

RHS Orchid Awards

CLARE and JOHAN HERMANS describe the best plants submitted to the RHS Orchid Committee for judging



Odontioda Les Brayes 'Pontac',
Award of Merit



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RHS Awards

12 January 2009 The RHS Orchid Committee met at McBean's Orchids, in Cooksbridge, near Lewes, Sussex. The members of the Committee had the chance to see and discuss the great variety of breeding lines and admire the excellent culture at the nursery during this educational visit.

A total of fifteen plants were exhibited and two Awards of Merit were recommended

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontioda Les Brayes 'Pontac'*, raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **1** and **2**. The parents were *Odontioda Devossiana* and *O. Bel Val* and it was first registered by the Foundation in 2001. The flowers were a striking dark purple colour with a contrasting bright orange callus on the lip.

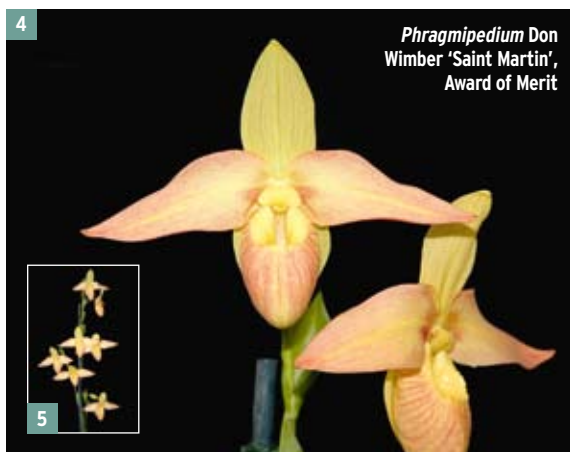
The Committee were shown flowers of some of the parents of this cross: *Odontioda Devossiana* and

Odontoglossum edwardii both showed the exquisite deep purple colour behind the hybrid. *O. Devossiana* is a cross between *Cochlioda noezliana* and *Odontoglossum edwardii*, made in 1907. The latter parent is now classified in the genus *Cyrtorchilum*, therefore some name changes are likely in the future.

The cut spike exhibited had 12 open flowers. Overall flower size was 57 x 57mm. The dorsal sepal was 28 x 18mm; lateral sepals 30 x 15mm; petals 28 x 20mm; lip 22 x 22mm. ➤



Paphiopedilum
Angel Hair 'Gorey',
Award of Merit



Phragmipedium Don
Wimber 'Saint Martin',
Award of Merit



Paphiopedilum
La Garenne
'Saint John',
Award
of Merit

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* Angel Hair 'Gorey', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **3**. The cross was first registered by H Doll in 1991; the parents were *Paphiopedilum* Saint Swithin and *P. sanderianum*. Two previous cultivars, 'Jersey' and 'Roche d'Or', were awarded First Class Certificates in 1991 and 2005 (*Orch Rev* 108: 65, 73, & 113: 118, 119, 126). The cultivar 'Gorey' had a large flower with rich markings.

The plant exhibited had one 40cm spike with four open flowers. Overall flower size 460 x 100mm. Dorsal sepal and synsepal yellow with prominent deep red stripes. Dorsal sepal 80 x

45mm; synsepal 72 x 50mm; petals twisted and tapering, yellow spotted deep red, 410 x 12mm at widest; pouch yellow-green, faint red reticulation, 40 x 50 x 25mm; staminode yellow with mauve hairs, 12mm wide.

RHS Awards

17 February 2009 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the Lawrence Hall, London. Eleven plants were exhibited; four Awards of Merit recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Phragmipedium* Don Wimber 'Saint Martin', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **4** and **5**. The parents were

P. Eric Young and *P. besseae*. The yellow form of *P. besseae* had been used to produce this hybrid. The cross was first registered by the Foundation in 1995. The grex has received previous Awards of Merit in 2007 for 'Saint Aubin' (*Orch. Rev.* 115: 118); in 2000 for 'Victoria Village' (*Orch. Rev.* 109: 16, 17); in 1998 for 'Saint Helier' (*Orch. Rev.* 106: 261, 266) and for 'Mont Millais' in 1995 (*Orch. Rev.* 104: 75, 76).

