

The Rhododendron

The Australian Rhododendron Society Inc.



2014

Volume 54



BIARATI KUMAR PRAODHAN

Rhododendron maddenii at population site 1 in the Dzongu valley, Sikkim, India. See page 22.

Front Cover: *R. celebicum* (Lyn Craven 2002 Sulawesi expedition). Photograph by Andrew Rouse, see page 11.

The *Rhododendron*

Official Journal of the Australian Rhododendron Society

2014

Volume 54

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The *Rhododendron*, the journal of the Australian Rhododendron Society Inc., is published annually by the Society. Material for publication in *The Rhododendron* is welcomed and contributors are requested to note that the closing date for each issue is August 1.

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The Australian Rhododendron Society Inc.

Aims

The Society's objective is to encourage interest in and disseminate information and knowledge about the genus *Rhododendron* and to provide a medium by which all persons interested in the genus may communicate and co-operate with others of similar interest.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to all persons interested in the objectives of the Society upon payment of the annual membership subscription. For further information contact Branch Secretaries or the National Secretary.

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions cover the period 1 July to 30 June, and vary up to \$25 (single member) and \$35 (member & partner) depending on the Branch selected. (Branches set their own level, out of which an amount is paid to the national Society). The annual journal *The Rhododendron* is included as a benefit of membership.

Overseas members may nominate for affiliation with any of the Branches. The base annual subscription for membership of the Victorian Branch is AUD \$25. This covers dispatch of *The Rhododendron* by airmail in the last quarter of the calendar year and other communications by email (if there is a preference for receipt of other communications in hard copy form, an additional subscription amount of AUD \$15 applies to cover airmail cost). The Victorian Branch accepts Visa or Mastercard payments. Overseas subscriptions to other Branches may vary from these rates and require to be paid by bank draft or cheque payable in Australian dollars. Contact the ARS National Secretary.

Contact details

Details of local Branches, along with Office Bearers of the Australian Rhododendron Society, are listed on page 36.

Editorial

BARRY STAGOLL

We take pleasure in bringing to you the 2014 volume of *The Rhododendron*, incorporating news of the activities of rhododendron-focussed groups throughout Australia, and a healthy number of newly-registered Australian hybrids, in addition to interesting articles of wider scope.

It's with profound sadness that we also were bound to carry a tribute to Dr Lyn Craven, who passed away not long before we began putting this volume together.

Lyn was a highly accomplished and respected professional botanist, a strong contributor to the interests of our Society, and a true gentleman. It was a matter of great pride and satisfaction to us rhododendron enthusiasts that, as a very senior staff member of the Australian National Herbarium, he made extensive explorations and conducted comprehensive research investigations focussed on vireyas. Andrew Rouse contributed the very fitting tribute which appears in these pages, and we thank him sincerely for so doing. Moreover, Andrew also took on the task of preparing the article ***Sulawesi vireyas introduced into cultivation by Lyn Craven*** for publication, which will give readers considerable insight into Lyn's enthusiasm for vireyas and his dedication to the explorations and investigations he undertook.

We're grateful to all contributors this year, and note that, in addition to our articles of local origin, we are again fortunate to be able to carry a further article authored by Bharat K. Pradhan and colleagues from the Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project – Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management (Government of Sikkim, India), this time centred on the endemic population of *Rhododendron maddenii*.

I trust that readers experienced a satisfying year of gardening since our last issue. Regretfully, in our own garden we had some rhododendron losses through last summer, which was drier, warmer and somewhat more windy than the several preceding summers, including favourite plants such as the very nice British pink-flowering hybrid 'Winsome' and the Australian arboretum hybrid 'Midnight' ('Cup Day' × 'Purple Splendour'), hybridised by Karel Van der Ven) – which, as then National Secretary of ARS, I had the pleasure of submitting on behalf of our Society to Australia Post as one of the subjects included in the 'Blooms – Australian Cultivars' stamp issue of 2003. We have a very fine portrait of 'Midnight' blooms at home, but we must acquire a fresh example of both plants! ❀

Reports – Australian Rhododendron Groups

South Australian Branch

From the President's report at the 2014 AGM:

It is my great pleasure to present this annual report. Once again we have seen an increase in membership this year and a remarkable enthusiasm from all our members. Your committee has worked hard to make this an enjoyable year for everyone. Particular thanks must go to our secretary, Janie, for her tireless work to "make things happen". Janie is standing down after three years in this position. Special thanks to our website/newsletter editors Michelle and Bron, our treasurer Peter, Milton as librarian and for IT support from David and Chris. Also to Michelle and Bron for organising the trading table.

The highlight of the year was the ARS National Convention held here in October ... a great success. Steve Hootman as speaker proved to be a tremendous drawcard and the associated social functions were enjoyed by all including our interstate and overseas guests. A special part of the AGM (held concurrently), was the award of life membership to both Tania and Chris Thomas.

Through the generosity of Janet and David Rice the two open days at Beechwood swelled the society's coffers and the Christmas party at Beechwood was a very pleasant end to the year.

The annual plant sale was again a resounding success, with thanks to Bron and Rob for managing members' choices.

Another highlight of the year was the (very wet) visit to Anlaby homestead for members and their guests.

Our guest speakers Rob Hatcher, William Antel, Robert Stone, Steven Hailstone, Matt Coulter and Scott Foubister have all entertained us with a wide range of interests and topics.

I think that it is fair to say we have had a very good year and next year should be even better, having formalised our Education Scholarship and with a much closer relationship with MLBG and Stephen Forbes to foster Rhododendron Gully. Our Annual seed donation to MLBG will continue.

I would conclude by thanking Neutrog for their support and sponsorship of this evening's door prize and also to the staff of Coventry Library for helping us this evening.

Last, but not least, I thank Tania and Rosemary for the time and effort in providing the beautiful flower arrangements again.

Ian Smylie

Southern Tasmanian Branch

With another year passing it is once again time to look back on the year's activities and try to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of trying to run a specialist group in these hectic times.

At the 2013 AGM the members voted to move away from our night meetings to daytime meetings in the hope of encouraging more participation from our ageing, but none-the-less stalwart members. Although meetings have been well attended more fine-tuning in getting the balance between a formal meeting and a purely social 'Garden Gathering' is proving to be quite a challenge.

With the aims of the Society in mind of 'encouraging interest in and disseminating information and knowledge of the genus *Rhododendron* much more time and effort is required if new members are to remain interested and actually get involved. Encouragement is also needed to diversify from the readily available rhododendrons that we find in our local nurseries to sourcing rarer cultivars or stepping into the world of the pure species.

Our Southern Branch has enjoyed visiting some lovely gardens over the past year. We started off with a visit to Sue Wallbank's garden in Fern Tree. A freezing day with snow falling on and off during the afternoon. That did not deter our spirits and we were once again enthralled with Sue's collection of primulas, especially her passion, the auriculas, and many of these fine companion plants went home with us.

Other gardens which gave us much pleasure were John Tooth's, once again at Fern Tree. Most of us wandered right to the bottom of this steep garden which was looking in exceptionally good condition and, as always, a pleasure to visit. There was much to see and admire at Nicole and Stuart Clutterbuck's garden in Kingston and Ken and Lesley Gillander's garden, also in Kingston is always a treat. So many treasures here that you have to keep your eyes open or so much will be missed.

