Journal
of the

Native Orchid Society
of
South Australia Inc

Oligochaetochilus excelsus

Print Post Approved
PP 543662/00018

Volume 29 N° 6
July 2005

NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5061

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

Journal Cost $2. per issue. Family or Single Membership with subscription $16.00

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JOURNAL OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

JULY 2005 VOL. 29 NO 6

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NEXT MEETING 26 JULY 2004

Tuesday, 26 July, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and trading table.
The speaker for the meeting will be Tim Milne on Reptiles and Amphibians.

DIARY DATES

30-31 July	Mid-North: Monitoring *Oligochaetochilus despectans*
7 August	Terrestrial Study Group Meeting: SA *Prasophyllum*'s
20-21 August	Caroona Creek CP
10-11 September	NOSSA Spring Show
13-19 September	WA Orchid Spectacular
8 October	Sevenhill Winery: *Caladenia argocalla*
4 December	Annual BBQ

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, 3rd August at the home of **Malcolm Guy.** Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

JUNE MEETING

Epiphytes benched
Species

Dendrobium monophyllum; Dendrobium speciosum.

Hybrids

Dendrobium Aussie Springtime x Ellen; *Dendrobium* Dusties Joy; *Dendrobium* Golden Glory x *falcorostrum*; *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon; *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon x Zip (now registered as *Den*. Rutherford Golden Sun); *Dendrobium* Jesmond Dazzler; *Dendrobium* Peewee x Sunglow; *Dendrobium* Regal Affair; *Dendrobium* Stunning; *Dendrobium* Violet Yamaji; *Sarcochilus* Sherlock 'Pam'.

Terrestrials benched
Species

Acianthus acontiflorus (NSW); *Acianthus pusillus* (4 plants including a green form and plants from Kuitpo); *Pterostylis nutans* (white); *Pterostylis taurus*; *Diplodium reflexum*. *Diplodium robustum* (2 plants, red form and Adelaide Hills form); *Linguella nana*; *Taurantha concinna* (2 plants, one a yellow form)*; Urochilus sanguineus*

Hybrids

Pterostylis Rogoff; *Pterostylis furcata* x *ingens*.

Judging results

Epiphyte Species
1st *Dendrobium speciosum* grown by Malcolm Tiggerman
2nd *Dendrobium monophyllum* grown by Les Nesbitt
No 3rd

Epiphyte Hybrid
1st *Sarcochilus* Sherlock 'Pam' grown by Noel Oliver
2nd *Dendrobium* Golden Glory x *falcorostrum* grown by Russell Job & Edda Viskic
3rd *Dendrobium* Regal Affair grown by Noel Oliver

Terrestrial Species
1st *Diplodium robustum* grown by Les Nesbitt
2nd *Acianthus pusillus* grown by Les Nesbitt
3rd *Urochilus sanguineus* grown by Les Nesbitt

Terrestrial Hybrids
1st *Pterostylis furcata* x *ingens* grown by Les Nesbitt
2nd *Pterostylis* Rogoff grown by Les Nesbitt
No 3rd

Plant of the night
Diplodium robustum grown by Les Nesbitt

Popular vote results

Epiphyte Species `	*Dendrobium monophyllum* grown by Les Nesbitt
Epiphyte Hybrid	*Sarcochilus* Sherlock 'Pam' grown by Noel Oliver
Terrestrial Species	*Diplodium robustum* grown by Les Nesbitt
Terrestrial Hybrids	*Pterostylis furcata* x *ingens* grown by Les Nesbitt

Commentary on Terrestrials given by Les Nesbitt and on Epiphytes by Les Burgess

JUNE SPEAKER

Ann Tindall gave an interesting talk and slide-show with Orchids and scenery of New Zealand. I was surprised by the seemingly leafier foliage of many of the Terrestrials compared to those I know from Australia and assume these have evolved under the dense canopy of the New Zealand forests and then there was the *Corybas* with the leaf serving as an umbrella over the flower. All up, with scenic views from hot springs to snow covered mountains, it was an entertaining evening.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

