EPIFLORA

Volume 12 No. 3

September 2003

WELLINGTON

EPIFLORA

Volume 12 No. 3 **September 2003**

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From the President

Dear fellow epiphyte growers

Today is known as the first day of spring. I am not sure that this is guaranteed to cause an immediate and permanent improvement in the weather however it does give a small lift to ones spirits. Certainly things are getting warmer (as evidence of that I note that the power consumption in our plastic house is steadily reducing). However we will not be turning off the heaters and leaving the door wide open just yet.

As is reported elsewhere in this issue, the Auckland Epiphyllum and Hoya Society has decided to close. The Auckland Society has been in existence for over 19 years and some of its members have, over the years, contributed greatly to our hobby by being involved in the importation of new varieties and publishing knowledgeable and informative articles on the care, culture and origins of our plants.

It seems to me that the strength of our society depends greatly on the quality of the monthly programmes, and therefore on the knowledge and commitment of those who prepare talks and write articles for us. At our next meeting your committee will be working to plan the programme of meetings for the coming year. It is vital that we prepare a programme that we all will find stimulating and interesting. Please help us do this by thinking of topics you would really like to see included - and please pass on your ideas to any member of the committee.

This next weekend (5th/6th September) our society will stage a small display at the Kapiti Horticultural Society Spring Show. No matter how big or small the display - there is always a need for volunteers to assist with creating the display, provide plants and photographs - and to be there when the show is open to the public to answer questions and encourage interest among those who come to the stand. Thank you, on behalf of the society, to all those who have volunteered to help in any way with this show.

Happy growing and kind regards

Roy Griffith

1st September 2003

The Programme for 2003

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

Those on duty are responsible for preparing the room, assisting with tea and tidying the room at the end of the meeting and bringing a plant or other item for the raffle. If for any reason you are unable to do your allocated duty please arrange for someone else to do it.

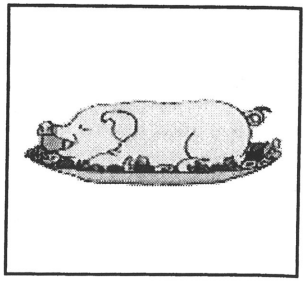
September 13th	**Rhipsalidopsis and Rhipsalis** On Duty: Mary Hardgrave, Penny Luckens, Lois Bond.
October 11th	**Workshop on Hoyas** On Duty: Dianne O'Neill, Isobel Barbery, Brian Read
November 8th	**Field trip to the Wairarapa**
December 13th	**AGM and Christmas Function** On Duty: Virginia Stead, Keith Greer, Alison Beeston

Lewis Struthers.

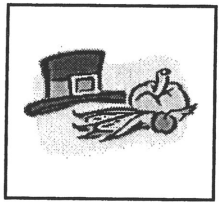
It is with sadness that we report the recent death of Lewis Struthers. He did not always attend our meetings as he was far too involved in other things - but those who got to know him found a person full of warmth, kindness and with a ready wit. We extend our deep sympathy and good wishes to Marion and her family.

The Midwinter Meeting.

Our July meeting is always just a little bit different. As well as a speaker - we have lunch together - and do other things to brighten up the mid-winter.It is always a good occasion - no matter how many manage to attend.. ***Alice Hannam*** *writes about this years event..*



Because of sickness and a number of members being away there were a larger than usual number of apologies tendered at the July meeting. Nevertheless those that attended enjoyed a delicious pot luck luncheon and heard Herman Kortink speak on aporophyllums and show slides of some of his beautiful flowers. In one slide two different coloured flowers were shown on one plant - a sport perhaps? Among the pictures were some of his own crossings, which were something to be proud of. Some of the flowers had narrow spidery petals while others had lovely rounded petals. Herman also showed us slides of some of his epicacti. It was interesting to hear that aporophyllums can be crossed with epiphyllums, using aporophyllums for pollen and the epiphyllum being the seed parent. If the seeds turn out brownish - they are not fertile. Now what would you call these crosses?



The competition was for a "Horticultural Hat" Some very interesting hats had been created and judging the best proved a challenge. The winner was adjudged to be Dianne O'Neill.

