



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Christmas Hamper

Once again we will have a wonderful Hamper to be raffled at our Christmas Meeting.

Please bring along items at the next opportunity.

You will receive a ticket for each item plus you can buy extra tickets at the December Meeting.

The more items you bring, the more opportunity you have to win.

It is a wonderful early Xmas present.

See Heike with your armful of donated items.



Next Meeting

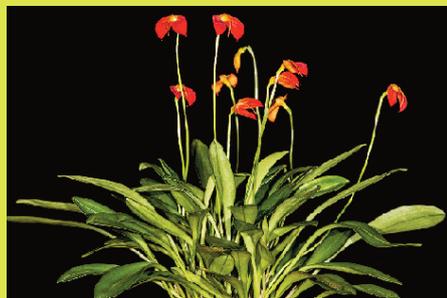
Our next meeting will be on Saturday 5th November when Mike Buckingham will be joining us to talk on Masdevallias.

Mike is one of the best growers in the UK of this large and interesting family of plants.

He is a prolific hybridiser and has introduced countless new hybrids and won numerous awards for his plants.

Most of them grow cool so are ideal for those who don't wish to spend lots of money heating the greenhouse.

It is sure to be an interesting meeting so see you all on the 5th – it's bound to go off with a bang!!



BOC Photograph Competition

At the December meeting we will not only have our Show and a Buffet we will also have the opportunity to vote for our favourite photographs entered by our members.

Don't forget we have a tremendous record to maintain with both Ken Johnson and Stan Taylor achieving high honours in the past.

Please send your photographs to Malcolm (LaeliaM@aol.com) – a maximum of 5 photos no later than 30th November.

With lots of entries we will have an even better chance of winning once again but the more we receive the more interesting the meeting will be when we get to choose our favourites.



You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter



Chairman: Malcolm Moodie
01295 788159

If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com

Dendrobiums

Malcolm Perry

Malcolm started his talk by stating that Dendrobiums, as a genus, is increasing by the minute. He is referring to two main reasons: new orchid discoveries and other orchid groups being dragged into the Dendrobium group for DNA reasons. The most recent being:

Epigeneium a very wide variety of plants, Cadetia small specimen plant group and Diplocaulobium made up of a number of new species from New Guinea

Dendrobium Cultivation:

They grow in North & South India, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Northern Australia, Japan, Thailand and Taiwan. In addition, there are vast differences in altitudes so it is not possible to provide general guidance on growing conditions. For example some grow at high altitudes and need cold conditions whilst others grow warm at sea level. Others require monsoon type conditions: very wet periods for one part of the year and very dry cool periods at other parts of the year. In addition, some plants grow on the underside of branches in order to collect as much water as possible - leaves on these plants are mostly thick and succulent. Therefore, it is a wise decision to find out where a particular Dendrobium comes from before considering its purchase and subsequent cultivation.

One of the secrets to flowering Dendrobiums, apart from the dry period, is light. Many growers only achieve a few flowers on the top of the cane, nothing like the ones found commercially. This is because they require high intensity light, during the dry season, across the whole length of the cane. In the UK our corresponding dry season is mostly during winter when sunlight is low in intensity and so the canes rarely receive enough light to flower evenly.

Dendrobiums from the northern areas tend to lose their leaves during the dry season and these are mostly thin leaved types. Often the canes in the wild hang down and it is only for display purposes that growers have them tied upright.



Epigeneium titanium

encouraged him to grow all his plants standing in water. "This resembles monsoon conditions" he says.

Apart from Dendrobiums he mainly grows Dendrochilums, Coelogynes and Bulbophylums.



Dendrobium chrysanthum Wallich

The Japanese are famous for growing these exceptionally well and producing large specimens.

Many Dendrobiums from New Guinea are found at high altitudes of up to 1500m and in very cloudy conditions and so are very hard to cultivate with some species totally uncultivable in the UK.

Dendrobium chrysanthum is the only naturally peloric dendrobium with its canes growing downward up to 5 feet in length. Peloric plants have flowers that are irregular or abnormal.

Sumatran Dendrobiums with canes covered in black hairs prefer no growth medium around the base of the plant; otherwise the plant rots and dies shortly after.

I am sure that we were all encouraged to try some of these unusual Dendrobiums in our own collections.

I have referenced an interesting web site that provides a great deal of cultural advice of Dendrobiums by species.

<http://www.cloudsorchids.com>



Epigeneium amplum

If keikis are produced this is because the growing conditions are too comfortable - there is no need for a plant to flower and use more energy to reproduce. Therefore, if a plant starts growing keikis it means the dry season wasn't long enough or hasn't been started at the right time.

Most Dendrobiums flower in spring with only a few flowering in summer.

It can take a number of years to produce a good display of flowers as most flowers are produced on last year's growth and so it may take 5 years for the plant to be large enough to produce a good display.

Malcolm has now started growing his plants standing in water after seeing a fellow orchid grower leaving and forgetting his plants in a bowl of water following repotting. After some time these plants grew very well and this has



Dendrobium cuthbertsonii

Bulbophylums.

He then showed images of some interesting and unusual Dendrobiums. For example:

Epigeneium amplum - which is a tree climber.

Epigeneium titanium - has hard leathery bulbs and hard leaves which mean the plant can take a lot of light.

Diplocaulobium nitidissimum - flowers turn pink in the afternoon and collapse in the evening.

Diplocaulobium erithrosima - has either short bulb and long leaf or long bulb and short leaf. The short bulb with long leaf type do not flower.

Dendrobium cuthbertsonii from New Guinea have a wide range of bright colourful flowers and need very bright sunlight but with roots in very cool

OCTOBER Table Points



Display of Dendrobium cuthbertsonii - Stan Taylor



Dendrobium hibiki - 28pts - Stan Taylor



**Brassocattleya Golden Mid Orient -
26pts - Pam Eden**



**Mini Cattleya Red Orange
Stan Taylor - 26pts**



**Galeandra leptoceras - 30pts -
Monica Johnson**



Dendrobium Sydney Brennar - 26pts - Pam Eden



Dendrobium Shavin White - 30pts - Stan Taylor