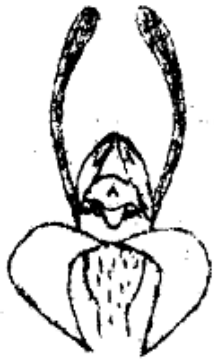


NATIVE ORCHID  
SOCIETY  
of  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



*Orthoceras  
strictum*



NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
JOURNAL

**Volume 4, No. 10.**

**November, 1980**

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#### NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, 25th November, 1980, at 8.00 pm.

WHERE: St. Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.

WHY: A panel of growers will answer your questions on any aspect of native orchids.

The meeting will be followed by supper since it is the last meeting for the year. Would everyone please bring a plate.

Don't forget your flowering plants for the display or the popular vote, raffle, trading table and library.

#### FIELD TRIPS.

Saturday 22nd. November - To search the Ash Wednesday fire area for *Prasophyllum gracile* - Rogers.

Meet at 2.00 pm. at Loftia Park gates (note gates are no longer there) at the junction of Scott Creek Road and Evans Drive, on the Scott Creek Road approx. 1 km south from the turnoff from Longwood Road, Heathfield.

Sunday 14th. December - To search for swamp orchids.

Meet at 1.00 pm. at the Goolwa Road turnoff from South Road approx. 3 km past Mount Compass on the Victor Harbour Road. This is a swamp that we have not visited before.

CORRECTION - The *Cym. canaliculatum* raffled at the September meeting was donated by David Murley.

LAST MEETING.

Attendance 59.

Harold Goldsack spoke about Native Orchids and Native Ferns. He took as his theme the rebuttal of the suggestion, made elsewhere, that it is difficult to grow the two genera together. His contention was, that if you can successfully replicate the appropriate environmental factors, then these species that grow together, for instance in the rain forests on Australia's eastern seaboard can also be grown in Adelaide. He illustrated his point with slides of species in his own collection, leading on to some evocative views from southern Queensland's Lamington National Park.

PLANTS ON DISPLAY, 28.10.80.

This month we saw a decided slump in the number of plants on display, amongst the terrestrials, at this time of the year there was a shift towards the rufa group of *Pterostylis* and these were fairly well represented by a large pot of *Pt. biseta*, the beautiful red *Pt. boormanii*, one pot each of *Pt. rufa* and its smaller relative *Pt. rufa* var. *aciculiformis*, and one pot of an undescribed species of the same group. Just coming into flower was *Pt. falcata* (these like a cool humid atmosphere) and a first to be displayed *Pt. furcata*, both of these species hail from the South-east of South Australia. *Pt. decurva* rosettes and *Pt. longicurva* ditto, but this pot displayed numerous seedlings. Amongst the *Diuris* we were treated to 3 pots of *Diuris sulphurea* var. *brevifolia* a close relative of *Diuris sulphurea* - also represented - these unfortunately do not flower every year but increase well vegetatively. There was one pot of *Diuris punctata* and cut flowers.

*Chiloglottis gunnii* (2 pots) very unusual but beautiful flowers. *Cryptostylis erecta* also two specimens, both had been placed in a heated glass-house by the owners to bring the flowering period forward (a good trick this which also works on *Pt. biseta* etc.). One *Prasophyllum* was present, namely *Prasophyllum fuscum* var. *validum* from the Flinders Ranges. Amongst the *Caladenias* we saw five species, a large pot of *C. dilatata* with perhaps 100 seedlings spread right across the pot, a pot of the lovely *C. congesta* with its pink flowers with black labellum, here again seedlings too numerous to count. *C. tessellata*, *C. menziesii* and one pot of *C. lyallii* from the more mountainous parts of New South Wales and Victoria and lastly amongst the terrestrials - *Microtis unifolia*, (two pots).

