

Orchid Research Newsletter No. 67

After 20 years of co-editing the *Orchid Research Newsletter* with Phillip Cribb and editing it solo since July 2006, I am retiring as Sainsbury Orchid Fellow of RBG Kew effective January 2016 and focusing on my role as Conference Chairman of the 22nd World Orchid Conference to be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in November 2017. In semi-retirement I will also indulge my passion for wildlife photography (preferentially *Ursus arctos*) and off-the-beaten-track fieldwork within Alaska.

It has been a pleasure to use this forum to pass on recent orchid references and news in the orchid world (obituaries, book reviews, etc.) as well as being able to promote *Genera Orchidacearum*, our 15-year, 6-volume monograph of Orchidaceae that concluded in 2014. In the course of that project in particular, I was privileged to work with almost 100 contributors around the world, including the late Nigel Veitch, and three other editors – Phillip Cribb, Mark Chase, and Finn Rasmussen. The series would not be the comprehensive and authoritative opus that it is today without their writing and editing skills. The outstanding World Checklist of Selected Plant Families so skillfully maintained by Rafaël Govaerts saved incredible amounts of time and prevented multiple errors. Always forgotten in lists such as this are members of the administrative and IT staffs, whose daily workload keeps the system moving like clockwork. I thank those of RBG Kew and Oxford University Press from the heart.

I also wish to thank the various Directors of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, during my tenure – Ghilleen Prance, Peter Crane, Stephen Hopper, and Richard Deverell – as well as the Keepers of the Herbarium and Jodrell Laboratory – Grenville Lucas, Simon Owens, David Mabberley, Dave Simpson, Michael D. Bennett, and Mark Chase. Many who have supported me over the years are no longer with us, particularly Lady Sainsbury in the UK and Hermon Slade and Gerald McCraith in Australia. Dominica Costello of Kew's web team has been my go-to person for laying out every issue of the *ORN* on the Internet, and I extend years of gratitude to her for that. I would also like to mention regular volunteer contributions of taxonomic references to the *ORN* by the highly respected organic chemist and orchid scientist, Paolo Grünanger, now almost 90 years old. His careful, timely work proves once again that physical age is hardly an intrinsic impediment to scholarship and making a difference....

I am now passing the baton of editorship of the *ORN* to André Schuiteman at RBG Kew, knowing that he will continue to bring readers new references every six months and impart his own style, bringing improvements to every issue.

Hoping to see you all in Ecuador in 2017, I say thanks once again and farewell for now.

Alec Pridgeon

Upcoming Conferences

We welcome any news about future orchid conferences for promotion here. Please send details to André Schuiteman (a.schuiteman@kew.org) as far in advance of the event as possible, remembering that the *Orchid Research Newsletter* is published only in January and July of each year.

The 12th Asia Pacific Orchid Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 19-17 March 2016. For up-to-date news, consult the website address (www.apoc12.com).

The 22nd World Orchid Conference will take place 5-13 November 2017 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, at the spacious Guayaquil Convention Center. There will be two concurrent sessions with simultaneous translation for each of the four days of lectures beginning Wednesday, 8 November 2017. Proposed abstracts for those wishing to speak at the Conference are now being accepted for consideration. Format for the abstracts and the mailing address for their submission are available on the website (www.woc22.com). Poster presentations, especially by students, are encouraged. Students whose posters are accepted may be eligible for scholarships toward their registration fees. Abstracts of all posters accepted will be included in the Conference *Proceedings*. More publicity will follow in subsequent issues of the *Orchid Research Newsletter* and orchid magazines among other publications. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Alec Pridgeon (a.pridgeon@kew.org).

Tribute to Robert L. Dressler

On 19 November 2015, an hour was set aside at the opening of the Fifth Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids in Cali, Colombia, to honor the life and work of Robert L. Dressler. Most orchid scientists know him for two pivotal books – *The Orchids: Natural History and Classification* (1981) and *Phylogeny and Classification of the Orchid Family* (1993) – that served as basis of orchid systematics in the 20 years immediately prior to the onset of publication of *Genera Orchidacearum*. But he wrote or co-wrote eight books in all and also 279 papers. In Orchidaceae he described 12 higher taxa, 18 genera, and 228 species along with 10 other plant species and 38 bee species. His name is commemorated in epithets of 6 orchid genera, 41 orchid species, 53 other plant species, and seven animal species. He is a Fellow of AAAS and recipient of the Gold Medal from the American Orchid Society, the Gleason Award from the New York Botanical Garden, Silver Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Medal de Premio Lankester al Arte y la Ciencia de las Orquideas.



