

ORCHID CONSERVATION NEWS

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

Issue 3

October 2016

IOCC VI

The Sixth International Orchid Conservation Congress: Hong Kong, May 2016

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Firstly, I wish to say a huge thank you to the organising committee (Gunter Fischer, Stephan Gale, Angie Leung, Kelvin Yeung, Pankaj Kumar and Lisa Li) for all the hard work that they put in to make this meeting a great success! Thanks are also due to Andy Brown (Director of Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden) for allowing us to hold this meeting in Hong Kong led by members of KFBG staff.

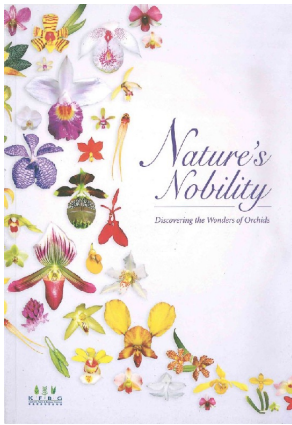
IOCC VI followed in the tradition of the previous meetings in this series by being a fantastic opportunity for orchid conservationists from around the world to meet and discuss a wide range of subjects relating to orchid conservation: 150 delegates from 28 countries met in Hong Kong (Fig. 1) for four days of meetings, with a trip to KFBG as a more relaxed day in the middle when we had the opportunity to see restoration and conservation projects and even an animal rescue centre.



Fig. 1 : One hundred and fifty delegates from 28 countries met in Hong Kong for IOCC IV.

The congress including four plenary lectures (by Kingsley Dixon, Yi-bo Liu, Michael Fay and Richard Shefferson, 13 thematic sessions, poster sessions and two thematic discussion sessions about aspects of orchid conservation (moderated by Phil Cribb). On the basis of these discussions, a small group drafted some resolutions and these were presented in the concluding session. Following discussions with the delegates, these were updated and a final version has now been agreed. The resolutions are included at the end of this article.

Following the visit to KFBG, a meeting of the Orchid Specialist Group attended by 51 members and observers was held in a meeting room at KFBG. Major outcomes of this meeting were the agreement to establish two new thematic groups within OSG: one looking at trade issues and one focusing on molecular identification of orchids. These have now both been initiated, the first being co-chaired by Amy Hinsley and Jacob Phelps and the second being chaired by Hugo de Boer. It was also agreed that we should have an OSG FaceBook page – this now has almost 150 members. If you aren't already a member, have a look at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/835566089908869/>



A new booklet *Nature's nobility: discovering the wonders of orchids* written by Stephan Gale, Olivia Pang and Joshua Chan was launched in time for the Congress.

Like all successful congresses, it wasn't all hard work. The opening ceremony included a Lion Dance and the Gala Dinner on the last evening was on a boat and included a Kung Fu demonstration, with audience participation by some of the braver delegates! Finally, it was decided that IOCC VII will be held at Kew, probably in May or June 2019. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Appendix: Resolutions from IOCC VI

Orchids are a flagship plant group with a high profile in human culture. They are known from all vegetated continents on earth but their occurrence reflects patterns in the global distribution of biodiversity and their intricate ecological associations, particularly with pollinators and mycorrhizal fungi, reflect sensitive ecosystem processes. Accordingly, orchids are indicators of ecosystem and climate health. Many orchids and their associated biota have been exposed to a variety of threats as a direct consequence of human-driven global change, with almost half of the ca. 27,000 known species now potentially at risk of extinction. Delegates of the IOCC support all efforts to research and mitigate these threats and secure environments on which orchids depend, and are committed to achieving meaningful conservation by recommending that:

1. The creation of orchid enhanced habitats is a priority for ecological restoration.
2. Enhanced *in situ* orchid protection requires the creation of orchid reserves. These will benefit a wide array of other species and biological communities and can be financed through various public and private sources.
3. The international and domestic unsustainable wild plant trade is widely recognised by governments and civil society as a major threat to the persistence of many orchid species, and that its curtailment requires concerted government monitoring and enforcement, while strengthening pathways for sustainable legal trade.
4. The propagation and cultivation of threatened orchids by small and local orchid enterprises should be supported for the sustainable production of orchids used in horticulture, medicine and food, in ways that ensure wild populations are not negatively impacted.
5. Orchid cultivation should be licensed and audited by government or other government-approved body through a national (or international) accreditation scheme that specifies adequate safeguards to ensure best practice. Propagated orchids should be traceable and distinguishable from wild orchids so as to minimise the risk of laundering wild plants.
6. National, regional and international networks should be established and strengthened for promoting *in situ* and *ex situ* orchid conservation.

7. The next generation of orchid taxonomists, ecologists and conservationists is nurtured through improved training, education, publicity and awareness-raising programmes.

