD

10 Oct 2023 7:30 PM
 Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St.
 Winchester, MA

Ron Maloney, People's Choice Winner and Ctsm. De Adriana Feitoza

Ron grows his Catasetums in a combination of cypress mulch, perlite and charcoal. He uses the "Pet" method; a way of growing in plastic soda bottles. Ron cuts them down to fit and makes 2 holes in the sides 1 1/2 to 2" from the bottom, leaving the closed bottom as a reservoir. He hangs them under his deck and waters them daily when in growth.

He repots every year, waiting for the new bulbs to appear, before roots emerge. Otherwise, the delicate roots can easily break. Placed in the pot so new growths have room to grow forward, he waits to water in spring, when the roots are 3-4" long.

Watering starts gradually and increasingly, with regular fertilizing in July and August using Osamacote, a slow-release fertilizer, and with regular fertilizer.

Ron's plants go outside once temps reach 55 degrees at night, under the protection of a 40% shade cloth. They receive sunlight from 1pm until dusk.

Fertilizing and watering stops in mid November/early December, when plants go into his grow tent. Then they are only watered when the pseudobulbs start shrinking. Next spring, he repots and trims the old roots, leaving enough for stability. Broken clay pot shards go into the bottom of the pot for stability.

The first flowers are usually female.

Ron loves the wide range of Catesetum colors and how unusual the flowers are. Cultivation is easy, requiring minimal care and nothing during winter rest.

Ron acquired his plants from Fred Clarke of SVO.



Welcome To Our New Members

Ryan Rapp – from Hull - interested in Auction, Library, shows/displays, hospitality, publicity.

Alicia Pensagrosa – from Gloucester

Mariano Marzolla – from Marlboro – Auction, library, greeters, shows/displays, hospitality, publicity and housing speakers.

Orchid Lust
 Steven Kirincich
 July 2023

I suspect that there is a cohort of fellow orchid hobbyists out there who make a habit of occasionally scouting their favorite orchid websites. There can be no doubt that vendors are looking to tantalize us with the latest and greatest. I have more than enough plants to stay busy, but I think my brain is triggered by certain flower colors - bright apricot, yellow, and gold seem to work for me. Lyonara Inge Graf (see picture below and the Plantio La Orquidea website) definitely caught my eye a few months ago, but I ultimately passed on this.



When afflicted by the fever, I am inclined to search the four corners of the internet for a plant. Damage is generally averted when a glass of wine and a credit card are not close by, and the application of time and delayed gratification generally assures a full recovery.

Having read “The Classic Cattleyas” by the father and son team of Chadwicks, I have become somewhat versed in some of the older, beautiful crosses that are rarely available for sale. I recently came upon an eBay listing for Cattleya King George, a cross between dowiana and Triumphans first made in 1915 (see below). The hybrid will be available from Sunset Valley Orchids in 2024 at a price probably well below the eBay winning bid. Now I just have to wait.



Figure 1. *Cattleya dowiana*



Figure 2. *Cattleya Triumphans*

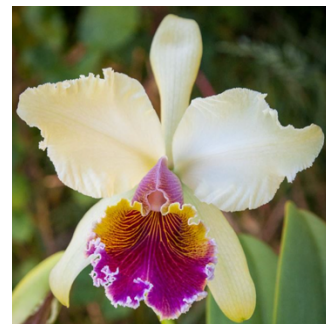


Figure 3. *Cattleya King George*

Orchid seedling offerings seem to come in waves; a particular hybrid or species may be readily available for a period of time before it vanishes from the market. This ebb and flow cycle reflects what was available a few years earlier in the form of flasks and community pots. In the

case of dendrobium hybrids, H&R Nurseries in Hawaii sells many high-quality, unique community pots and it is just a matter of time before advanced seedlings and mature plants hit the market. With the upcoming retirement of Harry and Roy (H&R), it comes as no surprise that collectors and resellers are taking advantage of such affordable, quality offerings. I too have purchased a community pot from H&R and have been selling two-year old plants of Dendrobium Hawaii Spectacular, a hybrid that will inevitably become scarcer in the future.

I had been searching for Brassocattleya (Bc.) Richard Mueller, a primary hybrid registered in 1965 that is the result of crossing Brassavola nodosa and Cattleya milleri (see below). The favorable genetics behind Richard Mueller is demonstrated by the fact that more than one hundred hybrids have been made using it as a parent. I searched high and low for this plant with no success although you can be assured that it has been readily available in the past. Someone on an online orchid forum suggested that I search for “nodosa and milleri” since the “Richard Mueller” query was not fruitful. Bingo!

