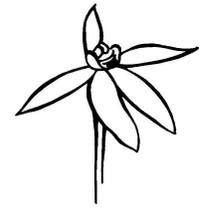


Bulletin of the Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc.

Petochilus fuscatus



GPO Box 612, Canberra, ACT, 2601, Australia
Volume 22, Number 1

January-
February 2007

Regular monthly meetings

Monthly meetings of the Society are held on the first **Wednesday** of each month (except January) at the **Canberra Senior Citizens Club (10 Watson St., Turner)**. Meetings commence at 8:00pm with the library and trading table open from 7:30pm.

February 2007: Mark Clements on the orchids and plants of Madagascar.

March 2007: Graham Morris of Valley Orchids on commercial growing of orchids in China

April 2007: Mike Duncan on the orchids of Costa Rica

Annual Subscriptions

\$25 single, \$30 joint, \$5 junior membership.

Orchid Society of Canberra Events

Coffee Club/New Member Workshop. Sunday 11 February noon to 4 PM at Rob and Audrey Rough's, 25 Moruya Ct. Kaleen

Horticultural Society of Canberra. 3&4 March at the Wesley Centre (see later item)

Annual Two Day Workshop Eurobodalla Orchid Club. 17 & 18 March at Luhuna Motel, Moruya.

Upcoming Orchid Events

Hills District Orchids Open Day. 25 February Northmead NSW.

Sydney International Orchid Fair 30 March – 1 April Castle Hill, NSW

President's Comments:

I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! I hope that your plants and you have been able to cope with the heat that we have been having. Let's hope that the weather moderates soon.

There are several matters that the Committee discussed at its January meeting concerning the Popular Vote. The first is would people please leave their plants on the tables and then step away. Rob Rough and Bob Evans and other helpers need space to move along the tables organizing the plants and if people are hanging around looking at plants, this makes it very difficult. Please keep the area clear! The second issue is that Rob and Bob have been doing the popular vote for some time and they need some help. The Committee decided that while they would continue to set out the plants (a job requiring skill and knowledge), others will do the vote tally. It is a job that requires no particular skill and would give a break to our two hardworking members. I will call for two volunteers at each meeting to do the tally at that

meeting. If we all pitch in, you will probably only have to do the tally once a year which is not too onerous. Once the votes are tallied, Bob or Rob will complete the form with the names and we will proceed as before.

On Sunday February 11 from noon to 4 PM, we will have a Coffee Club/New Members workshop at Rob Rough's house (25 Moruya Ct. Kaleen). This is a wonderful opportunity for new members to meet old ones and for all to learn how Rob grows his plants. For the past few years Rob has won more popular votes than anyone else and therefore clearly knows how to grow orchids. I urge all to come along and have a good time.

I would also ask members to remember the Horticultural Society of Canberra shows that are held 4 times each year. The Orchid Society is a sponsor for these shows and there is a section for orchids at each show. I urge you to attend the shows and particularly to enter orchid plants (more on how to do this later in this bulletin).

Coffee Club/New Member Workshop

All members, but particularly new members, are invited to the Rough's (25 Moruya Ct. Kaleen) on Sunday February 11, noon to 4 PM, to see Rob's collection, talk about orchids and learn about potting etc. Rob is a very experienced grower of cattleyas and native orchids as well as other plants. These gatherings are a great time to meet club members and to exchange information. We hope to see you there.

Committee Members

President- Ben Walcott	6161 2742
Vice President- Robert Bush	6297 1427
Treasurer- Robyn Noel	6258 5734
Secretary- Barbara Corsini	04 24836108
Bob Evans	6295 3802
Bill Ferris	6297 5635
David Judge	6278 4806
Jim Harper	6254 9618
Robert Rough	6241 2729

Committee meetings:

February: David Judge

March: Bill Ferris

Disclaimer

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Erratum:

In the last bulletin, I published an article entitled "Seedlings- our investment in the future". It was sent by Lynne Phelan, but she didn't write it. She kindly forwarded it to us as part of series of articles from the Australian Orchid Foundation Awareness Campaign. I apologize for the confusion on the authorship.

