



POLLINIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE IRISH ORCHID SOCIETY

Cumann Magairlínní na hÉireann

Volume 14, Issue Two

THE IRISH ORCHID SOCIETY

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Brendan Sayers (Chairman)
Mary Bradshaw (Treasurer)
Deirdre McGrane (Secretary)
Laurence T. May (Editor)

Committee:

Marina Andreeva
Lisa Coffey
Aleksandra Kucharczyk
Laurence T. May

POLLINIA

(pol-LIN-ee-uh)

The compact packets of pollen found in orchid flowers. The plural of *Pollinium*.

Waxy pollen clumps or grains usually found in the anthers of most orchids; often yellow, distinct, and found under the pollen cap of the column.

Pollinia contain the male reproductive cells. Latin *pollin-*, stem of pollen "fine flour, dust."



Orchid Pollinia

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MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

(renewable in June of each year)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Single | €20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | €30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OAP/Student* | €15.00 |

(*Confirmation of student status required)

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Deirdre McGrane Secretary
The Irish Orchid Society
c/o National Botanic Gardens
Botanic Road, Dublin, D09 E7F2, Ireland

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

The Editorial Staff reserve the right to edit and/or amend articles submitted to the Newsletter.

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Copies of this and previous issues (in pdf format) are available at:
www.pollinia.org

Print copies may be ordered. Please contact the Editor.

Cumann Magairlí na hÉireann



IOS & OTHER ORCHID EVENTS, FAIRS, MEETINGS, SHOWS, CONFERENCES



All talks are held in the Visitors Centre of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and begin at 8:00pm, unless otherwise stated. Please check the IOS website for possible changes.

JUL

7

2016

ANNUAL NORTH BULL ISLAND WALK

Thursday, July 7th, 6.30pm

Join Ireland's orchid expert Brendan Sayers and discover some of Ireland's wild orchids in the sand dunes of Bull Island in Dublin. Be prepared for good or bad weather!

Meet at the Interpretive Centre. All welcome. Walk will be about 1.5 hours.

SEP

5

2016

MEMBERS' NIGHT

Monday September 5th, 2016, 7:30pm

Bring along your orchids for discussion, whether you have problems with them, need advice or simply just want to show them off.

OCT

3

2016

KARL DUFFY

DUBLIN TO KWAZULU-NATAL

Monday October 3rd, 7:30pm

Karl Duffy studied the pollination biology of rare Irish orchids for his PhD at Trinity College Dublin. He then travelled to South Africa for a post-doctoral position at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg. He has recently returned to Europe and is based at the Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity Conservation section of the University of Leuven in Belgium. He will tell us intriguing tales of orchids from both continents.

NOV

7

2016

MEMBERS' NIGHT

Monday November 7th, 2016, 7:30pm

Bring along your orchids for discussion, whether you have problems with them, need advice or simply just want to show them off.

DEC

5

2016

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday December 5th, 2016, 7:30pm

Test your orchid knowledge with Brendan Sayers' Orchid Quiz, along with a few nibbles and light refreshments! As with all meetings, bring along any orchids you'd like to show your fellow members. A Happy Christmas to all IOS members!

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY IRELAND BICENTENARY GALA CELEBRATION

Friday September 30th, 2016—All Day

Location: RDS Ballsbridge Dublin 4

RHSI 200th birthday bash. Floral art demonstration by Jenny Murphy. Lectures by Dan Hinkley, Roy Lancaster and Monty Don. Early booking discount available. Full price all-day ticket €100. Early Bird ticket at discount. Booking for 1 or more lecture possible. See Ticketmaster for details. More info: <http://www.ticketmaster.ie>



WELSH ORCHID FESTIVAL 3RD AND 4TH SEPTEMBER 2016

National Botanic Garden of Wales, Carmarthenshire

Contact: Lynne Harrendence +44 01269 269847

lynne.harrendence@resqnet.co.uk



WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

22nd World Orchid Conference

Guayaquil, Ecuador -

8th through 12th November 2017

<http://www.woc22.com/>

THE IRISH ORCHID SOCIETY

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

AGENDA

Welcome and introductions

Brendan began by welcoming the attendees. It was noted that a quorum was present despite the Ireland-Sweden soccer match being played. Attendees: Deirdre McGrane, Brendan Sayers, Mary Bradshaw, Úna Breathnach, Lisa Coffey, Robert Bradshaw, Hilda Beckett, Olwyn Lannigan, Deirdre McTiernan, Mary Flynn, Anne Kenny.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Marie Hourigan, Larry May, Tom Petherbridge and Tom Doran

Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM

Minutes of the 2015 AGM were reviewed by those present. No matters arose from same.

Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting be Accepted.

Moved: Olwyn Lannigan

Seconded: Mary Flynn

Passed

Chairperson's Annual report

Since the 2015 Annual General Meeting, we have settled into our usual routine of a field trip to the North Bull Island, some enjoyable members' nights and a talk from a visiting lecturer. Johan Herman's talk on *Recent Travels around the Orchid World* brought a change from the usual faces and was enjoyed by many more than just IOS members. The Society again participated in the Dublin Orchid Fair held by the National Botanic Gardens, which seemed to be a successful event for everyone involved.

The biggest change from the routine this past year was with the Society's newsletter, **Pollinia**. The change is dramatic and one that has been greeted divergently. What must be repeated is our compliments to the Editor, Larry May for producing a newsletter, often with very little contributed content from members. As a record of what we were, are and will be, it is incumbent on us to keep **Pollinia** filled with what is unique to orchid growing in Ireland. We are now, as a charitable organisation, obliged to lodge records of our activities with the Charities Regulatory Authority, and **Pollinia**, with a good report of our activities, has the ability to make that easier and efficient.

We should also scrutinise the routine that we have fallen into and ask ourselves if we have become complacent. The drain of members on specialist societies is not unique to us and those that remain active and involved are due a high quality reward for their efforts.

