



Cryptopus elatus

Orchid Society Of Mauritius

July—December

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From the Editor's Desk

Second newsletter covers the activities of the Orchid Society of Mauritius during the last semester of 2015.

The months ranging from July to December are normally loaded with great moments for our members and for the Society as well. This is the time when the orchid house will gradually fill up with beautiful flowers. It is also the time of the year when we commemorate the Society's anniversary and when we stage the biggest event of the year—the Annual Orchid Show.

We hope that 2015 has been a good year for you and your orchids. A warm welcome to those who joined the society during the year.

Editor:

Serge L'Ecluse

The Orchid Society of
Mauritius was founded
in August 1980

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35th anniversary commemoration

Members were convened to a Dinner-Mini show at the Royal Choice Restaurant in Roches Brunes. The function was well attended and quite a few spectacular blooms were on display.

The President stated in his address that the Mauritius Post will issue a special commemorative stamp cover to mark this important date in the life of our society.

On this occasion the OSM publication on the control of orchid pests and diseases was launched. The booklet is meant to be a handy guide for all local orchid growers.



Annual Orchid Show

The OSM's 35th annual orchid show was held on the 26th and 27th September 2015 at the Allied Motors, Audi Zentrum Car Gallery in Reduit.

There were 112 plant exhibits from 17 genera on show. The blooms were all of excellent quality. Ten challenge trophy and twenty prizes were remitted for the best of each genus group and section respectively. It must be remembered that the objective of the competition is to stimulate orchid growing excellence. The 'Best Orchid on Show' challenge trophy—the President's award went to Mr. Gervais Fayolle for his superb Dendrobium Thongchai Gold.

Thousands of people visited the show during the week-end and the general feedback was very positive.

At the opening ceremony, the CEO of Mauritius Post, Mr. Giandev Mottea, presented the OSM anniversary Commemorative Stamp Cover, which was sponsored by his institution.



Best orchid on show
D. Thongchai Gold

3 outstanding growers



Gervais Fayolle and his plants.



Champion of the show



President, MC, Chief Guest
& Patrons.



Rony Pazot with his Paph.
Mount Toro.



The winners 2015



Orchid Guide booklet presented to the President of the Republic.



Dharmen Isari and his C.
Skinneri.



Guests at the opening

Florilèges du Tampon

A group of 20 members of the orchid society attended the 'Florilèges du Tampon in Reunion island between the 9th and 12th October. This annual event is on since 1983 and is organized jointly by the Association of nurseries & Horticulturists and the municipality of the town of Tampon.

During that trip we had a guided tour in Belouve forest to see indigenous orchids in their natural habitat, Our guide, Mr. Jean Maurice Tamon, is the co-author of the book 'Les Orchidées Des Mascareignes'.



End of year lunch

The end of year lunch which took place on Saturday 5th december, at Domaine Lagrave in Midlands, was the last function for 2015.

Some members were brave enough to go for a walk in the forest before lunch, while the others had a drink in the midst of an always beautiful orchid display.

The trophy for the Champion of the Show is traditionally remitted on this day, to the winner, elected by public vote. The award this year went to Jean Claude Fayolle, for his superb *Phalaenopsis*.

The 'Orchid Member of the Year', is also nominated on this occasion. The challenge trophy 'Ivan Lagesse Memorial' was remitted by Dr Claude Ricaud to our President Christian Bellouard.

The day function ended with the remittance of four prizes, three of which went to Antoine Grenouille, Armand Lecourt de Billot and John Davy, for the best orchids displayed at the mini show, and the fourth prize was offered to Mrs Dabee, in recognition for her commendable regularity at the various activities organised by the Orchid Society.





End of year lunch



At Domaine La Grave



Notice Board

1. Please take note that the **AGM of the Orchid Society** will be held on **Friday 4th March** and in that context we are making an appeal to those members who are willing to give some of their time to help on the executive committee, to submit their name to the secretary.

2. The **OSM Booklet** 'Orchid Pests & Diseases—Guidelines for their control' is still available. Every member of the society should make it a point to have a copy for his own benefit. Please note that you may offer it as a gift to your friends who grow orchids privately. You may contact Youvraj Khorugharry, our Treasurer for that matter.

3. Copies of the Special Commemorative cover for the 35th anniversary of the society, launched by Mauritius Post are also available from the Treasurer.

4. OSM members are kindly requested to send in their views on :
'What is the way forward for OSM ? What are the things that the Orchid Society should be doing for its members in 2016?'

Cultural Notes

- The heat of summer has already set in. This is the time of the year when our plants have to cope with long hot sunny days. It is advisable to adjust your watering regime as appropriate.
- For some orchids, it's time to produce new growth. Adjust your feeding programme to satisfy their needs.
- The hot season is also favorable to the proliferation of mealy bugs, red spiders and thrips. Inspect your plants closely and regularly, so as to detect infestations and check the OSM Orchid Guide for appropriate measures.

Wishing you all the very best with your orchids in the new year.