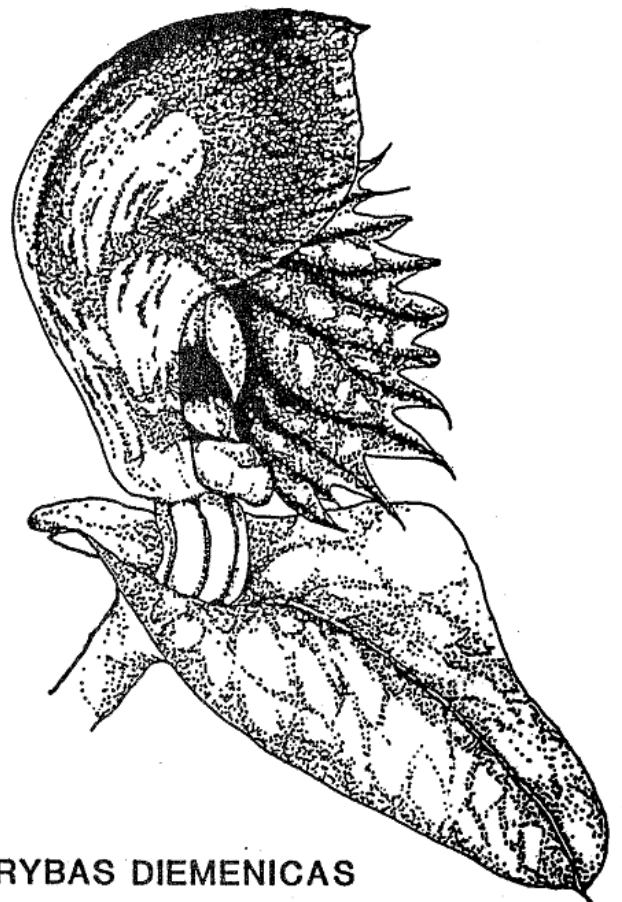
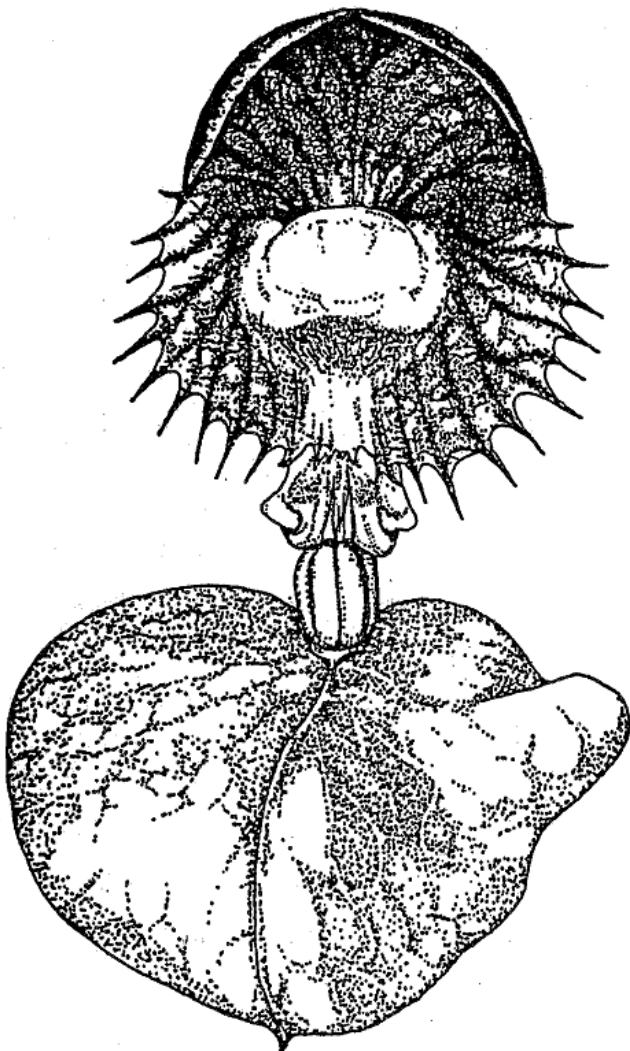


NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY  
of  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.  
JOURNAL



**CORYBAS DIEMENICAS**  
**(LINDLEY) RUPP**

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Publication No. SBH 1344*

Volume 13, Number 8  
September 1989

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA PROMOTES THE CONSERVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS THROUGH CULTIVATION OF NATIVE ORCHIDS, THROUGH PRESERVATION OF NATURALLY-OCCURRING ORCHID PLANTS AND NATURAL HABITAT.

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Price 60 cents

**NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

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**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 26 September, 1989, at 8.00 p.m.  
 St Matthews Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington.  
 Visitors always welcome.