A number of carloads also ventured quite a way down the Channel Highway to Gordon where we visited Wyn and Rupert Manner's large country garden right on the waterfront. This would certainly warrant another visit in spring. The year was rounded off with our mid-winter luncheon at the Southern Lights Restaurant in Kingston.

Thanks again for the sterling help and support that I've received from the committee. You all do so much to make the Society run so smoothly.

So now to look forward to the 2014-2015 rhododendron year, where the emphasis on the genus will once again be at the top of our list. Let's see if we can all find at least one new member to help swell our numbers and fall in love with the regal rhododendron.

Lesley Eaton

Victorian Branch

This year the Victorian Branch has been doing its best to behave like a duck on water. The exposed part, seen by bystanders, is the very image of serene inactivity, while below the surface there is a whole lot going on. Our activities have again revolved around the Gardens at Olinda. There is still much work taking place on identifying, recording, labelling and conserving what we have in the Gardens and more broadly. The building projects, undertaken in recent years, are coming to an end. These have resulted in the upgraded facilities of the Vireya House, propagation house, the potting shed and a “Rouse House” for seed-raising being operational and available to members.

The Vireya House, the refurbishment of which was written about last year, has proven hugely successful. The plants, now numbering about 150 different species, are growing very well. The climate control is working well, although the visitors are taken aback by the thick fog sometimes present, the kids love it though. The plants certainly appreciate the humidity and the cooler summer temperatures. The House is now a prominent feature of the Gardens and is a popular place for visitors. For those of us that work at the Gardens each week, it is endlessly interesting with a new flower either new to you or often never seen in cultivation before, blooming every week all through the year.

The propagation facilities in the nursery are giving us the opportunity to grow just about whatever we want. Which is just as well as increasingly we are being asked by the public and even nurseries to supply plants they can no longer get anywhere else. The latest addition to the facilities is a “Rouse House” or controlled atmosphere frame for germinating seeds, so far so good with this as the early results look very good. I’ll expand on this next year, when we know a bit more about its performance. This seed-raising box will be instrumental in growing material needed for projects at the Gardens. Particularly those projects now being planned which include planting more wild collected *Rhododendron* species.

This year, as in most recent years, the Victorian Branch can be seen to be operating as two very different societies. One with very few organised activities and very little contact with other ARS members, the other very active and very busy working at developing the Societies resources. It is unfortunate that the members of the former of the two groups, the invisible majority of Society members don’t participate more, either by becoming involved in the activities at the Gardens or just by letting the active members know what can done to increase their interest in and use of the Society. This could be as simple as accessing the library at Olinda, using the Society’s newly refurbished propagating facilities or even using the active members to source or grow plant material of interest.

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John O'Hara
President

Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society: A new Lookout at the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens in Blackheath, NSW

At the Campbell Rhododendron Gardens in Blackheath, NSW we have been building a lookout which will allow our members and visitors who cannot walk down the steep slopes to the Valley to see the spectacular vista of the rhododendron family in full flower. Major family members represented are rhododendrons, azaleas and kalmias. Of these there is a great variety on show. These and other exotic shrubs and plants nestle under tall eucalypts and mix with both indigenous, exotic and hybrid natives. All this foliage makes for a green backdrop to the wonderful colours of the springtime blooms. We understand this type of setting is unique in the world.

The lookout is over 4 metres above the valley floor and allows for views up and down the valley. One can now see for 360 degrees. A whole new vista has been opened up as from the end of the lookout a visitor can look back towards the Lodge and see a bank of rhododendrons and azaleas which aren't usually seen from a distance.

The Lookout has two plaques at its entry. One commemorates Ib Sorensen who had the original idea to develop a rhododendron garden in the Blue Mountains. He selected the present site and with support from the local nurserymen set about establishing the Gardens. The other plaque celebrates the role Dick Harris has played since the meeting in 1968 when the idea for the Gardens was proposed by Ib. The lookout is named the Dick Harris Lookout after our Gardens Supervisor, in order to celebrate the constant support he has given to the Gardens for over 46 years. The lookout was opened by Graham Ross VMM¹ on September 27th with over 80 people in attendance. A great day of celebration occurred.

From early October until the middle of November we welcome visitors who come from all over Australia and overseas to enjoy the colour, flower shapes and ambience of the Gardens.

Julia Hanley

¹ Vietch Memorial Medal, awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society in 2011



JULIA HANLEY

The Dick Harris Lookout at Campbell Rhododendron Gardens, Blackheath.

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden: Chairman's Annual Report 2013–14

The past year has again seen unprecedented development and achievement by the many volunteers and supporters of the Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year was the completion and official opening of our latest unique garden feature, the “Maurice Kupsch Chinese Pavilion.” This structure is further testimony to the enormous contribution of our honorary Curator Maurie and his dedicated band of EVRG volunteers. The naming of the Chinese Pavilion honours Maurie for his *selfless* commitment over the past 34 years. Maurie Kupsch’s leadership has been central to the rising status as a garden of international significance and home

to the largest collection of species rhododendrons growing outdoors in the world. What an incredible botanical achievement for a garden created here at Burnie and managed and owned by volunteer members.

Another significant highlight for the year include achieving a membership support base of 500. Our next target figure is 1,000 and just imagine what that would mean to us financially and politically.

Changing times create new challenges. The management committee is doing its best in addressing the increasing complexity and frustrations of modern day compliance. A new Workplace Health and Safety committee has been established to monitor and advise on our responsibilities. Chemical weed control now needs to be undertaken by accredited contractors.

Our dedicated catering team this year have achieved new highs and are underpinning our fundraising efforts to support the Gardens continuing development. The W.H. & S. responsibility for updates in “Food Handling” continue to be met, with the assistance of an accredited trainer.

With Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden now becoming a major enterprise, the challenge is to fund our continuing development and maintenance programme, budgeted to cost \$184,545 in 2014–15.

2103–14 plantings included 37 species plants, which brings the total number of species in our garden to 508, ensuring a very valuable legacy for future generations

Of particular importance to EVRG’s future is the alliances which we are building. During the past year we have been able to progress our relationship with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden in Hobart and the Rhododendron Species Foundation in Seattle. These two like-minded organisations have much to offer EVRG and the strengthening of our relationships has many mutual benefits.

We must never underestimate the Garden created by our past and present members and volunteers. Where else in the world do you come across such a gem of a garden set in a natural amphitheatre, enjoying a temperate climate, free draining volcanic soils, a reliable rainfall plus a world class botanical collection and all privately owned by its members.

My congratulations and thanks to you all, our many supporters, donors and our volunteers for your help and support during the past year. In particular I wish to highlight the professional contribution and commitment of our Horticulturist Juanita Wood and our part time Business Manager Sue Johnson.

I am sure that you will all continue to be rewarded by the rising status of Emu Valley and the increasing recognition of the garden that you are creating.

Ian Chalk, Chairman.

September 2014

Tribute to Lyn Craven

ANDREW ROUSE

With the death of Lyn Craven on 11 July 2014, The Australian Rhododendron Society has lost one of its most renowned and respected members.

