

Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC NEWZLETTER



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From the Editorial Team..

Its not often that the Editorial team are able to write on the first page of the NewZLetter. We're usually relegated to somewhere near the end – so to have such a prominent place this quarter, obviously means there are important matters to tell you about.

As our Club moves from adolescence to adulthood we consider its time to update our letterhead and logo. Of course logos and letterheads are an evolving thing.. so that brings me to the nitty gritty of the Competition.

□ **'Name the Clivia Plant' Competition**

Keith Hammett has kindly donated a beautiful red clivia plant to the NZCC (photo opposite). The plant will belong to the Club and we will breed seedlings to sell fund-raising. Unfortunately, it doesn't have a name. So, your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to 'Name The New NZCC Clivia Plant'. Email your proposed name to "Name the NZCC Clivia Competition" nzclivia@clear.net.nz



First Prize – An offset from the newly named clivia plant

□ **Design the new Club Logo**

The second competition is to design a new logo for the Club. Criteria : incorporate the colours of the Club (forest green), reflect the enthusiasm, youthfulness (some of us) and zaniness of the NZ Clivia Club members

First Prize – An offset from the newly named clivia plant

Closing date for both competitions is 30 September 2004. The Committee's decision as to winning entries will be final.

We are indebted to the various contributors this month – thanks to all of you. Don't forget to check out the various venues, dates and times for the regional shows..

Happy clivinating

Di, Murray, Keith & Stuart
Editorial Team

A Trial of Different Treatments to Germinate Seed.

Background

A friend gave me some advice on how to speed up the germination of Clivia seed. It seems that many clivia growers use this technique and it involves carefully removing the membrane over the micro pore where the root emerges. (Many people do not know about this membrane). This can be done with a clean scalpel; blade or some people even devise special punches and tools to do this. The seed is then soaked for 24 hours in a solution of 1cup tepid water containing a few drops of Superthrive. This results in very rapid radicle emergence, in some cases as quick as overnight!

I first did a bit of research and found the following information:

- Superthrive contain vitamin B1 (Thiamine) and NAA (naphthalene acetic acid).
- Vitamin B1 applied as a seed soak, speeds up germination and root growth and works even better in combination with a rooting hormone. (It can also improve percentage germination in plants such as Orchids.)
- Vitamin B1 in commercial preparations such as Ortho Up-Start, Superthrive, Hormex and Power-thrive is commonly used as seed soak for the germination of seeds of Orchids and Cannabis!

Knowing that Clivia seed germinate fairly easily and even quickly under the right conditions, I was curious to compare the difference between this and the normal way I germinate seed, so I set up the following experiment:

- Control: Place seed in a container between layers of damp kitchen towel and placed in a hot water cupboard for germination. (Temperature in cupboard varies from 20 to 24°C) This is my normal method of germination.
- Test 1: Remove the membrane over the micro pore carefully with a scalpel and tweezers and then treat same as the control. (This will show whether the membrane has an effect on germination.)
- Test 2: Remove membrane soak the seeds in tepid water for 24 hrs. Then treat same as control.
- Test 3: The same as Test 2 but add 3 drops Superthrive per cup of water.

Each test batch comprised of 13 seeds (due to lack of finding enough viable seed from the same crop!). The seed is from a yellow cross plant I recently purchased.

The Results and Conclusion:

Days from start	Percentage of seeds germinated			
	Control	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3
8 days	0%	23%	54%	62%
10 days	0%	38%	69%	77%
12 days	0%	46%	69%	92%
13 days	8%	46%	77%	100%
15 days	15%	54%	85%	
16 days	23%	62%	85%	
19 days	62%	85%	92%	
21 days	70%	100%	92%	



On the right are the seeds that were soaked in water and superthrive and on the left is the control seeds.

Some observations on day 21:

- Control: 9 of 13 seed germinated with the roots 1 – 5mm long, but not showing the 'fluffy' root hairs yet.
- Test 1: All seed germinated with roots 1 – 5 mm long, but with only 6 showing the root hairs.
- Test 2: 12 of 13 seed germinated with the roots 3 – 10mm long, all but 3 seeds with root hairs. The last seed appears not to be viable.
- Test 3: All seed germinated with all roots +/- 10mm long, all but two with root hairs.

I will keep observing the progress of these seedlings for as long as possible to see if the advantage is maintained, since speeding up of germination will only be an advantage if this lead is maintained or increased over the time that the seedling develops into a mature plant. Results may also vary from time to time and from hybrid to hybrid. I have had older and other hybrid seeds germinate and develop roots 20mm long in as little as 2 weeks using this method. What is obvious from these results is the remarkable difference in germination rate when the membrane is removed. It indicates that it must take time and energy for the emerging radicle to break through this membrane.

I will keep the club informed on any further conclusive observations.

*Antoinette Roberts
New Plymouth*

Meet the Bay Of Plenty Area Representative

Robin Scoular writes : I grew up in Napier, where I had a bigish suburban garden, but shifted to Tauranga after studying in Britain in 1962. I bought an acre, which has grown a bit with the years. We planted largely deciduous trees on the periphery, with many roses and perennial borders where my wife Anne used her skills. The trees now 40+ years later make plenty of space for clivias.

My mother gave me some clivias in 1970, which then became ignored under a tree for thirty years, but now split up and planted with space make a good start for the old miniata. I have recently started accumulating newer hybrids and with the encouragement of the Clivia Club have given a new dimension to gardening, which I am thoroughly enjoying.

I lost my wife 5 years ago. Well meaning friends suggest I need a smaller house and garden, but having listened to various suggestions, they all horrify me as a place to live, so hopefully I will see my time out here.

We are very appreciative of Robin taking on the task of Area Rep. Robin lives in Otumoetai, Tauranga. If you live in the BOP/Whakatane/Rotorua areas, please feel free to contact him 07-5769082 – Ed !



Robin Scoular

NZ CLIVIA CLUB - SEED BANK

We are indebted to the generosity of breeders and growers who have donated seed or plants to our Seed Bank over the past 12 months, for re-sale to members. New members receive a packet of seeds to begin their collection. Funds generated by the Seed Bank have been directed to a special research project. Results of 'Project X' will be announced at the AGM on October 9th! These results will benefit all Clivia Enthusiasts. Special thanks go to June Harrison-Smith, Garry Murphie, John van der Linde, Alick McLeman, Lisa Mannion, Keith Hammett and others.



If you wish to donate seed or plants to the Seed Bank, please contact the Secretary for further details. All donations are gratefully accepted.