The September meeting will include practical propagation and cultural sessions for both terrestrial and epiphytic orchids. This promises to be a very interesting meeting and you are encouraged to attend.

**OUR LAST SPEAKER**

The President, Mr Ron Robjohns, presented a well researched talk - "A Selection of Australian Epiphytes". Ron concentrated mainly on those orchids which are readily available to the newer grower and indicated their habitat condition and growth habits. He supported his talk with an excellent slide presentation.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Mrs N.T. Ridley, Kangaroo Island.  
 Mr and Mrs W. Veitch, Kangaroo Island.  
 Mr and Mrs D. Wickens, Crafers.

## AUGUST MEETING - DETAILS

## PLANTS BENCHED

Terrestrials: *Caladenia filamentosa* var. *filamentosa*, *C. deformis*, *C. patersonii*, *C. patersonii* x *C. tentaculata*, *Chiloglottis truncata*, *Cyrtostylis robusta*, *Diuris* x *Pioneer*, *D. palustris*, *Lyperanthus suaveolens*, *Pterostylis* aff. *nana*, *P. nutans*, *P. curta*, *P. baptistii*, *P. plumosa*, *P. x Cutie* x *P. pedunculata*, *P. x Nodding Grace*.

The *P. x Cutie* x *P. pedunculata* was a new hybrid made by Les Nesbitt and exhibited for the first time. It had retained the chocolate coloured flowers of *P. pedunculata* but was larger.

Epiphytes: *Dendrobium teretifolium*, *D. bigibbum* var. *compactum*, *D. Star of Gold* (2), *D. Ellen* (2), *D. Zip*, *D. Katherine Banks*, *Sarcochilus falcatus*.

## COMMENTARY AND JUDGING

Terrestrials: Mr Bob Bates

Epiphytes: Mr Les Nesbitt

## RESULTS OF POPULAR VOTE

Terrestrials: *Caladenia patersonii* x *C. tentaculata* grown by Mr Don Wells.

Epiphytes: *D. teretifolium* grown by Mr Gordon Brooks.

## RESULTS OF JUDGING

Terrestrial Species: *Caladenia patersonii* grown by Mr Don Wells.

Terrestrial Hybrid: *Caladenia patersonii* x *C. tentaculata* grown by Mr Don Wells

Epiphyte Species: *D. teretifolium* grown by Mr Gordon Brooks.

Epiphyte Hybrid: *D. Katherine Banks* grown by Mr Don Wells.

## HELP TABLE

Mr Geoff Edwards benched a large specimen *Dendrobium* labelled *kingianum* which had produced a number of flower spikes resembling kiki growths (including roots). The plant was tabled mainly for members' interest but also to clarify the name. It was generally agreed that the plant was in fact *Dendrobium delicatum*.

## CULTURAL COMMENTS

Continuing our reintroduced sessions on the culture of native orchids, Mr. Don Wells addressed members present on the type of soil culture he prefers for terrestrials. Don indicated that his mixture consisted of 1 part composted leaf litter, 1 part hills soil, 1 part coarse sand or gravel and 1 part buzzer chips. Don also indicated how to obtain these components from the natural environment.

Mr Lewis Moore provided comment on the fertilising of epiphytes and covered a range of plants suitable for the newer grower to start off with.

*PTEROSTYLIS RUSSELLII*

*Pterostylis russellii* is named after G. Russell, the original collector.

This lovely species does not yet seem to have acquired a common name. It hails from south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales.

It came into cultivation in South Australia about ten years ago from plants sent to local growers by Lyn Cardiff of Toowoomba. It is endemic to the above areas. In no time at all this species has thrived in cultivation. *P. russellii* normally flowers in Adelaide during July and therefore could be termed a winter-flowering greenhood.

The usual terrestrial orchid mix seems to suit it right to the ground (for "usual" read "whatever your plants seem to thrive in").

