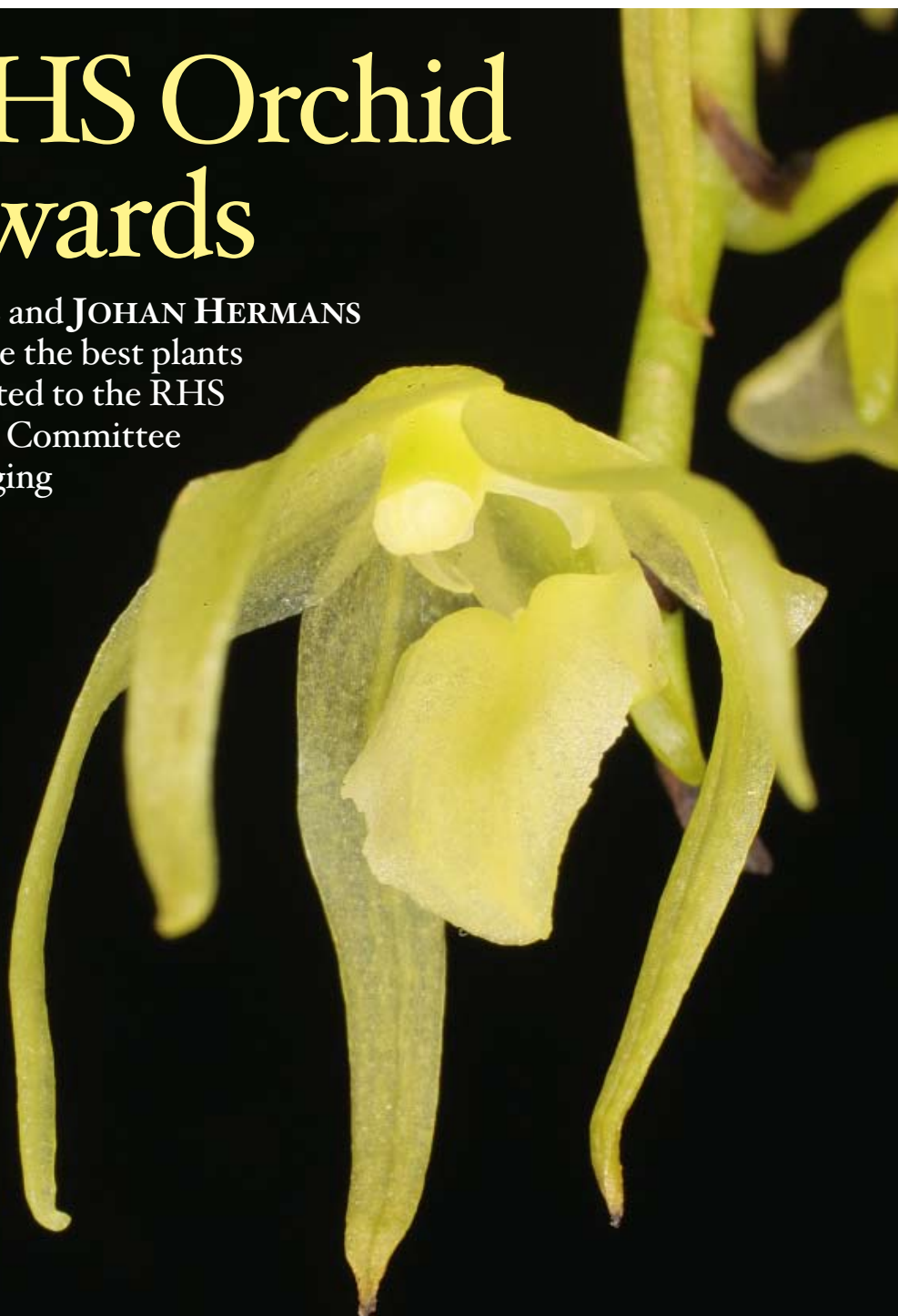


RHS Orchid Awards

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



Aeranthes polyanthemus
'Tideswell', Botanical Certificate

RHS Awards

27 July 2010 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, London. One plant was exhibited and one Botanical Certificate was recommended.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Aeranthes polyanthemus* 'Tideswell' **1**, **2** and **3** exhibited by Johan Hermans, Enfield. Votes were seven in favour, one against. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage the cultivation of this species, which comes from the Highlands of Madagascar. It was described in 1886 by Henry Ridley and is the only *Aeranthes* with several flowers on the inflorescence that open simultaneously. The roots of the plant are thick and round, unlike those seen in other *Aeranthes*.

The plant exhibited had five pendulous spikes 12cm long with 10, 9, 10, 13 & 13 open green-white

flowers. The overall flower size was 14 x 14mm. The dorsal sepal was 13 x 3mm; lateral sepals 11.5 x 5mm. Petal 13 x 3mm; lip 6.5 x 4mm.

Grower's advice

Aeranthes polyanthemus
'Tideswell'

“ This species grows best mounted on a piece of cork bark, with some sphagnum moss underneath to provide moisture. I grow it in an intermediate greenhouse in semi-shade. When the roots are not active the plant is left to dry out thoroughly in between watering. When the roots are active the plant is never left to dry out. ” *Johan Hermans*

RHS Awards

17 August 2010 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens,

Kew. Seven plants were exhibited; two Awards of Merit and one Botanical Certificate were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* Le Noir Pre 'Jersey' **4** and **5** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were thirteen in favour, two against. The parents were *Paphiopedilum* Vicard Point and *P. Shillianum* and it was first registered by the Foundation in 2009. The cultivar 'Jersey' showed a very good balance in shape and an excellent clear, contrasting colouration.

