



WELLINGTON

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# EPIFLORA

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Volume 5, number 2

May 1996

## Table of Contents.

The President's Page . . . . .	page 2
The Programme for 1996 . . . . .	page 3
News about People: . . . . .	page 3
Of Fertilisers and Pots and other things .. . . .	page 3
Schlumbergeras . . . . .	page 4
Hoya confusion. . . . .	page 5
Hoya micrantha - illustration. . . . .	page 6
Hoya Habitats. . . . .	page 7
LIBRARY LIST - March 1996 . . . . .	page 9

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WELLINGTON 3. NZ.*

*Closing dates for contributions:*

*Spring Edition - 19th August  
Summer Edition - 18th November.*

## The President's Page

Dear Fellow Epiphyte Lovers

As the temperatures drop and the days are shorter this becomes the time when we are less inclined to tend our plants but it is also the time when, unexpectedly, a plant or leaf may rot off very quickly. I do hope that you are on schedule with your pruning programme for the year and that winter will be kind to all your plants. Winter may deter us from lingering amongst our plants but it is the season for Schlumbergeras. To bring plants up to the lounge enables them to be admired for they certainly deserve to be shown off when they are blooming their hearts out.

Since writing in the last *Epiflora* Roy and I have been in the Middle East for a month. Israel, Jordan and Syria are predominantly desert environments; but, from time to time, we saw the odd cultivated epiphyte. Imagine our delight at seeing an *Epiphyllum oxypetalum* in the hotel foyer in Jerusalem, another *Epiphyllum* in Damascus, flowering Schlumbergeras in a remote village in Israel and a Hoya on the "Via Dolorosa". None of the plants were in particularly good condition but we were amazed that people in these countries also share our interest.

In mid-May we accepted an invitation from Capital City Orchid Society to stage a display at their annual show. Thanks to all those who assisted in the show. The venue, Johnsonville Community Centre, was a popular one and a great number of people admired our display. Lets hope that this will translate into new members.

With this edition you will receive a questionnaire. Please spend a few minutes completing it and then either post it back to the Editor or give it to Roy at the next meeting. The committee are keen to ensure that our meetings and the magazine are providing you with what you require from the society. If you are unable to attend meetings we are still very keen to hear your views of *Epiflora* and what type of articles you would find most useful.

In the meantime keep warm and remember to protect your frost tender plants over the next few weeks.

Kind regards



Jane L Griffith

## The Programme for 1996

*Meetings are at Johnsonville Union Church  
(Dr. Taylor Terrace) and start at 2.00.  
Library books etc. are available at 1.30 pm.*

June 8th.	"learning more about your plants" - sources of information and how to use them
July 13th.	Schlumbergeras - care and culture
August 10th.	Bugs and pests - a discussion on how to deal with them
September 14th.	Propagation techniques
October 12th.	Report from China
November 9th.	Visits to collections
December 14th.	AGM and Christmas function

## News about People:

**Congratulations:** - to those who are now back on their feet:

Dianne O'Neill who has now recovered from her broken ankle.

Ngairé Falconer - who is recovering from surgery; Max is currently head cook, bottle-washer and errand boy!

## Of Fertilisers and Pots and other things ..

Jenny Askwith reminds us that, in addition to the usual range of fertilisers and pots available for sale at our meetings, there are now supplies of a new fertiliser "Peter's Blossom Booster", as it's name suggests, this is a low nitrogen fertiliser - and Morris Tarr has been singing its praises for the last two seasons. As with all products the society buys in bulk - the price is considerably less than you pay in shops or garden centres. Visit the sales table - your purse will thank you.

## Schlumbergeras

### Von Cross

Schlumbergeras do not like to be overwatered. Use a good open mix, water thoroughly and allow to dry between waterings. Fertilise using about half-strength liquid or slow-release pellets and discontinue about Christmas. This encourages the plant to mature existing segments and produce flowers.

