

RHS Orchid Awards



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



Odontoglossum Portinifer
'Saint Mary's Village',
Award of Merit

Henry Oakley

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RHS Awards

18 May 2009 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Sixteen plants were submitted for judging; three Awards of Merit were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontoglossum* Portinfer 'Saint Mary's Village', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **1**. The parents were *Odontoglossum* Tordonia and *Odontoglossum* Beaumont and it was first registered by the Foundation in 1992. A previous cultivar 'Trinity' was given an Award of Merit in 1997 (*Orch. Rev.* 105: 321, 329). The cultivar 'Saint Mary's Village' had an excellent shape and good substance.

The cut spike exhibited had 13 open flowers, white heavily blotched with burgundy red, and six buds. The overall flower size was 84 x 95mm. Dorsal sepal 50 x 35mm; lateral sepals 45 x 30mm; petals 45 x 50mm; lip 30 x 25mm with a central yellow callus; column white, 15mm.

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontoglossum* Hyphen 'Saint Owen's Village', remade and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **2**. The cross was first

registered by Mrs Cookson in 1919; the parents were *Odontoglossum* Splendidum and *Odontoglossum* nobile. The delightful flowers were pure white, flushed pink on the back.

The branching cut spike had 30 open flowers. Overall flower size was 65 x 62mm. Dorsal sepal 32 x 20mm; lateral sepals 30 x 18mm; petals 27 x 20mm; lip 20 x 20mm, white, red striped in the centre, with a central yellow callus; column white, 10mm.

Award of Merit

■ For *Miltonia* Grune de Becquet 'Saint Aubin's Village', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **3**. The parents were *Miltonia* Les Landes and *Miltonia* Oise; it was first registered by the Foundation in 2007. The large, bright white flowers with a central yellow area and pink waterfall pattern were sweetly scented.

The plant exhibited had two 39cm spikes with five and four open flowers. Overall flower size was 150 x 120mm. Dorsal sepal 65 x 40mm; lateral sepals 60 x 35mm; petals 60 x 45mm; lip 85 x 100mm; column white-pink, 6mm.

RHS Awards

20 June 2009 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the Peterborough

International Orchid Show, at the East of England Country Show. Thirty-three plants were exhibited; five Awards of Merit, two Botanical Certificates and two Certificates of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* Mount Toro 'Watling Hall', exhibited by Weng L Lim, Temple Ewell, Kent **4**. The cross was first registered in 1976 by Mrs R Cryder; the parents were *Paphiopedilum* stonei 'Druid's Mantis' and *Paphiopedilum philippinense* 'Red Corkscrew'. The cultivar 'Mount Toro' was felt by the Committee to be a most attractive form.

The plant exhibited had two 50cm spikes with four open flowers and one bud on each. The crystalline white striped red dorsal sepal and synsepal contrasted well with the yellow pouch. The overall flower size was 110 x 320mm. Dorsal sepal 65 x 47mm; synsepal 65 x 45mm; petals yellow-red, twisted, striped and spotted red, 200 x 8mm; pouch yellow, 30 x 20mm, 60mm deep; staminode yellow with red hairs, 12mm wide.

Award of Merit

■ For *Stanbopaea* Hautlieu 'Trinity', raised and exhibited by the Eric

Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **5** and **6**. The cross was first registered by the Foundation in 2007; the parents were *Stanhopea* Augres and *Stanhopea tigrina* 'Superba'.

The plant exhibited had one pendent 18cm spike with three open flowers. The highly scented flowers had an excellent texture and were reported to be long lasting. The sepals and petals were yellow spotted with red, contrasting with the deep purple of the lip hypochile, and the white spotted with red of the epichile and

horns of the lip. Overall flower size was 130 x 130 x 130mm. Dorsal sepal 90 x 42mm; lateral sepals 80 x 70mm; petals 60 x 30mm; lip 85 x 50mm.

Award of Merit

■ For *Miltonia* Grune de Becquet 'Saint Mary's Village', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **7** and **8**. The parents were *Miltonia* Les Landes and *Miltonia* Oise and it was first registered in 2008. The flowers were white with a pink waterfall pattern,

finished by yellow in the centre. They were strongly scented and had good substance and shape.