Annual Two-Day Workshop

There are still a few places left for this workshop. This year the Eurobodalla Orchid Club is hosting the annual two day workshop. It will be held on Saturday and Sunday March 17th and 18th 2007 at the Luhuna Motel, Princess Highway, Moruya. On Saturday, the program will run from 9:30AM to 5:00PM and on Sunday from 9:30AM to 2:00 PM. The two speakers are Dennis Deihm and Zicky Zurcher. John Robertson, previously announced as a speaker, is unable to attend so Zicky has kindly stepped in. He will talk on paphiopedilums. The format involves lectures and demonstrations of many aspects of orchid culture from these two experts. There will be plenty of time to ask questions or to talk privately to the speakers. The speakers are both commercial growers and I am sure will have lots of plants for sale. The workshop is limited to 55 participants and so you should get your reservations in early. The booking form is on our website and I will have hard copies at the next meetings. The cost is \$50 for the weekend which entitles you to morning and afternoon teas and a BBQ lunch on both days, except no afternoon tea on Sunday. Dinner on Saturday night will be at a local restaurant at the participant's own expense. It is a fun time to meet members from other clubs and to share information.

ALLELOPATHY IN ORCHIDS

Have you orchids that just sit in their pots and do not appear to grow or flower and appear stunted? In fact, they have been like that for so long that they now have a thick carpet of moss on top of the bark or mix! Do you lose many of your flaked and replanted seedlings? If so, read on as you are probably suffering the effects of allelopathy.

What is Allelopathy? Allelopathy is a chemical process that a plant uses to keep other plants out of its space. There are several types of chemical allelopathy. In one kind, the plant that is protecting its space releases growth-compounds from its roots into the ground. New plants trying to grow near the allelopathic plant absorb those chemicals from the soil and are unable to live. A second type of allelopathy releases chemicals that slows or stops the process of photosynthesis. An allelopathic plant may also release chemicals that change the amount of chlorophyll the plant has in it. When a plant's chlorophyll levels are changed, it cannot make the food it needs, and the plant dies.

Allelopathy refers to the harmful effects of one plant on another plant by the release of chemicals from plant parts by leaching, root exudation, volatilisation, residue decomposition and other processes in both nature and in our glasshouses. **There are several ways in which an allelopathic plant can release its protective chemicals:**
Leaching - All plants lose leaves. Some plants store protective chemicals in the leaves they drop. When the leaves fall to the ground, they decompose. As this happens, the leaves give off chemicals that protect the plant.

Exudation - Some plants release defensive chemicals into the soil through their roots and those chemicals are absorbed by the roots of orchids near the allelopathic one. As a result, the nonallelopathic orchid is damaged.

Volatilisation - Allelopathic plants release a chemical in the form of a gas through small openings in their leaves. Other plants absorb the toxic chemical and die.

First widely studied in forestry systems, allelopathy can affect many aspects of plant ecology including occurrence, growth, plant succession, the structure of plant communities, dominance, diversity, and plant productivity. Early research grew out of observations of poor regeneration of forest species, crop damage, yield reductions, replant problems for tree crops, occurrence of weed-free zones, and other related changes in patterns of vegetation. My purpose here is to introduce the concept of allelopathy in cultivated orchid species.

Nature of Allelopathy: Commonly cited effects of allelopathy include reduced germination and seedling growth. Like synthetic herbicides, there is no common mode of action or physiological target site for all allelochemicals. However, known sites of action for some allelochemicals include cell division, pollen germination, nutrient uptake, photosynthesis, and specific enzyme function.

