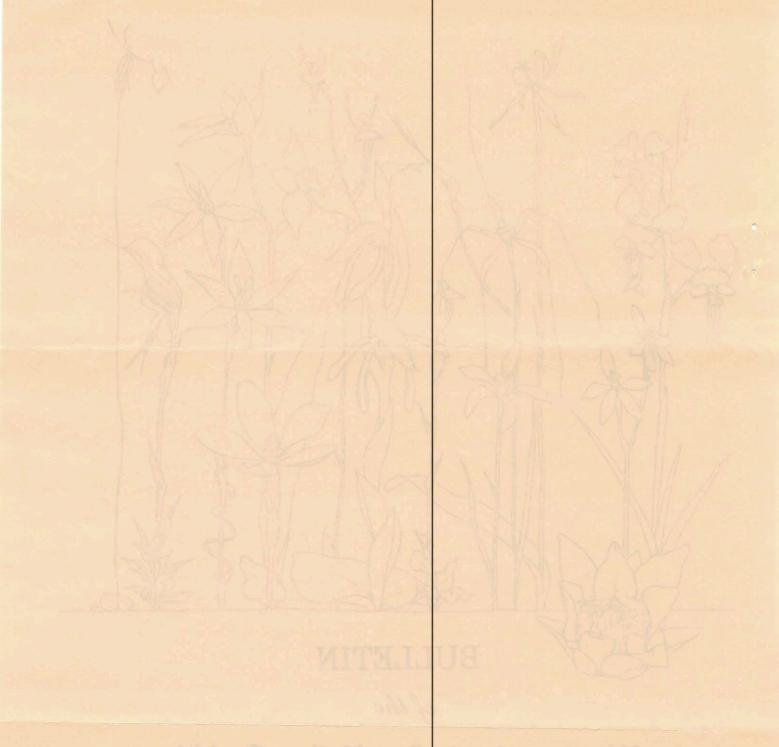


of the

# Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (Inc.)

meetings held third Wednesday each month in Kings Park Board Administration Centre, Fraser Ave Kings Park

> December 1985 Price 40c



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Note:

Opinions exspressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by the Group.

## THE WEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP OBJECTS OF THE GROUP:

- a. To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- b. To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their natural environment.
- c. To learn their habitats and keep records.
- d. To have field days and learn to recognise the different genera and species.
- e. To hold meetings for the exchanging of knowledge and furthering of interest in Western Australian orchids.
- f. To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- g. To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h. To do all such other lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party is being held at the President's house, on December 14, starting at 6.30pm.

The festivities will include the traditional free raffle (lots of prizes!) and a meal, the main course being a barbequed butt of beef and extras. To help offset costs members who attend are asked to contribute a small nominal charge of a few dollars.

Please bring your own drinks. Any offerings of pre-dinner nibbles and/or desserts would be appreciated.

Please come and make it a memorable evening.

Merry Christmas to all. The Committee.

#### COMMITTEE FOR 1986

At the recent Annual General Meeting two new members were elected-

Wayne Merritt - Committee member Bevan Buirchell - Librarian

Congratulations!

The year has been a busy one with a lot of new members turning up to meetings and field trips. A feature of the meetings has been the good turnout by members and the "growing" popularity of the plant table. At times we have recorded upwards of 45 potted plants, some species making their debut appearances. My special thanks to the growers and I hope we can look forward to as interesting a selection in 1986.

Field trips ranged near and far and were well attended. The year started in March with Caladenia aphylla at Goodale Reserve followed by a capacity crowd and bumper day looking at Rhizanthella near Babakin. Then ensured a busy winter and spring round of trips with the highlight of the year being an ad hoc last minute trip resulting in the discovery of "Epiblema" swamp near Morley about 15 minutes form the centre of Perth. For all those that have visited this site it ranks as one of the most spectacular displays that we have ever seen of the unusual "babe-in-the-cradle" orchid. The Group is investigating the possible avenues for preserving the swamp which at present is in a stable but highly vulnerable position. Thanks to Sid Gibbings for being an excellent trip coordinator.

This year has seen the Group's first publishing attempt - Wild Orchids of Western Australia. Although this first issue was a very simple production next year we are hoping for a more colourful and larger production.

The Group display at the Kings Park Native Plant Display went extremely well with a small profit being realised. Many thanks to all those who helped especially Stephen Van Leeuwin and suppliers of plants and willing hands.

Stephen's dependability and enthusiasm have been a valuable asset to the Group. Thank you!

