



Orchid  
Society  
OF MAURITIUS  
EST. 1980

# NEWSLETTER

June 2024



## MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Nouvelle année et nouveau bureau pour 2024 et 2025. Pour faire suite aux idées et propositions émises lors de nos échanges sur l'amélioration du mode opérationnelle de notre association, une nouvelle plateforme privée d'échanges et de communications a été créée sur Facebook. Cela permettra, nous l'espérons, des interactions quasi journalières entre les membres, afin de palier le vide qu'il y avait entre les réunions. Ce sera aussi un outil précieux pour un apport constant d'information, et permettra aussi à tous de solliciter avis et conseils pour solutionner des problèmes de culture. La plus belle photo d'orchidée postée sera utilisée pour agrémenter la couverture du Newsletter et dans ce même ordre d'idée, nous invitons les membres commerciaux à y faire de la publicité. Nous espérons que tous les membres prendront avantage de cette nouvelle opportunité de rester connectés avec tous les passionnés d'orchidées.

Orchid Society of Mauritius  
Members Group

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[www.orchidmauritius.org](http://www.orchidmauritius.org)

# NOS FLEURS – NOTRE PASSION



**Angraecum  
eburneum**  
Grower:  
Serge L'Ecluse



Grower: Shashi Puddoo



Grower: Shashi Puddoo



**Bulb. claptonense** Grower: Gerard Leung



**Catasetum pileatum 'alba'**  
Grower: Gerard Leung



**Oncostele catatante**  
Grower: Jérôme Nieva



Grower: Shashi Puddoo



**Tolumnia Jairak Firm Sweet pink**  
Grower: Serge L'Ecluse



**Paph. White Lady**  
Grower: Serge L'Ecluse

# CULTURAL TIPS

## Growing tips

When the days get cooler and shorter we must adjust our cultural practices accordingly.

- As the temperature difference between day and night widens and when at the same time the humid conditions prevailing in some regions, we may expect the development of some fungal diseases.
- Good sanitation and adequate ventilation in the growing area must be maintained.
- Regular routine checks are necessary for an early detection.
- You may have to change your watering pattern, depending on whether you are in a coastal region or on high grounds.
- Feeding frequency and even fertilizer type need to be considered. Some plants may be preparing to flower, while others could be entering their dormancy period.
- Pay attention to the presence of weeds in pots. Some weeds may harbour pests or disease spores. The massive root system of some other weeds may not only compete for food but also spoil the potting medium by altering the pH.
- Remove the weeds manually while they are still young.



*This weed, a Phyllanthus sp. always carry spores of Mildew disease.*



*The root system of these weeds can change the pH of the growing medium*

## *In Memoriam*



### **Dr Régis Julien**

Notre ami Régis nous a tiré sa révérence le 31 janvier de cette année, après une brève maladie.

Il a été membre à part entière de l'Orchid Society of Mauritius pendant de nombreuses années. Toujours discret, malgré sa vaste connaissance en matière de génétique et de la physiologie des plantes, il était toujours présent lors des activités de la société d'orchidées.

Botaniste de formation, il était passionné de fougères et aimait bien les orchidées. Son admiration pour les orchidées, il l'a partagée avec son épouse, Florence, qui elle aussi était un membre très actif de l'Orchid Society of Mauritius.

Nous conserverons un amical souvenir de notre ami Régis et nous transmettons nos sincères condoléances à toute sa famille.



*Epidendrum Julien Cédric Anne*  
*'Memoria Claude Bhavon', AM/AOS*

# EPIDENDRUM JULIEN CÉDRIC ANNE



A few words on the genus itself: *Epidendrum* or 'Epi dan block' like Allan Puresh used to call it, referring to the way he grows his *Epidendrums*. The genus was named in 1763 by Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish biologist and physician known as the 'father of modern taxonomy'. *Epidendrum* derives from two Greek words which are (i) 'epi' which means on and (ii) 'dendron' which means tree. All epiphytic orchids known by Carl Linnaeus were included in this genus. Today, with all the taxonomic changes, it is often joked around that at some point all orchids will go back to being *Epidendrums*. There are more than 1500 *Epidendrum* species and they are all found in the Tropical Americas within a wide range of microclimates.

*Epidendrum Julien Cédric Anne* is a hybrid made by Ecuagera, a well-known orchid nursery in Ecuador. Its parents are *Epidendrum medusae* x *Epidendrum kockii*. Both species are native to Ecuador at high elevations, meaning that they need constant high relative humidity and day temperatures of 24°C and night temperatures of 10°C – 15°C. The hybrid is more temperature tolerant than its parents, without going to the extremes. However, high humidity is a must.



