The International Odontoglossum Alliance Journal

Supplement Spring 2020 ISSN2642-3464

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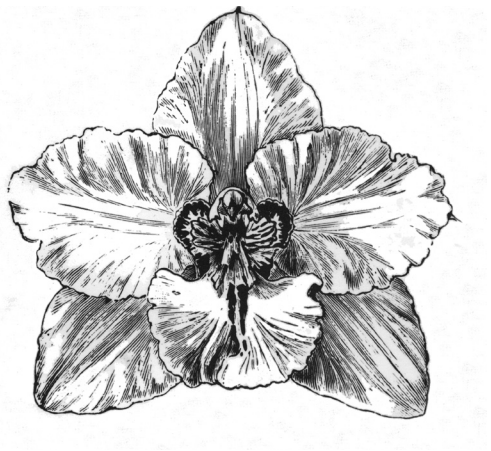


Suddenly the Penny Dropped

Andy Easton

I have always been fascinated by *Vuylstekeara* Cambria. It was the first Odont that I ever got from Keith Andrew, the original mother plant no less and I registered my first hybrid from it in 1984, the year before I left Santa Barbara to move back to New Zealand. Keith had brought a piece of the parent plant to me on one of his visits to Eugene, OR in the mid-1970's and I had become very interested in Odont breeding once we moved to Santa Barbara in 1978. My first Cambria hybrid was with the lovely Mansell & Hatcher hybrid, *Oda*. Red Rum and I named it for my mother. They were pretty and very free blooming but none made the cut in judging.

When I was living in New Zealand, I made two crosses onto my *Vuyls*. Cambria 'Plush'. The first was a crossing to *Vuyls*. Mem. Mary Kavanaugh 4n, which had been made with two tetraploid parents. Even then I was looking for a warmth-tolerant Odont but when the cross bloomed out at Floricultura, all the stems were a couple of flowers short of being long enough to be commercially viable. That didn't stop a certain Hawaiian taking one of the plants asserting he would use it for hybridizing. Of course he cloned it and that did not go over well with either Floricultura or me. But all water under the bridge now, a failed line. The other crossing I made was back to *Odm. harryanum*, a typical form that I had brought from the US. We sold some of the flasks into Australia and in 2002, one was awarded HCC/AOS for Atlantis Orchids with the name of *Vuyls*. Wyatt's Torch. Now that might have been an unfortunate grex name but let the story unfold. I was back in the US from July 2000 onwards and when I finally caught up with the photo, I was horrified. Firstly, the flower looked nothing like I expected (this has happened to me many times!!) but also I seriously doubted the recorded parentage and felt like I had made a serious labeling error.

Now I am living in the US and travelling down to Colombia for orchid events and affairs of the heart! In the late 2000's, I was foolishly given the freedom to make some Odont crosses at Colomborquideas and I was intrigued to use one of the very first *Vuyls*.

Vuyls Cambria 'Plush' 2n and 4n

Cambria 'Plush' meristems from Vacherot & Lecoufle as a pod parent for the crossing with *Odm. wyattianum*. I lost track of this effort and suddenly, when I flew down to the Medellin Orchid Festival in 2016, I saw the first seedling of this cross in bloom. Of course I did not judge it but another team did and gave the plant an AM/AOS. When the cross was registered, it was named *Vuyls*. Andy's Idea.

Let's go back in time and have a close look at *Vuyls*. Cambria. It is a most interesting orchid indeed. The pollen parent was *Odm*. Clonius, a Charlesworth plant which had lost its label so apart from seeing anunknown lineage, nobody can be sure even what the plant

Photo by Marni Turkel

Odm. harryanum

looked like. It really only featured in Charlesworth breeding and apart from an *Odtna*. Amphea which in some respects resembled Cambria, Cambria

Photo by Andrey Romanko

Odm. wyattianum

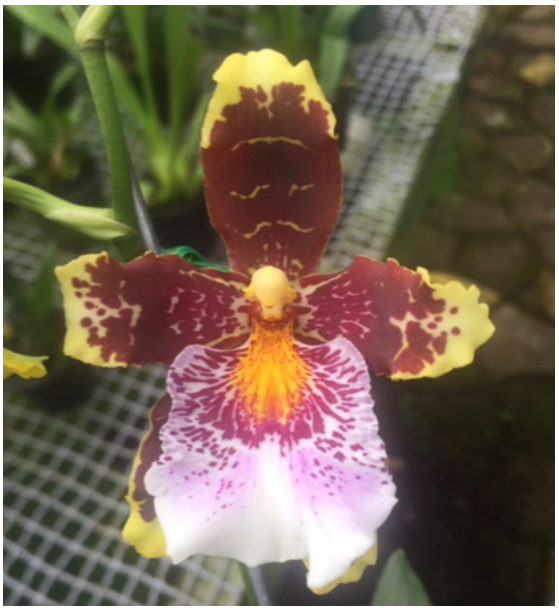
was clearly its star offspring. Because it was never shown/awarded, there are no RHS paintings or photos to cast any light on this mystery plant. The pod parent however was no mystery but no "fertile Myrtle" either! *Vuyls*. Rudra gave rise only to *Vuyls*. Cambria and although it was well bred, the whole line was distinguished by infertility. It is also confusing as the name Brewii appears twice in the *Vuyls*. Rudra background, as the immediate parent, *Vuyls*. Brewii and also as the grandparent, *Oda*. Brewii (*Odm. harryanum* × *Oda.* Charlesworthii). *Vuyls.* Brewii became a Vuyls. by the addition of *Mps*. *vexillaria*, the only *Mps*. influence

Vuyls. Andy's Idea and *Vuyls.* Wyatt's Torch

Vuyls. Andy's Idea

whatsoever in Cambria! The other grandparent is *Odm*. Prince Edward (*Odm*. Crispo-harryanum × *Odm*. Rolfeae) and while one might have expected it to have contributed much to Odont breeding, it managed only three obscure registrations.