Allelopathic inhibition is complex and can involve the interaction of different classes of chemicals like phenolic compounds, flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, steroids, carbohydrates, and amino acids, with mixtures of different compounds sometimes having a greater allelopathic effect than individual compounds alone. Furthermore, physiological and environmental stresses, pests and diseases, solar radiation, herbicides, and less than optimal nutrient, moisture, and temperature levels can also affect allelopathic suppression. Different plant parts, including flowers, leaves, pseudobulbs, stems, roots, and your potting medium, can have allelopathic activity that varies over a growing season. Allelopathic chemicals can also persist in bark mix and medium, affecting both neighbouring plants as well as those planted in succession if you reuse your bark mixture.

What can I do to protect my orchids?

- Replate seedlings often and do not leave seedlings in composts too long or you will end up with a few healthy ones and a lot of runts. Many orchids contain allelochemicals, particularly in the roots, but few if any have been tested.
- Repot regularly. If you use bark, ensure that it has

been well soaked to free it from all allelochemicals. The bark of most Pinus is heavily loaded with allelochemicals.

- When you water flood the pot to flush out any salts and build up of chemicals. Make sure all your pots have good drainage. Make sure that water draining from your vandaceous plants does not spill onto other orchids below as many of the vandaceous contain allelochemicals.
- Sphagnum moss contains antibiotics and is generally free of phenolic compounds and the allelopathic inhibitors. However, not all orchids like to grow in sphagnum moss. Phragmipediums adore it!
- Remove all signs of any mosses and ferns. The tight compact moss may keep the surface of your potted orchid looking very tidy, *but this moss has one of the worst allelopathic effects*. In Fig. 1 the carpet of moss has already killed one of the two phalaenopsis seedlings. The other is several years old and severely stunted. Without repotting this plant will never reach flowering size. Repot it without the moss and watch it suddenly respond.
- Ferns, too, are loaded with allelochemicals. In Fig. 2 a small paphiopedilum orchid struggling to survive against the inhibiting chemicals of a strong growing fern. Venture into any of our New Zealand forests and note how nothing else grows where there are ferns! Kidney fern in a beech forest is a good example.

Mike Meads

(Reprinted from the *International Oncidiinae Alliance* newsletter with the author's permission.)

Website on Orchid Seed Germination

Mark Fraser just found this website and thought it might be worthwhile for those members interested in raising orchids from seed. It is an extensive set of tables for seed pod maturation for a wide variety of orchids.
<[http:// members.iinet.net.au/~barryg/Orchid_Seed.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~barryg/Orchid_Seed.htm)>

The Horticultural Society of Canberra

Shows

There are 4 shows each year (3&4 March, 15&16 September, 27&28 October and 10&11 November) held in Lancaster Hall of the Wesley Centre on National Circuit. There is a large table in the middle of the show that has our orchids for judging. To enter plants, call either Linn Doyle (6231 7755) or Lyn Edwards (6286 2781) at the latest by 8 PM on the Thursday before the show. Plants should be brought to the hall on Friday before the show from 6:00 – 10:00 PM. Since we only have one show each year (22&23 September) it is an opportunity to display those plants that you have in bloom. You might win a prize! It is also good for the Society to show off to other plant lovers the

diversity and quality of the plants that we grow and to convert some gardeners to orchid growers.

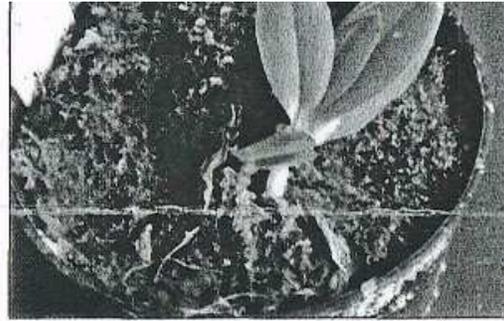


Fig. 1



November General Meeting 2006

Attendance: 45

Visitors: Jennie Nicholson, Gelt and Trudy Friedrich, Robert Forrester, Roger Williams.

Apologies: Peter and Sheila Cudmore, Pat Parker, Norma Bush, Brian and Lynne Phelan, Jim Harper.