The plant exhibited had two 51cm spikes with six open flowers on each. Overall flower size was 150 x 130mm. Dorsal sepal 70 x 40mm; lateral sepals 60 x 40mm; petals white-pink, 70 x 35mm; lip 90 x 100mm.

Award of Merit

■ For *Prosthechea* (syn. *Encyclia*) *mariae* 'Herrenhausen', exhibited by Herrenhausen Gardens, Hannover, Germany **9** and **10**. The species comes from Mexico, where it was only discovered in 1937 and first described by Oakes Ames. The form 'Herrenhausen' was considered to be one of the larger forms. The plant has been in the collection at Herrenhausen for many years.

The plant exhibited had 12 pendulous spikes 25cm long, each with four lime green flowers with a contrasting crystalline white lip. The overall flower size was 80 x 70mm. Dorsal sepal 40 x 5mm; lateral sepals 40 x 5mm; petals 40 x 5mm; lip white, lime green in throat, 50 x 40mm.

Grower's advice

Prosthechea mariae
'Herrenhausen'

“ This orchid has been grown at Herrenhausen Gardens since 1970. As the original plant grew, it was divided whenever the compost needed to be replaced.

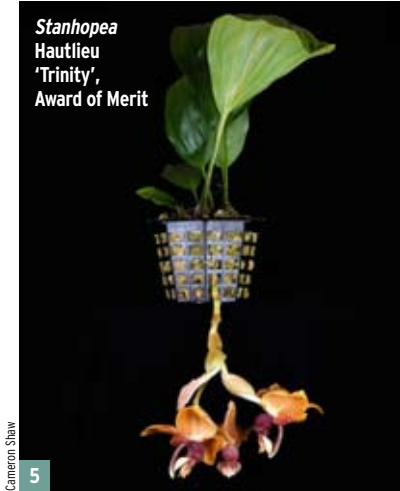
About three years ago most of those divisions were mounted on an acacia branch, to present them more attractively to the visitors to Herrenhausen Gardens. The plants are placed on a pad of *Muehlenbeckia* fibre, used as a replacement for tree-fern fibre, which is protected. (*Muehlenbeckia* is a genus of southern hemisphere creepers belonging to the *Polygonaceae*;

Paphiopedilum Mount Toro
'Watling Hall', Award of Merit



Cameron Shaw

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it is possible to buy dried fibre from New Zealand.)

In summer *Prosthechea mariae* 'Herrenhausen' is grown at about 21°C (day) and 19°C (night), and in winter at around 19°C (day) and 17°C (night). Plants are sprayed once a day. They are fertilised throughout the year, at strengths of about 300 microsiemens in winter and 600µS in summer. They are in light shade, with no direct sun, all year and seem to do best in constant light air movement. In winter plants are kept slightly drier.” Andreas Stockelbusch

Award of Merit

■ For *Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis* 'Marja', exhibited by Rogier van Vugt, the Netherlands **II**. This species comes from New Guinea and has also been known in cultivation as *Bulbophyllum giganteum* because of its very large leaves. It has a strong scent, likened to rotting meat – undoubtedly attractive to carrion flies, less so to humans. The cultivar 'Marja' was thought to be a large, open form with the flowers well spaced on the spike.

The plant exhibited had one pendulous spike with 12 yellow flowers heavily spotted with red, and seven buds. The overall flower size was 70 x 46mm. Dorsal sepal 52 x 46mm; lateral sepals 70 x 25mm, with yellow hairs; petals 25 x 5mm; lip 15 x 5mm.

Grower's advice

Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis 'Marja'

“This very large species has pseudobulbs that can become fist sized. The heavy and impressive leaves can reach about 1m long and therefore hang downwards. The hairy flowers are spotted in shades of brown and clustered together in a compact raceme. They spread a rather unpleasant smell that every person seems to



experience differently.

This plant was bought as a five-year-old seedling which I planted in a small pot, in a mixture of medium grade bark and some coarse sphagnum. I hung the pot in a semi-shaded part of a warm greenhouse. The plant was watered as soon as the compost dried out to prevent the pseudobulbs from shrivelling. When the new growth appeared, it needed extra water and also had a great appetite for fertiliser – so great that I decided to give it some extra food by placing some organic fertiliser pellets used for the vegetable garden on top

of the compost. This resulted in such a big leaf and pseudobulb that it needed to be repotted before it could make another pseudobulb. So, when the new growth appeared, I repotted it in a bigger pot and this continued for four seasons. Every time I used a pot that was only big enough to accommodate one new growth, so that this new growth could hang down naturally.