So where is this article heading. A year or two after I made *Vuyls*. Andy's Idea, I decided to remake *Vuyls*. Wyatt's Torch. The plants came into bloom and about six weeks ago, I noticed two small pots in bloom in adjoining trays. One was a straggler from the Andy's Idea crossing and the other was a front-runner from the Wyatt's Torch. I stopped, looked and then the



Vuyls. Wyatt's Torch

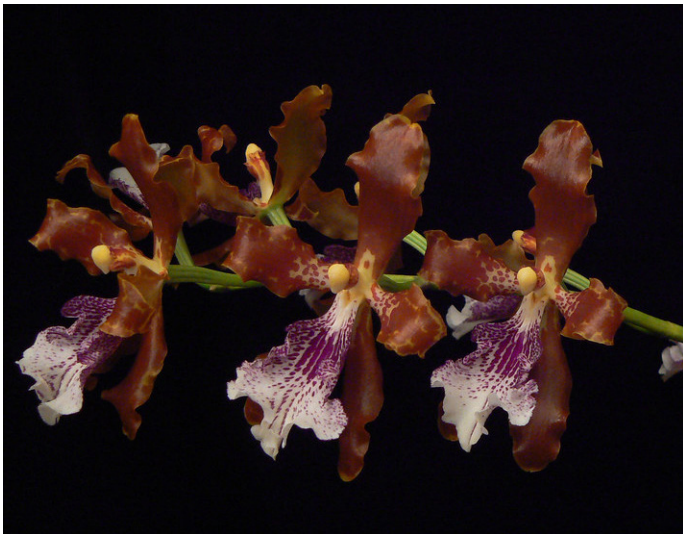


Photo by Andrey Romanko

Odm. deburghgraeveanum

penny dropped..... with a resounding clang. You can see the picture I took and I could scarcely contain myself when I realized the implications of what I was observing. From this point onwards, this article is presenting my ideas, my explanation for what I believe has happened in Odont breeding and I'm quite sure will stimulate argument and disagreement. But here we go.....

I do not and never will believe that *Odm. wyattianum* only reached England in the late 1920's. I have two reasons for saying this. Taxonomists used to say that *Odm. harryanum* is only found in an isolated area of Colombia but just this month I saw collected plants from Ecuador with an enthusiast in Bogota that were quite clearly *Odm. harryanum*! Taxonomists also say that *Odm. wyattianum* comes from Peru but I believe there is a continuum where *Odm. harryanum* changes morphologically in Ecuador and that at some point it certainly has made a natural hybrid with *Odm. wyattianum* and that natural hybrid, which has speciated, is the orchid currently known as *Odm. deburghgraeveanum*! My goodness..... will I be called before the taxonomic council and beaten to within an inch of my life? Doubt it! But I'm not finished yet.

My view is that *Odm. harryanum* and *Odm. wyattianum* were collected and growing in English and continental orchid collections together well before the turn of the 20th Century! It would be interesting to actually see some of the old RHS paintings of so-called *Odm. harryanum* awards. But that is not even necessary. Why? Because as recently as the 1970's. *Odm. harryanum* 'Copper' gained an AM/RHS for

Burnham Nurseries and it is clearly a typical *Odm. wyattianum*! The RHS Orchid Committee making a mistake, dear God please tell me that's not so!

Can I maybe call on the Sander name to vindicate at least partially, my viewpoint? In Sander's Orchid Guide, 1927 Edition there are the comments about *Odm. wyattianum* and a comparison to *Odm harryanum*. It says that Rolfe and Reichenbach authenticated several distinct varieties of *Odm. harryanum* in the 1880's. Then it goes on to state of *Odm. wyattianum* that "the nearest affinity of this species seems to be *Odm. harryanum*". It comments that *Odm. wyattianum* is "5 or more flowered" and adds that *Odm. wyattianum* has "not yet been authoritatively identified".

Vuyls. Andy's Idea 'Ligia Posada'

So lets look at the photo which made the scales fall from my eyes! *Vuyls.* Andy's Idea looks to all intents like a typical *Vuyls*. Cambria. Better even than some of the Cambria mutations we saw in recent times. Big flat lip.... from the *Odm. wyattianum* with just a little influence from *Mps. vexillaria*. I will also show you the picture of the awarded one, *Vuyls.* Andy's Idea 'Ligia Posada'. Apart from a slightly duller color intensity, you could be looking at *Vuyls*. Cambria 'Plush'. And as the crossing is diploid with diploid, I have the plant holding three fat pods awaiting a trip to the Lab at the end of this year. Compare that with *Vuyls*. Wyatt's Torch, nothing like Cambria. More rolled lip as one would expect in a hybrid from *Odm. harryanum*. The Wyatt's Torch pictured in OrchidWiz matches the picture here and dare I say it, is a superior and rather more harryanum-influenced phenotype.

Vuyls. Andy's Idea

OK, this is my opinion and I believe that opinion is backed up by the evidence I have presented. You are welcome to argue or disagree but I'm very confident this poorly trained botanist may be onto something! Far from stopping the use of *Vuyls*. Cambria in hybridizing, we have added a tetraploid version and at present would have at least 20 crosses that we will soon be registering via the International Odontoglossum Alliance Journal. *Vuyls*. Cambria 'Plush' may be from the 1930's but I'm fairly sure we will see its progeny well into the 2030's! Not bad going for an old-timer.

(All photos are by the author unless marked otherwise)