I must apologise to the Committee as a "reluctant" Chairperson. Pressures on daily life have let me fall into relying on the routine and neglecting the role of communication, one that I do believe is necessary to keep out of falling into a rut. I will attempt to do better this coming year.



Personal thanks and congratulations: the Annual General Meeting gives heartiest thanks to Mary Bradshaw, Deirdre McGrane, Lisa Coffey, Marina Andreeva and Aleksandra Kucharezyk for their work on our behalf. It also thanks Marie Hourigan and the National Botanic Gardens for their support.

BRENDAN SAYERS, CHAIRPERSON

Questions regarding Chairperson’s Report

None

Resolutions regarding Chairperson’s Report

None

Acceptance of Chairperson’s Report

Proposed resolution: That the Annual Report tabled at the Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Úna Breathnach

Seconded: Mary Flynn

Passed

Treasurer’s Report

Mary Bradshaw, Treasurer, presented the Report. At the 2015 AGM, Olwyn had suggested that presentation of two years finances would be useful, hence, both the current and previous year’s statements were provided to members.

Financial Statement 2014/2015 (Amounts in Euro)

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	670.00	Pollinia	775.22
Life Membership	0	Website costs	193.09
Raffles	699.00	Prizes for raffles	225.98
Sales of bark	134.00	Engraving	60.00
Pleione bulbs	40.00	Orchid flasks	56.25
Potting demonstration	255.00	Stamps	256.00
		Orchid Soc GB sub	27.35
		Bank fees	15.54
		Speaker 1-Doogue	50.00
		Speaker 2-Lambkin	75.00
		Speaker 3-Harris	12.00
		Orchid bark	30.00
Total	1,798.00	Total	1,806.43
Deficit	-8.43		

Cash in Bank, in two accounts, €6,303.46

Financial Statement 2015/2016

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	636.76	Pollinia	587.55
Life Membership	0	Website costs	236.16
Raffles	979.00	Prizes for raffles	89.98
Sales of bark	15.00	European Orchid Council Membership	70.00
		Envelopes (500)	42.13
		Stamps	103.35
		Orchid Society of GB Subscription	27.00
		Bank fees	15.54
		Speaker	344.70
		Orchid bark	30.00
Total	1,630.76	Total	1,516.41
Surplus	114.35		

Cash in Bank, in two accounts, 6,665.10

Questions regarding Treasurer's report

Olwyn commented on the difficulty of maintaining a society and queried for how long the IOS could continue on its reserves. It was stated that reserves would sustain the Society for approximately four years. Mary Bradshaw noted that although subscriptions were only slightly higher than those of the previous year, the income from the raffles had been very good. The raffles are our main source of income and we are now sourcing the prizes in IKEA, Woodie's, Homebase, etc. as this represents good quality and value for money. Similarly, at the Orchid Fair, the raffle prizes were not bought from either of the growers present and so our costs were lower than in previous years. It was noted, however, that the new look **Pollinia** has an increased postage cost. The only cost associated with Johan Herman's talk was the book with which he was presented by the IOS and dinner.

Olwyn queried the number of plants bought for the Orchid Fair raffle and the quality of same. Úna replied that plants cost upwards of €15 in a garden centre. She added that members had to keep moving them due to the wind around the entrance to the Teak House, while Brendan added that the position is nonetheless beneficial in terms of catching people as they enter the Teak House. Úna stated that regular members continuously support the raffles.

Resolutions regarding Treasurer's report

None



Acceptance of Treasurer's report

Proposed resolution: That the financial statements tabled at the Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Úna Breathnach

Seconded: Mary Flynn

Passed

Committee 2016-2017

The committee for the coming year will be as presently constituted.

A.O.B.

Brendan proposed an amendment to the IOS constitution which would require a unanimous consensus from members present as the membership had not been given notice. It was proposed that Section 4, Clause 3 be amended to allow an individual to retain a committee position in "exceptional circumstances". This would assist in keeping positions filled and possibly avoid vacancies, as has occurred in the past. All members present were unanimous in their support and the amendment was passed. Olwyn noted that the matter had been dealt with in a forthright manner but that hopefully, circumstances would not arise as to require its implementation.

Deirdre McGrane, Secretary, stated that postage cost for **Pollinia** had increased due to the new format, but that as long as a balance was maintained between members who chose to receive the digital version and those who preferred the paper copy this cost could be sustained. Mary Bradshaw stated that there has also been a cost for new envelopes due to the new format. Brendan added that the IOS must be mindful of costs as we cannot afford to diminish our savings. Úna queried whether members were aware of the option of receiving the digital version of **Pollinia** and Deirdre McGrane stated that a notice to this effect had been circulated via a previous edition of **Pollinia**.

Brendan observed that Society members do not contribute a significant amount of material to **Pollinia**, but as members we need to do more. Úna stated that she had sent Larry a piece on the biosphere of Bull Island.

Brendan expressed his unhappiness with one of the photographs of himself in the January edition of **Pollinia** and Robert noted that he should prepare himself for a similar photo in relation to the Johan Herman's talk. Brendan also drew attention to some typos in the previous edition.

Lisa reported that the IOS website recorded similar visitor statistics in comparison to last year, but far more are using mobiles and other devices. The website will therefore be modified to accommodate such users. The hope is to make the website more interactive and all feedback is welcome. Please email lisa@irishorchidsociety.org

Olwyn queried whether Brendan had had any further communication with the RHSI in relation to their suggestion of setting up an orchid group. Brendan stated that they had not contacted him, and that were they to do so, he would be very clear on the issue of duplication. He added that he would encourage RHSI members to participate in the IOS.

Mary Bradshaw noted that the RHSI will be running a one day seminar in the RDS on 30/09/2016. Events will include a floral art demonstration and talks from speakers including Monty Don and Roy Lancaster. Tickets available from www.ticketmaster.ie

Robert thanked the National Botanic Gardens for the use of their facilities and their continuing support of the IOS and other societies over the past year.

