



NEWS

Volume 25.4– September 2013



Photo by Roberto Guara



Ctsm. denticulatum x Ctsm. Bela Vista's Sangria, an SVO plant in its first blooming. The plant is nice and compact and flowers are mildly fragrant. Like many denticulatum hybrids, the blooms can be a bit crowded. Photo by Ed Cott.



Eriopsis biloba, found from Costa Rica down through Colombia into Bolivia and over to Venezuela on cliff sides in wet mid level forests. Photo by D&D Borders.



Stelis butcheri originally comes from Panama. This plant was grown by Marni Turkel. Photo by Ron Parsons

Cover Photos

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New Website

[The Regina Orchid Society](#) invites you to visit their new website.

COC Membership/Insurance Renewal for 2014

Renewals are due December 1. Time to add a note to your activities list. [Follow the link](#) to the renewal form.

AOS Orchid Galleries

From the American Orchid Society website: "High quality photographs of orchids that receive AOS awards play a crucial role in the society. They serve as a permanent visual history of the best orchids seen by AOS judges and are used as a reference for considering future awards to similar orchids."

[Click here](#) to be inspired by some of the finest orchid photography of some of the finest orchids."

President's Ramblings

Hi All. Hope most of you had a good summer. Those who got caught up in floods or dry spells probably not. Remember we are all here to help each other. Orchid societies and clubs are as much about socializing as they are about enjoying orchids and learning how to grow and conserve orchids.

Speaking of orchid conservation, what is your club doing? Do you have a conservation project or do you contribute to conservation funding? We would love to share your projects and ideas with others in our next newsletter (DEADLINE November 1).

Calvin Wong has accepted the position of Vice president of COC. Calvin works for the federal government in Vancouver. Calvin used to live in the Toronto area and still maintains a greenhouse there. Welcome aboard Calvin. Now we need one more volunteer for the other VP position that is still vacant. Any suggestions, anyone out east?

The 2014 AGM will be in Toronto in August together with the Southern Ontario Orchid Society's Orchidfest on August 10. For 2015 we have an invitation from the Saskatchewan Orchid Society to host the 2015 COC AGM in conjunction with an annual gardening show (Gardenscape) March 27-29 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. More details later.

Do you have an orchid story for us. Your editor needs content for this newsletter, and we all are interested in what is going on elsewhere. So get busy and be a COC reporter. Don't forget to send us your board member changes and addresses and remind your treasurers to renew your memberships in time.