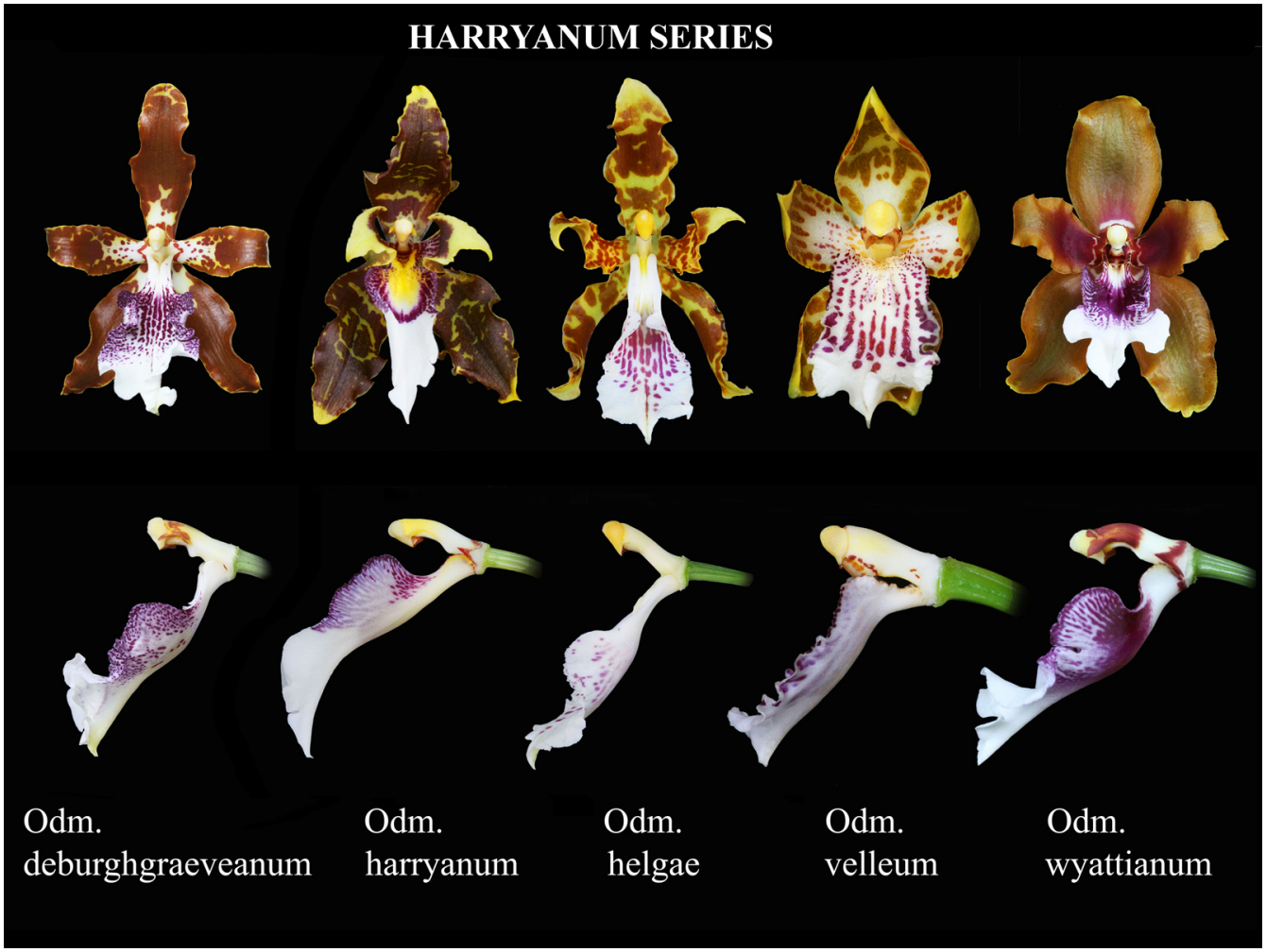
Odontoglossum deburghgraeveanum – A Natural Hybrid?

Stig Dalström

In response to the musings by Andy Easton that *Odontoglossum deburghgraeveanum* is a natural hybrid between *Odm. harryanum* and *Odm. wyattianum*, I just want to add some comments based on observations in the field. The original discovery of *Odm. harryanum* took place in the northern part of the central cordillera in Antioquia, Colombia, in 1886. There is no doubt about that. The holotype and contemporary illustrations correlate very well with what we have seen coming from that area today. For some reason *Odm. harryanum* disappeared from cultivation early on and the origin of this species remained a mystery for many years. It was apparently not seen again until the early nineteen sixties.

About a decade later plants that look very much like typical *Odm. harryanum* were found in Ecuador by the Salesian missionary priest Angel Andreetta. This Ecuadorean form collected by Andreetta was included in Leonore Bockemühl's treatment of the genus in 1989 as *Odm*. "*wyattianum*". This was unfortunate since there is no real similarity between the Ecuadorean form of what I conclude is *Odm. harryanum* and the Peruvian *Odm. wyattianum*. *Odontoglossum harryanum* occurs as far south as the Loja area in southern Ecuador where plants have been collected between Loja and Zamora. These plants look just like the other plants from Ecuador and are virtually the same as the form from Colombia. The question whether the Colombian form of *Odm. harryanum* is distinct enough from the Ecuadorean form to represent a separate species is frequently discussed, but personally I prefer to keep them together. There is much more that keeps them together than separates them.

To my knowledge, no plants of *Odm. wyattianum* have ever been documented from Ecuador. This species appears first in the Huanuco region in central Peru and further to the south to the Cusco and Ayacucho

