

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)

[http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species Newsletter.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~emntee/species%20Newsletter.htm)



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NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 9 March

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

9 February meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown

The meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 9 February 2021 was cancelled by your committee. While the hard lock-down imposed by Government on Sunday 30 January was eased on Friday 5 February, the 4sqm per person cap on venue capacity which remained in place would have limited our meeting to no more than 31 members, and we would also have been required to comply with the mandated wearing of face masks by all attendees.

On Thursday 4 February, after considering these constraints, your committee decided to cancel the general meeting.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- Your committee discussed participation in the Inter Society Orchid Display and Workshop hosted by South Eastern Orchid Society on 6-8 August at Kelmscott Hall, 60 River Rd, Kelmscott; the Spring Orchid Fair at Aranmore College in Leederville on 21-22 August 2021. We have also been invited to stage displays at the Northern Orchid and Garden Fairs at John Septimus Roe college in early July and October. This will be discussed at the March general meeting.
- The Species Society has purchased the majority of Noel Verweider's species orchid collection that will be used for raffles, special auctions etc.
- The Species Orchid Society accepted Kevin Butler's offer to participate in a flask import from Ching Hua Orchids, Taiwan. We will provide further details of the flasks once our order is confirmed.
- The Society's financial year ends 28 February 2021 and annual membership will be due. Given the current management of COVID-19 in WA, it is most likely that the AGM will be held at the usual time in May.
Some ordinary committee member positions are presently vacant and we encourage members to consider

nominating for these vacancies. Remember that you need to be financial to nominate and to vote at the AGM.

Payment can be made to the Treasurer at a general meeting, by cheque sent to the secretary or by EFT to the Species Orchid Society of WA account at Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000, Account number 122491988. Please include your surname in the transfer.

President: Peter

Vice President: Adrian

Secretary: Ken Jones
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Treasurer: Paul

Editor: Ken Jones

Committee:

Graham	Charly
Chris	Tony
Maxine	Mavis

Life Members

Graham & Margaret
Barry G (dec'd)
Gordon
Maxine
Ken & Chris
Joan (dec'd) & Ted (dec'd)
Trevor (dec'd)
Neville (dec'd)
Noel & Eva
Tony & Mavis
Barry W (dec'd)

Quiet Achievers

2013 Ian
2014 Chris i
2015 Margaret
2016 Tom & Pat
2017 Charly & Gerda
2018 Paul
2020 Adrian & Dee

NOTICEBOARD

FORTH- COMING EVENTS

Home visits:

At 10 am on the Sunday after the fourth Thursday of each month. Please bring chairs and food to share.

- * 28 Mar 2021 Ray & Peta, Bullsbrook
- * 2 May 2021 Peter, Armadale
- * 30 May 2021 John, Bicton.

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

Harry would like to purchase the following.

Brassavola cucculata

Dendrobium torresae

If you have spare plants/divisions for sale, please contact Harry on 0412 403 696 or by e-mail to harry.ashton@live.com.au

MONTHLY PLANT (carried over from February)

Bulbophyllum lepidum

Country of origin: Mainland and Island SE Asia

Description: Miniature to small sized, hot-cool growing lithophyte or epiphyte

Difficulty: relatively easy to grow and flower



Photo source: <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/335940453431403019/>

Cost: \$5.00

Bulbophyllum lepidum [Bl.]J. J. Sm. 1905
SECTION *Ephippium* is the type species for the section. Its common name is the Beautiful Bulbophyllum .

This month's plant has been provided by Charly. From India, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia, this species can be found in semi-deciduous and evergreen forests as a lithophyte on mossy rocks and epiphyte on lower tree trunks and roots at 300 -1,100m.

This species was previously known as *Cirrhopetalum lepidum*, named for the umbrel of 11 to 13 flowers held above the leaves.