Speaking on his behalf were Norris Williams, James Ackerman, Franco Pupulin, Ken Cameron, Raymond Tremblay, Leticia Abdala, Alec Pridgeon, and Eric Hágsater, who presented him with a Certificate of Recognition from the Instituto de Biología of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Asociación Mexicana de Orquideología, and the AMO Herbarium.

An article on the tribute to Bob's life with his manifold contributions will be appearing in the February 2016 issue of *Orchids*, magazine of the American Orchid Society.

Today six academic generations of orchid researchers owe their careers in large part to Bob Dressler's imposing productivity and willingness to collaborate and share his vast knowledge. His hearty chuckle and modest demeanor invite approach by anyone who might otherwise be reticent to ask a question of such an extraordinarily brilliant scientist. Bob has shown mastery of the Neotropical flora and fauna, but he has also shown all of us that nature and its preservation should be our highest priorities. As those who spoke at the tribute attested, he is clearly a biologist for all seasons, one who will live on in his respected publications and in our hearts.

Alec Pridgeon

News from Correspondents

Please submit any news about recently completed research, future research plans and needs, change of address, upcoming or recent fieldwork, etc. to André Schuiteman (a.schuiteman@kew.org). Graduate students are especially encouraged to share the subjects of their thesis or dissertation with the international community.

Recent Orchid Nomenclature

New orchid names may now be accessed on the IPNI website:

(www.ipni.org/ipni/plantsearch?request_type=search&output_format=query&ret_defaults=on). Click on "Show additional search terms" on the right-hand side of the screen. After the search page appears, type in **Orchidaceae** under family name and (for example) **2010-11-30** under "Record date" and "Added since." This will pull up a list of all names added to the IPNI database since 30 November 2010. Also be sure to check the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/>) for accepted names and synonyms as well as for building your own checklists.

Recent Literature

We sincerely thank Paolo Grünanger for supplying new book titles and references from European orchid journals. If you are aware of any recent citations not listed here and henceforth, please send them – in the exact style below – to André Schuiteman (a.schuiteman@kew.org) for publication in the following issue (January or July). Write "ORN references" in the subject line of the email. Book citations should include author(s), date of publication, title, publisher, and place of publication (in that order). Journal titles should be spelled out in full.

Anatomy and morphology

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Books

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Conservation biology

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Endres, Jr., D., Sasamori, M. H., Silveira, T., Schmitt, J. L., and Droste, A. 2015. Reintroducao de *Cattleya intermedia* Graham (Orchidaceae) em borda e interior de um fragmento de Floresta Estacional Semidecidual no sul do Brasil. [Reintroduction of *Cattleya intermedia* Graham (Orchidaceae) at the edge and interior of a Seasonal Semideciduous Forest fragment in southern Brazil.] *Revista Brasileira de Biociencias* 13: 33-40.

Fay, M. F., Pailler, T., and Dixon, K. W. 2015. Orchid conservation: making the links. *Annals of Botany* 116: 377-379.

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Wang, H-H., Wonkka, C. L., Treglia, M. L., Grant, W. E., Smeins, F. E., and Rogers, W. E. 2015. Species distribution modelling for conservation of an endangered endemic orchid. *AoB Plants* 7: plv039; doi:10.1093/aobpla/plv039.

Cytogenetics

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in orchids, a plant group with both whole-genome and progressively partial endoreplication. *Cytometry. Part A* 87: 958-966.

Ecology

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Ethnobotany/Ethnopharmacology

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Micropropagation/seed germination

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Balilashaki, K., Gantait, S., Naderi, R., and Vahedi, M. 2015. Capsule formation and asymbiotic seed germination in some hybrids of *Phalaenopsis*, influenced by pollination season and capsule maturity. *Physiology and Molecular Biology of Plants* 21: 341-347.

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Bertolini, V., Damon, A., and Rojas Velazquez, A. N. 2014. Quelato de hierro y agua de coco en la germinacion *in vitro* de *Rossioglossum grande* (Orchidaceae). [Iron chelate and coconut water in *in vitro* germination of *Rossioglossum grande* (Orchidaceae).] *Acta Agronomica, Universidad Nacional de Colombia* 63: 229-237.

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