NOSSA FIELD AND CONSERVATION TRIPS 2005

July 30/31 (Sat-Sun)	**Monitoring *Oligochaetochilus despectans* in the mid-north** Meet: Main St, Yacka at 10:00a.m. Overnight stay: Mt. Bryan East School or Burra for those who prefer catered accommodation.
Aug 20/21 (Sat-Sun)	**Orchid species search in Caroona Conservation Park** Meet: Mt. Bryan at 10:00a.m. Overnight stay: Camping within the Park itself or Burra for those who prefer catered accommodation.
Aug 22 (Mon)	***Oligochaetochilus* 'Halbury' counting at Halbury** Meet: Telephone box in Main St. of Halbury at 10:00a.m.
Aug 24- 26 (Wed-Fri)	**Yorke Peninsula: Monitoring *Caladenia macroclavia*; Surveying *C. intuta*** Meet: Main St, Bute at 10:00a.m. Stay for 2 nights: Holiday house in either Pt. Vincent or Curramulka
Aug 28 (Sun)	**Private block visit to McHarg Creek** Meet: Prospect Hill P.O. at 10:00a.m.
Sept 2-4 (Fri-Sun)	**Mount Remarkable N. Park weekend for *Caladenia woolcockiorum* and *C. gladiolata* monitoring** Meet: On Main North road, 2km south of Wilmington at the turn-off to Alligator Gorge (opposite Beautiful Valley Caravan Park) at 1:00p.m. Stay for 2 nights: Old Rangers quarters in Alligator Gorge
Oct 8 (Sat)	**Orchid species search in Sevenhill Winery** Meet: At Sevenhill at 10:00a.m.

NOSSA SPRING SHOW
10-11 SEPTEMBER 2005
St Bernadettes Hall, South Road, St Marys

Details will be posted in the August journal so all articles concerning the show need to be before the Editor **prior** to the 5th Aug.

Terrestrial Study Group - 7th August

A **Terrestrial Study Group Meeting** looking at **SA *Prasophyllum*'s** will be held at Bob Bates place 38 Portmarnock Street, Fairview Park on the first Sunday of August (7th) with a barbeque tea at 4pm. All enthusiasts welcome.

SPECIAL RAFFLE

A raffle will be conducted at the meeting next month for a copy of the Schlechter book on the Orchids of New Guinea.

The last Journal was late due to circumstances beyond our control (just another good reason to receive your Journal by E-mail)

How it is Done

Reg Shooter

The general talk around the orchid fraternity this year seems to be, "What a strange year it has been".
The plants benched at the June meeting gave an indication of that. There was a magnificent plant of *Dendrobium speciosum* in full flower, with three fully open racemes and three more in bud.

This is a species that, in a *normal* year does not flower until the spring shows in September.
The common wisdom is, spikes start to show in the apex of the growths in late May early June & if not seen by late June will not produce flowers that year. This plant was grown and shown by Malcolm Tiggerman who, I believe grows it in an open shade house. The plant was in a 25cm pot consisting of a number of short plump stems carrying healthy green, unmarked leaves. The 50mm tall flowers were creamy white held erect on 25cm tall racemes, they were of excellent shape well displayed, sitting up and looking at you. Talking to other growers it looks like this may be a good year for *speciosum* although reports range from; spikes just appearing to some almost in flower, a strange year indeed. Continuing in that vein there was a *Sarcochilus* Sherlock in full flower benched by Noel Oliver, another genus that we don't usually see until late September, early October. A delightful little plant carrying one raceme of cream flowers richly overlayed with burgundy markings. Only small flowers but it attracted both the judges & the popular vote.

Les Nesbitt is well known for his terrestrials but also grows many epiphytes. At the meeting he benched a nice specimen of *Den. monophyllum* a species not easy to flower here in South Australia requiring bright light, humidity with plenty of air movement and to be kept on the dry side during the colder months. Les informs me he grows his plant in a shade house giving it this treatment. The plant was mounted on a piece of natural cork bark, the medium favoured by this and many other orchids. This species in particular has to be mounted rather than grown in a pot due to its creeping habit that would soon outgrow a pot. This species has the common name of 'The Lily of the Valley Orchid' as the flowers do indeed look like yellow bell shaped flowers of that genus & like lily of the valley is nicely perfumed, more detectable in the early morning fading as the day progresses.