2004 NZ CLIVIA CLUB SHOW DETAILS

Auckland 9th & 10th October – Auckland Regional Botanical Gardens

The committee has been working incredibly hard over the last few weeks on planning for the show. Everything is coming together well and we expect to have a spectacular show. Set up is Friday 8th and show opens 9am Saturday. Workshops will take place every 2 hrs.

Volunteers

If you are able to assist us with set-up on Friday 8th October or pack-down on Sunday, please would you let me know. Also, we require volunteers to 'man' the entry table over both days. If you can assist with a few hours, please also let us know (Di 09-6346807)

Whangarei Show 16th & 17th October – Nymet Gardens, Cemetery Road

Again, we are fortunate to be able to Display at Nymet Gardens, home of Colin and Jean Sanders as part of their Open Garden Day. Colin and Jean have an amazing landscaped garden set among the stone walls common to the Northland area. This year David Brundell and Alick McLeman will be displaying and selling both blooming clivia plants and seedlings. Education workshops will be held during the day.

If you are able to assist the Sharron Booth our Area Rep with the set-up on Friday 15th or assist on the admin table, please email Sharron sharronbooth@hotmail.com.

Tauranga Show 16th October – Parva Plants, Te Puna Rd Te Puna

Ian and Barbara Duncalf have kindly opened their well established Gardens and nursery for the Tauranga Show. We look forward to local members displaying their Clivias. As you know Tauranga has an incredibly temperate climate and Clivias do extremely well. Landscaper Conrad Coenen, is working on a contrivance of beauty for the clivia display.

Keith Hammett will be there. Robin the area rep has already swamped the local 'rags' with info. For this we are very grateful and look forward to an extremely successful show. If you wish to assist, feel free to contact Robin 07-5769082

Taranaki Show Labour Weekend, 23rd & 24th October, Ngamamaku Gardens

Tony Barnes assures me the Gardens will be at their utmost in splendour (as per usual) for the Show, so fingers crossed! The Clivia Show will be on for 2 days over Labour Weekend, so an awesome opportunity to drop in and see Tony & John's garden, view the Clivias and perhaps buy a few to add to your collections. We do require a few more volunteers, if you are local and have not yet been contacted by Antoinette, please feel free to email her on robertsantoinette@xtra.co.nz.

NB. All regional shows will have Clivia plants for sale



Left – Ian Duncalf's gorgeous pastel

Right – Tony Barnes took out the 'Peoples Choice' Award at the 2003 show



Letters to the Editor

Planting Under Podocarpus Trees

I enjoyed the article Terry did about clivia growing under the Podocarpus trees. Jim told me how beautiful Terry's clivias grow. I know in some of the native forests in SA there are several Podocarpus species (called Yellowwoods) present. Now I don't know if these occur in the forests where natural populations of clivias are found.

What I would like to know from Terry, if possible, is what about using products such as Trichoflow/dowel to enhance these microscopic flora around the roots of our precious clivias? Are the populations of these products the same as natural mychorizal populations or will they achieve the same results? Maybe one of the other members also have some thoughts on this.

Antoinette
New Plymouth

Clivia Addiction

It helps having my 16 year old daughter at home for the school holidays as she is always on line. She can't believe how a middle aged woman can get soooooo excited when told there is a new email from the clivia club, not to mention almost being thrown out of the chair so that I can savor every word and drool over the pictures. My addiction is in its infancy but I know it is terminal, there is no going back now. I love the thrill of watching them germinate then grow into sturdy little plants. I lift each seed on the hot bed every day to see if there is anything happening. If my family can't find me in the house they know to check the basement where they usually find me tending my babies. Some of my babies from last year are still on the hot bed because I can't bring myself to put them outside in the cold. At this stage I'm accumulating as many as I can so that in 4 years time I have a diverse range of flowering plants to choose my pollination options from. It's just so much fun and a girl should have at least 1 vice in life. I was tempted to buy seed off the internet from South Africa but I'm worried about putting credit card details etc over the net so it is a real privilege to be able to buy it from the club.

Judy
Bethlehem



Committee and volunteers at the 2003 Show

DINNER TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

The Annual Show Dinner for Members & Friends will be held on 7pm Saturday evening 9th October after the AGM in the heated restaurant area of the Botanical Gardens. A great time to socialise and catch up with old friends. We will again be treated to an evening of entertainment. Our Guest Speaker is David Brundell. He has recently returned from a Clivia expedition to Japan and China David attended the '2004 China Shenyang Famous Experts Clivia Fair'

Dinner Tickets are available now at \$25.00 per person. To reserve your tickets, please send your cheque made payable to NZ Clivia Club, C/- The Secretary, 71 Taylor Rd, Mangere Bridge Auckland

The catered smorgasbord dinner will be held in the heated atrium area, next to the Show area. Pre-dinner drinks will be available from 6.30pm and the Cash Bar will be open. Don't forget, all tickets will go into the Lucky Door prize !

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting will be held in conjunction with Auckland Clivia Show. With so many members visiting us from overseas and out of town, we consider it to be an opportune time to hold our elections.

DATE : SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2004
TIME : 5.30 – 6.30PM
WHERE : CLASSROOM AT AUCKLAND REGIONAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

- ◆ Agenda
- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Chairman's Report
- ◆ Treasurer's Report
- ◆ Elections



→→ We hope to have the results of an exciting research project at the AGM. If you are a paid up member, we encourage you to attend the AGM and vote for your committee. This year's committee have been a hardworking and diligent one.

AGM followed by
6.30pm – Pre-dinner Drinks and Nibbles
7.00pm – Annual Show Dinner

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS..

HOW TO FIND INNER PEACE WHEN YOUR CLIVIAS CANT HELP ...

Through this winter we all could use a little calm. By following the simple advice I read in an article, I have finally found inner peace. The article read:
"The way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you've started"

So I looked around the house to see all the things I started and hadn't finished.... and before leaving the house this morning I finished off a bottle of red wine, a bottle of white wine, the Bailey's, Kahlua and WildTurkey, the Prozac, some valium, some cheesecake and a box of chocolates. You have no idea how amazingly good I feel....

Titrangi Member



Photo sent to us by one of our Perth members. Unfortunately, he has mealy bug and rotting problems. All is well now. Ken Smith assisted him with the remedies

Roger Fisher in South Africa emailed over his observations..

The destruction wrought by last years frost refocused my attention on my "ordinary" - to quote a friend - clivias I'd grown from seed but neglected to the extent that they have not yet bloomed. Hopefully they'll do so this year after some intensive TLC.