The cut flower spike was branched with seven bright yellow flowers and three buds. Overall flower size was 90 x 130mm. Dorsal sepal 42 x 23mm; synsepal 42 x 32mm; petals 68 x 26mm, yellow with pink hairs; pouch yellow striped pink, 45 x 26 x 25mm.

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* La Garenne 'Saint John', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **6**. The parents were *P. Greengold* and *P. Vintage Harvest*. It was registered by the Foundation in 2001 and is a fine example of a yellow complex *Paphiopedilum* hybrid.

The cut spike exhibited had one bright yellow flower with excellent substance and a contrasting dorsal sepal, yellow-green with white margin. Overall flower size 130 x 145mm. Dorsal sepal 70 x 110mm; synsepal 60 x 70mm; petals 80 x 55mm; pouch 55 x 40 x 50mm; staminode yellow, 15mm wide.

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum rothschildianum* 'Grands Vaux', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **7**. This species has had numerous awards in the past, the most recent a First Class Certificate in 1991 to the cultivar 'Maurice Lecoufle' (*Orch. Rev.* 99: 252, 269; 100: 172); FCC in 1984 to 'Mont Millais' (*Orch. Rev.* 93: 356, 380, 389, suppl. 27; *Orch. Rev.* 101: back cover); AM in 1989 to 'Beauchief Blackbird' (*Orch. Rev.* 97: 265, 266,

suppl. 27) and AM in 1984 to 'Trinity' (*Orch. Rev.* 103: 223, 225).

The cultivar 'Grands Vaux' was selected from a cross made in 1994 and had rich, deep colouration. The species comes from Mount Kinabalu in northeast Borneo and is very rare in the wild. It was first introduced in 1887 by Linden, who gave the country of origin as New Guinea so that competitors would not find this most attractive species named after Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.

The plant exhibited had one 66cm tall spike with four open flowers. The rich deep colouration was burgundy on pale green with deeper red stripes on the dorsal sepal and synsepal. The overall flower size was 140 x 280mm. Dorsal sepal 70 x 68mm; synsepal 70 x 56mm; petals 190 x 12mm, spotted deep red with red marginal hairs; pouch red-green, 48 x 25 x 55mm; staminode red, hairy, 5mm wide.

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontioda* La Ronde Selhere 'Saint Ouen', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **8**. Parents were *Odontoglossum* Beaumont and *Odontioda* Samares. It

was registered by the Foundation in 2005 and the cultivar 'Saint Ouen' had excellent shape and even colouration.

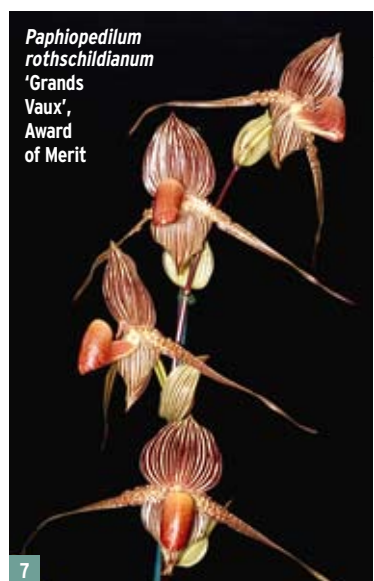
The cut flower spike exhibited had 12 open flowers. Overall flower size 130 x 115mm. Dorsal sepal 65 x 40mm; sepals white-mauve splashed deep red, 35 x 60mm; petals white splashed deep red, 60 x 55mm; lip 40 x 25mm, white splashed red with central yellow callus; column white, 15mm long.

