



Next Meeting: 18 November 2012
Canadian Mennonite University, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd.
(SW corner of Shaftesbury Blvd. and Grant Avenue)
General Meeting: Conference Room,
Novice Meeting: Room C09

Novice Programme

Vermicomposting and its applications
for orchid growing with MOS member
Dave Moran.

Starts at 1:00PM

Regular Programme

C.O.C. power point presentation
'Orchid Pests and Diseases'

Starts at 2:00PM

Plant sales by members are encouraged.

Bring Plants for Show & Tell

Goodies will be provided by Sylvia Cahill, Neil Dunham, Harvey Keselman, and Darlene Stack.

Website: <http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca>
Executive email: president@manitobaorchidsociety.ca
Newsletter email: newsletter@manitobaorchidsociety.ca

Submission deadline 22 November 2012 for December 2012 Issue



November 18: Novice Programme: Dave Moran will discuss vermicomposting and how he uses it in his orchid culture.
Regular Programme: “Orchid Pests & Diseases”, a power point presentation created by Marilyn Light.

December 9: Christmas Party Potluck. Starts at 3:00 P.M.

Mentorship Program

The Manitoba Orchid Society is fortunate to have a number of members with a wealth of orchid knowledge. Four such, Lorne Heshka, Denise Fortier, Neil Dunham and Jim Gillespie have agreed to act as mentors to newer members who have questions on general orchid culture. They will certainly try to answer your orchid culture-related questions. I encourage all to phone or approach them at the monthly meetings with your questions.

Hearts & Flowers

If you hear of any good/bad news regarding members or their families, please call Phyllis McCaskill and let her know.



To Fraser Cameron, Diane Tolgyessy, Joan Heshka, Dave Moran & Harvey Keseleman for conducting our annual auction. About 75 plants changed caregivers.
 To Rob Kato & Caroline Lenover for their donations of a light and books, respectively, to the auction.



The Executive encourages all members to provide feedback, comments, suggestions by filling out a comment sheet available from the Secretary at all General Meetings.

All signed comment sheets should be returned to any member of the Executive. They will be reviewed at the next Executive Meeting and you will be informed of follow-up action taken.

2011/2012 Executive

Elected

- President Harvey Keselman
- Past President Dave Moran
- 1st V.P. Kevin Duerksen
- 2nd V.P./Show Chair Lorne Heshka
- Treasurer Fraser Cameron
- Secretary Phyllis McCaskill

Appointed

- Membership Gary Jaworski
- Social Eva Slavicek
- Public Relations Wendy Chaytor
- Special Orders Darlene Stack
- AOS/COC Rep Kyle Lucyk
- Library Ewa Kurnicka
- Newsletter Robert Parsons
- Webmaster Gary Jaworski

Miniature Angraecoids

By Thomas Mirenda

Theme and Variations to
Delight the Orchid Enthusiast

When Mozart penned his delightful and beloved *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, it's safe to say that the miniature angraecoids of Africa were far from his mind. Indeed, probably no one in 1787 Vienna, save the most intrepid of world travelers, had likely seen one.



Above: *Podangis dactyloceras* is unique among angraecoids with its foot-shaped spurcomplete with "toes" and its corymbose inflorescence. Grower: Smithsonian Institution. Photos © James Osen

Right: *Angraecum distichum* is easily propagated and blooms frequently throughout the year. Grower: Smithsonian Institution.



Yet, this perfectly constructed piece evokes vivid images of the dance between tiny insects and perfectly adapted flowers that occurs nightly in tropical Africa. While there is still much to discover about these symbiotic relationships, virtually all of these species with their pale colors, nectar spurs and nighttime fragrances are being courted by night flying insects to the soundtrack of a chorus of crickets, the babbling of streams and the rustling of leaves and branches in the riparian woodlands where most of these miniature plants thrive.

Primarily twig epiphytes, these miniatures often grow at the edges of streams where there is likely to be greater shade, higher humidity, excellent air movement and ubiquitous water, all clues to their successful cultivation. These monopodial orchids are related to the better-known vandaceous orchids and often look superficially like a *Vanda* in the case of *Angraecum* and *Oeoniella*, and *Phalaenopsis* in the case of *Aerangis* and *Mystacidium*. All these variations on a theme are reflective of the incredible diversity of insect life and orchids' ability to adapt to and utilize the needs and behaviours of specific insects to their own ends.



Aerangis luteoalba var. *rhodosticta* 'Fishing Creek' AM/AOS, with its brilliant red column, may be one of the few angraecoids with a daytime pollinator. Grower: Stephen & Geraldine Male.

Photo: Maurice Marietti

Angraecum, a large genus of more than 200 species, encompasses some of the most compelling subjects for cultivation, including the world famous *Angraecum sesquipedale* of Darwinian fame.

But for the species grower, some of the miniature angraecums are equally compelling, often making up for their diminutive size with greater floriferousness, novelty of habit or proportionally enormous flowers.

Angraecum distichum, widely distributed throughout much of Central Africa, distinguishes itself with its tightly imbricating, triangular, glossy leaves from which regularly erupt flushes of fragrant crystalline blooms in profusion. Its clumping, branching and root-forming habits allow this plant to be easily propagated.

Other worthy miniatures in this genus include the creeping *Angraecum cultriforme* and *Angraecum germinyanum* and the amazing *Angraecum didieri* and *Angraecum elephantinum*, both with remarkably large flowers in proportion to their plant sizes.