NOSSA FIELD TRIP TO SCOTT CONSERVATION PARK 2/7/05

Thelma Bridle

Anzybas unguiculatus

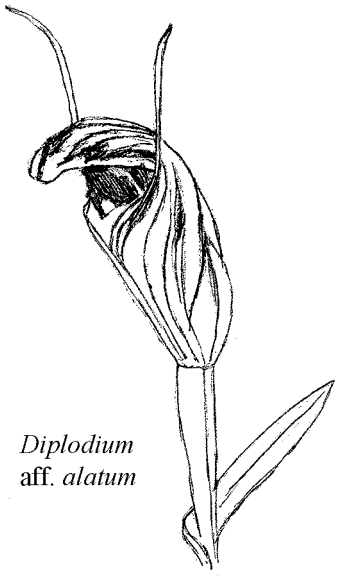
Following the severe autumn drought, orchid leaves and flowers were well behind their normal stage of development for early July. Some species had aborted earlier flowers but others were growing well following recent rain. Several small fungi had also responded to the wet conditions.

July 2nd was a pleasant day, just a few, short, heavy showers with sunny breaks in between. Sixteen members, led by Ken and Barb Bayley visited 2 areas in Scott Conservation Park, a Hills vegetation site of pink and blue gums with stringybarks and a small area of mallee.

We slipped down the steep creek bank, crossed the wet, muddy creek bottom and cautiously - 2 steps forward, one slip back - ascended the other steep bank. Soon *Pterostylis* spp. and *Cyrtostylis* spp. leaves and greeny buds of *Acianthus pusillus* were recorded. Several dried and seeded autumn flowering *Genoplesium* spp. spikes were seen. Seedpods of *Eriochilus cucullatus* and many leaves of *Leporella fimbriata* together with a few remaining dried flowers, were the other autumn flowering species recorded. Both *E. cucullatus* and *L. fimbriata* develop leaves after flowering, both are ovate ending in a point. *E. cucullatus* has dark green, heavily veined leaves, whilst those of *L. fimbriata* are lighter green with red veining and these are only found growing in white sand. Large, thick leaves of *Pyrorchis nigricans,* flat on the ground and with red spotting around the perimeter, were common.

Spring flowering *Glossodia major* leaves were abundant, but only one *Caladenia* sp. leaf was found. Colonies of *Leptoceras menziesii* leaves, *Pterostylis nutans,* with buds beginning to develop and *Diplodium (Pterostylis) robustum* leaves were seen. *Urochilus (Pterostylis) sanguineus* had a number of aborted buds but some plants had managed to produce one or two flowers on short stems. Winter flowering *Pterostylis* species are cauline, with longer, narrow leaves growing on the stems of flowering plants, whilst non-flowering plants produce only a basal rosette.

Several *Thelymitra* spp. were seen, with last year's dehisced seedpod standing beside a new leaf for this year. Some fine leaves of *T. antennifera* were found in small groups.



Diplodium aff. *alatum*

Lunch was enjoyed in the sun, to the sound of many local honeyeaters and parrots, before we drove to the southern end of the Park for further orchid searching. The sun had encouraged the brilliant white flowers of *Drosera whittackeri* sundew to open. Buds were seen for the small orange flowered *D. glanduligera* and tall sundews were common throughout the bush. *Corysanthes (Corybas)* spp. leaves were found under yaccas, and *Anzybas (Corybas) unguiculatus* was growing in old, fallen *Banksia serrata* cones, with small duck-billed flowers only a couple of weeks from opening. *Linguella (Pterostylis) nana* buds were showing and *Nemacianthus (Acianthus) caudatus* had the beginnings of dark, long-sepalled flowers

visible. The South African weed orchid, *Monadenia bracteata* were found in small numbers.

Our final target for the day was *D.* aff. *alatum,* which proved a bit tricky to find, but there were several attractive green and white striped hoods when a colony was located.

