



Committee Members

President:	Bill Ferris	0428 639 778
Vice-President:	Andrea Robold	0418 241 694
Treasurer:	Jane Wright	0406 379 054
Secretary:	Jenny Cooke	0419 497 078
Committee:	Elisa Pavlic	0459 125 907
	Krycia Szkiela	0421 636 324
	Brenda Thomson	0414 979 764

Other Roles

Public Officer	Peter Coyne
Bulletin Editor	Geoff Dyne
Web Master	Bill Ferris
Conservation Officer	Derek Corrigan
Scientific Advisor	Mark Clements
Photography & Art	Zoe Groeneveld
New Member Coordinator	Jacquie Bannerman
Meetings Entry Table & Door Prizes	Yvonne Day Audrey Rough
Popular Vote Coordinators	Jacquie Bannerman Jacqui Turner
Benching Officer	Mark Fraser
Judges Choice	Robyn Noel Krycia Szkiela Jane Wright
Librarian	Andrea Robold
Social Media	Mark Fraser Zoe Groeneveld
Sales Table	Jane Wright Brenda Thompson

Members also help in other ways, like storing Society equipment or lending us resources; organising supper for meetings, and setting out and counting the monthly benching/popular vote.

Society meetings

While not in lockdown, meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie, at 7:00 pm for a 7:30 pm start. Visitors are welcome.

Next Meeting

Saturday 5 February 2022, a virtual Zoom meeting commencing **2:30 pm**. Derek Corrigan will be giving a presentation on orchid conservation in the ACT, especially Namadgi.

See the information on the following page of this Bulletin on how to enter plants.

Upcoming Events

Canberra Orchid Society Annual Spring Show 2022

17 - 18 September

Ainslie Football Club

5 -6 March Horticultural Society of Canberra Autumn Flower show

Lancaster Hall, Wesley Centre

www.canberraorchids.org
Email: info@canberraorchids.org
facebook.com/CanberraOrchidSociety
instagram.com/canberra_orchids

Orchid Society of Canberra, Inc
PO Box 221 Deakin West ACT 2600
Australia
ABN 34 762 780 850

Disclaimer

© 2022 The Orchid Society of Canberra. *The Orchid Society of Canberra disclaims liability for any loss, financial or otherwise caused as a result of the contents of this Bulletin.*

Contributions to the next Bulletin

Contributions to the Bulletin are welcome and should be emailed to Geoff Dyne at gdyne@homemail.com.au
Deadline for March-April edition is Wed 22 March 2022.

From the President

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday period and have kept well.

At the December meeting I thought we might be able to say goodbye to Zoom meetings, but Omicron has delayed that. Our next meeting therefore reverts to a virtual one on Saturday 5 February which means we need images for the popular vote. Note that an extra class is being added to the virtual bench to allow entry of plants not for judging. I expect the virtual bench will be on the website on 2 February.

Our presenter for the February meeting will be Derek Corrigan. Derek and his associates have done a fantastic job locating orchids since the 2020 bushfires, not only in Namadgi but also in other parts of the ACT. The native orchids are remarkably resilient to bushfires – it's not the first time they would have been burnt over their many years of existence.

Hoping for a return to normal meetings, we have pencilled in Craig Miles as presenter for the March meeting. Craig grows a range of exotic orchids and sells a range of orchid growing supplies. He will talk on *Miltoniopsis*. This is, of course, assuming an improvement in the virus situation.

One advantage of virtual benching is that plants which are difficult to bring to regular meetings (eg *Stanhopea* and one-day wonders) can be displayed. In order to bench such plants at normal meetings the society will trial an image presentation of these in addition to the real plants. Further information is in this *Bulletin*. Of course if you have a less common orchid/s in flower at any time that cannot be benched at a meeting and want to display them, let me know and I can email the details to members. Articles are also always welcome in the *Bulletin*. While the society has Twitter and Facebook sites, we need someone who has the time and talents to manage these (see details later in the *Bulletin*). If you are able and interested, please talk to me or any of the committee members.

I maybe imagining it, but the relatively milder and more humid summer seems to be appreciated by the orchids. I have various orchids doing well outside with just a cover of shadecloth, enjoying (natural) rain and good air movement.

