



THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE KU-RING-GAI ORCHID SOCIETY INC.

(Established in 1947)

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20th October 2025 - Volume 66 No. 10

Annual Membership : **\$17 single, \$20 family**

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Next Meeting : Mon 20th October 2025

Venue : *The West Lindfield Community Hall, corner of Bradfield Rd and Moore Avenue, West Lindfield.*

COVID and even common old influenza remain a problem. **Please, if you are feeling unwell - do not attend.**

YOU MUST SIGN IN on the ATTENDANCE SHEETS at the front hall on arrival. – Insurance requires it. Please do it.

The hall is open from 6.30pm to start set up. Please help. Benching can begin from 7 pm but PLEASE no benching until all the class cards and dividers are in place. Give the set up team time to get everything organized.

October is the special month of the year for our Annual General Meeting and our Members Auction night.

Which means there will be **NO Culture Class or Guest Speaker** this month. Further details about the AGM and the auction conditions can be found on pages 2 and 3 but at the broadest level, each single membership is invited to bring 2 'lots' for auction, family memberships may bring 3 lots. A 'lot' may be a single orchid or a bundle of two or more orchids to be sold together as a 'lot'.

The society sales table will also be open as usual with pots, sticks and fertiliser etc. and hopefully also spare divisions of members plants. Please respect the **"Sales Table Open / Sales Table Closed" signs** and give our sales table managers time to set up and get themselves ready before you start grabbing stock and offering money.

The Supper Break – Supper is not self-serve. Volunteers are assigned to serve the food for hygienic reasons. And remember, we still need volunteers for September and October. Supplies are all organised in advance.

Supper Food – We do ask all members to bring in a contribution of edibles for the supper table. Just a small plate. If you are a cook, show off your skills with something special but if you are like me, shop bought stuff is perfectly acceptable. Please avoid nuts due to allergies. *And – Please bring your own mug or cup with you.*

October volunteers are – Jessie Koh and Helen Wong. Thank you ladies, your help is appreciated.

Best of the Evening Novice – Coelogyne flaccida - grown by Carolyn Murthagh



This is a much underrated and appreciated orchid. It is an epiphyte in rain forests from northern India, Myanmar, Laos, and southern China at elevations of 900 to 2000 M which makes it one of the cool growing types for we Sydney growers.

The flowers spikes aren't too long, perhaps 25cm or so, but each pendent spike carries from 5 to 10 flowers of about 4 or 5 cm diameter, and they are held out, away from the base of the plant, showing them off nicely.

Flowers are usually white with a bit of yellow and brownish orange in the lip, but there are more cream to even pale apricot-coloured forms.

It requires reasonable shade and regular water and fertiliser in the growing season, with a slightly dryer time in winter. It is tough and grows so well in Sydney that cheap spare divisions are regularly available, but that is not reason to spurn it.

Coelogyne flaccida is an orchid best left undisturbed for a few years to make a specimen of it. If you do this and feed it well, it rewards you with a fantastic show like this one of Carolyn's and will quickly grow into a pot or basket full of fairly tightly crowded bulbs.

Well done Carolyn and congratulations on your BOE. A beautiful display.

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Society News (if anyone has a news item, please phone Jim on 9476 3383, or email at jimbrydie@aussiebroadband.com.au)

Jim's Report – Jane, Peter, Jean, and few others have gone off to Woolgoolga for this month's Australian Orchid Conference, so you are copping yet another editor's report on the society's doings. I hope you aren't all getting bored with the one-man view of the world.

Our last meeting got through some necessary admin formalities but at least you got a 5-star instruction of smashing up and repotting *Dendrochilum tenellum* from Dave Floyd. He is a great grower, but also a natural in front of a crowd and tells his story perfectly. Thank you yet again Dave, you are a treasure. And after supper the members got info from 3 other polished tale tellers. And yeh, all right, I admit I was one, so I am blowing my own trumpet. No advance plans as to topic, just experienced growers picking up benched items that took their fancy and telling the rest of us things we might never have known. It's all a bit hit and miss but it is always informative and usually entertaining too.