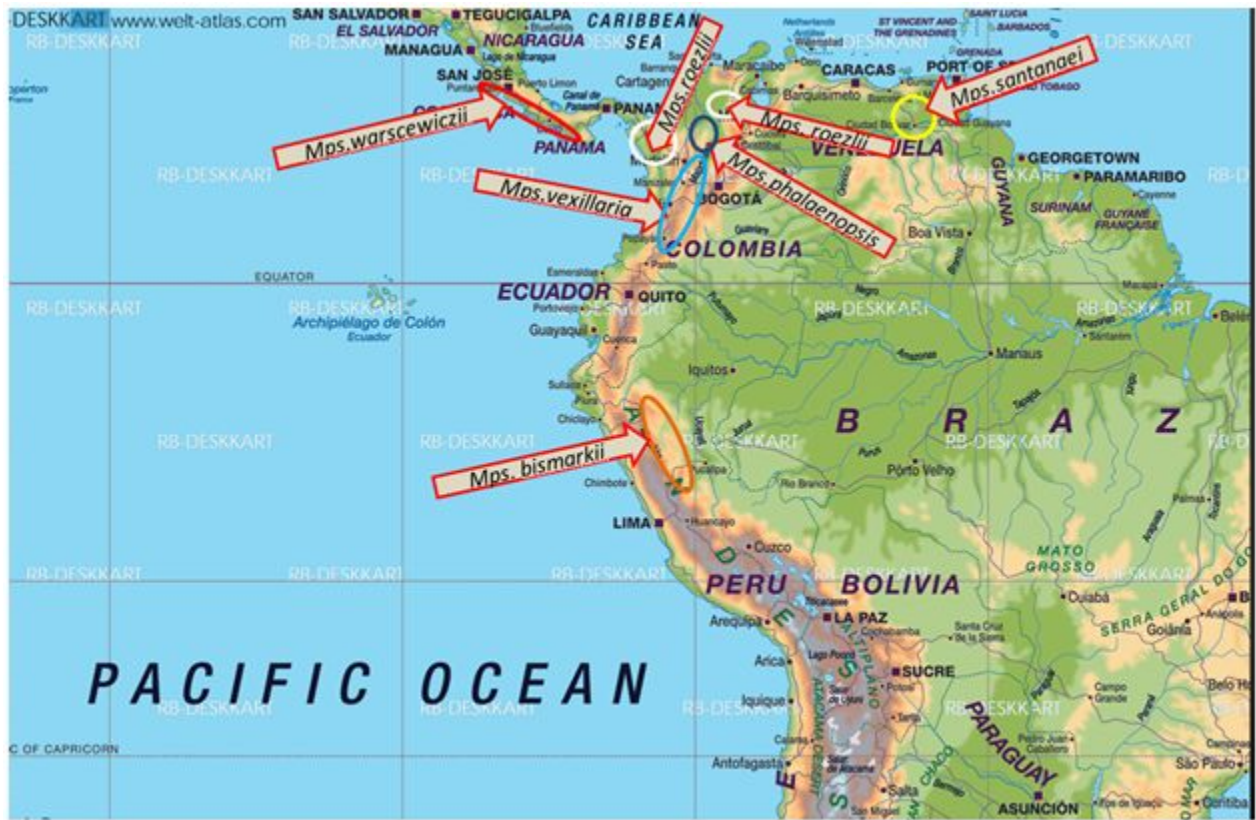
Peter Poot, Interim President.

Miltoniopsis

by Poul Hansen

(from notes taken by Jean Ikeson at SOOS in May 2013 and written up for COC by Inge Poot)

Poul first fell in love with this genus of orchids in 1977 when he visited Beall's Orchids and was wowed by a whole greenhouse section dedicated to this genus and was dazzled by their gorgeous blooms. The three most spectacular species are found mostly along the ocean facing slopes of the mountains along the northern Colombian coast resemble giant pansies and hence carry the common name of pansy orchids, while the whole genus may also be called Columbian Miltonias. This genus used to be included in the genus *Miltonia*, a genus now restricted to the smaller flowered and drier, brighter growing pansy orchids found further south and east in Brazil. The two genera can only be crossed with great difficulty and thus provide an empirical confirmation of the findings of DNA analysis. There appear to be 6 species in the genus.



The map shows the places where the six species are found. Note that *Mps bismarkii* is found on the eastern foothills of the Andes in Peru, about as far south of the equator as the rest of the species are north of it. *Mps santanaei* is found a bit inland along the Venezuelan coast and *Mps warscewiczii* is found along the western coast Costa Rica and in Panama, Central America.



Miltoniopsis santanaei

LH: 'Snowflake' AM-AOS

AQ+ 4.9

RH: photo by Brian Monk,

OW 10.0

Habitat - Northeast Venezuela, and possibly a few also in Colombia(?) and northern Ecuador(?) in humid forests at an elevation of 1100-3300 ft. (325-1000 m). Daytime temperatures in its habitat are 82-87F (28-30C) and drop to 64-67F (18-19C) at night.

The flowers are white, about 2 in (5 cm) across and much like *Mps. roezlii* but minus the dark eye patches on the petals and it has a kidney-shaped disc on the lip. There is a greenish tinge at the base of the sepals and petals. The lip has kidney shaped yellow patch near its base. According to Ivan Komoda the flowers have a lovely distinct perfume.

A caution: many plants labeled *Mps roezlii 'alba'* are really *Mps santanaei*.



Miltoniopsis roezlii

Photo F. Talamo, J. Portillo,

RH: Soc. Colomb. de Orchid., OW 10.0

This species is found in northwest Colombia and extreme southwest Panama.