A cool, shaded, well-ventilated position in summer is preferred. A shade-house in, or under a tree is ideal. This automatically provides the environment to initiate flower buds about March. Being "short-day" bloomers, they require 12-14 hours of darkness and benefit from being placed where day-night temperatures vary by about 10 degrees.

Plants should be moved to their permanent flowering positions about four weeks after buds appear. Whites and yellows need warmth and some shade to retain good colour. A plant of the beautiful white "Bridgeport" grown in ideal conditions bears no resemblance to one grown too cool. On the other hand, the deeper orange/apricot colours appear to intensify when grown cooler.



## Hoya confusion.

Von Cross

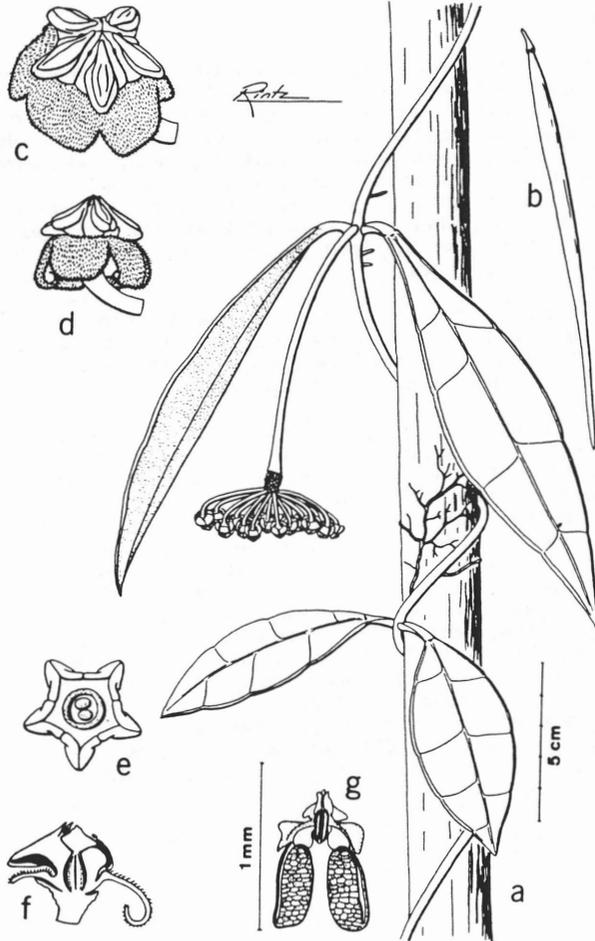
Worldwide there is still much confusion about the identification of some species. However in the last decade or so a number of dedicated people have made real efforts to resolve this. Consequently we receive a steady stream of name changes; some because of incorrect identification, many because the same species has been published by different people as new when, in fact, there has been an earlier publication of that species. Hardly surprising when we remember that some of the species were published nearly two hundred years ago and many more at least one hundred years ago.

Probably none of this will bother the collector who has just a few plants for his or her own enjoyment but, if purchasing or selling, it may be advisable to check the society's copies of "*Fraterna*" for up to date information.

This article was going to be about the habitats of some of the species readily available in New Zealand but the position is even further confused here. Whilst *H. "carnosa"* and variations thereof and *H "bella"* have been around for many years, the greater majority now available here were imported fifteen to twenty years ago when correct identification was very inaccurate to say the least. For instance, a plant distributed (and even displayed in a public conservatory) as *H. "imperialis"* is, in fact, *H "globulosa"* and their habitats could not be more different. Another species, which I believe came here from England, was labelled *H. "lacunosa"*. I do not know if anyone has correctly identified it yet, but *H. "lacunosa"* it is not! *H. "serpens"* has been sold as *H. "engleriana"* or *H. "minima"* which apparently was a common mistake even in U.S.A. We have instances of species being imported from different sources under several different names or numbers when, in fact, they are the same - and so it goes on.

Confused? Believe me - you are not alone.

