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BLC. Pastoral Innocence

A virtual nursery
tour to celebrate
the best from our
members'
collections

OSM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear member of the Orchid Society,
After a long break during which we have been experimenting other ways of keeping contact with our fellow members, we have concluded that a proper newsletter should form part of the mix. Group meetings remain an excellent way to foster friendship and are ideal for presentations and demos. The WhatsApp group is very good for instant sharing of photos and short exchange of views. A monthly newsletter would surely complete the communication network and provide a platform to enhance the passion of growing orchids through authorised reproduction of articles by experts, photos of members' monthly blooms and admin communication.

We hope that you will welcome this newsletter in its new presentation and wish our members all the very best with their orchids.

Photo gallery

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR MEMBERS' JEWELS

The OSM WhatsApp Group was created in August 2017 and is open to all members of the Orchid Society of Mauritius. If you want to join the group you may contact our friend Jay Ramma, who acts as administrator. The aim is to make use of this easy means of communication for exchange of orchid photos and to share ideas on cultural matters.

The beginnings were very shy and slow. Since last year it has picked up momentum and now there is at least one post every day.

The blessing of these regular posts is that we have the wonderful opportunity to see many nice orchid blooms which we would probably never come across. We are lucky to see flowers freshly opened and at their very best. We all know that many plants displayed at mini shows or at the annual show are not always freshly opened. This is indeed a great advantage of this WhatsApp group. Make it a point to join the group and you won't regret.

Here is a selection of some photos posted between May and September 2021.



Coelogyne rochusenii
Grower: Joseph Sam Soon
Photo May 2021



Bulbophyllum orectopetalum
Grower: Gerard Leung For Sang
Photo August 2021



Angraecum sesquipedale

Grower: Dharmen Isari



Catasetum hybrid

Grower: Jay Ramma



Cymbidium hybrid

Grower: Shashi Puddoo



Rhyncostylis gigantea

Grower: Jérôme Nieva



Cymbidium hybrid

Grower: Chantal Chung Hung Tseung



Cymbidium Hybrid

Grower: Ahzar Goolamaully



Paphio maudiae 'Black'

Grower: Allan Puresh

Growing issues, tips & toolbox

Your orchid plant will bloom around the same time every year, provided it gets the correct conditions for growth and for flowering.

What are these conditions?

- The right amount of sunlight, water, ventilation, temperature, and nutrients. These requirements will vary from one genus to another.
- An orchid needs to be healthy to bloom.
- The foliage and root system need to be free from pests and diseases to carry out the vital function of photosynthesis.
- The energy generated will then be optimum for ensuring growth and eventually flowering.

Summer is a time when our orchids are liable to be infected by pests and diseases. Regular inspections are necessary to detect the first signs of infection.

Fungi thrive in warm and humid conditions. Some diseases will develop extremely fast and kill a plant in a matter of days if detected too late.

- **Black rot**, on *Cattleyas* caused by two closely related fungi *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*, may affect any part of a plant. When infection starts at root level or in the rhizome it will rapidly spread upwards throughout the plant. The infected parts will turn black (hence the name of Black rot).
- If the infection is observed early enough, remove, and discard all affected tissue first. This may imply uprooting the plant to access to all diseased parts.
- Then dip the plant in a systemic fungicide solution (e.g., Ridomil-MZ).
- Repot in clean and fresh media.

Mealy bugs will also thrive in warm conditions.

- Colonies of white cotton-like soft bodied insects are more often found on the under-leaf surface. The juveniles will move around and nest almost everywhere, including around the root area.
- To get rid of an early infection, the bugs can be removed using a cotton swab soaked in Iso-propyl alcohol.
- In case of a more severe infestation, you may need a systemic insecticide.



Colonies of mealy bugs



Black rot affecting *Cattleya* pseudobulbs

Let's move forward

Now that the first issue of the new series of OSM Newsletter is out, let us all commit to give it our full support so that it may live for many years to come. You are all welcome to contribute one way or another for the benefit of our fellow members. You may use this platform to share a link to a web site or an article which could be of interest to other orchid growers. If someone has had a positive (or negative) experience in growing a rare species, it would be an excellent opportunity to share it and in so doing consolidate the learning function of the society. There are so many things that be done. Please come forward.

Editorial team: Serge L'Ecluse, Shashi Puddoo, Gerard Leung For Sang and John Davy.

Honorary Members:

1985 – Ms. Axelle Lamusse, Dr. A. Majeed Khadaroo, MSK, DR. Philip Teckham, Dr. France Staub, Mr. Jean Brouard, Mr. Satterdeo Dabee, MBE.

2010 – Mr. Paul Jauffret, Mr. Serge L'Ecluse, Dr Claude Ricaud, CBE, Mr Gerard Bax, Mr. Francis Montocchio, Mr Allan Puresh.

2020 – Mr Antoine Grenouille, Mrs. Amrita Vayid, Mrs. Chantal Chung Hung Tseung, Dr. Agness Chakowa.

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