Although not many epiphytes were present compared to the previous month, we did see some beautifully flowered plants like the extremely well grown plant of *Dendrobium linguiforme* mounted on a piece of pine bark, a small but lovely flowered plant of *Cymbidium canaliculatum* var. *sparkesii*, a very large plant of *Cym. madidum* - not many flowers for the size of the plant. Some of the other *Dendrobiums* were *Ella Victoria* Leaney and *Den. bigibbum* x *discolor*. The diminutive flowers of *Plectorhiza tridentata* need to be seen under a magnifying glass to appreciate their full beauty. No such thing however is necessary for the magnificent flowers of *Vanda tricolour*. Harold Goldsack suggested when the plant becomes too tall to cut off the bottom part, and the top will happily keep on growing, (after it has been replanted) - it appeared to be potted in Scoria gravel. To round it off three plants of *Sarcochilus hartmannii* were displayed including one specimen with about six spikes of flowers, one small plant of *Sar. falcatus* on a piece of bark and finally, mounted on cork, a plant of *Bulbophyllum elisae* with its fresh green flowers.

The plant commentary was given by George Nieuwenhoven on the terrestrials and Harold Goldsack on the epiphytes.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH.

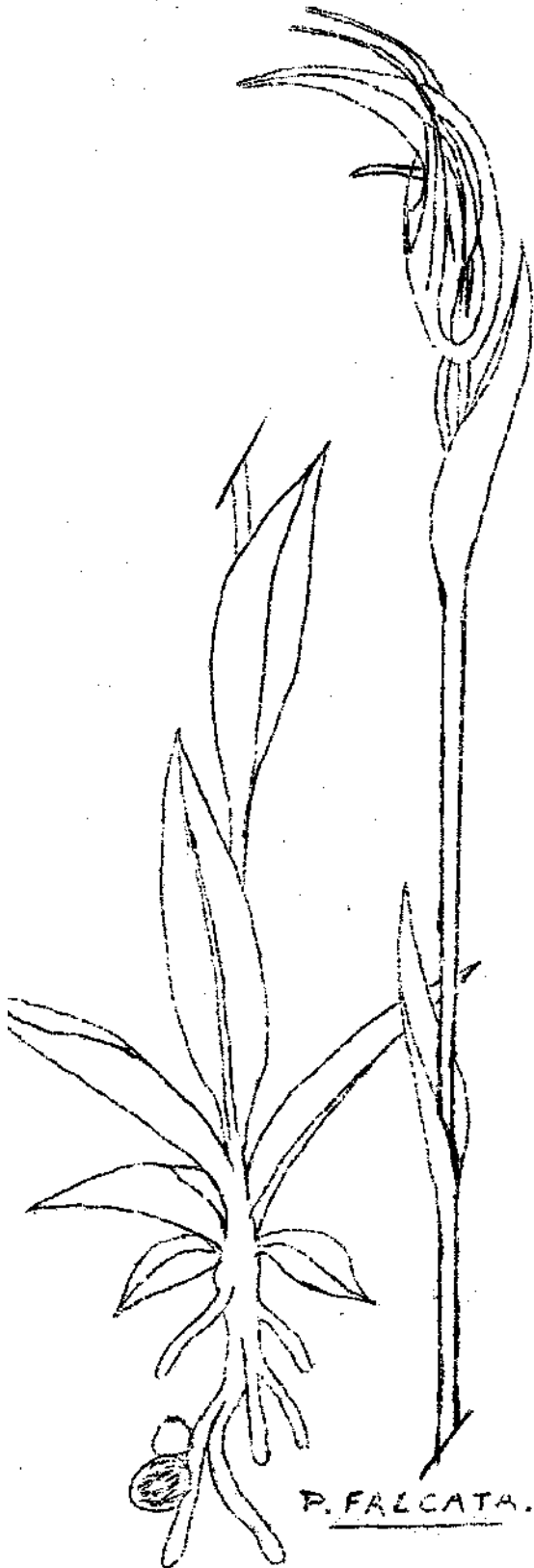
*PTEROSTYLIS FALCATA* - the Sickle Greenhood.