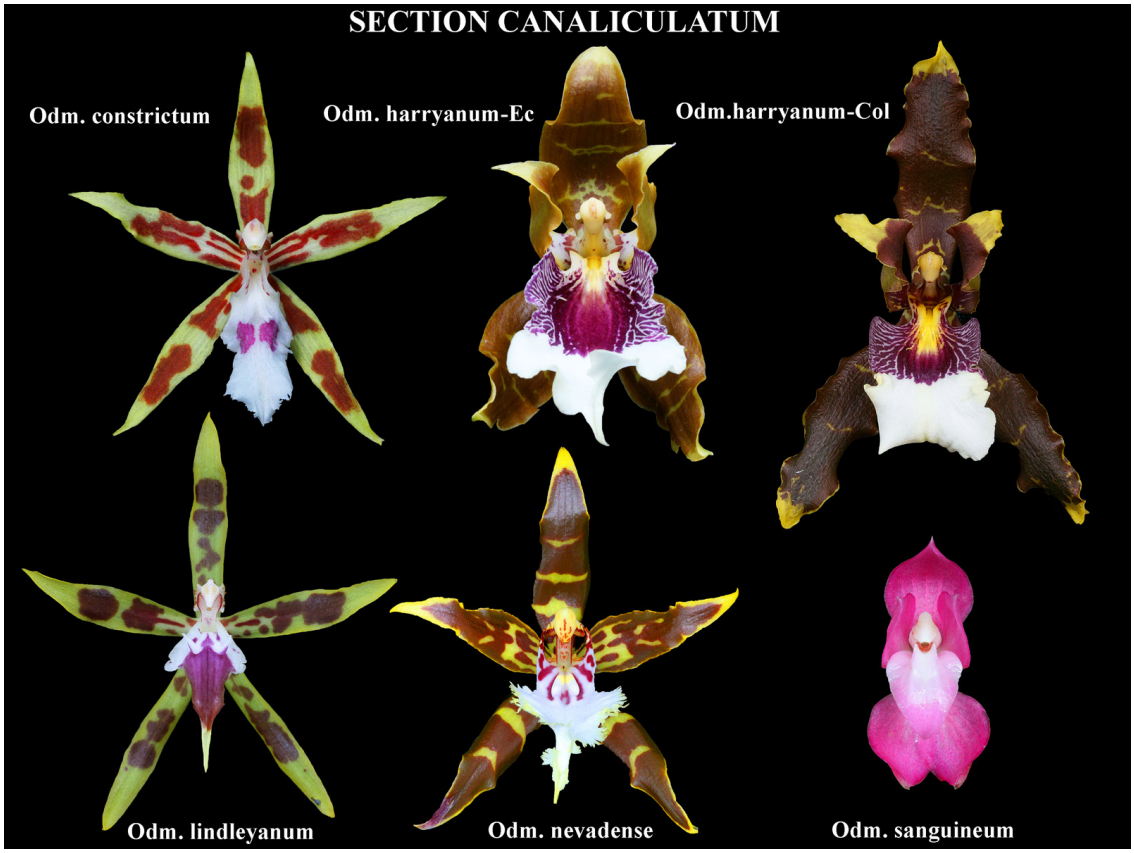


Odontoglossum harryanum series

regions. The morphology and general appearance of *Odm. harryanum* and *Odm. wyattianum* can be superficially similar at first sight, but are quite distinct in reality. Particularly in the shape of the column which easily separates these species. I am also not familiar with any intermediate forms between these species that could represent a natural hybrid, and to my knowledge the geographic distributions do not overlap. There is another species in this complex, however, that is known from southern Ecuador and that looks kind of similar to *Odm. deburghgraeveanum*, and that is *Odm. helgae*. This latter species is known from central Ecuador to northern Peru and actually fills the distribution gap between *Odm. harryanum* and *Odm. wyattianum*. The shape of the flower of *Odm. helgae* is so unique and different from all other species in the *harryanum* complex though that no misidentifications should be possible.

So where does *Odm. deburghgraeveanum* fit in? Well, that is indeed a good question. In the original description we speculated that it could be a natural hybrid between *Odm. harryanum* and possibly the sympatric *Odm. velleum*, but finally dismissed that idea. The morphology of the flower of *Odm. deburghgraeveanum*, particularly the column, does not seem to be the result of the crossing between any species in this complex. The real geographic origin for this taxon was also a mystery for some time. We finally located some plants in the Junín and Cusco regions in Peru where it actually occurs sympatric with *Odm. wyattianum*. But apparently these species flower at different times of the year in the wild. At least that is what we have been able to conclude based on the limited observations we have. Could *Odm. deburghgraeveanum* be a natural hybrid between *Odm. wyattianum* and something else? Well, I don't want to dismiss this possibility altogether, but I highly doubt it. I cannot see what other sympatric *Odontoglossum* species would produce flowers like those of *Odm. deburghgraeveanum* in a cross with *Odm. wyattianum*. There are several species to choose between though and the only way to find out is to cross *Odm. wyattianum* with all of the others and prove me wrong. Sympatric species are *Odm. ariasii, Odm. blandum, Odm. epidendroides, Odm. filamentosum, Odm. juninense, Odm. multistellare, Odm. praestans,* and *Odm. tenuifolium*.

Have fun!



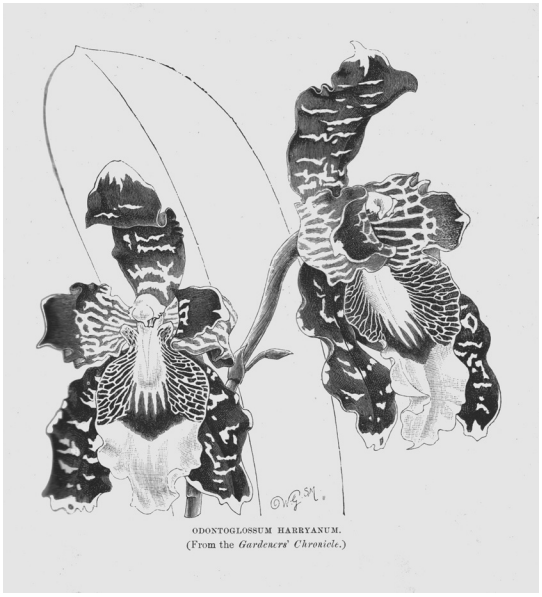
Section Canaliculatum

Odontoglossum harryanum

Reprinted from the THE ORCHID GROWER'S MANUAL

page 566, by Henry Williams, F.L.S., F.R.H.S

O. HARRYANUM, *Rchb.f.*—An extraordinary species, which, when introduced in 1886, came as a great surprise to the Orchid growers of this country. The particular spot in the United States of Colombia where it grows has been many times visited by Orchid collectors, and it is surprising that such a beauty should have been overlooked. It is an evergreen species, with oblong, ovate, compressed pseudobulbs, smooth when young, becoming furrowed with age, 3 inches or more high, pale green; leaves produced in pairs, 6 to 12 inches long, somewhat coriaceous; scape erect, many-flowered; flowers 3 to 5 inches in diameter; sepals elliptic-oblong, broader than the petals, deep chestnut-brown, transversely streaked and bordered with either rich yellow or greenish-yellow; petals oblong and curved, deep chestnut-brown, longitudinally striped in the basal halves with purplish-mauve and margined with yellow; the lip is most extraordinary both in shape and colour; it is large, oblong-oval, three-lobed; lateral lobes curved upwards, ground colour white, heavily streaked with feathery lines of bluish-purple, the crest being much fringed and of a rich deep yellow; anterior lobe somewhat cordate, pure white, which soon changes to yellow. It was first introduced by Rodriguez Pautosha, who sent it to Messrs. Horseman & Co., of Colchester. It blooms at different seasons of the year, and we find the temperature of the Cattleya house suits it best.— *U.S. of Colombia*



ODONTOGLOSSUM HARRYANUM.
(From the *Gardeners' Chronicle.*)

Fia.—Gard. Citron.. 3rd ser., 1887, ii. p. 169, f. 41: *Journ. Of Hort*., 1887, xv. p. 87, f. 9; *The Garden*, 1888. xxxiii. p. 76, t 633; *Orchid Album* viii. t. 366; *Reichenbachia*, ii. t. 49 ; *Lindenia*, iii. t. 142 ; *Veitch's Man. Orch*. Pl., i. p. 37; *L'Orchidophile*, 1890, p. 209 (plate) ; *Revue Hort. Belge*, 1893, p. 39, t. 4.