Charly grows his *Bulbophyllum* species and hybrids in sphagnum moss that is kept wet, regularly fertilized, in high humidity with good fresh air circulation. Coming from Charly's culture, these plants will be

vigorous and more resistant to pests and pathogens. If you are able to create and maintain high humidity during summer, a hardwood or similar mount would be possible, however for most members, sphagnum moss is the recommended media.

The correct name for this species is subject to ongoing debate between taxonomists. The name *Bulbophyllum flabellum-veneris* (J.König) Aver. 2003 is recognised although disputed by others.

The genus *Phaius* (Continued from February 2021)

Phaius pulchellus Kraenzl., Abh. Naturwiss. Vereine Bremen 7: 254 (1882) can be found in Madagascar, Mauritius and Reunion Island. A warm to cool growing medium to large sized terrestrial or epiphyte, it grows in damp, evergreen forests at 700 – 1,700.

Cauliform pseudobulbs, the oldest green and discoid and the newest enveloped by sheaths carry 3-4, narrowly lanceolate, acute, plicate, undulate margined, longly acuminate petiolate base leaves. Flowering in late spring and early summer occurs on erect 40-80 cm long racemes. Each peduncle (stalk supporting the flowers) 10 to 20 cm long is enveloped by 3 to 4 basal sheaths and several sterile bracts that are caducous (drop off early), with the 12-15 flowered caducous inflorescence with large variably coloured flowers.

Its common name is the Charming Phaius, and synonyms are *Phaius pulchellus* var. *ambrensis*; *Phaius pulchellus* var. *andrambovatensis* Bosser 1971; and *Phaius pulchellus* var.

sandrangatensis Bosser 1971

Photo source: [https://](https://www.orchidsforum.com/threads/phaius-pulchellus-var)

www.orchidsforum.com/threads/phaius-pulchellus-var-pulchellus.3142/



Phaius pulchellus var. *sandrangatensis* Bosser 1971

Photo source: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/phaispuchellusvarsan.jpg>

This species remains in the genus *Phaius* even though it is endemic to Madagascar and nearby islands.

Gastrorchis simulans Rolfe) Schltr. 1925 Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 33: 168 (1924). comes from north-eastern Madagascar where it grows as an epiphyte, a major variation from the majority of genus that are terrestrial. It also has a relatively slender, elongate rhizome, smaller flowers and like others, this species flowers in spring and summer. Several colour variants are known.

Its common name is the Seems Like *Phaius* referring to its similarity to *Phaius tuberculatus*, and the synonyms are *Phaius fragrans* Grignan 1901; *Phaius simulans* Rolfe 1901



Photos source: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/orphotdir/phaiusimulans.jpg>



Gastrorchis tuberculosa [Thou.]Schlechter 1925 Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 33: 169 (1924) is a hot to warm growing medium to large sized terrestrial from Madagascar where it can be found at 200 – 900m. Short, small pseudobulbs are completely enveloped by leaf-bearing sheaths and each carries 5 -6, sub erect to spreading, longly petiolate, narrowly lanceolate, acute, plicate leaves. Flowering in spring and summer takes place on erect, stout, 60cm long few to several flowered inflorescences with successively opening, long-lasting flowers carried for an extended period of time. The raceme has a distinctive white bract at each joint.



Photo source: www.clarkriley.com/classtest/Pages/25.html

Its common name is the Tubercle Bearing Phaius. Synonyms are *Bletia tuberculosum* [Thouars] Sprengel 1822; *Gastrorchis simulans* (Rolfe) Schltr. 1925; *Limodorum tuberculosum* Thouars 1822; *Phaius fragrans* Grignan 1901; *Phaius simulans* Rolfe 1901; *Phaius tuberculatus* Blume 1858; *Phaius tuberculosus* [Thou.] Blume 1856; *Phaius warpuri* Weathers 1901

In situ photo source: <https://www.facebook.com/MadagascarFaunaGroup/photos/gastrorchis-tuberculosa-orchid-growing-in-betampona-strict-nature-reserve/1641858902555244/>



