



Cryptopus elatus

Orchid Society Of Mauritius

June 2014

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From the Secretary's Desk

Dear member,

You are invited to the next member's meeting scheduled for Friday 25th July at 6.00 pm at the Cercle de Rose Hill. On that evening there will be a talk on 'Orchid Pests & Diseases - some guidelines for their control' by Serge L'Ecluse. It will be a great opportunity for you to seek advice regarding problems encountered by you.

We shall have alongside our usual mini show. It is very encouraging to note that at each and every mini show held so far we have always seen new specimens on display. This is very much in line with the targeted objective of a year round vista of what is in store in our fellow members collections. We shall therefore invite again and again members to bring along their best plant in bloom to our mini shows.

Gerard Bax
Secretary

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Serge L'Ecluse

The Orchid Society of
Mauritius was founded
in August 1980

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Highlights of past events

April 26, - Nature walk at Midlands

A group of 30 joyful members and friends turned up for the nature walk at the Domaine d'Auvillar, in Midlands. Climbing the hill or hovering down-slope on slippery tracks did not discourage anyone, even the senior members of the group. Over and above the beautiful scenery of the surroundings seen from the top of the hill, we had the opportunity to observe a fair amount of orchids in their natural habitat. Cherry on the cake, some of us managed to see a nice specimen of *Phaius* nested in a dangerously located hideaway.

Our warmest thanks go to Mr. Clément Maurel, our host and also to our fellow members Gerard Bax and Lily Lee for the perfect organization.



May 30 - Joint Presentation by OSM and MicroLab Ltd on orchid propagation.

The presentation, which was attended by 35 Members, was in two parts: (1) natural propagation by S. L'Ecluse and (2) artificial propagation by Mr. Jean Félix. Those present were briefed on in vitro technique and the equipments and chemicals needed. Members had also the opportunity to acquire tissue cultured plantlets produced by Microlab Ltd.



Winter Season Tips

Our winter season is between the months of May and September and generally July/August are cooler, drier and with longer nights. You will remember from our training sessions that these conditions will have an influence on the growth behavior of our orchid plants.

We should remember that this is the time when some orchids will enter into a resting phase and therefore adjust as appropriate our watering and fertilizing practices.

It must be pointed out, that orchid species are more strict and unforgivable on their specific requirements, than most hybrids. One must however be careful with some hybrids, where in their parentage, the resting trait of one parent is dominant. The best advice is to watch closely your plants behavior when they enter the cool season and keep a record of those plants where nothing seems to happen - no activity at the roots tips, no new leaf or new shoot developing. You could then each year re-locate these plants in a covered area of your shade house where you can better control watering. You may, for example, hang them high up, and out of reach of rain and hand watering.

You may wish to read an article written by T. J. Hartung, which was published in ORCHIDS magazine in the January 2011, issue entitled 'The Orchid Clock'.

The resting period, which should not be confused with dormancy, is more noticeable in deciduous *dendrobiums*, e.g *D. Pierardii*. Many other genera: *Cattleyas*, *Phalaenopsis*, *oncidiums* among others, do take a rest after flowering. The resting time is quite variable and may be of short duration in some cases.

The amateur grower may think that something is wrong in his cultural practices. But no! Now you know. Do not panic. Growing orchids calls for a lot of patience and careful observations.

Things to look forward to

1. OSM's 34th anniversary

You may already book Friday 29th August for a commemorative reunion of the Society's members at La Nouvelle Potinière, at Ebène Cyber City. More details will be communicated in due course.

2. 21st World Orchid Conference & Show

A briefing session was organized for participants and the following points were put on record:

- No transport will be provided to go to SSR International airport and return as well.
- In JHB transfers from and to airport is provided in the package.
- Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th Sept. will be devoted to the orchid show.
- On Friday 12th participants may take a tour or do some shopping. Group dinner in the evening.
- Saturday 13th free for all and WOC Gala Dinner 'Extravaganza' for some.
- Sunday morning, flight back to Mauritius, after breakfast.

OSM's 34th Annual Orchid Show

This year the executive committee has decided to hold the show in a different place. The Events Manager of Allied Motors, Ms Anne Lise Ngan, has graciously offered to house the annual orchid show in the Art Gallery of the company, at the Audi Centrum Showroom in Reduit. The venue which has an artistic atmosphere constitute a new venture for us and is worth trying. The traditional way of doing things may be altered. The President and his team call for the understanding and full cooperation of all stakeholders.

The show preparation has already started and tasks have been allocated. Those who want to volunteer as helper are most welcome. We shall keep you informed as we go along.

OSM web site and facebook page

The OSM web site was launched on the 29th August 2013. We have recorded 687 visitors since the beginning of this year, with an average monthly hit of 120.

Members are informed that OSM has a page on facebook since the 23rd May 2014 and that there is a link to the page on our web site. You may access the page directly on the following address: www.facebook.com/orchidsocietymauritius



New OSM Members

The executive committee has approved the following requests for membership between end 2013 and June 2014:

1. Mrs. Pascale AVICE
2. Mr. Satish Poorneswar BEEBUL
3. Mrs. Aurore BENNET
4. Mrs. Sandhya DEVASAGAYAUM
5. Mr. Jean Claude FAYOLLE
6. Mrs Evelyne FORGET
7. Mr. Jérôme Steven NIEVA
8. Mrs. Carole REHAUT

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU. We look forward to see you at our future meetings.