Lyn commenced his career in 1964 with the CSIRO in the plant taxonomy unit of the New Guinea Survey Group. This took him to Papua New Guinea and between 1964–1966 and 1971–1974 Lyn collected a wide range of New Guinea flora and it was here that he first observed and collected vireyas, starting a life-long academic and recreational interest in the group. Lyn collected in Bougainville, the Hunstein Range, Mount Victoria, Mount Albert Edward and around Aseki in the Morobe District. From these expeditions he introduced into cultivation *R. loranthiflorum*, *R. luraluense*, *R. gracilentum*, *R. wrightianum* ssp. *wrightianum*, *R. spondylophyllum*, *R. superbum*, *R. macgregoriae*, *R. leptanthum* and *R. yelliotii*.

His most remarkable discovery, however, was a seedling he found in the Hunstein Range, Sepik River valley, Papua New Guinea. As he described it, Lyn came across the seedling on a log at ground level, and knowing that it should be epiphytic and that its chances of survival at ground level were

slim, he decided to collect it and bring it back to Australia. Initially called *R. gardenia* affinis, Lyn gave this seedling to my father who grew it to flowering at which time it was identified by Lyn as *R. leucogigas*; he coined the name *R. leucogigas* ‘Hunstein’s Secret’ to differentiate it from the only other introduction of *R. leucogigas* made by Sleumer, Cyclops Mountains of West Papua. This is a truly remarkable plant in flower with a truss that spans 12 inches, and pure white flowers that distinguish it from the Cyclops Mountain form (Figure 1). *R. leucogigas* has been widely used as a parent in hybridising in Australia – all stem from Lyn’s introduction of the sole seedling from the Hunstein Range.



A few years ago Lyn very kindly gave me a mature plant of *R. leucogigas* that my father had struck as a cutting from the original seedling collected by Lyn. Lyn couldn't remember when he received the plant, however by counting the annual growth we estimated the plant to be about 40 years old. After all this time the plant only has three branches and at best flowers every 4–5 years. A second plant he also gave me flowered for the first time the week Lyn died.

Between 1968–1970 Lyn studied horticulture at Burnley Horticultural College where he met his wife, Kirsty.

In 1996, Lyn and Dr Bob Withers, another long-standing ARS member at the time, proposed that *R. lochiai*, Australia's native vireya species, be split into two species. They proposed a new name, *R. notiale* for the curved corolla species found on the mountain tops south of Cairns, and the retention of the name *R. lochiai* for the straight corolla species found north of Cairns. Lyn argued for the name *R. lochiai* to be applied to the northern species as it was the plant widely held in cultivation and almost exclusively used in hybridising. Whilst the splitting into two species was accepted, the committees of the body governing plant nomenclature did not accept the use of *R. lochiai* for the northern species on the grounds that *R. lochiai* was first applied to the southern population and therefore the name must be retained for that species. Lyn was unsuccessful in bringing them around and reluctantly agreed to their decision and in 2002 he renamed the northern species *R. viriosum*.

In 2002, Lyn led an expedition to Sulawesi, Indonesia. Lyn wanted to collect vireyas in Sulawesi as at that time, few of the Sulawesi species were in cultivation and the species endemic to Sulawesi – halfway between Borneo and New Guinea – were important to include in his subsequent work on the systematics of vireya. Lyn and Dr Gillian Brown, University of Melbourne, teamed up with local botanists and collected vireyas on Gunung Rantemario, Gunung Sesean, Lore Lindu National Park and Gunung Sojol. Lyn brought back living material and established in cultivation in Australia *R. celebicum*, *R. radians*, *R. pudorinum*, *R. vanvuurenii*, *R. rhodopus* and *R. seranicum*. In a paper published a month after his death, Lyn described three new species, two of which – *R. dissilistellatum* and *R. torajaense* – he collected in Sulawesi and introduced into cultivation, and proposed the elevation of *R. seranicum* ssp. *sparsihirtus*, also collected in Sulawesi, to species level, with the new name *R. biappendiculatum*. In this paper he also described *R. gumineense*, a diminutive phaeovireya that's been in cultivation in Australia since 1974, and proposed elevating the sub-species of *R. javanicum* to species level.

From 2005 onwards, Lyn's vireya research focus was systematic, culminating in a series of papers he co-authored on the classification of vireya based on their phylogeny. In this classification, vireya are given a new name

– *Schistanthe* – as this name predates *Vireya* at Sectional level, and four sub-sections are recognised – *Discovireya*, *Eurvireya*, *Malayvireya* and *Pseudovireya*.

Lyn built up arguably the most comprehensive *vireya* species collection in Australia, securing seed from a wide range of sources to supplement the material he had collected. He grew all of his *vireyas* in pots and kept them in a glasshouse on his block in Melba, Canberra. During the course of his work, Lyn described *R. viriosum*, *R. xenium* (with Gillian Brown), *R. rubineiflorum*, *R. dissilistellatum*, *R. torajaense* and *R. gumineense*. He also proposed the reinstatement of *R. warianum* on the basis that its bark is quite distinct from *R. leptanthum*.

The *rhododendron* world will remember Lyn for his contribution to this genus, however the bulk of Lyn's research was in the systematics of Australian flora and particularly the *Myrtaceae* family. For nearly all of his working life Lyn was a Research Botanist at the Australian National Herbarium where his research interests included *Melaleuca*, *Syzygium*, *Hibiscus*, *Gossypium* and *Glycine*. Lyn collected extensively around Australia and over the course of his career collected 15,000 specimens, an extraordinary contribution to the herbarium collection. In many ways he was the botanists' botanist. He had a very broad botanical knowledge, a sharp eye for detail, excellent analytical and synthetic skills, and was the person his colleagues at the Herbarium went to with those troubling taxonomic queries. At his eulogy, his colleague Brendan Lepschi described him as one of the best field botanists of recent times. He was incredibly generous of his time, knowledge and expertise, a mentor to many younger botanists, quiet, considered and reflective until such time he had formed an opinion or come to a conclusion.

Lyn strongly believed that plants needed to be spread around to safeguard them in cultivation and went to considerable lengths to circulate species in his collection including those he collected in Sulawesi. For example, about 50% of the 150 species, sub-species and forms in the refurbished *vireya* house at the National *Rhododendron* Gardens, Olinda, have directly or indirectly come from Lyn's private collection. The glasshouse collection is a fitting testament to Lyn and other Society members who worked so diligently for so many years to ensure these species were secure in cultivation in Australia.

Lyn is survived by his wife Kirsty, children Cathy and Ross, and grandchildren Mia and Scott. ❀

Sulawesi vireyas introduced into cultivation by Lyn Craven

ANDREW ROUSE

Introduction

In July 2002, Lyn Craven and Gillian Brown, University of Melbourne, collected vireyas in Sulawesi in four locations – Gunung Rantemario, Gunung Sesean, Lore Lindu National Park and Gunung Sojol. Sulawesi was selected as at the time relatively few of the endemic species had been introduced in cultivation and Lyn was also seeking material to use for molecular studies into the systematics of vireya. With Sulawesi mid-way between the centres of vireya diversity of Borneo and New Guinea, it was important to include in this study a range of species from that island. Lyn brought back seed or cuttings of 14 vireya species of which nine have been successfully established in cultivation in Australia (Table 1).

Much of the information presented in this article was provided to me by Lyn over the last few years. Lyn examined specimens as they came into flower, and in an article published a month after his death, Lyn described two new species and elevated a sub-species to species level from the Sulawesi expedition¹. Mindful of how quickly provenance information can be lost, I've decided to publish the information provided to me by Lyn along with his views on the doubtful taxa.