Care and Culture of Aporophyllums.

Those of us that missed hearing Herman speak at the July meeting will be glad that ***Penny Luckens*** *was there - and took careful notes.....*

Herman started off by talking about the mix that he uses for his aporophyllums. This is a standard cactus mix with the addition of extra compost of leaf mould. This leaf mould is composted in one of Herman's four cubic metre compost boxes for two years and then pushed through an old wire-woven mattress base. Hutt River sand is added to give a good open mix. The fertiliser he uses is the Warehouse pack of 10kg acid fertiliser for rhododendrons. He mixes three ten litre buckets of compost with one bucket of sand and adds 1 Brylcreem tub (one cup) of acid fertiliser to each ten litres of mix.

The aporophyllum plants are hung beneath polycarbonate sheeting in his tall glasshouse with the pots being two to three metres above the ground. At this height the temperature can rise to 40 degrees C. The watering system is semi-automatic which he adjusts manually.

Pruning is done at any time of the year when the older stems are seen to be drying up. These stems are cut back to about 2 cm from the base and usually two new shoots will grow from each stump. New stems start by growing upright and then become pendant as they grow longer.

Herman had brought several young seedling plants to show the variation in the stems; this was mainly in the amount and length of spines and the number of ribs. Some will produce spineless stems like epiphyllums. The German purists will not recognise plants with epi-type stems as aporophyllums, but Herman feels that as long as you know and record the parentage of such plants there is no problem.

When saving aporphyllum seed any brown seeds that float are usually not fertile, while the good seed is darker and sinks.

Flowering starts in August and continues until November. Aporophyllums should have smaller flowers than epicacti, and have many more flowers per stem. If they are allowed to dry out when in bud the flowers will not open properly or will fall off. When the days are warm in November the plants will need watering twice per week to make sure that the flowers will open properly. It takes eight to twelve years from seed to flowering. Herman uses aporophyllums as the seed parent and keeps careful notes of the crosses.

When taking cuttings Herman chooses vigorous, upright, dark green stems. He takes tip cuttings 5-6" (about 150mm) long, dips the cut ends in sulphur and leaves them for a couple of weeks (three weeks in winter). When it is time to plant the cuttings Herman part-fills pots with aporophyllum mix and then covers this with a layer of sand. The cuttings are placed on top and are left in a warm place (but not full sun). The small plants are watered with phostrogen, but when they are potted up into hanging pots they are put into the mix with added acid fertiliser.

Herman showed us a wide range of flowers and plants. Some of them had been bred in the USA, UK or Australia but many of them were his own named (and unnamed) seedlings. In general it seemed that larger flowers tended to last a shorter time than smaller flowers. A few varieties flower more than once a year. Some varieties do not open their flowers properly if the weather is too cool. Flowers vary in size, shape and colour.

All in all a very pleasant and informative ending to our midwinter lunch meeting. Thank you Herman.

Scoring an Epi.

*Earlier this year **Dick Kohlschreiber**, writing in Epigram (the excellent newsletter published by the South Bay Epiphyllum Society) talked about the concept of "scoring" epi flowers - as a means of deciding which are worthy - and which should not be kept. The concept seems particularly useful for new hybrids. As our flowering season approaches - it seems apposite to republish it here.*

A year ago, I published an idea for scoring epis, not only for the flower but for the entire plant. I received a lot of positive response to this idea but I never got a chance to follow through on it. In the last issue of EPIG, there was a brief paragraph written by Ule Haage, of Haage Nurseries in Germany, and he liked this idea so much that he's thinking of scoring the epis he offers in his catalogue and publishing that number in the catalogue.

Here is my score sheet as I published it last year:
FLOWER FORM – 20

- Positive attributes for form would be:
- Wide ruffled petals
- Multiple petals
- A round flower
- Faults: irregular form, a flower that is flat on one side

FLOWER COLOUR – 20

- Positive attributes for colour would be:
- Bright clear colour
- Shiny colour
- Faults: grey in the colour, dull or faded colour

FLOWER SUBSTANCE – 10

- Flowers should feel stiff and last for at least 3 days
- Faults: Flower is soft and only lasts for one day

The Horticultural Hats
photographs from the July meeting - taken by Penny Luckens

Hoyas in their Natural Habitat.