Summer is often accompanied by storms and some members have, unfortunately, copped a battering this month (January).

Virtual Benching Arrangements for 5 February Meeting

- Ideally provide two images, one of a flower or inflorescence and one of the whole plant for each entry. Please be selective in the number of entries you send in.
- Images are to be emailed to bench@canberraorchids.org by 31 January, earlier if possible. Provide the full name and entry class. Preferably one email for each plant entry to make recording easier.
- Plant classes (20) as per our regular meetings plus one extra (see below)
- Image size, if possible, below 800Kb.
- Popular vote QR code will be circulated once all entries are on the website.
- An extra category will be added for plants which are NOT FOR JUDGING - typically plants that have not been owned for more than 6 months. Same requirements as for other entries, ie an image of the full plant and one of a flower/spike. Simply indicate it is not for judging (class 21).

January-February 2022

Cultural tips for January/February

- Provide extra shade to avoid sun damage and black pots heating up.
- Water regularly to ensure sufficient moisture for your growing conditions. Watering in the evening gives your plants time to absorb the water before the heat of the following day.
- Repot Australian terrestrials while they are dormant if you haven't done so already. Check out our book *'Growing Orchids in Cool Climate Australia'* for methods or talk to other members if you need help. A good quality, well-draining seed-raising mix provides a suitable medium for most terrestrial orchids. Avoid repotting the 'fungus-dependent' terrestrials, such as *Caladenia* sp. These do best when left undisturbed.
- Water Australian terrestrials sparingly (and lightly) until the new shoots emerge. Keep pots cool.
- Fertilise your plants to strengthen new growth. Use a fertiliser that orchids can tolerate. Some of the generic versions can be too strong. Always follow the instructions.
- Monitor for pests. Mites are still active and aphids and munching pests can quickly take hold. Scale multiplies rapidly at this time of year. Check your plants at night with a torch to do some on-the-spot extermination.
- Repot plants in active growth that have outgrown their current pot, or if the bark has started to rot down.

Minutes of General Meeting, 6 November 2021

Present: 15 members, 0 visitors

Apologies: 3

Zoom Meeting commenced at 2.36pm.

President Bill Ferris opened the meeting by welcoming all members to the Zoom meeting.

Members were advised at the outset that the meeting was being video recorded.

Bill advised that today's meeting would cover a range of issues including:
housekeeping, David Judge's presentation, David Judge's award.

Jane Wright advised that David Judge's Slipper Orchid - Joanna Burkhardt - a big multi-floral with three flowers, was put forward and received an Award of Merit. Congratulations David!

Bill welcomed two new members to the Society: Angela Braniff and Megan Lech and looks forward to catching up with them a future meeting. Derek Corrigan noted that both Angela and Megan are also assisting him in his conservation survey work.

Future workshop

Bill advised that in the past workshops have been held across various South and West Regional Clubs typically in the first week of March and rotated around the areas. Whether a workshop would be held in 2022 was unclear at the time and would be considered further by the committee.

Presentation by David Judge on Paphiopedilums

David provided an outline of the four different generic groups of Slipper Orchids:

Paphiopedilium - what David mostly grows and focuses on in his presentation.

Phragmipedium - commonly grown in Australia and a bit easier and hardier to grow.

Cypripedium - a cold climate orchid found high up in mountains where there is snow.

Mexipedium - a single species found in Mexico.

David also discussed the five different types of paphiopedilums:

- *Paphiopedillum insigne* group - most commonly grown, multiply quickly and good for beginners to grow, particularly the hybrids.
- *parvisepalum* group - spectacular with relatively large flowers compared to size of plant. Brightly coloured and slight fragrance as they are pollinated by honey bees.
- *barbata/maudiae* group - biggest group in terms of species and have variegated leaves and very colourful dorsals. The hybrids are good for beginners to grow.
- *brachypetalum* group - toughest group of slipper orchids to grow. Tend to be white-based, flowers small in size, leaves generally variegated, plants don't like to be repotted - not for beginners.
- multi-florals/Polyantha group - ie have more than one flower on a spike! Very slow growing and like sub-tropical to tropical conditions.

David's presentation also provided an overview of his greenhouse setups, one used for slipper orchids and the other for cymbidiums, dendrobiums and psychilis. He also provided advice on watering, light, temperature, fertiliser, potting medium and disease and pest control.