G. Nieuwenhoven

This is probably the largest flowered South Australian *Pterostylis*, found on Kangaroo Island and the South-east of South Australia also New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Its habitat is mainly in wet areas and swamps or swamp margins, in fact it was apparently found growing in water in the Victoria Valley of the Grampians, Victoria, on our last field trip.

The plant produces from 4 to 6 basal leaves up to 6 cm. long, dark green and glossy with undulating lance shaped margins. Between September and January, a flower stalk appears provided with approximately 3 lance shaped bracts, it is fairly slender, atop this sits the large elegant green and white striated flower with some brown markings near the tip. The prominent galea is up to 6 cm. long) shaped like a sickle. The labellum protrudes well out of the galea, past the sinus of the lower lip, in other words, the bulbous part of where the lateral sepals are joined.

It is probably my favourite *Pterostylis* and is not at all difficult to cultivate. My plants are growing in a crumbly hills loam in a plastic pot and is kept damp all year round, and even though they do not like a hot dry atmosphere they should be placed in a well lit position in the shadehouse. A cool atmosphere is preferred as flowers may abort while in bud if they are in a too dry environment. Fifteen (15) plants to a 175 mm. pot is not too many and they should be reotted as soon as the plants have gone dormant and will probably grow again almost immediately, but may not appear above ground until April (the Autumn). Tuber increase is at least double of the previous seasons, therefore the number of plants quickly builds up this way, you can have two or three pots full with the smaller tubers producing their flowers slightly later than the larger tubers and thereby prolonging the flowering season and giving you more time to enjoy their beautiful flowers.



## SEED AND TUBER BANK REPORT.

It has been decided to print the December Journal in early January.

The December Journal will contain lists and instructions to enable the purchase of Tubers from the Tuber Bank.

To enable us to compile this list it is first necessary to encourage members (with surplus tubers) to donate them, thereby creating a bank to draw from. We ask members to look over their pots and decide if a few surplus Tubers are available. Then notify the Tuber Bank custodian of your contribution. New members are constantly joining the Club and there is a need for an initial start to growing Native Orchids.

The Tuber Bank can only function well with members' support. If no tubers are promised, then there will be none to distribute.

All lists or enquiries to: D.H. Wells  
86 Pitman Rd.,  
Windsor Gardens. S.A. 5087  
'phone 2616030.

PHOTOGRAPHING NATIVE ORCHIDS: No. 1 of a Series. R.J. Markwick

Introduction to the Series.

As an amateur photographer and a natural history lover, it was perhaps inevitable that I should turn to flowers as subjects for photographs. My interest in Native Orchids sprang from these beginnings as did my interest in close-up photography, which naturally had to follow because of the diminutive size of the subjects. For the Naturalist-photographer, close-up photography can open up new worlds of interest and provide unparalleled opportunities for the study of the smaller universe, including for instance, the tiny details of our own Australian Native Orchids.

Close-up photography can be a complicated process involving computations of effective focal lengths and effective apertures, bellows extension factors, reciprocity failure, filters, tripods, focusing rails, electronic flash guns etc., but for those who don't want to get involved in these kinds of hassles, simple and relatively cheap equipment can be used to produce results which, while not being of the ultra close-up super-scientific type, are never-the-less generally acceptable.

After a certain amount of trial and error one soon learns that there are a few important rules to be applied, and that certain techniques must be employed to produce good results.

I use a few tricks which have proved to be beneficial to the quality of my work, and I will pass these on later. Also, by engaging in a little research and a certain amount of discussion with other photographers, I have familiarised myself to some extent with the various items of photographic equipment used for close-up work. I will touch on each of these next month when I define what close-up photography is.

If any member is stimulated to attempt close-ups of our Native Orchids, or in any way benefit from these articles, then I will consider their preparation to have been worthwhile.

Next month: What is close-up photography?

SGAP Native Plant show, 27-28th September, 1980.

Peter Hornsby

This year's Show was three weeks earlier than usual, and it made a world of difference to the display we were able to put on. Without doubt, the third week in September is the optimum week for orchids here in Adelaide. It represents that period when the warm weather has had time to encourage the plants but before the hot, dry winds that curtail flowering duration have arrived.

