

# RHS Orchid Awards

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

*Aranda Broga Giant*  
'Bright Garden', Award of Merit

1

## RHS Awards

**24 May 2010** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Eighteen plants were submitted for judging; three Awards of Merit were recommended. This special Chelsea meeting attracted high quality plants from Japan, South Africa, Jersey and several fascinating Singaporean blooms brought by Dr John Elliot, President of the Orchid Society of South East Asia.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Aranda* Broga Giant 'Bright Garden' **1** and **2** exhibited by Bright Garden, c/o the Orchid Society of South East Asia, Singapore. Votes were fifteen in favour. The parents were *Aranda* Pembantu Farmasi and *Vanda* Gordon Dillon. It was first registered by Tan Chin Heong, Serdang Orchid Nursery, Selangor, Malaysia in 2004. Arandas are called scorpion orchids in Singapore in reference to the shape of the flower and many are sterile. This cross was a

fine example of a large flowered *Aranda* with deep cerise coloured flowers, an excellent substance and mauve sheen on the back surface.

The cut spike exhibited had thirteen open flowers and three buds. The overall flower size was 150 x 130mm. Dorsal sepal 70 x 35mm at the widest point; lateral sepals 70 x 40mm at the widest point. Petals 60 x 35mm at widest; lip mid lobe deep purple almost black, 25 x 15mm; column contrasting pale yellow 10mm long.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Odontoglossum* Petit E'tacquerel 'Saint Brelade' **3** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were eleven in favour. The parents were *Odontoglossum* Bandor and *O.* Beaumont and it was first registered by the Foundation in 2005. It had a graceful arching spike, well spaced flowers with excellent shape, which were crystalline white with deep red blotches.



*Aranda*  
Broga Giant  
'Bright Garden'

The plant exhibited had two arching spikes, one 142cm long with sixteen open flowers, the other still in bud. Overall flower size was 100 x 100mm. Dorsal sepal 45 x 34mm; lateral sepals 53 x 32mm. Petal 45 x 43mm; lip central yellow callus 32 x 31mm; column white-burgundy 19mm long.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Stenoglottis* Neptune 'Chelsea Frieda' **4** and **5** exhibited by Mike Tibbs, Franschoek, South Africa. Votes were eleven in favour, four against. The parents were *Stenoglottis* Venus and *S. fimbriata*. It was raised and registered by Duckitt Nurseries, Western Cape, South Africa in 1997 who used specially selected cultivars to create the cross. One of the parents *S. Venus* is a primary hybrid between *S. longifolia* and *S. fimbriata*, the grex Neptune has resulted in a more heavily spotted lip than either of the parents.

The plant exhibited had a 54cm tall spike with approximately 80 open flowers and numerous buds. Overall flower size was 20 x 15mm, petals and sepals purple spotted lilac. Dorsal and lateral sepals 5 x 5mm. Petal 3 x 1mm; lip trilobbed white, with lilac spots, 10 x 5mm at the widest point.



*Odontoglossum* Petit  
E'tacquerel 'Saint  
Brelade', Award  
of Merit

## RHS Awards

**19 June** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the 24th British Orchid Council Conference held at the Peterborough International Orchid Show, at the East of England County Show. Twenty-eight plants were exhibited; two Awards of Merit, three Botanical Certificates and seven Certificates of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* Karl Ploberger 'Barbara' **6** exhibited by Ernst F Horn, Bad-Hersfeld, Germany. Votes were twelve in favour, three against. The parents were *P. bellatulum* and *P. hangianum*, the cross was first registered by Franz Glanz, Germany in 2005. *Paphiopedilum hangianum* is a large and variable species that was first described in 1999 from Vietnam. *Paphiopedilum bellatulum* has been known since 1888 and has a rounded shape and variable spotting. This cultivar had an excellent shape and colour; no doubt due to the superior parents chosen by Franz Glanz to make this cross.

The plant exhibited had one open flower on a 110mm tall spike. The overall flower size was 105 x 115mm. Dorsal sepal white-cream gently striped red, 45 x 60mm; synsepal 55 x 55mm. Petals white-cream, reticulated red, 70 x 60mm; pouch white-cream speckled red, carrying fine red hairs, 40 x 25mm and 40mm deep; disc cream pink 15mm wide.