O. HARRYANUM FLAVESCENS, *Rolfe*.—This distinct variety was first flowered by the late A.Wilson, Esq., of Sheffield. "The sepals are deep yellow, the petals similar but with white veins near the base, the lip pale primrose with base and crest deep yellow."—*U.S. of Colombia*.

O. HARRYANUM, *Mr. Wilson's variety.*—A handsome and distinct variety, which flowered in the collection of Robert Wilson, Esq., of Mayfield, Falkirk. " The sepals are intense blackish-maroon, the yellow transverse markings and the yellow margin being almost entirely absent, while the same may be said of the petals; in the lip the maroon markings of the side lobes are more pronounced than usual" (R. A. Rolfe, in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 3rd ser., 1888, iii. P.522). — *U.S. of Colombia*.

O. HARRYANUM PAVONIUM, *Rchb. f.*—This novelty was first flowered by Messrs. J. Backhouse & Son, of York. "The ground-colour may be called Indian-purple; the sepals, which prove even more curious than the petals, have wood markings of angulate circles and bars of ochre-colour; where they are broadest there are certain lighter brown lines in the center of the ochre-coloured ones; the petals are similar, but the much broken lines are narrower and without the inner colour and without circular markings; the markings may be compared to those of the peacock, though the colours are different. It has a delightful perfume" (H.G. Reichenbach, in *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 3rd ser., 1889, v. p. 428). —*U.S. of Colombia.*

Dresden 2020

Bob Hamilton

Several of us associated with the International Odontoglossum Alliance once again attending the Internationale Orchideenwelt Dresden, held in Dresden, Germany April 2 to April 5 2020. An excerpt from the event's website, https://www.orchideenwelt-dresden.de/ follows. "First launched in 1999, the "**International Orchid World**" of the Deutsche Orchideen-Gesellschaft e.V. (D.O.G.) will occur for the twenty-second year in the spring of 2020 as part of the "Dresdner Ostern" (Easter in Dresden) In recent years, it has become the largest annual orchid show in Europe. The largest and most popular public fair in Dresden traditionally takes place each year just before Easter in the Dresden exhibition center."

For those IOA readers interested, a local hotel convenient to the event with easy access to transportation and reasonable rates is the:

B&B Hotel Dresden
Weißeritzstraße 10
01067 Dresden
Phone: +49 (0)351 / 65236-0
Fax: +49 (0)351 / 65236-444
Email: dresden@hotelbb.com

Making the event more interesting to odontoglossum growers, the IOA is planning a few casual presentations to be held on Friday, April 3, from 1PM until 3PM, in a room associated with the venue. Presenters are Andy Easton, Bob Hamilton and Juan Felipe Posada. A translator will be on hand for German-speaking attendees.

In addition to these presentations there will be an informal, local no-host dinner to which readers of the IOAJ newsletter are welcome. The purpose of the dinner is to meet and enjoy the fellowship of other odont growers. Since there currently there are no details for such a dinner, IOAJ readers interested in this meet-up are encouraged to stop by the Colomborquideas sales booth and chat with Juan Felipe Posada or Andy Easton about the place and time.

Bob Hamilton

Entrance to the Flower Show - 2019

Vendor Area for the Garden Section - 2019

Odontoglossum Alliance Exhibit - 2019


Overview of the Orchid Exhibits - 2019

Hybridizing Notes

Andy Easton

Oda. (McLaren Vale × Desirable) 'Pacifica'

An Altmann crossing, registered by the late John Hainsworth. Philip Altmann seems to have dropped out of the orchid world and I still miss John Hainsworth, a great character and a "can do" type of the highest order. The cross of *Oda.* McLaren Vale was a mating between Mansell & Hatcher excellence and the famous *Odm.* Nicky Strauss, with its strong *Odm. pescatorei* (*nobile*) and *Odm. crispum* blood. *Oda.* Desirable was all British, Charlesworth for the Durham City pod parent and Mansell & Hatcher for the Aviewood pollen parent. Bob Hamilton put the two together and one of his flasks found its way to Tasmania, the best part of Australia because it is closest to New Zealand! There the Jacksons grew the plant well enough to get a rare FCC from the Australian judges.

Oda. Koo Wee Rup 'Tiffany'

If Tim Brydon gives the varietal name of 'Tiffany' to any of his Odonts, you'd better take notice! It means the plant is the best of the cross that he has bloomed. I am figuring that Tim remade the cross as both parents, *Oda*. Ray Buckman and *Oda*. Joe's

Drum were in wide circulation. I do wish the grand old man of Australian Odonts, Gerald McCraith, had not given this lovely flower such an awful name. Hard to research and of no significance to growers outside of Australia. But them's the breaks. Essentially 100% English in its genetics, with both parents highly awarded, one might expect this hybrid to have started a dynasty.... not so! Two Everglade's registrations where Milton Carpenter had been sent pollen and one other insignificant hybrid and that's it. The decline in quality of Odont Alliance hybridizing is sad. We should work together to turn this shameful hiatus around, will plants like this be used, will their genetics be valued or will a group of us just shuffle off this earth with our key plants lost to the orchid world?

Perlite's *Odcdm*. Tiger Barb

(*Odm*. *maculatum* x *Odcdm*. Tiger Ham burhen)

Well I must be honest and say that this hybrid never really impressed me! The Odont world is full of yellows and while I love *Odm*. *maculatum* hybrids when the species is crossed to a complex Odont, this one left me cold. I do have a dog in the fight as we made a similar hybrid which I liked much better, *Odm*. Anna-Claire, where the other parent was a tetraploid clonal mutation of *Odm*. Geyser Gold.

Neither Tiger Barb nor Anna-Claire have really bred on and something named *Wils*. St. Anthony of Egypt by that awful Lawless fellow was the most interesting hybrid to appear from Tiger Barb. Some of the St. Anthony of Egypt seedlings were very dark and had well-branched inflorescences Nothing of note from *Odm*. Anna-Claire. The Anna-Claires were hot for a time in Holland but as the grex always single-spiked, in today's potted plant market this was the kiss of death and it has vanished from the scene, as has Tiger Barb, except when offered as over-cloned and mutated product that keeps popping up at Asian laboratories.