Kuitpo Karers Kolumn June 05 **Les Nesbitt**

We saw *Acianthus pusillus* 'Kuitpo' at the June meeting and also *Pterostylis nana* 'Kuitpo'. My pots of *Ptst. nana* are still in bud, as is *Ptst. nutans*. These should be out for the July meeting. *Corybas* are showing and they have buds inside the unrolling leaves which indicates they are likely to be *Corybas diemenicus*. We should see them in flower in July also. *Ptst. foliata* is poking through at last at the same time as the *Corybas*. Both species remain below ground until the winter cold and wet has surely arrived.
Caladenia tentaculata leaves have not emerged yet in about one quarter of my 125mm pots of single plants collected at Kuitpo. I hand pollenated most flowers last spring and carrying a seedpod is known to weaken these plants. Of those that are growing, not many leaves seem large enough to flower this year. While some losses are the norm after a rescue dig this is higher than I expected. Seed has been sown on all these pots so I may get some seedlings this year if the fungus is still present. If 100 seedlings germinate it will have been worthwhile setting seed and losing a few plants.
I have noticed orange rust pustules on the leaves of one pot of *Thelymitra pauciflora*. I picked off the ends of the leaves that were affected and burnt them. This pot is in quarantine now as I do not want the rust to spread to *Diuris orientis* and other *Thelymitra* pots in the shadehouse. Thousands of plants of these 2 species were badly affected by rust at Kuitpo last year.

ORCHID GRID – 30 June 2005 **Les Nesbitt**

Not much happened in the grid in autumn due to the lack of rain. Those orchids with large tubers managed to send up thin leaves before the rains started on 10 June. I noticed *Caladenia tentaculata* (just outside the grid) *Diuris lanceolata*, *Diuris* Pioneer, *Diuris pardina*, *Thelymitra grandiflora* and *Thelymitra pauciflora* in May.
There have been no flowers this year since the *Dipodium* finished blooming back in summer. *Eriochilus cucullatus* did not flower and I can find only 2 leaves.
After 4 months of no significant rain, it rained nearly every day for 2 weeks giving a total rainfall for June of more than 200mm. *Diplodium robustum* came up quickly after the rain but only rosettes, no flowers. *Pterostylis curta, nutans* & *pedunculata* all came up in June after the rain triggered rapid growth. Only *Ptst. pedunculata* is showing buds. So far I cannot find any *Ptst. nana*. I was pleased to find 3 clumps of *Thelymitra luteocilium* plants are up from seedlings deflasked direct to soil last year. Other leaves showing at the end of June only 20 days after the break in the season were *Acianthus caudatus, Diuris orientis and Pyrorchis nigricans*. There are still a lot more species yet to make an appearance. There is no sign yet of *Corybas, Cyrtostylis, Leptoceras,* or *Microtis*. Seed of a number of species including *Caladenia* and *Pterostylis* was sprinkled on the grid in April. I am hoping to see some seedlings in spring.

Mt Warning Trip

Steve Howard

The 4 km walk to the top of Mt Warning was taking its toll and there were doubts we would make it to the top. Sore necks from staring up at trees and numerous trips over rocks caused by not looking where we were going added to our already sore legs. It was the thought of my mate's wife and his kids giving the unfit dad and his mate a heap of grief that drove us on. They climbed it, we had to!

We had undertaken the walk to observe native orchids in their natural environment and given the height of the mountain, would also observe the many microclimates offered and changes in vegetation as we climbed higher. We would also use this information to assist us greatly in our knowledge of the cultivation of these plants.

The lower levels were dark and moist and surprisingly offered little in the way of orchids (or so it seemed) until we were 1/3rd of the way up. At this level we found large trees covered in *Dendrobium aemulum* and the moister sections provided us with our first look at *Den. tetragonum*. One thing we did notice was that while one side held the plants, the other side of the same trees were often devoid. Obviously the morning sun and access to the moist prevailing wind was what *Den. aemulum* wanted yet the *Den. tetragonum* partner was always on the shadier side. We were still in closed canopy rainforest so no doubt there were other sun loving plants high in the canopy out of sight.