I recently visited the nurseries of Bertie Guillaume and Anthri Wessels and bought some twenty plants in bloom. I arrived back in the late evening in Pretoria and carried them indoors. I noticed the strong perfume of azaleas as I moved them, the first time I've been aware of the phenomenon although I've read of it in association with the yellows. These are all in the broad leaf orange-red range although most have clear deep yellow throats.

Later that night I noticed a large moth at them and, having now developed a pathological horror of the creatures near my plants after the blight of this years amaryllis caterpillars, I was determined to catch and remove it. However I noticed it flying into the flowers and not under the leaves. I realised it was after the nectar, being in a feeding frenzy. I attach photos of the event.

I passed on the information to two of my colleagues and here are their comments - Prof Hannes Robbertse wrote: 'Dankie vir die inligting. Ek het lankal vermoed dat clivias deur motte bestuif word omdat hulle veral in die aand 'n sagte geur het - selfs die gewone oranje.' [Thanks for the information. I have long suspected that clivias are pollinated by moths since particularly in the evening they have a gentle fragrance - even the ordinary oranges].

Prof Clarke Scholtz (entomologist) wrote: 'It's a common species of Trichoplusia (Noctuidae). No known records feeding on Clivia. Adults attracted to flowers but it sounds as if the Clivias have a special attraction, perhaps some pheromone-like chemical.'

Of course many questions now arise:
These were blooming out of season and out of habitat. Which then are the seasonal moths that are the pollinators?

Is the flower shape and perfume a specific evolutionary adaptation for moth pollination?

What are the pheromones associated with the azalea perfume? Are azaleas also moth pollinated? Does the yellow colour help attract moths? Is the yellow associated with the perfume? Does anybody know?

Roger Fisher Pretoria 25 June 2004

Department of Conservation (DoC)

We sent out via a recent Update, a copy of the letter received from the Hon Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation.

Here's a few replies re the DoC letter ..

- Congratulations all round. Very well done. It is unbelievable the weed paranoia that exists in this country. A classic case of getting priorities completely wrong. Some peoples sense of relative importance is just so far wide of the mark that it scares the hell out me. Ian (Tauranga)
- **Hooray!!! (in celebratory clivia hues)** - thanks for keeping me in the loop (or should I say we clivia lovers are all a little loopy...). Lili (Los Angeles)
- Thanks for letting us know the update about the clivia being a weed - what a lot of rubbish - who ever started that one? Val (Cape Province RSA)



Photographs by Roger Fisher

INTERESTING CLIVIA including NAMED CULTIVARS

Sir John Thouron Resides here in NZ...

We're talking about the plant of course. Murray and Bev Gow, treasured members of our committee make regular trips to New York to visit their family. On one of the trips, a few years ago, they were privileged enough to visit Sir John Thouron's residence and gardens. Murray takes up the story.....

We were included in a Hortus Tour, visiting gardens in Connecticut. With Barry, we visited the garden of Sir John Thouron. Although he was away, the head gardener who knew Barry, kindly showed us around & Barry was given an offshoot of Clivia Sir John Thouron. This was planted at Barry's home on Long Island, moving indoors each winter.

This offshoot prospered & Barry sent us selfed seed which have flowered, closely resembling the parent plant. Subsequently an offshoot from Barry's plant was sent to New Zealand & is now with Dr Hammett.

The 'daughters' of Sir John are strong growing plants, leaf forms varying from 95mm in width & 520mm in length to 50mm wide & 750mm in length, some showing interesting venation. The flower colours are variations of soft butter yellow, usually trumpet shaped although there are differences in petal size. Most have good petal cover. Selfing & cross pollinating is continuing..



'Sir John Thouron'
photo by Murray Gow



Murray and Bev Gow in the
gardens of Sir John Thouron

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

June and July are busy months in New Zealand as this is when the bulk of *Clivia miniata* seed matures and is harvested. At the same time a succession of various interspecific hybrids flower, more and more of which are coming on stream each year.

It is interesting to note that various *C. cyrtanthiflora* variants flower during this period, despite the parent species *C. miniata* and *C. nobilis* being late spring and summer flowering types.

On the political front we have been successful in obtaining a statement from the Minister of Conservation acknowledging that "Clivia is not a weed in New Zealand".

Planning is well in hand for an Auckland show, plus shows in three other North Island centres. The NZCC is committed to taking the plant to the people.

Di and Stuart have been active in producing a series of Newsletters and Updates to keep members informed and enthused. A Club meeting is scheduled immediately prior to the next International Chat link up and newcomers are being encouraged to bring a plant and to ask questions.

Next week I will travel to the USA in order to attend the Annual Show of the American Dahlia Society [another six letter genus ending in ia]. However, during my visit I will be hosted by both Harold Koopowitz and Jim Shields. Hopefully this will be another small step towards strengthening fraternal relationships among Clivia enthusiasts worldwide.

Similarly David Brundell visited China recently to represent New Zealand Clivia growers and the wider Clivia community at a major show in that country.

*Keith Hammett
1 August 2004*

Don't miss the September issue of NZ Gardener. Keith is interviewed by Jack Hobbs on his amazing sweetpeas - Ed

Feeding Trial

One of the best things about horticulture is that there is always something to learn. This is especially so with regard to *Clivia*. Although it has been grown in cultivation for more than one and a half centuries, it is not a major crop and consequently has attracted little serious research, and is unlikely to do so. For this reason enthusiasts will need to carry out their own research if they want answers.

Because *Clivia* is relatively slow growing and takes several years to mature, knowing the best way to feed plants can be a problem. Liquid feeding is a possibility, but unless automated can be time consuming and easily overlooked. An alternative is the application of granular or resin coated fertilizers when potting, followed up with top dressing at appropriate intervals. This works well if one is growing just a few plants, but represents quite an undertaking when growing large numbers.

Last year Cindy and myself set up a simple but detailed experiment to compare a few products. I have previously favoured and used Triabon [3 month release period. 16-3.5-10 + 9%S+2.4%Mg+TE]. This was compared with Osmocote Exact [12-14 month release period. 15-3.5-8.3-1.8Mg+TE] and Sierrablen Flora [8-9 month release period 21-1.8-9.0+TE]. Sierrablen is a mixture of short and long term pellets intended primarily for landscape work rather than pots. The three fertilizer treatments were compared with an unfed control.

One hundred and forty eight seedling plants were potted into 7cm square pots in March 2003 in a standard 50:50 peat pumice UC potting mix. These were allocated at random to the four treatments. Each plant was given a number and the length of the longest leaf was measured and the number of leaves counted. These parameters were reassessed at three monthly intervals over a year.