Distribution to ARS members

Lyn grew the material brought back from Sulawesi in his glasshouse in Melba, ACT and distributed seedlings, cuttings and larger plants to ARS members on his semi-regular visits to Melbourne. From earlier distributions the only species that the ARS has managed to grow successfully outdoors, in the vireya species bed at the National Rhododendron Gardens Olinda, are *R. dissilistellatum*, *R. pudorinum* and *R. vanvuurenii*, of which only *R. dissilistellatum* is taking to the conditions well.

From 2008, Lyn substantially scaled back his vireya collection, and brought many plants to Melbourne for distribution to ARS members and more recently, for planting in the refurbished vireya glasshouse at NRG Olinda. We were fortunate to receive from Lyn specimens of all the species he collected in Sulawesi. The ARS-VIC volunteers are in the process of establishing these species in the vireya house at NRG Olinda and in time, all of the species collected by Lyn in Sulawesi will be on display.

Species Collected

#20: possibly *R. rhodopus*?

This species was collected as seed, at 2,000 m on Gunung Rantemario. Lyn described it as possibly *R. rhodopus*, however he never flowered it in cultivation. The plant he gave me flowered in 2010 however unfortunately I only got around to photographing it and not keying it out, and it has not flowered since. It does have pink pedicels, a defining characteristic of *R. rhodopus*, so may prove to be that species (Figure 1) though Lyn's field description is that it is unscented (unlike *R. rhodopus*). Its vegetative features are broadly consistent with *R. rhodopus*. It needs to be examined next time it flowers.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW ROUSE

Figure 1: #20, possibly *R. rhodopus* (Lyn Craven 2002 Sulawesi expedition).

#76: *R. pudorinum*

Collected on Gunung Rantemario at 3,132 m, this species has yet to flower in cultivation. To date the plants consist of a single stalk and defy all efforts to encourage them to branch. The vegetative features are consistent with the description of *R. pudorinum*.

#78: new species named *R. torajaense*²

This species was collected as seed, 1,359 m on Gunung Sesean. Lyn observed it in flower in the wild and the description attached to the herbarium specimen describes it as “Shrub to 1 m tall. Flowers white and fragrant”. The plant Lyn gave me flowered however whilst I was travelling so unfortunately I was unable to examine it. I did manage to photograph it in bud (Figure 2). In late 2013, Lyn had high quality photographs of the herbarium specimens compared with the isotype of *R. rhodopus* held in Leiden and concluded that it is not a reasonable match for *R. rhodopus*. Lyn subsequently described it as a new species – *R. torajaense*.



Figure 2: *R. torajaense* (Lyn Craven 2002 Sulawesi expedition).

#114: new species named *R. dissilistellatum*

Collected as cuttings on Gunung Sojol, in Argent³ it keys to *R. radians* however differs in the leaf lamina being narrowly elliptic to narrowly obovate with the base cuneate to obtuse. In contrast, the leaf lamina of *R. radians* is ovate to ovate-oblong with the base cordate. *R. dissilistellatum* also has hairs to within 2 mm of the apex of the style whereas for *R. radians* has hairs only at the base of the style. In all other respects it is very similar to *R. radians*. A very pretty species in flower (Figure 3), it grows well outside in Melbourne and has been established in the species bed at NRG Olinda. We have true *R. radians* received from another source growing the NRG Olinda glasshouse, and on examination the differences in leaf shape between it and *R. dissilistellatum* are apparent.



Figure 3: *R. dissilistellatum* (Lyn Craven 2002 Sulawesi collection).

‘Sojol rhodopus’: sub-species elevated to species level and renamed *R. biappendiculatum*

Not given a collection number and referred informally by Lyn as ‘Sojol rhodopus’, it was collected on Gunung Sojol as a single cutting from a plant not observed in flower in the wild. In 2006 Lyn gave the sole plant to me to tend and it flowered for the first time in 2010 (Figure 4). It keys to *R. seranicum* and fits the description of *R. seranicum* ssp. *sparsihirtus* described by Argent in 2013⁴ from a specimen also collected on Gunung Sojol by David Binney. Lyn was of the view that his collection of this plant was from a very similar location, if not the same population, as that collected by David Binney. Lyn has elevated *R. seranicum* ssp. *sparsihirtus* to species level and re-named it *R. biappendiculatum* as it differs from *R. seranicum* in having biappendiculate anthers (in *R. seranicum* they are blunt or minutely apiculate), narrowly oblong-obovoid ovary (oblong-conical in *R. seranicum*) and the pedicels not, or scarcely widened at the apex (thickened at the apex in *R. seranicum*)⁵. *R. biappendiculatum* has flowered annually since 2010 however is not a vigorous plant, it does not readily branch and the freshly opened truss quickly spoils. In growth pattern and plant shape it is superficially similar to *R. javanicum* ssp. *brookeanum*.



Figure 4: *R. biappendiculatum* (Lyn Craven 2002 Sulawesi expedition).

Field Collection Information		Cultivation and Herbarium Information				
Collection No.	Field Description	Collection location, altitude and date for species established in cultivation	Collected as seed or cutting	Successfully established in cultivation	Australian National Herbarium Catalogue No.	Identified as:
Gunung Rantemario						
20	sp. [ser. <i>Javanica</i> , <i>rhodopus</i> or similar – needs flowers for identification]	Gunung Rantemario: on path between Karangan and Bulu Rantemario, alt ~2,000 m, 7/7/02	Seed	Yes	CANB 637708.1	To be determined, possibly <i>R. rhodopus</i>
27	<i>malayanum</i> var. <i>malayanum</i>	—	Seed	No	—	—
31	sp. [subsect. <i>Albovireya</i> , cf. <i>zollingeri</i> – needs flowers for identification]	—	Seed	No	—	—
34	? <i>laguncularipum</i> hybrid [perhaps with <i>zollingeri</i> as the other parent]	—	Seed	No	—	—
43	<i>eymae</i>	—	Seed	No	—	—
76	<i>pudorinum</i> [need flowers for identification]	Gunung Rantemario: Pos 7 on track from Karangan to Bulu Rantemario, 3,132 m, 9/7/02	Seed	Yes	CANB 637763.1	<i>R. pudorinum</i>
77	<i>celebicum</i>	—	Seed	No	—	—
Gunung Sesean and Rantepao						
78	<i>rhodopus</i>	Gunung Sesean: Batutumonga, on way to Gunung Sesean, 1,359 m, 12/7/02	Seed	Yes	CANB 637765.1	<i>R. torajaense</i>