On another point altogether, your committee wants to let you know that we have decided to dispose of our old Epson digital projector. There is a question over the perfection of some colour reproduction, but it still works well other than that. We are looking for offers in the region of \$40. (If any member is interested, please contact dennys.angove@gmail.com)

This month is our AGM and our Members Auction. All the details are set out below – if you are selling, please try to make them interesting and be sure that they are clean, healthy, and well presented.

The AGM is a necessary annual process. Nomination forms were sent to you last month. Please consider joining your committee. A healthy administration is one that is constantly renewing itself and benefiting from the individual skills and experience of club members. We must never think 'no not me, some other person will always do it'. Play your part and contribute. If perhaps not this year, then make sure you do it sometime in the future. Our strength is never in just one or two strong leaders; it is in the combined smarts of all of us and our use of those strengths.

And finally, please note on the **front page** we are **now showing our updated membership fees**. Your annual membership **renewal is due in November** so when you pay your fees please **note the new fee levels**. Fees may be paid online or directly to Jessie Koh at any meeting.

Vale Dominic Tavernese

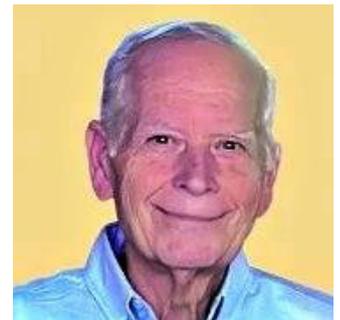
I was so sad to hear of the passing of Dominic. For as long as I can remember, Dom was my barber, a fellow orchid lover, and my friend.

He was a lovely man who always faced the world with a positive view. No matter how I was feeling, when I went to see him, I came away with a renewed outlook.

Dominic loved his orchids but didn't get to many of our meetings in recent years. Like many of us, I suspect that the demands of life and involvement with family were his priorities. But in the old days, both he and his wife Nancy always came to our society Christmas parties. In those times, most of food for the party was supplied by the members themselves and Nancy was renowned for her amazing pavlova dishes supplied for desserts. They were always the first items to disappear off the dessert table and were hugely popular.

Dominic often talked about family when I was at the barber shop, and he was very proud of his lovely wife and their children. I can't claim to have been his close friend but as did many, many people, Cynthia and I and several other KOS members attended his Mass service at Asquith to celebrate his life and to remember him.

Farewell Dom. You were a good man, a man of character and principle, you will be sorely missed. (Jim)



Other Society News

1. New members – In Sept **Amy & Charles Chan**, and **Ina Manan** and her family joined as new members - welcome to our club to all of you. I hope you enjoy the meetings and make many new friends among us. Please be sure to ask for help if you don't understand any of our activities or processes. No matter what instruction booklets give you, people-to-people connection really matters and if you need help, please ask any of our committee or other members.

Also, when you receive you name badges, please wear them to meetings. We ask all members to do it because it really does help people to talk to one another when there is a name on show.

2. October is also Members Orchid Auction night.

Each single membership is invited to bring 2 'lots' for sale by auction, family memberships may bring 3 lots. A 'lot' may be a single orchid or a bundle of more than one to be sold together. You may place a reserve price on each lot you sell but whatever it sells for, the society takes 15% commission.

Plants need to be clean and pest and disease free. Better looking orchids obviously sell better and the better info you provide about the lot the better it sells also. If you can provide a picture of the flower, that is a great help.

3. The Way the Auction Works

(and members, please remember, the sales table is also available to sell orchids and may be used auction night)

A. Auction in General – Remember participants, you don't need to fill in a form to buy or sell. **For sellers**, **Lina** will be managing **the booking-in process (see below)**. She will set up an intro point somewhere in the entrance

hallway or nearby and you need to see her **before** you put your plants on the auction display tables. **Buyers**, when bidding, you just need to be bold and put your hand up to bid and make sure you are noticed. Speak if you aren't noticed. AND : if the lot is 'sold' to you, **you must pay cash on the night before you go home.**