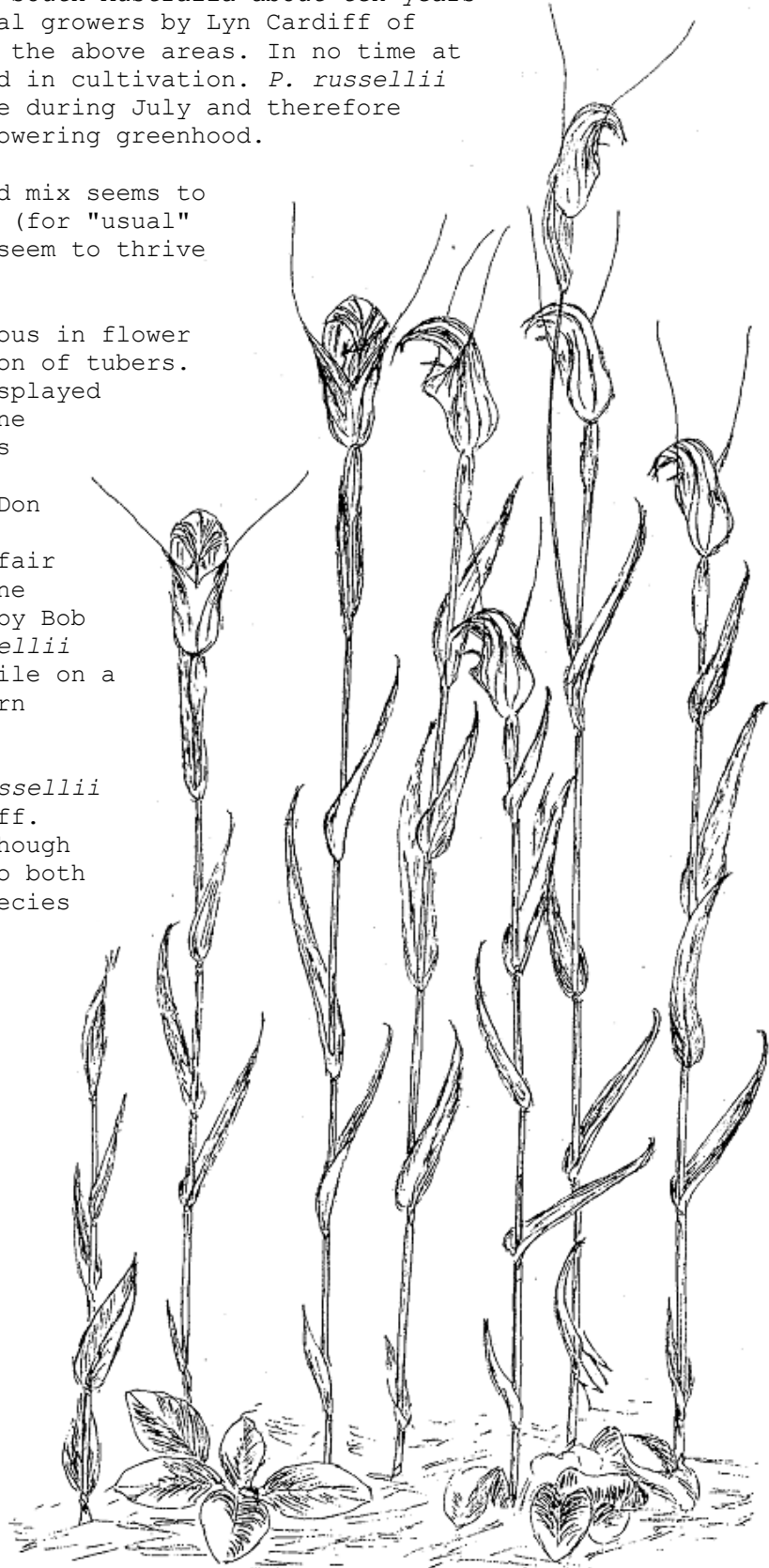
Well grown plants are generous in flower production and multiplication of tubers. Two well grown pots were displayed at our July meeting - the one illustrated was grown by Les and Kay Nesbitt; the second pot equally well grown, by Don Wells. Incidentally Don's growing medium contained a fair amount of coarse sand to fine gravel (it was pointed out by Bob Bates that he found *P. russellii* growing in similar soils while on a recent field trip to Southern Queensland).

For a number of years *P. russellii* was known by the names *P. aff. decurva* or *aff. obtusa*. Although it bears some resemblance to both species it is a distinct species in its own right - differences are easily observed when all three species are examined.

Tubers are usually available from the NOSSA Tuber Bank each year.

For a full description of this species see "Native Orchids of Australia", by David Jones. References from the above book.

George Nieuwenhoven



## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Scott Conservation Park (Tooperang) Survey '89 - Winter Visit

We met at the north-west entrance to the park in chilly but sunny conditions (August 5). Here, in leached sand under *Euc. baxteri*, was a large colony of *Corybas incurvus* surrounded by marvellous specimens of *Pterostylis vittata* and vast carpets of *Lyperanthus* and remains of *Leporella* (the most abundant orchid in the park). The sand patch soon gave way to clay flats along the creek which has worn a huge gully. Apparently this gully was not present until the area was cleared about 50 years ago. The force of erosion was so strong that the gully now extends right through the park. This gully proved difficult to cross and it was hilarious to see one member slide down the bank into the swollen creek. Eventually a fallen tree was found and we gained access to the central section of the park.

A patch of *Pterostylis robusta* was found and only metres from it, *P. alata*. How often we have seen these species together. In the clay were big colonies of *Pterostylis nana* "hills form". We were fortunate to see these being pollinated by tiny flies. Soon this luck was doubled - numerous colonies of "mallee nana" were found in white sand and these too were being pollinated - but by quite different flies! We had previously wondered how such similar orchid species could occur sympatrically without introgression and here was the answer!! The two flies were of different families and indicated that the two "nanas" had been genetically isolated for a long while!

