The Clivia Society of NSW Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Clivia Society of NSW's newsletter.

The formation of the Clivia Society of NSW has been long time coming and we are proud to say that NSW is at last represented in the Clivia world. I am pleased to introduce to you the founding members of the society:

President	Chris Ong
Vice president	Michael Mouyat
Secretary	Ken Smith
Treasurer	Peter Hey
Patron	Bill Morris

Committee members:

Mark Massey

John Chang

Ray Sidoti

Rourke Hartwig

A message from the president:

The plant world is a smorgasbord of endless fascination for those interested and brave enough to venture into its vast wilderness. The deeper you travel into this world and the closer you think you are to discovering what you seek, the more there is to explore and the more you realise how little you know. This loss of innocence opens up another dimension both fascinating and frustrating and you are soon lost in a world beyond reasoning.

That's the wonder of being immerge in a hobby in nature's world. Note that I said hobby, as it is this phase of involvement that gives us the most enjoyment no matter who you are, how old, how qualified or unqualified you are.

It is for such a group that this club was founded and built on. A place for each of us to call our home, a place where each of us (no matter what our expertise or lack of it) can feel comfortable in, to share, exchange and learn from.

I feel very comfortable with what we have achieved so far with this diverse and enthusiastic members and especially this group of capable Committee members. It is my hope that we continue to build upon quality rather than being too rash about things. Having said this, I would like to stress again that this Society belongs to its members and it will be up to the general membership to sail this vessel in the direction they wish us to take.

So, please make yourself comfortable (and be alert) as we glide towards our destination, whatever that may be. It is my hope that this Society will always belong to the general membership, to share and to nurture and to spread Clivia knowledge and materials to the members who seek them without favour or prejudice.

Once again, I wish all of you welcome,

Chris Ong, President

Society news:

General meetings have been planned for the flowing dates:

- 22nd March 2014
- 21st June 2014
- 20th September 2014 which will serve as the societies **inaugural exhibition show**
- 22nd November 2014 which will serve as the society's Annual General Meeting (AGM)

More information regarding times and venues will become available in due course. Venue is the Don Moore Community Centre at Carlingford.

Starting a Clivia conversation:

The realm of Clivia breeding never ceases to amaze and overwhelm my expectations. The intricacies and delicate balance required to create offspring often seamlessly stitched together without affray. That said, and despite our measured information and understanding of the processes involved, unexpected questions continue to arise. The following is an example of such where Peter Hey diligently noticed variation within some of the berries in his controlled pollinations. What followed his initial observation can most certainly be considered an interesting conversation to be had amongst Clivia enthusiasts.

It is widely accepted both by text and authorities on the subject that the colour of the exocarp of Clivia berries has no relationship to the pollen source of the enclosed seeds (embryos). This is supported by the structural fact that the seed within the ovule is separated by several membranes and develops separately from the outer skin.

The following images seem to suggest otherwise….The first image is of MCVPXE5 harbinger with 11 florets, having two separate pollen contributors and the second image is of CAMP X E5 six year old, second flowering with 19 florets also having two separate pollen contributors with the following results:

	MCVPXE5 harbinger (pod parent)
P.11-27 seven flowers X MCEP BRIGHT MULTI (pollen donor)	Result = 7 berries (one peeled-4 seeds) olive brown with reddish hue, noticeably speckled.
P.11-28 four flowers X SOPHIE (pollen donor)	Result = 4 berries, very dark green/brown, noticeably speckled
	CAMP X E5 (pod parent)
P.11-26 fourteen flowers X (VPXEP5) (pollen donor)	Result = 13 berries coloured reddish brown, faint speckling.
P.11-29 five flowers X SOPHIE (pollen donor)	Result = 4 berries, green/brown, faint speckling.

MCVPXE5 harbinger berries and seeds

Figure 1. Peter Hey

CAMP X E5 berries

Figure 2. Peter Hey

In both cases, two separate plants demonstrate a markedly different berry colour coinciding with different pollen parents! The colour difference was profound enough for Peter to stop, document and photograph the evidence.

Let's consider the following:

- Could there be a genetic difference that might control the ripening speed of the seed/embryo and thus the berry?
- Is it possible that the developing embryos may emit a defence protein/chemical to protect from insect/predator attack? The protein thus affecting the speed of ripening and anthocyanin production! (think Systemic Acquired Resistance)
- Maternal parent is the significant contributor to the nuclear controls for chlorophyll.
- The amount of red anthocyanin in the maternal tissue is determined by the mother's anthocyanin production.
- Note, all of the pollination events took place on the same day.
- Berries were harvested at the same time.
- Pollen produces genes responsible for some of the colour and early stages of chlorophyll pathways in *subsequent seedlings*.

Certainly an interesting observation, perhaps you, like Peter, agree that there is a significant difference in the berries colouration, perhaps not, either way a fascinating topic and observations, Thanks Peter.

References and further reading:

Koopowitz. H. 'Clivias'. 2002

Collins. 'Inter-linked dictionary of Botany'. 2006

Issues or ideas:

Mealybug.

Figure 3. Typical Mealybug. (www.corbisimages.com)

Mealybugs belong to the same group of insects as scale and aphids. They are a common pest of indoor plants as well as plants growing in warm, humid, sheltered environments. Mealybugs are so named because many of the known species are covered in a whitish mealy wax, which retards water loss though their epidermal membrane. Due to their short life cycle and given favourable conditions Mealybug populations can grow exponentially resulting in considerable damage to the infected plant. Ideal conditions are met at a temperature of around 25°C in combination with a high relative humidity, which typically coincides with Spring and Autumn in NSW.