***Jane Griffith** writes about seeing hoya plants "in the wild" on a recent trip to Australia..*

In July Roy and I went on holiday to the rainforest area of Northern Queensland. Our reasons for choosing this area were threefold:

1. to escape for a while from the winter in the Wellington region
2. to see more of the birdlife of Queensland
3. to discover hoyas in their natural habitat

On all three accounts we were extremely successful. With temperatures between 25-30°C daily there was no dilemma about what to wear - shorts, Bob Charles shirts and sandals etc.

The bird life was magnificent - we saw over a hundred different species including the colourful Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Gouldian Finches and Sarus Cranes.

And as we quietly watched birds we became aware of hoyas trailing down from their epiphytic locations in the upper branches of native trees. We initially thought these hoyas to be *H. Nicholsoniae* but were interested to note that they were entitled *H. pottsii* in an environmental centre we visited. Research suggests that the two names are synonymous. What a thrill to see these waxy leaves with their prominent palmate veining - some leaves like our own plant of *H. Nicholsoniae* a reddy-purple and others where the vegetation was more dense were green. In July these hoyas are not in flower but at least we have seen them growing in the wild. Obviously a return trip in January-February is necessary!

Epiphytic Plants.

***Graham Smith** from Pukeiti came and spoke at our June meeting. His theme was epiphytic plants in general - and he illustrated what he had to say with a wonderful selection of slides. **Penny Luckens** reports:.*

Graham Smith started his talk by saying he had no slides of hoyas but he hoped to show us some epiphytic plants that we might not be familiar with. Some of the first epiphytes were ferns and mosses. Today's specimens are smaller than some of their ancestors, but they have all needed high humidity and moisture, along with clean air. Pukeiti has a range of ferns including the very thin filmy ferns (*Hymenophyllum sp.*)

The kiekie (*Freycinetia banksii*) clambers 40 to 50 feet up into the trees and may almost obscure their trunks. It is a relative of the many species of pandanus found through the

western Pacific region. The small flowers are borne on finger-like stalks at the tips of the stems. Each group of flower stalks is surrounded by white bracts with edible fleshy sugary bases. Before possums became so common these sweet bracts were regarded as a bush snack. The female flowers develop into orange-red edible fruits much relished by rats. With a reduction of possum numbers flowers and fruit are seen again on the kiekie. The leaves are used for Maori weaving of fine kete and on woven panels in meeting houses, once the sharply toothed edges have been removed.

Some of the world's largest original plants were the lichens. The acids they produced helped to break down rocks into small particles, and along with decaying plants helped to make the first soils. Encrusting and foliaceous species occur on rocks and plant stems. Mossy lichens act as saprophytes on old weak growth and help break down and recycle nutrients. When azaleas become heavily covered with mossy lichens it is time to cut them back heavily and fertilise them. They will then produce new clean shoots.

Pukeiti has five species of *Astelia*, four are epiphytic but *A. grandis* grows on the ground. *Corybas* orchids grow among the moss on both banks and tree fern stems, but are often overlooked as they are small and each plant has only one leaf and one flower. They flower in spring (September to November)

The tree daisy (*Brachyglottis kirkii*) in contrast to most members of the group, grows on large trees or on tree fern stems but not on the ground. Plants can be two metres tall and when covered in their white daisy flowers are often mistaken for clematis which flowers in the canopy at the same time (spring).

The Poor Knights Lily (*Xeronema callistemon*) grows on sunny rocks and other well-drained sites on the Poor Knights islands off the east coast of Northland. In cultivation use a coarse bark mix in a tub to give it free drainage.[1]

Well-known epiphytes in New Zealand are the ratas. Most start life as seedlings on tree trunks or tree-fern stems, with their shoots growing up to the light and their roots down to the ground. They are related to pohutukawa. *Metrosideros fulgens* has orange-red flowers usually, although one form has yellow flowers. The giant specimen of northern rata (*M. robusta*) was one of the few at Pukeiti to survive the milling of rimu in the 1920's when many ratas were taken for firewood. Others were eaten by possums, or as tall isolated trees, were struck by lightening. At present there are no mature rimus to be colonised by rata seedlings, although a rimu replanting programme is underway. Some rata seedlings are found in the stems of the slender mamaku (*Cyathea cunninghamii*). Eventually their roots will fuse together to form a

[1] See July 2003 "Growing Today", page 4.

pseudotrunk when the original support has died and rotted away.

