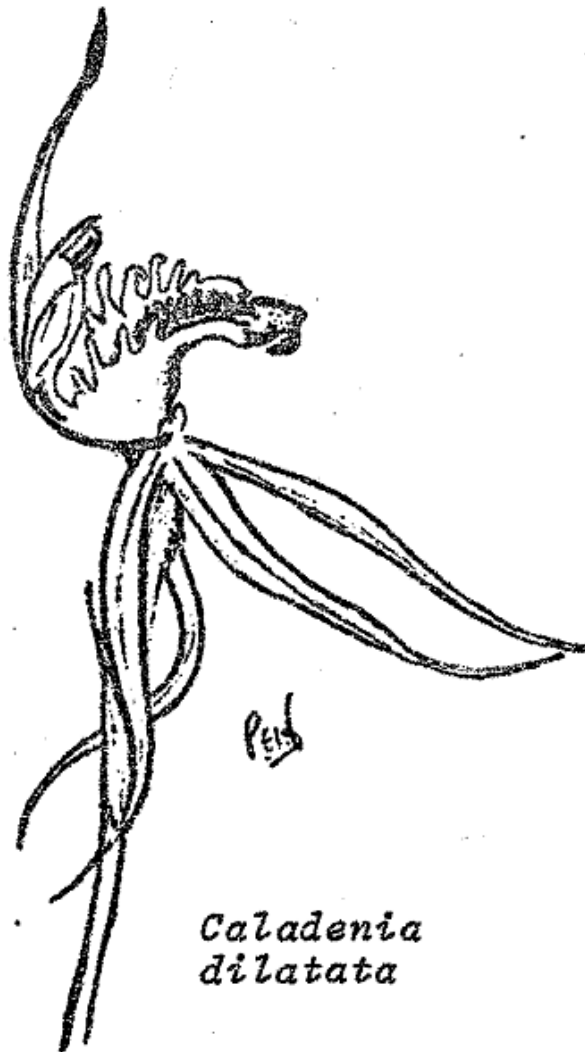


**NATIVE ORCHID  
SOCIETY**  
*of*  
**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

*Caladenia Dilatata*



*Caladenia  
dilatata*

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

JOURNAL

Volume 2, No. 4

Price 40c

May, 1978

Registered for posting as a publication Category B

PATRON: Mr T.R.N. Lothian

PRESIDENT: Mr L.T. Nesbitt  
18 Cambridge Street  
VALE PARK SA 5081  
Telephone 261 1550

SECRETARY: Mr E.R. Hargreaves,.  
1 Halmon Avenue  
EVERARD PARK SA 5035  
Telephone 293 2471  
297 3724

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr P.E. Hornsby

COMMITTEE: Mrs A. M. Howe  
Mr J.T. Simmons

TREASURER: Mr R.T. Robjohns

Mr R. Shooter  
Mr G. Nieuwenhoven

**NEXT MEETING**

When: Tuesday, 23 May, 1978, at 8.00 p.m.

Where: Goodwood Boys High School, Hardy Street, Goodwood.

Why: Jim Simmons will present a "sound on slides" programme on Heating Glasshouses. With winter upon us this will be a topical subject. Plant display and commentary, popular vote, raffle, library, trading table. We hope to have some cork blocks available and orders will be taken for cork tubes.

**LAST MEETING**

Attendance 45

Mr Harry Wright's slide programme "Vanishing Ranges" was a very well prepared look at some of the wild life of the Mount Lofty Ranges. It included birds (accompanied by taped bird calls), trees, shrubs and orchids.

It brought home to all of us how much the hills are changing. Mr Wright was presented with the first of a full year's issue of our journal.

There was a lot of interest in cork culture as demonstrated by Peter and Jim. The meeting decided that the Society would purchase both cork slabs and rough cork bark in the form of "tubes" for sale to members.

Raffle prizes were *Dendrobium pugioniforme* and *Pterostylis scabra* var. *robusta*.

**POPULAR VOTE**

Epiphyte: *Dendrobium kestevenii* "Nowen Doc" x *D. tetragonum* "giganteum Kennedy" was grown by R. and C. Chisholm. This hybrid was growing in a 5" plastic pot and was a small plant about 150 mm (6") high. It bore 5 greenish cream starry flowers which had red spots on the lips.