A big thank you to Linda for giving me a division of Bc. Richard Mueller! This is an example of how a fresh cattleya division bounces back after repotting much better than commercial bareroot plants. Within a few months of receiving the division, two growths have emerged. Very exciting!

My collection of around 100+ orchids includes everything from Trader Joe’s offerings to pricey boutique phalaenopsis hybrids to classic hybrids to fragile, rare species seedlings that will probably break my heart one day. It occurred to me some time ago that I enjoy all of my plants and rarity and price play little role in how much I enjoy learning and applying the optimal conditions to help my plants thrive and hopefully flower. I have no desire to steer people away from pricey plants, but I do ask my fellow growers to consider what makes them happy. I have spent good money on a handful of rare species, and although I have no regrets and do enjoy them, I cannot claim to enjoy them more than my other plants.



COLLECTOR'S ITEM

Aerangis Name Game

Clarification of *Aerangis fuscata*, *monantha* and *punctata*

BY BRENDA OVIATT AND BILL NERISON

WITH THIS ARTICLE, we hope to clarify the confusion between three special *Aerangis* species from Madagascar and the multiple names they have been known by over the years. Sometimes name changes can be frustrating (especially for those of us who have been at this for a while). Neither of us openly accept the term rupicolous cattleyas. To us, they will always be rupicolous laelias. We feel the same about *Vanda falcata*. In our hearts, they will remain neofinetias. There are, however, some important name changes that **MUST** be clarified and adhered to by **EVERYONE**; they are changes that mean the difference between correct and incorrect identification of the species and whether you are able to acquire the plant you really want. As we have been doing research on the names of these species, it seems that there are three distinct areas where the confusion has occurred: First with **taxonomists**, secondly with **written errors** (accidental or not) and finally in the **commercial trade** with mislabeling. Combinations of errors between the three have occurred as well.

TAXONOMISTS In addition to confusion that arises with transfers of species between genera, some errors in early publications were made by simply confusing the description of a species with the name of another. More serious errors have been made in describing and publishing information about plants sent across the world.

WRITTEN ERRORS Once in printed form, an incorrect name (especially when accompanied by a beautiful photograph) can spread systemically, and some mistakes can be difficult to correct. This type of error is common on the internet. Other simple errors are still able to cause confusion, i.e., when a key says "leaves finely black spotted" when in fact it should read "leaves spotted silver-white."

THE COMMERCIAL TRADE Businesses can turn mistakes into money-makers both intentionally and unintentionally. We have purchased more than our share of incorrectly labeled orchids, and every business that discovers an error has their own way of handling it. Sadly, honesty is not always profitable.

COMBINATION Isobyl la Croix describes the history regarding *Aerangis monantha*: Rudolph Schlechter described *Aergs. monantha* in 1925 from a plant collected by Perrier de la Bâthie. However, there has been considerable confusion over the name of this little species. In 1883, H.G. Reichenbach described a plant sent to him by Hugh Low as *Aeranthes curnowianus*. The French botanist Achille Finet transferred it to *Rhaphidorhynchus*, a genus he had established for species now assigned to *Aerangis* and *Microcoelia*. That plant was in fact, an *Angraecum* species. In *Flore de Madagascar* (la Croix, 2014) Schlechter's species was called *Aerangis curnowiana* (with *Rhaphidorhynchus curnowianus* and *Aeranthes curnowianus* as synonyms) and this name was used for many years for plants in cultivation. To add to the confusion, the species called *Aergs. monantha* in *Flore de Madagascar* is actually *Aerangis fuscata*. Confusing? Most certainly.