Mary Bradshaw queried whether it would be worthwhile to schedule a talk in the afternoon, during the winter months. Brendan observed that talks taking place in the National Botanic Gardens seem to run on a theme e.g. botany, and that the same people often attend each lecture. He suggested that we reflect on what type of events would increase attendance and garner interest: our members

tend to attend workshops more so than lectures. Therefore, an event that would promote the IOS and yield new members is what we should provide.

Olwyn queried whether the new alphabet in botanical art would feature any orchids. Brendan stated that it would not, but would instead focus on new Irish plants since 2000.

Mary Flynn queried whether there would be a potting workshop this year. Mary Bradshaw replied that it would take place sometime in the spring, as in the past. Brendan added that the IOS would play a greater role in the workshop, as at the Orchid Fair: . IOS desk with information, talks on the history and cultivation of orchids etc. There will be a fee for attendees of the potting workshop.

Brendan reviewed the schedule for the remainder of 2016:

July 7, 2016 18:30 Bull Island Fieldtrip – meet at the Interpretive Centre
August 2016 No Meeting
September 5, 2016 19:30 Members' Night – will include a short presentation
October 3, 2016 19:30 Visiting speaker – Karl Duffy TBC
November 7, 2016 19:30 Members' Night – will include a short presentation
December 5, 2016 19:30 Christmas Party and Quiz

Meeting close

The AGM concluded at 20:22.

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Visitor Centre, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

DEIRDRE MCGRANE



Volume XIV Issue 1 ERRATA

Page 4, second paragraph, line 4; *D. purpurella* x *D. fuchsii* should read *D. incarnata* x *D. fuchsii*

Page 5 with six photographs;

top right image should be *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* not *D. incarnata*

middle bottom should read *Dactylorhiza x kernerorum*

bottom right should read *Anacamptis pyramidalis*

Page 10

The correct name of the plant is *Cephalanthera longifolia*, as in the original.

Member of the **European Orchid Council** <http://www.europeanorchidcouncil.eu/>

The Irish Orchid Society (in Irish: *An Cumann Magairlini na hÉireann*) was founded in 2001 at the Irish National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, Dublin, where Society meetings have continued to be held on nine months each year.

The Glasnevin gardens are of great historical significance to orchidophiles, for during the European era of 'Orchidmania' in the mid-19th century, it held one of the finest orchid collections in the world.



FROM THE EDITOR

MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER Members are reminded that the Membership year begins on June 1st each year. Annual Subscriptions are now due for 2016-2017. Subscription payments per the schedule on page two are to be posted to: Deirdre McGrane, Secretary, The Irish Orchid Society c/o National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, D09 E7F2.

If you prefer, you may use the Credit Card/PayPal form at our website:

<http://www.irishorchidsociety.org/membership.php>

I want to thank the members who sent me emails and notes for their kind words of appreciation of our new design. There were members who did not like the design, as you see by the poem on page 27. All I can say is that I will try to improve to please all members. Your comments and insights are always welcomed.

This is my 34th issue as Editor. I want to make the newsletter as interesting, informative and attractive as possible. The better it is, the more we will attract new members and retain older members.

At the AGM there was discussion of a possible increased cost of **Pollinia**.

In fact, there will be a substantial *decrease* in total costs associated with **Pollinia** as we are now printing and posting only twice a year, rather than four times a year.

An Post does charge more for mailing the 8 x 8 size. They charge not by weight but size. The envelopes were bought online at a great price of about eight cents each.

Our printer, J. J. Lalor Ltd., Dublin, gives the Society a substantial discount but any printing in colour in any publication, nearly always doubles cost over simple black and white. Glossy paper photos are even more costly.

Pollinia costs are somewhat offset by our now being paid for advertisements and accepting donations and gifts. Advertisements are simply what many other newsletters have been doing for years e.g. the **OSGB Journal**. I counted 16 ads in their last issue, and still plenty of good content.

My best wishes to all for a good summer with perhaps some extended periods of sun.

And, let me be the first to say
Happy Christmas!

LAURENCE MAY



Front Cover: *Selenipedium aequinoctiale* Garay

Flower Size 1 3/5" [4 cm]

Found in Ecuador in wet montane forests at elevations of 550 to 1000 meters as a medium to large sized, hot to warm growing terrestrial, blooms in the spring and summer on a terminal or from axis of upper branches, arcuate, puberulent, short, bracteate, successively several [to 10] flowered inflorescence. *S. aequinoctiale* is a very rare and very local species with a distribution restricted to two localities. The population density is very low, the trend of the population is decreasing and the number of mature individuals is estimated to be between 50 and 100 with most of them in Ecuador (Garay 1978, Harling and Andersson 2005, Cribb 2009, eMonocot 2015).

RECENT TRAVELS AROUND THE ORCHID WORLD

JOHAN HERMANS

Recent Travels around the Orchid World

The Irish Orchid Society welcomed Johan Hermans, a recent recipient of the highest accolade the RHS bestows, the Victoria Medal of Honour, on 9th May 2016. Johan has recently retired as Chairman of the RHS Orchid Committee a post he held for eight years. He was accompanied by his wife Clare, who has recently succeeded him as Chair of the said committee. Johan says that he never gives the same lecture twice so we were very lucky to attend this lecture and to benefit from his wide knowledge and excellent photography.

Johan began in his home area of Suffolk and showed us some orchids with which we are familiar in Ireland – *Ophrys apifera*, *Dactylorhiza viridis*, *Epipactis atrorubens*, and some native to the UK - *Orchis militaris* and *Liparis loeselii* (the Fen Orchid) which is very rare.

We travelled on to Ecuador which has very diverse orchids. Ecuagenera nursery featured briefly [<http://www.ecuagenera.com/>]. This nursery attends shows all over the world and grows enormous amounts of e.g. Masdevallias. We also saw *Cyrtorchilum macrantum* rambling through shrubbery and *Epidendron ibaguense* growing at the side of the road. Many varieties of Maxillaria and Sobralia are also quite common along the roadsides but what was probably the most impressive sight was *Cattleya maxima* collected by local people in its various colours and displayed in their gardens or draped over roofs and balconies.

