

Dendrobium lasianthera
'Singapore Glory',
Award of Merit

David Ridgway



RHS Orchid Awards

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

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David Ridgeway



David Ridgeway

RHS Awards

23 May 2011 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Sixteen plants were submitted for judging; one Award of Merit and one Certificate of Preliminary Commendation were recommended.

Award of Merit

■ For *Dendrobium lasianthera* 'Singapore Glory' **1**, **2** and **3** exhibited by Mr Tuan Hong Neo of Singapore. Votes were unanimous. Dr John Elliott, President of the Orchid Society of South East Asia, and corresponding member of the Orchid Committee, brought the gigantic flowering plant from Singapore to the Chelsea Flower Show, it was in perfect condition. Another cultivar 'Nye Hill' was shown by Bob Dadd and awarded an AM in 1993, it had a very different blue-purple colouration, (*Orch. Rev.* 102: p71). The cultivar 'Singapore Glory' was a selected sibling cross and one of the darker red coloured forms of the species which comes from north Papua New Guinea. In its native habitat it grows as an epiphyte on small trees by rivers and in swampy forest more or less at sea level, and can grow up to four metres

tall. It has been used extensively as a parent for hybridising in Singapore to produce some strikingly-coloured progeny. The flowers were brown-red, white to yellow at centre with a contrasting deep red-purple lip and twisted petals and sepals.

The plant exhibited had two spikes, 52cm and 62cm long. There were 30 and 21 open flowers on the spikes. Overall flower size was 50

x 65mm. The dorsal sepal was 30 x 8mm at the widest point; lateral sepals 40 x 6mm at widest point. Petals 35 x 2mm; lip 40 x 12mm; column pink-yellow, 10mm long.

Certificate of Preliminary Commendation

■ For *Doritaenopsis* Ching Hua Magic 'Ching Hua' **4** exhibited by the Taiwan Orchid Growers Association,



Doritaenopsis Ching Hua Magic 'Ching Hua', Certificate of Preliminary Commendation

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Doritaenopsis
Ching Hua Magic 'Ching Hua'

Tainan, Taiwan. Votes were twenty one in favour, one against. The parents were *Doritaenopsis* Ching Hua Spring and *Doritaenopsis* Hsinying City, and it was registered by Ching Hua in 2001. The flowers were an attractive pale pink fading to white at the edges of the petals and sepals. The cross was a good shape and showed promise, the committee hopes to review the plant with a more developed inflorescence.

The plant exhibited had one 85cm arching spike with seven open flowers and five buds. Overall flower size was 90 x 100mm. The dorsal sepal was 45 x 40mm; lateral sepals 50 x 35mm. Petals 50 x 70mm; lip deeper pink, yellow callus spotted red, 35 x 25mm; column pale pink, 10mm long.

RHS Awards

18 June 2011 The RHS Orchid Committee met at the Peterborough International Orchid Show, at the East of England County Show. Fifty

plants were exhibited; eight Awards of Merit, two Botanical Certificates, one Award of Garden Merit and four Certificates of Cultural Commendation were recommended.

The exceptionally large number of plants submitted not only reflects the enthusiastic support by amateur growers bringing interesting plants to the Peterborough Show but also the great contribution from overseas exhibitors, like RF Orchids from Florida, who brought a wonderful selection of their hybrids for the Committee to consider for award.

Award of Merit

■ For *Renanthera monachica* 'Highcliffe Castle' **6** and **7** exhibited by Allan Burdis, Christchurch, Dorset. Votes were eleven in favour, four against. This species comes from the Philippines and was described by Oakes Ames in 1915 from the Island of Luzon. A number of good quality seedlings have recently come into

cultivation. The cultivar 'Highcliffe Castle' had a superior shape and colour, and had many bright orange, spotted red flowers on the spike.

The plant exhibited had one 52cm arching, branched spike with 36 open flowers. Overall flower size was 51 x 42mm. The dorsal sepal was 22 x 6mm at the widest point; lateral sepals 25 x 11mm at the widest point. Petals 20 x 5mm; lip 5 x 2mm; column red-orange, 3mm long.

Grower's advice

Renanthera monachica
'Highcliffe Castle'

“I raised this plant from seed by self-pollinating a plant of the same species in 1992. I bought the original plant in 1983 at Wyld Court Orchids, and it is now nearly a metre tall, with several side growths. Of the many seedlings raised I kept four to grow on, and they flowered seven years later.

