

THE SPECIES ORCHID SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)

<https://speciesorchidsocietywa.com/>



Vol 35 No 9 February 2024



NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 13 February

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NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

- **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be the February general meeting on Tuesday 13 February.

- **Help needed at meetings**

As you will all know, Adrian as our President and Treasurer has been working hard for our club for many months taking on additional responsibilities such as photographer following Tony Watkinson's passing. He is in need of a rest and will be taking a break from meetings for a while. This means that we will need some helpers to do some of the jobs that Adrian has been doing at meetings including taking photos, setting up the PA, helping set out tables and chairs, and the raffle as Dee will also be absent. If you can help, please let Ken know at the Ezi-Gro visit.

- **Monthly sale, raffle, name badge and Anne O'Callaghan award plants**

For several years, we have benefited from members growing orchids from flask for us, and from purchasing surplus plants from members. As mentioned at a previous general meeting, we have now run down most of the inventory accumulated over time, and are finding it impossible to acquire plants at a price that allows our raffle to cover costs. A few members are carrying all the workload in deflasking and growing on flasks, and mature, flowering size plants for raffles.

While we do know that a number of members do purchase flasks, when contacted to see whether they are prepared to sell some of the plants to the Society, we are most often advised that they prefer to sell them at shows or on-line where they can ask and receive higher prices.

We do thank those members who donated plants for the Christmas meeting, and should we run it this year, we hope the silent auction.

- **Ezi-Gro visit**

Thanks to Kevin, Roy, and Ryan for hosting our traditional January visit. While the attendance of only 11 members was disappointing, those of us who attended enjoyed spending time with other members and taking a close look at the orchids that Kevin had for sale. Several of us managed to secure a few more species for our collections.

- **AGM**

As has been our practice for many years, the Society's AGM will be held at the May 2024 meeting. At several of our recent monthly meetings, we have encouraged members to consider joining the committee. Most of the current committee members have served for many years and might appreciate the opportunity to be an average member.

- **Annual membership**

Individual member \$20, family \$30. The Society's financial year ends 28 February. Your membership renewal is due by the AGM in May 2024.

You can pay the Treasurer at a meeting, or transfer payment by EFT to the Society's account at Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000, account 122491988 including your surname.

MONTHLY PLANT

Cattleya tenebrosa

Country of origin: Brazil

Description: Robust, large growing epiphyte

Difficulty: This is an easy *Cattleya* species to grow and flower in Spring.

Cost: \$15.00



Photo source: <https://plantiolaorquidea.com/products/l-tenebrosa-oscurisima-x-self>

Cattleya tenebrosa (Rolfe) A.A.Chadwick 2006 (formerly *Laelia tenebrosa*)

These plants were purchased from Barrita Orchids in August 2023 are now ready for repotting.

It is a medium sized, hot to cool growing species from small area of southern Espirito Santo State, Brazil where it grows as a unifoliate high in wooded hillside canopy. Unfortunately as a result of habitat destruction, it is now virtually extinct in the wild. In its natural habitat, this species flowered in late spring to early summer, and in Perth we saw some on display at our December meeting.

While predominantly having bronze-toned petal and sepals, the labellum is a deep purple with a lighter margin. Other forms are yellow, yellow-orange and yellow-green which has made this species influential in hybrid breeding.

The flowers are carried on strong 30cm upright racemes that carry 3-7 long-lasting, showy, spicy scented fragrant flowers. Most articles suggest that this species needs a drier winter rest with moderate year round light.

It is most amenable to shadehouse culture, and does not seem to be affected by extreme summer heat or early morning winter/spring frosts. Robust, well grown plants are generally resistant to pests and pathogens, although cotton and hard scale can attack the plant if there is insufficient air movement. Removing the dried sheath from new growths also assists by removing in places for pests to hide.

For further information, the article from Chadwick and Sons at <https://chadwickorchids.com/content/cattleya-tenebrosa-laelia> provides more background on this species.

NOTICEBOARD

Home visits:

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

MARKETPLACE - FOR SALE/WANTED

Harry would like to buy plants of *Cattleya neokautskyi*. Contact Harry on 0412 403 696 or hjaashton@gmail.com.

Lynn would like to purchase *Section Latouria Dendrobium* orchids. Contact Lynn on 0414 922 923 or contrarymiss@hotmail.com.

