

# RHS Orchid Awards



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

*Stanhopea* Hamptonne 'Le  
Don Pirie', Award of Merit

1



*Angulocaste Paternoster* 'Le Don Le Gros', Award of Merit

## RHS Awards

**19 July 2011** The RHS Orchid Committee met at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey. Twenty seven plants were exhibited; three Awards of Merit, one Botanical Certificate and two Certificates of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Stanhopea* Hamptonne 'Le Don Pirie' **1** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were nine in favour, two against. The parents were *Stanhopea* Augres and *S. maduroi*. It was registered by the Foundation in 2007. The cultivar 'Le Don Pirie' was a pleasing yellow-orange colour with a contrasting darker orange mesochile and it had completely lost the spots of the parent *S. Augres*. *Stanhopea maduroi* is an interesting golden yellow species discovered in Panama in 1998, and has since been found in Colombia too. It is very rare in cultivation.

The cut spike exhibited had three open flowers. Overall flower size was 110 x 140mm. The dorsal sepal was 65 x 30mm at the widest point; lateral sepals 70 x 44mm at the widest point. Petals 65 x 25mm at the widest; lip 40 x 35mm, 60mm deep.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Angulocaste* Paternoster 'Le Don Le Gros' **2** and **3** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were nine in favour, three against. The parents were *Angulocaste* Charlotte and *A. Transatlantic Beauty*. It was registered by the Foundation in 2007. The cultivar 'Le Don Le Gros' was a very deep burgundy-red colour with a contrasting white lip and sepals, cream-red on the exterior.

The cut spike exhibited had one open flower. Overall flower size was 75 x 60mm at the widest point. The dorsal sepal was 90 x 50mm at the

*Paphiopedilum* Les Mielles  
'Le Don Renouf',  
Award of Merit



HENRY OAKLEY

4

widest point; lateral sepals 90 x 60mm at widest. Petals 70 x 40mm; lip hinged, white, spotted deep red, 45 x 20mm; column white, 45mm long.

### Award of Merit

■ For *Paphiopedilum* Les Mielles 'Le Don Renouf' **4** raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were ten in favour, two against. The parents were *Paphiopedilum* Gowerianum and *P. L'Etacq*. It was registered by the Foundation in 2002. The cultivar 'Le Don Renouf' had an excellent shape and was a very attractive dark colour. The dorsal sepal was large and flat with a pale margin.

The cut spike exhibited had one open flower and one bud. Overall flower size was 115 x 175mm. The dorsal sepal was white, striped burgundy red, 60 x 70mm; synsepal white-green, striped deep red, 55 x

40mm. Petals spotted, hairy, white, striped burgundy red merging to green at centre, 91 x 18mm; pouch deep burgundy red, 40 x 25mm, 80mm deep; disc white, carrying purple hairs 20mm wide.

### Botanical Certificate

■ For *Telipogon polyrrhizus* 'Royden' **5** exhibited by Royden Orchids, Prestwood, Buckinghamshire. Votes were nine in favour, three against. This species comes from Ecuador and was first described by Reichenbach in 1878. It is a twig epiphyte and needs to be grown cool. The Botanical Certificate was awarded to encourage its cultivation. Most members of this genus are notoriously difficult to keep alive in cultivation, and this species seems to be slightly more resilient than others.

The plant exhibited had four open flowers on a 30mm tall spike. Overall

flower size was 44 x 47mm. The dorsal sepal was 20 x 4mm at the widest point; lateral sepals 20 x 2mm at the widest point. Petals 20 x 20mm; lip 20 x 28mm; column purple, hairy, 5mm long.

### Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Royden Orchids, Prestwood, Buckinghamshire, for *Telipogon polyrrhizus* 'Royden' **5**. The plant exhibited was 90mm across, with four open flowers. It was growing in a 6cm diameter pot. Votes were nine in favour, four against. It is unusual to see such a well-grown plant that has survived for four years in a greenhouse.

