



Orchid

Society of Great Britain

Journal

VOLUME 67 No 2 May – June – July 2018

The Orchid Society of Great Britain

Registered Charity No. 261273

www.osgb.org.uk

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Printed by: Impress Print Services Ltd
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The *Journal* is printed on paper with a
certified Chain of Custody for wood fibre.
At least 70% of the fibre originates from
certified sustainably managed forests.

The Journal (ISSN 0306-2996)

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Editor's notes



This issue includes my report on the Paris European Orchid Congress. Writhlington School's exhibit was outstanding and the BOC Congress in November will be an opportunity to discover how they grow

their award-winning orchids. I am indebted to Deborah Lambkin for writing about her role as the RHS orchid artist and including images of her recent paintings. The RHS has an outstanding archive of orchid paintings dating back to Victorian times; every time I see examples of them I wish that there could be an art gallery where people could admire them. Other articles include a report on the Kew Orchid Festival by Stuart Meeson; growing *Laelia anceps* outdoors by Kevin Stewart; an encouragement to grow *Pterostylis* by Henry Oakeley; the orchid seed project at King Charles I School, Kidderminster; along with our regular reports from Napier Hall meetings.

Sadly, I have decided that this is my last edition as editor. I agreed to take over on a short-term basis when the OSGB had problems last year; those of you who are aware of my other orchid commitments will understand why I am stopping. I have always felt that the *OSGB Journal* is an excellent publication and hope I have managed to maintain the standard set by previous editors. I must finish by thanking Henry Oakeley for his support, the time, energy and expertise that he gives to the editor is invaluable. We all welcome Maria Bustos as my successor and I trust you will give her every support.

The copy deadline for the next issue is
31 May 2018

Contents

Officers of the Society	86
Editor's notes	87
News	88
European Orchid Congress in Paris	
by Chris Barker	90
Harold Koopowitz – Biography	
by Henry Oakeley	99
23rd Orchid Festival, Kew by Stuart Meeson	100
Book reviews by Henry Oakeley	
<i>Renzi</i> – <i>Coryanthes</i>	106
<i>The Paphinia Book</i>	110
What the RHS Orchid Artist does	
by Deborah Lambkin	114
Orchid art for all by Sue Trusler	118
Further feedback – bleach for killing bugs	119
We should all grow <i>Pterostylis</i>	
by Henry Oakeley	120
Seed banking at King Charles I School	
by Philip Seaton	123
<i>Dendrobium hellwigianum</i> by Richard Warren	127
Growing <i>Laelia anceps</i> outdoors in the UK	
by Kevin Stewart	130
Fireflies in the Mist by André Roux	135
<i>Otoglossum globuliferum</i> by Alan Ridgway	138
Napier Hall Meetings	
Auction Report by Mary-Jane Hawkins	140
Display Table – February 2018 by André Roux	142
Lecture Report by Mary-Jane Hawkins	147
Basic Phalaenopsis by Henry Oakeley	155
Obituary – Dr Michael McIlmurray	
by Derek Belcher	156
Obituary – Professor Rapee Sagarik	
by Henry Oakeley	158
Gold Medal at the London Orchid Show	
by Henry Oakeley	160
Advertisements	161
Services to members:	
Meetings, cultural advice, website,	
library, displays	166
Show Diary	167

Front cover: This *Paphiopedilum micranthum* was on the Serres du Jardin du Luxembourg display at the Paris EOC, March 2018 (photo by Chris Barker)

Back cover: Dr Stuart Meeson's *Pleione Tongarira* which was awarded Best Hybrid Orchid in the London Orchid Show 2018 (photo by Henry Oakeley)

of twigs (*Muehlenbeckia* twigs) with sphagnum. The roots are branched and velamentous, and once in the substrate form a dense network of thin roots. Perfect drainage, frequent watering (rain water) and not allowing the plant to dry out completely are advised, with fertiliser given regularly, and more frequently in the growing season.