The plant exhibited had a 19cm tall spike with two open flowers and one bud. Overall flower size was 140 x 160mm. The dorsal sepal and synsepal were white-green striped deep burgundy red. The dorsal sepal was 60 x 60mm; synsepal 60 x 40mm. Petal pale



Aeranthes polyanthemus
'Tideswell', Botanical Certificate

2



Aeranthes polyanthemus
'Tideswell', Botanical Certificate

3

Paphiopedilum
Le Noir Pre 'Jersey',
Award of Merit



Henry Oakley

4

Paphiopedilum
Le Noir Pre 'Jersey',
Award of Merit



5

Paphiopedilum Du Motier
'Victoria Village',
Award of Merit



6

7

green striped and spotted deep burgundy red, hairy margin, 70 x 20mm; pouch deeper burgundy red, 60 x 30mm, and 60mm deep; disc purple, hairy, 15mm.

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* Du Motier 'Victoria Village' 6 and 7 raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were fourteen in favour, one against. The cross parents were *Paphiopedilum* Gloria Naugle and *P. vietnamense* and it was first registered by the Foundation in 2009. The flower was an attractive very deep purple-red colour and had fine reticulation.

The plant exhibited had a 17cm tall spike with one open flower and one bud. The overall flower size was 100 x 160mm. The dorsal sepal was white, densely tessellated with deep burgundy, 55 x 50mm; synsepal white striped burgundy, 60 x 50mm. Petal white, densely tessellated and overlaid with deep burgundy, carrying fine hairs on the edge, 90 x 45mm; pouch deep burgundy 45 x 35mm, 70mm deep; disc burgundy, central yellow stripe 20mm wide.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Cleisocentron merrillianum* 'Gaytarn' 8 and 9 exhibited by John Gay, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Votes were unanimous. The Botanical Certificate was awarded in recognition of the species' interesting morphological feature, especially in its unusual bright blue colouration. The species was first described by Oakes Ames in 1920 as *Sarcanthus merrillianus* and re-classified by Eric Christenson into the genus *Cleisocentron*. The species name honours Elmer Drew Merrill who worked with Ames on the plants of Borneo. The first collections came from Mount Kinabalu, Borneo, where it is endemic. It occurs in the lower and upper montane forest, in the crown of large trees on river banks, at 1,100–3,000m. The flowers are an attractive sky blue with a contrasting white anther cap and a dark purple stripe on the lip leading into the throat of the spur.

The plant exhibited had two spikes, one with fifteen open flowers and two buds, the other with twelve open flowers and eight buds. Overall flower size was 20 x 10mm. The dorsal sepal was 5 x 2mm at the

widest point; lateral sepals 5 x 2mm at widest. Petals 5 x 2mm at widest; lip 5 x 2mm, spur 10mm long.

Grower's advice

Cleisocentron merrillianum 'Gaytarn'

“I purchased this plant a number of years ago from a nursery from the Far East at the Peterborough International Orchid Show. I was informed that it was a fairly rare species with blue flowers, and I was sold. I grow the plant in my warm house with a minimum winter night temperature of 16°C. It grows in a mix of fine fir bark with a little chopped sphagnum moss added, plus perlite at the rate of five parts bark, 1 part sphagnum and 1 part perlite. It grows in bright light and is watered so as to never let the plant dry out. I give my plant good light with very little shading.” John Gay

RHS Awards

15 September 2010 The RHS Orchid Committee met at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey. Five plants



were exhibited; one Award of Merit was recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Hamelwellsara* Happy Hour 'Purple Emperor' ¹⁰ and ¹¹ raised and exhibited by McBean's Orchids, Cooksbridge, East Sussex. Votes were eleven in favour, two against. The parents are *Zygopetalum* Everspring and *Hamelwellsara* Margaret, and it was registered by McBean's Orchids in 2008. The cultivar 'Purple Emperor' had excellent substance and a very attractive deep purple colour.

The plant exhibited had one arching spike, 20cm long with five open flowers. The sepals and petals were a deep, even burgundy with a very fine white edging towards the tips, and were white at the base. The lip also had a white edge, and a white underside. The white anther cap gave a focal point to the flower. The overall flower size was 60 x 72mm. The dorsal sepal was 38 x 18mm; the lateral sepals were 40 x 21mm. The petal was 34 x 17mm; the lip a rich, deep purple, white underneath, and measured 35 x 38mm; the column was purple, and measured 15mm long.

Grower's advice

Hamelwellsara Happy Hour 'Purple Emperor'

“*Hamelwellsara* Happy Hour was the result of crossing *Zygopetalum* Everspring with *H. Margaret*, an intergeneric bred by George Black. The seedlings were grown in sphagnum moss mixed with a little perlite and bark. On nearing flowering-size they were transferred into a slightly acidic, basic peat, perlite and bark mix.

The plants were grown in approximately 50 percent shade with humidity of 50–55 percent



David Ridgeway



David Ridgeway

and good air movement. Although very tolerant as far as temperature is concerned, we aim to keep them above 12°C during winter nights and below 30°C on summer days.

When in growth, they are watered freely with rainwater, usually early in the morning to allow the foliage to dry before temperatures drop. Plants are

kept just moist during their winter resting period. Fertiliser is added at most waterings; we use a balanced feed from October to June and another with slightly increased potash during the summer. Feeding requirements are on a par with *Cymbidium*. The awarded plant, *H. 'Purple Emperor'*, was judged at its second flowering.” *Liz Johnson*

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

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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 p236