

# 'Cymbidium Chatter'



Cym Hazel Dawn 'Bengal'  
Photograph: David Wain

Edition 24 September 28 2020

**Welcome** to this edition of Cymbidium Chatter! I have just finished listening to Daniel Andrews and while the restrictions have been eased ever so slightly, I think I can say with some certainty, that there will be no further meetings in 2020!

Thankfully my new role as greenkeeper at Somerville Bowls Club has enabled me to get out of the house each day to carry out maintenance on the greens and surrounds. Hopefully come the 19 October, everything will be spic-and-span, ready for a resumption, in some form or other. I have inherited some quite significant problems with the greens, by the way of fungal and algae blooms, that have stained the synthetic carpet. I have enlisted the help of an expert to advise me on the best products to use, to rectify and then control the problem. My mentor informed me that the algaecide I had been applying, works far more effectively if a small amount of a wetting agent is used. So in many ways it is not unlike caring for and growing orchids.

During our enforced lay-off I have used the time to really assess what my priorities are in the immediate and long term future. Family will always be my number one priority, so I was a little disappointed to hear today, that we must wait until the 19 October to catch-up with our two sons and their families, staying the course of this wretched lock-down, must be the immediate goal! The more I contemplated, I was surprised to discover that orchids and orchid growing were now well down on the list of priorities. There were a number of things that I had put on the backburner because of two major bouts of surgery, some thirteen years ago. Lawn bowls was one of these. I now realise that had I gone back to bowls earlier, rather than putting it on hold for ten years or more, I would have overcome minor balance and confidence issues, much more quickly. I am pleased to report that since returning to the game, I have regained my touch and I am once again holding my own in Division 1 but I doubt that I will ever be able to reproduce the form that saw me selected in the state squad during my younger years - the bones and muscles are now several decades older!

Now you are all probably asking yourselves, what has this got to do with orchid growing? The reason I have mentioned my priorities, is that in the not too distant future, I will be scaling down my orchid growing commitments. I have decided that family, holidays (making use of the campervan we rushed out and bought when we were able to travel to country Victoria), fishing and bowls, will take precedence over orchids. In the 'COVID normal world' we will face, I believe that any outdoors activity, is preferable to sitting indoors. In the short term, I will continue to produce Cymbidium Chatter, however as I also plan to relinquish the COSV registrar's and judging roles, I am hoping that someone will put up their hand to take them on! I'll be growing a much smaller number of orchids, mainly species of many different genera, purely for my own pleasure!

From David Wain: Hazel Dawn 'Bengal' is one of the most eye catching orchids that I have seen. It grows easily and flowers well. This year I used yoyos and brought the spike up. I am not sure whether I prefer it naturally arching or upright, either way it looks spectacular.

My wife, who has become quite an orchid snob, brought this plant home and it certainly brightens up the kitchen. The strong contrast between the background orange and the red splash looks amazing. No wonder Andy (Tran) won the most eye catching orchid at National shows.




The Hazel Dawn grex was created by Kevin Hipkins and registered by Andy Tran in 2009. In 2009 Andy received an OSCOV Award of Distinction for Hazel Dawn 'Bengal'. Photographs of the awarded flower can be seen below.




Featured below is the award entry you can find in OrchidWiz X5.0, for Hazel Dawn 'Bengal'. OrchidWiz is an excellent research tool, although it is only as good as the information provided by growers from around the world. OrchidWiz can be purchased online, the cost is reasonable if shared between two people.

Cymbidium [Cym.] Hazel Dawn (Cym. Hazel Fay x Cym. Wallacia) AD/OSCOV

Name: **Cymbidium Hazel Dawn 'Bengal' AD/OSCOV**  
 Venue: Victoria, Australia  
 Exhibitor: A Tran  
 Entry: 1183  Report Date: 25 September 2009 Award 1 of 1

  
 O.S.C.O.V.