- B. Specifics for sellers**, (a). Go to Lina and get a benching card for each sales lot. Take the cards away and fill in the plant name, your name, and reserve price (if any). Much the same as for benching an orchid. (b) Take the cards back to Lina where she will assign lot numbers to go on the cards. (c) Now place your auction plants on the auction bench with the card in front. The cards then will remain with the plant throughout the auction until it gets to the auctioneer. (d) it helps to sell if you provide a picture with a plant that is not in flower.
- C. Reserve prices** - You may set a **reserve price** on any lot. If you do, ***in addition to it being written on the benching card we ask that you also clearly & visibly label the plant separately with the reserve price.*** When the potential buyers are checking out the plants and deciding bids, it helps them be ready and decided before the sale.
- D. Reserve Price Tags** - *In past years we have used yellow tags/price stickers to make the reserves obvious.* It doesn't matter what you use but please make sure bidders & auctioneers know what you are asking for the lot.
- E. Presentation** – In real estate the mantra is location, location, location ***but in selling plants it is 'appearance', 'appearance', and 'information'.*** Clean up your plant and show it at its best. If it looks messy and poor, you will get half what it might be worth. And if it isn't in flower, ***put a picture on it. Show the buyer what it is.***
- F. Plants must be Clean and Free of Disease** - Lots are inspected when they are booked in. We reserve the right to reject plants suspected to be suffering from pests or diseases, or not well established, or not in good condition.
- G. The Money** - The society takes a **15% commission** on the selling price on all sales.

PAYMENT - Buyers must pay with cash before they go home. There is no credit card facility. Please bring cash in appropriate size notes. Don't expect the society to have change for large notes if you spend just \$10.

Sellers are paid the following month due to the workload on those running the paperwork during the auction.

Coming events (from OSNSW website)

11 Oct – Species OS, 9.30-3pm, annual show and public orchid auction

17-19 Oct – Orchids Central orchid fair, Sat 9.30, Sun 9.30-2pm, Club Condell Park, 18 Eldridge St

18-19 Oct – Collectors Plant Fair, Maitland Showground <https://www.collectorsplantfair.com.au/>

13-14 Dec – OSNSW Summer Show, Ermington Main Hall- featuring *Laelia purpurata* and multifloral Paphs

OSMOCOTE DOWN UNDER by Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids

Reprinted from THE NEMOS (Northeast Melb Orchid Society) NEWS and with the permission of Clive Halls

You don't always have to follow the rules to get good results with fertilisers, as we have discovered with our *Odontoglossums* and *Masdevallias* at Mount Beenak Orchids.

Growing orchids in sphagnum moss has always presented a problem when it comes to the application of fertilisers. Most liquid fertilisers, when applied at quarter strength, don't present a problem, provided you do it on a weekly basis – easier said than done! However, slow-release fertiliser, such as Osmocote®, applied to the top of the pot causes moss breakdown and green slime. Because the moss remains wet for such a long time, it retains so much nutrient released by the fertiliser that it fails to achieve the desired results - most orchids, especially the fine-rooted epiphytes such as *Odontoglossums*, *Oncidiums* and *Masdevallias*, need only small amounts of fertiliser.

One day, while re-potting about a hundred *Zygopetalum* seedlings in *Sphagnum* moss, it occurred to me to put the slow-release fertiliser in the bottom of the pot, rather than on the top. After covering the drainage holes with some hammer-milled moss, I added a few grains of 8-9 month Osmocote Plus® to half the plants. The remainder received only quarter-strength Manutec® liquid fertiliser once each week. In about four weeks, the foliage of the Osmocote-fed plants was definitely greener than that of the others. After eight weeks, the plants were not only greener but also taller and more robust. After twelve weeks, they were nearly double the size of their deprived mates and also stronger and greener. The root systems of both groups were then examined. While both groups had white, strong, healthy roots, those in the Osmocote-fed group had Osmocote pellets adhering to their roots, yet no signs of burning or deterioration in any way.

As this experiment had worked so well, I decided to repeat it using some *Odontoglossum* alliance and *Masdevallia* seedlings. Both of these groups of orchids tend to lose their roots if over-fed, and I have previously found that slow-release fertilisers are unsuitable, even using bark-based potting media. Enough mix, consisting of hammer-milled moss (80%) and polystyrene chips (20%), was placed in 50 mm tubes to cover the drainage holes and then a little Osmocote slow-release fertiliser was added, as before. Single-growth *Odontoglossum* alliance seedlings and *Masdevallias* of 3-4 leaves (both about six months old) were then planted in the tubes, using the same mix. Similar results to those obtained with the *Zygopetalums* were obtained, although (as expected) growth was not as pronounced with these generally less vigorous plant groups. When the plants were nearly a year old, we changed their potting mix to fine bark (Bio Gro Mini Nuggets), again adding Osmocote to the bottom of the pots. Excellent results were again obtained, the Osmocote-fed plants being well advanced over the control group. Many of the *Masdevallias* had begun to flower - indeed, some

