

RHS Orchid Awards

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



David Ridgway

*Paphiopedilum Vieux
Moulin 'La Ponterrin',
Award of Merit*

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Change to July 2010 meeting

The planned RHS Orchid Committee meeting on 13 July has been changed to 27 July. The meeting will take place at 11.30am in Room 31 of the RHS Lawrence Hall.

RHS Awards

16 February 2010 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, London. Ten plants were exhibited; one Award of Merit, one Botanical Certificate and one Certificate of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* Vieux Moulin 'La Ponterrin' **1** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were fourteen in favour, three against. The parents were *Paphiopedilum* Rocco Tower and *Paphiopedilum* Seymour Tower and it was registered in 2008. The glossy yellow flower had an excellent shape and good substance.

The cut spike exhibited had one open flower. Overall flower size was 120 x 150mm. The dorsal sepal was bright yellow spotted dark red, white margin, 50 x 110mm; synsepal yellow-green spotted red, 90 x 90mm. Petal bright yellow spotted red, central red stripe, 85 x 60mm; pouch yellow-green spotted red inside, 45 x 50mm; disc yellow 22mm wide.

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Chytroglossa aurata* 'Sandra's Valentine' **2** and **3** exhibited by Mike Armstrong, Muston, Nottinghamshire. Votes were twenty in favour. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage the cultivation of the species.

Chytroglossa is a small genus of three compact species endemic to Brazil. *Chytroglossa aurata* occurs mainly in the Mata Atlantica rainforest of



southeast Brazil where it grows as an epiphyte at mid to high elevations. It was originally described by Reichenbach in 1863 and is rarely seen in cultivation.

The plant exhibited measured

23cm across. It had nine flower spikes and 67 open flowers. Overall flower size was 12 x 9mm, the sepals and petals were green with a contrasting yellow lip. The dorsal sepal was 5 x 1mm; lateral sepals 6 x

1mm. Petal 5 x 1mm; lip yellow spotted red at throat, two red blotches on upper edge, 6 x 7mm.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Mike Armstrong, Muston, Nottinghamshire for *Chytroglossa aurata* 'Sandra's Valentine' **2** and **3**. For detailed description see above. The plant exhibited measured 23cm across. It had nine flower spikes and 67 open flowers. It was mounted on a 12cm long tree fern slab. Votes were unanimous.

Grower's advice

Chytroglossa aurata 'Sandra's Valentine'

“Just over three years ago, I went to the RHS London Orchid Show to collect an order from Florália Orquidários Reunidos in Brazil, and spotted this very forlorn little plant in Sandra's for sale section. I thought it needed a good home and bought it. Information on this genus was very difficult to obtain. So I looked at the plant and made an assessment. It does not have pseudobulbs, so is reliant on a good supply of water. Sandra had said the plant did not do well in her nursery, which is at low altitude and very hot. I decided it would like to be a lot cooler and that it probably lives at reasonable height. The leaves are quite tough so I thought it must need good light, but not full sunlight. I decided to mount the plant on tree fern and placed it at the cooler end of my greenhouse, near a glass louver. The plant responded immediately and started to grow, which it has continued to do ever since.

About 18 months ago I found out more about *Chytroglossa*

from www.orchidspecies.com. This website is run by Jay Pfahl, and currently has 11,354 species from 775 genera most with photographs. I found out that there are only three plants in the genus, *Chytroglossa paulensis* and *C. marileaeoniae*, and I have got Sandra on a mission to obtain these others.

My plant of *Chytroglossa aurata* receives a good flow of fresh air from the louver window, which I try to open every day, except in very cold weather. The greenhouse is temperature-controlled with a minimum day/night difference of 3–6°C. The minimum night temperature is 15°C at the warm end and about 10°C at the cooler end, rising to 21°C for the day.