They were all good clones but one was particular good and I labelled it as 'Highcliffe Castle'.

I grow these plants in clear plastic pots in large grade pine bark high on an aluminium shelf suspended from the greenhouse roof. Here they get maximum light from the 65 to 70 percent shading. This results in leaves developing a red tint – a good sign they are getting enough light. I try to maintain a minimum winter temperature of 17°C but this can sometimes fall to 15°C, and a maximum summer temperature of 30°C if possible. Frequent watering with a weekly feed of a balanced orchid fertilizer, especially in summer, encourages a vigorous root system. So much so, both aerial and pot roots grow out onto the shelf where they travel extensively, taking advantage of the extra moisture that collects there. Removing these plants proves quite a task as their roots have to be prized off the surface of the shelf and then cut back to more manageable lengths. This does not harm the plants as this process is repeated every few years when repotting, with new roots quickly produced to colonise the shelf once more. When grown well this species can produce two or three branching flower spikes bearing very long-lasting flowers. ” *Allan Burdis*

Award of Merit

■ For *Cattleya forbesii* 'Peterborough Rainbow' 8 and 9 exhibited by Röllke Orchideenzucht, Schloss Holte-Stukenbrock, Germany. Votes were unanimous. *Cattleya forbesii* 'Peterborough Rainbow' had very unusual bright pink side-lobes to the lip, pink, spotted red inside; it



Renanthera monachica
'Highcliffe Castle',
Award of Merit





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Cattleya forbesii
'Peterborough Rainbow',
Award of Merit



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was an unusual colour form of this well-known species which normally has fairly dull bronze petals and sepals with a contrasting yellow-white lip. A previous cultivar 'Exmoor' was given an Award of Merit in 1991 (*Orch. Rev.* 99: p302–303; 100: p175). The species comes from near Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and was first introduced in 1823 by James Forbes, a plant collector working for the RHS. The cultivar 'Peterborough Rainbow' was selected from a large batch of seedlings resulting from a sibling cross of *Cattleya forbesii*.

The plant exhibited had four open flowers on an 11cm arching spike. The overall flower size was 100 x 95mm wide. The dorsal sepal was 60 x 15mm; lateral sepals 40 x 15mm. Petals 50 x 12mm; lip 45 x 20mm; column yellow-brown, 25mm long.

Award of Merit

■ For *Maumeneara* Queen Adelia 'Kiilani' **10** and **11** exhibited by RF Orchids Inc., Homestead, Florida, USA. Votes were sixteen in favour, four against. The parents were *Rhyncattleanthe* Orange Nuggett and *Bregmanara* Sammie Evans. It was registered by B Cagauan from Hawaii in 1998. The hybrid genus *Maumeneara* comprises the following complex blend of genera: *Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Encylia* x *Guarianatbe* x *Laelia* x *Rhyncholaelia*. The cultivar 'Kiilani' had a good shape, a bright orange colour with contrasting red on the lip, and excellent substance.

The two cut spikes exhibited had eight and nine flowers. The overall flower size was 70 x 70mm. The dorsal sepal was 37 x 15mm at the widest point; lateral sepals 35 x 17mm at the widest point. Petals orange striped red, 30 x 19mm; lip yellow, bright red at throat, 30 x 25mm; column white-yellow, 10mm long.

Grower's advice

Maumeneara

Queen Adelia 'Kiilani'

“The key to growing these complex *Cattleya* alliance hybrids is understanding the needs of their ancestral species. We grow this beautiful orchid in bright, filtered light (about 60 percent shade), and allow the plants to dry between waterings. Whether in pots or baskets, the medium is expanded clay pellets mixed with a little chopped tree fern and redwood fibre. This mix allows good aeration of the roots and does not decay.

We feed heavily in summer, and cut back both water and fertilizer in winter after the plants have flowered. It is important, with *Encyclia* hybrids, to observe a winter rest period with less water as too much water during this phase will rot the plants. Depending on the size of the container, we water two or three times a week during the growing season, and no more than once a week during resting. Warm to intermediate temperatures are best for this hybrid.”