This pattern of sibling orchid species occurring together continued, for under a large *Acacia paradoxa* we found *Cyrtostylis robusta* in full flower and *C. reniformis* in tight bud. These two are isolated genetically by their different flowering times!

All along the creek *Corybas diemenicus* was abundant but on the leached sands - none!

We climbed to a small knoll covered with mallee and broombush. Here there were rosettes of *Pterostylis plumosa* and an unusual form of "mallee nana" with leaves up the stem just like *P. pyramidalis* from Western Australia together with rosettes of a *Pterostylis* aff. *alata* (now finished flowering). It looks likely that there are two species of "*P. alata*" in the park!

We continued on to the south-east corner of the park (it's not a very large park at all!!). Along the access track here we found a big colony of most unusual *Corybas* (aff. *incurvus*) with narrow hoods like *C. despectans* and a green central boss. It was suggested they might be hybrids but a thorough search failed to reveal any *Corybas despectans* or normal *C. incurvus*. Samples of some of the orchids seen were sent to David Jones (Australian orchid expert) for identification.

Orchids seen (F = flower; L = leaf; B = bud; = seed):

<i>Acianthus exsertus</i> (F)	<i>Eriochilus</i> (S)	<i>P. nana</i> (mallee dwarf)
<i>Caladenia</i> (L)	<i>Lyperanthus</i> (L)	(F)
<i>Corybas diemenicus</i> (F)	<i>Leporella</i> (S)	<i>P. nana</i> (hills form) (F)
<i>C. incurvus</i> (F)	<i>Microtis</i> (L)	<i>P. vittata</i> (F)
<i>C. aff. incurvus</i> (F)	<i>Orthoceras</i> (L)	<i>P. pedunculata</i> (B)
<i>Cyrtostylis robusta</i> (F)	<i>Prasophyllum rufum</i> (S)	<i>P. longifolia</i> (chewed off)
<i>C. reniformis</i> (B)	<i>P. elatum</i> (L)	<i>Glossodia</i> (B)
<i>Diuris</i> (L)	<i>Pterostylis plumosa</i> (B)	<i>Thelymitra</i> (L)

Our final survey will be on September 16 and the results printed in booklet form with a total list of the vascular flora by Christmas.

Garry Guide

## CONSERVATION NEWS

A new Conservation Park in the Adelaide area.

Bullock Hill Conservation Park - 5 kilometres south-east of Ashbourne is likely to be dedicated soon.

Although only about 50 hectares this area of sand-scrub contains quite a few orchid species.

Gawler Range Regional Park

The concept of regional park is likely to be used for a proposed Conservation area including Scrubby Peak and Pine Lodge in the Gawler Ranges - an area sadly lacking in any kind of reserve until now. This semi-arid area is rich in orchid species including the local endemic *Pterostylis ovata* and the desert greenhood *P. xerophila*: although while sheep continue to graze the numbers will be reduced.

## COMING FIELD TRIPS

*Pterostylis arenicola* Special

Saturday, September 23 (this Saturday).

Meet at Meningie Road turnoff adjacent Highway 1, just south of Tailem Bend (cliff tops overlooking the River Murray), at 10.00 a.m.

Forest Range

By popular request an excursion to see more than orchids.

Monday, October 8 (Labor Day holiday).

We will visit Laurel Packers Open Garden - Rhododendrons a specialty and nearby the apple and cherry orchards, not to mention a patch of scrub burnt last summer and hopefully plenty of orchids. Morning and afternoon tea available.