I water every week from mid spring to late autumn then reduce it to every other week. *Chytroglossa aurata* is tolerant of dry periods as long as they are not too long. I feed my plant when I feed my cattleyas, so very little in the winter, increasing in the spring, peaking in September and decreasing again in autumn. I let the plant dry out a bit after Christmas, as it usually flowers in early spring when it will be at its' most prolific, and flowers again in late September, but not with as much enthusiasm. When watering every week I still only feed every other week. I have nicknamed the process as one-on and one-off. Like all my mounted orchids, *C. aurata* gets heavily soaked on its one-off to clear as much of the build up of salts as possible. I am sure that this plant would be fairly intolerant of being moved so it is important to keep the tree fern mount in as good condition as possible.” *Mike Armstrong*

RHS Awards

20 March 2010 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, London during the RHS London Orchid Show. Twenty-one plants were exhibited; one First Class Certificate, three Awards of Merit, and one Certificate of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

First Class Certificate

■ For *Paphiopedilum micranthum* 'Frieda' **4**, **5**, **6** and **7** exhibited by David Mather, Richmond, Surrey. Votes were fifteen in favour, three against. It is not often that the RHS Orchid Committee awards a First Class Certificate; the last one was five years ago. So far thirteen other cultivars of *P. micranthum* have been awarded by the Committee, including three First Class Certificates. Since its discovery the species has been awarded liberally throughout the world, including a good number of First Class Certificates by the American Orchid Society.

The Latin species name, meaning small flower, does not describe it well, especially in this particular cultivar. It was first described by Tang and Wang in 1951 from plants discovered on the steep limestone hills of south-east Yunnan, China. The species has now been found in other localities, including northern Vietnam. The first plants reached cultivation in the 1980s with the first RHS award given in 1986.

This cultivar had all the good features of all the previously awarded forms combined – good size, shape and subtle colouration. The plant exhibited had five open flowers. The overall flower size was 110 x 75mm. Petals and sepals were pink, striped red, centre yellow; dorsal sepal 35 x 35mm; synsepal 30 x 25mm. Petal 40 x 40mm; pouch pink spotted red inside, 70 x 60mm, 70mm deep; disc yellow spotted red, 5mm wide.

David Ridgeway



Paphiopedilum micranthum 'Frieda',
First Class Certificate;
Cultural Commendation

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David Ridgeway



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David Ridgeway



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Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To David Mather, Richmond, Surrey for *Paphiopedilum micranthum* 'Frieda' 4, 5, 6 and 7. The plant measured 26cm across and was grown in a 16cm diameter pan. Votes were unanimous.

The species grows on a long rhizome and in this plant, was contained in a fairly small pan. The plant carried five flowers and the foliage was very clean and vigorous. Another cultivar of *Paphiopedilum micranthum* was awarded a Certificate of Cultural Commendation in 2006 for a plant grown by Allan Burdis, (*Orch. Rev.* vol 114: p238).

Grower's advice

Paphiopedilum micranthum 'Frieda'

“I bought this plant in late 2002 as a single growth, albeit with two new leads. I repotted it into a small plastic pot in a mix composed mostly of sphagnum moss with a small amount of perlite and limestone chips, and placed it in one of the cooler areas of my conservatory. In this position, it receives bright fluorescent light (about 20cm below the fitting) and, while the normal temperature range is around 15–22°C, it would experience a drop to as low as 5°C in mid winter. The plant is normally watered weekly with either a Dyna-Gro mix or, more recently Green Jungle, with a typical conductivity reading of 100–250 microsiemens. I use lower concentrations in winter, and give the plant a drier period of a couple of months when the temperature drops. I occasionally add Dyna-Gro K-L-N as a general stimulant for all of the plants.

I have to admit that, initially at least, this plant was something

of a disappointment, refusing to flower. However, it did grow vigorously in what was quite a damp compost mix, making a number of new leads and by 2006, the original pot was a mass of growths and one of the

leads had even starting rooting into another adjacent orchid pot. So, in 2006, I repotted into a porous clay bowl, unwinding the growths into a more orderly structure. By this point, I had seen similar *Paphiopedilum*

Paphiopedilum micranthum 'Frieda',
First Class Certificate;
Cultural Commendation



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species growing in the wild and I filled the bottom of the bowl with limestone chips (to give a more shallow growing space) and used a compost, which though still sphagnum-based, included more limestone, foam, perlite and some decayed, limestone-rich sandstone.