Robert Fuchs

Award of Merit

■ For *Chrisanda* Crownfox Limeade 'Redland Lion' ¹² and ¹³ raised and exhibited by RF Orchids Inc., Homestead, Florida, USA. Votes were eighteen in favour, one against. The parents were *Christensonia vietnamica* and *Vanda* Golden Doubloon, it was first registered in 2010. The pale green *Vanda*-like flowers had a contrasting white-lilac lip, yellow at the throat. It is interesting to note that the *Christensonia* as one of the parents dramatically reduced the size of the



Maumeneara Queen Adelia 'Kiilani', Award of Merit



plant, it may also have contributed to the subtle colouration of the lip.

The cut spike exhibited had eleven open flowers. The overall flower size was 53 x 50mm. Dorsal sepal 30 x 17mm; lateral sepals 25 x 16mm. Petals 27 x 14mm; lip 25 x 12mm; column white, 7mm long.

Grower's advice

Chrisanda Crownfox Limeade 'Redland Lion'

“We began hybridizing with *Christensonia vietnamica*, a delightful compact-growing *Vanda*-relative, in the early 2000s. Our hopes were to bring the small plant size, temperature-tolerance and large lip of this species into vandaceous intergeneric hybrids. We grow plants of this hybrid, and our other *Christensonia vietnamica* crosses, in moderately bright light (approximately 50 percent

shade), with warm to intermediate temperatures. Our south Florida shadehouses have fairly high humidity, which we believe necessary to success with this group of orchids. The plants are potted in open baskets or hanging clay pots with little to no medium; good air movement allows them to dry between daily waterings. During warmer months we feed weekly with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer, and we cut back on feeding to once a month in winter when days are shorter and temperatures are cooler.”

Robert Fuchs

Award of Merit

■ For *Ascocenda* Ken Kone 'Crownfox Spots' ¹⁴ and ¹⁵ raised and exhibited by RF Orchids Inc., Homestead, Florida, USA. Votes were eighteen in favour, one against. The parents were *Vanda merrillii*

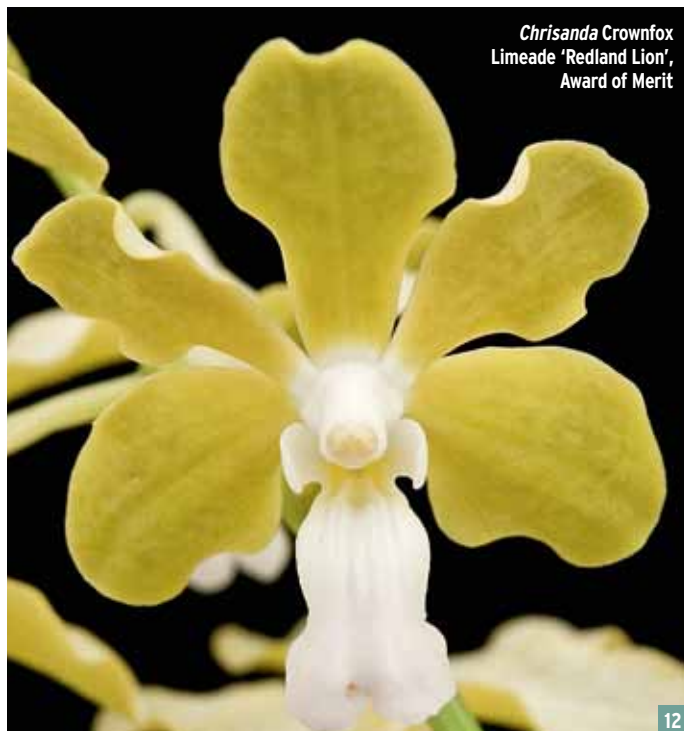
and *Ascocenda* Guo Chia Long, it was registered in 1997. The flowers were a beautiful bright yellow heavily spotted dark red, they also had good substance.

The cut spike exhibited had fifteen open flowers. Overall flower size was 55 x 55mm. Dorsal sepal 26 x 22mm; lateral sepals 25 x 25mm. Petals 25 x 20mm; lip yellow-orange, spotted red, 20 x 10mm; column yellow, 5mm long, anther cap red.