We stopped for a drink and made a very interesting observation that over the next 4 weeks would repeat itself too many times to be a coincidence. The rock we perched on was covered in *Sarcochilus fitzgeradlii* ranging from single leaf protocorms to near flowering size seedlings. In a crack was a *Pterostylis nutans* and *Den. gracilicaule* seedlings hung in a low bush just above the rock. The observation was that is a spot was good for one plant then it was good for many.

The classic find was a tree near Uki. Nothing special tree wise but was covered in *Dockrillia bowmanii, Den. gracilicaule* and *Sarco. falcatus*. The tree was only 15 ft high, small when compared to some of the monsters we had seen, but obviously had the right stuff if you are an orchid. A similar tree near Terania Creek had no fewer than 70 orchids on it. Mostly *Den. gracilicaule, Den. speciosum* and *Dockrillia* species. It was again only a small tree that was isolated in a paddock with the rest of the trees already cleared. At least some farmers there must be orchid lovers.

Near the top, the large trees gave way to smaller trees covered with epiphytic moss. This was cloud forest so where were the orchids? I should have seen it but walked straight through it!!! after all who would expect a 4ft long curtain of *Den. pugionforme* (dagger orchid) smack in the middle of a walking track that sees thousands of visitors each year and at eye level, Yet, there it was. After this first sighting we saw heaps, mostly well hidden amongst the moss.

The climb to the top was nearly complete and there was only the final ascent using a chain to assist with the climb. We nearly gave up here but the vision of what was waiting for us at home gave us the determination we needed. There was no view. The rain and clouds saw to that. The trees at the top were stunted and only a little moss grew as a testimony to the strong winds experienced at this level. Yet snuggled amongst the branches were dozens of

seedlings of *Sarco. falcatus*. There were no large plants, as maybe they were never destined to grow that big in such harsh conditions. We stopped for a while to take in the power of the mountain before we commenced the descent.

The walk back uncovered even more orchid species. These were mostly lithophytes with a few low growing epiphytes. *Sarco. olivaceous, Bulbophyllum* and *Oberonia titania* were added to our list of finds. Our sore necks had left the high tree dwellers alone for the trip back down but it was worth it. Walking back gave us a new perspective and in all some 13 varieties were identified. More importantly was the accumulation of knowledge gained by observation in their native state. Aspect, growth habit temperature etc. were all noted. It will assist in their cultivation but one thing for certain is that despite all of this, our natives don't always live in the same spots. I found *Sarco. falcatus* in full sun in the lowlands, where temperatures exceed 40C yet found the same plants on top of Mt Warning where the temperature would struggle to half that level and the humidity difference was substantial.

So what we learn is simple. The original plant's origins will have bearing on its development and cultivation. The plant will tell you! For instance I have two plants of *Cymbidium maddidum*. One has origins from its northern boundary and the other from it southernmost boundary. Both until recently were grown the same. The southern one is a stronger grower and the northern one has struggled. I have now changed my culture for the northern plant and it now gets more warmth, less water over winter and more sun. It is now on the road to recovery.

The disappointing side of the walk was the fact that many trees in the forest had fallen down and inevitably these would be covered with orchids with some specimen plants that would make anyone drool. The temptation was to pinch one or two but we knew they would never recover and at best were destined to become wallaby food. We did see attempts by the rangers to wire these plants onto new hosts but a lack of understanding and bad placement really saw these plants go backwards. Specimens we saw in 2001 were now reduced to many dead canes and much smaller growths.
Despite the temptation to help myself, I have found they can be obtained legally. These plants are rescued from the loggers in NSW, individually recorded as protected species and sold with the proceedings going back to the government. Whilst the majority of these plants are inferior to the line bred plants of today, there is something about a natural plant that has been given a second chance. It is that preservation of our native species that I want to be a part of.

The Mt Warning trek was one of many, with each walk providing us with new surprises. For those who are keen and are heading east, spend some time in the state forests and observe our native orchids in their natural habitat.
You won't be disappointed.

AOF Awareness Campaign

Bacterial Brown Spot

Caused by *Pseudomonas gladioli, Cattleya Pseudomonas* and several other *Pseudomonas spp.*

This disease becomes destructive particularly during warm and humid conditions. Infecting, traditionally *Phalaenopsis*, but becoming more prevalent in genera such as *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, *Miltonopsis*, *Oncidium*, *Phragmipedium*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Vanda* & *Zygopetalum*.