had even flowered while in their original 50 mm tubes! It seems important to use 8-9 month release Osmocote, because we lost a few plants when we used 5-6 month Osmocote, and the roots of those that survived didn't appear to be as strong as the others. There are many types of Osmocote, let alone all the other types of resin-coated fertilisers, but Osmocote is a good brand and widely available, so I have stuck with it. I use two types, each with a different N:P:K ratio. For young plants I recommend Osmocote-Plus, 8-9 month, 16 + 3.5 + 10 + 1.2, and for flowering-sized plants I use Osmocote-Plus, 8-9 months, High K 9 + 4.8 + 15 + Trace Elements. The latter may be hard to get but we have it for sale at our nursery. The rate of application is difficult to calculate for small pots. For 150 mm and larger pots, it's OK to follow the directions on the container but these instructions don't mention little tubes or pots. I use a pinch of fertiliser (about 10 pellets) in 50 mm pots, a little more in 65 mm pots and two pinches in 80 mm pots – although this is not a particularly precise measurement, the amount doesn't seem to make a great deal of difference overall.

I've been using the above system of fertilising now for two complete seasons and have entered the third season with continuing positive results. Our plants are better than ever, with excellent leaf colour and good flowering. Our masdevallias now show much less leaf spotting and drop fewer leaves than before. The odontoglossums show less leaf tip dieback and have stronger spikes that produce more flowers.

With flowering-sized cymbidiums and Zygopetalums, we use High K Osmocote but add it to the top of the pot in the same way as we have for many years. We still use a liquid fertiliser (at quarter strength) during the warmer months, as well as a fish-based or seaweed-based fertiliser a few times each year because of the unique trace elements that these organic fertilisers contain.

Just because the above system works well for me doesn't necessarily mean it will work as well for you. Try a few plants first, and see how they respond. If you're happy with the results, try a few more – don't treat all your orchids unless and until you're totally convinced that the system works for you. -- Mount Beenak Orchids

Best of Evening Species – Den. linawianum - grown by Loretta and Paul Au



Den linawianum is one of the 10 species I describe as 'typical' of the softcane Dendrobiums. It is found only in Taiwan and the Kwangsi province of southern China (just above and to the right of Vietnam, and at the same latitude as Taiwan). It is usually in broadleaf forests around 1000 M elevation.

Surprisingly, it has only been registered as a primary parent about 25 times but as we often find in such species, it is now a background parent in some 1900 or more registered hybrids.

This plant of Loretta and Paul's is a slightly darker form than usual, as can be seen by comparison to the two smaller pictures below. In general, their flowers are white in the centre with pink/purple splashes toward the tips. The



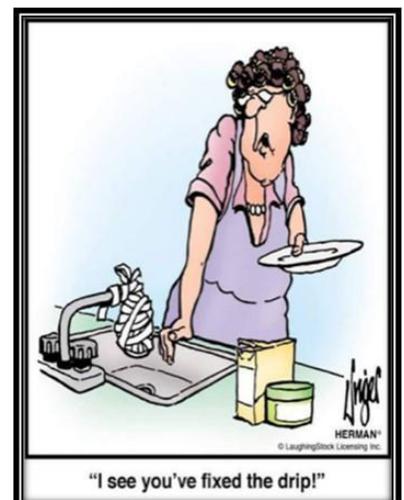
lip is always rather heart shaped with a distinct sharp tip. It is quite an attractive species but for some reason it is not frequently grown by softcane aficionados.

It was lovely to see it

Loretta and Paul. A delightful species with pretty 5 cm flowers that we don't see often enough.

Congratulations on another BOE Loretta and Paul. A lovely specimen.

A laugh to end the page



** With Cary Polis away last month, one of the MWOS's other long-term members filled in with this fabulous equivalent of Cary's very popular bulletin articles called Carys Ramble.

Mick Korsenowski's Ramble (reproduced with Mick's permission)

Cary is having a well-earned break to rest his worn-out typing finger. I volunteered to help out so that you could appreciate his monthly Ramble.

