

Massachusetts Orchid Society



January: Tim Culbertson Masdevallia Breeding Trends

Tim Culbertson, AOS judge and CAIOS member, returns to update us on the latest in Masdevallia

breeding trends. You won't want to miss this informative and insightful talk.

AOS Q&A

Q. Leaf Residue

I purchased a mature Vanda with 3 large keikis. It looks like the plant didn't bloom regularly. The lower leaves are covered with algae and dried fertilizer. I tried washing them off with a soft toothbrush with no success. Is there a product to remove this residue? —

Elaine Stepner

A. I think there are several points here that need clarification. First, there are lines of vanda breeding that produce large plants that may be naturally shy blooming. I doubt that the leaf deposits that you cite are responsible for the poor flowering record of this plant. More probably, it is that the plant was in a position in the grower's greenhouse where it did not receive enough light or it is of the

shyer blooming type. Second, it is possible the leaves are beyond being cleaned easily. Other methods worth a try are lemon juice and one of the new horticultural oils such as Sunspray. Too much scrubbing may damage the leaves.

Personally, I look at overlarge plants of any type with some skepticism, especially if they have what appears to be a poor blooming history. For example, I would never consider the purchase of a cattleya plant with multiple unflowered growths of what appeared to be flowering size. I would not know if it would or would not flower under my conditions, but I would not waste the space on a large plant when a smaller one might perform better under less-exacting circumstances. —

Ned Nash

Upcoming MOS Events

January 14 –

MOS Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Tim Culbertson
Topic: Masdevallia

January 25-26 –

CAIOS Annual Show
See Page 5

February 11 –

MOS Monthly Meeting

February 14-16 –

NHOS Annual Show
See Page 5

March 11 –

MOS Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Daryl Yerdon
www.kkorchid.com
Topic: Repotting



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sasha@massorchid.org

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adrienne@massorchid.org

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brigitte@massorchid.org

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jody@massorchid.org

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nick@massorchid.org

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joe@massorchid.org

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joang@massorchid.org

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leslie@massorchid.org

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linda@massorchid.org

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adrienne@massorchid.org

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Sasha Varsanofieva
newsletter@massorchid.org

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Joanna Eckstrom
show@massorchid.org

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Brigitte Fortin,
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speakers@massorchid.org



Membership

Have membership questions?

E-mail our membership chair:
adrienne@massorchid.org

Membership dues: individual membership - \$25, dual - \$30

Renew online:

<http://massorchid.org/Content/Wizard/Renewal/MemberRenewal.aspx>

Renew by mail: Please mail a check made out to Massachusetts Orchid Society to Mass Orchid Society, PO Box 550141, Waltham, MA 02455



[Catasetum barbatum](#)

Orchid of the Month: *Catasetum barbatum*

This species is a hot to warm growing orchid, which is found in a wide variety of open, lowlands habitats, mostly riparian, from 0 to 300 m. This orchid mostly grows as an epiphyte but it is also found growing terrestrially although it seems to flower more luxuriantly as an epiphyte, especially when in contact with rotting wood (Holst 1999). The taxon has been collected in gallery forest in cerrado, in savanna, in lowland wet evergreen forest, lowland dry semi-deciduous forest, often in marshes and along watercourses.

It flowers in spring, summer and autumn. This orchid is unique in having male, female and hermaphroditic flowers. The fragrant flowers are pollinated by male

euglossine bees. In *Catasetum*, the differential fragrance production is the primary barrier to hybridization among otherwise infertile species. Orchids of the subtribe *Cateisetinae* have a unique mechanism enabling forcible flinging of the pollinarium at an insect pollinator.

The species name (*barbatum*: bearded) refers to the lip and its many fleshy hairs. The taxon was first described in 1835 on the basis of male flowers by John Lindley as *Myanthus barbatus*. When Lindley realized that *catasetums* have male and female flowers, he transferred the species to the genus *Catasetum* in 1844.

Catasetinae Culture

Cycnoches, Catasetums, Mormodes, and Clowesia



The cultural information below is a generalization and will apply in most situations; however each grower and growing environment is different. Make adjustments based on your experience and growing conditions.