A video of David's full presentation and Powerpoint slides can be viewed on the members' page of the website.

Other matters

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party has been booked for Wednesday, 1 December 2021. At present, the plan is to have a two course meal at the Ainslie Football Club similar to the 2019 Christmas Party. The cost is \$35 per head with a further subsidy provided by the Society. The night would also combine the usual General Meeting with: Benching of plants, Sales table, Opportunity to buy supplies, Giveaway table and Quizzes

Further information will be emailed out. In the meantime, please email Jane at treasurer@canberraorchids.org with your name and number of attendees so that numbers can be confirmed. Payment can also be made through direct deposit to the Society's bank account.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 1 December 2021.

Meeting concluded at 3.50pm.

January-February 2022

Popular Vote Results: 6 November 2021

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Sarcochilus Bewitch</i>	Lynne and Brian Phelan
	<i>Others Benched: Rhynchostylis Judith Larsen x Rhinerrhiza divitiflora, Den. Black Gold, Sarco. Sweetheart, Den. Coolart Sunshine, Doc. pugioniformis, Sarco. hartmannii, Sarco. Pixie Pearls, Sarco. Galaxy, Cadetia taylori</i>		
2	Australian Terrestrial	<i>Diuris semilunulata</i>	Bill Ferris
	<i>Others Benched: Diuris sulphurea x2, Thelymitra nuda, Diuris punctata, Diuris orientis</i>		
3	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium Ruby Pendant 'Red Cascade'</i>	Bob Forrester
	<i>Others Benched: Cym. floribunda, Cym. lowianum, Cym. Devon Odyssey 'Wendy', Cym. Memoria Marvin Gaye 'Royale', Cym. hybrid unknown</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Rhyncholaelia digbyana 'Mrs Chase'</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Cattleya jongheana, Rhyncattleanthe Young-Min Orange 'Golden Satisfaction', Cattlianthe Trick or Treat, Jackfowlieara Apple Blossom 'Hihimanu', C. Lynn's Beau</i>		
5	Cypripedioidea	<i>Paphiopedilum Johanna Burkhardt 'Rajani' AM/AOC</i>	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Paph. philippinense</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Phalaenopsis mariae</i>	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Vanda Cherry Blossom x2, Renanthera imschootiana</i>		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Bratonia Shelob 'Tolkien' AM/AOS</i>	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Cuitlauzina pulchella, Bratonia Aztec 'Toni'</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Masdevallia Copper Angel 'Highland'</i>	Bob Bush
	<i>Others Benched: Octomeria grandiflora x2, Masdevallia Angle Dangle</i>		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Dendrobium loddigesii</i>	Jane Wright
	<i>Others Benched: Dendrobium unicum, Den. polyanthum, Den. pierardii, Den. loddigesii</i>		
10	Coelogyninae	<i>Coelogyne mooreana 'Brockhurst'</i>	David Judge
	<i>Others Benched: Coelogyne flaccida, Coelogyne stricta</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum sumatrana</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: none</i>		
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Krycia Szkiela
	<i>Others Benched: none</i>		
NOVICE			
15	Australian Native	<i>Dendrobium Australian Goldrush</i>	Richard Mayoh
	<i>Others Benched: Sarc. Kulnura Pinup 'SangMo' x 'Hot Spots', Den. kingianum, Den. Delicatum 'Pink Snow'</i>		
16	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium lowianum</i>	Dora Chapman
	<i>Others Benched: Cymbidium Eaglewood 'Five Green' x Glowing Embers,</i>		
19	Any Other Orchid	<i>Dendrochilum tenellum</i>	Krycia Szkiela
	<i>Others Benched: Den. Yukidaruma 'King'</i>		
OPEN Orchid of the Night		<i>Bulbophyllum sumatrana</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
NOVICE Orchid of the Night		<i>Cymbidium lowianum</i>	Dora Chapman
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Bulbophyllum sumatrana</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Paphiopedilum Johanna Burkhardt 'Rajani' AM/AOC</i>	David Judge

January-February 2022

Judges' Choice - Specimen	Sarcochilus Bewitch	Lynne and Brian Phelan
---------------------------	---------------------	------------------------

Orchid Society Social Media Co-ordinator

We are looking for a person to co-ordinate and manage our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Presently, members will occasionally put interesting photos onto our Facebook page. Our President, Secretary, Treasurer and Bulletin Editor, on the other hand, regularly send out emails with relevant information to members. We are looking for a person who can also enter some of the general information onto our Facebook page. This would include reminders about meetings, payment of annual fees, upcoming events and the need to be a member to register for certain event or to receive the *Bulletin*. The removal of unsolicited entries when they occur could also be helpful.