8. Members shall strengthen the work of OSG by:

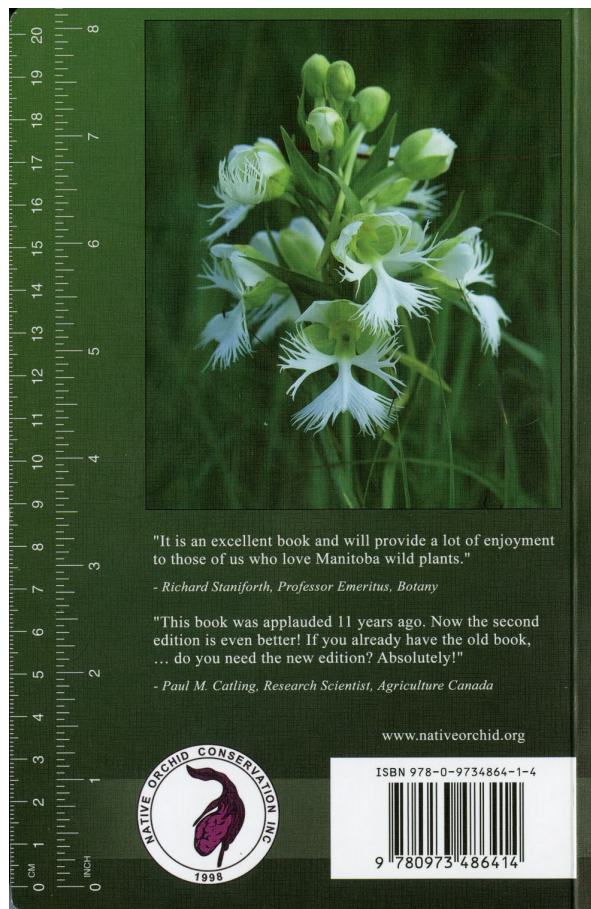
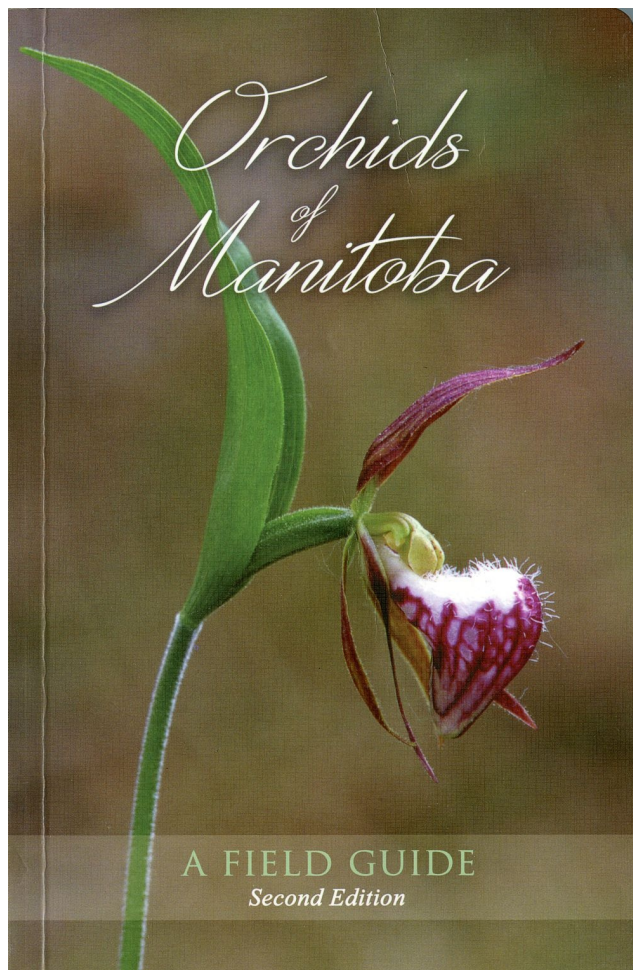
- Facilitating and conducting national and global Red Listing of orchids, and contributing to the Sampled Red List Index (SRLI);
- Monitoring and reporting on the illegal trade in orchids to national enforcement agencies and to TRAFFIC;
- Reviving Orchid Conservation International as a vehicle for web-based education and channelling funding to orchid conservation programmes, along the lines of Birdlife International;
- Embracing social media and other web-based interactive tools as dynamic and effective means of stimulating communication, raising awareness and building networks;
- Using citizen science as an effective means of motivating individuals and amateur groups to record orchid occurrence (e.g. OrchidMap, iNaturalist) and help scale-up the collection of verifiable data;
- Establishing and maintaining a global database of orchid reintroductions (including both successes and failures) and *ex situ* orchid collections that can be accessed and updated by members and which is linked to the IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group;
- Creating new sub-groups focusing on trade and molecular identification, to reflect important cross-cutting themes and challenges.

On the Bookshelf

Orchids of Manitoba: A Field Guide 2nd Edition

ISBN 978-0-9734864-1-4

The Native Orchid Conservation Inc. (NOCI), based in Manitoba, Canada, has published a 2nd Edition to their popular orchid field guide. A book launch takes place on 30 September 2016. With the addition of 20 more pages of content and 12 new colour photos, the latest edition includes a section on the NOCI, a quick reference guide, and news about the recently opened Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail.



Price: CAD \$25 + postage

Those interested in purchasing a copy will soon be able to order directly from NOCI online using PayPal or a credit card. Until this service is launched in October 2016, you are invited to contact : Native Orchid Conservation Inc.

<nocipresident@gmail.com>

Food for Thought

Andriananjamanantsoa, H. N.¹, Engberg, S., Louis Jr., E.E., and L. Brouillet (2016). Diversification of *Angraecum* (Orchidaceae, Vandaeae) in Madagascar: Revised phylogeny reveals species accumulation through time rather than rapid radiation. ¹ <ratahx@yahoo.fr>

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Call for conservation news

Members are asked 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 (not embedded), including a caption and photographic credit.

Editor: Marilyn Light <milight@distributed.net>

Changes to contact information?

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

Please inform the OSG Chair, Dr. Mike Fay.
<M.Fay@kew.org>