As can be seen from Fig 1 leaf number increased progressively over the period of the experiment, with Sierrablen producing the greatest number of leaves. Incremental growth [increase in the length of the longest leaf] for each three month interval is shown in Fig 2, while mean maximum and minimum air temperatures are shown in Fig 3.

During the period between March and June it is interesting to note that the greatest incremental growth was produced by the untreated control plants and the least by the plants treated with Triabon. As this is the time period in which Triabon would have released the bulk of its nutrients, the results suggest that the plants were least able to utilize nutrients at that time and that they were to some extent inhibited by them.

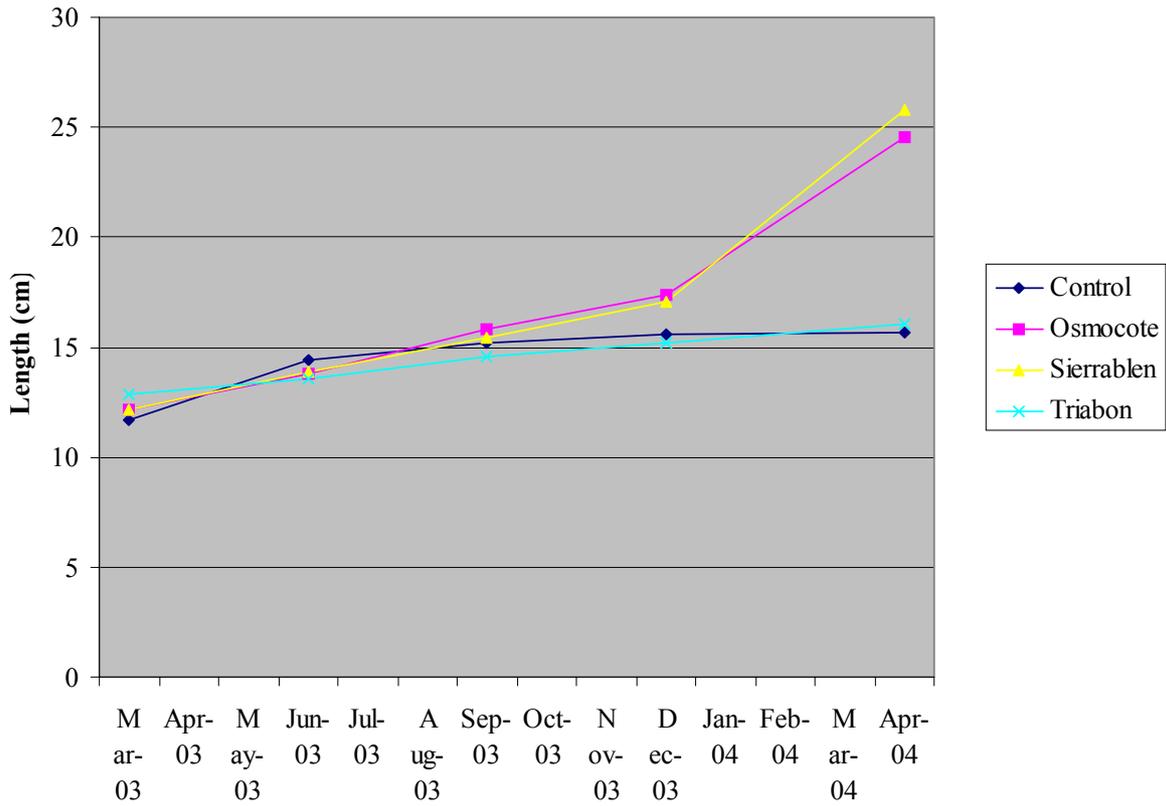
Only modest incremental growth occurred during the June – December periods, but rapid growth was recorded between December and April for Osmocote and Sierrablen. When looked at in relation to Maximum and Minimum temperatures shown in Fig 3, the results suggest that *Clivia* are only able to grow significantly during the warmest part of the year. Clearly, by this time nutrient levels would have been low for both the untreated control plants and those treated with Triabon. In contrast the long term fertilizers Sierrablen and Osmocote were providing adequate nutrition both for increase in leaf number and size of leaf. Adequate photosynthetic area is thought to be important in determining initiation of flowering.

We intend to repeat the experiment starting in December to check if our deductions from the first experiment have validity.

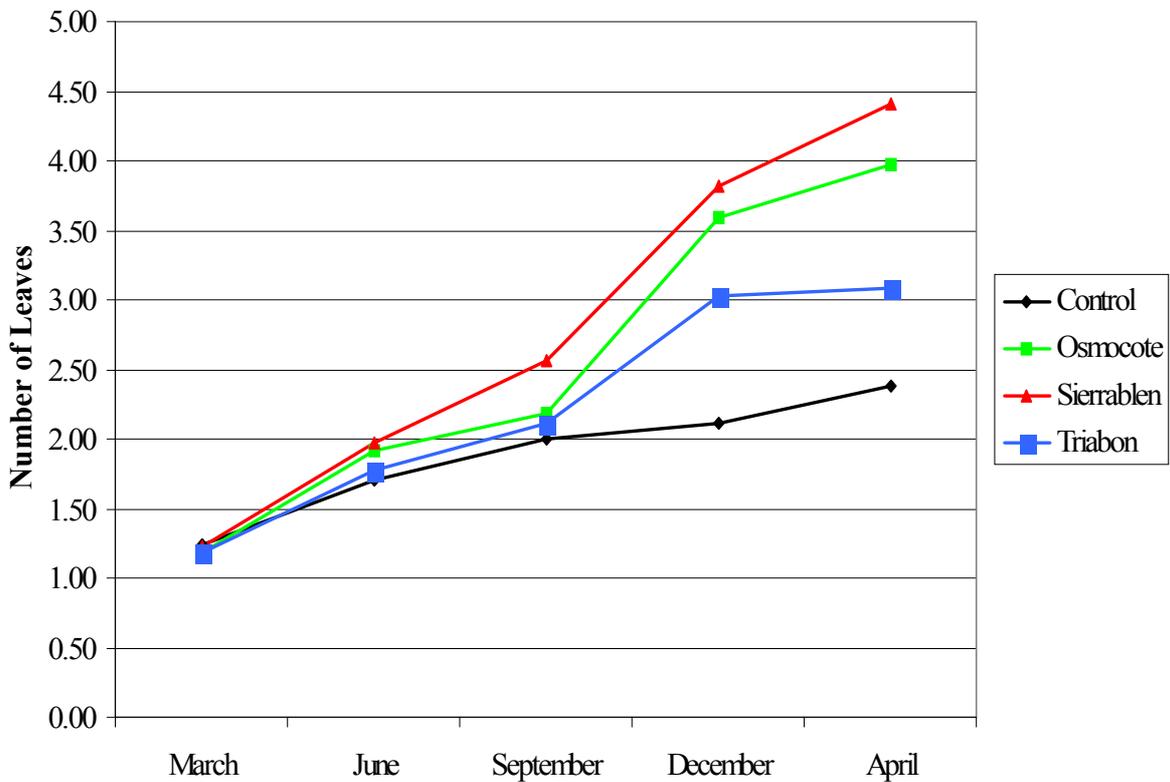
In earlier cytological work we have observed that root tip growth is not continuous, but appears to occur at different times. Whether root tip growth is synchronised from plant to plant and is in response to temperature or some other environmental stimulus needs to be critically determined. The interaction between active root growth, and nutrient availability will clearly have an impact on aerial growth and ultimately flowering.