Last winter it looked as if the plant was big enough to flower so I placed it higher up in the greenhouse where it received more light. To my great surprise it produced a rather large



Disa chrysostachya
'Cressingham',
Botanical Certificate

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inflorescence for such a young plant. The plant is named after my mother Marja, who is of course delighted to have a carrion-scented monster orchid named after her.” Rogier van Vugt

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Disa chrysostachya* 'Cressingham', exhibited by Simon Powers, Reading, Berks [12]. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage the cultivation and exhibition of this novelty. The species comes from South Africa where it grows in the eastern and northern parts in damp marshy areas.

The plant exhibited had one 53cm spike with 35 tiny, orange-red flowers.

The overall flower size was 15 x 2mm. Dorsal sepal 7 x 2mm; lateral sepals deep orange, 3 x 2mm; petals yellow-orange, 5 x 1mm; lip 5 x 1mm.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Calanthe* sp. nov. 'Lydia Ruth', exhibited by Colin Carter, Awbridge, Romsey [13]. The plant was shown as *Calanthe transiens*, but this identification is incorrect. It has now been identified as an undescribed species from Sulawesi, to be described in due course by Dr Phillip Cribb at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as *Calanthe judithae*. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage the cultivation and exhibition of

novelties. The award was made subject to confirmation of its identity.

The plant exhibited had two 60cm spikes with 15 and 16 pale green-white flowers and many buds. The overall flower size was 42 x 25mm. Dorsal sepal 20 x 10mm; lateral sepals with a slight green edge, 17 x 7mm; petals 17 x 5mm; lip 25 x 25mm, spur 20mm long.

Grower's advice

Calanthe sp. nov. 'Lydia Ruth'

“I grow this plant in a mix of multipurpose compost, fine bark and perlite, in a humid atmosphere in the warmer section of my greenhouse (min 15°C, max 28°C) together with *Calanthe sylvatica* and paphiopedilums. In summer, when the plant is growing well, I water every other day with rainwater. At every third watering I add a balanced fertiliser, reducing strength in autumn. During winter I give no feed at all and reduce watering to about every 10 days, but never let it dry out completely. This is a very rewarding orchid for me and it stays in flower for several weeks.”

Colin Carter



Calanthe sp. nov.
'Lydia Ruth',
Botanical
Certificate

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Cultural Commendation

■ To Ted Croot, Sheffield for *Masdevallia* Shuttryana 'Lucy' ¹⁴. The plant was 43cm across with 95 open flowers grown in a 20cm diameter pot. The original cross was registered by Sir Trevor Lawrence in 1892; the parents were *Masdevallia caudata* and *Masdevallia coccinea*. It gained a First Class Certificate under the synonymous name of *Masdevallia* Chamberlainii in 1899 (*Orch. Rev.* 7: 157) for Sir Trevor Lawrence. The plant had originally been owned by the Rt Hon. Joseph Chamberlain and had gained an AM in 1896 (*Orch. Rev.* 4: 94). In *The Orchid Review* there is a comment that it was 'raised in Chamberlain's collection as a cross between

Masdevallia coccinea 'Harryana' and *Masdevallia caudata* 'Shuttleworthii'. The origin of the hybrid's name now becomes apparent.

Grower's advice

Masdevallia Shuttryana 'Lucy'

“I have had this plant since July 1991 and, since it has never been divided in the intervening 18 years (although pieces have been taken off to give away) and it has managed to keep going, it is not perhaps surprising that it should have become quite a large plant by now.

For the past few years, it has been grown in a series of half-pots in a mix of medium bark and sphagnum moss, roughly

50:50. It is kept in my cold greenhouse alongside pleiones and other 'hardy' orchids. The temperature here drops to 0°C several times in a typical winter; a small electric fan heater stops it from going even lower but it usually hovers at about 5°C. In summer, it may rise to 30°C or even higher in spite of the door and all the windows being open, the glazing being whitewashed and a layer of shade cloth over all. A fan runs continuously over the benching. Despite the shading, care has to be taken to keep the plant in the shadow of other plants except in winter, as the leaves will be marked if the light is too bright.