### Grower's advice

*Telipogon polyrrhizus* 'Royden'

“*Telipogon* plants are notoriously difficult to grow in cultivation. It has even been



reported that moving plants in the wild, to a different location on the same host tree brings about their demise. The cultural requirements of *Telipogon* plants are well documented – temperatures from about 5–25°C, constantly moving cool moist air, semi-shade and free draining compost. But plants introduced into our collection, invariably suffered the same fate. About 4 years ago, on reading Calaway Dodson's comments that some growers were now achieving success with the genus, we determined to try again, and acquired further 10 plants.

Subsequently we have had a modicum of success with the following regime. The *Telipogon* plants are grown in a 7.5m section of a 13m long house, which they share with our cool growing masdevallias. The house is 4.5m wide and has a 2.8m apex. Shading is at about 60 percent in summer, 5–10 percent in winter (depending on the state of the twin wall bubble wrap insulation.) Humidity is maintained at 70 percent using the Hartley system of pressure jetting rain water through oil-fired boiler nozzles at 2000 PSI. The system is controlled by a

humidistat and burst timer.

Fans keep the air moving constantly. In addition, when the greenhouse exceeds 18°C, a wall-mounted Ventaxia fan drags external air directly into the greenhouse. This air comes from a path by the perimeter hedge, so is normally cooler than ambient. The *Telipogon* plants are grown just out of the main air current created by the fan. Only on the very hottest days will the greenhouse temperature in this section exceed 28°C. Last winter on the coldest nights with -15°C outside temperatures, inside it went as low as 6°C, but normally

Henry Gaskley



*Telipogon polyrhizus* 'Royden',  
Botanical Certificate, and  
Cultural Commendation

we try to maintain 10°C.

We store large quantities of good quality rain water and use nothing else on all our plants. The *Telipogon* plants are grown in the smallest sized suitable pot using our standard mix of Chilean sphagnum moss / large size perlite and horticultural foam, and are repotted annually. We use Akerne's Rain Mix fertilizer from the Belgian orchid nursery of that name. Applied via a proportioner it can be used at every watering, but for us old habits die hard and several times a year we water with plain rainwater. We try to water the *Telipogon* plants before they get dry.

Under these conditions, of the ten plants we acquired about 4 years ago we still have six, all growing to the same standard as the awarded plant. Still room for improvement, but we are under the impression that, in the wild, *Telipogon* plants are not long lived either. We do know one grower who is very successful with *Telipogon* plants, but living at 3,000m in the Andes does give him an advantage. ”

Roy Barrow

## Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To the Director of RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey for *Encyclia ambigua* 'Wisley' 6 and 7. The plant exhibited was 80cm wide with seven flower spikes and approximately ninety open flowers and twenty buds. It was growing on a 24cm tall mount. The plant was grown by David McLaughlin and other RHS staff.

This species comes from Mexico to Central America, where it grows in open forests from 900–1,800m, mostly as an epiphyte but occasionally as a lithophyte. The flowers are

Henry Daleley



*Encyclia ambigua* 'Wisley',  
Cultural Commendation

fragrant and smell of honey. It can be grown in intermediate to warm conditions. The plant was shown as *Encyclia incumbens* but later re-identified as *Encyclia ambigua*; a species originally described by John Lindley in 1853.

## RHS Awards

16 August 2011 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Four plants were exhibited; two Awards of Merit were recommended.

## Award of Merit

■ For *Phragmipedium* Peruflora's Angel 'Gaytarn' 8 and 9 exhibited by John Gay, Wakefield, Yorkshire. Votes were seventeen in favour, three against. The parents were *Phragmipedium richteri* and *P. kovachii*. It was made and registered by Peruflora in 2007 and first flowered by John Gay. This fascinating hybrid is the progeny of two relatively new species, *Phragmipedium kovachii* was first described in 2002 and *P. richteri* in 1994. The cultivar 'Gaytarn' was

an attractive mauve colour with a contrasting pale inner side to the pouch, the edge of the pouch was marked with some deep red spots cascading towards the tip.