Gunung Sojol						
114	sp. [subject: <i>Solenovireya</i> cf. <i>radians</i> – need flowers for identification]	Gunung Sojoi: Balukang, on Tinombo–Siboang path (between camp 3 and Camp 1), 1,153 m, 23/7/02	Cuttings	Yes	CANB 637801.1	<i>R. dissistellatum</i>
—	sp. [ser. <i>Javanica</i> , <i>rhodopus</i> or similar – need flowers for identification]	Gunung Sojoi	Cuttings	Yes	—	<i>R. seranicum</i> ssp. <i>sparsihirtus</i> or <i>R. biappendiculatum</i>
Lore Lindu National Park						
123	<i>vanvuureнии</i>	Poso region: Lore Utara, Sedoa, Puncak Padeha, 1,575 m, 27/7/02	Seed	Yes	CANB 637810.1	<i>R. vanvuureнии</i>
124	sp. [need flowers for identification]	Lote Utara, Sedoa, Danau Kalimpaa, 1,600 m, 27/7/02	Cuttings	Yes	CANB 637811.1	<i>R. celebicum</i>
125	<i>zollingeri</i>	Poso region: Lore Utara, logging road to Gunung Rorekatimbu, 2,179 m, collected 27/7/02	Seed	Yes	CANB 637812.1	<i>R. zollingeri</i>
126	<i>malayanum</i> var. <i>malayanum</i>	—	Seed	No	—	—
127	<i>altmans</i> ?	—	Cuttings	No	—	—
128	<i>radians</i> (long corollas, 8.5 cm when dried)	—	Cuttings	No	—	—
129	aff. <i>rhodopus</i> [perhaps worth taxonomic recognition; inter alia leaf features, long corollas (8 cm when dried); fragrance]	Lore Lindu National Park	Seed	Yes	—	Possibly <i>R. rhodopus</i>

Table 1: Living material introduced in Australia from Sulawesi from Sulawesi expedition, July 2002. Source: Lyn Craven personal communication and Australian National Herbarium database.

#123: *R. vanvuurenii*

Collected as seed on Puncak Padeha, it has flowered in cultivation since about 2009 and flowers observed are whitish flushed to a light violet, with the flower colour fading to white over time (Figure 5). It is a very leggy plant, and does not grow well outside and has shown to be highly susceptible to rust.



Figure 3: *R. vanvuurenii* (Lyn Craven 2002 Sulawesi expedition).

#124: *R. celebicum*

Collected as cuttings at 1,600 m near Lore Lindu National Park, it is a pink flowering form of *R. celebicum* that has flowered annually since 2012 (see our front cover for a photograph). A plant donated by Lyn for the vireya house at NRG Olinda flowered profusely in May this year.

#125: *R. zollingeri*

Collected at 2,179 m near Lore Lindu National Park, this species keys to *R. zollingeri* and has flowered repeatedly in cultivation. Not a particularly showy plant on flower, it is however one of the hardier Sulawesi vireyas and grows quite happily outdoors in Melbourne. We aim to establish in the species vireya bed at NRG Olinda.

#129: probably *R. rhodopus*

Collected near Lore Lindu National Park, this species has not yet flowered in cultivation. Lyn collected it in flower and thought it might be a new species given large leaf size and flowers. Its flowers are about 80 mm whereas *R. rhodopus* is 65–70 mm. He mentioned to me that the flowers are strongly scented with a ‘Feijoa’ fragrance! It has a weak root system, and to date none of the plants have branched. Lyn had photographs of the herbarium specimens compared with the isotype of *R. rhodopus* held at Leiden and the conclusion reached is that it is a reasonable match for *R. rhodopus*. It needs to be examined when it flowers, and as with #20 examined against the description of *R. rhodopus*.

Next Steps

Hopefully the taxonomic status of #20 and #129 can be resolved once they have been examined in flower. Lyn’s wish was for his Sulawesi collection to be distributed amongst private and institutional collections, and to that end, please contact me if you are interested in growing any of these species. ❀

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Population discovery and new elevation record for
Rhododendron maddenii

from Dzongu valley, Sikkim Himalaya (India)

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The Dzongu, is a special area reserved for the original inhabitants or the indigenous tribe of Sikkim, the “Rongkup” or the Lepchas by the then ruler of Sikkim. It is located in the north district of Sikkim and is bounded by the river Teesta in the south-east, the Lamo Angden Peak in the north-east and in the west by the rising mountains leading to the Mount Khangchendzonga, the third highest peak in the world. The Lepcha pronounced it as “Kong-chen-chu” or “Kingstoom Zaongboo Choo”, which means the house of five treasures or the bright auspicious forehead peak (Pradhan and Badola, 2008; Pradhan et al., 2014). It has an approximate area of 78 sq km and lies between 27°28’–27°37’ N Lat and 88°23’–88°38’ E Long along 700 m asl to 6,000 m asl. Being a forest dwellers, the Lepchas have accumulated vast knowledge on the flora and fauna of the region which has been well acknowledged by the great explorers, naturalists, ecologists like Sir J.D. Hooker and others, during their explorations in Sikkim (Rawat and Tambe, 2011).

Being located in the remote part of Sikkim, the area has received least attention in terms of biodiversity explorations; most of the works in this part of Sikkim is focused on social anthropology due to the historical significance of the area. Various research institutions and researchers have tried to document the biodiversity of the area at different times, the significant one is by Badola and Pradhan (2010a) which led to the discovery of the very important rhododendron species *Rhododendron niveum*, the State tree of Sikkim. There are several other areas in the valley which is still unexplored and may harbour several rare and endemic floral and faunal components, completely new to the world of science.

Dzongu valley harbours over 20 species of rhododendrons; our recent exploration in the Dzongu valley led to the addition of another important



Rhododendron maddenii habitat at population site I.

rhododendron species *Rhododendron maddenii* in the list of rhododendrons of Dzongu. The species was first discovered in Sikkim from Choongthang, North Sikkim by Sir J.D. Hooker during his botanical exploration (1847–1849); he named it after his friend, Lt. Col. E. Madden, and is popularly known by the name “Major madden ko Chimal” in Sikkim. The species is distributed in India (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur), Bhutan, Northeast Myanmar, China, North Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. This species bears highly fragrant flowers and has two sub-species, (i) *maddenii* (Batalin) H. Hara, from the western end of the range, which includes the former species, *calophyllum*, *brachysiphon*, *maddenii* and *polyandrum*; and (ii) *crassum* (Franchet) Cullen, represented from eastern half of the range by including the former species *crassum*, *manipurensis*, *chapaensis* and *odoriferum* (Badola and Pradhan, 2010b). The species is also reported from Rately chu area at ca. 2,000 m asl, near to state capital, Gangtok, in east Sikkim. Various researchers assumed the species to be rare and its natural population to be very low and scarce in Sikkim, varying from one to two individuals; however, new gregarious population exploration by Badola and Pradhan (2010b) in another part of Choongthang (ca. 1,800 m asl) on the way to Lachen along the border of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, questioned perceived rare and endangered status for the species in Sikkim.



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Rhododendron maddenii at population site 2.

On 18 April 2014, we encountered two new populations of *R. maddenii* in upper Dzongu; the first population at an altitude of ca. 750m asl and the second population at ca. 950 m asl. The two populations were completely separate, occupying different aspect and were approximately 1.5–2.0 km away from each other in the different valleys. The first population was located in riverine habitat at the confluence of Tolung chu and Rahi chu (which flows down as Tolung chu till it joins River Tista at Namprikdang, upper Dzongu) on the rocky slope facing south-west aspect, in a small patch of approximately 1,000 m². We observed encouraging number of *R. maddenii* at the population site in association with indigenous species like *Alnus nepalensis*, *Cythea* sp., *Engelhardtia acerifolia*, *Ostedes paniculatus*, *Pandanus furcatus*, *Schima wallichii* etc., in addition to some cactus species. The population site is away from the main road on the other side of the Tolung chu and cannot be spotted easily even when in flowering stage. It falls on the trekking trail to Paanch Pokhari vis-a-vis Kishong Lake via Leek village, but, is used very rarely. The population site being on the rocky slope is not easily accessible and is away from the human interferences due to which, it is not facing much threat at the moment. But what we observed was that the ongoing construction of link road/alternate road connecting Safo–Ship Gyer (easternmost part of upper Dzongu) and Sankalang (southeast part of upper Dzongu) on the opposite



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Close-up of *Rhododendron maddenii* flower.

slope of the population site will certainly expose the species to everyone in the future, which is unknown to date, leading to massive exploitation of the species in the name of research and development as well as conservation. As per Mingdup Lepcha, local resident of the area, he has seen similar kind of the plant further higher up on the same hill in a small patch, which needs further confirmation.

