

# RHS Orchid Awards

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



Chris Purver

*Lycaste Shoalhaven*  
'Trinity', Award of Merit

1

## RHS Awards

**10 November 2009** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, London. Four plants were exhibited; two Awards of Merit and one Botanical Certificate were recommended.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Lycaste* Shoalhaven 'Trinity' **1** exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were nine in favour, two against. The cross parents were *Lycaste skimmeri* and *Lycaste Koolena*, it was first registered by John Apperley, New South Wales, Australia, in 1976. The flower was white with the petals and sepals edged with purple. Both the cultivars exhibited were line bred from superior Japanese clones and had excellent substance; they were reported to be triploids.

The cut spike exhibited had one flower open. Overall flower size was 130 x 170mm. The dorsal sepal was 85 x 65mm; lateral sepals 90 x 65mm. Petals 60 x 50mm; lip callus yellow, 40 x 25mm; column white 30mm.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Lycaste* Shoalhaven 'Grouville' **2** exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were unanimous. The cultivar 'Grouville' had more purple on the white flowers compared to 'Trinity' with the petals particularly heavily stippled.

The cut spike exhibited had one flower open. Overall flower size was 120 x 170mm. The dorsal sepal was 90 x 65mm; lateral sepals 80 x 65mm. Petals 60 x 35mm; lip callus yellow, 40 x 24mm; column white 30mm.

### Botanical Certificate

■ For *Oncidium manuelariasii* 'Gaytarn' **3** and **4** exhibited by John Gay, Wakefield, Yorkshire. Votes were unanimous. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage



the cultivation of the species. This interesting orchid was first described in 2001 as *Odontoglossum ariasii* but was transferred to *Oncidium* following the work by Mark Chase and his team for *Genera Orchidacearum* vol.5 which has now been published. The name *Oncidium ariasii* had been taken up by an earlier species; hence the new name *O. manuelariasii* (also see the American Orchid Society journal *Orchids* vol.77, no12, p25). The species comes from Peru.

The plant exhibited had a 100cm arching spike with seventy-eight open flowers, the star shaped flowers were an attractive yellow-green, spotted red, with a contrasting white lip. The overall flower size was 40 x 35mm. Dorsal sepal 20 x 6mm; lateral sepals 25 x 5mm. Petals 20 x 7mm; lip white trilobbed, yellow at throat, 18mm long, 8mm wide at widest.

### Grower's advice

*Oncidium manuelariasii* 'Gaytarn'

“Better known as *Odontoglossum ariasii*, this species was discovered in Peru in 1995. It has recently been

transferred to *Oncidium*, but as *Oncidium ariasii* already existed the name *manuelariasii* has been coined, after the discoverer.

I have seen this species growing in the wild in Peru and the culture in my greenhouse is as near as possible as seen in the wild. It grows alongside all my other *Odontoglossum* species (possibly all of which will to be transferred to *Oncidium*; I hope not). The minimum night-time temperature is 10°C rising in the daytime by a few degrees. In summer the temperature should not exceed 20°C, and shading at this time is essential as odontoglossums do not like strong sunshine. Humidity should year round be around 80 percent, and damping down all year round is recommended. I water as and when, and feed at half-strength with a balanced fertilizer every third watering. This species is an easy grower and I would recommended it to anyone interested in odontoglossums.” John Gay ►

Chris Purver



Left and right: *Oncidium manuelariasii* 'Gaytarn', Botanical Certificate

Chris Purver



## RHS Awards

**8 December 2009** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, London. Four plants were exhibited; one Botanical Certificate and one Certificate of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

### Botanical Certificate

■ For *Bulbophyllum makoyanum* 'Bonnie' **7** and **8** exhibited by Lawrence Bracewell, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Votes were 11 in favor, two against. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to the species to encourage its cultivation. The species comes from Singapore, Malaysia, Borneo, Philippines and Vietnam. It is scented and has very attractive fan-shaped umbels.

The plant exhibited had sixteen flowers spikes with eight having an

average of thirteen open flowers on each. The flowers were bright yellow spotted red at the throat. The overall flower size was 32 x 2mm. The dorsal sepal was red-green, 3 x 1mm; sepals fused, yellow, 30 x 1mm. Petal 2 x 1mm; lip yellow, 2 x 1mm.

### Grower's advice

*Bulbophyllum makoyanum* 'Bonnie'

“I purchased this plant about two years ago from an overseas dealer at an orchid show. I grow it in my polytunnel, which has a flagstone floor and variable, complete side and door-end ventilation. It is 6 x 3.5m and 3.5m tall which allows a wide variety of conditions for a mixed collection like mine.