Above left: The brilliant orange florets of *Microterangis hildebrandtii* peek from under glossy *Phalaenopsis-like* leaves. Grower: Smithsonian Institution.

Above right: *Microterangis hariatiana* 'Waterford' CCE/AOS, can be grown into an exceptional specimen. Grower: Bayard Saraduke. Photos © Maurice Marietti

No discussion of such plants would be complete without mentioning the genus *Aerangis*.

More resembling the familiar *Phalaenopsis* than *Angraecum*, these floriferous epiphytes dazzle with their interesting birds-in-flight shapes and some unusual colors. Perhaps the most famous and popular species is *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta*, notable for its brilliant red column, a feature that seems to be genetically dominant when used in hybrids.



Aerangis somalensis ranges from Ethiopia and Somalia to southern Africa. The clone 'Mitchell Park Domes', CHM/AOS, is shown. Grower: Mitchell Park Horticultural. Photo © Arnold Klehm

This column color implies that *Aerangis rhodosticta* may have evolved to attract a diurnal pollinator because red is virtually invisible in the dark. Another such example is *Aerangis citrata*, a lovely species that is readily available due to great success at seed propagation. If you look closely at the center of these flowers, you will often see a violet "flash," probably of a spectrum of light outside the capacity of humans to see clearly. But clearly it is visible to its pollinator, which, again, is likely to be diurnal. Other *Aerangis* species such as *Aerangis modesta*, *Aerangis distincta* and *Aerangis splendida*, often show pink and mauve in addition to having proportionally enormous flowers for their plant size.

Bonniera orrugata
'Zia los Ranchos'
CBR/OAS, differs
from most other
angraecoids by its lack
of a nectar spur.
Photo: © Karl Siegler



Contrastingly, with flowers that are exceedingly small, the related genus *Microterangis* has brilliant orangey flowers and is easily grown. *Microterangis hariotiana* and *Microterangis hildebrandtii* are two of the more readily available species in cultivation.

Other interesting miniature angraecoids include *Bonniera*, whose flowers lack a spur, indicating it clearly does not cater to a long-tongued insect; and the delightful genera *Bolusiella* and *Mystacidium*, its flowers so perfect and tiny as to defy description, are nonetheless captivating horticultural subjects.

The lovely *Oeoniella polystachys*, with its trumpet lip and deliciously fragrant blossoms, should be more widely cultivated, as should the widespread and easily grown monotypic genus *Podangis*. *Podangis dactyloceras* is highly recommended, with its unusual corymbose inflorescence of delicate melting snowflake like flowers, each with a contrasting bright green anther cap.

All of these variations on the angraecoid theme are elegant and fascinating additions to the species and miniature lover's collection. Actually, these are but a small sampling of yet another fascinating world within the universe of orchids. ♣

Thomas Miranda is the orchid collection specialist at the Smithsonian Institution. He is an AOS accredited judge.

Taken from the October 2012 Vol 34, #8 issue of the FVOS newsletter.

Minutes - Manitoba Orchid Society General Meeting October 21, 2012

Recorder: Phyllis McCaskill

1. Call to Order:

Our new President, Harvey Keselman, opened the meeting at 1:00p.m. and introduced himself to the members, giving a brief background of his qualifications for the position. In particular, he indicated that he had been Head of the Psychology Department at The University of Manitoba for five years and thus had experience governing a large group of persons and he chaired an Executive Committee and was involved with many committee chairs. Thus, he hoped that the MOS membership would feel comfortable with his assuming the role of President.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

Motion by Rob Kato to accept the minutes of the last meeting; seconded by Irene Landry; carried.

3. Financial report: - Fraser Cameron

Fraser Cameron went over the financial report to the end of September and moved we accept this report; seconded by Dave Moran; carried.

Fraser went over the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget and moved we accept this report; seconded by Dave Moran; carried.

The report from the accountant was made available to the membership.

4. Programs: - Kevin Duerksen:

The November program will be announced in the newsletter.

December 9th is our pot luck supper.

The January program will have Marilyn Light as a speaker.

5. Show Report – Lorne Heshka – absent

Harvey indicated that the show committee met with the APC personnel to work on a show contract. He noted that there are still a few details to be worked out so nothing is signed yet.

It was also noted that we need someone to do the auction for the banquet.

The show committee is also looking for a show chair for next year. This person would work with Lorne this year to become familiar with the procedure, which should make it attractive for MOS members to take on this role. Any volunteers please contact the show committee and/or Harvey.

6. AOS/COC Representative: - Kyle Lucyk -absent

7. Hospitality: - Eva Slavicek –

Eva thanked everyone for the baking for coffee break.

Volunteers to bring goodies for the November meeting are: Sylvia Cahill, Neil Dunham, Harvey Keselman, and Darlene Stack.

8. Library: Ewa Kurnicka - No report

9. Public Relations: Wendy Chaytor – Absent

10. Membership: - Gary Jaworski

Gary indicated that there are 90 members.

11. Special Orders: - Darlene Stack - No report

12. Newsletter: - Rob Parsons - No report

13. Webmaster – Gary Jaworski

Gary indicated that the website is up and running and that members should have a look.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Rob Parsons @1:15 p.m.

We held our annual auction with Dave Moran and Harvey Keselman as auctioneers.

Note: Minutes of the Executive Meetings are available to be picked up at General Meetings on request from the Secretary.