**Hoya micrantha- illustration.**



- a. habit
- b. fruit
- c. flower in top view
- d. flower in side view
- e. corona, bottom view
- f. flower in median section
- g. twin pollinia

From Rintz 87

## Hoya Habitats.

### Von Cross

Knowledge of a species' native habitat may assist when deciding whether to grow it in our own environment. Unfortunately not a lot of detailed information is available. The following species are native to the Asian continent. Please note - only species which I know to be commercially available in New Zealand are included; there are many, many more.

### CHINA

The H. "carnosa" group including H. "motoskei" and H. "fungii". These would be the hardiest of all hoyas and tolerate quite cool conditions.

### BURMA, INDIA, NEPAL, SIKKIM, BHUTAN

Included in this group are probably the next hardiest species. While much of these territories lies between 15 and 30 degrees north of the Equator, they also contain high mountainous regions which are cooled by Monsoon winds and rain and it is in the rainforests in the foothills of these areas that hoyas grow. Many are small-leaved species and should never be allowed to dry out completely. H. "bella" (Burma), H. "lanceolata", H. "obanceolata", H. "shepherdii", H. "acuta" (widespread in many areas and the latest to have a name change being now known as H. "verticillata"), H. "micrantha" (southern Burma and northern Thailand), H. "linearis" (Nepal, between 3000 and 6000 feet), H. "arnottiana" (Nepal, between 1000 and 3000 feet), H. "bhutanica" (dense forest areas), H. "globulosa" (Sikkim), H. "serpens" (Sikkim, under-storey creeper), H. "polyneura" (3000 to 5000 feet), H. "pauciflora" (south west India, Sri Lanka, on boulders or trees in low mountainous areas).

### THAILAND, LAOS.

H. "nummularioides" formerly known as H. "pubera", not much information as to its precise habitat is available, H. "kerrii", extremely strong grower found near Chiang Mai in north Thailand, also other parts of Indo-China, H. "subquintuplinervis" (the former H. "Chiang Mai").

Louis Trap, 1924 - 1996

Those who have visited Louis while in Auckland and who admired the magnificent collection of cacti, ceropegias and other plants will be saddened at the news of his recent death. Louis was greatly respected by those who knew him and will be missed in horticultural circles; just two or three weeks ago he received an award for his work in the field of tree cropping - which delighted him. We extend our sympathy and good wishes to Noni and other members of his family.

**LIBRARY LIST - March 1996.**

About the Genera Schlumbergera and Zygocactus

Dr Alberto Loeffgren, Spiral bound monograph (14pp).  
Detailed descriptions including 2pp illustrations

Arnold Books - Catalogue

Listing (47pp) of over 900 books and journals covering gardening subjects ranging from alpiners, cacti, trees and shrubs etc. to landscaping.

Articles - various

two volumes of plastic pocket folders containing articles of interest.

Asklepios - Volumes 62 to 65.

Journal of the International Asclepiad Society. Very detailed articles on a range of asclepiads including Ceropegia. Line drawings and coloured photographs are exceptional.

Botany: An Introduction to Plant Biology, 5th Edition.

Weier, Stocking and Barbour. A good basic text (693pp) on Botany (donated by Andrew Flower).

Bromeliads

Royal Horticultural Society, One of the well known Wisley handbooks. 64pp with many coloured photographs.

Ceropegia, Brachystelma and Riocreuxia in Southern Africa.

R. Allen Dyer. Indispensable hardback (242pp) for growers of Ceropegia. Numerous line drawings, coloured drawings and black and white photographs.

Dinteria No. 17.

Ceropegia and Brachystelma in South West Africa. Articles, coloured and black and white photographs and line drawings. (84pp).

Ellerslie Flower Show Programme - 1995

***Epiflora***

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EPIFLORA

Journal of the Wellington Epiphyllum and Hoya Society

EPIG.

Epi-Gram.