Odtna. Brugnesis remake - Howard Liebman

Known as *Odtna*. Brugensis, this 1913 hybrid between *Mps*. *vexillaria* and *Cyrtochilum edwardii*, was remade by Howard Liebman and treated with colchicine if I recall correctly. I had a number of seedlings, Howard is always generous but I found them difficult

growers. They were all sent down to Colombia and one, *Odtna*. Brugensis 'Ligia' 4n was awarded for Colomborquideas in 2018 with an 86 point AM/AOS. Rather generous scoring in my view as a well-grown plant of the grex can have almost 100 blooms. Bob reports all sorts of fertility in his hybridizing efforts but he is likely using a 4n selection. There were only five registered crosses from Brugensis between 1921 and 1946, nothing since! Four were with other *Mps*. and *Odtna*. Bragelonne (*Odtna*. Brugensis × *Mps*. William Pitt) was used successfully by Keith Andrew in some red *Vuyls*. crossings, all sadly unregistered thanks to the Kewites! The lone cross of Brugensis to a non-Mps. was the hybrid between *Vuyls*. Brewii and *Odtna*. Brugensis and it never left one single registered offspring. What a waste!

Rhync. bictoniense v. sulfureum & some *Rhync. rossii*

I'm just going to call this *Odm. bictoniense* for now as *Rhyncostele* sounds way too like an uncomfortable disease plus it makes fertile hybrids with many members of the Odontoglossum Alliance. However, it is a very strange plant to use in hybridizing and the results can be frustrating. The seemingly alba form

is known as *Odm. bictoniense* 'Sulphureum'. There are two other common forms of the species, the type, with brown segments and a purplish lip plus *Odm. bictoniense* 'Album' which the English named for its stark white lip coupled with normal brown petals and sepals. Unfortunately, all three forms of the species hybridize differently and can give lots of surprises. Let's start with the type, its most illustrious and awarded offspring was *Odcdm*. Bittersweet (*Odcdm*. Crowborough × *Odm. bictoniense*) hybridized by the amazing Martin Orenstein. Martin was a very smart medical doctor who neglected his own health and died way too young. We registered the cross at his request when we bloomed the first seedling, it really was special and actually inspired McLellans to make *Colmanara* Wildcat! The other key *Odm. bictoniense* type hybrid is *Odm.* Bic-ross which in its 4n version, *Odm*. Bic-ross 'John' 4n, is proving to be a most significant parent with a future that is scarcely tapped. It will have enough significant hybrids in the near future to write a whole newsletter about them!

Odm. bictoniense 'Album' was used by Geyserland Orchids to make a hybrid with *Onc*. Illustre. The hybrid registered by Mukoyama as *Odcdm*. Biscuit, proved to be a real eye-opener. It was seen by few but this form of *Odm. bictoniense* bred very differently to

the type species. The lip, which was expected to develop coloring, stayed a stark white and with the dark segments, it was a very showy plant. But the spikes got very tall and that ruled the cross out of any commercial value.

I've left the best (or worst) for last, *Odm. bictoniense* 'Sulphureum'. A number of hybridizers have used this beautiful orchid in hybridizing, crossing it with alba Odonts of multiple genera and as far as I know, not one alba progeny has resulted in all those attempts. Instead of all the orchid scientists wasting time with taxonomic studies, it would be way more useful for just one determined type to try and elucidate what happens in the various 'Sulphureum' combinations. Still we keep trying and some day all will surely be revealed.

Odcdm. Tribbles 'Pacific Pearl' × *Oda*. (Shine Gate × Wearside Pattern)

This is the classic style flower from *Odcdm*. Tribbles' hybrids, usually on tall, branched stems and nearly always with the typically triangular *Onc. trilobum* lip. This is a triploid hybrid as 'Pacific Pearl' is diploid but a very vigorous and fine orchid in itself. Here there is warmth-tolerance but not quite as strong as when a tetraploid *Odcdm*. Tribbles is the selected parent. I believe the best of this type is *Wils*. John Miller and as the cross is tetraploid, it opens up a whole new field of hybridizing for warmer climates. These are not your grandfather's Odonts even if they look typical!

Odcdm. Tribbles 'Pacific Pearl' × *Oda*. (Shine Gate × Wearside Pattern)

Oda. Joe's Drum

Considered one of the finest patterned *Odontiodas* ever created, by David Stead at Mansell & Hatcher, *Oda*. Joe's Drum was first brought to the US by Tim Brydon. Tim, a foundation officer of the IOA, has maintained a superb collection of Odonts for many years. He has taken *Oda*. Joe's Drum (*Oda*.

Oda. Joe's Drum 'Envy'

Joe Marshall × *Oda*. Drumory) forward to F_2 and F_3 editions and one must honestly say, improving on the fine original with each step. The highest award to the grex was given to Tim's plant of *Oda*. Joe's Drum 'Tim Brydon' AM/AOS. It is sad to note that with almost 50 F_1 hybrids registered from *Oda*. Joe's Drum

Oda. Joe's Drum 'Rio'

and nearly 200 descendants in total, only 8 have been registered since 2000 with the last registration in 2015. Chase and his cronies at Kew have persisted in trying to destroy the Odontoglossum Alliance's structure but as our group knows, help is on the way to put these upstarts in their place!