Johan stressed that local guides are needed to locate some plants e.g. *Phragmipedium longifolium* and *P. hertzii* which grows on the side of a waterfall. In the cloud forest *Comparettia falcata*, *Elleanthus capitatus* (butterfly pollinated) and *Phragmipedium fischeri* (only discovered 10-15 years ago) are to be found. Johan describes *Elleanthus* species and *Phragmipedium pearcei* as easy to grow in cultivation always bearing in mind the wet conditions they need.

We then moved to a recent orchid show at the Tokyo Dome. This had excellent educational displays, e.g. a *Calanthe* nursery which used dolls in its display, a *Grammatophyllum speciosum* (see **Pollinia**, Vol.14, Issue One) displaying artificial flowers. Best in Show was a *Paphiopedilum* 'Emerald Future.'





The prize was a Mercedes automobile and £50,000. IOS members take note that such largesse is unlikely here.

The outstanding trip, however, was that taken to Madagascar 1-18 January 2016. This enormous island – 580,000 sq kms has many diverse habitats and the best time to see many of its plants, especially terrestrial orchids in bloom is during the January rainy season.

Epiphytic *Grammangis ellisii* is endemic to Madagascar and can be found in coastal forest and in humid evergreen forest with its branches overhanging rivers up to 1,300m. so it is really wide-ranging. Eulophias are to be found in the marshlands. *Cynorkis* has 150 species in Madagascar. *Cynorkis lindleyana* was described by Johan and is listed as a “slender terrestrial, 25-35cm tall; leaves 3-5, linear, acuminate; flowers purple-pink; lip entire, a little pandurate (fiddle-shaped;) spur almost cylindrical, wide at the base and a little contracted towards the middle, 7-9mm long. It grows in grassland, in marshes in peaty soil, in dry river-beds and flowers September to April.

I sensed that *Cynorkis flexuosa* is one of Johan’s favourites. This is described as “Terrestrial, 15-30cm tall; leaf 1, rarely 2, linear-ligulate (tongue-shaped;)



inflorescence few-flowered; flowers with green sepals and petals and a bright yellow lip, generally with two small reddish spots at base; sepals 8-9mm long; lip 4-lobed, 18mm long; spur 16-18mm long. It grows in grassland and rocky outcrops from sea-level–1,700m and flowers October-August.”

Then there is *Cynorkis gibbosa* growing by roadsides with its huge spotty leaves and enormous inflorescences.

This comes also in a yellow-flowered form. Johan marvels that all these species and those of *Angraecum* are still to be found in Madagascar, along with 30-40 species of chameleon, various lemurs, thousands of frogs, beetles, spiders, butterflies and moths all playing their parts in Nature’s great story.



Cynorkis flexuosa - Wikipedia



Johan concluded with a visit to Vercors National Park in Grenoble, France which he described as “a little Heaven for Orchids.” Here are to be found some lovely terrestrial orchids, e.g. *Himantoglossum hircinum*, various *Dactylorhiza* species, *Cephalanthera longifolia*, *Cypripedium calceolus* and *Corallorhiza trifida*, which has tiny flowers but no leaves.

This was an inspiring lecture delivered with humour. One must admire the passion and work of Clare and Johan who travel, climb, photograph, identify plants, enduring varied climates and habitats and bring us their story so we can marvel from the comfort of an auditorium. We wish them well in all their future travels and endeavours. ■

MARY BRADSHAW
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY BRADSHAW

A SIDE EFFECT

When the Irish Orchid Society invited Johan Hermans to talk to us last May many of us did not realise that a beneficial side effect would occur. In this case it is a strengthening between what is presently happening and what has happened in relation to orchids in Ireland and one of the leading orchid institutions in the world, the Royal Horticultural Society.

Johan has just stepped down as Chair of the RHS Orchid Committee; he has been replaced by his wife Clare. In relation to RHS Orchid Committee history this husband and wife pair have been prolific in their research and the publication of their results. As Frederick Moore of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, was so enthusiastic in his interest in orchids it was great to see the Hermans have the opportunity to look in the archives at some correspondence, photographs, auction catalogues and botanical illustrations of what was growing during his time. Many of the illustrations are of awarded plants which are good references for future awards in the same categories.

With the support of the Irish Orchid Society the new and strengthened relationships between foreign orchid related institutes and the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, grow into a truly good side effect.

BRENDAN SAYERS

MEMBERS NIGHT: FEBRUARY 'SHOW AND TELL'

Members unable to attend our February 1st meeting missed a number of treats.

Firstly, a number of *Paphiopedilum* species purchased on behalf of the Society were presented on that night. Brendan Sayers our Chairman and Marie Hourigan had taken these “babies in flasks” under their wings and brought them on since April 2015 to a stage when they could be grown by members. The little plants were purchased at the European Orchid Show and Conference in London and now had reached “toddler” stage.

Brendan gave a visual presentation on each of the species, best growing conditions, etc. There are a total of 25 plants, five each of the following: *Paphiopedilum lawrenceanum*, *P. wardii* var *alba*, *P. Senne Calle*, *P. gratrixianum*, *P. mastersianum*. Each member present was asked to choose a plant. Some members got two!

I chose *Paphiopedilum gratrixianum* – not the easiest to grow, I believe. It currently resides in a little sphagnum moss, in a tiny terracotta pot, in a sealed freezer bag and gets a few drops of tepid water when it appears to be drying out. It has joined the rest of my collection on a north-facing window.

According to Alec Pridgeon (**The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Orchids**, 1972) the genus *Paphiopedilum* comprises about 60 species growing from Southern India to New Guinea and the Philippines. The lateral sepals are fused into a synsepal, which is usually small and more or less hidden behind the pouch-like lip. The dorsal sepal is large and showy.