RHS Awards

21 March 2009 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the Lawrence Hall, London, during the RHS London Orchid Show. Twenty-four plants were exhibited; two Awards of Merit, three Botanical Certificates and two Certificates of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum micranthum* forma *glanzeanum* 'Gillian', exhibited by D Mathers, Richmond, Surrey **9**. A previous cultivar of this species, 'Atlas', was awarded an AM in 2003 (*Orch. Rev.* 111: 203, 205). The flower was a striking crystalline white and is thought to be an albino variant of the



Paphiopedilum rothschildianum 'Grands Vaux', Award of Merit

David Ridgway



Odontioda La Ronde Selhere 'Saint Ouen', Award of Merit

David Ridgway



species, which originates from south-west China and Vietnam. The plant was shown as var. *glanzeanum* although this is considered synonymous with the species by the Kew Monocot Checklist.

The plant exhibited had one 20cm spike with one flower. Overall flower size was 100 x 80mm. Dorsal sepal yellow, 35 x 30mm; synsepal white 32 x 22mm; petals white striped yellow, 40 x 45mm; pouch white, 40 x 52 x 60mm; staminode 9mm wide, white with a central yellow spot.

Grower's advice

Paphiopedilum micranthum f. glanzeanum 'Gillian'

“I've grown this plant for just over five years in compost composed of high quality medium bark, small crushed limestone chips and a sprinkling of coconut husk, in a shallow porous clay basin. I normally repot the plant every 12 to 18 months as the compost starts to lose its open structure and deteriorate. Repotting normally involves unwinding and repositioning the growing leads which otherwise can become buried in the basin. The plant

is grown at the cooler end of my greenhouse with winter night temperatures dropping as low as 8–10°C, and summer temperatures rarely exceeding 22°C. I use overhead fans to provide constant air movement. Most of its light is from fluorescent strip bulbs positioned around 30cm from the leaves. The plant is watered with pH-balanced liquid feed (Dyna-Gro), typically at around 120 microSiemens in winter and 200–250µS in summer, but I normally give it a drier period during December and January. I occasionally add K-L-N or Superthrive stimulants to the feed mix during spring and early summer. It seems to grow well under these conditions and has expanded from a two lead plant to a seven lead plant over the last five years.” *David Mathers*

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum Wössner China Moon 'Bärbel'*, exhibited by E-F Horn, Bittersfeld, Germany ¹⁰. The cross was first registered by Franz Glanz, Germany in 2005; the parents

were *Paphiopedilum bangianum* and *P. armeniacum*. The luminous cadmium-yellow colour of the hybrid caught the attention of the Committee.

The plant exhibited had one erect flower spike 23cm tall with one bright yellow flower. Overall flower size 120 x 130mm. Dorsal sepal 70 x 50mm; synsepal 65 x 53mm; petals 76 x 66mm; pouch spotted red inside, 35 x 46 x 60mm; staminode 30mm wide, yellow with a central red stripe.

Grower's advice

Paphiopedilum Wössner China Moon 'Bärbel'

“I grow my paphiopedilums in fine bark with 15 percent perlite and 10 percent peat, with some coarse bark for drainage. In winter, the temperature is 20°C by day and 15°C at night. I use a 20-20-20 fertiliser (without urea) weekly at a concentration of 100 microSiemens, with the addition of 50µS calcium nitrate for better cell growth. Every 5–6 weeks I use a solution of trace elements (Fe, Zn, Cu etc) at 150µS, and flush with pure rainwater after. In summer, I double the solution rate.

This works well under my conditions, but do check whether to fertilise at a higher or lower rate as it will depend on the temperature and humidity. Please do not forget to give 1–2 teaspoons of crushed limestone (depending on the size of pot) once a year. ” Ernst-F. Horn
(translated by Roland Schettler)

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Aeranthes schlechteri* ‘Tideswell’, exhibited by Johan Hermans, Enfield, Middlesex ¹¹ and ¹². A Botanical Certificate was awarded because of the special botanical interest of the species and the desirability of bringing it into cultivation. Three plants were shown to demonstrate the variation in the species. It is endemic to Madagascar and was described in 1969 by Jean Bosser as *Neobathia schlechteri*, it was later placed into *Aeranthes*, where it rests for the time being. The plants are easily grown in cultivation where they thrive tied to small twigs or pieces of bark, in intermediate to cool conditions, high humidity and a considerable amount of shade.