Many years ago, I was a fanatic native species orchid grower. Only species were allowed. Even naturally occurring hybrids were dismissed. I must confess to you that I refused to do the ANOS judging course because I would have had to judge native hybrids. These days, with the help of many sessions of therapy, I am a normal orchid grower. That is, if an orchid grower is a normal person. (Just to let you know, I have now done the judging course.)

My Ramble is about *Laelia anceps*. Known as THE JEWEL OF MEXICO and Narrabeen. The orchid that helped me become a normal person. I must confess that exotic orchids were also down on my allowable list. After admiring Bill's and Cary's *Laelia anceps*, I was given some plants by them to try to grow.

I was most appreciative, but here lay the problem: Where to grow them? I have a very small bush house which is overpopulated with all kinds of species orchids; thus, entry is only available on hands and knees, and you stand where you find a gap. The only alternative is my frangipani bush house tree, my palm trees and my bottlebrush street trees. Well, they were hung and attached to any spare space, and they have exceeded all expectations. They are growing and flowering so well!

Laelia anceps is found growing naturally in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala, growing epiphytic on oak and pine trees at about 500 to 2400 metres and tolerates temperature extremes. Perfect for Sydney's climate.

Because I grow a lot of orchids in and around my garden, I have found *Laelia anceps* a perfect companion plant. After all, it is a native orchid of Mexico which is south of the border! And that is my excuse. The photos show where they grow and flower in and around my yard.

See you in my frangipani bush house the next time Cary has a sore typing finger.

Regards, Mick

The Talking Dog - (an old one but a good laugh) - A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana in the USA, and he sees a sign in front of a broken-down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale'. He rings the bell and the owner appears & tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice-looking Labrador retriever sitting there. 'You talk?' he asks. 'Yep,' the Labrador replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says 'So, what's your story?'

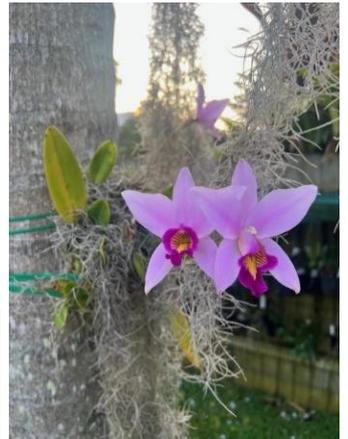
The Labrador looks up and says, 'Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping.'

'I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running... But, the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired.'

The guy is amazed. He goes back into the house and asks the owner how much he wants for the dog.

'Ten dollars,' the guy says. -- 'Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?'

'Because he's a damn liar. He never did any of that stuff he goes on and on about'



Best of the Evening Hybrid – Paph. Saint Swithin ‘Dora’s Delight’ - grown by *Dora Law*

Well done Dora, and congratulations on another BOE.

These multi flowered types are rather slow growers but when any grower finally produces wonderful flowers like these it is a huge thrill when they finally open.

The hybrid St Swithin was registered in 1901, which is 124 years ago, and it has been a star performer and sought after ever since. It is a primary hybrid cross between rothschildianum and philippinense and although it can vary substantially in form and colour, it usually takes much from the rothschildianum parent and is pretty much always elegant and attractive.

Paph. Saint Swithin and its two species parents always draw a crowd when they are benched. Rothschildianum can vary a bit in shape and colour but not so much as the other parent philippinense.

Rothschildianum just about always has a crimson/white or crimson/green striped dorsal and a matching synsepal which is mostly hidden by the huge pouch of the lip. The pouch is generally greenish white or a little yellow around the rim but the long narrow bulk is red to red/brown



The moustache petals are mostly 10-15 degrees below the horizontal but can be anywhere from full horizontal to 40 degrees or more below level.

The other parent – philippinense, is quite a different kettle of fish. It is what I would call a very variable species. So variable in fact, that it has had many split offs to become either different species or named varieties within philippinense and these bits and pieces confuse what I should show you as a ‘typical’ philippinense.

As a personal opinion, I would say that the aspects of Paph philippinense that most attract growers would be a tall spike of 4 or 5 large flowers with long, pendent, twisty, red petals and the generally yellow and red overall flower tones. However, describing the species as being like that would be only correct for some types.