It is important in this Age of Social Media to extend as many tentacles as possible in order to entertain and to keep people connected. This is not a laborious position but one in which you will have your finger on the pulse of what is happening in the Society. It will be important to liaise initially with the President and follow his direction. Basically, it is another way of communicating information to members, new, old and prospective. Please contact our President, Bill Ferris, for more information if you are interested in this position.

Meeting 1 December 2021 – Christmas Party

The Christmas party was a resounding success, with everyone participating having a grand time. There were also quite a few nice orchids benched, which added to the occasion. Lots of Society plant prizes were on offer for quiz champions as well as some private donations. I think everyone left with a present!

Popular Vote Results December 2021

#	Class Name	Plant	Owner
OPEN			
1	Australian Epiphyte	<i>Sarcochilus</i> Unknown	Brian Dear
	<i>Others Benched: Sarco. ceciliae; Cadetia taylori; Sarco. Ruby Rose; Peristerchilus Olive Grace 'Sang-Mo'; Cymbidium suave; Sarco. Glowing Embers x Kulnura Festival; Durabaculum canaliculatum</i>		
4	Laeliinae	<i>Brassanthe</i> Sommersonne; <i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> Tzeng-Wen Dragon	Rob Rough
	<i>Others Benched: Cattlianthe</i> Rosella's Imperial Fire; <i>Cattleya purpurata</i> ; <i>Cattleya milleri</i> ; <i>Encyclia vitellina</i>		
6	Monopodial Vandaeae	<i>Renanthera citrina</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Vanda cristata; Phalaenopsis</i> Unknown; <i>Vanda</i> Cherry Blossom; <i>Vanda javierae</i> ;		
7	Oncidiinae	<i>Miltoniopsis</i> Pink Cadillac	Rob Rough
	<i>Others Benched: Oncidium</i> Star of Jersey; <i>Brassidium</i> unknown; <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Breathless 'Florence'; <i>Lockhartia lunifera</i> ; <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Breathless 'Brilliant'; <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Red Knight x Bull's Eye; <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Red Knight 'The King'; <i>Miltoniopsis</i> Pink Momma 'Yosemite Sam'; <i>Oncostele</i> Kalkastern ; <i>Oncidium</i> Samares, <i>Comparettia falcata</i>		
8	Pleurothallidinae	<i>Pleurothallis tarantula</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Masd. deceptrix ; Masd. Stripe</i> King 'St Ives'; <i>Masd. Rein</i> Touch x Chilli Sun; <i>Masd. Flamingo</i> x Stripendous; <i>Dryadella simula</i> ; <i>Pleurothallis endotrachys</i> 'David'; <i>Masd. coccinea</i> ; <i>Masd. Gold</i> Purse		
9	Exotic Dendrobiinae	<i>Epigenium treacherianum</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld

January-February 2022

	<i>Others Benched: Dendrobium loddigesii</i>		
10	Coelogyninae	<i>Coelogyne mooreana</i> 'Brockhurst'	Andrea Robold
	<i>Others Benched: Pholidota chinensis</i>		
11	Bulbophyllinae	<i>Bulbophyllum burfordiense</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Bulbophyllum urosepalum</i>		
12	Maxillariinae	<i>Maxillaria</i> sp.	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
13	Exotic terrestrials	<i>Sobralia Mirabilis</i>	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
	<i>Others Benched: Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>		
14	Any Other Orchid	<i>Chysis limminghei</i>	Lynne and Brian Phelan
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
NOVICE			
16	Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium</i> unknown	Nick Westerink
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
17	Laeliinae	<i>Cattleya lindleyana</i>	Nick Westerink
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
18	Monopodial Vandeae	<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown	Nick Westerink
	<i>Others Benched: Nil</i>		
OPEN Orchid of the Night		<i>Sobralia Mirabilis</i>	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
NOVICE Orchid of the Night		<i>Phalaenopsis</i> unknown	Nick Westerink
Judges' Choice - Species		<i>Renanthera citrina</i>	Karen and Zoe Groeneveld
Judges' Choice - Hybrid		<i>Sobralia Mirabilis</i>	Mark Fraser and Sandra Corbett
Judges' Choice - Specimen		<i>Sarcochilus</i> unknown	Brian Dear