Announcements:

- December will be the time of our Christmas party with no meeting in January. The next meeting will be February.
- November 11th and 12th will be the Spring Horticultural show and as there is a section reserved for orchids members are encouraged to enter.
- March 17th and 18th will be the 2 day workshop at Moruya hosted by the Eurobodalla club. Places are limited.

- Helpful hints. We would like to make this an informal part of the meeting and encourage members to share their ideas with others. Tonight's idea was from Rob Rough who was finding that his cattleyas were drying out too quickly. Rob added Coco-peat by placing a handful on top of the mix and allowing it to wash into the mix with a bit of water.

Guest Speaker:

The speaker for this night was Trevor Hughes. Trevor has been coming to the November meeting for 6 years to inform us on how he grows his cymbidiums at his nursery (Ikeda) at the south coast. He informed us that this would be the last meeting he would attend in this way as his schedule is busy and he has shared with us all the information he has on growing cymbidiums well. Tonight's meeting focused on preparing the flowers spikes for a show, as well as answering some questions in regards to health and growth issues. Trevor always recommends that each bulb has 2 vegetative growths as the maximum. This will achieve the larger bulbs that are needed for flowering. If there are many growths it is best to remove some of these. A member questioned this. Given that the new leaves would feed the new bulb it didn't make sense that more bulbs would be smaller. Trevor agreed, but said that while he was unable to explain it, he spoke from experience. Less bulbs = bigger bulbs = flowers. Another question was about leaf tip die back. Trevor responded that this problem in cymbidiums appears to some extent to be genetic and is therefore difficult to avoid. Feeding too much could be a problem, or the fungus *Glomerella* could be the cause. Trevor's advice was to keep adjusting the environment/watering etc. Rotting from the centre/top of new bulbs was raised as a problem. Theo Shutz was able to suggest that sometimes the leaves on Cymbidiums are very tight and this causes water to sit for too long in the axis of the new growth. He recommended watering thoroughly twice a week rather than a little bit often. For straight, tall flower spikes, Trevor uses yo-yos suspended from the roof along with stakes. He waits until the flower spike is past the fresh brittle stage, preferring to start when the bottom flower is in place. Then when the stem is still soft he very gradually trains the spike into an upright position by careful staking. The idea of the yo-yo is to hook it onto the flower spike (not too high up). This will help keep a constant light pressure on the spike. A straight spike will have flowers that face all around, so there is no need for turning. If however the spike has a lean then the flowers are likely to face in the direction of the lean. If the desire was to have pendulous spikes, a good trick is to give lots of nitrogen as the spikes appear and this will make the spikes floppy. When they are hanging down nicely it is possible to back the nitrogen off. We were reminded that Trevor grows his plants always with an extra pot on the outside (a 7 inch pot inside an 8

inch pot). This provides a measure of insulation for the roots.

Growing from seedlings is not recommended. This is because seedlings are difficult and time consuming to raise with no guarantees of getting a nice flowering plant. It was recommended to grow the mericlones of good orchids.

Many of us had suffered damage to our cymbidiums over the winter with a large loss of leaves. Trevor told us that cymbidiums didn't tolerate very well temperatures below -4 to -5 degrees C. It would take a few years for damaged plants to recover as those that had lost leaves are basically starting from scratch.

Secretary's report:

Publications - (RHS) The Orchid Review (Sept – Oct), Orchids Australia (Oct), (American Orchid Society) Orchids (Sept), Australian Orchid Review (Oct – Nov), Orchid Digest (Jul – Aug – Sept).

Newsletters – Albury – Wodonga, ANOS Vic, Sapphire Coast, OSNSW, Wagga Wagga, Campbelltown and District, Bateman's Bay Orchid and foliage Society, Miriam-Ann, Gosford and District.

Other – Catalogues from Easy Orchids.

Report moved by Theo Schutz and seconded by Terry Turner.