Terrestrial: A 10" clay pot of *Eriochilus cucullatus* (Parson's Bands) grown by Les Nesbitt contained 6 plants in flower, 6 had finished flowering, whilst a further 3 did not flower this year.

**CULTURAL AWARDS**

Committee has decided to award cultural certificates to growers of exceptionally well grown native orchids which are displayed at monthly meetings or in NOSSA exhibits at Shows. Any member of committee may nominate plants for an award. The judges and associate judges of O.C.S.A., who are also NOSSA members, will be asked to recommend an award if they consider the plant worthy. The final decision on whether a cultural award is granted will rest with the Committee.

Judges  
Neil Christoph  
Les Nesbitt  
Nicky Zurcher

Associate Judges  
Glen Burniston  
Mary Earle  
Eric Furness

**SHOWS**

Dates of shows at which NOSSA is exhibiting this year:

South Coast Orchid Club of S.A.: Marion Shopping Centre In September 30. Out October 15,	Society for Growing Australian Plants Walter Duncan Hall, Wayville Show- grounds - In October 14. Out Octo- ber 15.
---	--

**AUSTRALIAN ORCHID FOUNDATION**

The Directors of the Foundation report that applications for grants exceeded the resources available from the Foundation. The Directors have allocated funds that will be available up to February 1979 as follows:

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Studies into the pollination of western Australian terrestrials by Warren Stoutamine.   | \$300        |
| 2. Building an agitating table for tissue culture of terrestrials at the Canberra Botanic Gardens.   | \$250        |
| 3. Supply of fencing materials for "Cristata Compound" at Salmon Gums to protect Caladenia cristata, rediscovered after being lost for 54 years. | \$200        |
| 4. Updating the standard work on Western Australian orchids, "Orchids of the West" by Rica Erickson.   | \$600        |
| 5. Study of orchids off the North West Coast of Tasmania by Peter Tonelly.   | \$200        |
| 6. Expedition to the McIlwrath Range in Cape York Peninsula.   | up to \$1500 |
| 7. "Encouragement and Educational Workshop on Orchids", at Hawkesbury Agricultural College of New South Wales on 26 and 27 August 1978,          | up to \$500  |

The A.O.F. is appealing for funds to extend assistance to such activities. Donations to the A.O.F. are invested in Government and Semi-government loan funds. Only the income is spent.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Mrs M. Bakker, Naracoorte  
Mr T. Burian, Seacombe Gardens  
Mr A. George, South Perth

**PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

Alwin Clements has offered to lead a group to study photography of orchids. Please approach Alwin at the next meeting if you are interested.

In all, eleven different species of terrestrial orchids were benched, some species being represented by a number of plants and/or a number of pots. Similarly there were ten species of epiphytes benched and in two cases these species were represented by more than one plant.

#### Terrestrials

Commentary on the terrestrial section was given by Les Nesbitt. The genus *Pterostylis* was well represented and, indeed confirmed Les' statement that "this month is the start of the Greenhood season". A pot of *Pterostylis obtusa*, which occurs naturally in the Mount Lofty Ranges, demonstrated the difference in physical appearance between flowering and non-flowering plants. Flowering plants in this and many other species are tall and bear leaves along the length of the stem, while the non-flowering form occurs as a low rosette of leaves at ground level, the aim of the rosette form being to produce maximal tuber growth for flowering in a subsequent season. *Pterostylis obtusa* is one of many of this genus which tend to reproduce vegetatively by tuber formation hence the term "colony-type" as opposed to the "non-colony type", which tend to reproduce largely by seed and seldom by tuber.

Similarly to *Pt. obtusa*, *Pt. scabra* var *robusta* was seen as a mixed collection of flowering plants and non-flowering rosette forms. A number of plants and pots of vigorous *Pterostylis vittata* were benched so that one could see the diversity of physical appearance of plant and flower which occurs within this species. This species is fairly widespread and frequently locally common throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges, often growing to 30-35 cm in height. Commonly known as the Banded Greenhood this is a most attractively flowered local species.

We were also lucky to see the somewhat rare *Pterostylis fishii*. This species was first discovered in 1949 and is known only from a relatively small number of localities. The specimens displayed were apparently vigorous in growth but had produced only one flowering plant - hopefully there will be some seed produced from this flower. Cases such as these emphasise the need for artificial cultivation of our native species since mishaps, natural or man-made, could conceivably eliminate most or perhaps all members of a rare species. That this can occur has been illustrated by the fact that several species of fish, previously native to isolated streams or river systems in South America, today only exist in the aquaria of keen aquarists, since the streams of their origins have become polluted with lethal amounts of copper as a result of mining in head-water regions - a man-made disaster.