It is found at an elevation of 1000- 3300 ft (300-1000 m). It is humid at all times where it grows.

Daytime temperature is 77- 80F (25-27C) dropping at night to Night 67-68F (19-20C).

It is the warmest growing species of the group but it will tolerate cooler temperatures.

Inflorescences will carry from 2 to 5 flowers per inflorescence.

Flowers are 3-4 in (7-10 cm) across and are highly variable in colour intensity and form.

To repeat: many plants labeled *Mps roezlii 'alba'* are really *Mps santanaei*



Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis

LH photo: Art Vogel OW10.0

RH photo: Judith Higham AQ+4.9

Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis:

Grows in North East Colombia in humid temperate forests at an elevation of 4000-5000ft (1200-1500m).

Day time temperatures are 74-76F (23-25C). Night time temperatures drop to 63-65F (17-18C).

Inflorescences carry 2-4 lovely dainty flowers per inflorescence. Flowers have a delightful scent.

This species is responsible for the waterfall patterns in the beautiful hybrids.



Miltoniopsis bismarckii, ('Pink Doll' CBR, photo: Ivan Komoda, AQ+ 4.9)

Its habitat is in the centre of Peru, in tropical moist forests at 3300ft (1000m) elevation. It grows at daytime temperatures of 81-84F (27-29C) and nights of 59-62F (15-17C). This species was not discovered until 1985.

Flowers are 1.6in (4cm) across, dark to light pink and rarely white, 3 to 5 flowers per inflorescence. The inflorescence looks somewhat like a small version of *Mps. vexillaria* with a low flower count.

Poul Hansen finds it a little more difficult to grow but charming.

The slide presentation showed a white and a purple clone that were owned by Dr McGregor and they have now died. Unfortunately no seed was obtained from them.



Miltoniopsis warscewiczii also known as *Mps endresii* 'Gloria Mia' CHM-AOS AQ+ 4.9, unnamed clone; Art Vogel OW 10.0

Habitat: found in Costa Rica and Panama at quite high elevation of 4600- 6550ft. (1400-2000m). It is much cooler growing and takes a little more shade than the other species.

Daytime temperatures are 66-70F (18-22C).

Night-time 49-51F (10-12C)

The species produces larger pale green plants with several inflorescences per growth. There are 3 to 5 white flowers per inflorescence.

It is somewhat difficult to grow but produces strong easy to grow hybrids, but the hybrids tend to be huge plants!



Miltoniopsis vexillaria:

Colour close to the clone 'Memoria G. D. Owen'

LH photo by P. Harding OW 10.0,

RH photo: The Orchid Album, Warner OW 10.0

Habitat is in Colombia and northern Ecuador at 4250-7050 ft. (1300-2150m) Temperatures are 78-82F (25-28C) during the day and 57-59F (14-15C) at night. They are found in isolated patches along the edges of dense rain forest.

Characterizing the environment are lots of thick mists and air movement and very little seasonal weather change.

Plants have characteristic blue-green leaves. Flowers are variable in colour, from white to dark pink

Inflorescences may have as few flowers as three and as many as fourteen flowers per inflorescence.

The clone *Mps vexillaria* 'Memoria G. D. Owen' had a black mask and is said to have originated from a small section of Colombia. All black-masked cultivars in cultivation originated from this plant. Such plants are used to hybridize black-masked hybrids with *Mps roezlii*. Some authors feel that the 'Mem. G.D. Owen' clone is actually a man-made hybrid with a now extinct unknown species.

Alba forms of the species come from Colombia.

The clone 'Susana' FCC-AOS had huge light rose-pink flowers 10.2 X 13.1 cm in natural spread.

Hybridizing:

Crossing *Mps vexillaria* with *Mps. roezlii* creates the hybrid *Mps Venus* which sports wonderful waterfall patterns on the lip. It has been remade with the *Mps vexillaria* clone 'Poul's Super Obscuro' AM-AOS, a very dark pink, full clone and the results were very nice! Poul Hansen's remake of *Venus* garnered Marie Riopelle four awards from one flask, from 1991 to 2001!