One of those described features is the sharply spiraled twist in it’s the narrow and dangling, red petals and that feature has nearly always been looked for in creating St Swithin. It is not overly noticeable in Dora’s St Swithin but it is there. However, in some philippinense, the spiral twist can be absent or just barely noticeable, so the twist is not a feature you can use to define the species. As an example, the pictures in the set below are all species Paphs that have been at one time or another called Paphiopedilum philippinense. Can you put philippinense on some and rule out others?



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)



(i)



(k)

Could you readily tell which is which? (I think the correct species names are (a) glanduliferum, (b) philippinense var laevigatum, (c) philippinense, (d) philippinense 'Gordon' and probably var roebelinii, (e) adductum, (f) JB's philippinense, (g) was labelled striatum so = glanduliferum, (h) just labelled philippinense but probably should also be var laevigatum, (j) awarded as philippinense 'Stephen' HCC AOC, (k) labelled praestans so = glanduliferum

When I first began to grow individuals of this group, I had quite fixed ideas about what philippinense should look like but I was far less experienced and strongly influenced by the various pictures I had seen in books and magazines, and the few I had seen in shows. As my experience increased, I had more and more access to the internet and to a wider source of materials, and I began to be amazed at the variations that existed.

I had always known that each species varied within a range. Some regarded as superior some not so, but the more I understood about Paph philippinense the more I began to wonder about the mechanisms for defining one species from another. There is more to the problem than the old argument between 'splitters' and 'lumpers'.

For the purposes of this discussion, I am going to invent a non-technical term I will call "*the philippinense family*", because over the last 100-150 years there are about 10 species names that have been allocated to Paphs that all look a lot like Paph philippinense and if they weren't philippinense, they had to be at least cousins.

Some of the variations that didn't quite fit were given new species names, some became varieties within a species, and the status of many switched back and forth between multiple names. It clearly was anything but clear.

At present I think there are 3 or maybe 4 recognised species within what I am calling the "philippinense family".

In more modern times the Paph plants we see on the sales table are generally man-made seedlings, cloned cultivars, or divisions of named cultivars but this was not the case when I first began growing multiflowered Paph species. Back in those days divisions of plants were being imported directly from overseas sources. They were not illegal imports.

Plants were coming in with the correct paperwork and going through Australia's strict plant quarantine requirements, BUT many were wild collected plants, or developed from same, and the labelling was unreliable.

When you bought a nursery grown plant labelled Paph philippinense, all you might be told was the country of origin (eg the Philippines) which wasn't very enlightening. The people collecting these plants might never have even seen the orchid's flowers so each bunch of that kind of leaves, from the right places, got called philippinense, and as you might imagine, when they did flower it was up to the grower to work out with experts just what it was. Sometimes they might turn out to be a different species altogether, in other cases there were 'philippinense' in all its variations.

These are 10 species or variety names that you will regularly encounter in books and databases. - ***anitum, philippinense, adductum, gardineri, glanduliferum, laevigatum, praestans, roebelinii, striatum, and wilhelminiae.***

The status of each of those names (as I understand it) are as follows (accepted species names are in yellow highlight) –

- (a) roebelinii and laevigatum are regarded as varieties of philippinense or as synonyms for philippinense.
- (b) anitum is a synonym for adductum (which is acknowledged as a separate species to philippinense)
- (c) gardineri, praestans and striatum are now synonyms for glanduliferum (a separate species to philippinense)
- (d) wilhelminiae is recognised as a separate species by some but others regard it as a synonym of glanduliferum.

So let's look at each more closely. The origin/habitat info is mostly from Charles and Margaret Baker's info on Orchidwiz. This may not be the most recent info but it is consistent across all for that period.

Species 1. Paph philippinense – (is separated into 4 varieties - philippinense, roebelenii, laevigatum, compactum,)
ORIGIN/HABITAT (for the whole species): The Philippine Islands. Plants are widespread throughout the islands from Luzon in the north to northern Mindanao and west to Palawan. Paphiopedilum philippinense usually grows in leafy debris on limestone cliffs and boulders, often in fairly open and exposed situations, from sea level to 1650 ft. (0-500 m). Plants are also found on a small island between southern Palawan Island and northern Borneo.