Les Nesbitt's pot of *Pterostylis baptistii* had a number of plants carrying flower buds. It is interesting to note that the plants which had remained in leaf throughout summer and which had produced buds in February were un-able to support the buds further with the result that these early buds withered. Also it was interesting to note that despite the fact that all plants in the pot had received similar treatment, many plants were still emerging whilst others were in bud in the same pot.

Several pots of *Pterostylis curta*, were seen which had been sold as pots of seven tubers last year. Twelve plants were counted in one pot and I hear of claims of 22 plants having arisen from seven original tubers in another case. Thanks to Roy Hargreaves, *Pt. curta* should be well and truly off the endangered list (at least in "captivity"). A further interesting aspect of the *Pt. curta* saga was Roys "see-through" pot of *Pt. curta* by means of which root growth and tuber formation could be studied without

Tableshow Report for 25 April 1978 (contd.)

disturbance to the plant. Also present, in the vein of experiment, was, Les Nesbitt's "pot of seven varieties" only *Pt. vittata* was up at the time but there are also plants of *Caladenia*, *Diuris*, etc., yet to emerge. The situation is an interesting one in that not only are the plants likely to be competing with each other, as seen from above, but also the various fungi, each specific for a particular orchid species, are in competition with each other below the surface.

Besides the *Pterostylis*, representatives from other early flowering species were also present. A fine pot of the attractively flowered *Leporella fimbriata* was on display. This species occurs locally in well drained sandy soils, especially on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The owner of this potful of flowering plants had previously set a fire of small twigs on the pot to simulate a bushfire and to stimulate flowering - quite successfully at that. This is a species which rarely prospers for long in artificial cultivation, but hopefully this case may be an exception.

As predicted last month, there were a number of pots of *Eriochilus cucullatus* in flower, on display. Also benched was *Acianthus exsertus* - just a reminder of the number of terrestrials yet to be seen.

#### Epiphytes

Ron Robjohns commented on the plants in the epiphytic section. Two specimens of *Dendrobium mortii* were seen carrying buds and flowers. This species, with its lemon-scented flowers, occurs naturally from northern Queensland south to Lismore in N.S.W., in open dry areas on rocks or trees away from the rainforest areas hence Ron's comment that this species requires good air circulation to do well and, in our local low humidity climate, requires some shade.

The *Dendrobium* hybrid "Nowen Doc", which was seen in bud at last month's meeting, was well out in bloom for this month. Despite the fact that the plant is young and small at the moment, this hybrid is showing great promise. Similarly, a small plant of *Dendrobium bigibbum* var *compactum* carried a most adequate spike of flowers.

We also saw again a log-grown specimen of *D. cucumerinum*. Contrary to expectations, it was reported that the plant had been grown cold and that this was its fourth flowering since September - perhaps it prefers to be grown cold. Apparently its favoured host is the bark of the Sheoak trees and its range is from southern Queensland to Sydney - another indication as to its possible preference for cooler growing conditions. Also benched were the small-flowered species of *D. schneiderae*, *D. rigidum* and *D. monophyllum*. A specimen of *D. aemulum* completed the evenings benching of *Dendrobiums*.

*Liparis reflexa* var *parviflora* and *L. reflexa* were displayed. Both were healthy vigorous plants each carrying a significant number of flower spikes. A plant of *Bulbophyllum newportii* rounded off the evenings showing of epiphytes.

#### OUR COVER

*Caladenia dilatata* is perhaps our most common spider orchid and certainly the best known. It occurs in all states except Queensland. *C. dilatata* is a beautiful orchid but is very difficult to capture effectively in a photograph or drawing because it makes full use of all three dimensions. The large lip is hinged and moves in the breeze. If an insect lands on the lip and crawls down towards the base in search of food the lip will swing back against the column as the balance point is crossed. This is a pollination mechanism (refer "Pollination of Orchids - Part 7", April Journal 1978).

Our Cover (contd.)

The lip has long green fringes on each side, four rows, of maroon golf-stick type calli or glands down the centre, and a maroon tip, which is usually curled under. The greenish-yellow sepals and petals have a red nerve running down the middle. The three sepals have clubbed ends. The single leaf and flower stem are both covered by long hairs. *Caladenia dilatata* flowers in spring (September - December). Flowers are long lasting, up to five weeks on a strong plant.