There was a magnificent display of orchids at the Monthly Meeting earlier in the week and the thought occurred at the time that it would be a good idea to "kidnap" them until after the Show. It was an unnecessary thought because all the stops were pulled out - to the extent that over FIFTY kinds of orchids were to be seen in the NOSSA display. Counting say a pot full of *Pterostylis pedunculata* as one exhibit, but a pot of *Caladenia dilatata* plus one *Microtis unifolia* as two exhibits, we managed an overall total of 157 exhibits. That alone was a tremendous achievement. There was no doubt that it was the best display we have ever mounted, and quite justified the numerous compliments we received.

34 kinds of terrestrials were shown, The *Caladenias* ranged from the tiny white flower of *C. cucullata* to some really big specimens of *C. patersonii*. The latter included four forms; from giant creamy-green examples from Yorke Peninsula to local forms with predominantly white flowers and ruby-red tips to their perianth segments. Perhaps the most striking visually were the Kangaroo Island examples of *C. filamentosa*, with virtually the whole flower in a glossy ruby hue while the most significant was *C. augustata* - one of the non-spider types with white flowers tipped in a strong dark brown - attractive to look at but rather unpleasantly scented, It is reputed to be one of the most difficult to grow.

*Acianthus* was represented by the single species, *A. reniformis* while there were several pots of massed *Glossodia major*. The biggest terrestrial to be seen was *Prasophyllum elatum*, with tall glossy black stems surmounted with dozens of delicate lime-green flowers. The owner, Bob Bates, unceremoniously snapped off the flower spikes at the end of the Show: "It helps them to flower again next year by preventing the drain on the resources of the tubers, and makes them easier to carry home."

*Diuris* and *Pterostylis* were the two terrestrial genera to include hybrids, the latter including the natural *P. x ingens* and the man-made hybrid *P. baptistii x cucullata* - a slightly disappointing offspring, when one takes into account the parentage, both of which were recognisable, but not really improved upon. *Diuris pedunculata x longifolia* on the other hand definitely brought over the best of both parents - the result being big plants with big flowers.

Nancy Gemmell, widely known for her Australian wild-flower illustrations, and several books on the same topic, sketched the *Diuris sulphurea* on display, and requested a sample of the flowers, this being the only South Australian orchid she has not yet painted. Her ultimate aim is to paint every South Australian wildflower. She has done over a thousand so far, but still has a long way to go. A set of her paintings, including several orchids, were on display in the main SGAP Show, as also was a number by one of our own members, Gwen Nunn. None was an orchid, but her arm is being twisted.

What really stole the whole Walter Duncan Hall Show though were the epiphytes. Two *Sarcochilus* species and 18 *Dendrobium* varieties, but SO many of them. Only the dozen or so of us who arrived at the Hall when the doors first opened on the Sunday were privileged to experience the way in which the top end of the Hall was literally filled with their perfume. All that and what are probably

SGAP Native Plant Show, 27-28th September, 1980. continued.

the two finest plants in NOSSA were missing! Harold Goldsack's car wasn't big enough to carry in his magnificent *Dendrobium kingianum* "in any case, its so big now, I don't think I could get it through the doors of the shade house". Ray Haese's superb *D. speciosum* that appeared in its full glory at the Monthly meeting was missing because its chauffeur went down with a bout of gastroenteritis on Saturday morning.

That left us with just the second strings - but what quality they were. There was a beautiful form of *D. x suffusum*, whose flowers had white throats and deep cerise tips. Completely opposite was *D. Ellen* with white flowers mounted on pink stalks. There were pale pink and also white forms of *D. Bardo Rose*, reflecting the colour variations found in the parent *D. kingianum* which itself was displayed in forms ranging from a deep pink through to pure white, in which guise it resembled its Atherton Tablelands relative, *D. adae*, a young specimen of which was also shown *D. x delicatum* lived up to its name with one very pale pink specimen, and another in pure white.