### Grower's advice

*Paphiopedilum* Karl Ploberger 'Barbara'

**“I bought this plant from Franz Glanz at Wössner Orchid Nursery in 2008. I grow all my *Paphiopedilum* plants in fine bark with 15 percent perlite and 10 percent peat, with some coarse bark for drainage. In winter, the temperature is 20°C in the day**

**and 15°C at night. I use a 20-20-20 fertiliser (without urea) weekly at a concentration of 100 micro-Siemens, with 50µS of calcium nitrate added for better cell growth. Every five to six weeks I use a solution of trace elements at 150µS, and flush with pure rainwater after. In summer, I double the solution rate. This works well under my conditions, but you may need to fertilise at a higher or lower rate depending on the temperature and humidity. I find it is essential to give one or two teaspoons of crushed limestone, depending on the pot size, once a year.”** Ernst-F. Horn (translated by Roland Schettler)

### Award of Merit

■ For *Vanda* Black Magic 'Miriam' **7** exhibited by Hilmar Bauch, Asendorf, Germany. Votes were unanimous. The parents were *Vanda* Piyaporn and *V. Kasem's Delight*, it was first registered by Kultana Orchids, Thailand in 1991. This hybrid is now regularly seen in cultivation all over the world but the cultivar 'Miriam' had striking dark mauve flowers with deep purple blocking, and had an excellent shape.

The plant exhibited had two 37cm tall flower spikes with thirteen and eleven open flowers. Overall flower size was 100 x 100mm. Dorsal sepal 50 x 50mm; lateral sepals 50 x 60mm. Petal 45 x 45mm; lip 30 x 20mm; column cream-purple 10mm long.

### Botanical Certificate

■ For *Rudolfiella picta* 'Herrenhausen' **8** exhibited by Andreas Stocklebusch for Herrenhausen Gardens, Hannover, Germany. Votes were eleven in favour, three against. This species is distributed from northwest Ecuador, the Chocó of Colombia and into Panama. It was for many years considered to be in the genus *Bifrenaria* and is sometimes seen in cultivation under

this name. *Rudolfiella* is a genus of about seven species, and was named by Hoehne for the German botanist Rudolf Schlechter. It is uncommon in cultivation and a Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage its further introduction into cultivation.

The plant exhibited had three 30cm long pendulous spikes, with eleven, fifteen and eight open flowers respectively. The attractive flowers had deep red blotches on a yellow background. The overall flower size was 28 x 30mm. Dorsal sepal 12 x 8mm; lateral sepals 10 x 14mm. Petals 10 x 6mm; lip tri-lobed, hinged 7 x 8mm; column white 7mm long.

### Grower's advice

*Rudolfiella picta* 'Herrenhausen'

**“This is a fairly rare species from the northern part of South America. Herrenhausen Gardens in Hannover grow the plant in warm conditions, and in light shade. The summer day temperature is 23°C, dropping to 21°C at night. In winter it is 21°C in the day, and 20°C at night. During the growing season it is watered thoroughly once to twice a week, the water has about 500–600µS, (fertilizer: 20-20-20, Wuxal Super). Watering must be reduced in winter. The plant likes a fairly open potting mix of pure bark, and is grown in a large clay pot.”** Andreas Stocklebusch

### Botanical Certificate

■ *Sievekingia fimbriata* 'Herrenhausen' **9** and **10** exhibited by Andreas Stocklebusch for Herrenhausen Gardens, Hannover, Germany. Votes were thirteen in favour, two against. This species is found from Costa Rica to Panama and was named in honour of Dr Sieveking, the first mayor of Hamburg and generous friend of HG Reichenbach. There are about 10 species in the genus and they look





like young plants of *Stanhopea*. This species is uncommon in cultivation and the Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage its further introduction into cultivation.

The plant exhibited had seven 5cm long pendant spikes with an average of thirteen open flowers on each spike. The flowers were a pale yellow-orange. The overall flower size was 30 x 30mm. Dorsal sepal 10 x 10mm; lateral sepals 15 x 10mm. Petals with a fimbriate edge, 10 x 5mm; lip yellow, speckled red and orange at the throat, 10 x 12mm; column 10mm long.