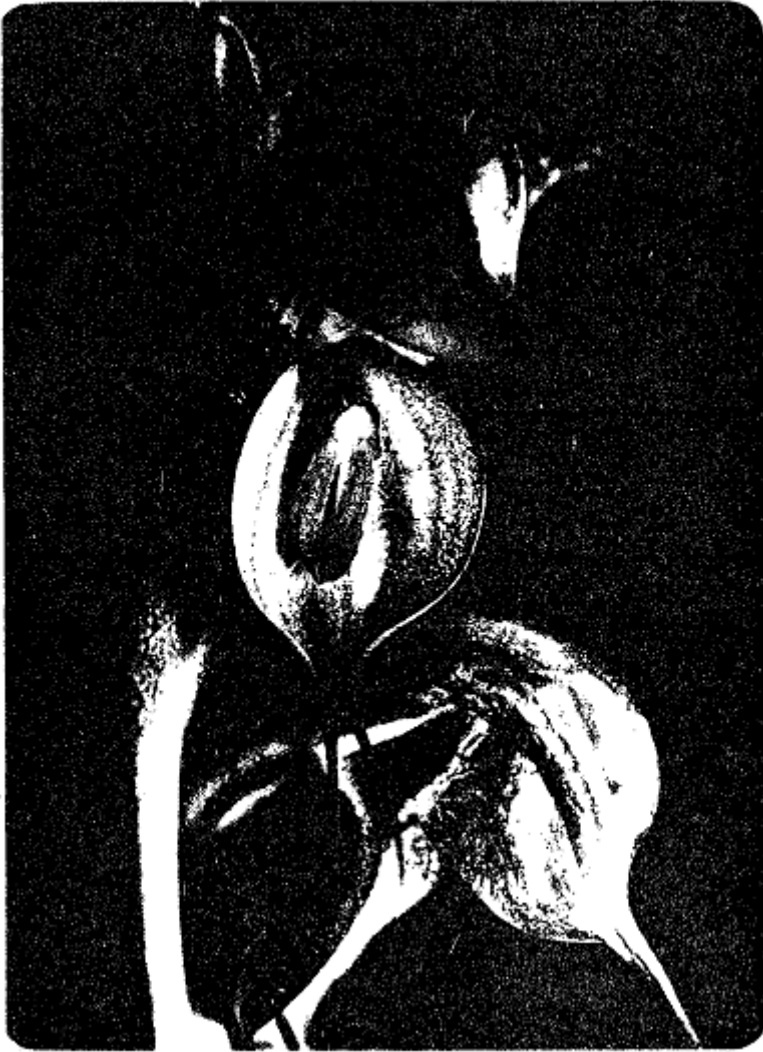
Meet at the Gardens themselves, 2 kilometres out of Forest Range on the Lobethal Road, at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, October 8.

Take a picnic lunch or eat in the Tea Rooms for a small cost. (If you intend to lunch in the Tea Rooms please let me know on 251 3450 so that lunch can be prepared.)

Bushfire Survey

October 7 (Sunday).

Meet 10.00 a.m. at One Tree Hill Post Office.

A FASCINATION WITH THE LEAVES OF RUFA GROUP *PTEROSTYLIS*

## Recognition

The distinctive ground-hugging rosettes of "Rufa group" *Pterostylis* are a familiar feature of rocky semi-arid country throughout South Australia. It now looks as if there could be as many as 20 different members of this group in South Australia. Over the years I have tried to work out a system of recognition of the various species from leaf rosettes alone. This has not proved possible but there are many clues to enable one to at least recognise the "sub-groups".

The "near rufas" such as *P. mutica* and *P. cycnocephala* are easy as the rosettes emerge with flower buds already present as brussel-sprout-like bumps in the centre of the rosette unlike the spear-like buds of the long-sepal species which develop later. *P. rufa* itself, together with the very similar *P. pusilla*, have very round leaves with much raised veins. They are easily separated from rosettes of *P. boormanii* and its allies which have few, long, narrow pointed leaves.

From there on it gets a bit harder and more guesswork is involved. A few very broad leaves indicate *P. ovata*. Numerous overlapping leaves indicate one of the "*P. biseta*" species especially if they have ciliate margins. Eventually it may be possible to recognise features which will separate out nearly every species.

Flat Out!

Let's get back to that feature of all species - rosettes flat on the ground. There are many advantages for this feature. Maximum absorption of light which tends to come mostly from above in the un-forested environments favoured by the group. It also allows better absorption of dew so important for survival in long, rainless periods and affords protection from kangaroos and other grazing animals (it being rather difficult to eat, or crush, leaves already pressed hard against the soil). There is also less drying out by strong winds.

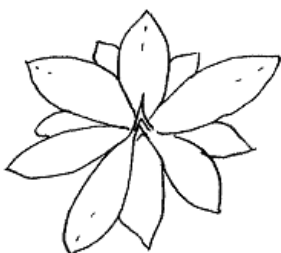


Fig. 1.  
Rufa group rosette  
from above.

## A Simple Experiment

It is fascinating to experiment with the process which keep the leaves so hard pressed to the ground. If a *P. rufa* group plant is removed from the ground this process continues to press the leaves down but without the soil to stop them they curl down until they run into each other (see Fig. 1, 2).

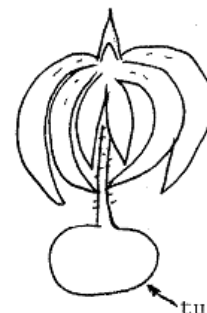


Fig. 2.

Leaf curl  
in Rufa  
group  
rosette  
removed  
from  
soil.

tuber



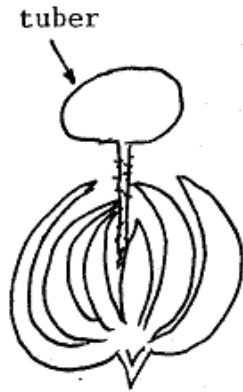
A Fascination with the Leaves of Rufa Group *Pterostylis* (contd.)