All my bulbophyllums are right next to the polytunnel door and get a good blast of fresh air

when I go in and out. I spray with warm rainwater every day and feed very weakly about once a month. I find that this plant likes the brightest situation of all my bulbophyllums. I grow the plant at the warm end of the intermediate range. The new growths are so aggressive that they climb over each other and I almost have to take garden shears to it as the plant grows like the clappers!

It flowers prolifically several times a year, with the added bonus that the flowers appear simultaneously, not sequentially like some species of *Cirrhopetalum* (this plant used to be *Cirrhopetalum makoyanum*).

The distribution of *Bulbophyllum makoyanum* ranges from Malaysia through

Borneo to the Philippines and there is a remarkable variety of form and colour. My plant, I am reliably informed is the most common type in cultivation although I have not seen one in flower before. It is a very rewarding plant to grow and has an amazing flower display. With patience it could be grown to a large specimen and to date there has been no leaf drop on my plant. I shall continue growing this specimen to see just how large a plant mass I can achieve.

I have given my plant the cultivar name 'Bonnie' in memory of my late West Highland White

Terrier who sat through all the Thames Valley Orchid Society meetings, lectures, slide and film shows taking a keen interest and never falling asleep once. She was also well-known at all the shows and will be greatly missed."

Larry Bracewell



Sarah Brooks

### Cultural Commendation

■ To Melvyn Stephen, Bulwell, Nottingham for *Dendrobium dichaeoides* 'Hilary' 9 and 10. The plant measured 17cm across with about thirty-five flowering canes, with an average of 14 open flowers on each. The plant was mounted on a tree fern slab. Votes were unanimous. A previous cultivar 'Sherbourne' was awarded an Award of Merit and Cultural Certificate in 1999 (*Orch. Rev.* 108: 11, 17) and the cultivar 'Atlas' received a Cultural Certificate in 2005 (*Orch. Rev.* 113: 358). The species comes from Papua New Guinea where it grows at 1,500–2,500m. It is a pendulous species requiring shade and constant moisture.



Larry Bracewell

Right and above:  
*Bulbophyllum*  
*makoyanum* 'Bonnie',  
Botanical Certificate



## Grower's advice

### *Dendrobium dichaeioides* 'Hilary'

“This small species from western Papua New Guinea usually grows on moss-covered branches of large trees. The plants experience year round rainfall and moisture from cloud cover and frequent mists.

My 10-year-old specimen is mounted on a tree fern slab. I hang it in the roof of the glass-house all winter and move it to a shadier spot as the sun gathers strength in spring and summer. The cool end of the glasshouse regularly drops to 10°C on winter nights with a daytime rise of 5°C (min). In spring and summer, I increase ventilation and humidity to keep the temperature down preferably to no higher than 25°C.

I fertilize every other week using a half-strength high nitrogen formula with calcium and magnesium supplements, from the onset of the growing period until the end of June. I also find that a monthly feed of seaweed supplement helps develop good root growth. In July I switch to a phosphate potash formula to harden the growths and encourage flowering which normally occurs from November onwards. Rainwater is used exclusively for watering and fertilizing, my mounted plants are soaked in a barrel for several minutes daily in warmer weather, or sprayed every one or two days in winter, taking into consideration the monthly rainfall requirements of each species.

Ventilation fans run year round – usually two at night and four in the day. I try to maintain at least 70 percent relative humidity in the colder months, increasing to 85 percent (using a hydrofogger) in warmer periods. *Mel Stephen*

*Dendrobium dichaeioides*  
'Hilary', Cultural  
Commendation



LARRY BREWELL

7

## Statistics of 2009 awards

It was another busy year for the RHS Orchid Committee. A total of 134 plants were assessed, 23 Awards of Merit were awarded, nine Botanical Certificates and six Certificates of Cultural Commendation. The overall percentage of awards given to plants shown was 25 percent.

## RHS Awards

11 January 2010 The RHS Orchid Committee meeting at McBeans Orchids, Lewes, had to be cancelled due to snow cutting off the nursery.

## Name and address correction

The name of *Habenaria medusa* 'Blackwater' exhibited by Plested Orchids, Sandhurst, Berkshire (not

Crawley, Sussex, *Orch. Rev.* 117: 183, 240–241) has been amended to *Habenaria myriotricha* 'Blackwater'. The latter species was previously regarded as a synonym of the former but this is not the case.

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 p59