The other population was encountered at Lingbo area, just above the main road (road reserve) to Passingdang at the hill top covering approximately 1,000 m², growing in association with species like *Pieris ovalifolia*, *Pandanus furcatus*, *Quercus* sp., *Schima wallichii*, *Walsura tubulata*, *Engelhardtia acerifolia* etc. The habitat it occupied is rocky, steep slope facing northeast direction but can be accessed easily. The population site is visible from the road itself but the local people were not able to identify it as the rhododendron species because its smooth dark green shiny foliage does not resemble rhododendrons and

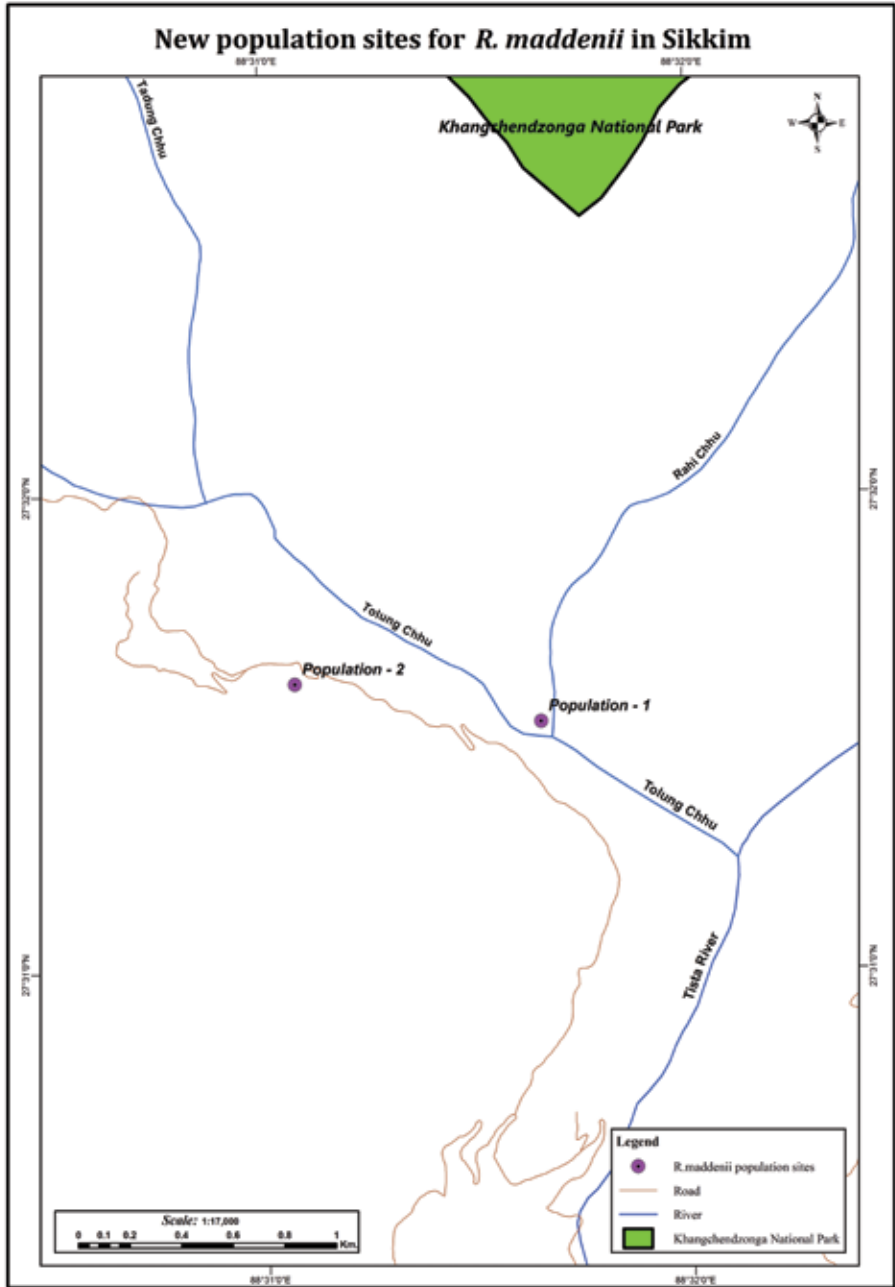


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Dendrobium nobile, the State flower of Sikkim, growing along with *Rhododendron maddenii* at population site 2.

gets camouflaged easily with other species. Nevertheless its existence can be made out from the fragrance of its flower. Though there are agricultural fields adjoining the population site, the local people were least interested in the species; perhaps they have conserved it for some reason or have neglected it, considering it to be one of the unimportant forest shrub species. Due to this reason, it did not attract the attention of the researchers and scientists who persistently visits Dzongu valley for research purposes. The site has a massive population of *Rhododendron maddenii* and the individual plants were found to be robust; this indicates that the species existed in the area for a long time but went unnoticed till now. The existence of the plants bearing similar kind of fragrant flower in a patch higher up on the same hill, as per Mingdup Lepcha, indicates that the species is available in other parts of Dzongu valley also; this further hints that the species have a clustered and localised distribution rather than having a regular distribution all along the slopes.

In both the population sites, the species was seen occupying rocky slopes, indicating such slopes to be the favourite habitat requirement for the



Location points of *Rhododendron maddenii* in Dzongu valley, Sikkim (India).

species. These population sites are in the forest area under the custody of the Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife Management and are not in immediate danger of exploitation. Nevertheless, there is an urgent need to declare these two areas as *R. maddenii* conservation zone in order to 1) maintain the species in its natural habitat, 2) preserve its natural gene bank, and 3) provide protection to the species. Further scientific explorations are required in these areas to know the exact current status of the species so that scientific planning can be done for its habitat management.

Till the present discovery of the new population of *R. maddenii* in Dzongu valley, there was a general perception that its natural population is available only in Choongthang, north Sikkim and Ratey chu, east Sikkim, India. Further, it was widely believed that the species occurs above 1,500 m asl (Pradhan and Lachungpa, 1990; www.efloras.org); however, we recorded the species below the altitude level mentioned in the literature, i.e. at ca. 750 m asl and ca. 950 m asl in Dzongu valley, north Sikkim, which is a new elevation record for the species along with the new population evidence from Sikkim Himalaya. Such discovery confirms the existence of more populations of *Rhododendron maddenii* in the wilderness areas of Sikkim Himalaya and recommends the need for further detailed explorations in priority. Nevertheless, our exploration for *Rhododendron* is on.



Authors at population site 1: Dorjee Chewang Bhutia (left) and Bharat Kumar Pradhan (right).

Acknowledgments

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New Registrations 2013–2014

LESLEY EATON

The following is a listing of registrations submitted by the Australian Rhododendron Society Plant registrar, and approved by the Royal Horticultural Society during the year 2013–2014.