Fig. 3.  
Leaf curl in  
inverted plant.

The effect ignores gravity and this can be demonstrated by inverting the plants so that the leaves now curl upward (Fig. 3). The process is apparently light-induced. When plants of rufa group *Pterostylis* are grown under very low light intensities the process is reversed, the leaves curling upward (Fig. 4). This, too, is an advantage, as under natural conditions low light may be caused by dense cover of a bush - in such a situation any light reaching the orchid would be reflected light from the side not above and near vertical leaves would intercept most light.

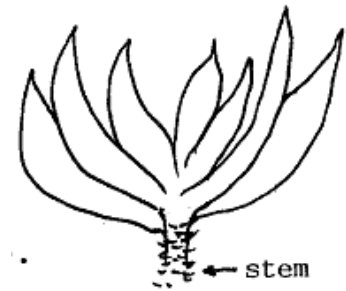


Fig. 4.  
Rufa group  
rosette in  
low light  
levels.

## Drinking Through The Leaves

The leaves of rufa group *Pterostylis* do absorb moisture directly - this can be demonstrated by allowing a potted plant to dry out for several weeks. Under drought stress the leaf stomates close and a waxy covering appears on the leaves. This slows down desiccation but eventually the leaves become flaccid. When a flaccid-leaved plant is put out overnight in the dew the leaves become firm again (at least for a few hours).

## Early Closing

Another curious feature for which rufa group *Pterostylis* are well known is the habit of leaves senescing before flowering begins. With one South Australian species (*P. aff. despectans*) the leaves actually dry out and shrivel up to eight weeks before the first flower opens! In a good season however, early flowered species may actually complete their flowering while the leaves are still green. Once the plant has produced energy reserves sufficient to allow flowering and seed production, the leaves are able to close down early; their position flat on the ground really means that they get cooked in the fierce outback sun.

Their energy is stored in two ways: in the old tuber, and in the fleshy stem which often has numerous leaf-like bracts. Add to this the fact that the green flowers themselves photosynthesise and thereby do the job in spring the leaves did in winter.

There is much yet to be studied in this intriguing group of orchids. Questions can be asked such as:

- What attracts the pollinators to these orchids?
- Why has there been such rapid recent speciation in the group?
- Why do some species seem to have a strong relationship with soil-living termites?

R. Bates

Details for coming Field Trips to be held on September 23, October 7 and October 8 are on page 73.

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

Port Vincent (Yorke Peninsula)

Our first stop was at a patch of mallee/broombush scrub on terra rosa soils over limestone 5 km west of Port Vincent. An area on the same latitude as Adelaide and only 50 kilometres away "as the seagull flies", but a 2½ hour drive around the St. Vincent Gulf! It is a habitat not found near Adelaide now and consequently had quite different orchids.

This was immediately obvious as we found numerous examples of a creamy white winter flowered spider orchid similar to *C. patersonii*, the coastal form of *C. toxochila* (now treated as a new subspecies) and their natural hybrid. Very common was the blue *C. deformis* but rarer spider orchids included *C. filamentosa* var *tentaculata* and one *C. tessellata*. Lots of *C. latifolia* leaves were seen but no flowers. Greenhoods present included *P. mutica*, *P. "mallee nana"*, *P. aff. longifolia* and *P. vittata*. *Cyrtostylis robusta* was abundant. Leaves of some 20 other species were seen.

A second stop was made 10 km north of the charming village of Curramulka. Here our "guide" attempted to get us lost by heading into featureless mallee in pelting rain, with no sign of the sun. After ten minutes we didn't have a clue which way the road was. Luckily we headed in the right direction (our guide insisted that he had a built-in biological direction finder but I wouldn't trust him). The only orchids seen were soggy *Pterostylis* of various kinds, the area being sheep-chewed.

For our final stop the weather cleared again and we were rewarded with a most unusual trio of closely-related species: *Pterostylis robusta*, *P. erythroconcha* and *P. dolichochila* - the first in full bloom, the second with buds and flowers, and the third with flowers and seed. This is apparently the only place known where these three species occur together in adjacent colonies and is very useful "proof" of the separateness of the three species.

The most noticeable feature of the field trip was the lack of undisturbed native vegetation to be found on the leg of Yorke Peninsula - here for the orchids it is too late - those that aren't already extinct soon will be.

Garry Guide

## PHOTOGRAPHING NATIVE ORCHIDS

Continuing the series of articles first published in the NOSSA Journal during 1980 and 1981.

## Practical Aspects (Techniques), Part 1

Thus far our discussion has principally centred around the optical equipment needed for close-up photography. We will now direct our attention to practical aspects which are frequently pitfalls for beginners, and in the process discover the usefulness of some ancillary equipment.