The plants exhibited each had one pendent 10cm long spike with one flower. Overall flower size was 70 x 65mm; flowers green, variably tinted green or yellow. The dorsal sepal was 31 x 4mm; lateral sepals 33 x 3.5mm; petals 25 x 3.5 mm; lip 30 x 9 mm; spur 130mm long.

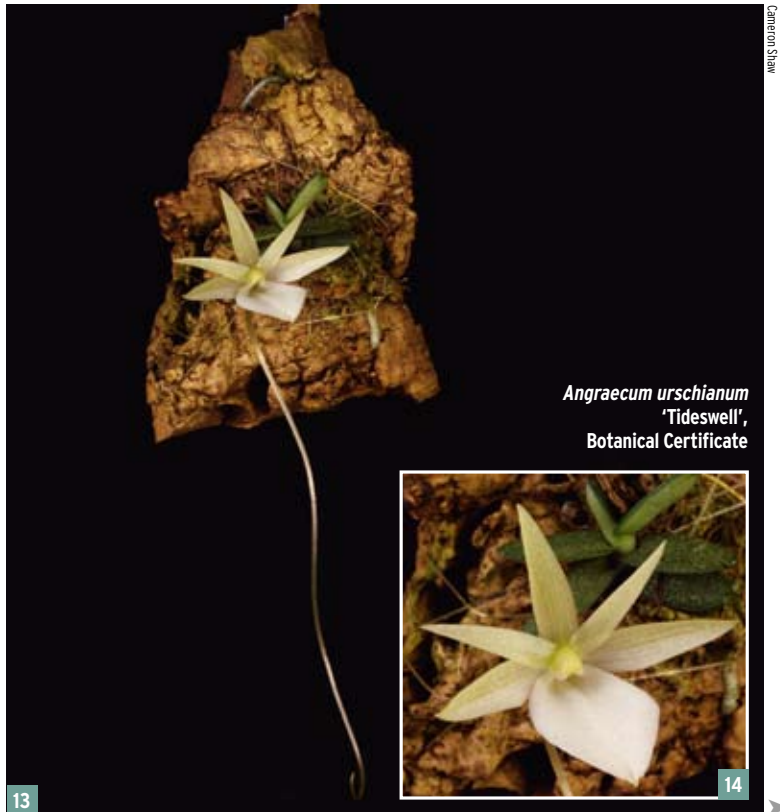
Botanical Certificate

■ For *Angraecum urschianum* ‘Tideswell’, exhibited by Johan Hermans, Enfield, Middlesex ¹³ and ¹⁴. The white flower with its enormous spur emerged from a tiny plant and the Committee felt it was a species desirable to bring into wider cultivation. It is endemic to the Highlands of Madagascar, and was described in 1961. The species was

Aeranthes schlechteri ‘Tideswell’,
Botanical Certificate



Cameron Shaw



Angraecum urschianum
‘Tideswell’,
Botanical Certificate



Cameron Shaw

named for E Ursch, then Director of the Antananarivo Botanic Gardens. It is a twig epiphyte growing in exposed conditions in the higher canopy of trees. In cultivation it is grown in cool, airy conditions with minimal shade.

The 2cm plant had one flower. Overall flower size was 32 x 35mm. The dorsal sepal was green-white, 18 x 4mm; lateral sepals green-white, 15 x 4mm; petals green-white, 17 x 2mm; lip crystalline white, 15 x 12mm; spur 115mm long.