Gastrorchis villosa (Thouars) J.V.Stone & P.J.Cribb, Lady Tankerville's Legacy: 258 (2017) can be found in Mauritius and Reunion as an epiphyte on shaded mossy trees or a lithophyte on rocks at 1,700 – 2,400m. It is a small to medium sized species with numerous narrow tubers with stems carrying 2-3 lanceolate, acute sheaths that gradually reduce in size to oblong-lanceolate, attenuate-acute apical leaves. Flowering takes place in late summer and autumn on erect, 15cm densely flowered inflorescences. The flowers become smaller in length towards the base.



Photo source: <http://www.africanorchids.dk/images/africanorchids/Fred/phaius%20longibracteatus%20%2002.jpg>

Its common name is the Hirsute Phaius. Synonyms are *Bletia villosa* (Thouars) Spreng., Syst. Veg. 3: 743 (1826); *Limodorum villosum* Thouars, Hist. Orchid.: t. 32 (1822); *Gastrorchis lutea* subsp. *longibracteata* (S.Moore) P.Bernet, Richardiana 12: 12 (2011); *Phaius longibracteatus* (S.Moore) Frapp. ex Cordem., Fl. Réunion: 226 (1895); *Phaius stuppeus* Blume, Coll. Orchid. 14 (1858); *Phaius villosus* (Thouars) Blume, Mus. Bot. 2: 182 (1856); *Phaius villosus* var. *longibracteatus* S.Moore in J.G.Baker, Fl. Mauritius: 349 (1877)

In situ photo source: <http://www.africanorchids.dk/images/africanorchids/Fred/phaius%20longibracteatus%20%2002.jpg>



To conclude this article about *Phaius*, there are six species that were initially classified as *Phaius* but are now accepted as the genus *Thunia*. All these species are found in Asia, and unlike *Phaius* and *Gastorchis*, have tall canes rather than pseudobulbs that are seasonally dormant and deciduous. However, the dormant canes remain viable and will support new plantlets if they lie on the ground surface. All the members of the genus are terrestrial or occasionally semi-epiphytic or lithophytic. Rapid new growth occurs in spring-early summer and terminal flowering takes place on the new growths when they mature. The species in this genus should be kept dry once dormancy occurs during the rest period to prevent plant loss.

Thunia alba (Lindl.) Rchb. f. 1852 is the type species for the genus. It is a large sized, cool to warm growing, deciduous-leaved terrestrial or lithophyte found on the ground on rocks and in tree forks in the western Himalayas, China, Assam India, eastern Himalayas, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Andaman Islands, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam at 1,000 – 2,300m. Elongate, tufted, erect stems carry two-ranked, elliptic-lanceolate, sessile, thin fleshy, glaucous leaves. Flowering in mid-summer occurs on terminal up to 30cm 5-10 flowered inflorescences with ovate-oblong floral bracts and very fragrant orange scented flowers that may not fully open.

Thunia alba is highly variable in colouration, a trait which has led to it being described as many different species over time. This confusion has been resolved and it is now a single species with several colour forms. *Thunia alba* var. *alba* and *Thunia alba* var. *bracteata* (Roxb.) N.Pearce & P.J.Cribb, Edinburgh J. Bot. 58: 116 (2001) are accepted forms. Its common name is the White Thunia. In China it is known as Sun Lan; and in Thailand as Chang Nga Diao – Phothuki.