Pleione orchids in Yunnan occur in the tree trunks and on rock faces usually near waterfalls, where moisture is plentiful but drainage is good. At Pukeiti they have been planted in a gritty bark mix surrounded by rocks in a raised bed.

Dendrobium speciosum is an Australian orchid photographed near Cairns. The related *D. falcorostrum* has been growing on a kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) and flowering regularly for forty years at Pukeiti. In New Guinea *D. cuthbertsoni* grows on tree fern stems. Its flowers range in colour from scarlet to yellow. Orchids are not confined to the low altitude tropics. At 10,000 feet on tree ferns above the frost level in a frost grassland in New Guinea *Pediculatus* orchids grow and flower. The tree fern stems are bare from ground level to the frost line which is about six feet up the trunk.

One of the most impressive displays of cultivated orchids is in the orchid house in Singapore. This contains a very extensive and well maintained tropical orchid collection. As a total contrast the next slide Graham showed was of a glaciated granite plateau on Mt Kinabalu in Borneo. Here in a bare landscape of cracked granite slabs at 4,500 m the only plants are confined to the narrow cracks and crevices. This is the home of *Rhododendron ericoides* – the rhododendron that looks like an erica or heath.

At the other extreme is *R. arboreum* which in the wild grows to a 50m tree with a well-defined trunk. This species usually is terrestrial (ground growing) but at Pukeiti seedlings are growing on tree fern stems. As epiphytes these plants are slower growing and more compact than seedlings growing in the ground, but specimens have flowered at ten years old.

A small leaved species *R. anagalliflorum* is found in New Guinea in an area where night and day are equal at all times of the year, and the climate has alternating dry and wet spells. In cultivation it should be grown in a basket, soaked at intervals and then allowed to dry out between waterings.

The red-flowered *R. beaneanum* is grown on mamaku stumps to give it good drainage and aeration of its roots. If you don't have a dead stump in the right place then you can dig a hole and drop in a length of mamaku trunk and then plant the rhododendron in the top. Another red-flowered species is *R burtii* which lives on high altitude rocks in Borneo. The flowers are covered with hairs, which is not usual in rhododendrons. A species with bicolour flowers is *R. christii* which is also epiphytic, growing on mossy tree trunks. The flower tubes are yellow and elongated while the petals are red.

The last place you would expect to find rhododendrons in the wild is in a five acre bog with slow-moving water, pitcher plants and hummocks of grass growing just above the water-line.

Growing on the grass hummocks with a long taproot going down to the gravel below the water is the red flowered *R. commoni.*

New Guinea has a species with white scented flowers (*R. carrii*) while another hybrid has 2½" red bells. *R crassifolium* from New Guinea has thick leathery flower buds and bright orange 'clivea-like' leaves. It grows on humus mounds at the base of trees.

We think of rhododendrons as spring flowering, but *R. dalhousiae* also known as the "pyjama rhodo" flowers in January. The flowers are white or cream with five red stripes running down from the base of the flower to the tips of the petals. In the wild it grows epiphytically high up in conifers and never on the ground.

Another, as yet unnamed species, with white flowers is found growing on the tops of one hundred foot high *Tsuga* trees. Contrasting with these is *R. dendrocharis* a small prostrate species growing on damp mossy boulders. It has deep pink flowers and grows in China near Mt. Emei.

The young growth of *R. holocynum*, an epiphyte on trees in Borneo, is covered by copper-bronze scales. This is to protect the new shoots from high levels of ultra-violet light. Scales or purple pigmentation on young growth both protect it from UV light. While epiphytes arrive to colonise already existing plants, including large trees, another climax vegetation *R. gracilentum* is a colonising species of bare banks and slips, which does not survive being overgrown by other later arrivals. Another colonising species is the cream-flowered *R. irroratum* found on rock faces rather than clay banks. Here the plant that moves in and then shades out the rhododendron is a species of birch. Other species may only grow in low light situations. *R. gervanicum borniense* grows as a spindly plant whose flowers take nine months to open.