BULLETIN - All issues have been well supplied with articles and have appeared on schedule. The bulletin is the official organ of the Group and as such is its main contact with other orchid groups - nationally and internationally. It is no mean chore to assemble contents, type, compile and still get the copy to the post office on time. Ken Jones (editor) and Lionel Johnston (treasurer) together with Hilary Cox, Janine Newman and Cindi Raffaele have toiled together to get each out. Many thanks to all of them.

FINANCES - Thanks to Lionel Johnston we had good and accurate records of the Groups accounts. In rough terms (so I can understand!) the year started with \$753 and we finished with over \$1 500. A detailed financial statement is available.

In summary I would like to extend thanks to all the committee who have supported the Group so unselfishly throughout 1985. I am certain therefore that with towards an even more productive and fulfulling year in 1986.

Kingsley W Dixon President W A N O S C G November 1985

#### ORCHID ATLAS - PROGRESS REPORT

A major effort to prepare the Atlas for final publication has occurred this spring. Sue Patrick, the botanical artist at the Wildlife Research Centre, has been working overtime preparing indian ink drawings of whole plants and flowers of all known orchids in the state. This has proved to be a project that has now spanned three years, and new ones are still turning up! Sue has completed about 200 drawings to date.

The computer file still requires some editing before the final data set is mapped. Also some further programming is needed to generate summaries of habitat data, flowering periods etc. I will advise members of progress early next year.

Steve Hopper

#### LOOKING AROUND ALBANY AND SURROUNDING AREA IN EARLY NOVEMBER

Most orchids in flower were sparce populations. Our local enthusiast Ron Heberle described this season as a very poor one. However I persevered near and far and was not disappointed in my finds. To you who know my sighting ability the highlight was two Paracaleana nigrita in a swamp area.

Within 20 kilometres of Albany Nancy and I found Caladenia latifolia, C. huegelii (red and green forms) C. flava, C. gemmata forma gemmata, Pterostylis plumosa narrow flower, Microtis atrata, Lyperanthus serratus, Thelymitra pauciflora, T. fuscolutea var fuscolutea, T. nuda, T. crinita, Diuris longifolia including the pansy form, Calochilus robertsonii, Paracaleana nigrita and Monadenia bracteata. In early bud were Cryptostylis ovata and a Caladenia. Leaves of C. menziesii, Acianthus, Eriochilus dilatatus, Leporella fimbriata, Lyperanthus nigricans and P. vittata were also seen.

Further afield at Two Peoples Bay we saw <u>T. cornicina</u> in bud and <u>C. menziesii</u> and Corybas leaves.

In the Porongurup National Park we found <u>C. lobata</u>, <u>C. flava</u>, <u>D. longifolia</u>, <u>Microtis brownii</u> and <u>T. nuda</u> in flower and "millions" of <u>Corybas</u> leaves some in seed.

We found in the Walpole area D. setacea, Elythranthera brunonis, Prasophyllum giganteum, P. regium, T. pauciflora, T. crinita, T. flexuosa, Thelymitra sp (small yellow with white tuft) and M. atrata.

In the Stirling Range National Park we found <u>T. crinita</u>, <u>C. barbarossa</u>, <u>C. flava</u>, <u>P. aff.rufa</u> and that South African import <u>Monadenia bracteata</u> which I gave up recording elsewhere.

For the Denmark area there was <u>C. patersonii var longicauda</u> in addition to several others already mentioned.

The Albany region would be a paradise in a good season.

Noel Clarke

OCTOBER ? LONG-WEEKEND FIELD TRIP TO NORTHCLIFFE SEPTEMBER 28 - 30 1985

The question mark is due to the traditional October long-weekend falling in September this year.

The confusion over the date unfortunately of this field trip report but also caused 'Chudalup House' (where the Group was to stay) to be double booked. It would appear that one party booked for the long weekend and the other the dates. Anyway to cut a long story short, our club missed out and the 20 or 30 originally planning to go ended up a mere 7. Despite this hiccup we had a great time with good weather, (a miracle for Northcliffe), an abundance of orchids and the usual few drinks at the local Pub at night. Who could wish for more!

As stops made during the weekend were so numerous, I have not included them all. Limiting this report to the most interesting.

#### Friday 27th

Wayne Merritt and I wanted to take a look at the now famous Bunbury bypass on the way down, so we left on the Friday and stayed at Wayne's parents at Bunbury that night.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr and Mrs Merritt for the lovely tea and fine hospitality, it was much appreciated.