## Exposure

Much could be written about taking exposure readings with hand held meters, but this is a specialist subject best referred to in specialist literature. It is sufficient for me to say that for close-up photography the best method is that which measures the amount of light falling on the subject, or the "incident light method". Through-the-lens light metering simplifies exposure problems, but readings should still be regarded with suspicion until proven. Remember, because of the depth-of-field problem, the aperture diaphragm

## Photographing Native Orchids (contd.)

should be set at the smallest convenient size. Shutter speed should be the only variable when natural lighting is used.

## Depth-of-field

Depth-of-field is defined as "the extent of the distance, near and far, over which sharp images can be achieved for any specific best point of focus". The depth-of-field extends further behind the plane of focus than in front of it. However, with close-up photography, there is such a shallow depth of focus, that it is advisable to focus on the main plane of interest. Remember to use your camera's depth-of-field preview button if one is fitted. If your depth-of-field is too shallow, you have two options available for increasing it. First, stop the lens down as far as possible. If it is still unacceptable you will have to move back from the orchid and accept a smaller image on film, It is significant that the depth-of-field is the same for all lenses at the same image size, and useful to know that the advantage of using longer lenses lies in the benefits to be gained from increased working distances.

## Subject movement

One of the greatest problems facing the field photographer is the fact that orchids in their natural environment are invariable swaying in the breeze. Because small apertures are used, the exposure times may be too great to stop the motion. I carry a small canvas groundsheet, 1m x 1m (approx), which I use as a windbreak, but my greatest aid is an articulated metal spike, with a sliding arm and clamp attached. This I drive into the ground adjacent to the plant, and then clamp the stem so that the device does not appear in the photograph.

(to be continued)

## THREE RECENTLY NAMED SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHIDS

Three Leek Orchids (*Prasophyllum*) have been recently described in the Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Vol. 11 (June 1989).

*P. calcicola*, *P. fecundum* and *P. occultans* are three small, dull-flowered undistinguished, apparently apomictic species from mallee-heath or native pine scrubs. All have been seen on various NOSSA field trips.

*P. calcicola* is the smallest of the Leek Orchids and occurs, as the name implies, on limestone at the tip of Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas and also in W.A. We saw this species on a field trip to Warrenben Conservation Park in 1980, where it occurred along the southern boundary fence, flowering in late September (previously *P. aff. macrostachyum*).

*P. fecundum* is just slightly larger and similar to the previous orchid has less than a dozen flowers which last just a few days so you have to be quick if you want to photograph it. We saw this species on the visit to Sandy Creek Conservation Park with the ANOS Victoria Group in 1985. It is quite common there and also occurs on Eyre and Yorke Peninsula (previously *P. aff. fitzgeraldii*). We can expect a "*P. fecundum* Special" field trip next year!

*P. occultans*. This was another species seen on our 1980 field trip to Yorke Peninsula. It is wholly green, blooms in late September (like the other two) and grows in mallee/broombush associations on Yorke and Eyre Peninsula and near Mt Boothby in the South East.

Most of the South Australian Leek Orchids have now been named!

M. Phillips

## TUBER BANK

The following is an article written by Wally Walloscheck explaining how the NOSSA Tuber Bank is set up.

The Tuber Bank operates for the benefit of members on a first come, first served basis. When members' orders have been processed, other orders are looked after as best as can be done with whatever tubers are left.

1. In order to be able to compile a list by the December Journal publication, donations of tubers are called for with estimated quantities by verbal request at the October meeting, and also by an article in the October Journal. When the list is completed it is published in the December Journal. (See NOSSA Journal, December '88 for example.)

The list comprises of:

- a numbered list of species and hybrids available,
- a nominated closing date in January,
- a nominated return postage date,
- a return address panel to be filled in by the purchaser.

Purchasers are requested to circle numbers opposite the species required, and also to mark "subst." against their second choices in case their first choice is not available.

2. Tuber donations start to arrive in November and continue till just before the bank is made up. Tubers are stored in plastic containers such as margarine or take-away food containers. Each container is marked with the corresponding number to the species it will contain as indicated on the list. The number is marked on the lid as well as the container as this prevents any mix up, as this can easily occur if one is distracted while working on the bank.

These containers are kept at the Convener's place. A cool storage area is most preferable as it helps to prevent dehydration - a small amount of potting mix in the containers also helps to prevent dehydration but not enough to cover the stored tubers. The potting mix must be only slightly moist (if it is too wet fungal problems very quickly set in).

3. Tubers are loosely packed in toilet tissues and each lot sealed with masking tape with the name of the species on the masking tape. 35 mm slide boxes are used to pack the orders. They have proved very satisfactory as they are easily wrapped in brown paper and the address panel taped on with clear tape. Slide boxes are donated from the members, also from a photographic club with which contact has been made.
4. The cost charged is \$1.00 per lot, whether it be one or ten lots per order. This charge also covers postage.



