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Unusual orchids on show at the EOCCE

RUDOLF JENNY seeks out the best of the rarely seen species and hybrids exhibited at the European Orchid Council's Conference & Exhibition in Paris, in March 2018

MORE THAN 30 orchid nurseries exhibited at the European Orchid Council Congresss and Exhibition (EOCCE) in Paris. They brought their prized plants from nurseries all around the world for display and judging, and so did the members of many Orchid Societies from across Europe. There were a great many outstanding plants, these are my highlights.

1 *Dendrobium* **Mtn's Butterfly Kisses**

A new hybrid registered in November 2017, between *D. cuthbertsonii* and *D. sulawesiense*. This was exhibited by Danish nursery Hans Christiansen. *Dendrobium sulawesiense*, one of the parents, is now considered a synonym of *D. glomeratum*. The relatively large flowers are pale orange when they open, then once fully open, they become white with a rose pink touch.

2 *Sarcoglottis sceptrodes*

The genus *Sarcoglottis* was described in 1827 by Karel Borivoj Presl, and today it includes about 50 species, most of them terrestrials. *Sarcoglottis sceptrodes* is found in Central America and Mexico. It is easy to grow and is one of the very few species of this genus in cultivation. It was displayed by Akerne Orchids from Belgium.

HG Reichenbach originally described it in 1855 in the journal *Bonplandia* as *Spiranthes sceptrodes*. Rudolf Schlechter recombined Reichenbach's taxon in 1920 to *Sarcoglottis sceptrodes*.

3 *Miltonia kayasimae*

This plant was shown by L'Amazone Orchidées nursery from Belgium. The species was described in 1976 by Guido FJ Pabst in *Bradea*. The plant was collected by Masujo Kayasima

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in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The species grows at altitudes of around 900m, as a small-sized epiphyte, and the flowers measure 3.5 to 5cm across. *Miltonia kayasimae* is closely related to *M. russelliana* but is very seldom seen in cultivation.

In 1997, Karlheinz Senghas and Emil Lückel moved *M. kayasimae*, with the allied species *M. cuneata* and *M. russelliana* to the genus *Anneliesia*. Following *Genera Orchidacearum*, the genus *Anneliesia*, described in 1983, is considered a synonym of *Miltonia*.

4 *Acineta moorei* (syn. *A. brubyana*)

The species in the genus *Acineta* are difficult to distinguish without having living flowers at hand, allowing one to remove sepals and petals to see the form of the lip and callus. The flowers do not open entirely, sepals and petals cover the column and lip and the colour is not a very reliable criterion. Most probably, the plant exhibited in Paris, by La Canopée Orchidées nursery, France, as *Acineta moorei* represents *Acineta brubyana*, of which *A. moorei* is a synonym.

Rolfe published the description and drawing of *Acineta moorei* in 1911 in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. The plant was imported by Sander and purchased in 1903 by Glasnevin Botanical Garden, Dublin. Rolfe dedicated it to Sir Frederick William Moore, curator of the garden. *Acineta brubyana*, described in 1882 by HG Reichenbach, is dedicated to Baron Theodor Karel Josef Hruby y Gelenj (1826–1914), of the Petschkau (Pecky) Castle in Bohemia. Hruby assembled the largest and most important collection of orchids in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of the 19th century.

5 *Dendrobium linawianum*

This very showy *Dendrobium* was displayed by the French nursery L'Orchidium. This species is found in China, and northern Taiwan and it was described as *D. linawianum* by HG Reichenbach in 1861, in Walpers' *Annales Botanices Systematicae*. It is possible that it was already named, in 1838, by Constantine Samuel Rafinesque in his *Flora Telluriana* as *Ormostema purpurea*, but the accepted name is *Dendrobium linawianum* Rchb.f.

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6 *Vanda luzonica*

This species of *Vanda* is seldom seen in cultivation. It was exhibited by one of the Italian orchid societies, the Associazione Italiana di Orchidologia. The species is endemic to the island of Luzon, in the Philippines, where it grows as an epiphyte in the lower hills of central Luzon. It was collected by August Loher in 1905, in 1906 Loher sent dried material, photographs and drawings – named as *Vanda luzonica* – to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Robert Allen Rolfe published the first description of the species in 1915 in *The Orchid Review*.

However, Loher was not the first to collect the species. It is known that it was in cultivation before 1915, and the epithet *luzonica* was known and used before Rolfe published the formal description. The Botanical Garden Erlangen, Germany, had living plants of *Vanda luzonica* before 1905 and the nursery of Carl Friedrich Karthaus in Potsdam, Germany, had imported several plants directly from Loher from the Philippines in 1911.

Vanda luzonica is rather variable in colour and there are plants in ➤

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cultivation with pure white flowers and others with heavy markings in shades from pink to purple to red.

7 *Cymbidium madidum*

In Europe we seldom have the pleasure of seeing such an exceptionally well grown and large specimen of the Australian species *Cymbidium madidum*. The plant was exhibited by French nursery La Cour Des Orchidées, and had more than 10 inflorescences with so many flowers I did not try to count them.