J. Cédric Anne in Montréal, Canada

*Epidendrum Julien Cédric Anne*  
**Photo credit:** Ecuagera,  
permission asked to Ivan Portilla



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*Epidendrum medusae*



### What about the hybrid's name?

The day was August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022! The 'then' *Epidendrum medusae* x *Epidendrum kockii* rewarded me a few days earlier with two flowers showing very desirable traits inherited from both species. The form of the sepals and petals improved over the parents; the lip widened thanks to *Epidendrum kockii*, fimbriated and got that ruby-red color thanks to *Epidendrum medusae*.

On that day, I brought it to the Montréal AOS Judging Center held at the Jardin botanique de Montréal every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. We judged a few plants from the botanical garden and my plant was next. I withdrew myself from the judging team and quietly listened to my colleagues discussing the flower. Following the discussion, the judging chair asked: Do I hear any nomination? The answer was: yes! Score sheets were distributed, and scoring begins. An award was proclaimed. The average of all the scores resulted in an Award of Merit (AM) of 82 points.

As soon as this happened, I texted Ivan Portilla at *Ecuagenera* and let him know that this hybrid has been awarded but needs to be registered. *Ecuagenera* took care of the registration process and named it after me. This was the first award to this primary hybrid which became, as of September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, *Epidendrum* Julien Cédric Anne 'Memoria Claude Bhavon', AM/AOS. The clonal name is in memory of my late grandfather.

Later in 2022, a second award was given to *Epidendrum* Julien Cédric Anne at Cali's show in Colombia. The clonal name of that one is Emma, AM/AOS of 86 points. Interesting thing to note is that this hybrid clearly shows the influence of temperature on color. My plant grows quite cool with day temperature of 23°C and night temperature of 11°C. I know that *Ecuagenera* and James whose plant was awarded in Colombia grow in the intermediate temperature range, that is, night is probably around 15°C – 17°C. I also gave a division to a member of the Montréal Orchid Society who grew warmer and the color of the flowers were closer to the picture from *Ecuagenera*.

### Bravo Cédric !

Nous transmettons nos félicitations à J. Cédric Anne, qui a œuvré au sein du comité exécutif pendant de nombreuses années. Etabli à Montréal, au Canada depuis octobre 2013, il a poursuivi son intérêt pour la culture d'orchidées et a suivi une formation pour juger les orchidées. Il a déjà complété la phase I, d'une durée de 3 ans et serait sur le point de terminer sa formation et ainsi devenir un juge accrédité du American Orchid Society.

Pour compléter ce palmarès, une de ses plantes s'est vue octroyée un 'Award of Merit' au Montréal Judging Centre en Aout 2022 et cerise sur le gâteau, *Ecuagenera*, l'auteur du croisement, lui a fait l'honneur de donner le nom de Julien Cédric Anne à ce primary hybrid.



*Epidendrum Kockii*  
**Photo credit:** *Ecuagenera*,  
permission asked to Ivan Portilla

# BOTANICAL WORDS

## USED IN THE FASCINATING ORCHID WORLD

by Jérôme Nieva

In the orchid world an array of technical terms and jargon can seem a bit overwhelming at first glance. However, with a gentle introduction, these terms can become familiar companions on your orchid journey. Dear readers, let's embark on the exploration of a few of these terms.



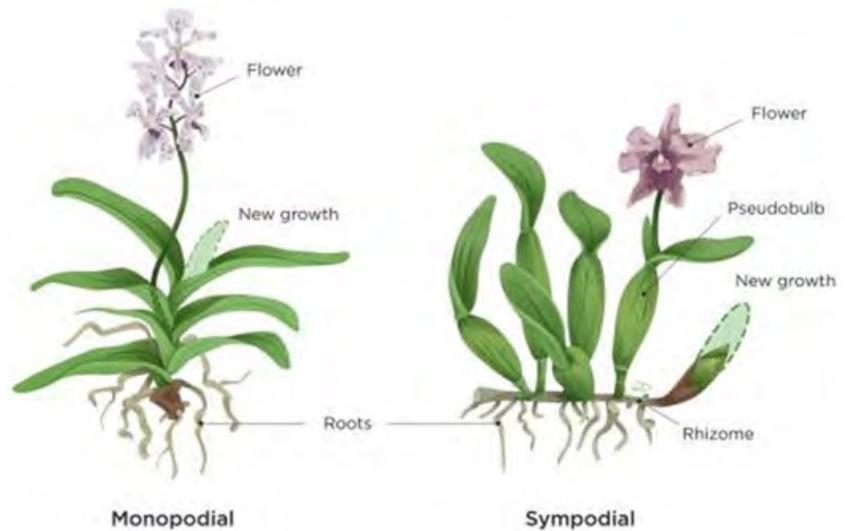
### KEIKI & PSEUDOBULB



"Keiki," for instance, refers to baby plantlet that appears on the flower spike of certain orchid species. Similarly, "pseudobulb" refers to a swollen stem structure that serves as a reservoir for water and nutrients.