- [1] *Aerangis fuscata* flowers. The species is found from sea level up to about 7,000 feet (0–2,350 m) in northeastern and eastern Madagascar. Grower: Bill Nerison.
- [2] *Aerangis fuscata* (lower) and *Aerangis spiculata* (upper). Seen side-by-side there is no confusing the two. Both plants are blooming size. Grower: Bill Nerison.
- [3] *Aerangis spiculata* is found in northern Madagascar and the Comoro Islands at elevations ranging from sea level to about 3,300 feet (0–1,000 m). Grower: Bill Nerison.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE Let's imagine you own a plant labeled *Aerangis fuscata* and you want to know if it is properly identified. The epithet *fuscata* has been incorrectly used for several large-flowering species of *Aerangis*. The most widely available source with this misinformation is *An Introduction to the Cultivated Angraecoid Orchids of Madagascar* by Hillerman and Holst from 1986. Much of the information in the book is of great value, and it showed many people in the orchid world plants they had never seen before, but each species includes the qualifier "Description based on our plants." Even now, plants imported from Madagascar labeled *Aerangis fuscata* are most often actually *Aerangis spiculata*. For many years the commercial trade sold plants labeled in this same manner (we know this from personal experience). The Hillerman and Holst error was likely repeated from an error in a previous publication. Seen side by side, we wonder how could this mistake have occurred. Now, back to your plant; has it bloomed? Are its flowers white? Then it is NOT *Aerangis fuscata*. If it has not bloomed yet, and you are not certain if it is blooming size, it will be a little trickier. A seedling *Aerangis spiculata* looks a bit like a mature *Aerangis fuscata*. Look at the edges of the leaves for a reddish tinge (*fuscata*) or a wavy edge (*spiculata*). Both species have relatively smooth roots with the larger *spiculata* having larger-diameter roots. The growing tips may be an indicator; *fuscata* has bright green growing tips and those of *spiculata* have a bronze tinge. If this does not help, you will need to wait for your plant to grow. As it grows, if a leaf surpasses 3 ½ inches (9 cm) in length, you are unlikely to have a true *Aerangis fuscata* as they are small at maturity.

It can be frustrating (especially to the layman) when the taxonomic descriptions do not have information presented in a consistent manner. One may be described as "dwarf" and "almost stemless" and another as "small with a short woody stem." When you see the plants side by side, they could be described the same way; but each taxonomist may use different descriptors. Add to this confusion the taxonomic descriptions of the same plant by different taxonomists; "lanceolate" vs. "obliquely lanceolate" vs. "narrowly lanceolate, acuminate." In review of our own orchids, it is easy to see that a variation occurs within different plants of a particular species. For example, if one taxonomist were to describe our finest, most robust *Aerangis fuscata* in bloom and another to describe a younger *Aerangis fuscata* which was removed from a tree in Madagascar and shipped halfway across the world with a travel-stressed bloom, it is likely the descriptions of the plants would vary a great deal.

We reviewed a plethora of writing (hard copy and electronic) about these species and compared three of them. Unquestionably, the most complete and up-to-date publication regarding these plants is the book *Aerangis* by Isobyl la Croix (2014). We used it as our base reference, compared it with two other excellent sources and made a chart. We will show and describe the differences in easy-to-understand terminology, though it is important to understand some of the basic taxonomic nomenclature. If you own one of these plants (or think you may), we suggest comparing it to these descriptions and make sure it has a correct identification tag on it.

We deliberat-ed giving the measurements of the respective parts, and decided to include them for a more complete reference. Please take a moment to notice the wide range possible in some areas and the utter lack of variation in others.

Commonalities: All three species are dwarf or small plants, have flowers with a white lip and long spur and are endemic to Madagascar.



THE PLANTS



Aerangis fuscata (Rchb.f.) Schltr., Orchideen Beschreib. Kult. Zücht.: 598 (1914).

Homotypic synonyms: *Angraecum fuscatum*, *Angorchis fuscata*; heterotypic synonyms: *Rhaphidorhynchus umbonatus*, *Aerangis umbonata*, though knowing the “official” synonyms of this species will not help sort out the confusion with this species! As stated previously, this name has been used extensively when selling *Aergs. spiculata* and also when describing *Aerangis stylosa*; both of which are very different from *Aergs. fuscata*.

The species name *fuscata* means brownish, alluding to the pinkish brown color of the sepals and petals. A healthy plant can carry up to five flowers per inflorescence. Note how the spurs are mostly straight with a slight curve at the apex (tip).



Aerangis monantha Schltr., Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 33: 386 (1925).

This has no “official” synonyms, but has long been sold as, and called, *Aergs. curnowiana*. There is some disagreement on The World Checklist of Selected Plant Families as the original compiler considers it to be *Aergs. fuscata*. There are plants sold as *Aerangis fastuosa* var. *françoisii* that have been identified as *Aergs. monantha*, and *Aergs. fastuosa* subsp. *françoisii* is listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Orchid Checklist with *Aergs. fastuosa* as the accepted name. We suspect it may be a plant you will need to bloom to accurately identify should you ever purchase one.