Keith Hammett

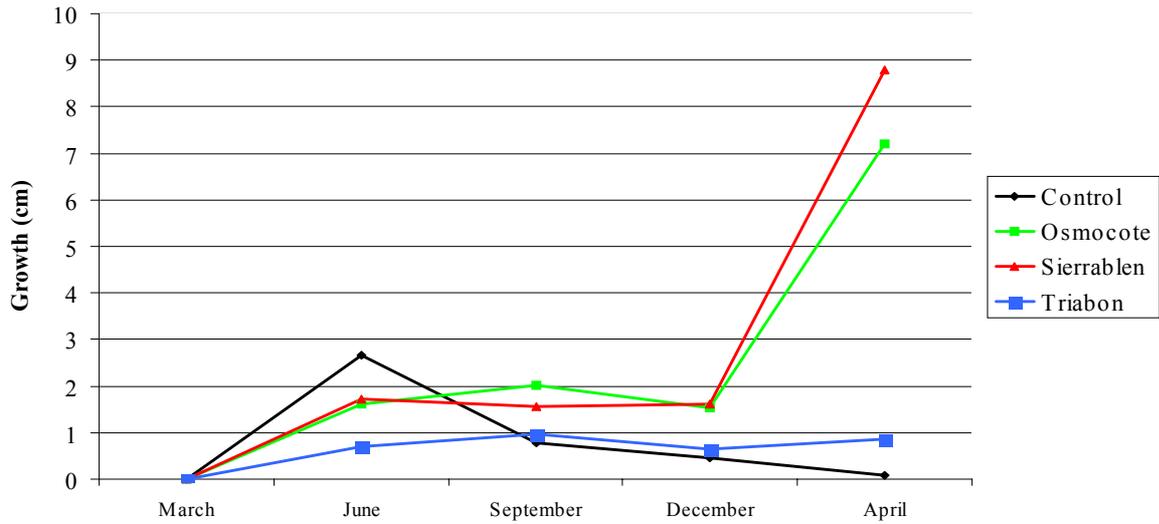
Average Leaf Length



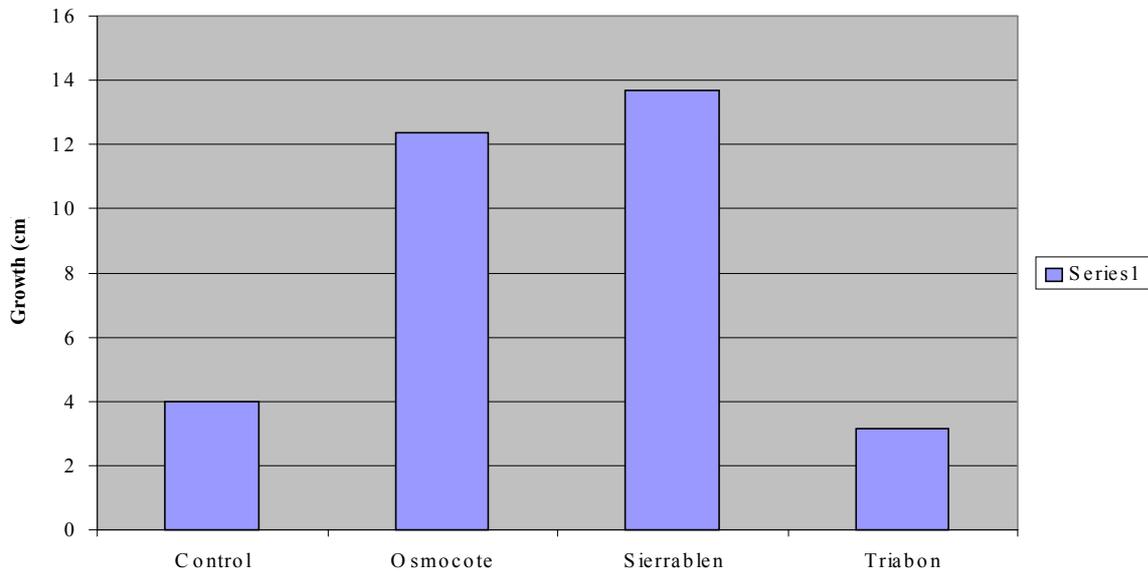
Average Leaf Number



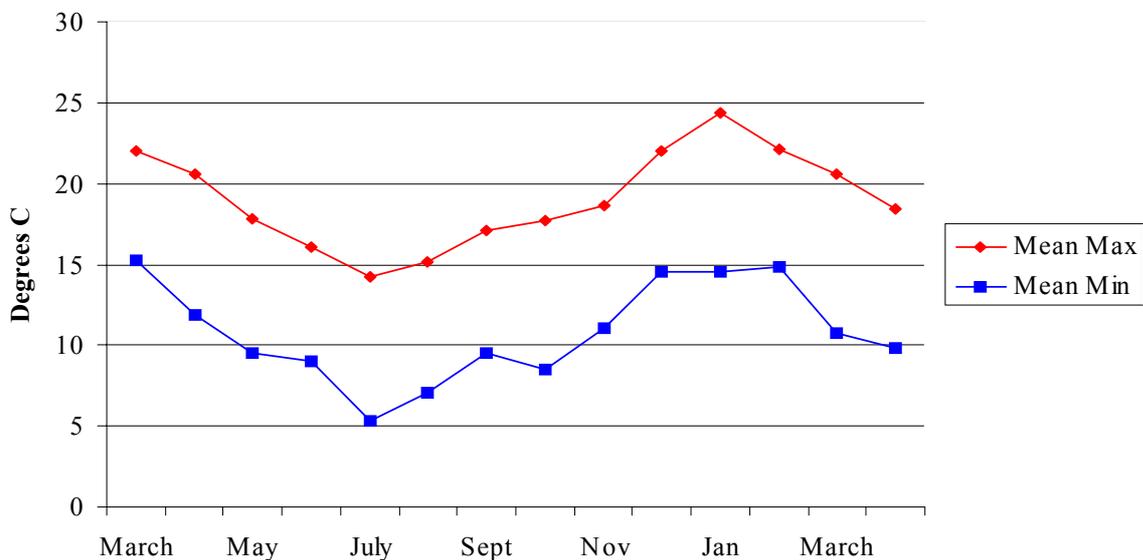
Average Incremental Growth



Total Average Growth



Mean Maximum and Minimum Temperatures



A CLIVIA ENCOUNTER - Part 1 of 2 by Roger Fisher (Pretoria South Africa)