### Grower's advice

*Sievekingia fimbriata*  
'Herrenhausen'

“This species likes light shade and warm to intermediate conditions. The temperature on summer days is 21°C, dropping to 18°C at night, while on winter days it is 18°C dropping to 15°C at night. The plants are best grown in baskets filled with a mix of tree fern fibre (at Herrenhausen they use *Muehlenbeckia* instead) and a good deal of chopped sphagnum moss. The plants like it airy and should dry off between the

waterings, or they tend to rot. In winter they get a little fertiliser, about 400µS every fortnight. In the summer growth period they get about 500–600µS.

The plants do not loose their leaves in winter and so do not need a real rest period. The pendant spikes appear in early summer.” *Andreas Stockelbusch*

### Botanical Certificate

■ For *Maxillaria sanderiana* yellow form 'Megan' 11 and 12 exhibited by Kelvin Bush, Bristol. Votes were ten in favour, five against. The species received a First Class Certificate in 1885 (see *Proc. RHS* (n.s.) 7: 88; and *Gard. Chron.* May, p641). The yellow (xanthine) form of this species is new to cultivation and the Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage its further introduction. It is very different from the normal *Maxillaria sanderiana* which has creamy-white flowers with dark red spotting inside the throat. A name for this form will be published in the December issue of *The Orchid Review*. *Maxillaria sanderiana xanthoglossa* received an Award of Merit in 1893 for Sander (*Orch. Rev.* 1: 187), but not much else

seems to be known about this.

The plant exhibited had three striking, burnt-ochre coloured flowers on 4cm long pendant spikes. Overall flower size was 75 x 100mm. Dorsal sepal 45 x 20mm; lateral sepals 50 x 28mm. Petals 40 x 20mm; lip contrasting brown-yellow, 25 x 188mm; column yellow-orange 25mm long.

### Grower's advice

*Maxillaria sanderiana* yellow form 'Megan'

“I bought this plant in June 2008 from Ecuagenera at the Peterborough International Orchid Show. It is cultivated in a plastic orchid basket to allow the flower spikes to emerge. It grows in a mix of 70 percent sphagnum moss and 30 percent course perlite. It hangs three quarters of the way up in my intermediate greenhouse along with my *Stanhopea* collection. The temperature never drops below 11.5°C and rarely ever goes above 26.5°C. There are three large, continuously running fans at one end of the greenhouse and a large extraction fan at the other, which creates plenty of air movement. The glazing is whitewashed, with a layer of shade netting draped over. I generally water every three days with a very dilute feed of Orchid Focus.” *Kelvin Bush*

### Cultural Commendation

■ To Sue Lane, Cullompton, Devon for a magnificent plant of *Bulbophyllum graveolens* 'Roger Lane' 13 and 14. The plant was 160cm across with approximately 36 spikes with an average of ten open flowers and four buds on each. It was growing in a 26cm diameter basket. The plant was also judged Best in Show at the BOC congress (see p132). Votes were thirteen in favour, one against. The

*Rudolfiella picta*  
'Herrenhausen',  
Botanical Certificate







Cameron Shaw

9



Cameron Shaw

10



Cameron Shaw

11



Cameron Shaw

12

cultivar 'Roger Lane' had a previous Cultural Commendation in 2004 when it had ten flower spikes (*Orch. Rev.* 112, p331, 333 and 335). The species comes from the lowlands of Papua New Guinea.