The epithet *monantha* means one-flowered. Even a specimen plant will have few flowers because each short inflorescence carries only one, or occasionally two, flowers. This makes it obviously different compared to the other species we are reviewing. Notice the “sinuous” spurs.



Aerangis punctata J.Stewart, Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull. 55: 1120 (1986).

Though there are no “official” synonyms for this species, it was sold as *Aergs. curnowiana* before it was formally described in 1986. We suspect the ongoing name confusion is, in part, due to this mislabeling. It confounds us that a plant as stunning and unusual as *Aergs. punctata* could ever be confused with another species. Even out of bloom it is unmistakable if you look at its foliage and roots. The photo shows our clone ‘Barbara’ blooming with seven inflorescences and 22 flowers.

GROWTH HABITS



Aerangis fuscata: A “small” plant, described as “stemless” (a young plant) or with a “short woody stem” (the mature plant shown). They actually grow away from their mount while staying firmly attached. It would be uncommon to see a plant with more than seven leaves.



Aerangis monantha: A “dwarf” or “small” plant. Described as “almost stemless,” these tend to send out a new growth rather than lengthening with a stem like the other species discussed here. It is common for a plant to have just two or three leaves, though we have had a healthy specimen hold nine.



Aerangis punctata: Described as “small” or “very small” with a short stem. Like *Aerangis fuscata*, older plants will grow away from their mount while still firmly attached. They are relatively quick to form multiple growths. We have one older plant that has grown nearly 2 inches (5 cm) away from its cork mount; the oldest roots are atrophied but the plant still looks good and has new emerging roots. We view this as a perfect time to remove, clean and reattach the plant.

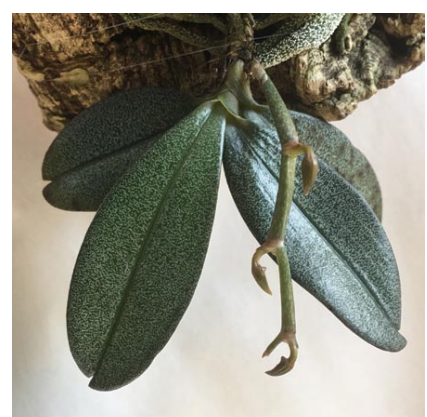
THE LEAVES



The obovate or elliptic green leaves of *Aerangis fuscata* will sometimes have a reddish tinge. Depending on growing location and time of year, our leaves will have a reddish border around the entire leaf. They are unequally bilobed and this detail (exactly how bilobed they are) varies depending on whose description you read. Ours are consistently unequally, bluntly bilobed 0.6–3.5 × 0.4–1.2 inches (1.5–9 × 1–3 cm).



The oblong to elliptic green leaves of *Aerangis monantha* will sometimes have a reddish margin. They are bilobed at the apex with rounded lobes. What we have noticed with our plants, not mentioned in descriptions, is the slight texture on the surface of the leaves and the ability to see their venation with just a bit of backlight; 1–2.4 × 0.6 inches (2.5–6 × 1.5 cm).



The oblong or oblong-elliptic leaves of *Aerangis punctata* are acutely bilobed at the apex. Some almost appear to have had a thin “slice” removed from their leaf-tip. In Latin, *punctatus* means pricked or spotted and refers to the silver or white dots on the leaves. From a distance, the leaves appear grey-green. The dots occur on the bottom sides of the leaves as well the tops although they are not quite as noticeable since the undersides are a lighter green. Its common name is the dotted *Aerangis*, 0.8–1.4 × 0.25–0.47 inches (2–3.5 × 0.6–1.2 cm).

THE ROOTS



The roots of *Aerangis fuscata* are smooth, "fairly stout" and have bright green growing tips.



Though not as verrucose as the roots of *Aerangis punctata*, these *Aerangis monantha* roots are unmistakable. Even in flask, their rough-surfaced roots have distinct bronze-colored growing tips. They are quite "stout" on a mature plant.



Aerangis punctata roots are conspicuously verrucose with bright green growing tips; the roots flatten against their substrate as they grow.

THE FLOWERS



The front view of this *Aerangis fuscata* flower is telling: where the lip forms the mouth of the spur, there is a clear circular opening, as if you are looking into a slender funnel. The sepals and petals are pinkish brown or yellow to green and the white lip is noticeably longer as it projects forward.

Flower: 1.2–2 inches (3–5 cm) across.

Lip: 0.8–1.6 × 0.3–0.5 inches (20–40 × 7–12 mm); projecting ovate-lanceolate, acuminate.