Journal of the Epiphytic Cacti and Hoya Society of Australia Inc. Ringbinder of quarterly issues from Volume 7 no 2 December 1992. Articles, show reports, plant of the season.

Epi News

Journal of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society Inc. Ringbinder of monthly issues, starting in 1992. Covers from 1993 have a coloured photograph of an Epiphyllum.

Epiphyllum.

Marga Leue. Hardback containing magnificent Epiphyllum photographs. German and English text.

Epiphyllum Basics.

Sean Minogue. Spiral bound monograph covering: starting a collection, growing, feeding, pests, hybridising, etc. Line drawings and black and white photographs.

Epiphyllum Handbook.

Scott E Haselton. Soft cover book covering all aspects of growing epiphyllums. Numerous black and white photographs and detailed botanical descriptions. (231pp).

Epiphytes - Issues 65 to 72

Journal of the Epiphytic Plant Study Group of the UK.

Fraterna.

Official Bulletin for the International Hoya Association. Ringbinder of quarterly issues. Coloured photographs on the cover and illustrating some articles. Contains a wealth of useful information for the dedicated Hoya grower with technical and scientific information, round robin, question and answer and discussion articles.

Growing Under Glass.

**Kenneth A Beckett.** Covers greenhouse and alpine house construction, equipment and use for growing various types of plants. Part of the Royal Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of practical Gardening (96pp).

Hill n' Dale Nursery Catalogue.

**Fresno, California.** Hoya catalogue listing varieties with useful descriptions, some photographs and a page of books available. (16pp).

Hoya in Australia.

**P I Forster (Ed).** Botanical descriptions with numerous line drawings and two pages on hoya cultivation in Southern Queensland. (49pp).

International Hoya Association.

Two volumes of coloured photographs of hoyas. Donated by Ann Wayman.

Newsletter - Issues 27 to 42.

**Auckland Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.** Ringbinder containing the quarterly issues. Cover has coloured photograph. Line drawings illustrate articles.

Philippine Hoya Species.

**Dale Kloppenburg.** Spiral bound monograph containing descriptions and numerous line drawings of 31 Hoyas and a page of coloured photographs. (103pp).

Rainbow Gardens Bookshop Catalogue - 1993 and 1994.

List of books on Cacti, Epiphyllums, Bromelids, Hoyas etc.

Rhipsalis Drawings.

**Constance Cole.** Line drawings (53pp)

Schlumbergera.

**John F Horobin.** 1985. Spiral bound monograph giving details of original cultivars and some modern hybrids (11pp).

The Bulletin - Nov/Dec 1992 to present.

**Journal of the Epiphyllum Society of America.** Bimonthly to the end of 1995 and now quarterly. Cover has coloured

photograph. Contains articles, show results, newsy items and a valuable listing: "The Directory of Epyphyllum Hybrids" with detailed descriptions of new hybrids and their breeding.

The Epiphyllon - Issues 1 to 16.

**Journal of the Epiphytic Cactaceae - Asclepiadaceae Society of Australia.** Articles, featured plants with line drawings and some coloured photographs.

The Growth of Plants.

**G E Fogg.** Paperback written by a Professor of Botany this book contains an explanation of photosynthesis and other processes, formation of roots, leaves and flowers, and the relationships between plants and their surroundings. (288pp).

The Epigram - Issues.

**Journal of the South Bay Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.** Editor is Dick Kohlshreiber, ringbinder.

The Hoya Handbook - A Guide for the Grower and Collector.

**Dale Kloppenburg with Ann Wayman.** Hardback, (150pp) this is the Hoya book you must read. Beautifully illustrated with coloured photographs.

The Peninsular Malaysian Species of Hoya - Volume 30 (1978)

**R E Ritz.** Spiral bound monograph with detailed descriptions of 25 Malaysian Hoyas with line drawings. (55pp).

Whitestone 1995 Catalogue.

Wellington Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.

Photograph album containing photographs of show displays and club members at shows, dinners and visits to collections.