## Grower's advice

*Bulbophyllum graveolens*  
'Roger Lane'

“This was a small piece bought from Eric Young through Brian Rittershausen 12 years ago. I grow it in a wooden basket filled with half coarse bark and perlite

and half sphagnum moss. It is in the warm part of my greenhouse in full light and hangs above the heater. The greenhouse is temperature controlled at 21°C in the day and 16.5°C at night although in summer this can increase substantially. I water with tap water once a week. Every other watering I add Orchid Focus fertiliser. This orchid received a Cultural Commendation in June 2004 at the Newbury Show and I named it after my husband so

it is very special to me to receive another award now.” Sue Lane

## Cultural Commendation

■ To Clive Lloyd, Exeter, Devon for *Cattleya* Canhamiana 'Elizabeth Ann' 15 and 16. The plant was 77cm across with nine spikes and eighteen open flowers on each. It was in a 30cm diameter pot. Votes were thirteen in favour, one against. The parents are *Cattleya mossiae* and *C. (Laelia) purpurata*, it was registered by Veitch in 1885 who was awarded a First Class Certificate for a plant in 1885 (*Gard. Chron.* June, ➤

p772). It has obtained numerous awards over the years and it is a testament to the quality of this grex that it continues to do so. The plant shown was a good blue (coerulean) form of this hybrid.

### Cultural Commendation

■ To Gary Firth, Haywards Heath, Sussex for *Brassia verrucosa* 'Peterborough' <sup>17</sup> and <sup>18</sup>. The plant was 70cm across with 14 spikes and about 10 open flowers on each. It was growing on a 1m tall mount. Votes were thirteen in favour, one against. First described in 1840, the species is from Mexico to northern Brazil. The plant exhibited was a fine, mature specimen, shown to its best potential.

### Grower's advice

*Brassia verrucosa* 'Peterborough'

“This plant arrived as part of a collection of 12 young plants from Burnham Nurseries in September 1982. It was grown conventionally in a pot for a number of years, first flowering in 1985. However it had a habit of gradually climbing out of the pot and so was supported by a moss pole over which it gradually grew. The pot was eventually removed and it has been grown just on the moss pole since then. It is hung from the apex of my intermediate house and sprayed with rain water most

mornings. I have found from previous experience that it is also essential to thoroughly soak the plant once every other week to ensure that there is no build up of salts or decay products from the remaining moss. It was awarded Best Amateur Species at the 2009 Peterborough International Orchid Show but has had double the number of flower spikes this year.” Gary Firth

### Cultural Commendation

■ To Marcel Karge, Dahlenberg, Germany for *Trichopilia* Senne Star 'Dahlenberg' <sup>19</sup> and <sup>20</sup>. The plant was

*Bulbophyllum graveolens* 'Roger Lane'

13

Cameron Shaw



*Cattleya*  
Canhamiana  
'Elizabeth Ann'

15



*Cattleya* Canhamiana 'Elizabeth Ann', Cultural Commendation

16

Cameron Shaw

*Bulbophyllum graveolens* 'Roger Lane', Cultural Commendation

14





Cameron Shaw



*Brassia verrucosa* 'Peterborough',  
Cultural Commendation

17

63cm across with approximately 70 spikes and flowers, and was growing in a 15cm diameter pot. Votes were fourteen in favour, one against. The parents of this cross are *Trichopilia tortilis* and *T. turialbae* the cross was made by Roellke Orchideen, Stukenbrock, Germany and recently registered by them. Several fine plants of this hybrid were seen at the show.

### Cultural Commendation

■ To Stuart Knox, for *Schoenorchis manipurensis* 'Dorothy' [21] and [22]. The spherical plant was 18cm in circumference, with approximately 36 flower spikes and an average of six open and five buds on each. It was growing on a 5 x 4cm mount. Votes were unanimous. It was first described in 1978 by Udai Pradhan from Manipur in India where it grows at elevations 750–1,000m. It was originally discovered growing on the roots of *Renanthera imschootiana*.

### Grower's advice

*Schoenorchis manipurensis* 'Dorothy'

“I bought this plant from J & L Orchids of Connecticut, USA, at the Centenary Orchid Confer-

ence in London in 1985, having seen a similar plant in flower at the Sheffield Orchid Society spring show the previous year.

Mounted on a piece of tree fern, at that time it was slightly too big to fit into a matchbox. Many new leads have developed over the years but it is still on the same piece of tree fern. It is grown in the warmer section of my greenhouse, with a night minimum of 15.5°C and a day-time maximum of about 29.5°C. It hangs near the glass in fairly bright light about 30cm above and in front of a fan that runs continuously. Glass shading is applied in late April and removed in early September. There are electric tubular heaters, and a misting unit under the benches, on a timer to maintain humidity.