Most species are solitary flowered but several bear multiple flowers either concurrently or successively. *Paphiopedilum* species do not have pseudobulbs and prefer moisture-retaining epiphytic compost and medium light levels. As Brendan also explained, mottled-leaved species require warm temperatures; plain-leaved species usually prefer intermediate or cold temperatures.

Paphiopedilum gratrixianum may be found growing on mossy granite in the cloud forest in Laos and Vietnam at elevations of 910m to 1900m. Conditions in winter have high humidity and drizzle. Heavy rains occur in summer. Spring is the hottest season. My plant when ready should be grown on in moderately bright light and intermediate temps in medium sized bark and perlite. To induce blooming, water and temps should be reduced for 4-6 weeks in early winter. I may expect a single 8cm flower.

Other treats also followed. Mark Garvey has decided to “downsize” his collection and very generously donated a huge number of excellent plants to our usual raffle. This led to a “monster” raffle of very well grown plants. I won nothing but have my *Paphiopedilum* to look forward to?? ■

MARY BRADSHAW

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Subsequent to the publication of Alex Pridgeon's book in 1972, the list of accepted *Paphiopedilum* species has grown to 96, with several others waiting to be approved.

IOS MEMBERS' PLANTS AT THE 2016 DUBLIN SHOW AND FAIR

BEST HYBRID

Calanthe triplicata x *ceceliae*
Brendan Sayers



CYMBIDIUM



"People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us."

Iris Murdoch
A Fairly Honourable Defeat



BEST SPECIES AND BEST IN SHOW

Dendrobium x delicatum

Mairead Donnelly



BEST PHALAENOPSIS

Mary Bradshaw



BEST PAPHIOPEDILUM

Paphiopedilum sukhakulii x *P. charlesworthii*

Mark Garvey

(Unfortunately, we have no photo for Mark Garvey's plant)

FIVE NEW ORCHID SPECIES FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES

Five new orchid species have been discovered in remote Philippines mountains, protected from poaching because of an insurgency in the region, conservationists said recently.

The species are found only in a mountain range on the rebellion-torn Mindanao area in the southern Philippines and have eluded those cataloguing plant life for 200 years, expert Miguel David de Leon told AFP.



Dendrobium lydiae

"These areas are very isolated. The terrain is treacherous, accessible only by foot and occasionally, a motorcycle or horse," he added.

The finds, first published in the German **Orchideen Journal** this year, include a dazzling yellow bloom flecked with brown spots. [http://orchideen-journal.de/permalink/OrchideenJournal_Vol4_3.pdf]

"It is one of the most attractive among members of the genus," said De Leon.

"(The) other species are red or purple but this really stands out because it's the brightest shade of yellow."

Poaching of wild orchids mostly by locals is rampant in the Philippines, with some communities illegally harvesting them without permits for export or to sell them along roads.

But Mindanao region is among the country's areas wracked by one of Asia's longest-running insurgencies, whereby Maoist guerrillas retain support among the poor in the farming and mountainous communities.

"The insurgency problem helps prevent poachers or would-be orchid-hunters from entering the forests," said De Leon, a plant and wildlife conservationist who found the species while trekking the mountains of Bukidnon province in Mindanao.



Dendrobium lydiae

De Leon, Australian taxonomist Jim Cootes and Filipino research associate Mark Arcebal Naive named their most vivid



find *Epicrianthes aquinoi* to honour outgoing Philippines President Benigno Aquino whose family uses the colour yellow in political rallies.

Other species they discovered include a pure white and a red-lipped white Dendrobium, a dark red Epicrianthes, and a green slipper orchid with red stripes.

Cootes, who has written three books on Philippines orchids, told AFP the discoveries showed the rich biodiversity of the Southeast Asian nation, with more species awaiting discovery.

"We need to preserve what is left because the variation within the different species is so high that it is almost priceless," he said.

"The mountains throughout the archipelago need to be preserved," he added.

US-based Conservation International lists the Philippines as among 35 biodiversity hotspots -- areas with the world's richest but most threatened plant and animal life.

Deforestation that plagues mountains across the Philippines also destroys orchid habitats as well as shrubs, fungi and algae that keep the forests alive. ■

MANILA
(AFP)



Epicrianthes aquinoi

SMARTPHONE PLANT IDENTIFICATION APPS

The best apps to identify unknown plants and flowers

1. PlantSnapp - Free

This app makes identifying easy. First take a photo of the plant, then the app will do its best to recognise it. Take a photo of a bug you find eating your plants, or that large brown spot on your lawn, and our advisors will tell you what type of pest or disease is affecting the health of your plants. Once recognised, it will give details of name, care information and even where/when it must be planted.

<https://www.gardencompass.com/garden-compass-mobile-app/>

2. LikeThat Garden - \$2.99

LikeThat Garden is an extremely simple app available from Apple only. It's an easy process that involves the user photographing the plant in question and the app sifting through its database to find matches.

The app also gives details of similar looking plants to give inspiration for your garden as well as care information. Available from the App store.

3. FlowerChecker

The FlowerChecker app uses real botanists to identify unknown plants, moss, fungus and even lichen, perhaps therefore making it the most accurate of the apps. Available from the App Store and for Android. <http://www.flowerchecker.com/>

4. Plantifier - Free

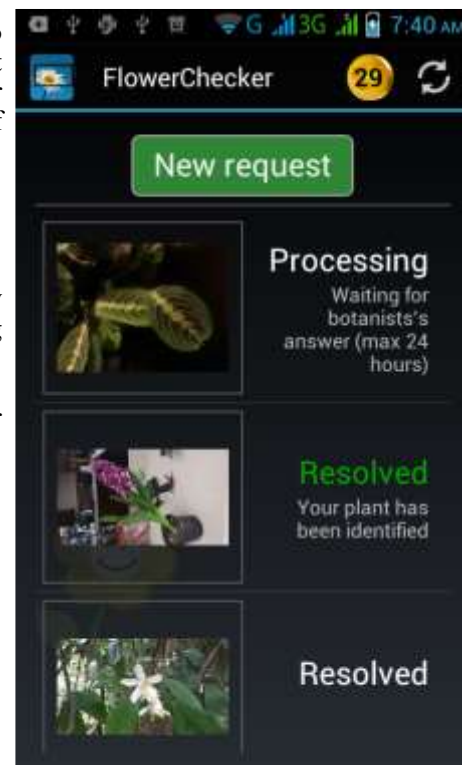
Available from the App store and for Android, Plantifier employs a team of people from mygarden.org, who help to identify unknown plants.