President: Adrian

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Committee: Lee-Anne

Murray Paul

Graham Mavis

Maxine

Quiet Achievers

2013 Ian

2014 Chris (dec'd)

2015 Margaret

Life Members

Graham & Margaret

Chris (dec'd)

Barry (dec'd)

Gordon (dec'd)

Maxine

Ken & Chris

Adrian & Deanna

Joan (dec'd) & Ted (dec'd)

Trevor (dec'd)

Neville (dec'd)

Noel (dec'd) & Eva

Tony (dec'd) & Mavis

Barry (dec'd)

2016 Tom & Pat

2017 Charly & Gerda

2018 Paul

2020 Adrian & Deanna

2021 John

The Subtribe Pleurothalidinae (cont'd from January)

Synonyms are *Humboldtia contorta* Ruiz & Pavon 1798; *Humboldtia contorta* Ruiz & Pav. 1798; *Pleurothallis fimbriablia* C. Schweinf. 1953; *Pleurothallis maculata* subsp. *ecuadoriensis* [Schlechter]H. Mohr 1996; *Restrepia apiculata* Luer 1982; *Restrepia caucana* Schlechter 1920; *Restrepia ecuadorensis* Rolfe 1892; *Restrepia maculata* Lindl. 1846; *Restrepia maculata* subsp. *ecuadoriensis* (Rolfe) H.Mohr 1996; *Restrepia pardina* Lem. 1869; *Restrepia punctulata* Lindley 1859; *Stelis contorta* [Ruiz & Pavon]Pers. 1807



In situ photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/58798926@N07/14155669750>

Restrepia cuprea Luer & R. Escobar 1996 comes from Colombia where it grows as a miniature to small sized, cool growing epiphyte on the eastern slopes of the central cordillera in cloud forests at 1,600 – 1.700m. Erect ramicauls basally enveloped by 6-7 thin whitish, loose, compressed sheaths carry single, apical, erect, coriaceous suffused purple beneath elliptical-ovate leaves. Flowering in spring and autumn occurs on a terminal, slender, single flowered inflorescence arising from the back of the leaf with a thin, tubular, longer than the ovary, floral bract.

Luer 1996 notes "Related to *Restrepia guttulata* but differs in the shorter, stouter habit, shorter peduncles and distinctly coloured flowers neither wholly striped nor spotted. Except for a few purple spots along the margin below the middle and yellow at the base, the synsepal of most clones is a solid, rich, coppery colour, like no other seen in the genus. The lip is broad, oblong, and unspotted except for a few dots on the sides below the middle. The blade is minutely scabrous ad denticulate." Its common name is the Copper-Coloured Restrepia



Photo source: https://www.orchidroots.com/detail/177416/hybrid_detail/?type=hybrid&tab=sum



In situ photo source: <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/716142778227162220/>

Restrepia lansbergii Rchb. f. & Wagener 1854 is found as a miniature sized, cool to cold growing epiphyte in Venezuela, Ecuador Peru at 700-3,000. Erect ramicauls basally enveloped 5-7 thin, whitish, loose sheaths with the lower black spotted carry single, apical, erect, coriaceous, purple beneath leaves. Flowering year round occurs on an erect, slender, arising in a fascicle behind the leaf 3-6 cm, successively single flowered inflorescence with a thin, tubular, shorter than the ovary floral bract.



Luer 1996 comments "A small plant with small, white, purple spotted flowers with the synsepals either elliptical or obovate and less than [1.8 cm] long, Towards the base the synsepal is narrowed with the sides more or less erect. The basal margins of the petals may or may not bear capillary processes. The lips are oblong and minutely verrucose." Its common name is Lansberg's Restrepia named for a late 1800's Dutch Collector in Venezuela.

Photo source: https://www.flowershots.net/Restrepia_species.html

Scaphosepalum fimbriatum Luer & Hirtz 1988 comes from Ecuador as a miniature to small sized, hot to warm growing epiphyte at 750 – 1,200m. Erect to suberect slender ramicauls carry single, apical, erect, elliptical leaves cuneate to the slender petiole. Flowering takes place on erect to descending, loose, successively several flowered racemose inflorescences arising from low on the ramicaul and with successively opening flowers throughout the year.