Miltoniopsis Venus 'Eugene' HCC-AOS AQ+, 4.9

Mps Carl Whitner a cross of *roezlii* X *phalaenopsis* produced nice plants with the petal spots of *roezlii* and the waterfall lip pattern of *phalaenopsis*. The clone 'Doc' earned an HCC-AOS for Ingrid Ostrander from Brentwood, BC.

From the cross *Mps* Kennie, *Venus* X *vexillaria* Poul got three good clones out of one flask, which is what you should expect to get on average from today's crosses. The clone 'Diana' was just magnificent! It was shown by Poul with 10 inflorescences with 62 flowers and buds! The flowers were a medium pink with dark pink veins and stipples on the lip. The stingy judges gave it only an HCC but no cultural award, maybe because so many inflorescences were still in bud....

Mps Mario Van Peebles, *Mps* Goodhope Bay X *Mps* Hajime Ono produced stunning reds with striking white-outline waterfall patterns. Even the unawarded clone grown by Poul from seed was very lovely.

Mps Jean Inouye, *Maui Sunset* X *Tropical Punch* did not get any awards, but has produced nice full yellows. The clones 'Dandy Lion' and 'Sunrise' were very round and full and had pretty contrasting deep yellow masks with faint red lines and a darker red central spot with darker lines radiating from it in the center. 'Sunrise' had deeper red markings.

Mps Hoover and Dolly Willis, *Saffron Surprise* X *Maui Kiss* is a wonderful *Ivan Komodo* cross. The clone 'Sun Goddess' was a very full, flat pale yellow with a stunning black-red flying-bat-shaped mask! The clone 'Summer Heat' had the same shape and colour as 'Sun Goddess' but also had a wide medium red band along the middle of the lip and a deep red overlay on the petals leaving only a narrow pale yellow picotee. This clone has an unpublished AM-AOS.

The flower shown of the cross *Mps* Lemon Drop (*Lila Feameyhough* X *Maui Sunset*) was much yummier than a lemon drop! It was yellow with a light rust mask and deep red overlay at the proximal half of the petals.

Some of the next slides shown illustrated what can be had in stunning waterfalls in today's hybrids.

One of the most dramatic flowers were two clones of ***Mps Hajime Ono*** with deep red sepals and petals with a white picotee, a white-edged central red vein, a white lip with a very large "dripping" red-black mask and irregular rose flushing along the margin.

Another lovely cross, illustrated with two clones was ***Mps Tome Yokoyama***. The clone 'Black Swallow' was similar to *Hajime Ono*, but with wider picotees on the sepals and a smaller mask. The other clone 'Maui Spice' also lacked the rose flushing along the lip margin of the *Hajime Onos* shown.

The ***Mps Steve Skoien*** 'Lavender Ice' was very pretty. The sepals and petals were an even vibrant rose-pink, with a central line of deep red dashes outlined in white, a white lip with a red-black mask with irregular dashes extending from it almost to the faintly blushed margin.

Mps Adele was also illustrated with two clones, one pink with a white picotee and on the lip a white area on the proximal half that has a black-red mask superimposed onto it. The other clone had white flowers, the petals had a large lilac flush on the proximal half and the lip had an almost black "dripping" mask. Lovely!

Mps Maui Spring 'Happy Valley' AM-AOS has a full, very flat white flower. The petals had a deep red overlay leaving a white picotee. The sepals had the proximal half flushed red. The lip had a light red overlay leaving a fairly wide picotee and on top of the flush was a small black-red mask with irregularly interrupted extensions that were outlined in white.

Mps Elle Ronis had full white flowers; the petals had a deep red dash along the mid-vein. The lip had a deep red mask with spider-leg like extensions!

Mps Tiger Wood is a new cross illustrated with a very colourful flower – perhaps a bit thin of substance, but the pale yellow flowers with the deep red overlay on the proximal half of the petals, light pink overlay on the rest of the petals resulting in peachy overtones. The lip has a ragged black mask and after leaving a band of yellow under the mask, the rest of the lip has a peachy-pink overlay!