Dorsal sepal: 0.7–1.3 × 0.1–0.2 inches (18–32 × 3–5 mm); ligulate-lanceolate obliquely lanceolate, acute, arched over the column.

Lateral sepals: 0.8–1.4 × 0.1–0.2 inches (20–36 × 2.5–4 mm); obliquely lanceolate, acute.

Petals: 0.7–1.2 × 0.1–0.2 inches (17–30 × 3–5 mm); narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, somewhat reflexed.



The sepals and petals of *Aerangis monantha* are greenish or pinkish; the lip is white. The noteworthy feature to distinguish this plant is its rostellum. It is very long and projects down across the mouth of the stigma and spur opening.

Flower: 1.6–2 inches (4–5 cm) across.

Lip: 0.8–1 × 0.4 inches (20–24 × 10 mm); ovate or obovate, acuminate.

Sepals and petals: 0.8–1 × 0.3 inches (20–24 × 6 mm); lanceolate, acute, spreading, petals sometimes smaller.



We have noticed more color variation in *Aerangis punctata* than the others discussed here. Sometimes there will be two colors on one flower (especially noticeable on the lateral sepals). The sepals and petals can range from buff yellow to greenish or brownish. We have also seen them described as "white flushed pink."

Flower: up to 1.6 inches (4 cm) across.

Lip: 0.6–0.9 × 0.3–0.4 inches (16–22 × 7–9 mm); widest at the middle.

Sepals: 0.6–0.8 × 0.1–0.2 inches (14–20 × 3–4 mm); narrowly lanceolate, acuminate.

Petals: 0.5–0.6 × 0.1 inches (12–16 × 2–3 mm); ligulate-lanceolate, similar to sepals but smaller.

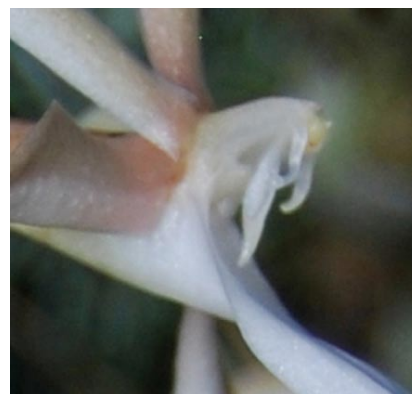
IN PROFILE



From the side, it is easier to see that the lip of *Aerangis fuscata* projects forward, as does the rostellum. There is also an interesting “droplet” that hangs down; a small extension of the rostellum or the viscidium.



While easy to see from the front of the flower, the long rostellum of *Aerangis monantha* is even more noticeable from the side.



The rostellum of *Aerangis punctata* is quite long and narrow and the anther cap has a small “beak” on it that is most noticeable from the side.

AND THE SPURS



The slender spur of *Aerangis fuscata* is 3 ½–5 ¼ inches (9–13 cm) when the flower is fully open. We have never seen one in a tight coil like the other species shown here. It lengthens as the bud grows and is nearly straight, with a slight curve at the apex.



The lip of *Aerangis monantha* is widest at the mouth of the spur, which begins in a tight coil next to the flower bud as it forms. As the flower opens, the spur becomes loosely coiled and extends to 5 ¼ inch (13 cm) long.



The spurs of *Aerangis punctata* form in tight coils next to the flower buds and gradually loosen or relax as the flowers open. They tend to hang in perfect semicircles and can be to up to 5 ¼ inch (13 cm) long.

CULTURE

Assuming you have one of these three species (and not a mislabeled plant), the culture is quite similar for them.

They prefer moderate shade and high humidity. Based on descriptions and native locale, *Aergs. punctata* should prefer cooler conditions; but we have not found that to be the case in our growing environment. We have all three species located in areas that have the most consistent temperatures (less change diurnally) and in areas that stay at least 60 F (15.5 C) even when it drops below 0 F (-17.7 C) outside.

As we write this, it is just after lunch-time. It is a very warm July day. At 1:00 pm our light meter reads 9,620 footcandles on the patio in front of the greenhouse. We have white shade cloth on the greenhouse, and inside have two passion vines (*Pas-siflora*) that are threatening to take over the place. We planted them to create “natural” shade in the brightest corner of our greenhouse and they are exceeding expectations. We

need to do some major trimming as our shaded areas are becoming TOO shady. We have these three species located in different areas right now, though they have been rotated and grown in several locations. The light readings at their current locations read between 90 and 680 footcandles; lower than ideal, but they are doing better than when we tried to grow them in too much light — and the passion vines are easy to trim.