Cymbidium madidum was described by John Lindley in 1840 in *Edwards's Botanical Register*. It was originally imported by William Rollison & Sons nursery, Tooting, England. The species has been described several times under different names – no less than 5 heterotypic synonyms are known, *C. albuciflorum, C. iridifolium, C. leae, C. leroyi* and *C. queeneanum*.

8 *Acanthephippium sylhetense*

The genus *Acanthephippium* was described by Carl Ludwig Blume in 1825, in *Bijdragen tot de Flora van Nederlandsch Indie*. The name is given for the form of the lip and is the combination of two Greek words, *acantha* (thorn) and *ephippion* (saddle). Blume, in his 1825 description, made an orthographic error and misspelt

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the genus name as *Acanthophippium*, but in 1828 he corrected it to *Acanthephippium*, in his *Flora Javae*.

Today the genus includes 10 to 13 species. *Acanthephippium sylhetense* was exhibited by the German nursery Orchideengarten Karge. The species was described in 1831 by John Lindley in his *Genera & Species of Orchidaceous Plants*. It is named after the Sylhet mountains in India and Bangladesh, and is found through the northeastern Himalayas at altitudes of 600 to 1,300m, and across the region from Sikkim to the Phillipines and Japan. The plants grow terrestrially, and cannot be distinguished vegetatively from other species in the genus. They can be identified by examining the morphology and structure of the, usually invisible, lip – it is only visible once you cut open the flowers and remove the sepals and petals.

9 *Paphiopedilum wentworthianum*

This species was described by Jack Fowlie and Gustav Schoser in 1968 in *Orchid Digest*. The first plants were collected by Clayton B Wentworth on the island of Bougainville. George Hermon Slade published a first report about a new *Paphiopedilum* from Bougainville in 1961, and the first illustration was published in 1965 by Fowlie in *Orchid Digest*, erroneously identified as *Paphiopedilum violascens*. *Paphiopedilum wentworthianum* is only found on the Solomon Islands, and is not common in cultivation. This plant was displayed on the exhibit by one of the Italian orchid societies, the Associazione Italiana di Orchidologia.

10 *Coelogyne pulchella*

This plant was also exhibited by the German nursey Orchideengarten Karge. The species was described by Robert Allen Rolfe in 1898, in *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)*. For a long time,

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this species was a rarity in cultivation, but at this show several different exhibitors had it. *Coelogyne pulchella* is distributed in Myanmar (Burma) and in Yunnan, China. It grows as a small epiphyte, on forest trees, and has flowers that measure 2–3cm across.

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11 *Pomatocalpa undulatum*

This species was also originally collected in the Sylhet mountains of India and Bangladesh. It was listed by Nathaniel Wallich in his Catalogue of the collection of the British East India Company (the Wallich Catalogue) and described in 1833 by John Lindley as *Saccolabium undulatum* in his *Genera & Species of Orchidaceous Plants*. HG Reichenbach recombined Lindley's taxon in 1872 to *Cleisostoma undulatum*. It was moved in 1891 to *Gastrochilus*, as *G. undulatus*, by Kuntze. Then, finally, in 1912, Johan Jacob Smith recombined the taxon as *Pomatocalpa undulatum*.

The species grows as a small epiphyte and the short, multiflowered inflorescences are barely visible underneath the leaves. *Pomatocalpa undulatum* is seldom seen in cultivation, and was exhibited by one of the Italian orchid societies, Federazione Italiana Orchidee.

12 *Coelogyne fragrans*

This plant was exhibited by German nursery Asendorfer Orchideenzucht, as a new species, from Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea. However, based on the habit of the plant and the morphology of the flowers, it is most probably an albino variant of *Coelogyne fragrans*. Albino variants are known in some members of the *Coelogyne* genus, such as *C. cristata*, but they are not often seen.

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13 *Paphiopedilum* Winnianum

The collection of the Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris, is rich in old *Paphiopedilum* hybrids, and many rarely seen orchids were shown on their exhibit. Although this plant was labelled *Paphiopedilum* Winnianum, it was probably the species *P. villosum*. *Paphiopedilum* Winnianum is a hybrid made by the Royal Exotic Nursery of Messrs J Veitch & Sons, England. The cross was between *P. druryi* and *P. villosum*, and was described as *Cypripedium* Winnianum in 1886, by HG Reichenbach in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. Sir Harry Veitch proposed the name of the hybrid after orchid enthusiast Charles Winn of Birmingham. Many of the old hybrids have disappeared from most of the collections and are only occasionally seen today.

14 *Paphiopedilum* Zollingeri

Another almost forgotten hybrid displayed by the Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris, is *Paphiopedilum* Zollingeri. The parents of this hybrid are *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* and *P. victoria-regina*. It was registered in 1903, by Ernst Heinrich Zollinger-Jenny, from Zürich, Switzerland. Ernst was a chemist, and had a private orchid collection. He was born in 1857 and had a company in Zürich. *Dendrobium jennyanum* Kränzlin is dedicated to him, or to his wife. Curious about his name, I checked, but Ernst is not a relative of mine. ■

RUDOLF JENNY is Secretary General of the European Orchid Council. He maintains BibliOrchidea the world's largest, and free, database of orchid literature. He has written more than 500 articles and six books, most recently a *Paphinia* monograph

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