Luer 1988 commented "Reminiscent of the Panamanian *Scaphosepalum viviparum* with the fimbriate carinae of the lateral sepals. In addition, however, the tails of the lateral sepals are markedly fimbriate as well. The petals are distinctive with a little, obtuse, uncinuate lobule adjacent to the transversely obtuse apex and the lip is remarkable for its



© Gerrit Verhellen

3, serrulate lobes."

Its common name is the Fringed Scaphosepalum referring to the long-fimbriate carinae and tails of the lateral sepals.

Photo source: <https://orchidroots.com/detail/information/?role=pub&pid=186654>

Scaphosepalum swertiifolium

(Rchb.f.) Rolfe 1890 can be found as a miniature sized, warm to cold growing epiphytic species in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in extremely wet montane cloud forests at 600-2,200m. Erect, slender ramicauls carry single, apical, erect, thinly coriaceous, long-petiolate, elliptical leaves. Flowering year round takes place on an ascending to horizontal, smooth, loose to congested, 5-15cm racemose, few flowered inflorescence arising from low on the ramicaul. The successively opening flowers are held below the leaves, and like many of the Pleurothallidinae, this flowers of this species are colour-variable.

Luer 1988 comments "The leaves, thin and more or less soft in consistency, vary greatly in size but they are always long petiolate. When the blades are large and broad,



they are slightly plicate. The cushions of the lateral sepals are large, about half the size of the blades. The tails are straight and slender and vary in length from .6" to 1.6" [1.5 to 4 cm]."

Photos source: https://www.orchidroots.com/detail/186686/hybrid_detail/?type=hybrid&tab=sum

Its common name is the *Swertia perennis*-like



species *Swertia perennis*.
 Synonyms are *Masdevallia swertiifolia* Rchb. f. 1880;
Scaphosepalum platypetalum
 Schltr. 1920

In situ photo source: <https://eol.org/pages/1131208>



Scaphosepalum ursinum Luer 1979 is found in Ecuador as a small sized, cold growing epiphyte in cloud forests at 2,500m. Erect, stout ramicauls carry single, apical, suberect, fleshy dark purplish green, leaves. Flowering occurs on slender, smooth, ascending to horizontal, loose successively several flowered 10 cm racemose inflorescences that arise from low on the ramicaul that have tubular floral bracts.



Luer 1988 comments "This huge species is characterized by the fleshy, dark purplish green, narrowly obovate, long-petiolate base leaves and a large pubescent, greenish white flower spotted with purple. The tail of the middle sepal is laterally compressed. "

Photo source: <https://ru.pinterest.com/pin/64880050854640978/>

Specklinia endotrachys (Rchb.f.) Pridgeon & M.W.Chase 2001 is found only in Costa Rica as a miniature sized, cool to cold growing, caespitose epiphytic species on trunks of large trees in cloud forests at 1,300 – 2,500m. Clustered, stout, short, sulcate stems carry single, apical, fleshy leaves. Flowering in summer on an erect fractiflex rachis (when new) becoming pendant as successive flowers open and the stalk lengthens from 12 -35cm with an up to 10 successively single, several flowered at a time, inflorescence. Regarding the thin apicule that protrudes from the apex of the petal, only this species and *Specklinia spectabilis* have this feature, but it has the lateral sepals that arch and twist and *Specklinia deuterodunstervillei* has the lateral sepals arched but straight. This species is also colour-variable. Its common name is the Bristly Pleurothallis. Synonyms are *Empusella endotrachys* (Rchb.f.) Luer 2004; *Humboldtia endotrachys* [Rchb.]O.



Ktze. 1891; *Humboldtia endotrachys* (Rchb. f.) Kuntze 1891; *Pleurothallis endotrachys* Rchb.f 1876.

Photo source: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:1015130-2>

Andreettaea zephyrina (Rchb.f.) A.Doucette 2022 comes from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia as a mini-miniature sized, cool growing, caespitose epiphyte in shady, wet tropical montane forests at 1,600m. Erect, slender basally enveloped ramicauls carry erect, thinly coriaceous, narrowly oblong leaves. Flowering in spring takes place on a fascicle of successive, single flowered inflorescences carrying the flowers at the leaf base.