Annual Attendance and Popular Vote

The following members attended all the face-to-face meetings between Dec 2020 and Nov 2021, and each was given an orchid plant at the Christmas Party: Jacquie Bannerman, Derek Corrigan, Yvonne Day, Brian Dear, Bob Forrester, James Jonklaas, Tony Tritschler, Ben Wallace and Xiaomei Wallace.

The overall Popular Vote winners for 2021 were Karen Groeneveld (Open) and Nick Westerink (Novice).

Novice Orchid of the Night - 2021 Christmas Party

The orchid is *Phalaenopsis* unknown. My parents had it in a pot that they left outside untended. It was completely root-bound but with re-potting and a bit of TLC, responded very quickly.



I have had the orchid 2-3 years now. I water once a week in winter and twice in summer. Fertiliser once a week. Only special thing would be the ground eggshells I sprinkle on the top. Saw that tip on YouTube.

I have a greenhouse that houses most of my orchids. It has a heater, so the temperature doesn't go much below 10 degrees Celsius in winter. In summer there are 2 layers of shade cloth. If an orchid plant flowers, it is rewarded by getting to come inside.

It grows in mostly bark with some sphagnum moss.

Nick Westerink

Open Orchid of the Night - 2021 Christmas Party

(Also Judges Choice and Winner of the Exotic Terrestrial category)



Sobralia Veitchii (macrantha var alba x xantholeuca)

Sobralia Veitchii is a relatively old hybrid, dating back to 1894. The plant I originally purchased was a seedling remake of this classic hybrid. It is a primary hybrid, and the most obvious benefit is that *S. Veitchii* flowers last about 48 hours, as opposed to the twelve hours or less typical of its parents.

Sobralias are native to Mexico, Central America and South America, where they grow as epiphytes and terrestrials. The bamboo like erect stems range in height from 30 cm to 14 m, and the caespitose clumping nature of the stems means they can form quite large dense clumps. The leaves are narrow and quite rigid, supported by a strong series of parallel veins.

Cultivation is really quite easy: these plants like plenty of light and plenty of water. We grew ours on an upper bench of our hothouse, more or less under a spray unit. Growth starts in the Spring, and flower buds will appear in the late Spring or early Summer. A flowering stem may produce as many as five or six flowers, but almost always singly. It is better to let these plants clump up to produce a more spectacular mass of flowers.

The potting mix which we have used for Sobralias is a very simple one: A good layer of drainage material in the bottom of the pot, and then fill the pot with a mixture of 50% coarse bark and 50% Camellia and Rhododendron mix. As far as fertilizing go they get very little beyond a dose of Magamp every couple of weeks. Pests are not a significant problem.

It is important to check the parentage of plants you are buying. *Sobralia macrantha* is a superior species that produces large, fully opening flowers. *Sobralia xantholeuca* produces flowers which are large, but do not expand well. Try to select hybrids which have the more desirable characteristics. In the case of Veitchii, *S. macrantha* has clearly dominated the hybrid, probably because it was the pod parent.

We have owned the plant for about 3 years.

Mark Fraser

Madagascan orchids among over 200 Kew new plant species named in 2021



Aerangis bovicornu a new species from Madagascar

A ghost orchid that grows in complete darkness, an insect-trapping tobacco plant and an “exploding firework” flower are among the new species named by scientists in the last year. The species range from a voodoo lily from Cameroon to a rare tooth fungus unearthed near London, UK.

A new tree from the ylang-ylang family is the first to be named in 2022 and is being named after the actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio. He campaigned to revoke a logging concession which threatened the African tree, which features glossy yellow flowers on its trunk.