### MONOPODIAL

You'll also encounter terms like "monopodial" - denoting orchids with a single, upward-growing stem, and "sympodial" - which describes orchids that produce new growth from the base of the previous pseudobulb.



### AERIAL ROOTS

It's common knowledge that a plant has roots, but the air roots of an orchid are a little less known. Roots that arise above the ground, from either the stem or the base of the plant.



## EPIPHYTE

Also it is essential to become acquainted with the terminology used to describe their cultural requirements. Terms like "epiphyte," which denotes plants that grow on other plants without parasitizing them. They use their roots to attach themselves to tree branches high above the jungle floor, to attempt to reach the light filtering through the leafy canopy. So, many plants that we place in a pot are actually climbing plants! Popular varieties of orchids that are very common are *Phalenopsis*, *Cattleya*, *Bulphophyllum*.

**"Terrestrial,"** refers to orchids that grow in the ground, on lava rocks or on the floor forest under leaves where they thrive. Terrestrial orchid life-cycles are complex and dependent on pollinators and mycorrhizal associates.

**"Back bulb"** A pseudobulb that has completed its growth cycle and become dormant. It serves as a storage organ and may bear a dormant bud. Under favorable conditions, this bud may develop into a new plant if the pseudobulb is severed from the parent.

**"Cross"**. The progeny, or offspring, that results from transferring pollen from one plant to the flower of another.

**"Cultivar"** is an individual plant and its vegetative propagations in cultivation, a horticultural variety.

**"Dormancy"**. A rest period during which no vegetative growth occurs, often following a growth period and/or the loss of leaves. May require cooler temperatures and less water. Examples are *Catasetum*, *Clowesias*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* orchids.

Source: *Mclellan Botanicals*

**"Dormancy"**. A rest period during which no vegetative growth occurs, often following a growth period and/or the loss of leaves. May require cooler temperatures and less water. Examples are *Catasetum*, *Clowesias*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* orchids.

**"Genus"**. A subdivision of a family, consisting of one or more species which show similar characteristics and appear to have a common ancestry.

**"Velamen"**. The thick corky layer of cells covering the arial roots of epiphytic orchids, the function of which is to absorb moisture from the atmosphere and attachments to supports.

**"Species"**. A group of plants showing intergradation among its individuals and having in common one or more characteristics which definitely separate it from any other group, a kind of plant distinct from other plants.

*As you continue on your orchid journey, these technical words will become familiar friends, enriching your understanding and appreciation of these extraordinary orchids.*



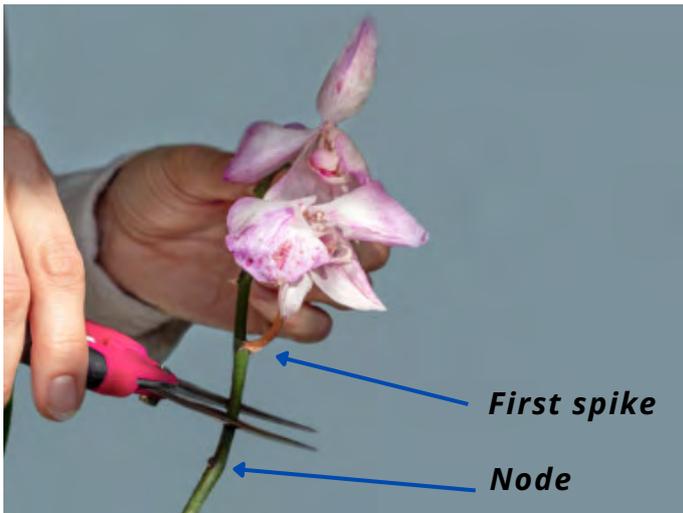
# PHALAENOPSIS ORCHID BLOOMING AGAIN

by Corinne Moloye

After enjoying your orchid's long-lasting bloom, the flowers are now fading and you are wondering what you did wrong. Nothing! They will bloom again, but in the meantime, you have a few options:



- You can let it be, while making sure to fertilize it monthly or sometimes even as often as every other week. Use a balanced fertilizer (example: 20-20-20) at half the recommended rate. During this time, the plant may produce new buds at the end of the old flower spike.
- (If the orchid flower spike has turned yellow or brown, you should remove the entire spike.)
- You can **cut the bare flower spike** back to a "node", a triangular shaped area on the stem, which may encourage the orchid to generate new side flower spikes.
- You can remove the entire flower spike so that the orchid plant can put more energy back into the leaves and roots, helping it to grow stronger and produce a fresh new flower spike. Be sure to use sterilized pruning shears. This will avoid damage to the plant.
- You might also want to **promote orchid reblooming** by moving it to an area where the night-time temperatures are slightly lower than its current environment, but with the same amount of in-direct sunlight exposure as before.
- You will know an orchid flower spike has formed when what looks like a root starts to grow upwards and the tip takes on the appearance of a mitten, as opposed to a root tip that is rounded. Once the orchid flower spike is identified, the orchid can be returned to its normal setting.
- As the flower spike grows, support it with a stake along the way. To produce a beautiful display of orchid flowers, avoid changing the plant's light orientation when it's producing its flowers. Otherwise, the flowers may be twisted on the stem, possibly jeopardizing a nice arching floral display.



## LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF ORCHIDS

by Corinne Moloye

Growers must know how difficult the terminology of Orchids is and for new hobbyists it's even more difficult. Orchid names may seem simple when we start to learn the language.

Species names are perhaps the most difficult, not just because they are derived from Latin and Greek roots but because there are underlying conventions that go unspoken, but must be understood to appreciate the language of orchids.

What we need to know first is that all living things in nature are identified by 2 names. The first name is the genus and the second is the species. For example there may be different kinds of *Dendrobium* but the combination of the 2 names is only applied to one type of orchid.

The genus always starts with capital letter and the species name in small letter. Scientific names are always written in italics. For convenience and to save space, *Cattleya* for instance is abbreviated C. Species often have more than one color form or growth form that are given varietal status.





## NEW SPECIES OF ORCHIDS DISCOVERED IN INDIA

by Jérôme Nieva

12 new varieties of orchids have been identified in the region of Sikkim. These discoveries have been made by Mr. Prakash Limboo, Mr. Pramod Rai and Mr. Madhusudhan Khanal's after six-year research on flora of Sikkim forest.



As per the research carried by the trio and their findings, *Bulbophyllum nigrescens* and *Coelogyne phitamii* are two new orchid variants discovered for the first time in India.

Other 10 orchids which are new to Sikkim are: *Bulbophyllum forrestii*, *B. nigrescens*, *Coelogyne bulleyia*, *C. chinensis*, *C. micrantha*, *Dendrobium brymerianum*, *D. capillipes*, *D. darjeelingense*, *D. pendulum*, *Goodyera viridiflora* and *Vanda lonagitepala*.

The discovery of new species of flora in the State was the result of extensive, intricate and detailed research work initiated over a long period of time around densely forested regions of Sikkim.



Mr Limboo highlighted the challenges of their research which involved navigating dense forests and dealing with harsh weather conditions. Despite the difficulties, he expressed satisfaction with their discoveries. He said, "Discovering and recording some new species of flora from Sikkim and introducing the same to the world remain a dream of a botanist and our successful research work on regional flora of Sikkim reflects the fulfilment of long cherished dream of ours. The research work was carried over a considerable period of time and was tiresome, but the final outcome was more than satisfying. The discovery of new species of flora in Sikkim is collective work of ours (himself, Rai and Khanal). We are happy to be a part of a successful research work and we are eager to team up again for another mission in the near future.

They stressed the importance of prioritizing research and preservation efforts to prevent the degradation of natural wealth. Limboo, Rai and Khanal's dedication to botany includes rescuing endangered plants from natural habitats, growing them in personal gardens and sometimes reintroducing them into the wild.

Source: North east live and Sikkim Express

‘ Sharing the same passion  
can be fun when people meet ’

## SUGGESTION BOX

1. As part of a fund raising exercise, we would welcome orchid photos from members, from which could eventually select the best to constitute a **calendar** for the following year. The proceed of its sale will be for Orchid Society. We recommend that the blooms are photographed preferably with a neutral background.



2. The **Newsletter** could also generate some revenue to Orchid Society, if we accommodate advertising from our commercial members. OSM newsletters are published quarterly.

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The renewal of your membership signifies your continued interest and support to the Orchid Society of Mauritius. You may wish to simplify your life by having a Standing Order with your bank or make a bank transfer into OSM's account. Please contact the treasurer for bank details.

Your membership gives you the opportunity to meet with other orchid growers and to benefit from their experience. Talks and workshops led by experienced members provide additional knowledge and useful growing tips.

**Editorial team:** Serge L'Ecluse, Jérôme Nieva, Corinne Moloye.

### 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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