*C. dilatata* resents any soil disturbance during, the growing period. Plants in cultivation seldom multiply and eventually die out. However, this species grows so easily from seed that the keen grower can make it multiply rapidly by raising seedlings annually. Under good growing conditions two flowers are produced per plant. In the poor soils of the Mt. Lofty Ranges twin-flowered plants are rare except in a few favoured areas.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some subscription's are still outstanding. Have you paid yours?  
 Rates are: \$4.00 single member, \$6.00 for family.  
 Treasurer is: Mr R.T. Robjohns, 71 Edmund Avenue, UNLEY. SA 5061

#### FIELD TRIP TO KYEEMA - 29 APRIL 1978

This turned out to be undoubtedly the most chaotic field trip of those so far undertaken. It started with the organiser and his assistant waiting patiently at the rendezvous while the rest of the party whispered sweet nothings to their empty car a kilometre away.

When we finally got under way, things went from bad to worse with the party splitting into two groups, each going their separate ways. The final disaster occurred just this side of Kangarilla on the way home, when the convoy of cars again lost their leader and by the time they reached Clarendon, no efforts could stop them heading like the Runaway Train - over the hill - back to Adelaide. I tried. The end result was that some saw no orchids in flower at all.

Most of the group saw the masses of *Pterostylis nutans* rosettes at the beginning of the walk, and some came across a patch of newly-emerged *Lyperanthus nigricans* leaves. Others found the delicate basal leaves of *Acianthus* sp., while the close inspection of dry *Thelymitra* stems led to the discovery of this year's plants just beginning to show.

Diligent search failed to reveal any *Pterostylis parviflora* or any *Prasophyllums*, but one patch of *Eriochilus cucullatus* in flower was located. Surprisingly, many missed the solitary specimen right at the edge of the main track.

For many, that was the end of the tale. For the lucky ones - and by that time there were just enough of them left to corroborate the story - the last venue, on the road to Cherry Gardens, proved the most successful part of the day, with the discovery of examples of *Leporella fimbriata* in flower. A further quick look around in the fading light proved to the Secretary that *Eriochilus* were also still in flower.

The most important lesson to be learned was that you see more if you stay with the main group. And from the organisational point of view, it helps far more if suggestions for alternative venues are made at least two months beforehand - not on the actual day: any volunteers to lead a trip to the Nixon-Skinner Reserve at this time next year?

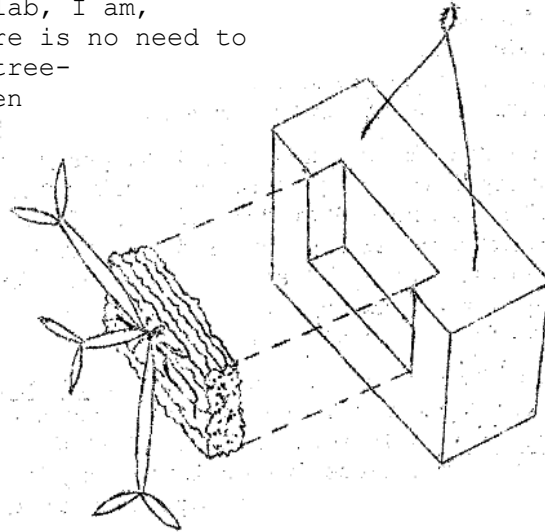
**MOUNTING SMALL PIECES OF EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS Peter Hornsby**

There has lately been an increase in the number of small epiphytes available from the trading table at the monthly meetings. They come either as loose pieces, or mounted on sections of the old trunk, or caudex, of a tree-fern. The latter is popular with dealers in the eastern states, and at a glance at any plant so supplied shows the orchids themselves are equally enthusiastic. However, if you are like me, you hope that one day the little plant will become a big one, and so sooner or later you are going to be faced with the task of remounting it. Here is where problems arise because it is virtually impossible to disentangle the orchid roots from the tree-fern.