#### Saturday 28th

The next day saw Wayne, his dad and I crawling around a burnt winter and wet swamp in search of an elusive Pink Caladenia. Although unsuccessful in locating this species we were rewarded by massed displays of many other orchids, including the common Cowslip, Caladenia Flava, which grow everywhere. A new sub-sp of C longicauda also abounded while the biggest Pterostylis nana I have ever seen grew under a Melaleuca preissiava "paperbark". Some were over 30cm tall. To cap off the morning several Elythranthera brunonis x E emarginata were also found.

Several hours and numerous stops later found us at Northcliffe, where we met up with the rest of the party. After the usual greetings, such as you are late again Brownie!, we made our way to the first stop for the afternoon. This was just south of Northcliffe on the western bank of the Gardner river. Vegetation consisted of She-Oak and Agonis with a Jarrah upperstrong. Caladenia longiclavata, the form formerly known as C ensata, was in early flower as was Diuris longifolia. Many other orchids also grew here including the rare Caladenia plicata. This too was just beginning to flower and as most had not seen it before, proved to be the highlight of the day.

Moving south we briefly visited Windy Harbour before stopping at a sand-rise south of Mt Chudalup. Here we located our named  $\underline{D}$  thynnophila which was still in bud. The other species seen was  $\underline{D}$  glyptodon and it was in full bloom.

Splitting up for a short time, with part of the group going to Mt Chudalup, Wayne and I decided to check out a small Granite near the main road. Growing in moss swards on the rock were <u>Caladenia</u> latifolia (in flower) and <u>Pterostylis aff.plumosa</u> (in bud).

Again meeting up with the others we were joined by one of our interstate members, Ron Howlett. Ron Howlett, had driven down from Perth when he heard of our trip.

Dusk finally saw us tearing ourselves away from the bush to head for the Northcliffe Hotel and a well earned supper.

#### Sunday 29th

After calling in to say hello to our local member, "George Gardner" we set off down Richardson road to an area some 4.8 km west of town. As the spot had been burnt during the previous summer, we thought it would be a good place to look. We were not disappointed, finding many orchids including some very tall Drakaea elastica growing next to a sheet of tin, under which lived some very bity ants. Caladenia sericea and Eriochilus scaber were still in flower. The highlight however, was the discovery of some beautiful pink and orange flowered hybrids between Caladenia latifolia and C flava. These were subsequently seen in a number of other areas during our trip.

One of the most fruitful stops made over the weekend proved to be a piece of burnt Eucalyptus marginata, Agonis flexuosa woodland a short distance from the previous stop. Caladenia hirta was very tall and robust with some plants having 5 flowers and measuring over 50 cm in height. Prosophyllum regium and Thelymitra nuda also occured here and Caladenia latifolia x C flava was again common.

At the base of the Yeagerup Dunes amongst thick tall shrubs we located yet another of our undescribed Spider orchids in early flower. Related to C huegelii this orchid differs by having pendulous sepals which are pale pink in colour. There must have been over 500 plants in various stages of flower, there we also found massed colonies of Caladenia cairnsiana and Corybas despectans with its swollen seed capsules held high above the leaves on elongated stems.

Alongside the main Pemperton-Northcliffe road under a thicket of burnt Agonis parviceps a large colony of the beautiful Lyperanthus forrestii was located in early bud, I had the opportunity to re-visit the colony later in the year when many plants were in full bloom, a most impressive sight indeed, especially as this orchid is also highly fragrant.

Perhaps the hightlight of the day was the discovery by Wayne of a small clump of 4 Prasophyllum triangulare. This is one of our Gazetted rare plant species and although we thoroughtly searched the area, found no more.

By this time it was getting quite late so we made our way back to the Hotel, Wayne and I straggling along behind as usual.

#### Monday 30th

Mid morning found us about 50 km S S E of Nannup on the Nannup-Pemperton road. A track from the main drag leads to a small Arboretum and here in the moss covered sandy-soil grew literally thousands of <u>Paracaleana nigrita</u>, all in full flower. After trampling over them for about 10 minutes we all became rather blase, yet only a few days before galore if we had found but one or two.

The next significant stop was not made until we reached Ruabon just S E of Ludlow. The area had been partially burnt during the previous summer, prompting many orchids to flower, including 2 more of the undescribed Spider orchids. One belonging to the Caladenia huegelii complex and the other the C longicauda complex. C gemmata grew everywhere as did C nana in a nearby swampy area. A big surprise, however, awaited us as we circled around the local rubbish tip (always the best spots to look for orchids along with gravel pits) for under a thicket of Kunzea ericifolia and would you believe not more than 30 seconds after I had remarked "This looks like good Drakaea Jeanensis habitat" Wayne spotted one in early bud and after some searching we located several more. This was the second rare orchid species found on the weekend and although not currently Gazetted it is quite possible that it will be in the near future.