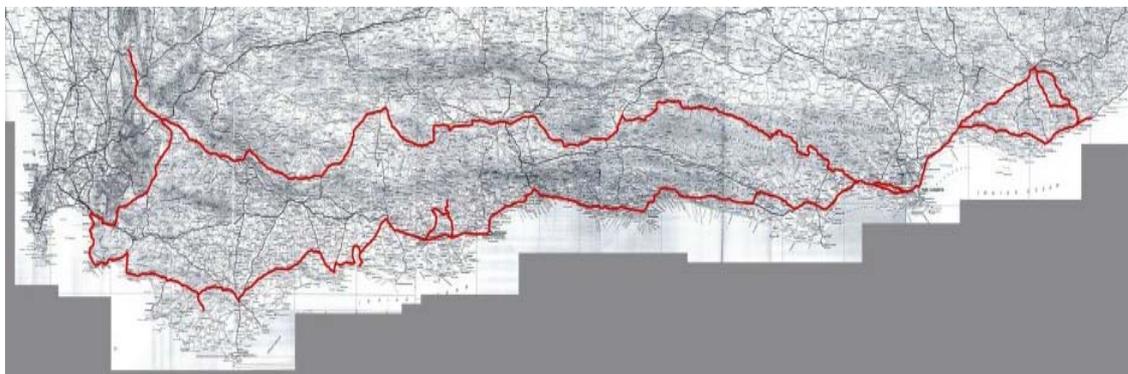
Roger wrote to our Secretary of his recent travels and his clivia collection, here is part 1 of his 'Epistle by Email'..

I have the most northerly habitat caulescens from the Soutpansberg acquired via Bertie Guillaume, the highest growing caulescens - and with that it being the highest naturally located clivia - from Mariepskop (lat. 24°30', long. 30°45'; 1 944 m above sea level in the Blyde River area of the Drakensberg. See YB5, pp. 61-62). This was collected by Prof Hannes Robbertse and forms part of the botanical collection of the University. It has plain red tubules. The curator lifted an escaped plantling for me. It has a while to go before it's likely to do anything. I also have one from the Sabie forests acquired as confiscated specimens from *muti* (traditional herbal medicine) collectors by the provincial parks board. This is a particularly fine specimen with a well-developed stem and five off-shoots. It has yet to bloom. Then I acquired a plant from a local indigenous nursery that has interesting stock (Simply Indigenous, www.simplyindigenous.co.za) from the Mac-Mac falls area. Also young and waiting to bloom.

I bought one of Ammie Grobblers' interspecifics - Caulescens Sabie? habitat x Ammie's own broad-leaved orange still in bloom with slightly flared pendulous orange florets - which I took back to an a-seasonal broad-leaved orange I bought from him. I gave the pollinated plant to a convalescing friend - scaffolding fell on her head prior to the opening of the constitutional court building - she'd designed the main court-room doors - on promise that she'd return the seeds which seem to have set. To add to the caulescens confabulation I have acquired via a young member of the Cape Clivia Club, Albert who you'll meet later, a natural *miniata/caulescens* hybrid (YB 5, p. 78 photo 120) x Entumeni broad leaf large inflorescence *miniata* ex Kirstenbosch NBI breeding. I however saw on my recent clivia crawl a monster of a plant with stem well over a meter (owner to appear later). So on to the ...
Clivia Crawl.

The point of this exercise was to go nowhere slowly, preferably off-track on the dirt back-roads. Any nursery or antique/second hand dealer encountered en route would be visited. The first port of call was Port Beaufort on the mouth of the Breede River after having a fantastic fish lunch in Hermanus where we watched the first right whale of the season breach while a seal lolled leisurely on its back amongst the seaweed forest. To get from there to Port Beaufort we crossed the Breede (Wide) River on the only operational pont in the country, which we made just before dusk. Delays were due to Alberts passionate interest in Aloes and he being at the tail end of preparing to open his own specialist aloe nursery in Gordons Bay, to be called iKhala, Xhosa for Aloe. There are, I believe 240 species of aloe of which South Africa has 170. I'll stick to clivias.

At Port Beaufort we picked fresh mussels and oysters (illegally) off the small jetty and passed Riversdale along the way where we lunched in a typical South African backwater pub-lunch restaurant. Afterwards, while my colleague bartered for an enamelled pharmaceutical scale Albert and I popped into Blombos Nursery next door, an unpropitious looking establishment. I found a battered fairly broad-leaved *gardenii* but when I took it from its potting soil found it to have precious few roots. I kept it anyway just to see what it might do.



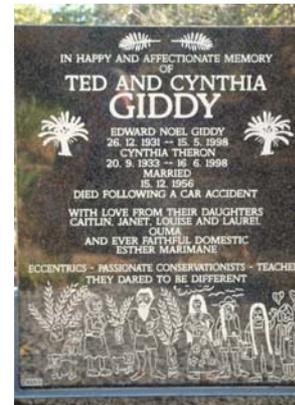
I've been told more than once not to buy a plant that I've not seen blooming but I have a gambling instinct. We headed off to Knysna and in George tried to make contact with the fellow, Gerrie Brits, who'd put the invite in Newsletter Vol. 13 #1 p. 26 to visit at the Hop Breeders Farm, but he was in London so we had to give that a miss. Pity. We over-nighted in Knysna in self-catering rooms with a magnificent distant view across the mouth towards the Heads. Supper was, needless to say mussels, half in lemon garlic and the other tomato-onion curry sauce. Delicious and done with sleight of hand in minimum kitchen space and utensils, by Albert, no mean cook, especially when it is piscetarian.