After puzzling over this for some time, I decided that rather than separate the plant from its mounting, I would try to accommodate both in a new setting. My previous experience with growing epiphytes on cork had shown, how readily the plants accept this medium (an extremely beneficial one in South Australia because the roots obtain much more adequate protection from the high-temperature low-humidity summer weather than they do from more conventional means). Thus I set about cutting a recess in the side of a cork brick\* (about the same size as a standard house brick) and slotted the tree-fern base into the space so made. The result is visually satisfying, and I have no doubt the orchid will find it acceptable.

For the record I did as much of the cutting as possible with a hack-saw (any fine-toothed saw will do) and removed the remainder with a 2.5 cm chisel (though any sharp-edged cutting instrument may be used). By cutting the recess slightly narrower than the tree-fern slab, I am, able to achieve a tight fit and so there is no need to use separate fastenings to secure the tree-fern to the brick. The whole lot is then supported in the shadehouse by a wire passed through the cork brick.

The shape of the brick is not really aesthetically satisfying (to be so it needs to be somewhat wider!) but nevertheless it is still possible to suspend it vertically or horizontally, and so the orchid can be trained to go whichever way is appropriate, and loose pieces of orchid may be fastened directly on to the brick.



\* I get mine from The Wood Shed, Mitcham Shopping Centre, for 60c each.

**TERRESTRIAL CULTIVATION WORKSHOPS Les Nesbitt**

As a result of interest shown at our April meeting the first of what may become a series of workshops is planned for next month. The workshops will be practical sessions and will cover growing techniques. The aims as I see them will be:

1. to increase our knowledge of terrestrials through practical experiments,
2. to build up private collections of species,
5. to provide a bank of plants for Society purposes, and
4. as our expertise increases to evaluate ways of cultivating and propagating difficult species.

## Terrestrial Cultivation Workshops (contd)

We will start with easy species such as *Pterostylis*. The future direction of the workshops will evolve as we go along. Numbers attending will have to be limited to about a dozen people.

The first session will be on Saturday June 10, 2-4 p.m., in my garage at 18 Cambridge Street, Vale Park,

Programme:

1. Inspection of growing houses.
2. Mix up potting soil.
3. Pot up *Pt. pedunculata* and *Pt. nana*.
4. Sow seed.
5. Experimental records.

Bring four 5" pots and label's, a memo book and pen. This session will be repeated on Tuesday, June 13 at 7.30 to 9.50 p.m. same venue.

No prior knowledge of terrestrials is necessary, only an interest in conserving our terrestrials and the patience to care for the plants as the experiments proceed. Please give me your name if you want to attend either session.

**FIELD TRIPS FOR 1978**

Last year's request for suggestions of where and when for field trips was not attended by a great deal of success, so this year a different approach is being attempted. This consists of the following list of venues, which has been drawn up on the basis of their anticipated, rather than known, potential. What would be a great help is for someone with local knowledge about that day's trip to be prepared to come forward and suggest in more detail where the orchids are most likely to be found. Now is the time to volunteer.

Date	Venue	Duration
Sunday, 11 June	Mount Gawler	afternoon
Sunday, 30 July	Cherry Gardens	afternoon
Saturday, 26 August	Warren/Hale Conservation Park	all day
Saturday, 16 September	Belair Recreation Park	all day
Sunday, 8 October	Birdwood	all day
Sunday, 29 October	Myponga Conservation Park	all day
Saturday, 25 November	"Southern Swamps" trip	all day

This is meant to be a suggested rather than absolute programme, and can readily be changed if required. In addition to these, there is also the possibility of a weekend trip to Yorke Peninsula some time in September or October.

The first trip to Mt. Lawler is a goer. Meet at Kersbrook on Sunday, 11 June at 1.00 p.m. at Les Nesbitt's block for an inspection of the nursery. This property is in the centre of the town, just three house blocks on the Adelaide side of the Deli (the only shop in town). You will see the shadehouse on the low side of the main road. The main road entrance is not yet built so take the next two right hand turns (if coming from Chain of Ponds), and enter from the back entrance in Spring Street.

At 2.00 p.m. we will leave in convoy for Mount Gawler where we expect to see *Pterostylis*, *Acianthus* and perhaps *Corybas* in flower. Always bear in mind that convoys cannot travel as fast as lone cars. Keep the car in front and the one behind in sight at all times.