Even greater care is taken to ward off slugs and snails, which seem to find the flowers especially tasty but take the foliage too. Aphids will deform the young leaves given half a chance. Watering (with rain-water) is a bit ad hoc, roughly once every 10 days, depending on the weather and remembering that the sphagnum holds water for longer than one might expect. Feeding is occasional, usually with a dilute tomato liquid feed. Altogether a rewarding plant.” Ted Croot

Cultural Commendation

■ To Jan Larsen, KJ Orchids, Sporup, Denmark for *Cypripedium reginae* 'Atlas' ¹⁵. The plant was 75cm across with 10 spikes and 13 open flowers grown in 50cm diameter pot. Descriptions and cultivation in Europe of this most attractive species date back to the 17th century; the species was formally described in 1788 by Walter. It is found on the margins of swamps in Canada through to the United States. Occasionally completely white forms occur.



Cameron Shaw



15 *Cyripedium reginae* 'Atlas', Cultural Commendation



16 *Sobralia macrantha* 'Portelet', Award of Merit



17 *Cyripedium flavum* White-flowered Group 'White Lady', Botanical Certificate confirmed

RHS Awards

14 July 2009 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Ten plants were exhibited; one Award of Merit was recommended.

Award of Merit

■ *Sobralia macrantha* 'Portelet', raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey **16**. This variable species was described in 1838 and has a wide distribution from Mexico to Costa Rica. The Foundation showed three cultivars of the species; two had been line-bred from the normal purple form crossed with the *alba* variety of the species. *Sobralia macrantha* var. *alba* was described by John Lindley in *Folia Orchidacea* in 1854, where he described the flowers as a very pale rose colour. The awarded clone corresponds well to this description and had large and delicately coloured flowers. *Sobralia macrantha* has had numerous awards in the past including two First Class Certificates.

A single white, flushed pink flower was shown on a tall growth. Overall flower size 200 x 165mm. Dorsal sepal 90 x 30mm; lateral sepals 105 x 30mm; petals 100 x 50mm; lip frilled, white, throat lemon-yellow, 95 x 90 x 50mm.

Botanical Certificate confirmed

■ In April a *Cyripedium* species was exhibited by McBean's Orchids, Cooksbridge, Lewes, East Sussex. A Botanical Certificate was awarded subject to confirmation of the identity. The plant has now been identified by Dr Phillip Cribb as an almost-white form of *Cyripedium flavum* from China. A Botanical Certificate was therefore confirmed for *Cyripedium flavum* White-flowered Group 'White Lady' **17**. The White-flowered Group is established here for the white- and off-white-flowered morphs that have been observed scattered throughout the natural range of the species in China and also in propagated plants in cultivation.

The plant exhibited had two almost pure white flowers on 70mm spikes. Overall flower size 35 x 40mm. Dorsal sepal 20 x 18mm, synsepal white-green 30 x 16mm. Petals 25 x 10mm; pouch with purple-red spots, 17 x 20mm; staminode white-purple, 6mm wide.

Grower's advice

Cyripedium flavum 'White Lady'

“Our specimen took us by surprise on flowering, as it was purchased as *Cyripedium californicum* from a reliable

nursery and has turned out to be a white form of *Cyripedium flavum*, a Chinese species. It has been grown in an unheated glass-house which is heavily shaded in summer (70 percent) and has the side glass removed at this time to aid the free flow of air. The plant was grown in a 1 litre 'long tom' pot to give additional root space and the compost was our own mix of loam, grit and sand in equal proportions. We water frequently with rainwater during the growing season but the plant was kept almost dry for winter when temperatures fell below freezing on several occasions.”

Liz Johnson

CLARE HERMANS is an orchid grower, author and member of the RHS Orchid Committee

JOHAN HERMANS is an orchid grower, photographer, author and Chairman of the RHS Orchid Committee

RHS AWARDS

For details about future meetings of the RHS Orchid Committee and entering plants for awards, see Forthcoming events on p181.