The first vireya rhododendron brought into cultivation was *R. jasminiflorum*, which was collected in Malaya 150 years ago. It has trusses of five to eight scented, tubular, white flowers produced throughout the year. It makes a good basket plant. Another fragrant rhododendron is *R. fragrantissimum* (*R. edgeworthii* x *R. formosum*). One parent of this hybrid (*R. edgeworthii*) grows either on the top of *Tsuga dumosa* or on moss on limestone slabs. Rhododendrons have fine wind-dispersed seed.

Another species growing on clumps of wet moss is the dwarf species *R. campylogynum* with its small thimble-like flowers held above the prostrate foliage on long stalks. The flowers shown on the slide were plum coloured bells but this species may have red, purple, pink or white flowers.

Most rhododendrons have relatively large flowers in trusses but *R. emarginatum* has

fingernail sized yellow flowers borne singly. Behaviour in the wild may not always be reflected in cultivation. A New Guinea species *R. coneri* epiphytic on the tops of trees is known to flower every five years in habitat but flowers every year at Pukeiti. The big-leaf rhododendrons are not usually epiphytes and usually seedlings do not flower for many years, but a chance seedling on a rata log at Pukeiti flowered in twelve years from seed. Of three plants grown at Pukeiti from seed collected by Frank Kingdom Ward in 1953, two flowered first in 1974 and the other in 1990. Even before they flower they are magnificent foliage plants and some have brightly coloured bracts surrounding the new growth every year.

The white flowered *R. orbiculatum* from Mt. Kinabalu has leaves that clasp the stem and is a very good basket plant as is *R. rarum* a red-flowered plant from New Guinea which needs high humidity and has a thickened storage root but few fibrous roots. Another strange species from 4000m in New Guinea is the cushion plant *R. saxifragoides* which grows in bogs and has an anchoring tap root. Its flowers are held above the cushion of foliage, singly, on tall red stems. In cultivation it is grown in a basket that sits in an inch of water.

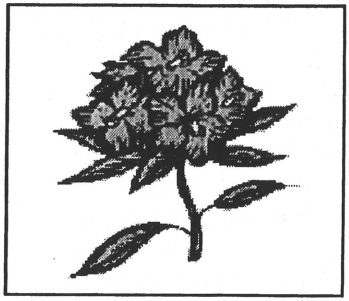
The orange flowered *R. stenophyllum* has narrow needle-like leaves that hang down. It also makes a good basket plant. A vireya rhododendron collected by Graham Smith in Papua New Guinea in 1983 is *R. superbum*. It has thick leaves, upright stems and large white flowers with red tubes and red veins forming a star in the centre of the flower. Unlike many rhododendrons it has a carnation scent. At Pukeiti most of the vireyas are kept dry and under cover during the winter as they come from areas with rain in the summer and dry winters and are frost tender. One slide showed a frost grassland on Mt Giluwe in Papua New Guinea with scattered tall stout trunked tree ferns. The upper stems of the tree ferns had epiphytes including the red-flowered *R. womersleyi* but the lowest two metres were bare as up to this point ground and air frosts killed off any seedlings that tried to grow.

Rhododendrons were not the only plants covered in Graham's talk. Epilithic species also have similar problems to epiphytic plants – extreme conditions, little soil, bright light – but sometimes with snow or ice hazards as well. Some such as the yellow-flowered *Primula forestii* growing on dry limestone grow and flower in the spring, then lose their leaves and spend the rest of the year as tight buds. Other limestone species included yellow daphne (*D. aureum*), *Paraquilegia microphylla* and *P. anemonoides*. Another primula (*P.minutiflora*) spends part of each year covered by water as the lake rises.