Culture:

The genus requires the day-night temperature indicated for the species, even when in flask. The plants in flask will not proliferate, but grow properly if they get a day temperature of about 70-75F and a night temperature of about 60F. Miltoniopsis should never dry out. Do not over-pot the plants.

Re-Pot yearly! This is very important. Do it after flowering. Poul pots his plants in what he calls the “Mario”(Ferrusi) mix. It consists of sphagnum with Styrofoam chips, a little charcoal and a little bark. He puts Styrofoam chips in the bottom of his pots for drainage and air access. He pots into plastic pots, but may slip a clay pot over it for stability. In the wild this genus grows on moss in trees.

The type of fertilizer you use is not critical. He fertilizes every time he waters, using a Syphonex to meter the fertilizer. Victoria water is very soft. The pH is 7 and the hardness is 26 ppm. Toronto has a pH adjusted to close to 8 and its water contains about 150ppm. Maybe rain-water would be a better choice for Torontonians, or use very dilute fertilizer.

Use massive amounts of air movement! The native habitat is windy! Poul uses an evaporative cooler, because where he lives, near Victoria, he does not get the famous constant rain of BC!! He only gets 28 inches per year (Toronto gets about 20 inches per year). Poul adjusts his humidity to be between 50-70% in his greenhouse.

For flasking, Poul uses canning jars with metal lids that have a hole in them through which a stainless-steel tube packed with non-absorbent cotton batten is inserted. He injects seed, plus 3% hydrogen peroxide to sterilize the seed, using a syringe with a #18 needle through the tube, into sterile jars with medium already jelled on the bottom. The medium for compots is Pro-Mix and Styrofoam.

The biggest problem are spider mites! Poul uses Avid or Azimas (a neem oil derivative - look for it in hydroponic supply stores) to combat them. Eric Lee suggested adding sugar to the pesticide solution at the rate of one teaspoon of sugar to

one gallon of solution. The sugar attracts the mites and so they get killed more easily.

If you follow all this advice you should be able to copy Poul’s success as illustrated in the picture!



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COMING EVENTS

2013

Sept 28-29: [The Central Ontario Orchid Society](#), Cambridge
Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Road, Cambridge.

Oct 19-20: [Eastern Canada Orchid Society](#) at the Hotel Espresso
and Conference Center, 1005 rue Guy, in Downtown Montreal.
Phone 514-684-3904

October 26-27: [The Windsor Orchid Society](#) is pleased to
announce their first annual American Orchid Society (AOS)
Judged Show to be held at the Teutonia Club in Windsor, Ontario.
For additional information, please contact Ed Cott
(laelia@aol.com---519-252-7342).

November 2-3: [Fraser Valley Orchid Society](#) Show & Plant Sale
will be held at the George Preston Recreation Centre, 20699 42nd
Avenue, Langley, BC

Nov 9-10: [The Essex County Orchid Society](#) will be holding their
Orchid Show and Sale at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, 1550 Road
3 E. Ruthven, ON. Admission is free. We will have vendors,
Artistic Designs Displays by vendors and members and also an Art
component. Ribbon Judging will take place with many special
awards to be won. Free talks and demonstrations. Show Chair,
Robert Morden, rmorden@cogeco.ca and Co-Chair Juliette St.
Pierre, canadel@cogeco.ca

2014

Feb 8-9: [The Southern Ontario Orchid Society](#) The Annual SOOS
Orchid Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden, Edwards Gardens.

March 1-2: [Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens](#) 680
Plains Rd., Burlington

Get your show dates, with details, to the COC editor.



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COCnews

The purpose of COCnews is to inform members of the meetings, policies of the COC, to profile members, and to provide technical information regarding happenings, trends and techniques in orchid cultivation across the country and around the world.

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. Deadline for each issue is one month before the issue dates previously announced.

Recipients of this newsletter are strongly urged to pass a copy on to other members of their society.

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