Mealybugs feed by inserting their straw-like mouthparts, known as stylets, into plant tissue. Damage caused by feeding can be multi-faceted whereby plant fluids and nutrients are directly removed from the plant thus inhibiting its growth potential. Physical damage can be caused by the direct excretion of toxic salivary compounds into plant tissue whilst the stylet's penetration of the plants physical barrier to the external environment can both lead to and transmit fungal, viral and bacterial diseases. A secondary effect can be the cultivation of Sooty Mould which thrives on the sugar base of the Mealybugs secretions known as Honeydew. As Mealybugs can be hard to detect as they typically infect leaf axils and root systems Sooty Mould may act as an indication of their presence, as can high numbers of ants which also feed on Honeydew.

Control:

Due to the high generational frequency of Mealybugs there is a risk that they may become resistant to pesticides. For this reason it is strongly recommended to rotate between different pesticides and to always apply them at the correct rate as specified by the manufacturer. Registered controls include oils sprays such as Pest Oil as well as Confidor, Rogor, Folimat and Pyrethrum.

References and further reading:

http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/plant_info/pests_diseases/fact_sheets/mealybugs

http://www.wattletreehorticulture.com.au/docs/resources/Clivia%20pests.pdf

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mealybug

Featured Clivia:

Clivia miniata 'Oribi Gorge'

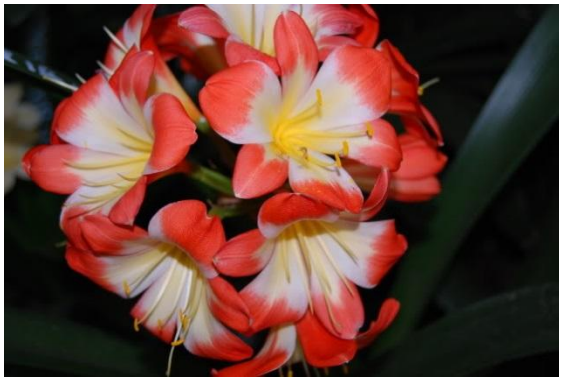

Figure 4.Clivia miniata 'Oribi Gorge' (http://postimg.org/image/4s965zcr5/)

A red and white selection indigenous to KZN named by Ammie Grobler. This refers to a group of plants. Ammie Grobler had been given 27 plants by a Mrs Nielsen, a teacher from the farm Gibraltar in Oribi Gorge, one of the habitat areas where *C miniata* grow sympatrically with *C robusta*. He had been holidaying down at the South Coast of Natal and struck up a conversation with a local teacher who he told he had retired and was going to cultivate Clivia. She said he should collect some from her farm on his return trip home. This he did and put into the car as many plants as he could possibly find space for.

It is from the same person and collection that Mick Dower got his 'Oribi Gorge Yellow' which he swapped for the then rare golden form of *Strelizia reginae*, now called 'Mandela's Gold'. Ammie Grobler had started producing green based seedlings from some Clivia clones. He also named certain of the select clones as 'King', 'Queen', 'Lady of Oribi Gorge' and from the collection bred named plants such as 'Tersia', 'Amersia' and 'Carol'. The seedlings of the Oribi Gorge characteristically have a distinct purple to maroon base and hence are called Maroons by some. Many of the plants flowers have a fragrance. Interestingly the yellow form, 'Orbi Gorge Yellow' opens yellow and ages to a pink blush. Its berries also ripen red as opposed to the usual yellow.

Figure 5. Clivia miniata 'Oribi Gorge Yellow' (http://postimg.org/image/4s965zcr5/)

References and further reading:

http://www.cliviaregister.com/cultivar-search.php?search=oribi

http://www.cliviaforum.co.za/forum/index.php?topic=19713.0

Communications to the Society:

Please address communications to the secretary:

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Community board:

Two very interesting submissions from our members:

The first is of a dissected Clivia showing the initiation of the inflorescence:

Figure 6. Dissected Clivia – member contribution

The second is of a green throat yellow Clivia bred by one of our members:

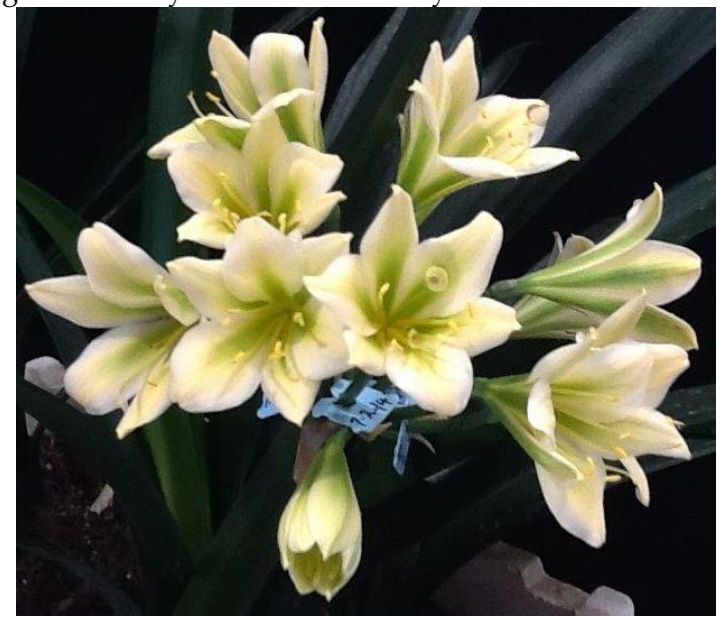

Figure 7. Green throat yellow Clivia

Your thoughts and comments are welcome and can be sent to the editor:
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