5. Leafsnap — Free

Developed by the University of Maryland, Smithsonian Institute and Columbia University, Leafsnap identifies tree species from their leaves. For the UK app, Leafsnap have partnered with the Natural History Museum in order to create a bank of images and to help with identifying tricky trees. Apple only in UK.

6. NatureGate - Free

Available for Android and from the App Store, NatureGate allows you identify your plant with a database of 700 species. In addition to this, it also helps to identify birds, fish and even butterflies. Apple only.



7. iPflanzen—Free

Rather than using photographs to recognise plants/flowers, iPflanzen requires you to enter criteria such as leaf shape or fruit colour in order to figure out the mystery. In conjunction with their other apps - **iGarten** and **iForest** - extremely detailed and interesting information can easily be found. <http://www.ipflanzen.ch/pages/en/home.php>

8. Google Goggles - Free

Although not directly plant-related, Google Goggles works via the user taking a photograph, and if the app recognises what is in the picture, it will offer up suggestions and information of what it may be. Goggles can read text in English, French, Italian,

9. PlantNet Plant Identification EDITOR'S CHOICE

<http://www.plantnet-project.org>

Pl@ntNet is an image sharing and retrieval application for the identification of plants.

It is developed by scientists from four French research organisations (Cirad, INRA, Inria and IRD), and the Tela Botanica network, with the financial support of Agropolis foundation.

Among other features, this free app helps identifying plant species from photographs, through a visual recognition software. Plant species that are well enough illustrated in the botanical reference database can be easily recognized. The number of species and the number of images used by the application evolve with contributions of end users to the project.

It doesn't allow the identification of ornamental plants. It works even better than the pictures submitted are focused on one organ. Pictures of tree leaves on uniform background provide the most relevant results. Wild orchids worldwide.

If you correctly identify a species, you can participate to the project by submitting your observation with the "contribution" button. These contributions subject to a moderation process will be validated collaboratively.

To find this application on the web, go to the following link and explore:

<http://identify.plantnet-project.org/en/base/tree>



This app has many wild orchid images and is arranged by regional databases: Western Europe (6,153 species; 239,413 images;) South America, (903 species, 44,721 images;) Indian Ocean, (1,161 species, 68,541 images;) North Africa, (2,680 species, 131,398 images.) It is updated frequently as more images and identifications are added. ■

BULBOPHYLLUM FLETCHERIANUM



The Tongue Orchid (*Bulbophyllum fletcherianum*) is a rare orchid native to southern New Guinea, also known as Fletcher's Bulbophyllum or Spies' Bulbophyllum. It prefers sunny rock outcrops or mossy tree branches, but besides being lithophytic or epiphytic, it can also be pseudo-terrestrial. The Tongue Orchid requires high humidity and moist roots.

It is one of the largest species of orchid in the world, with leaves growing to almost 1.8 meters (6 feet), from a pseudobulb. It is allied to other large orchid species such as *B. phalaenopsis* and *B. macrobulbon*.

The flowers are maroon and spike-shaped, and release an over-powering aroma which attracts blowflies and carrion beetles for pollination.

The specimen [left] at the Tropical House, Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens was collected in Papua New Guinea in the early 1970s by a local orchid collector, and is mounted on cork oak. It flowers very infrequently: 1980, 2002 and 2005, 2013. ■



DRACULA ORCHID FLOWERS MIMIC MUSHROOMS TO ATTRACT FLIES



A real *Dracula* orchid (left) among 3D copies containing parts of real flowers

In the cloud forests of Central and South America live masters of disguise. Some species of orchid have evolved an unusual solution to pollination in forests with few bees: part of their flowers look and smell like mushrooms.

The flowers of some *Dracula* orchids have a lower petal – known as a labellum – that closely resembles the mushrooms that live in their forest habitat. The flowers also emit chemicals identical to those given off by some fungi.

Scientists had long speculated that this mimicry attracts fungus gnat flies, which lay their eggs on mushrooms and act as pollinators. However, the exact importance of appearance and scent to the orchids' disguise had not been studied before.

To study what it is that attracts forest flies, a team led by Tobias Policha, a biologist at the University of Oregon in Eugene, created 3D-printed replicas of the flowers of one species of *Dracula* orchid (*Dracula lafleurii*).

The researchers swabbed some of these replicas with a scent extract from the real orchid, and left others unscented. They then tested the printed flowers in the orchid's natural habitat – the forests of the Ecuadorian Andes – to see what the flies made of the impostors.

They found that the orchids are playing an even more subtle game than we thought.

Sure enough, the scented replica flowers attracted three times as many flies as unscented ones. This suggests that their scent, in addition to their looks, attracts unwitting insect pollinators looking to lay their eggs on mushrooms.

Spotting patterns

But the team found that the *Dracula* flowers also attracted flies in another, less obvious way.

Aside from its mushroom-mimicking labellum, the sepals of *D. lafleurii* have a characteristic spotted pattern. By painting the replica sepals, the researchers showed that flies were more attracted to those with a spotted pattern than those that were striped or did not have a pattern.

The reason for this is not clear, but it could be that the insects confuse the spots for other flies, and land on the flowers in the hope of finding a mate.

Although various species of *Dracula* orchid have been proposed as fungi mimics, this is the first time that scientists have managed to separately study their visual and olfactory tactics, says Policha.