The plant flourished in this mix and, a couple of years ago, flowered for the first time on a couple of growths with, what I thought, were very nice and potentially awardable flowers. However, the five flowers this spring were notably larger and seemed to have benefited from the improved size and health of the overall plant. I have high hopes for the future as I think this plant has every potential to carry on growing in size.”

David Matther

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontioda* Moulin de Louis ‘Saint Martin’ 8 and 9 raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were twelve in favour, one against. The parents are *Odontioda* Aviewood and *Odontioda* Ingmar. The cross was first registered by the Foundation in 2006. The flowers exhibited had an excellent shape and texture. Coloration was bold and well-defined.

The cut spike exhibited had eight open flowers, deep pink with dark red blotches and a dark red margin. Overall flower size was 110 x 110mm; the dorsal sepal was 55 x 40mm, lateral sepals 60 x 35mm; petals 50 x 45mm; lip deep pink, central dark red blotch, yellow crest at throat, 35 x 25mm; column white-red 15mm long.

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontioda* Ville a l’Eveque ‘Saint Brelade’ 10 and 11 raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid

Odontioda Moulin de Louis ‘Saint Martin’, Award of Merit



Odontioda
Ville a l'Evecque
'Saint Brelade',
Award of Merit



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Foundation, Jersey. Votes were ten in favour, three against. The cross' parents are *Odontioda* Gorey Castle and *Odontioda* Saint Clement. The cross was first registered by the Foundation in 1993. The flowers exhibited had a good flat shape, substance and clear colouration.

The cut spike exhibited had nine open flowers. The petals and sepals were deep burgundy red with white margins. The overall flower size was 90 x 95mm. The dorsal sepal

was 50 x 40mm; lateral sepals 50 x 30mm. Petal 50 x 45mm; lip deep burgundy, white spotted red at centre, yellow crest at the throat and a white margin, 30 x 30mm; column red 20mm long.

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontioda* Coin Varin 'Saint Helier' ¹² and ¹³ raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were ten in favour, three against.

The parents are *Odontioda* Haniesto and *Odontoglossum* Pescalo. The cross was first registered in 1993. The flowers were numerous and well spaced along the spike.

The cut spike exhibited had fourteen flowers, pink with red blotches and a white margin. The overall flower size was 110 x 108mm. The dorsal sepal was 60 x 40mm; the lateral sepals were 55 x 35mm. The petals were 50 x 45mm; the lip was white with red blotches, and a



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Odontioda Black Diamond 'Gorey', Award of Merit

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yellow crest, 35 x 25mm; the column was white-red 15mm long.

RHS Awards

6 April 2010 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, London. Eight plants were exhibited; one Award of Merit was recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Odontoglossum* Black Diamond 'Gorey' ¹⁴ raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. Votes were eleven in favour. The parents are *Odontoglossum* Jim Mintsiveris and *Odontoglossum*

nobile. It was first made and registered by Golden Gate Orchids, San Francisco, USA in 2005.

A previous cultivar 'Chichester' was given an Award of Merit in 2004 (*Orch. Rev.* 113: p116, 117). The cultivar 'Gorey' was slightly larger and had a more striking broad white margin to the exceedingly dark red flowers.

The cut spike exhibited had twelve open flowers. The overall flower size was 85 x 90mm. The petals and sepals were dark red with a white margin all around; each had a central red blotch at the throat. The dorsal sepal was

45 x 35mm; lateral sepals 48 x 30mm. Petals were 45 x 45mm; lip deep red, white margin, yellow crest at throat, 37 x 32mm; column red 20mm long.

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 p118