Grower's advice

Ascocenda Ken Kone 'Crownfox Spots'

“This compact-growing, free-flowering *Ascocenda* does well under our humid, warm conditions. We keep our shadehouses at about 50 percent shade, which in south Florida is quite bright on a clear day. Strap-leaf vandaceous orchids will not tolerate full midday sun but they require



Chrisanda Crownfox
Limeade 'Redland Lion',
Award of Merit

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Chrisanda Crownfox
Limeade 'Redland Lion'

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strong light in order to grow and bloom well. We grow them with little or no medium in baskets or hanging pots, and water them daily. Strong air movement, high humidity and warm temperatures are necessary for success with them. These orchids are heavy feeders, and we indulge them with balanced, water-soluble fertilizer once a week in summer, and once or twice a month in winter. ” Robert Fuchs

Award of Merit

■ For *Vanda* Liana Rodriguez ‘Crownfox’ ¹⁶ raised and exhibited by RF Orchids Inc., Homestead, Florida, USA. Votes were eighteen in favour, one against. The parents were *Vanda* Pimsai and *V. Georgia* Tasker, it was registered in 2008. The influence of *Vanda sanderiana* in the background was obvious in the attractive two tone flowers and rounded shape. The blooms were a deep red-purple with reticulated sepals with a paler mauve dorsal sepal and mauve petals that became spotted darker red at the centre.

The cut spike exhibited had thirteen open flowers and three buds. The overall flower size was 105 x 101mm. Dorsal sepal 55 x 60mm; lateral sepals 55 x 60mm. Petals 52x 50mm; lip dark red, yellow at throat, 25 x 20mm; column yellow, 8mm long.

Grower’s advice

Vanda Liana Rodriguez
‘Crownfox’

“ We grow the large-flowered, strap-leaf *Vanda* plants in the same bright, humid shadehouses as our *Ascocenda* plants and other vandaceous orchids. These vandas tend to be larger than most *Ascocenda* plants and we typically pot them in open baskets, where their massive



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Above left and right *Ascocenda* Ken Kone ‘Crownfox Spots’, Award of Merit

Vanda Liana Rodriguez
‘Crownfox’,
Award of Merit



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Ascocenda Muang Thong 'White Diamond', Award of Merit



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Ascocenda Muang Thong 'White Diamond'



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root systems benefit from excellent air circulation. We water daily, early in the morning, thoroughly soaking the roots; on very hot days the plants appreciate a second watering in the early afternoon. Like other vandaceous orchids, this hybrid *Vanda* is a heavy feeder; regular fertilizing with a balanced, water-soluble product is necessary for strong growth and good flowering. We feed once a week in the warmer months, twice a month in winter. With a large percentage of its ancestry from *Vanda* (*Euanthe*) *sanderiana*, warm to hot conditions year-round are best for this and similar *Vanda* hybrids. ” Robert Fuchs

Award of Merit

■ For *Ascocenda* Muang Thong 'White Diamond' 17 and 18 exhibited by RF Orchids Inc., Homestead, Florida, USA. Votes were eighteen in favour, one against. The parents

were *Vanda* Nakornsawan Belle and *Ascocenda* Tubtim Velvet. It was first registered in 1994 by T Orchids. The flowers were a striking crystalline white with a pink edge.

The cut spike exhibited had nine open flowers. Overall flower size was 87 x 85mm. Dorsal sepal 50 x 42mm; lateral sepals 45 x 50mm. Petals 45 x 50mm; lip yellow-pink, yellow at throat, 25 x 10mm; column pale yellow, 7mm long.

Grower's advice

Ascocenda Muang Thong 'White Diamond'

“ With several yellow-flowered *Vandas* in its ancestry, this beautiful pastel *Ascocenda* prefers warm to hot growing conditions. Its light and moisture requirements are the same as our other vandaceous hybrids, and we grow it in baskets or hanging pots under the same conditions as our other *Vanda* relatives. Light and humidity are high, air circulation is

constant, and the plants receive daily watering and regular feeding. Although the individual flowers are simply beautiful, this cultivar does not produce a tall, many-flowered stem as many *Ascocendas* do – we think the *A. Tubtim Velvet* parent may have been 4n, producing triploid progeny. ” Robert Fuchs

Award of Merit

■ For *Masdevallia* Ishbel Kirkwood 'Eva May' 19 and 20 exhibited by Ellis Eyre, Retford, Nottinghamshire. Votes were sixteen in favour, three against. The parents were *Masdevallia veitchiana* and *M. Midnight Plum*, and it was registered by Alex Barty in 2006.