**VICTORIAN ORCHID NAME CHANGES**

The Victorian Naturalist, March/April, 1978, included the article: "Alterations and additions to the Vascular flora of Victoria - Part 1", by A.C. Beauglehole. The title is self-explanatory, and the list includes a number of orchids. All the changes are referenced, and anyone requiring the full details is referred to the original publication. Some of the changes in orchid nomenclature are of interest to us here in South Australia, so the brief details have been included below:

- D Caladenia tutelata: hybrid - Glossodia major x C. deformis.  
 S Caleana minor: Paracaleana minor.  
 S C. sullivanii: aberrant form of P. minor.  
 S Calochilus saprophyticus: C. campestris.  
 D Chiloglottis pescottiana: hybrid - C. trapeziformis x C. gunnii.  
 S. Diuris brevissima: D, maculata.  
 D D. fastidiosa: hybrid - D. palustris x D. pedunculata.  
 D D. palachila hybrid. D. maculata x D. pedunculata.  
 S Leptoceras fimbriatum - Leporella fimbriata.  
 S Microtis biloba: M. unifolia.  
 S M. bipulvinaris: M. parviflora.  
 S M. holmesii: M. parviflora.  
 S Prasophyllum colemaniae: P. odoratum  
 S P. fuscoviride: P. nigricans  
 C P. nigricans\*  
 D Pterostylis acuminata: Victorian records belong to P. x ingens.  
 This is a hybrid between P. falcata x P. nutans.  
 C P. barbata: P. plumosa.  
 S P. celans aberrant form of P. nana.  
 S P. crypta: aberrant form of P. obtusa.  
 C P. pusilla: P. rufa.  
 C P. rufa: P. biseta.  
 C P. squamata: P. hamata.  
 D P. toveyana: hybrid - P. alata x P. concinna.  
 S Spiculaea huntiana: Arthrochilus huntianus.  
 C Thelymitra aristata: ? T. megcalyptra.  
 S T. azurea: T. canaliculata.  
 D T. cyanea: Apparently Victorian-records are a hybrid or aberrant form, whichever the case, T. venosa is involved.  
 S T. grandiflora: T. aristata  
 D T. irregularis: hybrid T. ixioides x T. rubra.  
 S T. murdochae: aberrant form of T. aristata  
 + T. pauciflora: the author has critically examined numerous flowers from colonies over a wide area and there is no question that two species are involved - the other being T. holmesii.  
 S Thrix spermum tridentatum: Plectorrhiza tridentata.

\* For Prasophyllum nigricans the author states that the plant previously known as P. nigricans must be known only as P. sp. until its status (or identity) is determined!

## Symbols:

- C - name change, for various reasons: the second name being the one now recognised.  
 D - deletion: e.g., species now thought to be a hybrid.  
 S - synonym: the second name being the one now recognised.  
 + - additional species now recognised and segregated.

Victorian Orchid Name Changes (contd.)

The same issue of the Victorian Naturalist also includes the following note;

### Orchids and wasps

Small tongue-orchids *Cryptostylis leptochila* have been growing in Los Garnet's Pascoe Vale glasshouse for 20 years. Every flowering season male ichineumon wasps enter via the half-open louvres at about 10 a.m. and 4 P.m. and attempt to mate the flowers, presumably under the belief they are female wasps. The flowers have no smell perceptible to humans and are not native to the area.

### OUR RAREST ORCHIDS

No. 10

R. Bates

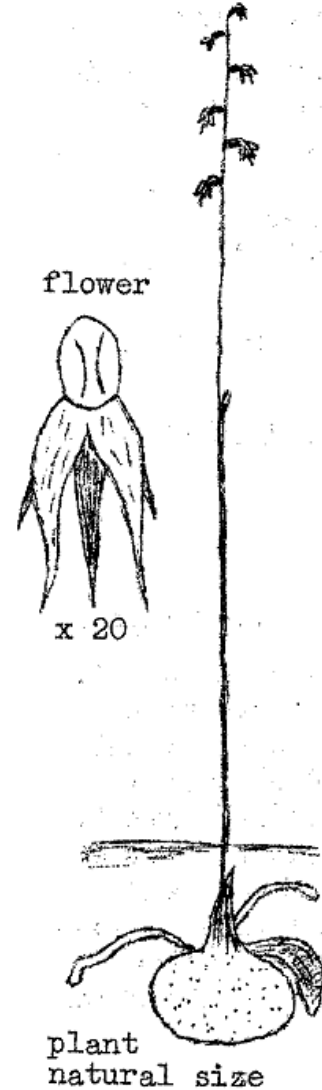
*Prasophyllum despectans* Hook. is one of our smallest orchids. In South Australia it seldom reaches 10 cm in height and usually has less than ten flowers, greenish purple and a few mm in diameter. The plant has a single hollow leaf about 1 mm across, from near the top of which the flower spike emerges in late summer or early autumn. The insignificant labellum is like a wisp of purple black cotton and can barely be seen without a magnifying lens. Surprisingly for such a small plant the tuber is relatively large.