We saw cream and also white forms of *D. speciosum* and the pure yellow forms of *D. gracillimum*. Against such magnificence, the *Sarcochilus* hardly got a look in, but there was an example of *S. falcatus* that, although still only a small plant, had a flower spike that showed real class in its breeding.

What more can one say? It was was a display of which NOSSA can be truly proud. We are greatly indebted to all the members who, having coaxed their plants into such prime condition, brought them along for the general public to see.

Orchids on show in the NOSSA Display.

#### Terrestrials:

<i>Acianthus reniformis</i>	<i>Chiloglottis trapeziformis</i>	<i>Pterostylis baptistii</i>
<i>Caladenia augustata</i>	<i>Diuris laxiflora</i>	<i>P. baptistii x cucullata</i>
<i>C. catenata</i>	<i>D. longifolia</i>	<i>P. biseta</i>
<i>C. cucullata</i>	<i>D. maculata</i>	<i>P. curta</i>
<i>C. dilatata</i>	<i>D. pedunculata</i>	<i>P. x ingens</i>
<i>C. filamentosa.</i>	<i>D. pedunculata x longifolia</i>	<i>P. mitchellii</i>
<i>C. huegelii</i>	<i>D. punctata</i>	<i>P. nutans</i>
<i>C. huegelii var. reticulata</i>	<i>D. sulphurea</i>	<i>P. pedunculata</i>
<i>C. leptochila</i>	<i>Glossodia major</i>	<i>P. plumosa</i>
<i>C. patersonii</i>	<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	<i>P. stricta</i>
<i>C. rigida</i>	<i>Prasophyllum elatum</i>	<i>Thelymitra longifolia</i>
	<i>P. fuscum var. occidentale</i>	

#### Epiphytes

<i>Dendrobium adae</i>	<i>D. Ellen</i>	<i>D. speciosum</i>
<i>D. aemulum</i>	<i>D. falcorostrum</i>	<i>D. striolatum</i>
<i>D. Apple Blossom</i>	<i>D. gracilicaule</i>	<i>D. Susan</i>
<i>D. Bardo Rose</i>	<i>D. x gracillimum</i>	<i>D. x suffusum</i>
<i>D. beckleri</i>	<i>D. kingianum</i>	<i>Sarcochilus falcatus</i>
<i>D. delicatum</i>	<i>D. linguiforme</i>	<i>S. hartmannii</i>
<i>D. tetragonum</i>	<i>D. pugioniforme</i>	

#### REMINDER

Next Committee meeting will be held at Peter Hornsby's on Friday, 28th November, at 7.30 p.m.

## CULTURAL NOTES

P.K. McKay, Toowoomba

*CALANTHE TRIPLICATA*

Temperature 40° to 70°F. (4°C to 21°C).  
 Humidity 35% to 50%.  
 Light Heavy shade, no direct sun, grows well with ferns.  
 Watering Heavy watering during growth period from Spring through to flowering.  
 Fertilize Use weak solution of liquid cow manure or moderate commercial fertilizer (N.P.K. 10-15-10). Apply liquid solution at rate of application ONCE every 7 days during growth season, Spring through to mid-Summer.  
 Pot Mix 6 parts Leaf Mould, 1 part Charcoal, 1 part Peat Moss, 1 part Bush Sand

*SARCOCHILUS CECILIAE*

Temperature 35° to 90°F. (2°C to 32°C).  
 Humidity 30% to 60%.  
 Light 50% shade, will tolerate direct sun during cool part of day (morning).  
 Watering Constant moisture plus heavier watering every 2 days during Summer.  
 Fertilize Moderate fertilizer every 7 days. Likes high nitrogen during Spring growth time (N.P.K. 30-4-8). After Spring, change to (N.P.K. 10-15-10).  
 Pot Mix 1 part Leaf Mould, 1 part Loam, 1 part Sand, 3 parts crushed rock (Blue Metal ½" chips).  
 Place mix over larger rocks in bottom of pot.