Oda. Joe's Drum F_2

Odm. Extraria × *Oda*. George McMahon

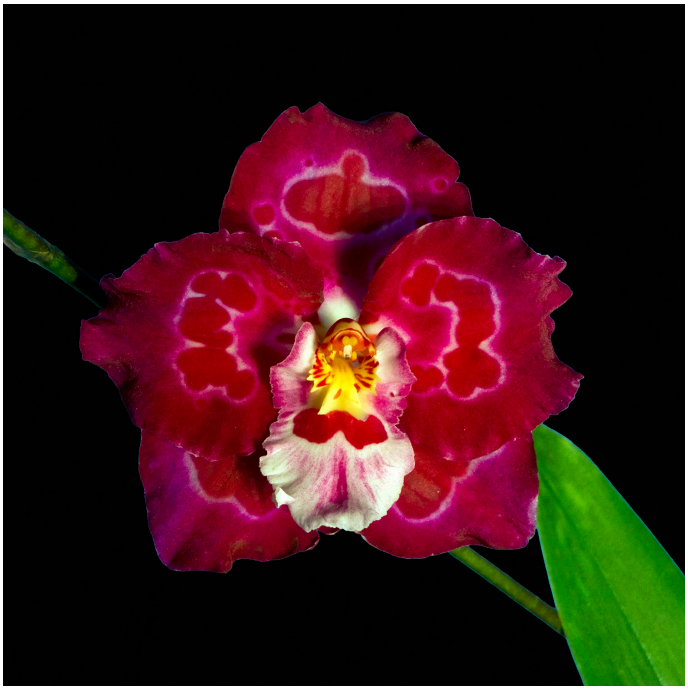
Registered in 1920, *Odm*. Extraria (*Odm. crispum* × *Odm. laeve*) went nowhere. But a David Stead remake at Mansell & Hatcher introduced us to the alba strain of *Odm*. Extraria and it is a handsome thing. Bob Hamilton secured one of the remakes and has used it cleverly. He may also have made a misstep. As Bob's missteps are rare, read on and be reminded that orchid hybridizing has many traps. The first hybrid we have bloomed a ton of is *Odm.* Extraria alba × *Oda*. (*Odm*. Parade × *Oda*. George McMahon) + Oryzalin. They are floriferous, 100% albas, shapely, with many tending greenish especially when the flowers are fresh. I became immediately fascinated with the hybrid. But..... both the diploid and tetraploid forms are not really acceptable in their flower longevity. The tetraploids last longer, of course, but still not long enough and there's little less attractive to my eye than an inflorescence that is essentially dying in the middle. Then there is the crossing pictured, *Odm*. Extraria alba × *Oda*. George McMahon where 25%

Odm. Extraria × *Oda*. George McMahon

come as alba yellows. Some of this cross also have flower longevity issues and some do not. So what's going on? Well it's all quite simple when you think it through. *Oda*. George McMahon is a fertile triploid. I suspect that the flower life of *Odm*. Extraria alba is not generous. So when two diploid gametes match up, the resultant diploid progeny have fairly short-lived flowers. But when *Oda*. George McMahon produces a n+n+n gamete and this seems to happen fairly frequently, the resulting 4n seedling has much more *Oda*. George McMahon influence and it lasts a much longer time. That's my rationalization of what is happening but someone who knows more about genetics may see things differently.

Oda. Tiffany × *Oda.* Joe's Drum

Not new but none better..... here we see two older Tim Brydon seedlings of the hybrid of *Oda*. Tiffany X *Oda*. Joe's Drum. Tim played a seminal role in sourcing fine breeding Odonts in England and bringing them back to San Francisco. He tracked down key plants from Alan Moon, Keith Andrew and Brian Rittershausen as well as literally dozens of Mansell & Hatcher's finest flasks. Tim has focused his hybridizing on strong patterning plus large whites with dark markings. There is a consensus that Tim's crossing of *Odm.* Jim Mintsiveris, named for his father-in-law, is the unchallenged leader in whites with intensely dark markings. One of the keys to the success of this particular hybrid is the genetic input from *Odm*. Nicky Strauss, which Tim was able to extract from Bert White at Stonehurst. We can be sure that Tim will be continuing to produce new and exciting hybrids from his Pacifica greenhouse.



*Oda.*Tiffany x Joe's Drum

Oda Tiffany x Joe's Drum

Oda. Colwell

Well *Oda*. Colwell is not much to look at..... but it has produced several outstanding red breeding lines of today. Guided by Alan Moon, Eric Young picked up this plant from Charlesworth's and produced *Oda*. Petit Port in 1981. From *Oda*. Petit Port came *Oda*. Burning Bed, *Oda*. Susan Preston Richards and *Oda*. Petit Shine. All three are outstanding with the leader in the hybridizing stakes currently being *Oda*. Susan Preston Richards. If you research this pedigree you

*Oda.*Colwell

may not understand why I rate *Oda*. Susan Preston Richards so highly. Because of the registration nonsense, there is a heap of fine hybrids from this parent just waiting to be registered when our new registration system is in place. And a quick glance at the progeny of *Oda*. Burning Bed turns up *Wilsonara* John Miller as its most illustrious progeny. It is interesting to note that the first John Miller seedlings were made on the *Oda*. Burning Bed and they came nearly all reds. However, a remake onto *Odcdm*. Tribbles 4n has come almost completely patterned. Either way, they have a quality consistency rarely seen in any genus that has been hybridized.

Oda. Zephyr & *Oda.* Meteor

Two interesting old-timers here. *Oda*. Zephyr dates back to Thwaites' registration in 1911. This second generation Odont carries 3' inflorescences and at least 30 blooms. The hybrid was *Cda. noezliana* × *Odm*. Wilckeanum and although the plant shown was owned by the late Bob Hoffman, the grex went no further than 1924 in direct hybridizing. The charming picotee color effect on the flowers might suggest this is a plant that should have been used much more frequently.

*Oda.*Zephyr

Oda. Meteor has a much more controversial history. The cross of *Oda*. Vuylstekeae × *Cyrt. edwardii* was registered by Stuart Low in 1919 and its last registered offspring appeared in 1925. Or so says the registrations but they are in error. How do I know this? Well inadvertently, I was party to an unanticipated error. I bought a plant from Norris Powell in the late