Our first nursery was Sunbird just before reaching Plettenberg Bay. The proprietor and -tress were busy loading plants so we strolled about. They said they'd been running the place for some 13 years. He seemed to be of Dutch extraction. While they had clivias which they'd bred themselves, there was "nothing special". Never-the-less I took two plants from two different batches in the nursery, one a broad upright leaf, the other a narrow tall erect leaf, again just to see what they do. Along the route we then passed another off-the track nursery, Windmill. There were some *miniata* and I sought out a pretty large broad leafed plant which had bloomed once and was still heavily laden with fruit – large and multi coloured. Then, on strolling around the back, discovered a *nobilis* with stolons. I only have two others of the species so was happy to extend the genetic range. On inquiry the proprietress said the plants could originate from nurseries anywhere up or down the coast. I'm edgy with anonymous plants.

We travelled the old Storms River Pass roads and I wondered why the clivias had abandoned these forests further south-west when they seem to offer so ideal a habitat. We spent a brief night with a friend in Jeffrey's Bay – old style hippy surfing terrain now turned nouveau riche - where we were given true Boere hospitality with stews and veggies and boiled pudding and beds before setting off the next morning early so that I might meet an appointment with a client in Kasouga. Her ancestry is a year late for being "of-the-blood", that is of 1820 ancestry in these parts. The land is of the original farmers' camping-out grounds whence they all trekked over Christmas, stayed until every last sheep and head of cattle had been slaughtered and eaten, then left. Your ancestry has to be thoroughbred to own one of these plots. It is also habitat *nobilis* country.

Then to my own little bungalow in Bathurst – cradle of the *Clivia nobilis* for it is in these parts that the first named species was found by Burchell (See Koopowitz, 2002:23-28). It is also the area to which the Giddys retired and where they had their fatal road accident. Lena van der Merwe, secretary to the Clivia Society, recently gave me some selfed seed off her Giddy *Cyrtanthiflora* when I signed up to the Northern Clivia Club in April, which have all since sprouted radicals.

The one nursery in the townlet – renowned for having the oldest continuously operational pub in the country – did not have much to offer although the nurseryman has *nobilis*, *miniata* and *gardenii* in the garden.



Giddy's headstone photo by R Fisher

In Port Alfred at the mouth of the Kowie is Standerwick Nursery and its Monty had done the clean-up of alien invaders plus one uninvited puff-adder of my property. All the feral guavas and lantana were gone. The indigenous scrub had been cleared into shaded nooks in preparation of the clivia groves I have in my mind's eye. He had also told me that on his farm grew *nobilis* plants down the face of a kranz, and that I should contact him to have a look when next in that neck of the woods. I spoke to his wife and arranged to visit their nursery on the farm. The pair of us who suffer clivia mania were dropped off while the other two returned to town to indulge their own particular diversions. At Standerwick they have been breeding plants for the past twenty years and there are some peculiar specimens amongst them.



Nobilis Habitat sans nobilis photo by R Fisher

The nobilis has become interspecific in much of the stock and the hybridization persists. One plant that Albert purchased has strong nobilis characteristics being small and leathery although the leaf is pointed, and, what's more, variegated! They'd also recently purchased gardenii mother stock – strictly not for sale – and lo and behold, one had sprouted a variegated off-shoot. Now, as I understand things, nobilis and gardenii are not meant to do this. I bought one plant – broad-leafed, very waxy to the point of seeming artificial, either achloritic or permanently pale – time will tell – and all-in-all a very interesting form. The roots are thick and asparagus-like – characteristic of nobilis – but the leaf-form is broad-leafed miniata. We'll see what it does. We bought the odd other plant either for leaf form, stature or basal architecture. In the garden bloomed an a-seasonal yellow, she believes Vico Yellow, she told me after I phoned to thank her. A worthwhile visit.



Above left : *Aloe ferox* along the wayside

Above right : In the Baboon Valley

Below right : *Tsitsikamma* forest on Garden Route

Photos by Roger Fisher

SEEDS 4 SALE

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BOOKS FOR SALE

We have a number of books for sale..

- ❑ A new order of 'Clivia' by Harold Koopowitz is now available - \$80 each plus \$3.50 p&p
- ❑ 'Appreciation of Clivia' by Zhu Jifu \$80 each plus \$3.50 p&p
- ❑ 'Growing Clivias' by Graham Duncan \$15 each plus .90c p&p
- ❑ Colour charts \$15 each plus .90c p&p
- ❑ Notecards \$5 per packet of 4 cards & env plus .90c p&p

Send your chqs, made payable to 'NZ Clivia Club'
 71 Taylor Rd, Mangere Bridge Auckland
 (Enquiries to nzclivia@clear.net.nz)

REPORT ON 7TH AUGUST MEETING

Thanks to all the enthusiasts who braved the cold evening to join us at the Western Springs AHC rooms. It was a very entertaining evening. Mary Colqhoun (again!) won the raffle prize of a flowering clivia. Thanks also to those who brought along clivia plants to discuss. The range and excellence of hybrids being grown is encouraging. Be reassured, the future of clivias in NZ is being well established now.

Keith Hammett spoke on 'Guidelines to Showing Clivia'. This was especially interesting as we await the Clivia Society's ratification of judging standards and guidelines.



Keith Hammett & Cesar Zapata intensely discuss one of Alick McLeman's clivias

Keith forgets it's a clivia meeting and discusses the attributes of a chinese Paphiopedilum Norito Hasegawa !

(just joking Keith ! - Ed)



"KEEPING YOUR CLIVIAS SAFE ?"

What should the Caption be ? Take your pick !

- Don't mix your reds & whites or you'll see bars
- 'Let me out, Let me out'
- What an arresting sight
- Homeleaf required please
- Beauty is in the eye of the jailholder
- No place like home however umbel
- W'ere crowded, give us more spathes

Photo sent in by Lisa Mannion

2006 Clivia Conference Pretoria South Africa (5 & 6 Sept 2006)

We have been approached by a number of members requesting information on the 2006 Clivia Society. It is exciting that so many have indicated their intention of attending. We are endeavouring to organise a "package deal" with a local travel agent and hope to be able to offer discounted fares.

The various South Africans organising the Conference (including Roger Dixon, you will remember him from his visit at Easter), have assured me that it will be an invaluable experience for clivia enthusiasts.

We have been promised a genuine South African Braai (BBQ - complete with pap en sous). I am sure the Kiwis will be well entertained.

