

# ORCHID CONSERVATION NEWS

The Newsletter of the Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission

Issue 1

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## CONSERVATION: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

### Editorial

I recently received an interesting paper chronicling the development of a planned flora of British North America and how it involved four elite women resident in Québec City and St. John's, Newfoundland in what is now Canada (Shteir and Cayouette, 2019). The project was planned by William Jackson Hooker, then Regius Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow. William Jackson Hooker would become the first Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Given the coming IOCCVII at Kew in May, I considered it timely to discuss this further.

Archived correspondence between William Jackson Hooker and Lady Dalhousie, Anne Mary Perceval, Harriet Sheppard, and Mary Brenton demonstrates both their interest in collecting plant material in their locations, including native orchids, for the project and his supportive response in providing directions in collecting and preserving specimens for overseas transport. He also sent copies of *Botanical Illustrations* which one of the four women, Mary Perceval, had requested, and which she employed as an educational tool. The resulting work, *Flora Boreali-Americana* (1829-40), was facilitated through effective communication, collaboration and networking that was foundational to the conservation of botanical knowledge of that era.

Of the orchid taxa listed in the *Flora*, we find *Platanthera obtusata* found at Cap Tourmont (*sic*), and *Cypripedium spectabile* (*C. reginae*) with attributions to Mrs. Perceval and Mrs. Sheppard (Vol. 2, pgs. 196 and 204-5 respectively); and *Platanthera hookeri* with attribution to Lady Dalhousie (Vol. 2. Pg. 196).





Hooker's Orchid, *Platanthera hookeri* (Torr. ex Gray) Lindl.

The specific epithet honours Sir William Jackson Hooker.

Marilyn H.S. Light, Editor

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## On the Bookshelf

*Flora Boreali-Americana; or, the Botany of the Northern Parts of British North America* (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1829-40). 2 vols.)

Biodiversity Heritage Library

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/13839#page/3/mode/1up>

## Food for Thought

Borrero, H., Alvarez, J.C., Prieto, R.O., and H. Liu (2018). Specialized herbivory on inflorescence stalks of *Trichocentrum undulatum* (Orchidaceae) by *Melanagromyza* sp. (Diptera: Agromyzidae) in Cuba. *Lankesteriana* 18: 189–192.

Brundrett, M. and L. Tedersoo (2019). Misdiagnosis of mycorrhizas and inappropriate recycling of data can lead to false conclusions. *New Phytologist* 221: 18–24.

Lallemand, F., Figura, T., Damesin, C., Fresneau, C., Griveau, C., Fontaine, N., Zeller, B., and Marc-André Selosse (2019). Mixotrophic orchids do not use photosynthates for perennial underground organs. *New Phytologist* 221: 12–17.

Pant, B., Paudel, M.R., Chand, M.B., Pradhan, S., Malia, B.B., and B.B. Raskoti (2018). *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 10: 12523–12530. Open Access.

Shteir, A., and J. Cayoutte (2019). Collecting with “botanical friends”: Four women in colonial Quebec and Newfoundland. *Scientia Canadensis* 41: 1–30.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/1056314ar>

Stearn, W.T. (1965). The self-taught botanists who saved the Kew Botanic Garden. *Taxon* 14: 293–298.  
DOI: 10.2307/1216740  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1216740>

Suetsugu, K. (2013). Autogamous fruit set in a mycoheterotrophic orchid *Cyrtosia septentrionalis*. *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 299: 481–486.  
DOI: 10.1007/s006-012-0736-z

Suetsugu, K., Kawakita, A., and M. Kato (2015). Avian seed dispersal in a mycoheterotrophic orchid *Cyrtosia septentrionalis*. *Nature Plants*. Article Number 15052.  
DOI: 10.1038/NPLANTS.2015.52

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## Mark your Calendar

### VII International Orchid Conservation Congress

Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

28 May – 1 June 2019

#### For more information and registration:

<https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-on/7th-international-orchid-conservation-congress>

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### VI Scientific Conference on Andean Orchids

University of EAFIT, Medellín, Columbia,

6 to 8 August 2019

<https://conferenciaorquideasandinas.com/english/>

#### To register and pay, please use the following link:

<http://www.eafit.edu.co/cec/congresos/Paginas/orquideas.aspx>

Payment will be taken during the registration process, using a credit card. Early bird registration - 1 May 2019.

## **Changes to contact information?**

To maintain effective communication, we need to know of any changes in contact information.

Please inform the OSG Chair, Mike Fay.

[M.Fay@kew.org](mailto:M.Fay@kew.org)

## **Call for conservation news**

Members are invited to provide news of their recent conservation activities for publication in the OSG Conservation News.

Please submit material in Microsoft Word, and illustrations, if any, as separate jpeg files. If applicable, please include suggested captions and photographic credits. Send news to Marilyn Light, Editor, [mslight@distributed.net](mailto:mslight@distributed.net)