Treasurer's report: The balance this month is at \$12,874.76.

Report moved by Bill Ferris and seconded by David Judge.

Raffle: Kenneth Turner, Nita Wheeler, Leanda O'Connor, Sandra Corbett, Bill Osmand, Ross Turner. Lucky door: Bob Bush

Magazines contents:

Orchids South Africa 2006

- Going for gold – a guide to quality specimen plant culture
- Carmen coll
- Coelogyne
- Growing plieones
- Phaius tankervilleae
- The genus Aearngis
- Jewels of the Veld and the Vlei
- The bifoliate Cattleyas – part 2
- Borneo
- Epidendrum porpax
- Eulophia graminea

Orchids Australia Dec 2006

- unusual colour form of *Dendrobium tetragomun*
- Orchid conservation
- Walking the Wimmera
- AOC orchids of the year
- The Cape Orchid Society 50th Anniversary Show

- *Cyrtopodiums* in China Pt 2

The Orchid Review (RHS) Nov – Dec 2006

- *Masdevallia* subsection *Saltatrices* pt 1
- Replanting orchid seedlings
- Summer-lady's tresses in New Forest. The danger of knowing too much about the location of wild orchids
- Unearthing the rich orchid flora of Myanmar
- *Penkimia nagalandensis*
- *Trichoglottis*
- *Sedirea subparishii*
- *Dracula dens-canis*
- *Bulbophyllum comatum*
- Four elderly orchids at Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh

The Orchadian Dec 2006

- A short review on the history of orchid taxonomy
- Hybridisation between *Diuris abbreviata* and *D. venosa* at Barrington Tops
- The *Corybas* alliance in New Zealand
- A Bit About ... The big *speciosum* debate of 2006
- *Speculantha vernalis*

Australian Orchid Review

- A look at the spider orchids of Victoria
- *Bulbophyllum claptonense*
- The point of pH
- The drought and orchid growing
- Dubai Flower Centre
- *Paphiopedilum wenshanense*
- *Epucattleya Siam jade*
- Threatened orchids in the wild
- Venezuela's Orchids and Tepuis
- Softcane *Dendrobiums*
- A new species on *Bulbophyllum*
- *Micropera utriculosa* var. *diwata*

Orchids (American Orchid Society)

October –

- Ghosts of the Caribbean
- Orchids in art
- The Chelsea flower show
- *Cyrtopodiums* in China Pt 1

November –

- Orchids of Isla Del Coco
- Behind the mystique. Tracing the history of the art and science of orchids
- No longer a killer. Confessions of a bad grower who found salvation in hydroponics
- James E. Rumrill. A hybridiser shares advice

December –

- Showoffs. 10 eye-catching awarded orchids
- Orchids in art

CROSSWORD No 21 SOLUTION

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Please note that due to an error on the Bulletin Editor's part, this (#21) crossword was repeated in two successive bulletins but the solution was not published. My apologies to all and particularly to the crossword author.

CROSSWORD No 22

by Dennis Drobe

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ACROSS

- 1 Tongue-shaped (10)
- 7 17th letter of Greek alphabet (3)
- 8 Some orchids get from decaying matter (9)
- 9 Is 17 down a town on Long Island? (5)

- 12 Ancient name for Elba (4)
 14 I see Ron's elected but Ed left with the device and circuits (11)
 16 17th Olympic Winter Games were held there (11)
 21 A confused rear is uncommon (4)
 22 "When theis ripe it will fall" – Irish Proverb(5)
 25 I have his 50 tins but they deny all existence (9)
 26 Dad is confused with the sum (3)
 27 Esar had Don become King of Assyria (10)

DOWN

- 1 Long leaves (10)
 2 Not exotic (6)
 3 Flat (4)
 4 "The first breath of adultery is the, after it, constraints aping marriage develop." – Updike (6)