*Photography by O.S.C.O.V.*


Profile
 ALL Awards
 ALL Photos (Awarded)
 Metrics

'Bengal'

	Measurements	Wide	Long
Natural Spread:		8.7	7.3
Dorsal Sepal:		4.2	6.0
Petal:		3.0	6.8
Lat/Synsepal:		3.6	6.0
Lip/Pouch:		3.0	3.9

A well grown plant in a 175mm pot with 1 inflorescence & 14 flowers. COLOUR: Background Yellow Orange 21C Overlay Greyed Purple 187C Lip Greyed Purple 187A.


by O.S.C.O.V.



by O.S.C.O.V.



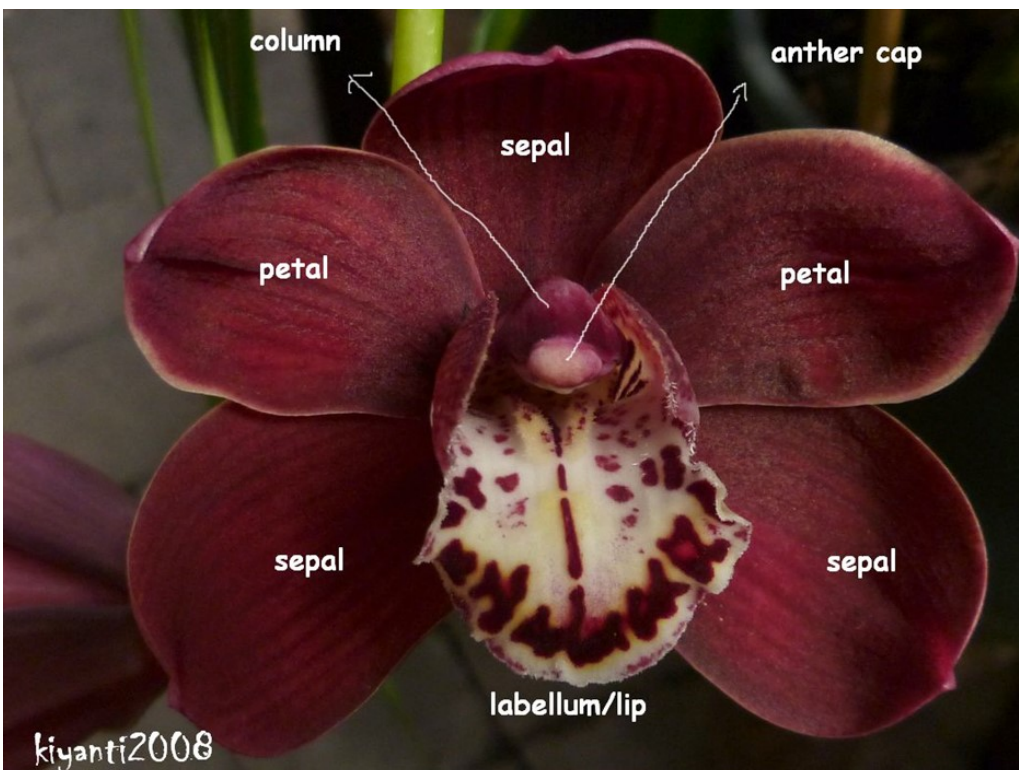
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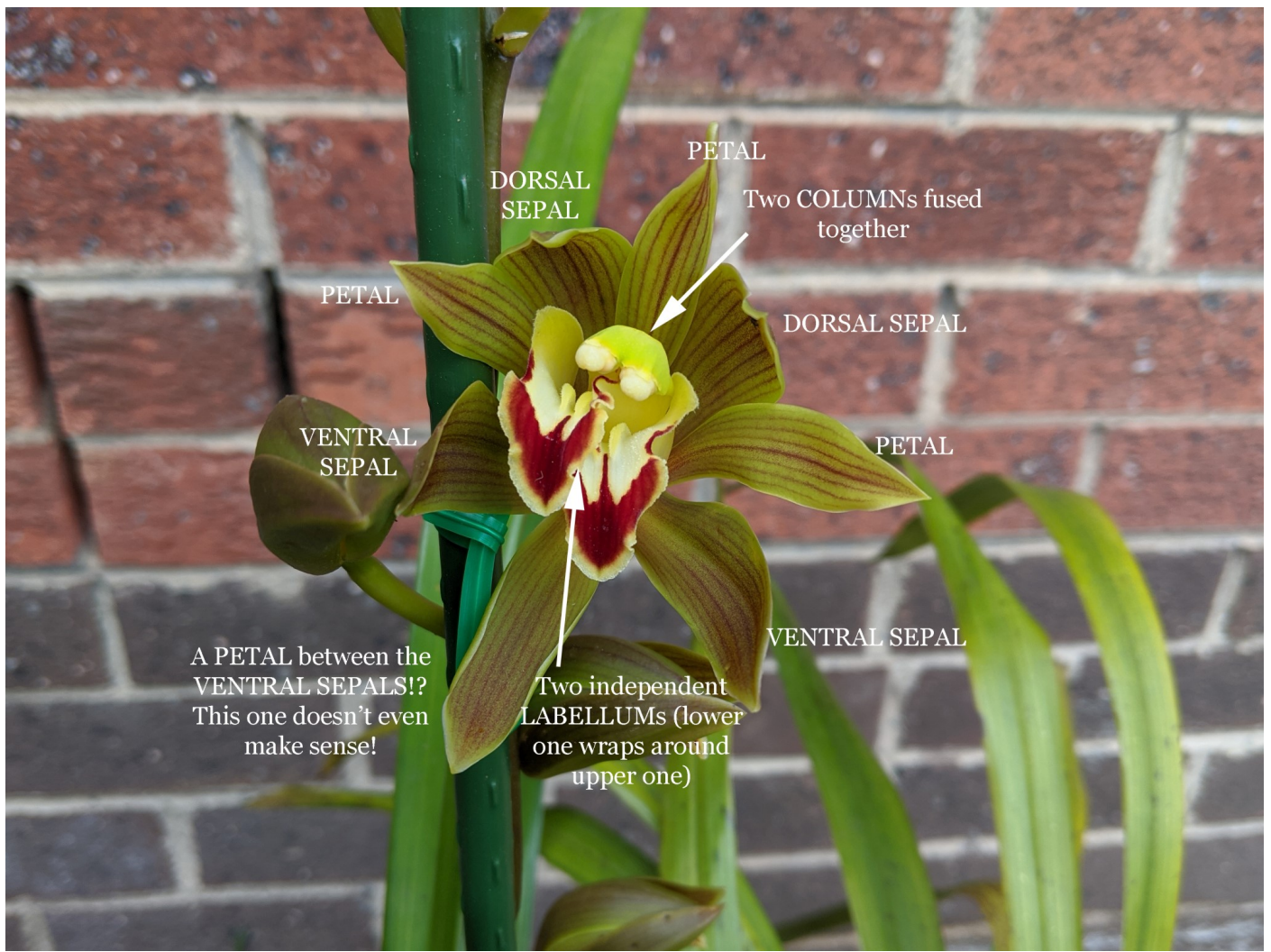
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## The Parts of a Cymbidium Flower