Luer 2006 observes "The sepals are glabrous, acute and acuminate into tails about as long as the blade. The petals are elliptical with long-fringed margins with the apex contracted into a slender tail about as long as the blade. The lip is more or less pandurate-trilobed with a central constriction, the margins of the lip are erect to form subacute, obtuse to rounded, lateral lobes. The disc is superficially channelled between a low pair of calli that course forward from the lateral lobes and across the central constriction. The most variable feature is the margin at the isthmus. It is variously cellular, to ciliate, to fimbriate and varying a degree between them all."

This species is also strongly colour-variable as the photos demonstrate. Its common name was the Windy Pleurothallis [refers to the wiry inflorescence and the fact that the flower is bobbing in the slightest breeze].

Synonyms are *Humboldtia arachnantha* (Rchb.f.) Kuntze 1891; *Humboldtia setigera*



Scaphosepalum from its resemblance to the

Photo source: <https://www.orchidsforum.com/threads/specklinia-zephyrina.15659/>



Photo source: <https://orchidconservationalliance.org/la-palma/>



In situ photo source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/andreaskay/8674093135>

Trichosalpinx blaisdellii (S. Watson) Luer 1983 comes from Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, western Colombia and Ecuador where it grows as a miniature sized, hot to cold growing epiphyte in tall evergreen rain forests at 200 – 2,500m. Ramicauls enveloped by several loose sheaths carry single, apical, coriaceous leaves. Flowering in late spring through early winter occurs on an erect, arising from the leaf base, filiiform.5-2 cm long lax simultaneously several flowered inflorescence with short floral bracts.

Luer 1997 comments “Characterized by a relatively stout, more or less erect ramicaul and an elliptical leaf either narrow or broad. The short, congested inflorescence is

shorter than the leaf. The sepals are variously ciliate, occasionally glabrous. The connivent lateral sepals recurve in varying degrees. As happens in the Pleurothallidinae "giant" flowers sometimes occur. Sepals vary in length from 3 mm to 1 cm without morphological differences. A distinctive large variation was recognized as *Trichosalpinx lankesteriana*. The petals are variously ciliate. The lip is oblong, obtuse or rounded apically, with ciliate margins and with a low, rounded, more or less cellular callus at the base."

The common name is Blaisdell's *Trichosalpinx* named for an 1800's Australian collector and plantation manager in Guatemala. Synonyms are *Pleurothallis blaisdellii* S. Watson 1888; *Pleurothallis peraltensis* Ames 1923; *Pleurothallis standleyi* Ames 1925; *Trichosalpinx lankesteriana* Luer 1996; *Trichosalpinx tamayoana* Soto Arenas 1987.



Photo source: <https://www.orchidroots.com/detail/photos/208306/>



In situ photo source: <https://ecosdelbosque.com/plantas/trichosalpinx-blaisdellii>

Trichosalpinx dirhamphis (Luer) Luer 1983 can be found in southern Ecuador as a miniature sized, warm to cool, pendant growing epiphyte in montane forests at 750 – 1,200m. Erect, slender sheathed ramicauls that produce other ramicauls from the apex carry single, apical, coriaceous, elliptical to narrowly elliptical leaves. Flowering in summer takes place on a loose, lightly flexuous 20 cm flexible, simultaneously several to many flowered racemose inflorescence arising from near the apex of the ramicaul.

Luer 1997 comments "Related to *Trichosalpinx montana* but differs in the frequently prolific habit of the ramicauls, narrowly elliptic leaves that are far exceeded by a showy,

lax, simultaneously flowered raceme with bright yellow flowers that are often striped in red and a large, brown lip. The sepals are long-acuminate with the laterals free and diverging. The petals are obtuse with the apical margin more or less irregular. The lip is distinctive with a pair of erect, uncinuate basal lobes. The size and shape of the basal lobes is variable. Sometimes they are half the dimensions of the largest."

Its common name is the Two Hooked Trichosalpinx referring to the basal lobes of the lip.



Photo source: <https://cotram.org/taxa/index.php?tid=29042>

Synonyms are *Pleurothallis dirhamphis* Luer 1977; *Pleurothallis aequatorialis* Luer 1979; *Trichosalpinx aequatorialis* (Luer) Luer 1983; *Tubella dirhamphis* (Luer) Archila 2000.

In situ photo source:

<https://herbariovaa.org/taxa/index.php?tid=29042&taxauthid=1&clid=1017>



Trisetella cordeliae Luer 1989 comes from Peru at where it grows as a mini-miniature sized, densely caespitose cool growing epiphyte at approx..1800m. Erect, slender ramicauls enveloped by thin tubular sheaths carry single apical, erect, fleshy, leaves. Flowering occurs in spring on an erect slender verrucose 5cm congested, successively single few flowered inflorescence.