Three major themes have been identified for this conference:

- Which way for Clivia - future perspectives: what do we need to do?
- Recording Clivia : the why, the what & the how.
- Natures gift: diversity, habitat & evolution

Information we have so far includes the pre & post Conference tours as follows :

- *Conference and Dinner, Auction, Social*
- *Mirabilis Tour*
- *Day Trips - Soweto, de Wildt, Rievlei, etc*
- *2 Day Trip to Pilensberg, etc*
- *Caulescens Tour , incl the McNeil collection*
- *Miniata and Gardenii Tour*
- *Nobilis Tour*
- *Clivia Shows - Pretoria, KZN, Metro, George, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth*

If you plan on attending the 2006 Conference and would like to go on the mailing list to receive further information as it comes to hand, please email our Secretary at nzclivia@clear.net.nz

We look forward to accommodating as many NZ Clivia enthusiasts as possible in our tour party.



Leaf roller Caterpillars on *Clivia*

Keith Hammett writes..

Last April we found some caterpillars on some of our first year Clivia seedlings. They were situated between emerging leaves. Specimens were taken and submitted to entomologists at the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The caterpillars were allowed to finish their life cycle and have been identified as Cnephasia jactatana.

This is a reasonably common New Zealand native moth and its caterpillars are said to be polyphagous. This means that they can eat a wide range of plant material and are in no way specific to Clivia. As the Clivia which were attacked were growing under oak trees, it seems likely that the caterpillars simply came from there.

The damage caused to Clivia depends on the size of the plants when attacked. Small leaves may be sufficiently damaged to be cut in half, but most commonly the damaged areas heal and in time become corky, appearing as raised grey spotty areas on mature leaves.

And from Rex Williams...

Just a quick note re Keith & Cindy finding a 'leaf roller caterpillar' on a clivia seedling. I also found several examples this year of 'leafroller type caterpillars' dining on my seedlings (Bastards!). The damage is readily recognisable as they join 2 usually emerging leaves together with silk to form a cosy accommodation & proceed to dine on both leaf surfaces. this damage can be recognised long after the fact as the scar tissue is on opposing leaves. Mostly I use digital control ie place offender between thumb & forefinger & apply liberal pressure. I also came across another caterpillar eating seedling clivia leaves, had me stumped for quite some time. After watering one day I noticed the little buggers come to the surface of the potting mix gasping for air aha! mystery solved, a watering can full of Orthene fixed those little @#%'s. Orthene is fairly effective on mealy bug as well although if the infestation is limited meth's & a small paintbrush is best.*

Also of note is the association of earwigs & damage to the edge of emerging flower stems stunting them & causing them to curl to one side, while I have not personally witnessed these critters at it they are flower eaters & are often lurking suspiciously between leaves in the vicinity of the crime.

Sorry Keith - Ed has mis-filed the photo !

Allen Clarke died on July 16th. He and his lovely wife Judith had planned to return to this year's show in Auckland and also visit the regional shows. Allen was an active member of the Clivia Society of Australia, with an extensive clivia collection. Judith wrote this week – "Allan was so looking forward to renewing acquaintance with everyone he met two years ago. He had more than a passing interest in seeing NZ's wonderful clivias too.. But it was not to be" Allen will be remembered with fond memories.

Di Smith – Secretary

OBITUARIES

Clivia growers in NZ and overseas have been saddened at the recent deaths of two our members.

Oswald (Os) Blumhardt died on Sunday, 25 July, 2004 at the age of 73. He is widely respected for the many plants which he introduced to New Zealand from his overseas trips and for his eclectic interest in a very wide range of plant genera: Camellias, Rhododendron especially Vireya, Lilies, Orchids, Michaelia, Magnolia and latterly Clivia and the hybrids he produced.. His passing leaves a gap in the NZ Horticultural scene that will be hard to fill.

Right from his earliest days at Pakaraka he showed an interest in plants. "As a child I was a terrible dreamer and my parents despaired of me ever doing anything useful. My education was a struggle as I was too easily distracted by other things." However, Os became an apprentice at Duncan and Davies in 1949 and hybridized Magnolias and lilies in his spare time. No named varieties resulted but he learned a lot from the lilies about breeding.

After leaving Duncan and Davies in 1954 he had his own nursery at Pakaraka, Bay of Islands but later moved to Whangarei. Several years of hybridizing using different genera were interspersed from the late 1970's by overseas trips following his various interests, extending his knowledge and bringing in new introductions.

Inspired by the Doak and Jury camellias he hybridized several which are still widely available. This led to the RNZIH presenting him with the Plant Raiser's Award in 1980, mainly for this work with camellias. In 1992 the NZ Philatelic Society selected *Sugar Dream* and *Night Rider* as the only two NZ raised camellias in a set of six stamps issued that pictured camellias.

About this same time he was making magnolia crosses, most notable of which has been named *Star Wars* and has world renowned repute. He also worked with magnolia. Following the availability of a wider range of species vireya rhododendrons, he hybridized further rhododendrons. Not all are registered. A large range of his introductions is still available. His latest rhododendron breeding programme aimed to try to breed trouble-free indumented elepidote in bright clear colours for northern areas of NZ. Right up until his death he was still continuing to hybridise many different plants. His recent interest had turned to including the breeding of deep red clivia.

Os contributed plants for the beautification of Whangarei and had become involved in conservation planting. He was generous of his time and knowledge and readily made plants available to other plants people.

He was a practising Christian who lived his beliefs. At his funeral one of the hymns was "O Dreamer" and this perhaps best sums up his contribution to the world, especially in so far as his dreams inspired his further interest in plants.

John Meyer
Committee Member
Te Atatu

INTERESTING TRIVIA : *Imantophyllum miniatum*.



Ken Smith writes :

I recently bought a print of Amaryllidacea - *Clivia miniata* - *Imantophyllum miniatum*. From: *Flore des serres et des jardins de l'Europe* by Charles Lemaire and others. Gent, Louis van Houtte, 1854, volume 9 (plate 949-950). Hand-coloured lithograph (sheet 243 x 325 mm with folds). (Photo shown on left)

John van der Linde writes :

Imantophyllum (Greek for straplike leaves) *Aitonii* (for William? Aiton) was the name used by Hooker when on 1 Oct. 1828 naming the plant Lindley on the same day published as *Clivia nobilis*.

The 2 names ranked equally until some time in the 1830s when Hookers name fell away.

Hooker retained the *Imantophyllum* genus name when he named *C. Miniata* in the 1850s, *Miniatum* referring to the colour of red lead. He did not identify it as being part of the genus by now well established as *Clivia*. It took von Regel in the 1860s to correctly place it in the *clivia* genus, with the name *C. miniata* (the feminine form).

I guess it may have taken a few years for Hookers name to fall away. I wonder how long it took the new name to reach the ends of the earth.... you know where that is!

Contacting us.. Feel free to write/email any time, on any topic. nzclivia@clear.net.nz
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