We grow all three species on cork plaques with small coconut fiber pads over the roots, surrounded by Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*). Though we have not grown them potted, Tropical Orchid Farm in Hawaii (drastically different conditions than Montana) grows beautiful *Aergs. punctata* in net pots within plastic pots with no additional media.

Unlike some of the *Aerangis*, these do not require a hard dormancy. Growing at 46.8°N latitude we get much shorter, cooler days than someone growing in Florida, for example. That difference alone requires us to cut back on water

during our winter months. We have found these species (along with most other *Aerangis*, some *Phalaenopsis* and both *Eurychone* species) to be very susceptible to brown spotting and rot if moisture is allowed to sit on the leaves too long. Air movement can mean the difference between life and death at certain times of the year. We feel that reverse osmosis (RO) or rain water is essential to grow these optimally. We use RO water because our well water contains approximately 250 ppm of total dissolved salts (TDS) and the pH can be as high as 8.0 during some times of the year. Technically we would want our TDS to be 50 or less and the pH closer to 7.0. A small collection of orchids can be cared for with distilled water that has nutrients added back. Try to test the water you use on your plants and remove some of the guesswork in growing. We use ½-strength fertilizer and periodically “flush” with clean water. We rotate fertilizer formulas and always provide micronutrients.

FINAL THOUGHTS Of these three species, *Aergs. punctata* is the most widely available in the commercial trade. This lack of commercialism is NOT for want of demand. We are pleased to have *Aergs. monantha* growing well in flasks right now. But, despite our efforts, we have had no luck reproducing *Aergs. fuscata*; we repeatedly get seed capsules full of seed without any visible embryos. We are waiting for one capsule now and will keep trying! It is important that these rare species be reproduced ex situ to take pressure off native populations AND to make them widely available to growers around the world. They are exquisite orchids.

We typically include information about hybrids and awards in our articles. In asking Julian Shaw, the Royal Horticultural Society’s Hybrid Registrar, and Marion Allen (AOS Rocky Mountain Judging Center) our quarterly questions, we realized the potential quandary with these three species: have hybrids been made and awards given using mislabeled plants? Regarding hybrids, there have been very few registered, so while not a problem with these three species, Julian shared this information with us:

“I think it would be fair to say that the identification of the parents used to make a hybrid is the weak link in the system...it is not unusual to have a later correction of one of the parental names.”

One thing you will have noticed is that we attach the word “misapplied” to a name that is in use for an entity to which it does not correctly apply, while we are waiting for the correct identification to be made.

It is an ongoing game of corrections. It seems that AOS awards stand as awarded and retroactive changes are not made. As DNA is charting new names for existing species, it might be that DNA will be used in award and hybrid registration as well. Technology is changing things at an astonishing rate.

For now, we encourage everyone to be diligent about plant identification. Make sure to keep a tag on your orchids and do your best to make sure it is the CORRECT tag.

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• THE AOS CORNER •



Greenhouse Chat with Ron McHatton
Orchid related questions, answered by AOS experts.

Click [here](#) to watch now.

Note the specific times below if you wish to watch or listen to those topics.

4:26 Purple Growths- Magnesium or manganese deficiency
8:46 Repotting- Soaking plants beforehand
10:50 Suggestions for building a Greenhouse in Florida
12:36 Pruning Orchids=Dividing Orchids
14:57 Double Phalaenopsis Flower= Fascinated Flowers
16:54 Repotting Phalaenopsis with root above leaves
19:00 Care of Dendrobiums and Orchid in general
24:12 Cymbidium-Can you delay blooming for a judging
26:16 Leaf spotting
29:52 Cattleya amethystoglossa- different colors from year to year
32:46 Styrofoam in potting mixes
33:48 Leaf curl
36:53 Native Orchids and their Blooming times
39:28 Rhizoctonia Disease
41:36 Possible Virus
45:00 MSU Fertilizer
48:25 Microplex= vitamins and minerals
52:00 Diluted Bleach Solution
54:50 Unflowered Oncidium
57:20 Growing under 2700 Kelvin lights and red leaves

Seasonal Orchid Care July/August

Click [here](#) for Checklist

Organizing orchid culture and its chores by season is a convenient way to make sure that your orchids get the proper care at the right time. Becoming in tune with your plants' growth cycles creates a connection with the natural world and makes you a better grower.

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