Thunia alba

Photo source: <http://www.nationaalherbarium.nl/pubs/orchidweb/genera/thunia/thunia.htm>

This species has many synonyms *Limodorum bracteatum* Roxb. 1832; **Phaius albus* Lindl. 1828; *Phaius bensoniae* Benth. 1881; *Phaius marshalliae* auct 1871; *Phaius*

marshallianus N.E. Br. 1889; *Phaius marshallianus* var. *purpurata* (Rchb.f.) N.E.Br. 1889; *Phaius marshallianus* var. *triloba* (Rchb.f.) N.E.Br. 1889; *Phaius niveus* Hemsl. 1882; *Phaius veitchianus* Mottet 1896-1897; *Phaius marshallianus* (Rchb. f.) N.E. Br. 1889; *Thunia alba* subvar. *triloba* Rchb.f. ex B.Grant 1895; *Thunia alba* var. *marshalliana* (Rchb.f.) B.Grant 1895; *Thunia bracteata* (Roxb.) Schltr. 1919; *Thunia majorensis* Colman 1932; *Thunia marshalliae* B.S.Williams 1874; *Thunia marshalliana* Rchb.f. 1876;

Thunia marshalliana fma. *ionophlebia* (Rchb.f.) M.Wolff & O.Gruss 2007; *Thunia marshalliana* var. *ionophlebia* Rchb.f. 1885; *Thunia marshalliana* var. *purpurata* Rchb.f. 1888; *Thunia marshalliana* var. *triloba* Rchb.f. 1888; *Thunia nivalis* (Hemsl.) Rchb.f. 1888; *Thunia venosa* Rolfe 1905.



Thunia alba var. *bracteata*

Photo source: <http://www.india-flora.com/veinedthunia.aspx>

In situ photo source:

https://08511630493324166816.googlegroups.com/attach/3faafd4fa8787/20160529_163914-1.jpg?



Thunia alba var. *bracteata*

In situ photo source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Thunia-alba-var-bracteata-Roxb-N-Pearce-PJ-Cribb-Habitat-and-Habit_fig1_258120960

Thunia bensoniae Hook.f. 1868 comes from India, Myanmar and Thailand where it can be found as a warm to cool growing terrestrial with a jointed stem carrying, velvety, light green, plicate leaves. This species flowers in late spring and early summer on a terminal, 2 to 6 flowered raceme. A significant day to night temperature variance is necessary to trigger flowering. *Thunia bensoniae* is deciduous and will shed all its leaves in the late autumn and requires a long winter rest without water to avoid rotting.

Its common name is Mrs. Benson's Thunia named after the wife of an English General in Myanmar in the 1800's. The synonym is *Thunia winniana* L.Linden 1894



Photo source: <http://www.orchidspecies.com/thunbensoniae.htm>

Thunia bensoniae in situ

Photos source: <http://botanyboy.org/a-rare-cane-orchid-from-myanmar-and-western-thailand-thunia-bensoniae/>



Thunia brymeriana Rolfe 1892 can be found in Myanmar where it is listed as endemic. I found no habitat or descriptive information. Its common name is Brymer's Thunia named after an 1800's English orchid enthusiast.



Photo source: <https://www.jardimexotico.com.br/orquidea-thunia-brymeriana>

Thunia marshalliana Rchb. f. 1877 grows as a very large, erect, cool to cold growing terrestrial in Myanmar, Thailand and southern China on the ground, on rocks and in tree forks at 1,000 – 2,300m. Robust, jointed, stems, enveloped by leaf sheaths below and leafy above carry oblong, lanceolate, distichous, glaucous below, acuminate, pale green, leaves with a pale mid nerve. Flowering in mid-summer, the terminal, drooping racemose inflorescence has large, spathaceous, persistent bracts all arising on young leaf shoots and 3 - 12, large, showy, fragrant, short-lived flowers each sheathed by a white, cucullate, floral bract.



