

Orchid Society of Mauritius

NEWSLETTER

December 2021

The Orchid Society of Mauritius celebrated its 40th anniversary in August 2021



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OSM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear member of the Orchid Society,

The time has come to say goodbye to 2021. Looking back there is not much to say about the society for reasons beyond our control. However, we have tried to keep in touch as far as possible through the WhatsApp group and lately with the newsletter.

We may not in a near future be able to do things as we used to do in the orchid society. I reckon that we shall have to devise new associative practices to honour the society's objectives towards its members. Suggestions are most welcome.

I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a new year full of hope.

Photo gallery

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR MEMBERS' JEWELS

Another selection of some photos posted between OSM members in 2021. Congratulations to the growers.



Phals display
Grower: Dharmen Isari



Tree-mounted *Oncidium sphacelatum*
Grower: Amrita Vayid



Encyvola Jairak Treasure
Grower: Dharmen Isari



Paph. longifolium
Grower: Joseph Sam Soon



Prosthechea cochleata
Grower Dharmen Isari



Coelogyne pandurata
Grower: Dharmen Isari



C. Lynn Spencer
Grower: Serge L'Ecluse

GROWING TIPS, ISSUES AND TOOLBOX






Schomburgkia

We are now going to explore the defunct genus *Schomburgkia*. Indeed, this genus no longer exists, all its species have either been moved as *Myrmecophila*, *Laelia* or *Pseudolaelia*. *Schomburgkia* (abbreviated as *Schom.*) is an orchid genus that is named after Richard Schomburgk, a German botanist. Species in this genus are either epiphytic or lithophytic in their growth habit.




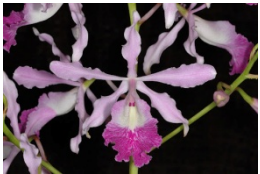


The genus was named in 1838 by Lindley, with *Schomburgkia crispa*, a large sized, hot growing plant found in the tropical areas of Venezuela, Surinam, Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador, as the type species. In 1941, *Schom. crispa* was moved to the genus *Laelia* by L.O.Williams. Its accepted name is now *Laelia marginata*.

The name *Myrmecophila* is a derivative of the greek word *myrmeco* meaning ant and *phile* meaning to love and refers to the symbiotic relationship with colonies of ants that are usually found living in the large, hollowed-out, banana-like pseudobulbs. An opening in the base of each pseudobulb serves as an entrance for the ants which harvest nectar from the peduncles and flowers and forage on other plants in the community.

The tables below depict the previous species of *Schomburgkia* and their current new name.

| Previous Name | Current Name | Photo |
|---|--|---|
| <i>Schomburgkia thomsoniana</i> | <i>Myrmecophila thomsoniana</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia thomsoniana</i> <i>var. atropurpurea</i> | <i>Myrmecophila thomsoniana</i> <i>var. thomsoniana</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia thomsoniana</i> <i>var. minor</i> | <i>Myrmecophila thomsoniana</i> <i>var. minor</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia tibicinis</i> | <i>Myrmecophila tibicinis</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia wendlandii</i> | <i>Myrmecophila wendlandii</i> |  |

GROWING TIPS, ISSUES AND TOOLBOX

| <i>Previous Name</i> | <i>Current Name</i> | <i>Photo</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Schomburgkia albopurpurea</i> | <i>Myrmecophila albopurpurea</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia brysiana</i> | <i>Myrmecophila brysiana</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia exaltata</i> | <i>Myrmecophila exaltata</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia galeottiana</i> | <i>Myrmecophila galeottiana</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia grandiflora</i> | <i>Myrmecophila grandiflora</i> |  |
| <i>Schomburgkia humboldtii</i> | <i>Myrmecophila humboldtii</i> |  |

Thrip Traps – John Davy

“Thrips Traps” are no more than a coloured plastic A4 sheet. These sheets are covered on both sides with very sticky glue impregnated with a pheromone. The pheromone, which mimics the smell of a mate, attracts the insect to the sheet and the insect becomes stuck to the sheet by the glue and is trapped to death.

Two colours sheets are available:

- 1) Yellow for Fruit Flies
- 2) Blue for thrips

The “traps” come in a bag of five sheets. Beware the glue on the trap sheet sticks to your hand and anything it touches. Before opening the bag, cover your workbench with newspaper and have a hook or stick ready. Smear cooking oil on your scissors and hand before opening the bag. Hook a sheet through the hole or place a stick through the two slits in the middle of the A4 sheet. Place the trap above the leaf canopy of your orchid. Place it somewhere that you will not brush against it and as it is unsightly try to hide it from human view. After work wash your scissors and hands with soap and water. I placed three traps last month and none of the Vanda blooms that have come out this week has any trace of Thrips damage to them. Therefore, it works!

It is a matter of time how long these will be on the Mauritian market seeing that the strap is made of plastic. It will probably fall into obsolescence and for a small collection have to find another way of controlling them. “Spray!” you might say. The human safety aspect of dressing up with a waterproof suit, gloves and facemask and eye shield as recommended for most chemical sprays is daunting for the amateur. We will tackle an alternative method of how to deal with scales next month.

Les souhaits de notre secrétaire – Sashi Puddoo

2021 a été une année éprouvante pour tout le monde à bien d’égards :

Sanitaire, sociale, économique, familiale. Nous avons tous été marqués à vie par les nombreux défis.

Nos pensées émues vont à chacun de vous ayant traversé des épreuves durant l’année écoulée.

Nous sommes à l’aube d’une nouvelle année ; tournons résolument la page car ne dit-on pas qu’après la tempête viens le beau temps ?

2022 peut être donc porteur d’espoirs et de bonnes nouvelles.

Espérons que nous pourrons reprendre nos activités au sein de OSM. Les réunions mensuels du comité de direction, notre AGM, nos mini shows et pourquoi pas notre Orchid Show annuel ? Surtout des occasions de rencontre, de partage, d’amitié.

Nous espérons accueillir de nouveaux membres, renouveler notre comité de direction and mener OSM vers d’autres succès.

A bientôt.

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.

Executive Committee: -

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Members: Christian Bellouard, Sandhya Devasagayaum, Armand René, Bernard Manuel.