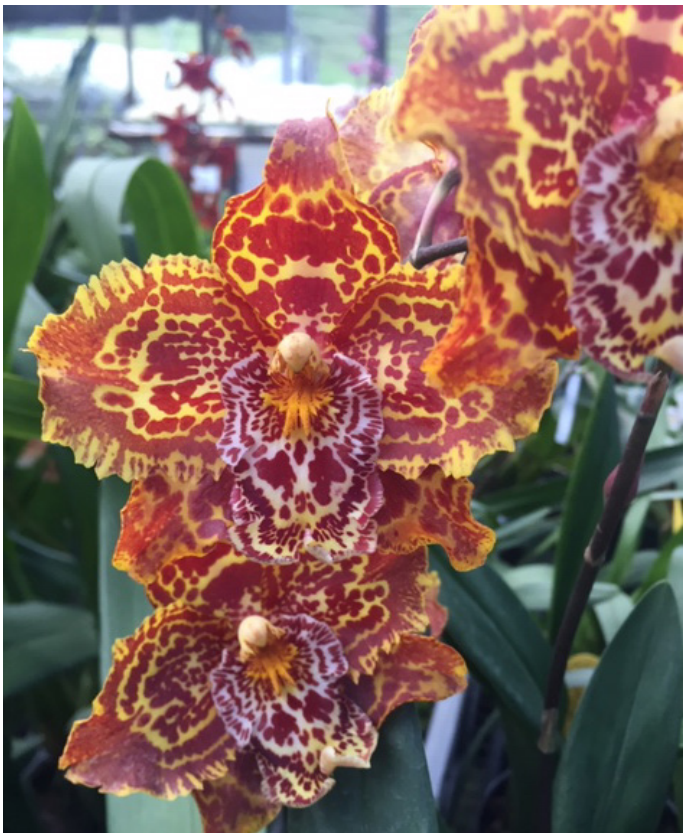
*Oda.*Zephyr ‘Lyoth Garnet’

1970s that he called "Coca Cola”. I found the plant easy to grow and I had it in an excellent blooming so a proper RHS name was needed. I asked Norris and he said call it *Oda*. Chanticleer. The plant was duly named and as I was taking the piss out of Ray Bilton at the time, I gave the plant a varietal name of *Oda*. Chanticleer 'Lyoth Garnet'. It duly got an AM/AOS and we made some hybrids with it. Around the same time, one of Powell's customers registered an Orchid House hybrid of *Oda*. John Leathers × the so-called *Oda*. Chanticleer as *Oda*. Little Big Man! One of our "Chanticleer" crosses, to *Oda*. Shelley, was unfortunately registered as *Oda*. Red Rooster. Meanwhile, Bob Hamilton was using his true *Oda*. Chanticleer in breeding and produced a very useful hybrid in the cross to *Odm. velleum* which was treated with Oryzalin also and named *Oda*. Jaffa. As the true *Oda*. Chanticleer is 75% *Cda. noezliana*, it became clear to me that Powell's so-called *Oda*. Chanticleer had clear evidence of *Cyrtochilum* parentage. A bit more sleuthing followed and among Norris Powell's records of purchases from Stuart Low, there appeared the name of *Vuyls*. Meteor with parentage listed as *Oda*. Vuylstekeae × *Cyrt. edwardii*. Bingo, *Oda.* Chanticleer 'Lyoth Garnet' unmasked. So now Bob is making a number of new hybrids with Meteor and its fabulous color will be reworked into new and exciting innovative hybrid avenues. What a convoluted yet fascinating tale!

"Ain't Nature strange.....”!

Andy Easton

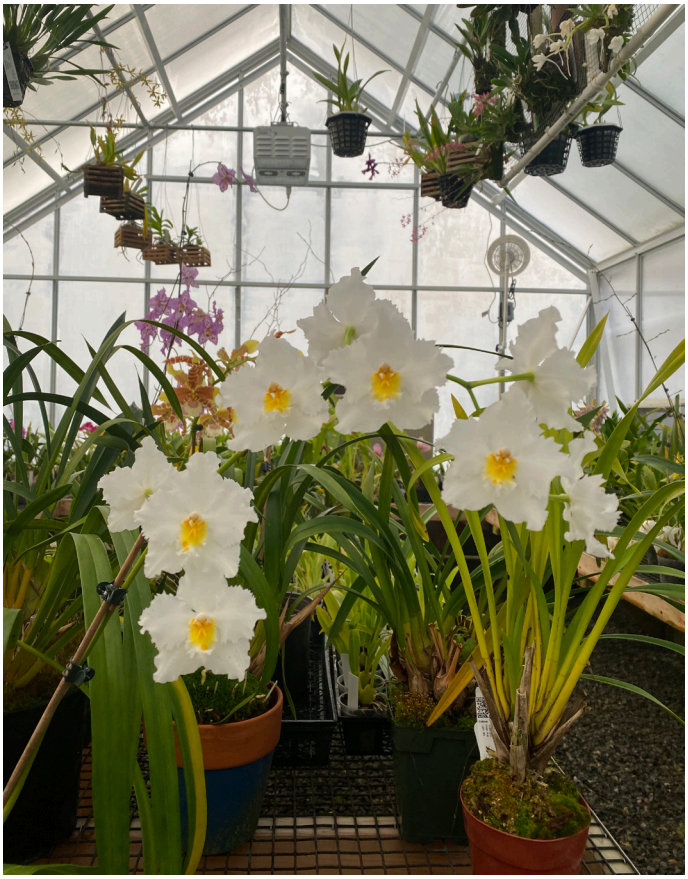
We made the crossing of *Vuyls.* Cambria ‘Plush’ (2n) × *Oda.* Charlesworthii 4n some years ago now. So long ago that already the clones of our selection, a really bright, true red, have already been cloned and are on the market. I remember sending all the smaller seedlings down to Colomborquideas in 2017 and just last week, I saw an unusually colored spike on a mixed group of seedlings. I looked at the label and there, in a 4” pot, was an orange-tan budded plant with the Cambria × Charlesworthii label on it. My



Vuyls. Cambria ‘Plush’ (2n) × *Oda.* Charlesworthii 4n

initial feeling was that a tag had got mixed up but when the flower opened, there was no mistaking the *Odm. harryanum* influence. Now nobody is going to get excited about any seedling that takes maybe eight years to make its first bloom and in just a 4” pot too, but this tail-ender does show that these wild cards do occasionally show up in almost every crossing. For some mysterious reason, in this seedling, the 33% weighted genetic influence of *Odm. harryanum* was able to outweigh the red color contributions of Cambria and *Cda. noezliana*!

Parting Shots



*Oda.*Victoria Village '#11'
Robert Culver

*Odm.*Rawdon Jester
Robert Culver

*Oda.*Brenda June
Robert Culver

*Odm.*Quistrum 'Lyoth Angelo'
Robert Culver

*Odm.*wyattianum
Robert Culver

*Oda.*Durham Galaxy
Luke Callaghan

*Oda.*Rawdon Palace
Robert Culver

*Oda.*Puccini
Luke Callaghan