Cultural Commendation

■ To the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey for *Bulbophyllum*

falcatum 'Trinity' ¹⁵ and ¹⁶. The plant was beautifully grown, measuring 52cm across, and grown on a 26cm mount. It had 34 flower spikes and an average of 26 open flowers on each. Previous certificates of Cultural Commendation have been to the 'flavum' or yellow form (*Orch. Rev.* 99: 204; 100: 218 and 101: 194). The species is widespread in West Africa, stretching across to Zaire and Uganda.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Paphiopedilum gigantifolium* 'Gaytarn', exhibited by John Gay, Wakefield, West Yorkshire ¹⁷. This extraordinary species was first found

in 1997, it comes from Sulawesi, where it grows lithophytically. A Botanical Certificate was awarded for its peculiar morphology and the contrasting bright white ovary of the flower, on a plant with large leaves and a very tall stem.

The plant exhibited had one 87cm tall spike with four open flowers; the leaves were 62cm long. Overall flower size was 110 x 65mm. The dorsal sepal was green striped red, 65 x 37mm; synsepal 60 x 30mm; petals twisted, green spotted red, 80 x 12mm; pouch red-cream, 60 x 20 x 30mm; staminode 20mm wide, cream with red hairs; ovary white, 70mm long.

Grower's advice

Paphiopedilum gigantifolium

“Very little is known of the cultural requirements of *P. gigantifolium* as it was only described 12 years ago, and very few plants are in cultivation.

I grow my plant in a warm greenhouse with a winter min. of 14°C. The humidity is high, rarely dropping below 60 percent. It grows in shade with most of my other *Paphiopedilum* species, and takes up a large amount of space – hence its name. I feed with half-strength 20:5:20 Peters fertiliser with trace elements every third watering all year round. It is potted in large grade fir bark in a big pot where it flowers successfully each year.”

John Gay

Cultural Commendation

■ To Allan Burdis, Christchurch, Dorset for *Paphiopedilum delenatii* 'Highcliffe Castle' ¹⁸. The plant was 31cm across with five open flowers and one bud, grown in a 16cm pot. The cultivar 'Highcliffe Castle' was a very fine specimen of this species, which is surprisingly strongly scented and originates from Vietnam.

Bulbophyllum falcatum 'Trinity',
Cultural Commendation



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Grower's advice

Paphiopedilum delenatii 'Highcliffe Castle'

“I count this species as one of my favourite paphiopedilums and I have several cultivars in my collection. I bought this plant in 2002 while on a trip to Holland. It has always been a good grower with above average flower form and colour. I grow all varieties in a bark-based, medium-grade mix with perlite and sometimes charcoal if the mood takes me. The mix must be free draining because I believe plants should receive frequent watering at most times, especially during the growing season when new growths are in evidence. Slight drying out during the darker, cooler winter months will be tolerated and can even prevent rotting but I am always vigilant during this time to prevent dehydration due to the drying effect of the heating system, which can be a common cause of plant failure in winter.

I like to use clear pots for my paphiopedilums, dropped into a standard plastic terracotta pot. This double pot system makes checking root activity very easy without disturbing the plants.

I try to maintain a winter min. of 16°C and a summer max. of 28°C. Shading is 60–70 percent in summer with 70–80 percent humidity and constant strong air movement. I use good quality orchid fertiliser with clean rain water throughout the year, at a strength of 500ppm, weekly in summer, less often in winter.

In my opinion, the secret of growing specimen plants is to give them lots of attention. You will not get the best from your plants if they do not get the best from you!”

Allan Burdis

RHS Annual Awards

31 March 2009 The RHS annual awards for 2008 were presented at the RHS Greener Gardening Show, Westminster (see News p65). Three medals related to orchids, including the Westonbirt medal, awarded to Allan Burdis for his *Cypripedium formosanum* 'Highcliffe Castle' (see *Orch. Rev.* 116: 128, 177).

Grower's advice

Cypripedium formosanum 'Highcliffe Castle'

“I have tried growing other *Cypripedium* species, but *C. formosanum* has been the most successful. It is native to Taiwan, where it grows in the shade in open areas.