The highlighted plants are among the 205 new species named in 2021 by scientists from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and their collaborators around the world. All are vital parts of the planet’s biodiversity and some may provide food and medicine.

However, several are already extinct in the wild and many threatened by the destruction of forests, expanding palm oil plantations and mining. There are 400,000 named plant species and two in five are threatened with extinction. The scientists said it was a race against time to identify new plants before they disappeared for ever.

In total, scientists across the world have named about 2,000 new plant species each year for at least a decade. “It’s almost bewildering that we’re still discovering so many,” said Dr Martin Cheek, at RBG Kew. “But now is our last chance to find unknown species, name them and hopefully protect them before they become globally extinct.”

The new ghost orchid is one of 16 new orchids from dense and remote forests in Madagascar. It was named *Didymoplexis stella-silvae* by Kew’s Johan Hermans, meaning “star of the forest” as it grows in complete darkness and has star-like flowers. It has no leaves or chlorophyll for photosynthesis and gets all its nutrients in symbiosis with underground fungi. The flower only pokes through the forest-floor humus for a day to attract pollinators, which may be ants.



Uvariopsis dicaprio, a tree from the ylang-ylang family found in Ebo Forest, Cameroon, named after Leonardo DiCaprio. Photograph: Lorna MacKinnon/RBG Kew

Three of the new orchids are already thought to be extinct in the wild due to destruction of their forest homes, including one tree-dwelling species that was probably eradicated due to the demand for geranium oil used in aromatherapy. “Sadly, Madagascar’s many unique plants are under threat from deforestation and droughts, floods, and fires caused by climate change,” said Hermans. “It really is a race against time.”

The unusual tobacco plant was among seven new species found near a truck stop in Western Australia and is covered in sticky glands that trap and kill insects, most likely as a defensive measure.

“The arid parts of Australia, which include most of the continent, have been thought of as almost barren, but in recent years these poorly studied areas have yielded many new and unusual species,” said Prof Mark Chase, at RBG Kew.

The tropics are known hotspots for biodiversity and a spectacular new species of primrose found in Borneo was named *Ardisia pyrotechnica* because its shower of white flowers resembles exploding fireworks. However, it is already assessed as critically endangered, as only a few plants have been found in two locations and it is under threat from palm oil plantations.

“Who knows how many thousands of plant species it will be revealed in future to have likely become extinct due to palm oil plantations,” said Cheek. “It’s sickening.”



Ardisia pyrotechnica. Photograph: Shuichiro Tagane/RBG Kew

The new pink voodoo lily has a 30cm-tall flower spike and was found in a small corner of the vast Ebo Forest of Cameroon. The tree named after Di Caprio was also found in the Ebo Forest. But despite the cancelling of logging permits in August 2020 by the president of Cameroon, *Uvariopsis dicaprio* remains critically endangered because its habitat remains unprotected from potential future logging.

The new fungus was first found in the UK’s Windsor Great Park under a sweet chestnut tree in 2008, but not named until now as DNA analysis of a suite of species had to be

completed together. It is one of a group of unusual fungi that form mushrooms with elongated teeth under their caps, rather than gills, and are becoming rarer due to nitrogen pollution from agriculture.

Another new species, a blue-berried bush from the coffee family found in Borneo, took even longer to be scientifically named. It was first seen by scientists in a painting by the eminent botanical artist Marianne North, made in 1876 during a stay by the Sarawak River.

One new species was discovered not in the wild, but in the laboratory. The microscopic fungus was found lurking in a wild banana seed from Vietnam kept at Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank in Sussex. *Fusarium chuoi*, which has a coral colour and a velvety texture, is an “endophyte”, a fungus that lives inside a plant without causing it any visible harm. Distinguishing these from pathogenic fungi is crucial for protecting plant health, the scientists said.

January-February 2022

Among the other new species highlighted were a periwinkle from the Andean valleys in Bolivia, which has kiwi-like fruits that are edible when roasted and may also have medicinal properties and five pretty Cape primroses from the Democratic Republic of the Congo that are threatened by copper mining.

“So many of our medicines come directly from plants or are inspired by compounds that come out of plants,” said Cheek. “If we make species extinct before we can even look at what chemicals are inside them, isn’t that bonkers?”

(Article taken from *The Guardian*)