The plant exhibited had nine erect 28cm spikes with one open flower on each. Overall flower size was 145 x 45mm. Dorsal sepal tapering, orange deep red, striped deep red, 70 x 15mm at the widest point; sepal fused orange, deep red at centre, 75 x 30mm. Petal white, 10 x 1mm; lip hinged, red, 5 x 5mm.



Masdevallia Ishbel Kirkwood 'Eva May', Award of Merit

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Masdevallia Ishbel Kirkwood 'Eva May'

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Award of Merit

■ For *Oberonia lotsyana*

'Peterborough' ²¹ and ²² exhibited by Orchideen Wubben, Hollandsche Rading, the Netherlands. Votes were twelve in favour five against. The Botanical Certificate was awarded in recognition of the plant's interesting morphological features. *Oberonia* is an interesting genus of about 200 species mainly centred in tropical south and Southeast Asia. *Oberonia lotsyana* is a large plant (12cm) for the genus and had an attractive habit, with a very long flower spike relative to size of the plant. The individual flower are minute and spaced close together on the inflorescence. The species comes from Java and was first described in 1905 by JJ Smith from the west Java mountain forest at elevations of 600–1,000m. It has now been found elsewhere in Indonesia.

The plant exhibited had four pendent spikes 10 to 39cm long. The flowers were numerous, brown to orange in colour. Overall flower size was approximately 1–1.5 x 1mm.



Oberonia *lotsyana*, Botanical Certificate

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Oberonia *lotsyana*

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Phalaenopsis stobartiana 'Anja',
Botanical Certificate

Botanical Certificate

■ For *Phalaenopsis stobartiana* 'Anja' ²³ exhibited by Hilmar Bauch, Asendorf, Germany. Votes were sixteen in favour, three against. The species comes from China where it grows in Yunnan province on limestone rocks at elevations between 800 and 900m. It was first described by Reichenbach f. in 1877 and named for the owner of the plant, William Stobart. In the wild plants seasonally lose their leaves but this does not normally happen with cultivated plants. The Botanical Certificate was awarded as the compact species was felt to be desirable to introduce further into cultivation. The species is still very uncommon in collections but hopefully it will become more readily available from seed-grown stock being produced at the Asendorf nursery. The flowers are an attractive green colour with a contrasting lip white pink, yellow spotted red inside.

The plant exhibited had one 21cm spike with ten open flowers

and five buds. Overall flower size was 30 x 30mm. Dorsal sepal 20 x 5mm; lateral sepals 15 x 6mm. Petals 10 x 6mm; lip 11 x 12mm; column white-pink, 5mm long.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Barry Openshaw, Lancaster, Lancashire, for *Grammangis ellisii* 'Sinead' ²⁴ and ²⁵. The plant was 99cm across with three flower spikes with a total of forty-seven open flowers and twenty-one buds. It was growing in a 35cm diameter basket. Votes were unanimous.

There have been numerous previous Cultural Certificates; the most recent were to 'Master Hugh' in 1967 (*Orch. Rev.* 75: p260) and 'Palewell' in 1981 (*Orch. Rev.* 89: p280, 366; 90: p327). It first gained a First Class Certificate in 1866. The species comes from Madagascar where it grows in humid eastern forest. It was unusual to see such a beautifully grown and flowered plant of this now rare species.

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Alan Sapsard, Southampton, for *Thunia Gatttonensis* 'Sue' ²⁶ and ²⁷. The plant was 135cm tall with twenty-two flowering canes with an average of four open flowers and two buds. It was growing in a 30cm diameter pot. Votes were unanimous.

The parents were *Thunia majorensis* and *T. wimmiana*, it was first registered in 1917 by Colman. A previous cultivar, 'Bramley', gained a Cultural Certificate in 1999 (*Orch. Rev.* 107: p325, 331). The cultivar 'Sue' was a splendidly fresh specimen plant.

Grower's advice

Thunia Gatttonensis 'Sue'

“At the end of the year as soon as the leaves turn yellow I put this plant in the spare room to dry out. In about February, I take it out of its pot and cut off all of the roots just leaving the canes. It can be grown in any type of compost, this year I used rockwool, but I have used other



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Above and right *Grammangis ellisii* 'Sinead', Certificate of Cultural Commendation



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Thunia Gatttonensis 'Sue', Certificate of Cultural Commendation



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Thunia Gatttonensis 'Sue'

types. I fill the pot with compost, then stand the canes round the edge of the pot leaning them in at the top to make a wigwam shape. As the canes throw out new growths I make sure that all the new growths are between the old canes and the rim of the pot. No water is allowed to touch the new shoots until they are established. I turn the pot regularly to avoid growth towards the light.