## NOSSA Tuber Bank (contd.)

5. To assist in making up the Tuber Bank a worksheet is ruled up. A margin is left on the left hand side large enough to accommodate the names of the members. As each order list arrives the customer's name is put in the margin, and each variety required is marked with an oblique line under the corresponding variety number. Substitutes are marked with a circle. (Note illustration below.)

Names	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tom Jones		/		/	/	0	
Enid Smith	/	0		0	/		

As the orders are made up and checked off the numbers are marked off with the opposite oblique. This sheet then becomes a complete record of this year's Tuber Bank and can be used for reference if necessary, and it is on one sheet of paper, not a lot of order sheets.

6. The growing-on program is made up from whatever tubers are left from the bank, which are usually the most common varieties. This fact makes it very necessary to ask for donations every year to be able to make up an attractive tuber list.

Wally Walloscheck

## COMMITTEE BRIEF

The Management Committee meeting was held at the residence of the President, Ron Robjohns, on Friday, 25 August, 1989, with all members present except Wally Walloscheck who sent his apologies. A number of issues were discussed including:

1. Final preparations for staging the NOSSA show at Mitcham Girls High School on 16/17 September, 1989.
2. Stocking the show trading table with a range of plants, both epiphytic and terrestrial, from a number of sources.
3. Erection of advertising banners at the Mitcham Girls High School site and at Flinders University on the corner of South and Shepherds Hill Roads.
4. Forwarding a letter on behalf of the members of NOSSA to the Premier of Western Australia, Mr Peter Dowding, urging governmental intervention to protect the rare and endangered "Purdies Donkey Orchid" in its natural habitat in Canning Vale. It is currently under siege from land-developers.

Should any member have any issue which they would like considered by the Management Committee please contact any committee member.

D.R. Butler

POPULAR CHOICE - TERRESTRIAL - *PTEROSTYLIS* NODDING GRACE.:

There I sat at the July meeting having quiet conversation with those around me having lodged my popular vote choices. "Who grew this Nodding Grace?", called our hard-working Secretary. It struck me - I did! Popular Vote in the Terrestrials - me a rank amateur when growing greenhoods! I owned up realising that I must comply with the rules and write an article for the Journal - my first I must confess. I wasn't even certain whether Nodding Grace was a hybrid or a species (sorry Les) - that name was on the label when I was given the tubers and told to "have a go". I did know that greenhoods came from the ground-dwelling group of orchids.

I have since found that Nodding Grace is a cross between *P. nutans*, the Nodding Greenhood (or Parrot's Beak Orchid) and *P. curta*, the Twisted Tongue Greenhood (Blunt Greenhood in another reference).

My 5-inch black plastic pot contains 9 tubers which were potted late January 1989. All tubers have flowered. At the same time as this potting I had to pot some tubers from the Tuber Bank and others given to me. My shadehouse is covered with 50% shadecloth, open all sides during the winter and covered with 50% shadecloth during the hottest and brightest part of summer.

Being down on the southern side of the Ranges at Bellevue Heights, and generally facing south, I find it colder and wetter than on the plains, hence a need to adjust potting mixes for all orchids to something that provides excellent drainage. Consequently, for these tubers I made my own mixture of equal proportions (a very rough equal) of sandy loam (left over from back-filling retaining walls), Woolworth's potting mixture (on special at the time), and well aged, small pine bark (left over and not wanting to waste it). A good mix in the wheelbarrow and into the pots.

I then got technical and followed Journal articles, systematically placing the tubers into and around the pots, topping with mix, placing a layer of blood-and-bone over the mix, and covering with pine needles. A water with rain water immediately, then once a week when extremely hot, until the natural rains have taken over.

Eventually, "hey presto", one pot of Nodding Grace, then flowers, and then in due course this article. My other 15 pots of various greenhoods have all grown well and look extremely healthy. Whether they flower, who knows, only time will tell.

For those who made the visit to our shadehouse in 1988, or read in the October '88 Journal of the *P. nana* and *P. pedunculata* growing naturally in the natural area of the backyard may be interested to know that they are up again in far greater numbers, growing well, spreading rapidly and coming into bud. Any member who would like to see them in this natural environment just 20 minutes from the city please feel free to call and have a look.

I trust that you have enjoyed this article as much as the "kick" I got out of my first popular vote and then producing these few words. It sure brings home the pleasure of orchid growing, its associated fun and fellowship, and how one's own individual way can sometimes be successful.

Geoff Edwards

We would love to hear of experiences in orchids and orchid growing from others, especially from "first timers" ! Well done Geoff! Ed.