Other epiphytic species shown included the orange fruited *Luzuriaga radicans* from Chile (The New Zealand species *L. parviflora* has white fruits). Some vacciniums grow in bogs (ie bearberry and cranberry) while others are epiphytic. Many *Agapetes* and *Pentapterygiums* are epiphytes. In New Guinea and Borneo *Dimorphantheras* hang from forest trees with cascades of waxy bell flowers. In Chile the gesneriad *Asteranthera ovata* (related to *Rhandothanus*)

has three inch scarlet flowers. The Welsh poppy (*Meconopsis cambrica*) grows on rocks and walls.

This was an enthralling talk illustrated with over seventy beautiful slides taken in many parts of the world. Many of the rhododendrons are not in general cultivation and do not even feature in rhododendron books so this was a very special chance to see them both in habitat and in cultivation. What better way to brighten a midwinter day? Thank you Graham.



Growing Epicactus from Seed.

***Grant Bayley** has been doing a little experimenting - here he tells us about some of the observations he has made..*

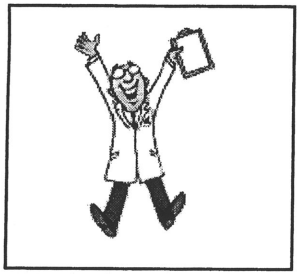
Growing epicactus from seed has been an enjoyable part of my hobby. There are many things I've found fascinating. One species that I have used lately was *Epiphyllum crenatum*. It grows like the epicactus hybrids do. I wonder if the term "transformers" could be used to describe these plants?! They start as little cacti looking plants and later *transform* into what looks like plants with flowers off the leaves! I continue to think this is amazing. Yes I know it's a stem, but they do look like big leaves!

And just when you think you are getting the hang of these plants, they surprise you! What happened? Well, recently, I crossed two night flowering epiphyllums. I have been trying to hybridise with *E. phyllanthus* to various epicacti hybrids, and the same with *E. hookerii* (this was labelled *E. strictum*, and in Ted Anderson's "The Cactus Family" – 2001 was referred to as *E. hookerii*). One evening, they were both open so I crossed them. The fruit developed quickly, faster than either *E. crenatum* or *E. anguliger* and like a slightly elongated hens size egg. It turned bright crimson when ripe. I picked the softish fruit about two to two and a half months after pollination of the flower. I don't remember seeing any scales on the fruit. Too excited to investigate the fruit contents.

The fruit pulp was like white sorbet, with loose white cotton like strands throughout the sweet tasting pulp. The seeds, as with other cactus, were scattered throughout the pulp but looked different than *E crenatum* seed. The little dark coloured bean like seeds, were about three times the size of either *E crenatum* or *E. anguliger*.

I found with *E crenatum* or *E. anguliger* seed, I could plant them straight from the fruit into the potting mix and if kept warm, they germinate within a month or so. I planted *all* the seed from the *E. phyllanthus x E. hookerii* cross. Most seed germinated.

If you've ever grown epicacti seed, you know exactly what they look like when they germinate. When the *E. phyllanthus x E. hookerii* cross germinated, I was surprised with the result, as no literature I had looked at, had any information on the differences I saw...



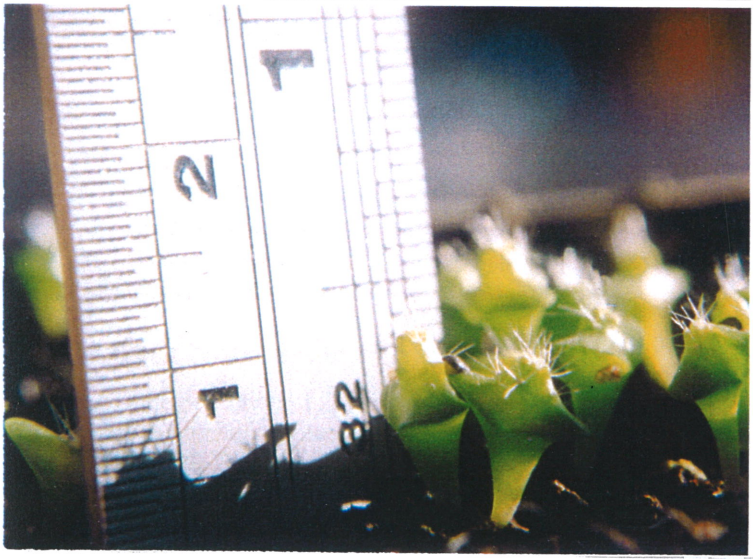
1) The cotyledons (the seed leaves that come out of the seed as it germinates) grew to over ten millimetres. *E crenatum* and *E. anguliger* seedlings are identical to epicacti and their cotyledons grow to one to two millimetres .
2) The new growth from between the cotyledons also amazed me. The expected mini cacti 'look' as seen with *E crenatum* and *E. anguliger* didn't happen with these. What emerged was adult type growth.
3) The new growth on the *E. phyllanthus x E. hookerii* cross also had no or very few hairs on the small developing plant.
4) The speed at which these seedlings grew was faster than *E crenatum* or *E. anguliger* seedlings.
Then another point....both these plants (*E. phyllanthus* and *E. hookerii*) are night flowering (open for 12 hours) whereas *E crenatum* and *E. anguliger* both hold their flowers for three days or more before collapsing.