The plant exhibited had one 45cm tall flower spike with one open flower and two buds. Overall flower size was 100 x 150mm. The dorsal sepal was mauve, 60 x 25mm; synsepal white to green, 50 x 35mm. Petals mauve, twisted 85 x 28mm; pouch mauve, white spotted mauve inside, 55 x 30mm, 40mm deep; disc pink to white, 10mm wide.

### Grower's advice

*Phragmipedium* 'Peruflora's Angel 'Gaytarn'

“ I grow *Phragmipedium* Peruflora's Angel 'Gaytarn' with most of my other *Phragmipedium* species and

*Phragmipedium* Peruflora's Angel 'Gaytarn', Award of Merit



hybrids. I do not have intermediate conditions, so they are in my warm greenhouse with a minimum night temperature of

16°C. Most *Phragmipedium* plants like a wet compost and I use a mixture of 50 percent absorbent rockwool (Grodan) and 50 percent small rockwool cubes. Ideally, repotting should take place about every 18 months. The compost should not be allowed to dry out at any time of the year. I feed at every watering with a mixture of 50 percent Dyna-Gro Pro-Tekt (0-0-3) and 50 percent Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow Plant Food (7-9-5) both used at the maintenance rate, which for me equates to about 350ppm. ” John Gay

### Award of Merit

■ For *Lysudamuloa* Le Saut Geoffroy 'Le Don du Cartaret' <sup>10</sup> raised and exhibited by the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey. Votes were

*Phragmipedium* Peruflora's Angel 'Gaytarn', Award of Merit





twelve in favour, five against. The parents were *Angulocaste* Augres and *Sudamerlycaste locusta*, and it was registered by the Foundation in 2007. The cultivar 'Le Don du Cartaret' was an attractive deep yellow colour, slightly tinged with green, with a matching lip, and had excellent substance.

The cut flower spike exhibited had one open flower. Overall flower size 85 x 85mm. Dorsal sepal 80 x 60mm; lateral sepals 80 x 55mm. Petals 65 x 35mm; lip 30 x 25mm, 45mm deep; column white, 35mm long.

## RHS Awards

**13 September** The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Lawrence Hall, Westminster. Two plants were exhibited; one First Class Certificate was recommended.

### First Class Certificate

■ For *Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Trinity' **11** and **12** exhibited by the Eric Young Foundation, Jersey. Votes were eight in favour, one against. The Orchid Committee had been cautious so far to give a quality award to this relatively new and flamboyant species. Another cultivar, 'Gaytarn', was awarded a Botanical Certificate in December 2010 (*Orch. Rev.* March 2011, p56–57), but it was not until this meeting that the Committee was presented with a very worthy recipient of the highest RHS award. The balance of shape and colour were in perfect harmony and the Eric Young Orchid Foundation is to be congratulated on this special award.

The plant exhibited had one open flower and one bud on a 43cm spike. Overall flower size was 120 x 145mm. The dorsal sepal was pink to green, 65 x 40mm; synsepal pink to green, 50 x 45mm. Petals deep purple, 70 x 65mm; pouch deep, rich purple, white spotted-purple inside, with a yellow rolled edge, 65 x 45mm, 40mm deep;

disc white to purple, 20mm wide.