Colour numbers refer to the R.H.S. Colour Chart. Accompanying colour names are taken from *A Contribution Towards Standardization of Color Names in Horticulture*, R.D. Huse and K.L. Kelly, edited D.H. Voss (ARS 1984).

Parents of plants are reported in the conventional order – seed parent × pollen parent.

Abbreviations used: H hybridized by
G grown to first flower
S selected by
N named by
I introduced by
R registered by

I have included broad colour definitions after RHS Colour Chart numbers for the flowers. This will enable members without access to the chart to have some idea of the colour of the flower.

‘All Innocence’ Elepidote hybrid of *griffithianum* × *decorum* H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1986). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1992). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: loose ball consisting of 10–11 broadly funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 55mm × 75mm. Lobes: 6 wavy. Buds: 158C to 158D (cream). Corolla: Inside and outside. 155B (yellowish white) deepening to 144D (lime green) in the throat. Calyx: 1–2mm 144D (lime green). Leaves: elliptic 140mm–160mm × 60mm. Upper surface: matt. Height: 3.8m × 3.5m in 28 years. Flowering time: October–November. Lightly scented.

‘All My Eye’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘A. Bedford’ × ‘Queen Souriya’. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1987) G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1994). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: ball consisting of 12 funnel-campanulate shaped flowers. Corolla: 55–65mm × 90–95mm. Lobes: 6 frilly. Buds: 62B (pink) fading to 62C (pale pink). Corolla: Inside and outside. 62D (pale pink). Blotch: 186A (magenta) from throat flaring out across upper lobes dispersing to spots by outer edge of lobe. Calyx: 2–4mm 194B (sage green). Leaves: elliptic 110–170mm. Upper surface: glossy. Height: 1.8m × 1.6m in 25+ years. Flowering time: November.

‘Belle Amber’ Elepidote hybrid of *fargesii* hybrid × *litiense*. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1990). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1996). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate. Truss: ball consisting of 8–10 open funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 45mm × 85mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 55A (deep pink). Corolla: Inside and outside. 155D (off white). Stripe of 55A (deep pink) along mid-veins of each outer corolla. Blotch: 45B (deep red) over upper lobe from base to apex. Calyx: 1–2mm 153C (greenish-yellow). Leaves: elliptic 80–100mm × 40–55mm. Upper surface : matt. Height: 2.70m × 2.5m in 25 years. Flowering time: October–November.

‘Bounteous’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Fusilier’ × ‘Cup Day’. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1988). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1994). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate. Truss: lax consisting of 9 open funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 37mm × 30mm Lobes: 5 flat. Buds: 46C (bright red). Corolla: Inside and outside. 46C (bright red) Spots of 46B (red) flared across all lobes. Calyx: 1–2mm 46D (light red). Leaves: oblanceolate 165–195mm. Upper surface: glossy. Height: 2.8m × 2.4m in 26 years. Flowering time: November–December.

‘Christine Elizabeth’ Elepidote hybrid of (‘Lems Cameo’ × ‘Jingle Bells’) × ‘Aileen O’Rourke’ H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2000). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2006) N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate Truss: lax dome consisting of 14 open funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 55–60mm × 45–50mm. Lobes: 5–7 wavy. Buds: 181B–181C (dull red). Corolla: Inside and outside. 54A (bright pink) fading to 54C (dusky pink) at margins. Blotch: 18A (deep yellow) fading to 180C (light tan). Blotch concentrated at base then fans out to mid-way across dorsal lobe. Calyx: 10–13mm 54A (bright pink) over 4C (lemon). Leaves: obovate 113mm × 58mm. Upper surface: matt. Height: 1.2m × 1.49m in 14 years. Flowering time: October–November.

‘Craig Holmes’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Gift’ × ‘Samantha Sawyers’. H: D.J. Dosser (1995) G: D.J. Dosser (1999) N & R: D.J. Dosser (2013) Truss: ball consisting of 11 funnel-shaped flowers. Lobes: 7 Buds: 57A (bright pink). Corolla: Inside and outside 66C (deep pink) with white striping. Leaves: obtuse 125mm × 40mm. Upper surface: matt. Height: 1m × 1.1m in 15 years. Flowering time: November.

‘Dark Queen’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Anah Kruschke’ × ‘Madame Doumier’. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1987). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1995). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: conical consisting of 18–20 broadly campanulate shaped flowers. Corolla: 50mm–60mm × 70mm–75mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 70A (deep magenta). Corolla: Inside. 70B (magenta) fading

through to 70C (dusky pink). Outside. 70C (dusky pink). Large flare 79A (deep purple) right through upper lobe. Leaves: lanceolate 98mm–143mm × 42mm–51mm. Upper surface glossy. Height: 1.9m × 2.40m in 10+ years. Flowering time: December.

‘Epiphany’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘The Master’ × ‘Coronation Day’. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1981). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1987). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: large conical consisting of 18 saucer-shaped flowers. Corolla: 55mm × 115mm. Lobes: 7 frilly. Buds: 62A (dusky pink). Corolla: Inside. 62A (dusky pink) fading to 62D (pale pink) by margin over 155B (off white). 53B (dull red) deep in throat. Leaves: lanceolate 165mm–175mm × 55mm–65mm. Upper surface: glossy. Height: 2.28m × 1.9m In 35 years. Flowering time: October–November

‘Fine Style’ Elepidote hybrid of *decorum* × *vernicosum* H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1988). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2004). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: ball consisting of 16 open funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 32mm × 53mm. Lobes: 7 frilly. Buds: 55B (pink) & 56A (light pink). Corolla: Inside. 155B (cream) with 46A (dark red) blotch deep in base of upper lobe, extending 8mm–11mm up the lobe. Outside 155B (cream) with pink stripe 68B (bright pink) up mid vein of each lobe. Calyx: 0.5mm–1.00mm 146C (mid-green). Leaves: oblanceolate 140mm–160mm × 50mm–55mm. Upper surface: glossy. Height: 2.4m × 2.3m in 16 years. Flowering time: October–November.

‘Infiolata’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Lems Cameo’ × ‘Jingle Bells’. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2000). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2006). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: lax consisting of 13 open funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 63mm × 75mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 45D (red). Corolla: Inside 38A (pale orange) at outer margin over 7C & 7D (yellow). Outside 38B/C (apricot) at outer margin over 7B (mid yellow). Blotch: Orange-red blotch on upper lobe. Calyx: 7D (lemon) 15mm–20mm. Leaves: elliptical 90mm–95mm × 45mm. Upper surface: glossy. Height: 1m × 1.5m in 14 years. Flowering time: October.

‘Joanne Holmes’ Elepidote hybrid of unknown seed and pollen parents. H: D.J. Dosser G: D.J. Dosser N & R: D.J. Dosser (2013) Truss: ball consisting of 8 funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 40mm × 115mm. Lobes: 7 wavy. Buds: 64C (magenta). Corolla: Inside 65A (deep pink). Outside 63A (crimson). Leaves: Truncate 115mm × 40mm. Margins decurved, upper surface matt. Height: 2m × 2m in 10 years. Flowering time: October–November.

