



Cryptopus elatus

Orchid Society Of Mauritius

July 2012

Issue No 3

Your invitation for the next event

The Orchid Society of Mauritius is celebrating its 32nd anniversary on Saturday 18th August with a nature walk/ lunch/Mini Show at L'Arbre du Voyageur Restaurant., in Mare Longue. The day will start at 9.30 am with the walk on flat ground—30 minutes long one way. Dress code : relax and equipped for a 'wet' walk. Two cabin lodges will be at our disposal for freshening up before lunch. We shall have a mini show as usual and a buffet lunch.

Participation fee : Rs550.00/per person for members and Rs800.00/person for guests. Please register with the secretary by Friday 10th August latest. Transport facility will be organized.

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Serge L'Ecluse

The Orchid Society of Mauritius was founded in August 1980

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Mothers Day celebration with orchids

The theme for the June monthly meeting was 'Celebrating Mother's Day with Orchids'. The talk of the day was delivered by Devi Teeluck on 'Plant Nursery lay-out & logistics', with special reference to ENL newly established nursery at Mon Desert Alma. Members present enjoyed it.

Some beautiful orchid specimens were on display that evening. The President reminded members about the unique opportunity for members to see some exceptional plants, which will never be seen at our annual shows. Once again we thank the fellow members who took the trouble to bring over these plants to our mini shows.



Members first choice : D. King Dragon; Grower Gerard leung For Sang.



Cattleya grown by Omraj Buckoreelall was 2nd best.

Annual Show 2012

The annual Orchid Show will be held on the 6th and 7th October 2012 at the Banquet Hall of the Quatre Bornes Municipal Council. The opening will take place on Friday 5th October at 18H00.

A team of volunteers is already in place and work has started. At this point in time, you may be called upon to help on specific matters. Later on, we shall need more volunteers to assist in the running of the show and we trust that many of you will come forward.

This year again we are planning to have a Floral Art competition open to both amateurs and professionals. We are also hoping to run an orchid photo competition and to stage a selection of the best submissions at the annual show.

There will be one Lecture / Demo for beginners in the morning and one lecture on 'The World of Orchids' for orchid lovers in the afternoon of both Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th October.

In the 'Sales Section' we are aiming at having a comprehensive range of orchid plants and growing accessories to satisfy the needs of our visitors.

OSM Library Service

We are very grateful towards Lily Lee, who has volunteered to manage the OSM Library Service. In brief this is how it will operate :

- Service re-launched at anniversary function and afterwards at each monthly meeting held at Boname House, Reduit, between 17.30 and 18.00.
- Borrowers shall make one initial deposit of Rs300.00 to be used in case of loss or damage, but refundable when discontinued.
- One magazine shall be taken at a time and will have to be returned at the next monthly meeting. Only two types are available : AOS magazines and L'Orchidée.

Plant exchange corner

Introducing a new feature in the newsletter :-

Many of us do have siblings of some plants in our personal collection, through vegetative multiplication or off-shoots. It will be great to use this space to either submit a request or make an offer for a specific plant we long for , without any financial transaction.

Notice Board

1. **Dr Majeed Khadaroo** is selling part of his collection. If you are interested you are kindly requested to make an appointment first (Tel 425-3281).
2. **Mrs Rosie Puresh** was the winner of the lucky draw for the Mother's Day bouquet offered by the Orchid Society of Mauritius.



Technical notes

Nobile type (Soft cane) Dendrobiums

Nobile type Dendrobiums are those dendrobiums that grow actively during summer months and enter into a rest period during winter months.

Examples of commonly seen nobile type (Soft cane) dendrobiums in collections are: *Dendrobium nobile*, *Dendrobium friedericksianum*, *Dendrobium amosnum*, *Dendrobium pierardii* etc...

In Mauritius, these dendrobiums enter into the rest period during the month of June, July and August. The following point should be then observed:

No watering,

No feeding,

If the pseudobulbs shrivel, then a fine misting can be done around the plants.



Boisduval Scale -The ugly pest that can destroy and kill our plants.

Brief history of this insect:

The Boisduval Scale has been named by the entomologist Victor Antoine Signoret, to the honor of Mr. Boisduval who first recorded this specimen in the Orchid Greenhouse of “Jardin du Luxembourg” in Paris, France, in 1869. The scale is native from tropical America and has spread worldwide.

Boisduval scale can be seen mainly on Laeliine orchids (*Cattleyas*, *Laelia*, *Schomburgkias* etc...) and Oncidiine orchids (*Oncidiums*, *Odontoglossums* etc...).

Boisduval scale will seriously debilitate and kill an orchid if not controlled quickly.

A small anecdote: 7 Females of Boisduval were installed on a *Cattleya* and 5 month later, the population of scale was over 10,000.

Treatment:

Isolate infected plants.

If infection is not too severe, it can be treated with home-made solution, that is, 50:50 parts of rubbing alcohol and water, few drops of liquid soap (unperfume one) and ½ to 1 teaspoon of oil. Spray on infected plants.

Use of chemical insecticides such as: Mospilan, Malathion and Decis 2.5 EC (the later did work fine).