Photo source: <http://vietnamorchids-nguyentien-quang.blogspot.com/2014/02/thunia.html>

Its common name is Marshall's Thunia named for an 1800's English orchid collector. Synonyms are *Phaius marshallianus* N.E. Br. 1889; *Phaius marshallianus* (Rchb. f.) N.E. Br. 1889; *Phaius marshallianus* var. *purpurata* (Rchb.f.) N.E.Br. 1889; *Phaius marshallianus* var. *triloba* (Rchb.f.) N.E.Br. 1889; *Thunia marshalliana* var. *ionophlebia* Rchb.f. 1885; *Thunia marshalliana* var. *purpurata* Rchb.f. 1888; *Thunia marshalliana* var. *triloba* Rchb.f. 1888



In situ photo source: https://bluenanta.com/static/utls/images/species/spc_000204311_000028436.jpg

Thunia pulchra Rchb.f. 1872 can be found in Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as a large sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte with 6-8 flowers on a racemose inflorescence. Its common name is the Beautiful Thunia. Synonyms are *Phaius dodgsonii* Dean 1878; *Thunia dodgsonii* (Dean) B.S.Williams 1894; *Thunia mastersiana* Kraenzl 1894; *Thunia xanthophlebia* Rchb.f. ex Parish 1883

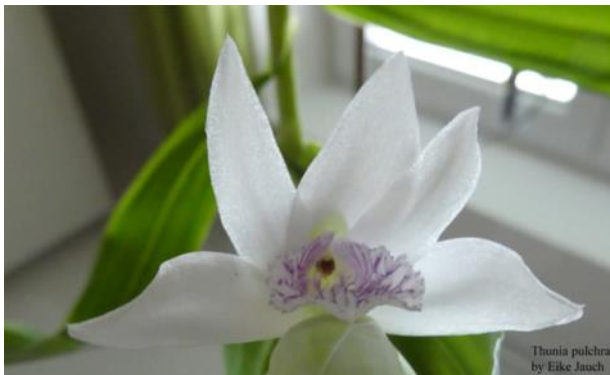


Photo source: <https://prachtorchideen.wordpress.com/2019/07/14/thunia-pulchra-a-rare-thunia-species-from-thailand/>.

ABOUT US

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of each month at Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise St, Wilson commencing 7.45 pm. Usually, the short formal meeting is followed by plant descriptions given by members. Supper follows to allow member's time to socialise and discuss orchids. All visitors are very welcome

Membership Fees

Family \$30 pa. For first year only, new family members will need to purchase two name badges. Badges come in two versions - pin fastening \$11.50 or magnet fastening \$13.50 [*Please indicate preference*]

Single \$20.00 pa. For first year only, new members will need to purchase a name badge. Badges come in two versions - pin fastening \$11.50 or magnet fastening \$13.50. [*Please indicate preference*]

New members who don't live in Perth will not require name badges, therefore membership cost will be at the renewal fee only

Monthly Home Visit

On the weekend following the fourth Thursday of each month (generally on the Sunday morning), a home visit is held at a member's home. This gives members an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship that our mutual interest provides, and to see how others go about growing their orchids.

Monthly Plant Display

Given that the prime objective of the Society is to promote the cultivation of species orchids, only species or natural hybrids are acceptable for display. Since we all may be uncertain about the identification of a plant from time to time, we encourage

members to bring plants along about which they are unsure since someone may be able to identify them. There is no competition nor restriction on flower count, quality or length of ownership. We want members to be able to see species plants in flower. So even if your flowers are a bit past their best, bring them in as others may not have seen that species in flower.

Plant Sales

The Society provides an opportunity table for members to sell surplus plants and equipment, and for the Society to sell product from time to time.

Plant Purchases

The Society endeavours to obtain a different species seedling for sale at each meeting, usually costing between \$6.00 and \$15.00. The Society makes a small profit on these sales which is invested in benefits to members. As it is always difficult to get new or different species, should members have 20 or more plants of one species which they feel might be suitable as a monthly plant, please contact a Committee member.

Raffle

The Society conducts a raffle each meeting and at home visits as a means of generating funds. If you have spare species orchids that you wish to sell to the Society for raffles, please advise a committee member.

Management

In accordance with the Rules, the Annual General meeting is held in May each year at which time the office-bearers and committee are elected. The majority of Committee members serve two year terms.

If unclaimed, return to
The Editor
204 Park Street, Henley Brook WA 6055

Next meeting Tuesday 9 March