Luer 1989 notes "The peduncle is lightly but distinctly scabrous except for the near the apex. The lateral sepals are connate into a broadly expanded synsepal with a rounded apex with lateral, diverging, clavate tails. The petals are not remarkable, but 5 longitudinal calli course down the lip. An acute, erect process is present near the middle of the lateralmost pair of calli." Its common name is Cordelia's Trisetella named for Mrs. Cordelia Webb who discovered the species.



Photo source: https://passiflora.ru/product_info.php/manufacturers_id/142/products_id/183238

Trisetella hoeijeri Luer & Hirtz 1986 can be found in Ecuador a mini-miniature sized, densely caespitose, cool growing epiphyte in cloud forests at 1,800m. Erect basally enveloped ramicauls carry erect, coriaceous, acute leaves. Flowering throughout the year occurs on an erect inflorescence arising from low on the ramicaul, slender, smooth 4-6c congested successively single, 2-3 flowered inflorescence held well above the leaves.



Luer 1989 commented "The flower is unique in the genus. The lateral sepals are oblong, free and widely spread and the colour is silvery white with 3 thin, red lines on each." Its common name is Hoeijer's Trisetella named after the 20th century Swedish discoverer of species.

Photo source: <https://www.orchidroots.com/detail/209044/species/?gen=209033>

In situ photo source:

<https://www.orchidsforum.com/threads/trisetella-hoeijeri-great-mini.13852/>



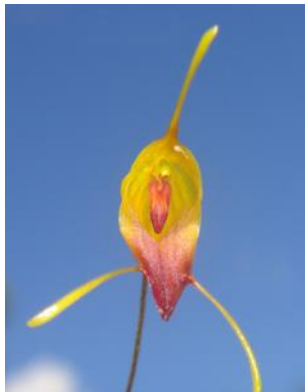
Trisetella strumosa Luer & Andreetta 1989 comes from Ecuador where it can be found as a mini-miniature sized, cool growing epiphyte at 1,500-1,650m. Short, slender

ramicauls enveloped by thin, tubular sheaths carry single, apical, erect, fleshy semi-terete leaves. Flowering takes place in autumn on a erect, congested, verrucose (warty), 7.5-10cm successively single, few flowered inflorescences.

Luer 1989 commented "The long peduncle is scabrous except near the apex. The mentum of the synsepal is extraordinarily large, so large that it protrudes posteriorly. The sepaline tails are clavate. The petals and lip are not remarkably different from *Trisetella triaristella* except for a pair of tall, central carinae on the lip." Its common name is the

Swollen Trisetella.

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



In situ photo source: <https://inaturalist.nz/taxa/577064-Trisetella>

Zootrophion atropurpureum [Lindley]Luer 1982 comes from Jamaica, Cuba, Hispanola, Colombia, and Ecuador as a miniature to small sized hot to warm growing creeping epiphyte or terrestrial in wet montane forests on trees, logs and banks in hilly woods at 400-1,300m. Erect, short stems basally enveloped by inflated sheaths carry single, apical leaves. This species flowers from late summer to winter on apical, shorter than the leaf single flowered inflorescences with non-fragrant single flowers.



Photo source: <https://cooperorchids.com/produto/zootrophion-atropurpureum/>

Its common name is the Black Purple Zootrophion, and synonyms are *Cryptophoranthus atropurpureus* [Lindley]Rolfe 1887; *Cryptophoranthus schenckii* Cogn. 1907; *Humboldtia atropurpurea* (Lindl.) Kuntze 1891;

Masdevallia fenestrata Lindley ex Hooker 1845; *Pleurothallis atropurpurea* [Lindley] Lindley 1836; *Specklinia atropurpurea* Lindley 1838; *Zootrophion fenestratum* (Lindl. ex Hook.) Rysy 2009; *Zootrophion schenckii* (Cogn.) Luer 1986.

Summary to be published in March

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 \$14.00 or magnet fastening \$16.00 [*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 \$14.00 or magnet fastening \$16.00. [*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
210 Hermitage Drive, The Vines WA 6069

Next meeting Tuesday 13 February 2024