The broad description tells us that leaf length is quite variable and can be between 20cm long to 50cm long and the inflorescence length and flower size is similarly variable. It can have from 2 to 5 flowers. The petals are described as ribbon like, from 12 to 15cm long, and tapering to a pointed tip.

The variety called roebelenii seems to be endemic to Luzon island. It also is found on limestone cliffs around 500 m elevation. The inflorescence is at the taller end of the range around 50 cm with 4 or 5 flowers. The petals are longer, more twisted and dangle down almost parallel to the lip on either side. Petal colour is usually deep red.

The variety called laevigatum – is regarded as having shorter petals with only a small twist. It sometimes also has fewer flowers (2 or 3?). I can find little geographic information on where it can be found and where not which leaves me wondering if it is merely one end of the range of variation within philippinense, but the Taiwan OS does recognise it as a distinct variety.

Variety compactum – is found only on the island of Palawan and was originally known as variety palawanense but it was later discovered that the name palawanense had already been used for a registered hybrid name so the variety name was changed to 'compactum'. As the name suggests, plants are very compact, about half the size of other forms. I don't know the variety personally, but all the pictures below are represented as "var. compactum".

Variety philippinense? – my understanding is that this is what comprises all that aren't one of the other varieties.



The pictures above are all given to be philippinense var compactum. They clearly vary substantially but are all shorter *Alba forms* - are essentially albino forms that lack the gene for producing red pigments. There are albino cultivars within each of the flower form 'variety' definitions, so alba can't be a separable 'variety'.

Species 2. Paph adductum (including all sub definitions of what were previously described as Paph anitum) (The name adductum refers to the shape of the staminode, the shield above the column, and means bent backwards) *The Bakers give the same broad ORIGIN/HABITAT for both adductum and anitum and specifically uses the name anitum: The Philippine Islands. Paphiopedilum anitum is found on eastern Mindanao Island, somewhat south of Surigao at 700-3300 ft. (220-1000 m). The holotype was collected at 1950 ft. (600 m). Plants grow in deep shade where the rainforest canopy is 40-60 ft. (12-18 m) above the ground. Much of the forest floor is exposed bedrock covered with a deep layer of leaves, bark, twigs, and other vegetable mulch.*

(It seems Paph anitum was only officially discovered in 1998 and proposed as a new species.)

The Internet Orchid Species Photo Encyclopedia offers the following for adductum: Found in the Philippines in leaf litter around elevations of 1250 to 1350 meters as a small sized, cool growing, epiphytic species with 6, oblong-ligulate to slightly lanceolate, dark green leaves with a hyaline margin (JB – hyalene means thin or see-through) that blooms in the early winter on an erect to arching, terminal, to 11 3/4" [29 cm] long, 2 to several flowered, pubescent inflorescence with green veined maroon floral bracts and all the glabrous flowers opening simultaneously.

In horticultural terms, growers regard anitum and adductum as separate if only on the basis of colour. Paph anitum is known as the black orchid on the basis of its amazingly dark coloured dorsal and petal markings. The more taxonomic view makes them just variations of one species which makes anitum (at best) a variety of adductum.

As a useful illustration of the debate about them being one or two species I present you parts of a blog report from a Dr Tanaka in Japan in 1998.

(<http://www.orchid.or.jp/orchid/people/tanaka/orchid/org/newpaph6.html>)

"I have received this new information about a Paph. new species from a friend of mine in Germany, Mr. Olaf Gruss in Oct. 1998."

(JB: Unfortunately, most of the pictures from the blog have not downloaded very well but this one small picture above at least shows the distinct dark dorsal – in the row of pictures further below I have included a more full picture from another source to show another spectacular anitum in situ in its habitat.)

"This new species Paph. anitum has been discovered from the stream, south of Sungao, Mindanao Island, Philippines. The 'type' specimen was discovered about 800 m from the sea level. This species is very similar to Paph. adductum, don't you think so? The people around the mountains know this species as **Black Orchids**. In truth, this species distributes from 220 m to 1000m elevation. And the plants are not so rare ... This report was by Mr. A.S. Golamco Jr on Waiting." - Mr Tanaka provides the table below comparing the two."