Catasetinae have a distinctive growth and rest period (dormancy). For best plant growth it is important to understand and respect these growth phases. When the plants are in active growth maintain constant root zone moisture and

fertilize regularly. This is essential to optimizing the development of new growth. When the plants are dormant little or no water is needed as the pseudobulbs store enough moisture and nutrients to survive the dormancy.

Catasetinae plant culture is not difficult. All it takes is an understanding of the seasonal growth patterns. The plants vegetative state signals to the grower their changing needs. Interpret the signals and make the appropriate cultural adjustments. Here is what to look for:

Early spring: Catasetinae begin their new growth in early spring. However, watering should wait until the new growth has well developed new roots. This means you should let the new roots grow to an approximate length of 3-5" before you begin watering. Let me emphasize this point. Wait to water until the new roots are well developed. The waiting to water is not easy, my natural instinct is to begin watering when I see new growth, but I have learned through trial and error that it is better to wait to water than start watering too soon. I also believe that Catasetinae roots deteriorate during dormancy and in the following year they are not as effective at taking up moisture and nutrients. This makes the new roots vital in the plants health. This reinforces the message about not watering too early.

Mid-Season: Once the new roots are sufficiently developed, this is the period where the plants are rapidly developing their new pseudobulbs. There is a surprising amount of growth that occurs in these 3-4 months, often the plants will double their size. Due to this, the plants require constant moisture and regular fertilization. In most cases, irrigation will be need 2 or 3 times a week. A balanced fertilizer at full strength is suitable for this rapid growth. Light levels at or above those suggested for Cattleya will help insure strong good growth and flowering. This is the time when the fruits of your labor will begin to pay off as the flowering season is in underway.

Late Season: Sometime after flowering, in the late autumn the plants will begin to enter the dormancy phase. Understanding the signals of the onset of dormancy and the factors triggering it are important is good plant culture. The plant first signals are the yellowing and browning off of the leaves, at this time stop fertilizing and reduce watering by ½ and when most leaves are yellow/brown and have dropped off cease watering altogether. The general rule to follow is: by the 15 th of November stop fertilization and reduce watering by ½. Most leaves should have yellowed or fallen

off by the 1 st of January, however, if the plants still have leaves all irrigation should be stopped at this time.

The onset of dormancy is caused by several factors, the maturity of the pseudobulb, shorter day length, cooler day/night temperatures and a reduction of root zone moisture. In most of the country dormancy occurs naturally however when the plants are cultivated in warm growing areas such as in South Texas, Florida, Hawaii, or in the home or under lights sometimes dormancy needs to be encouraged. I have found that stopping watering in early January regardless of the number of green leaves will trigger the dormancy.

Note: Watering during dormancy should only be done if the plant shrivels severely. Usually a single irrigation is sufficient to restore the bulbs.

Here's a summary: As the new growth develops wait to irrigate until the new roots are well developed and are 3 to 5" long. (don't be in a hurry to water, it is better to wait) Irrigate and fertilize frequently while the plants are in active growth. Stop fertilization and reduce irrigation by ½ around by mid-November. Cease watering by the 1 st of January.

Light levels: Catasetinae like light levels comparable to Cattleyas at about 2500-4000 foot candles (fc) However, the plants are widely adaptable and do well with light levels as low as 1500 fc and as high as 5000 fc. For optimal growth I suggest a Southern exposure or a location where a the plants will receive plenty of bright, filtered light

Potting mix: For mature plants I have been using a 3/1 of mix of fine 'Kiwi Bark' and medium Perlite. For seedlings up to a 3" pot size I like to use New Zealand sphagnum moss with the bottom 1/3 of the pot filled with Styrofoam peanuts. However, this genus is not too particular in what it is potted in and any well drained media will work well.

Containers: I prefer to grow in plastic pots, however clay pots, baskets, and cork slabs will all work. Catasetinae don't like to be over potted, select a pot size that will allow for 2-3 years of growth.

Fertilizer: When in active growth, regularly use one teaspoon of your favorite fertilizer per gallon of water.

Air movement: Catasetinae enjoy abundant air movement, if you are growing in a greenhouse use air circulating fans. Also, hanging the plants allows for maximum air movement around them and often they do best hanging.