Only discovered in our State about three years ago, *Pr. despectans* was probably widespread in the lower South East before settlement but due to its small size would have been confused with the more common *Pr. rufum*.

It occurs in light sandy soil in stringy bark forest and is often found with the miniature swamp leek *Pr. archeri* and because their flowering times overlap and they are both pollinated by the same *Drosophilous* fly, hybrids do occur.

Another miniature *Prasophyllum*, the hairy *Pr. morrisii* has recently been found on the Victorian side of the border track in the Glenelg River National Park and a few kilometres away a fifth miniature species *Pr. beagleholei* occurs. Both of these last two species probably grew in our South East before settlement.

*Pr. despectans* is common in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania where it reaches a much larger size than in South Australia. It is easy to grow in cultivation but hardly worth the effort.



### SOCIETY EMBLEM

Entries have now closed. Some excellent designs have been received and the final choice will not be easy. All entries received will be displayed at the May meeting and those members present will be asked to vote for the three designs which they like best.

Badges and emblems of other Societies will be displayed so that an informed choice can be made. If you have any such badges, emblems, etc., already in use please bring them along.

**A VISIT TO MELBOURNE Roy Hargreaves**

When A.N.O.S. - Victorian Group, changed their April meeting to the second Friday, the opportunity occurred for me to visit them.

The road led me to Bool Lagoon near Naracoorte there to meet the ranger Herman and Mary Bakker for an interesting talk on orchids, then through heavy rain to Mt. Gambier and a visit to Miss Franklin, Secretary of the local society, and an early member of NOSSA. A phone call to Jack Clayson, another member and a regular contributor to our Journal, then to Melbourne via the Great Ocean Road, most of which was blotted out with rain and fog but nevertheless worthwhile when one pulled off the road.

In Melbourne it was my privilege to stay at the home of Dr. Bill Rigg, a director of the Australian Orchid Foundation, and would you believe it, a director's meeting at his home on the Thursday night. As Secretary of NOSSA I was privileged to sit in at the meeting to become better informed of their work (elsewhere is a summary of their support for various projects).

At a well-attended meeting of A.N.O.S. Victoria I was able to meet President John Fanning and Secretary Robyn Wooton and others for the first time. There was a good display of both epiphytic and terrestrial orchids with an excellent commentary by David Jones. I was also able to convey to them our greetings and best wishes as our President Les Nesbitt had done previously and if ever they have a field trip to western Victoria it might be possible for some of our members to join them there.

I trust that this trip will lead to a closer understanding between the A.O.F., A.N.O.S. Victoria and our own society NOSSA.

Members are reminded that they can borrow copies of A.N.O.S. Victoria Bulletins from our library.

**ORCHIDS OF THE MOUNT BURR RANGE****W.J. Clayson**

Perhaps as an introduction to what orchid species I have found on the Mt. Burr Range, and being a self-taught layman, the research that has been carried out is fairly well described in previous articles to our Journal, that is briefly the why and wherefores that occur to some of our native terrestrial orchids over a period of many years in their natural habitat. I will refrain from discussing the orchid flower in detail as I believe this part has been adequately described and illustrated by others, and would be needless repetition. However, in some cases I would like to suggest that the different range in colour of the flower of some identical species can be attributed to the difference of the Ph of the soil in which they grow.

*Acianthus exsertus* and *A. reniformis*.

These two species will be dealt with as one; both species are to be found in large colonies and can be termed widespread. Both prefer a position where strong, filtered sunlight reaches the forest floor. Soil type - Mt. Burr brown loam, to a lesser degree in Mt. Burr, grey sand. The number of plants producing seed vary considerably from year to year. It has been noticed with several species of orchids, including the above, that sighting of small new colonies adjacent to established colonies tend to be in a northerly aspect, indicating that prevailing winds, in conjunction with seed dispersal, play an important part in their life cycle. The colour range of *A. reniformis* varies from dark brown to a see-through aqua green.

to be continued in future journals.