Data definitions	Anitum	Adductum
Location & elevation	Eastern Mindanao, 220~1000m	Northern Mindanao, 1250~1350m
Habitat/humidity	80~100%,very shady	75~80%,medium bright
Blooming	April to Sept	whole year
Plant height, leaf color	30~75cm, deep blue green, darker tessellations	10~30cm green with tessellation
leaf length, leaf width	up to 75cm, 4~10cm	30cm, 3~6cm
Inflorescence	75~150cm,2~7 flowers	25~40cm,2~4 flowers
flower color	yellow green or yellow orange striped with black or black mahogany	yellow cream with reddish maroon
Dosal sepal	3/4th black over yellow green base	cream striped with maroon



adductum adductum Jo anitum Black Hook adductum (Zepmeusel) anitum in situ

When you see more and more picture of various adductum and anitum I can see the separation of adductum from philippinense but within the range of variation I can also see strong similarities in the range of philippinense.

Species 3. Paph glanduliferum (including syn gardineri, praestans and striatum)



This is where the philippinense family strays away from being endemic to the Philippine islands. Paph glanduliferum and its ‘bits’ are all found in the western part of Irian Jaya, the very left side of the island we call Papua New Guinea. The tiny red dots show recorded locations. Travaldos prestigious blog tells us: “Paphiopedilum glanduliferum is endemic to northwestern New Guinea and the surrounding islands of Misool, Salawati, Jobi (also known as Yapan) and the northeast coast of Waigeo. It grows on calcareous outcrops in well drained areas from sea level to 1700 meters.”

It doesn’t get as far as Borneo but the gene pool for philippinense and cousins is clearly getting pretty close to the territory of rothschildianum. I wonder if they might have shared some extinct forebear?

Glanduliferum/praestans/striatum grow as a terrestrial and rarely as an epiphyte but as it always grows in association with limestone outcrops, I assume that ‘terrestrial’ implies at least quasi lithophytic. Like philippinense it has broad, stiff, fleshy leaves to make a plant up to 50 cm wide, the inflorescence is also up to 50cm and carries up to 5 large flowers. Very similar in overall dimensions to philippinense but more commonly with more horizontal petals.



praestans/glanduliferum praestans/glanduliferum (ditto) straiia/glanduliferum

Species 4. Paph wilhelminiae (named after the queen Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands)



Paph wilhelminiae ‘Sue’ (pic by Marak) ‘Ibn’s Magic Touch’ pic by Quahphanit

ORIGIN/HABITAT: New Guinea. This terrestrial orchid is distributed in a narrow east-west band at 5600-5900 ft.

(1700-1800 m) through the highlands of central New Guinea from near the Wissel Lakes region in western New Guinea (Irian Jaya) eastward to Southern Highlands Province in Papua New Guinea. Plants are found grassy slopes that have been long deforested, growing in heavy clay-like soil over limestone, and on limestone rubble in full sunlight. They grow in the open in bright light among grasses or near rhododendrons.

Still considered synonymous with glanduliferum by some, but in addition to differences in the flower around the staminode, its growing habitat is quite different, and its distribution territories are widely separated. I have no personal experience of either, but from what I have read, I believe it is yet another variation within this group.

What a lovely orchid this one looks like. I have never seen one in the flesh, but it looks something like a missing link between rothschildiaum and philippinense. Its growth habitat and style of growing seems to be quite unique with the habitat is described as “Terrestrial in montane grassland on limestone, also on almost pure limestone rubble; 1200 to 1800 m. Travaldo further tells us that it grows in grassy slopes in heavy, clay like soil over limestone and rubble.

The Orchids of New Guinea website has some excellent habitat pictures, but they are not easily copied so I have none to show you. It had shots showing plants growing among grass and bracken ferns with no overarching trees or shrubs so it is hard to imagine what the day-to-day conditions would be like.

So after your introduction to the philippinense family. How confident do you feel about identifying one from the other without a taxonomist’s handbook? An interesting group, isn't it?

Benching from last meeting



Den Samford Snow
B&P Ng



Den Red Dame x canaliculatum
P&J D'Olier



Cym Vivid Dream
G LeMarne



Masd Gold Monarch 'Alice'
L&P Au



Masd Rein Staal x Flight of Fancy
L&P Au



Masd Machu Pichu 'Jay Vee'
L. Huang



Rlc Memoria Warren Jones – Lisa Harris



Dendrochilum glumaceum - Lina Huang