Repotting and Dividing: Is done as the new growth is just starting to develop and before the new roots start to show. (remember no watering until the roots are well established, 3-5" long). Unlike most orchid plants Catasetinae do well when divided in to 2 bulb pieces. Divisions are made by cutting with a sterile tool or by pulling the bulbs apart. I try to keep the size of my plants between 2 and 5 bulbs.

Insect pests: Catasetinae are generally pest free, however spider mites are attracted to the soft leaves of these plants. Spider mites are quite small, they live and feed on the undersides of the leaves. Take care in checking for them as the plants are leaning out and control them with a recommended miteicide from your garden center. Although the leaves will drop off during dormancy this is not an excuse to not treat for them.

Fred Clarke, Sunset Valley Orchids
www.sunsetvalleyorchids.com

December Show Table

Plant	Owner
Blc. Little Suzie	Warren and Sue Wheelwright
Phal. Tai Lin 'Red Angel Star	Alan Kaitz
Paph Hengduan Grace '#1'	Adrienne Giovino
Phal. Germaine Vincent x Yaphon Sir	Adrienne Giovino
Paph. fairrieantum	Adrienne Giovino
Den. Aussie Treat	Brandt Moran
Leptotes bohnkianum	Sasha Crotty
Hwra. Lava Burst 'Puanami'	Jaroslav Luciw
Coelogne Mem. Louis Forget 'Mystery'	Jaroslav Luciw
Fdk. After Dark	Jaroslav Luciw
Eplc. Volcano Trick 'Fireball'	Jaroslav Luciw
Oncidium Twinkle	Jaroslav Luciw
Aerangis luteo-alba var. rhodosticta	Jaroslav Luciw

In an effort to get our meetings started by 7:30, we kindly request that show table plants be ready for judging by **7:15pm.**

Orchid Hybrid Trivia

The total number of grex names in the register is currently 154,660 (as of now). This figure increases daily.

Each year The International Orchid Register adds between 3000-4000 new hybrids. The most popular genera for hybrids are:

Phalaenopsis — 31,382

Paphiopedilum — 23,871

Cymbidium — 14,688

Dendrobium — 11,910

So far there are about 2349 hybrid generic names, but not all of these are in use.

There are about 5,600 species involved in hybridization.



Platanthera peramoena



Ponerorchis



CAIOS Annual Show

January 25-26

The Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis
35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA

www.caios.org

Reservations are being taken for CAIOS Orchid Show Preview Dinner.

Friday, January 24, 2014 at 6pm.

Fine dining surrounded by amazing orchid displays.
Preview the Orchid Show before it opens to the public.

Hospitality

Bring a snack to the meeting. Not only will you be everyone's favorite orchid grower, but you get an extra raffle ticket to boot!



New Hampshire Orchid Society presents



Orchid Love Affair

Annual Show and Sale

February 14 -16, 2014
Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH

Fri. Feb. 14 ~ 1 pm to 7 pm
Sat. Feb. 15 ~ 9 am to 5 pm
Sun. Feb. 16 ~ 9 am to 4 pm

Valentine's Day Weekend

NHOS Annual Show

"Orchid Love Affair"

February 14, 1-7pm
February 15, 9am-5pm
February 15, 9am-4pm

Radisson Hotel
11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH

www.nhorchids.org



Amherst Orchid Society Show

February 22-23

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
80 Locust St
Northampton, MA

Contact: Marc D. Gray
802-348-7926

bulbophyllum@myfairpoint.net

Upcoming Events

Date & Time	Event	Location
Tue, January 14, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting Speaker: Tim Culbertson	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA
Sat-Sun, January 25-26	CAIOS Annual Show See Page 5	Resort & Conf. Center Hyannis 35 Scudder Ave, Hyannis, MA
Sat, February 1, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, February 11, 7:30pm	Monthly MOS Meeting	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA
Fri-Sun, February 14-16	NHOS Annual Show See Page 5	Radisson Hotel 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH
Sat-Sun, February 22-23	Amherst Orchid Society Show See Page 5	Smith High School 80 Locust St, Northampton, MA
Sat, March 1, 10:30am	Monthly Regional AOS Judging	Tower Hill Botanic Garden 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA
Tue, February 11, 7:30pm	MOS Monthly Meeting www.kkorchid.com	Winchester Sons of Italy 117 Swanton St, Winchester MA



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PO Box 550141
Waltham, MA 02455