It is worth you while learning the parts of a Cymbidium flower as quite often presenters will refer to various parts of the flower. Perhaps the two parts referred to the most are the labellum/lip and the dorsal sepal (the sepal that sits directly above the petals). The two lower sepals are often referred to as lateral or ventral sepals.

Ref: Kiyanti 2008



Last week I received the following photographs (2 pages) from Joshua White. Joshua, who wants to learn everything there is to know about Cymbidiums, decided to dissect the flower. This was a very precise piece of surgery and the process can be seen in the photographs that follow.

A mutant *Cymbidium lowianum* flower dissected



The dissection process can be seen (left to right) in the following photographs.

In the third photograph (above left) you can see that the two columns have fused together.

In the fourth photograph (above) you can see two grains of brightly colored pollen, Joshua put these to good use.

Grow Cymbidiums for long enough and I'm sure you'll come across something similar, don't be overly concerned as I am sure the next time it flowers everything will be fine!

Joshua explained: *It is basically two blooms fused together and I suspect the weather has been a factor, as I have never seen this before on any division of this plant (it's been in the family for four generations and is still virus-free).*

*Both anther caps had what appeared to be viable pollen under them (I shall find out soon enough as I have used them in a cross). As this is just a physiological glitch (rather than genetic), I do not expect this weird flower to show up in the progeny.*



Cym Laramie Joy 'Tall Gold' (Lunar Wall x Christmas Joy)

Cym Laramie Joy was registered by Terry Poulton in 2015

Terry Poulton was the originator



Everything about Cym Laramie Joy 'Tall Gold' is big, it produces some of the tallest spikes I have seen. In the photograph above you can see that the flowers measure in excess of 165mm, this puts it in the large standard flower category. Apart from its exceptional size, it would also score very well for color. This flower photographs well, but it is even better in real life!

The flower drew positive comments from two very experienced growers and hybridisers. Clive Halls commented that it was enough to make him take-up growing Cymbidiums again and Andy Easton commented on Facebook - "Pretty damn outstanding Terry! Something to be proud of."

### **Measuring Cymbidium Flowers**

Flowers are usually only measured when a flower has been awarded, although you will occasionally see judges measuring flowers during the initial judging process. This praintroduction of the Small Standard class of flowers, where it is sometimes difficult to determine whether a flower is a small standard or large standard. I personally believe that the Small Standard class of flower is unnecessary and that its existence makes a difficult job, that much more difficult. Adding to this issue is our preoccupation with size. In my mind, "big isn't always better!" A small flower, miniature, can be just as perfect as ctice has probably been more evident since the a much larger flower!

When measuring a flower for an award, the measurement is taken at the widest point, usually across the petals but sometimes across the lateral sepals (the sepals directly below the petals). Large standard Cymbidium flowers are at least 100mm or above in size, so at 165mm Cym Laramie Joy is a very large flower! Great work Terry!



## *Cym eburneum*

My plant of *Cym eburneum* will soon be in flower. It has eight spikes, six of the spikes have a single flower, the other two have two flowers. If you don't mind the lack of flowers this is a great plant for extending your flowering season and you will be rewarded with pristine white, fragrant flowers. The fragrance is very strong, it will fill our el fresco area with its delightful scent. The plant was a gift from Kevin Hipkins, Royale Orchids, several years ago. I'm sure that if you are after a piece, Royale Orchids will be able to help you. Kevin had many diploid forms of *eburneum*, which my plant is but he also had several tetraploid plants, I couldn't get him to part with any of these.

***Cymbidium eburneum*** - the following information is taken from Stephen Early's [Cymbium Species web page: cymspecies.com](http://cymspecies.com)

### Culture

We grow and flower this species under shadecloth in Melbourne. It flowers in Sept/Oct for us.

### Habitat

On trees in warm, damp forest, in shade.

### Distribution

N India (Sikkim, Assam, Khasia, Hills), Nepal, N Burma, China (S Yunnan) 300 - 1700m

### Synonyms

*C. syringodorum*, *C. eburneum* var. *dayi*, *C. eburneum* var. *williamsianum*, *C. eburneum* var. *philbrickianum*, *Cyperorchis eburnean*

### Primary Hybrids

*eburneum* x *ensifolium* = Pakkret Oracle  
*eburneum* x *grandiflorum* (*hookerianum*) = Holfordianum  
*eburneum* x *insigne* = Eburneo-insigne  
*eburneum* x *lowianum* = Eburneo-lowianum  
*eburneum* x *lowianum* = Veitchii  
*eburneum* x *mastersii* = ballianum  
*eburneum* x *roseum* = Juno  
*eburneum* x *sinense* = Zhan Chun Hui  
*eburneum* x *tracyanum* = Wiganianum  
*goeringii* x *eburneum* = Oriental Elf  
*pumilum* (*floribundum*) x *eburneum* = Naganeb

*eburneum* x *erythrostylum* = Niveum  
*eburneum* x *insigne* = Gottianum  
*eburneum* x *irioides* = Eburneo-giganteum  
*eburneum* x *lowianum* = Armainvillense  
*eburneum* x *mastersii* = Ballianum  
*eburneum* x *parishii* (*sanderæ*) = Tussock  
*eburneum* x *sanderæ* = Steve Shifflett  
*eburneum* x *suave* = Kevin Ragen  
*devonianum* x *eburneum* = Jean Brummitt  
*gyokuchin* x *eburneum* = Oriental Summer  
*tigrinum* x *eburneum* = Rachel Seth