If the weather is very warm, I will water and feed every day, if not, then every other day. Feeds contain half a teaspoon of Dyna-Gro Pro-Tekt and one teaspoon of Dyna-Gro Foliage-Pro in 5 litres of rain-water. I use this mix through the flowering period, usually June

to July, and continue with a slightly weaker feed while the plant is still green. I grow my plant in the conservatory in full light with afternoon sun. I am a member of both Bournemouth and Wessex Orchid Societies, and this plant was part of the Bournemouth display at the Peterborough International Orchid Show. ” Alan Sapsard

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Jean Barker, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, for *Dracula dalessandroi* 'Sue' ²⁸, ²⁹ and ³⁰. The plant was 52cm across with approximately seventy spikes with thirty-five open flowers. It was growing in a 12cm diameter basket, and most of the

flowers emerged from the bottom of the basket. Votes were unanimous.

The species comes from one small area in southeast Ecuador and was first described in 1989. The original habitat is known to have been destroyed shortly after its discovery.

Grower's advice

Dracula dalessandroi 'Sue'

“ I bought this plant from Sue Skitterell at the start of 2010 when she was selling up. Usually I grow my *Dracula* plants in plastic mesh baskets using a mix of 40 percent small bark, 20 percent perlite, 20 percent chopped sphagnum moss and 20 percent fine horticultural foam, but this plant is still in sphagnum moss in Sue's wire

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Dracula dalessandroi
'Sue', Certificate of
Cultural Commendation

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Top *Dracula dalessandroi* 'Sue', front view
Above *Dracula dalessandroi* 'Sue', from below

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Bulbophyllum lobbii
'Miryam', Certificate of
Cultural Commendation

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Bulbophyllum lobbii
'Miryam'

mesh pot. I will repot it after this flowering.

I keep it in my cool greenhouse, 10°C minimum at night and 15°C in the day. The greenhouse is covered with 60 percent silver shading in summer. The plant likes good light so the basket hangs high up from the roof struts. Two fans give good air movement and the humidity averages about 60 percent. This drops on sunny days when the vents and door are opened in an attempt to keep the maximum temperature well below 25°C.

The quality of our tap water is good with a fairly neutral pH and low total dissolved solids. I keep the mix moist but not too wet, with less water in winter. I fertilise every other watering using Dyna-Gro Grow from February to early summer, and Dyna-Gro Bloom until mid-autumn. It is a rare event for me to feed in winter. *Dracula* plants do not like to dry out so my watering varies from once a day, to once every four days, depending on the temperature, sunshine and time of year.

The small, dark flowers have a distinctive monkey-type face. The flowers have good substance which means the plant can be taken to shows without the flowers collapsing – a common problem with draculas. This plant started flowering at the beginning of June and will keep flowering through August as each spike has two flowers one after the other. ” Jean Barker

Certificate of Cultural Commendation

■ To Hilmar Bauch, Asendorf, Germany for *Bulbophyllum lobbi* ‘Miryam’ ³¹ and ³². The plant was 60cm across, with forty-five flower



Phalaenopsis Brother Pico Sweetheart, Award of Garden Merit



Phalaenopsis Brother Pico Sweetheart

spikes and forty open flowers. It was growing on a 47cm tall mount. Votes were eighteen in favour, one against.

The cultivar ‘Miryam’ was a very well-grown, and large, specimen plant. Two previous cultivars have gained a Certificate of Cultural Commendation, ‘Noddy’ in 1990 (*Orch. Rev.* 98: p.308), and ‘Katie’ in 1999 (*Orch. Rev.* 107: p.334, 337).

Award of Garden Merit

■ For *Phalaenopsis* Brother Pico Sweetheart ³³ and ³⁴. This was considered a suitable grex to be put forward for an Award of Garden Merit. The parents are *Phalaenopsis*

Be Tris and *P. Ho’s Amaglad*. The grex was first registered in 1998 by Brother. It is a compact, easy-to-grow plant with many long-lasting flowers.

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 p190.