“Few organisms scream evolution like orchids – they have developed some absolutely wild adaptations,” says David Grimaldi, an entomologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. “This study reveals just how deceptively sophisticated orchids can be in luring pollinators.”

At least four other plant genera are believed to mimic fungi. However, this is not a well-studied phenomenon in plants, so may be more widespread than we know, says co-author Bryn Dentinger. ■

ALEAH DAVIS
NEW PHYTOLOGIST

[The New Phytologist has an excellent online free searchable database with archives from 1902. [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1469-8137/issues](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1469-8137/issues)]

***EULOPHIA GRAMINEA* LINDL. - ORCHIDS AS INVASIVE WEED**

Eulophia graminea Lindl. is a terrestrial orchid native to Asia that was first discovered as a new invader in the US in 2007 growing in mulched landscape in south Miami. Mature plants have large pseudobulbs whereas smaller plants may have smaller pseudobulbs and numerous root attachments, making them more difficult to extract. Leaves are narrow and flowers form in tall panicles and are green with brownish purple venation with a rose purple marking on the lip. The fruit is a capsule approximately 3 cm in length. Plants grow to a height of one metre and are hardy.

E. graminea forms a dense monoculture and has rapidly spread to thirteen counties in Florida. Although believed to have originally been spread by mulch, *E. graminea* is now found in rockland hammock and pine rockland habitats in the Florida Keys, and maritime hammock, pine flatwood, coastal strand, and cypress strand on the mainland; it has been found growing in rock, sand, mulch and bare earth.

E. graminea is sometimes called “The Beautiful Crown Orchid” or Mei Guan Lan in Chinese. Originally found in tropical and subtropical parts of Asia, including Pakistan, India, Nepal, southern China, and the Ryuku Islands south of Japan, it grows in grasslands, beaches, and other open habitats.

Eulophia is a genus of approximately 165 species of orchids. It was first described by John Lindley in 1821. The name "*Eulophia*" was derived from the Greek words "eu" (well) and "lophos" (plume), referring to the crested ridges of the labellum (lip) in most species. ■



'DEMON ORCHID' DISCOVERED

Demon Orchid' Has a 'Devil Head' and Claw-Like Petals

A new species of orchid is in a league of its own — not just because it's relatively rare, but also because some scientists say it looks like the devil.

The new species, *Telipogon diabolicus*, was named for its gynostemium, the orchid's reproductive structure, which looks like a devil's head. The orchid is also described as having "distinctly clawed petals," adding to its demonic appearance, according to the researchers who discovered it.

About 30 of the reddish to dark-violet-maroon orchids — of which only several were flowering adults — were found growing in a small forest at the border between Putumayo and Nariño in southern Colombia.

In their report on the species' discovery, the researchers noted that the flower has already been listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List, which lists animals and plants threatened with extinction.

The orchid also has "distinctly clawed petals," adding to its demonic appearance, according to the researchers who discovered it.

"This species is only known from the type specimens, which represent one location in [a] highly vulnerable habitat near the main road Pasto-Mocoa," the researchers wrote in a study published online in the journal **PhytoKeys**.

"It is expected that the current reconstruction of this road will have [a] negative impact on the habitat of *T. diabolicus*."

Researchers discovered the new species in 2015 while they were cataloging Colombian plants, which included almost 3,600 orchid species representing nearly 250 genera.

"However, there is no doubt that hundreds of species occurring in this country remain undiscovered," the researchers wrote in the study. ■



Photo: Marta Kolanowska

<http://phytokeys.pensoft.net/articles.php?id=8674>

THE SMELL OF SUMMER - *DENDROBIUM ANOSMUM*



Dendrobium anosmum is one most inappropriately named orchids that occurs in the Philippines. The reason for this is that the Latin word *anosmum* means without smell, and we all know that this is not true of this wonderful species, as frequently the perfume is noticeable well before the actual flowers are seen. The Tagalog name of “sanggumay” describes this species perfectly: overwhelmingly strong odour.

This species is also found in India, Myanmar (Burma), Peninsular Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi, the smaller Indonesian islands, and New Guinea. It usually grows on the branches and trunks of trees, and has also been observed growing on limestone, and sandstone rocks. In the Philippines it is found throughout the islands, and is even known to occur in the mountains of central Luzon. It is normally a plant that is found at low elevations, but I have seen

plants at elevations of about 1,200 metres in the forests of Nueva Vizcaya.

As would be expected for such a widely spread species, there is considerable variation in the colouration of the flowers, and a number of these variations have been named over the years. *D. anosmum* var. *dearei* is the pure white form of the species; *D. anosmum* var. *huttonii* refers to the form of the species with white sepals and petals, and two large purple blotches on the interior of the white labellum; there is also a variety called *D. anosmum* var. *coerulescens* where the purple blotches of the previous variety take on a somewhat bluish tinge. It should be noted that the colouration of the blotches found in the labellum varies considerably between individual plants, as does the intensity of the colouration of the sepals and the petals, which in the nominate form of the species can vary from pale pink to pale purple. There is also a variety called *D. anosmum* var. *giganteum*, alluding to the larger than usual blooms of this form.

D. anosmum and its numerous colour varieties flower regularly in the summer season, and it should be noted that the first orchid show of the Philippine Orchid Society each year, is centred around the blooming of this species. The second show of the year is centred (hopefully) in conjunction with the flowering season of the magnificent *Vanda sanderiana* (also known as Waling-waling in the Philippines.)

The growth habit of the plant is pendulous, and well-grown plants can reach several metres in length, but usually the plants are about one metre long. Flowering buds appear after the leaves have fallen. Several blooms appear from each node of the pseudobulb, and if the length of the pseudobulb is covered with flowers it is a most spectacular sight.





In the highly regarded book entitled **Dendrobium of Borneo** by J.J. Wood (Natural History Publications, Borneo, 2014) the author notes that there are fruit-flies which visit the flowers of *D. anosmum*, and they go there to lick the chemicals on the floral segments, which are thought to assist the insects to reach sexual maturity. The chemical reward from the flowers is thought to convert into sex pheromones, to supposedly attract the fruit-fly of the opposite sex.