‘Lockington Pink Surprise’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Annie Dosser’ × ‘Gills Gloriosa’. H: D. J. Dosser (1990). G: D. J. Dosser (2000). N & R: D. J. Dosser (2013). Truss: dome consisting of 20 funnel – shaped flowers. Corolla: 40mm × 50mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 68A (deep pink). Turns white leaving a pink edge. Corolla: Inside and outside 74C (strong bluish– pink). Fades to white. Slight spots on the top lobe. Leaves: Cuneate 150mm × 50mm, margins upcurved. Upper surface glossy. Height: 3m × 4m in 15 years. Flowering time: September.

‘Lockington Red Head’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Fiery Woman’ × ‘Countess of Lockington’. H: D. J. Dosser G: D. J. Dosser N & R: D. J. Dosser (2013). Truss: ball consisting of 10 funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 75mm × 50mm. Lobes: 6 wavy. Buds: 66A (bright pink). Corolla: 66A (bright pink). Leaves: Truncate 75mm × 30mm. Margins decurved. Upper surface matt. Height: 0.8m × 0.8m in 5 years. Flowering time: October/ November.

‘Moira Jane’ Elepidote hybrid of (‘Jalisco’ × ‘Mrs P. D. Williams’) × wardii. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1999). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2005). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: ball consisting of 12 open funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 65mm–67mm × 85mm–90mm. Lobes: 7 wavy. Buds: 38A (pale orange) interspersed with 5D (light yellow). Corolla: 49A (salmon pink). Blotch: 10A (rich yellow) deep into throat. Calyx: 179A (reddish–tan) interspersed with 10A (rich yellow). Leaves: Lanceolate 110mm × 34mm. Margins wavy. Upper surface matt. Height: 1.43m × 1.6m in 15+ years. Flowering time: October/November.

‘Mother’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Annie Dosser’ × ‘Red Gate’. H: D. J. Dosser (1990). G: D. J. Dosser (2000). N & R: D. J. Dosser (2013). Truss: dome consisting of 15 campanulate-shaped flowers. Corolla: 50mm × 40mm. Lobes: 6 wavy. Buds: 68B (bright pink). Corolla: Spots of 59B (dark crimson) all over white inside. Outside white. Leaves: Lanceolate 125mm × 40mm. Margins decurved. Upper surface glossy. Height: 1.5m × 1.5m in 15 years. Flowering time: September–November.

‘Mr Hilary O’Rourke’ Elepidote hybrid of (‘Odee Wright’ × ‘Crest’) × (‘Lems Cameo’ × ‘Jingle Bells’). H: the late Hilary O’Rourke G: the late Hilary O’Rourke N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate. Truss: ball consisting of 15 funnel campanulate shaped flowers. Corolla: 55mm × 65mm. Lobes: 5–6 wavy. Buds: 7A–B–C (deep to mid yellow). Corolla: Inside 6C (mid–yellow) with 7A (bright yellow) deep in the throat. Blotch: 146C (olive) 20mm on upper lobe. Calyx: 151B (yellowish–green) 15mm–25mm. Leaves: Oblong 110mm × 45mm. Margins wavy. Upper surface glossy. Height: 1.7m × 2.1m in 15+ years. Flowering time: November.

‘Pacific Christie’ Vireya hybrid of unknown seed and pollen parents. H: Sylvia Saperstein G: Sylvia Saperstein I: Rhodo Glen Nurseries N & R: the late Lyn Craven (2014) Truss: flat consisting of 4 tubular-campanulate shaped flowers with a straight tube. Corolla: 65mm–68mm × 68mm–73mm Lobes: 7 flat Buds: colour unknown Corolla: Inside 42A (bright red), outside 8B (bright yellow) Leaves: elliptic 78mm–107mm × 44mm–56mm. Margins flat. Upper surface glossy. Height: 1.2m to 1.5m in 4 years. Flowering time: Several times during the year.

‘Pacific Dixie’ Vireya hybrid of unknown seed and pollen parents. H: Sylvia Saperstein G: Sylvia Saperstein I: Rhodo Glen Nurseries N & R: the late Lyn Craven (2014) Truss: flat consisting of 5–7 campanulate-shaped flowers Corolla: 80mm – 83mm × 81mm – 82mm Lobes: 5 flat Buds: colour unknown Corolla: inside Apex 20B (yellow-orange), base 30A (vivid orange-red). Outside: 32A (deep orange-red) Leaves: elliptic 82mm–125mm × 35mm–66mm. Margins flat. Upper surface dull. Height: 1.1m in 10 years Flowering time: Several times throughout the year.

‘Pride of Breffny’ Elepidote hybrid of griffithianum × ‘Unknown Warrior’. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke. (1987) G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1993). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: conical consisting of 12 openly funnel-shaped flowers. Corolla: 55mm × 70mm. Lobes: 5 wavy. Buds: 52A & B (light red). Corolla: Inside and outside 55A, B, C & D (deep pink to pale pink) fading into one another. Calyx: 160C (greyish-yellow) 3–4 mm. Leaves: lanceolate 140mm–160mm × 45mm–55mm. Margins – entire. Upper surface – glossy. Height: 3.2m × 1m in 25 years. Flowering time: October–November.

‘Romaine Lass’ Elepidote hybrid of ‘Belle Heller’ × ‘Mrs J. G. Millais’. H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1986). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1993). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: ball consisting of 12 saucer-shaped flowers. Corolla: 25mm × 42mm. Lobes: 5 flat. Buds: 85B & C (violet). Corolla: Inside and outside: 155D (creamy white). Blotch: 163B (mustard yellow) on upper lobe spreading out from base over entire lobe with a moderate splattering of some colour onto outer edge of adjacent lobes. Calyx: 144D (apple green). 0.5mm–1mm. Leaves: elliptic 110mm–130mm × 35mm–45mm. Margins entire. Upper surface glossy. Height: 1.3m × 1.5m in 28 years. Flowering time: October–November.

‘Solar Belle’ Elepidote hybrid of (‘CIS’ × *elliottii*) × (‘Award’ × ‘Ayers Rock’). H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1997). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2003). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: ball consisting of 16 campanulate flowers. Corolla: 43mm × 65mm. Lobes: 6 wavy. Buds: 33A–B (reddish-orange). Corolla: Inside 29C (pale apricot) at margins of each lobe with 11C–D (light yellow) along midrib. Spots: 33C (orange) on upper lobe. Outside 32C–D (orange) interspersed with 16C (bright yellow). Leaves: lanceolate Margins entire, upper surface glossy. Height: 1.5m × 1.4m in 17 years. Flowering time: October–November.

‘Sweet Molly Malone’ Elepidote hybrid of (‘The Master’ × ‘Sydney Sunset’) × (‘Lily’ × ‘Apricot Ice’). H: the late Hilary O’Rourke (1997). G: the late Hilary O’Rourke (2004). N & R: O’Rourke Family Estate (2014). Truss: conical consisting of 17 flat saucer-shaped flowers. Corolla: 65mm × 70–110mm. Lobes: 7 wavy. Buds: 67C (bluish-pink) fading to 67D (rose pink). Corolla: Inside 68A (bright bluish-pink) fading to 68C (pink). Outside 67C (bluish-pink) fading to 67D (rose pink). Leaves: oblong Margins decurved, upper surface matt. Height: 1.65m × 2.52m in 17 years. Flowering time: October.

Hilary O’Rourke hybrid ‘Mr Hilary O’Rourke’.



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Hilary O'Rourke hybrids: 'Dark Queen', above, and 'Epiphany', below.

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