- 5 Arranged like a net (8)
 6 The chief language of Thailand (4)
 10 A garland of flowers (3)
 11 Relating to after the recurrent period (4-6)
 13 ... Capone (2)
 15 Zinc, tungsten, argon, for example (8)
 17 Labellum (3)
 18 The pollen-bearing part of the stamen (6)
 19 Hesitate, initially, in the emergency room (2)
 20 Reared (6)
 23 The fruit of orchid *Vanilla planifolia* occurs as fleshy(4)
 24 Inter; among other things (4)

Popular Vote November 2006

Laeliinae hybrid – miniature	<i>Slc. Juin Tony Tot (Soph. coccinea X L. milleri)</i>	Rob Rough
Laeliinae hybrid - intermediate	<i>Slc. Damsel X Lc. Trick or Treat</i>	Rob Rough
Laeliinae hybrid – standard	<i>Lc. Canhamiana</i>	Ben Walcott
Laeliinae species	<i>C. intermedia</i>	Rob Rough
Sarcochilus species	<i>Sarc. ceciliae</i>	Jane Wright
Sarcochilus hybrid	<i>Sarconopsis Rita Anderson 'Tinonee'</i>	Rob Rough
Paphiopedilum	<i>Paph. Stardust Flight</i>	Theo and Jenny Schutz
Phalaenopsis hybrids	"Phal #2"	Ben Walcott
Other species	<i>Tolu Esther Olea</i>	Jane Wright
Coelogyne species	<i>Coel. fragrans</i>	Don Chesher
Masdevallia species	<i>Masd. veitchiana "Prince des Galles"</i>	Jane Wright
Masdevallia hybrids	Pichincha Cape View	Theo and Jenny Schutz
Exotic Dendrobium species	<i>Den. parishii</i>	Bob Evans
Exotic Dendrobium hybrids	<i>Den. nobile</i>	Kevin Dawes
Cymbidium	<i>Cym. Black Magic X Eyes Red Baron</i>	Bill Ferris
Australian Terrestrial	<i>Diuris vanosa</i>	Mark Clements
Orchid of the Night	<i>Paph. Stardust Flight</i>	Theo and Jenny Schutz
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Sarc. ceciliae</i>	Jane Wright
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Paph. Psyche</i>	David Judge

Popular Vote December 2006

Laeliinae hybrid – miniature	<i>Dial. Snowflake X L. rupestris</i>	Bob Rough
Laeliinae species	<i>L. sincorana</i>	Lynn Phelan
Vandaceous Alliance hybrids	<i>Vand. tessellata X Rynche coelsestis</i>	Ben Wallace
Vandaceous species	<i>Angraecum didieri</i>	Bill Ferris
Paphiopedilum hybrid	<i>Pr. Edward of York</i>	David Judge
Paphiopedilum species	<i>Paph superbiens 'Midnight'</i>	David Judge
Other species	<i>Ctism. tenebrosum</i>	Bob Evans
Oncidium alliance hybrid	<i>Miltonia 'Jean Carlson'</i>	Brian Phelan
Novice	<i>Bur. Nellie Isler 'Swiss Maid'</i>	Ann Osmand
Coelogyne hybrid	<i>Coel. Memoria W. Micholitz 'Burnham'</i>	Don Chesher
Masdevallia hybrid	<i>Masd. vietchiana X Taukau Sandy</i>	Mark Fraser
Dendrobium exotic species	<i>Den. unicum</i>	Mark Clements
Other Australian species	<i>Plectorrhiza tridentata</i>	Bill Ferris
Australian terrestrials	<i>Arachnorchis dilatata</i>	Mark Clements
Orchid of the Night (tied)	<i>Bur. Nellie Isler 'Swiss Maid'</i>	Ann Osmand
Orchid of the Night (tied)	<i>Paph superbiens 'Midnight'</i>	David Judge
Judges Choice - Species	<i>Ctism. tenebrosum</i>	Bob Evans
Judges Choice - Hybrid	<i>Miltonia 'Jean Carlson'</i>	Brian Phelan