Symptoms; - The disease usually appearing on the leaf as a small circular, water soaked spot, which enlarges rapidly and is light brown in colour. The affected parts normally have a wet and soft appearance. This blister is full of watery exudes, which is a pure culture of bacteria. The disease spreads so quickly in *Phalaenopsis* that within one or two days it may reach the stem and completely destroy the plant.

Prevention; -

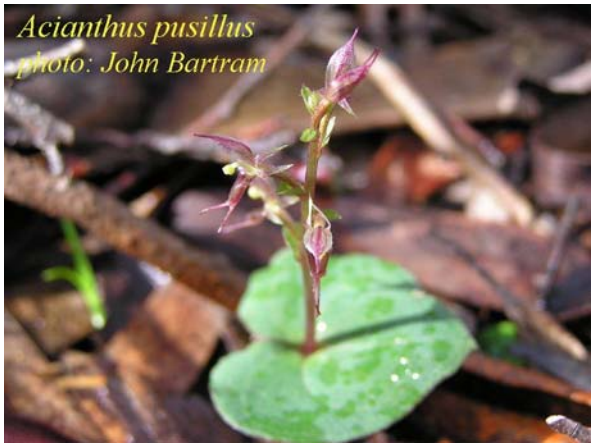
- The growing area should be well ventilated and drained. Avoid growing plants to densely.
- Hygene is essential. Remove dead plants from growing area; keep floor free of dead plant material and debris. DO NOT reuse potting mixtures.
- Water plants as needed and preferably when plant foliage will dry off quickly.
- Periodic scrubbing the floors and staging with a disinfectant, such as Alginox, keeps down both bacterial numbers and fungi spores.
- At the first sign of disease or pest outbreaks, remove, isolate and apply appropriate treatment to affected plants.

Treatment; - *Pseudomonas* is a bacterial problem and cannot be controlled with a fungicide. Diseased plants should be handled carefully so as not to spread the disease to other plants in the vicinity. Cut off affected parts with a generous amount of healthy tissue. 'Flower of Sulphur' is then rubbed, neat, into the resultant open wound. On large leaved plants such as *Phalaenopsis* it may be possible to save the leaf by cross cutting the diseased area making sure to have a deep clean cut horizontal to the stem of the plant and packing the wound with sulphur.

Control; -

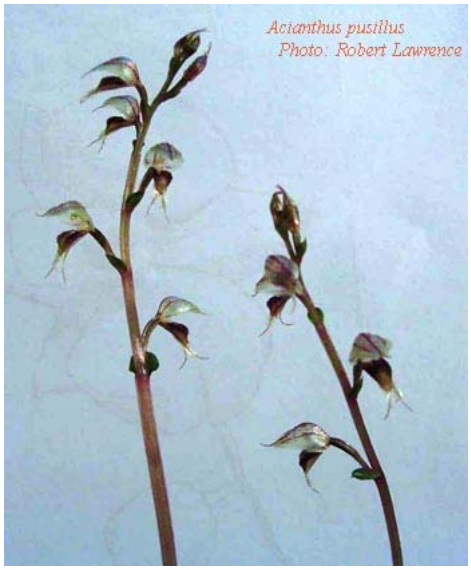
*Reduce the amount of nitrogen fertilizer and try to increase the potassium levels in the formula.

- Cease using organic fertiliser as this may be a source of food for the bacteria.
- Stop watering young plants, especially community pots during the outbreak of the disease.
- Although unsightly, an application of Kocide or other copper based bactericide will provide residual protection for three or four weeks.



Above: Orchids from Scott Conservation Park

Below: Plants benched at July Meeting



All July plants photographed by Robert Lawrence


Dendrobium Dusties Joy
photo: Robert Lawrence


Dendrobium monophyllum
photo: Robert Lawrence


N.O.S.S.A.
PLANT NAME
SARCO SHERLOCK
'Pam'
GROWER N OLIVER


Sarcochilus Sherlock Pam
photo: Robert Lawrence

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