A few interspecific *Coryanthes* hybrids have been made, and rather more intergeneric hybrids with *Stanhopea*. The latter have the advantage of lasting in flower slightly longer than either of their parents, but invariably take after the *Stanhopea* parent, no matter which was used as the seed parent.

The information in this article comes from *Renziana* (2017) vol 5, preface by Phillip Cribb, articles by Günter Gerlach, with a cultivation chapter by Walter Tresch and Wilfried Schmidt.

The Paphinia Book



Rudolf Jenny
2018

The Paphinia Book

by Rudolf Jenny. Hardback, 220 pages. Purchase from <https://orchilibra.com/> for US\$117 (about £85) + p & p).

This is the ultimate reference book on *Paphinia*, written by Rudolf Jenny who, at one time, had all except for two of the species in his collection, so had the best opportunity to study them. With his huge network of contacts among orchid botanists internationally, his unparalleled collection of orchidaceous books, journals and ephemera available in BiblioOrchidea, as well as access to the great herbaria of the world, Rudolf Jenny has produced a stunning book.

It is 'picture-led', as the expression is nowadays, with hundreds of beautiful pictures of *Paphinia* setting a global



Author Rudolf Jenny

standard for orchid photography. With the photos of the plant and flowers are those of the herbarium specimens; facsimiles of the type descriptions and original drawings and paintings. Often there is a photo of the discoverer or author. There are close-ups that show beautifully the shaggy appendages and the curious callus on the lip with the various differences in the 16 species. This is a book which provides the reader with all the primary sources for each species, and carefully discusses their validity and priority, a real master-class in making detailed research accessible and interesting to all.

After an introductory chapter on the history of *Paphinia* and its nomenclature, there are chapters on distribution (Costa Rica to Brazil with one from Trinidad) and on the altitude of their habitats; on morphology; and on pollination biology (by Heiko Hentrich). Male euglossine bees (beautifully photographed) collect pheromone fragrances, which presumably increases their reproductive success, and the flowers get pollinated as well. Some are dependent on a single pollinator so are at risk of extinction if the pollinator dies out – and it may be that the pollinator will become extinct if it has no access to the pheromones. *Paphinia* are in the Stanhopeinae, as are the *Coryanthes* mentioned in the review elsewhere in these pages, and have a similar pollination mechanism. The freshly removed pollen is too large to enter the stigmatic cavity until a few hours have elapsed and the pollen has dried, shrunk, and rotated through 90° on the caudicle. This prevents self-pollination.



Page 22 showing the diagnostically useful shaggy appendages on the lips of *Paphinia*. By kind permission © of Rudolf Jenny



Paphinia herrerae showing the pendulous flowers typical of most of the genus, and the shaggy lip appendages

The chapter on floral fragrance emphasises the paucity of discernible scent, but notes that all the flowers open at once and last only a few days, which will produce the maximum attraction for bees that have a more acute sense of smell than orchid growers. For those with an interest in these things, the fragrance – and presumably the pheromone – of most *Paphinia* smells of a plastic bag melting on a hot surface, but I think it unlikely that doing this in Costa Rica will precipitate a swarm of shiny green bees. For those of a more enquiring mind, there is a table of the chemical constituents.

There is nothing on cultivation in this book, but it has a short chapter on

interspecific and intergeneric hybrids with a comprehensive bibliography and good index. No key to the identification of the species, but the two page spreads of lip structures and lip callus/appendices will enable the complete novice to identify a plant with great ease. I tried it out on my plant labelled *Paphinia posadarum* and the lip matched immediately.

An excellent, easy to use, reference book.

Rudolf Jenny's other books *Of men and orchids* (parts one and two) and *The Stanhopea Book* are still available from the website.



Interspecific hybrid *Paphinia Majestic* (*cristata* x *herrerae*)



Intergeneric hybrid *Gongina Valeria Tognoloni* (*Paphinia Mem Remo Lombardi* x *Gongora horichiana*)



Lip of *Paphinia posadarum* showing the characteristic lip appendages



Paphinia posadarum