## KEIKIS.

There is no better time than right now to pot up as many keikis as you can for sale at next year's shows. We sold out in 2 hours at the SGAP show this year. *Dendrobium kingianum* is the most prolific producer of these aerial growths but other *Dendrobiums* should also be searched. If the keiki has roots it can be easily removed by twisting it while holding the parent growth firmly. Pot up in 2" tubes or small plastic pots. The plants will then have plenty of time to make new roots and growths before next winter.

## DONATION.

The Parrakie Group of S.G.A.P. enjoyed our orchid festival in September and to show their appreciation they have donated a \$10 voucher to NOSSA.

## NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome the following new members:-

Mr T.J. Anderson	Mrs S.M. Lewis	Mrs M.R. Daley
Mrs E.D. Copley	Mr R.C. Smith	Mr & Mrs G.E. Spice
Miss P. Dannatt	Mr A.W. Bridges	Mr & Mrs A. Jankus
Mr W.J. Dunn	Mrs A.R. Oliver	



(by courtesy of O.S.N.S.W. Orchid News)

I guess there would not be many native orchid fans who have not admired this little gem of the moist gullies and dells at one time or another. I think it worth growing for its beautiful shiny cross-like yellow-green flowers on their delicate pendulous racemes in the spring.

As with any orchid, a good look at its natural habitat will give a lot of clues to growing it in bush-house conditions. *Sarc. olivaceus* has a big range as far as altitude goes, growing as happily at 3,000 feet as it does in the coastal gullies, but it has two definite and constant requirements, and these are moisture and shade. Anywhere in its range, from the lowland watergums to the stunted brushwoods in the higher limits of its range, it will generally be found in the gully or dell or on the rock-face where that little extra bit of moisture will linger just those few days longer. This moisture-loving habitat leads to *Sarc. olivaceus*, quite often growing in close association with the native mosses: I don't know if the mosses get anything out of the partnership on their own behalf, but they sure do wonders for the *Sarc. olivaceus*.

To grow *Sarc. olivaceus* in captivity, find the coolest and shadiest spot you can muster and you will be well on the way to making a happy home for *Sarc. olivaceus*. In my experience the best host is the length of ti-tree that I use for *Sarcochilus falcatus*: that is a piece of any length that suits your site, and the thicker the bark is on the piece, the better it will keep the plant cool in the hot weather if moistened. Tidy roots and trim them back to a length of three or four inches then soak the plants in a bath of a fungicide and R.D.O. or Formula 20 for a few minutes. Before you mount your plant on the pole, if possible cover the part of the pole you intend to place the plant on with a layer of suitable moss as this will further help to create the environment to let *Sarc. olivaceus* grow successfully. Then strap your plant on over this moss and tie just firmly with strips of pantyhose.

The plant must be hung on wire or nylon if possible, not stood on a bench, as the thicker the velamen coating on an orchid root, the more prone it is to slug and snail damage, which will quickly destroy this type of grower. I find *Sarc. falcatus* do best if hung five or six feet off the ground where they get better air movement and can dodge the worst of the summer humidity to some extent and this allows you to hang your *Sarc. olivaceus* plants under your *Sarc. falcatus*, as both require much the same situation: but the *Sarc. olivaceus* seem to do better about two or three feet off the ground where it is just that little bit damper and shadier. It is good to have your *Sarc. olivaceus* facing south all the year round to help control the summer heat.

Fertilizing is much the same as for *Sarc. falcatus*, namely little and often, with magnesium being a big help. They need fungiciding fairly regularly, as being a soft damp growing plant they are fairly open to fungus attack. Another thing to remember is that, like *Sarc. falcatus* their main growing season is March to August, so unlike a lot of orchids these beauties don't mind being fed all the year round, in fact they positively thrive on it.

Given good conditions *Sarc. olivaceus* will keiki like most other *Sarcochilus* and before you know it you will have another beautiful specimen plant in your collection, better than most you will see in the bush, at it is marvellous what regular feeding will do to these plants that love moisture, yet have to survive drought as a normal occupational hazard.