The plant is allowed to dry out somewhat before watering but in summer is watered most evenings. The plant is taken down, water poured over it then left on a bench overnight and hung up again in the morning. All my plants are watered with tap water which in this area has



*Brassia verrucosa*  
'Peterborough'

18

an EC of about 170µS. Quarter-strength feed is given every three to four weeks in summer.

This plant is a pleasure to grow. The flowers last six to eight weeks and appear every year without fail, it has few pests, takes up little room, and if dropped damages neither itself or other plants.” Stuart Knox

### Cultural Commendation

■ To Ellis Eyre, Retford, Nottinghamshire for *Dracula sergioi* 'Eva May' [23] and [24]. The plant was 40cm across with 90 spikes and 60 open flowers. It was in a 10cm diameter basket. The plant was very well-flowered and the foliage was in excellent condition. Votes were unanimous. The species comes from Colombia, and was named for Father Sergio Restrepo who first discovered it in 1978.

### Grower's advice

*Dracula sergioi* 'Eva May'

“I keep this plant with all my other *Masdevallia* and *Dracula* plants. I hang the *Dracula* plants in the top of the glasshouse as it is a couple of degrees warmer than at bench level. I think



Cameron Shaw



19

*Trichopilia Senne Star 'Dahlenberg'*



20

*Trichopilia Senne Star 'Dahlenberg'*, Cultural Commendation

Cameron Shaw



21

*Schoenorchis manipurensis 'Dorothy'*, Cultural Commendation



22

*Schoenorchis manipurensis 'Dorothy'*

Cameron Shaw



23

*Dracula sergioi, 'Eva May'*, Cultural Commendation



24

*Dracula sergioi 'Eva May'*

Cameron Shaw

draculas enjoy a little more warmth than masdevallias.

For a long time I grew this plant in the same medium as the masdevallias, but I have made a change that seems to work for the *D. sergioi*. The new medium is American sponge rock from Orchids by Peter White, which I mix with three parts sphagnum moss. I use reverse osmosis water and Green Jungle fertilizer from America also supplied by Peter White. I find this fertiliser really works and is not too strong for the draculas and masdevallias.

When controllable, I keep the temperature at 15°C in the day and 10°C at night. In hot weather this is not possible, but I do manage to keep it no higher than 24°C. I use aluminium strip shading, again supplied by you know who! I always have a gap of around 60cm between the glass and the shading because this gives any breeze a chance to take away the heat between the glass and the shading.”

Ellis Eyre

### Cultural Commendation

■ To Burnham Nurseries, Newton Abbot, Devon for *Dienia ophrydis* ‘Frisky’<sup>25</sup>. The plant was 51cm across with 10 flower spikes with approximately 100 open flowers and numerous buds on each. It was growing in a 28cm diameter bowl. Votes were twelve in favour, two against. This species comes from tropical & subtropical Asia to the southwest Pacific and has recently been re-classified. It is commonly and wrongly known as *Malaxis latifolia*. As *Microstylis congesta* it gained a BC in 1902 (see *Orch. Rev.* 10, p171). There are seven species in the genus *Dienia* and are closely related to *Malaxis*. The rhizome disintegrates as the

25



*Dienia ophrydis* ‘Frisky’,  
Cultural Commendation

plant matures and it was therefore judged as a fine colony of plants.

### Grower’s advice

#### *Dienia ophrydis* ‘Frisky’

“We have grown this very rewarding and easy species for many years in our intermediate house. It has a minimum winter temperature of 12°C, and is deciduous so needs absolutely no water at all at this time. Water and feed regularly during the summer growing period to prevent the roots drying out and to encourage the new pseudobulb to grow well. It has similar requirement to other deciduous orchids, such as *Pleione* or *Calanthe* and, like these, should be repotted each spring. After a few years you can end up with quite a

number of pseudobulbs which can be grown all together in a shallow pan. We use a potting mixture of fine bark, peat (or similar) and perlite, to keep the roots moist. The soft, annual leaves need shade and are prone to aphids so keep a close watch for them during the summer months.”

Sara Rittershausen

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