Plants of *D. anosmum*, and its colour varieties, will often produce small plants from along the pseudobulbs, which be exact replicas of the mother plant.

This is one of the most desirable of all Dendrobium species to be found in the Philippines, and if one has a place where a plant can be attached to a tree it is not too difficult to grow. *D. anosmum* is worthy of a place in any orchid collection. ■

JIM COOTES
Manilla Bulletin



GERMAN NATIVE ORCHID OF THE YEAR

The **Orchid of the Year** is a yearly honour given since 1989 to an orchid species native to Germany by the **Arbeitskreis Heimische Orchideen** (Native Orchid Research Group, AHO), a German orchid conservation federation. The choice of orchids follows the endangerment of the species or its habitat due to human pressure.

1989	Western marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	2003	Fly orchid	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>
1990	Pyramidal orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	2004	Frog orchid	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>
1991	Green-winged orchid	<i>Orchis morio</i>	2005	Burnt orchid	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>
1992	European common twayblade	<i>Neottia ovata</i>	2006	Broadleaf helleborine	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>
1993	Military orchid	<i>Orchis militaris</i>	2007	<i>Nigritella nigra</i> subsp. <i>rhellicani</i>	
1994	Fen orchid	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	2008	Southern marsh-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>
1995	Bee orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	2009	Early purple orchid	<i>Orchis mascula</i>
1996	Frauenschuh	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	2010	Ladyslipper	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>
1997	Bug orchid	<i>Orchis coriophora</i>	2011	Lesser butterfly orchid	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>
1998	Marsh helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>	2012	<i>Orchis pallens</i>	
1999	Lizard orchid	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	2013	Lady orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>
2000	Red helleborine	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	2014	Ghost orchid	<i>Epipogium aphyllum</i>
2001	Autumn ladies'-tresses	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>	2015	Early marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>
2002	Bird's-nest orchid	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	2016	Summer lady's-tresses	<i>Spiranthes aestivalis</i>



Swiss Orchid Foundation

The Swiss Orchid Foundation is working on a world orchid iconography (<http://orchid.unibas.ch>) and has slides, drawings and herbarium specimens from over 13,000 different orchid species, that you can find here: <https://orchid.unibas.ch/iconography.search.php>



BibliOrchidea

BibliOrchidea is with over 150,000 entries the largest orchid literature database worldwide.

<http://orchid.unibas.ch/bibliorchidea/pages/applet.php>

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THE CITY OF BELFAST AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW

Botanic Gardens, Belfast, UK

Saturday and Sunday, 17th—18th September 2016 12.30 to 6.00pm

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parks>

Show schedule may be downloaded from this site.

The **Northern Ireland Orchid Society** invites participants and exhibits for:

Class 120 - Orchid - Cattleya Alliance. Pot size unrestricted
Class 121 - Orchid - Odontoglossum Alliance. Pot size unrestricted
Class 122 - Orchid - Phalaenopsis Alliance. Pot size unrestricted
Class 123 - Orchid - Any other species and variety not mentioned in above classes. Pot size unrestricted.

Northern Ireland Orchid Society

Meetings first Wednesday (September to May) at 19:00 (subject to change) at Belmont Towers, 82 Belmont Church Road, Belfast, BT4 3FG

Contact: John Reilly, tel: (028) 9086 8323, e-mail: reillyjha@aol.com



AN POST DELIVERED

How do I like the new look "Pollinia"
 Just now I don't really know
 It's bright and it's glossy I do agree
 But feel that it's lost its identity.
 It doesn't stand out as it previously did
 With its quaint elegant cover
 Hiding the treasures within
 News, views and stories all up-to-date
 All now surpassed by its new awkward shape
 So has progress been made by this leap to a square?
 I really don't think so.
 Dear lost "Pollinia" I really do care.

April 2016

H. J. Beckett

"Pollinia" replies-----

Hylde, dear friend, I'm so glad you care.
 It's true I've had such a shock.
 My colours augmented, my basic shape changed,
 Believe me, I've taken some knocks.
 But the future is clear, members like colour
 And my Editor needs an injection
 Of enthusiasm, articles, photos, reviews,
 Advertisements, fixtures and Members' news.
 So keep up your writing, please don't lose your rag,
 When all's said and done I'm YOUR IOS mag.

ANON.

"Remembrance of things past is not necessarily the remembrance of things as they were."

— Marcel Proust

Our First Issue, June 2001

Newsletter of the Irish Orchid Society

Pollinia

Volume 1, Issue 1.
Jun-01

How did we get here?

It is a reasonable question to ask how the first founding meeting of the Irish Orchid Society came about.

My introduction to orchids was really when I took over as gardener of the National collection in March 1994. As time went on amateur orchid growers like the late Myrad Best came to encourage me and to talk of their experiences.

Many people asked 'When are you going to form an orchid Society?'. 'When the time is right', I answered. I felt it was important to have enough people who were prepared to put the time into the organising of a Society and I also felt it important that the Society be based at the National Botanic Gardens, a very fitting home. (Thanks to Donal Synnott, Director of the Gardens for allowing us to use the institution as our address.) Late last year I called a meeting of people who were happy to work towards a founding meeting of a Society and who each had important assets to help the Society be a success. Let me introduce the Irish Orchid Society steering group....

(Continued on page 3)

Irish Orchid Society Launch

The Irish Orchid Society is launched on Monday 18 June 2001 at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

The launch of the society sees the launch of this, the first, Newsletter.

Neomoorea wallisii is presented here as our emblem.

See Page 4 for an appraisal of our emblem.

In This Issue

- Our Emblem
- Member's Orchids
- Buyers Guide
- Glossary of Orchid Terms
- Spotlight on....*Dracula vampire*

Official Newsletter of the Irish Orchid Society

National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin Dublin



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BULBOPHYLLUM FLETCHERIANUM