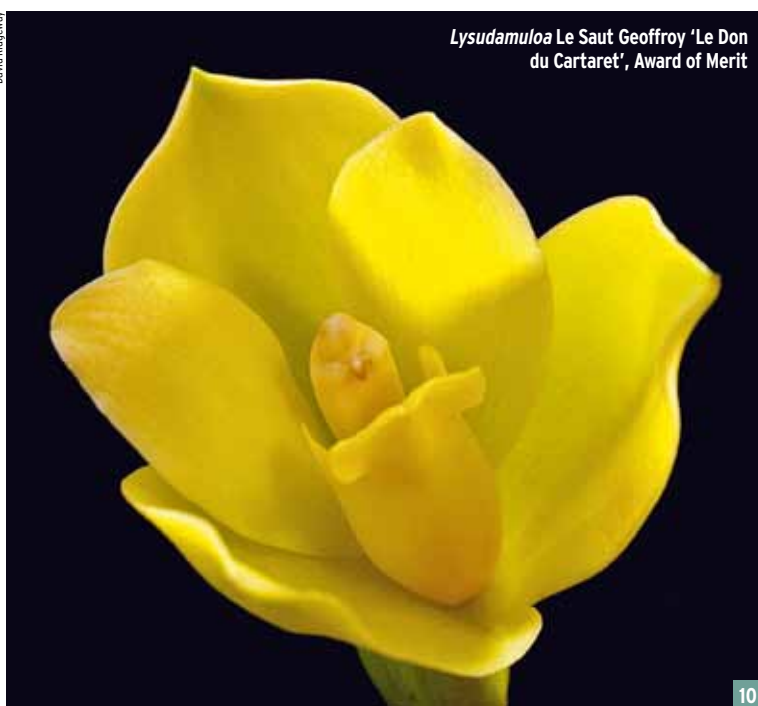
The species comes from Peru and was discovered in 2001, on an orchid vendor's stall. It is named for Michael Kovach an American orchidist through whom it reached the United States, and the rest is history. The fact that it was so recently discovered, and is such a striking species has added to its allure. The cultivar 'Trinity' originated from seedlings produced by one of only two Peruvian nurseries that had permission to propagate and sell the species.

The flower on the plant exhibited had only opened the previous day. It was an excellent rounded shape, with flat petals and a rich, deep colour. Although it was not the largest flower of the species some members of the Committee had seen, it was thought to be one of the finest forms and colouration so far seen. It was noted that the flowers can take two or more days after opening to reach their full size. On 13 September 2011, the flower measured 145mm

wide. On its previous flowering in 2010, the cultivar 'Trinity' was more than 180mm across. The flowers last a maximum of two weeks and it was arranged with the artist, Deborah Lambkin, that she would measure the flower size daily. She did so for the next six days, and it reached a maximum spread of 16cm.

At the time of judging, it was noted by photographer Henry Oakeley that the exact colour of the flower was difficult to capture on camera. According to the Kodak technical data on colour reproduction (which can be viewed on their website: [www.kodak.com/global/en/professional/support/techPubs/e73/e73.jhtml](http://www.kodak.com/global/en/professional/support/techPubs/e73/e73.jhtml)), blue pigments in flowers, and some fabrics, 'exhibit high reflectances at far red wavelengths. Common light sources like the sun and incandescent lamps provide a lot of far red to reflect, but human eyes are much less sensitive to it than color film and digital cameras. Photographs overly reddened by this effect are said to show anomalous

David Ridgeway



reflectance.' As a result of this, and due to the range of ink colours used in the printing process, it is extremely hard to accurately represent the flower colour in print. To this end, *The Orchid Review* has professionally scanned Deborah Lambkin's painting of the flower of the awarded plant of *Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Trinity' <sup>12</sup>, as it captures the purple shades more accurately.

### Grower's advice

*Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Trinity'

“We maintain a minimum greenhouse temperature of 16.5°C at night, allowing day temperatures to reach 18.5°C before venting. Gentle air circulation is used at night, and during cooler days, to prevent pockets of stagnant air, and create a buoyant atmosphere.

We grow our *Phragmipedium* plants in rockwool. It has a neutral pH, and does not break down like its organic counterparts. Its key attribute is its high water holding capacity – *Phragmipedium* roots should never be allowed to dry out. We maintain humidity at 65–80 percent, but high humidity combined with cooler night temperatures should be avoided. Also avoid getting water into the crown of the plant, and abstain from watering late in the day. However, if water does collect, simply invert the plant to drain it away. Always use pure rainwater for irrigation.

In summer *Phragmipedium* plants require a minimum of 50 percent shade, but in winter they can go unshaded except on the brightest days. If the leaf feels hot to the touch, then it is likely more shade is required.”

Chris Purver



*Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Trinity',  
First Class Certificate

11



Deborah Lambkin's painting of  
*Phragmipedium kovachii* 'Trinity'

12

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 information about entering plants for awards, see Forthcoming Events, p257.