From these observations and my common sense, *E. phyllanthus* and *E. hookerii* belong in a different genus than *E crenatum* and *E. anguliger* . They are too distinctly different. I've listed five distinctions, which would encourage any good researcher to look further than the accepted thinking!

Epiphyllum Hybrids - photos by Grant Bayley

Flowers from the top:- *E. phyllanthus, E. hookerii, E crenatum* and at the bottom *E. anguliger*

Seedlings the top cross is *E. phyllanthus* and *E. hookerii* and then an *E crenatum* cross. Both types of seed were planted at the same time.



Now is the time.....

What you should be doing right now depends not a little on exactly where you live, Here are some suggestions for the Wellington growers. If you live in Taranaki or Timaru - you will need to adjust a little.

Epicacti - *late pruning is possible - but don't cut off too many buds. Start watering again and fertilise lightly*

Hoyas - *as the days warm up water a little. Cuttings may be taken (particularly if you have a heated pad to put the pots of cuttings on). Start checking for mealy bugs and other pests (if you ever stopped!).*

Schlumbergeras - *a good time to repot using a slow-release fertiliser in the mix. Water carefully when dry.*

Rhipsalis - *water regularly as rhipsalis come into flower. A little fertiliser will assist the plants..*

Aporophyllums - *buds should be appearing. Start watering a little and provide a little fertiliser. Increase the amount of water you give as days and nights get warmer.*

Ceropegias - *Not a lot to do yet, but you should probably begin watering your plants. When it gets warmer you can start to take cuttings.*

Odd Cuttings and Seeds

Auckland Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.

At their recent AGM the Auckland Society decided to close. This leaves those of us who have been members of it since its early years with a mixture of emotions including regret.. They will be putting out one last copy of their journal "Epi and

Hoya" and we expect it to be in our library soon. The title Jane gave to the piece she contributed to it really sums up our feelings

"Thanks and a Sad Goodbye"..

EPIG.

EPIG have just published a cumulative index of the last 14 years issues. This is organised by subject and author - they have certainly covered a wealth of topics in that time. Our library has a copy.

Ceropegia Pictures.

Merv points out that Chris Moore (International Asclepiad Society) has put a large selection of pictures of ceropegia flowers from plants he has grown on the web. The address is: http://homepage.ntlworld.com/chris.moore30444/

Mealy bugs -vs- ceropegias

One of the problems with keeping your plants nice and warm during the winter is that this provides a good environment for pests as well. We had a feeling that using "orthene" was not recommended - so we have been doing some research. The current thoughts are either Malathion or Imacloprid (Conqueror). We will report on the results presently, meanwhile all suggestions would be gratefully received.

New supplies of pots ....

....Rex is seeking to source fresh supplies of pots - and is looking at catalogues and lists from various suppliers. If you have a view on the sort of sizes and shapes that you find most useful - let Rex know..

Back Numbers of "Epiflora" .....

The first edition of Epiflora appeared in March 1992. We have limited stocks of back-numbers for most issues from Volume 2 - issue number 1 (March 1993) onwards. Prices are 50c per copy plus postage (if applicable) - contact the Editor ..

Future Publication Dates..

EPIFLORA is published quarterly by the Wellington Epiphyllum and Hoya Society.

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