I purchased this plant as a single growth at the Newbury Orchid Show about eight years ago and it now has 45 growths in a 38cm pot. I grow it in a mix of John Innes potting compost No1 or 2 with perlite, charcoal, Seramis and medium grade orchid bark all in equal measure. I do not feel the quantities are

too important but I aim for a mix that is well drained with a little organic content.

Cypripedium formosanum needs heavy feeding hence the use of a loam-based compost that will maintain its structure over a long period after frequent use of fertiliser. From April until the end of summer I give it a weekly liquid feed of a balanced formula.

In spring, when the fear of frosts are gone, the plant is put outside in a sheltered site away from direct sunlight and never allowed to dry out. In autumn, before any frosts, it is placed in an unheated conservatory and kept moist without being soggy. At this time my plant is already showing new growths above the compost and I cover these with old pine needles for protection.

This autumn I plan to divide it into four or five good-sized clumps. If you are thinking of growing cypripediums, I can highly recommend this easy and rewarding species.”

Allan Burdis

Cameron Shaw



Paphiopedilum gigantifolium 'Gaytarn',
Botanical Certificate

Cameron Shaw



Paphiopedilum delenatii 'Highcliffe Castle',
Cultural Commendation



19
Odontioda Trodais 'Saint Clement',
Award of Merit



20
Miltonia Point des Pas 'Jersey',
Award of Merit



21
Phragmipedium Grande 'Victoria Village',
Award of Merit

RHS Awards

21 April 2009 The RHS Orchid Committee met at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey. Twelve plants were exhibited; three Awards of Merit and one Botanical Certificate were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontioda Trodais* 'Saint Clement', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **19**. The cross was first registered by the Foundation in 1992; the parents were *Odontoglossum Tordonia* and *Odontioda Gorey Castle*. The flowers had an excellent shape and size.

The cut spike exhibited had 12 white flowers splashed with deep mauve. Overall flower size was 100 x 110mm. Dorsal sepal 60 x 36mm; lateral sepals 60 x 30mm; petals 50 x 50mm; lip 42 x 30mm, with a central yellow callus; column 20mm long.

Award of Merit

■ For *Miltonia Point des Pas* 'Jersey', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **20**. The cross

was first registered by the Foundation in 2007; the parents were *Miltonia* Bel Croute and *M. Mont Felard*. The flowers were large with a very flat shape.

The plant exhibited had two 40cm arching spikes, one with seven open pink flowers. The overall flower size was 145 x 110mm. Dorsal sepal pink, 70 x 50mm; lateral sepals pink, 60 x 45mm; petals pink, 60 x 60mm; lip 80 x 110mm, pink and white with deep red waterfall pattern, a central red area and a yellow callus.

Award of Merit

■ For *Phragmipedium Grande* 'Victoria Village', remade and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **21**. The cross was first registered in 1881 by Messrs. Veitch; the parents were *P. longifolium* and *P. caudatum*. A previous cultivar 'Jersey' received an AM for the Foundation in 1996 (*Orch. Rev.* 104: 252; 105: 74).

In addition, three First Class Certificates were awarded to this hybrid between 1884 and 1894.

The plant exhibited had one 54cm spike with four open flowers and one bud. Overall flower size 700 x 60mm.

Dorsal sepal pale yellow-green striped green, 150 x 25mm; synsepal pale yellow-green striped green, 140 x 55mm; petals pink, twisted, tapering, 620 x 55mm; pouch green-pink spotted pink inside, 70 x 32 x 50mm; staminode green with red hairs, 12mm wide.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Cypripedium flavum* 'White Lady', exhibited by McBean's Orchids, Cooksbridge, Lewes, East Sussex. This was a white form and the Botanical Certificate was awarded, subject to confirmation of the identity.

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RHS AWARDS

For details about future meetings of the RHS Orchid Committee and entering plants for awards, see Forthcoming events on p119.