After many more stops, each one shorter than the one before and including the customary twilight search we found ourselves back in Perth, exhausted, but more than pleased with what turned out to be the best Native Orchid Group field trip I have ever been on.

#### Locations visited:

A Bunbury bypass

B Western bank of the Gardner river.

C Just south of Mt Chudulup

D Small Granite west of Mt Chudalup

E 4.8 km west of Northcliffe

F Burnt Eucalyptus marginata, Agonis flexuosa woodland

G Yeagerup dunes

H Main Pemperton-Northcliffe road

I 50 km S S E of Nannup

J Ruabon

K Elsewhere over the weekend

#### Orchids seen in flower:

l Acianthus reniformis var hueglii		AK
2 A tenuissimus		H
3 Caladenia cairnsiana		GK
4 C dilatata var falcata	F	FK
5 C sp nov (aff filamentosa)	15	AJ
6 C flava	ATT A	Calco Later
7 C gemmata forma gemmata	ALL A	
8 C hirta	A	EK
9 C huegelii		F
10 C aff huegelii (pectinata)		_ A
11 C aff huegelii (pink pendulous)	В	E F
12 C latifolia		G
13 C longiclavata (ensata)	D	GK
14 C longiclavata var rhomboidiformis		В
15 C macrostylis		K
16 C marginata		K
17 C manziesii		A D
18 C nana	A	E F
	E	FK
19 C patersonii var longicauda 20 C aff longicauda	D	FK
		AJ
21 C plicata		В
22 C sericea	E	FK
23 Diuris longifolia	ABCEF	GK
24 D setacea		Α
25 Drakaea elastica		EK
26 D glyptodon	СЕН	
27 D thynnophila		IK

28	Elythranthera brunonis	A	C	E	F	G	Н	J	K
29	E emarginata								A
30	Eriochilus scaber								E
31	Lyperanthus nigricans							E	F
32	L serratus							A	I
33	Microtis atrata								D.
34	M unifolia				A	D	G	J	K
35	Paracaleana nigrita						E	I	K
36	Prasophyllum fimbria							A	F
	P giganteum								A
38	P hians								A
39	P regium							F	H
40	P triangulare								K
41	Pterostylis nana								A
42	Thelymitra antennifera								D
43	T cornicina								E
44	T crinita			A	В	D	E	H	K
45	T flexuosa								D
46	T nuda		A	В	C	E	F	Н	K
47	T pauciflora								D
48	Caladenia aff huegelii (large)								J
	C aff huegelii (chubbed petals)								F

#### Orchids seen in fruit:

#### 1 Corybas despectums

Due to the large number of species seen over the weekend I have not included those that were in bud or leaf only.

Orchids seen in flower = 50in fruit = 1in bud or leaf = 15

Total number of orchids seen = 66

PTEROSTYLIS Barbata - P Plumosa? - P Barbata Syn Turfosa and some

#### THE CONTINUING SAGA AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The discussions in the November 1985 BULLETIN make thought provoking and stimulating reading. There appears to be much common ground between the two authors, but of course they differ on some salient points.

Bob Bates quotes from the two papers published in the ORCHADIAN, June 1980 by Andrew Brown and my followup in December 1981. There was however, a prior paper in December 1979 by PETER VAUGHAN. It was this paper that originated the debate. In the light of my involvement, I feel obliged to respond to the current discussion. The outstanding quality of the two papers by Bob and Andrew in Octobers Bulletin are well up to the standard of professional taxonomic discussion, giving reason and detailed information that is bound to create a great deal

It is patently obvious that Bob made the most of his 1984 visit and the assistance extended to him by our group. Similarly Andrew has demonstrated that he has not wasted the heaven sent opportunity that arose when he was offered a position at the WA Herbarium in 1980, the results are self evident.

In Andrew's second paragraph THE CONTINUING SAGA he takes Bob and me to task in suggesting that we are unaware of the complexity of the problem. I believe he does me an injustice. If he is referring to my paper of 1981 (reprinted in this Bulletin issue) which shows quite clearly as Bob points out that in 1980 there were at least six "POSSIBLE BIRD ORCHIDS" that Andrew had not covered in his paper. From Andrew's current paper, there appears to be at least two that he is still not aware of. These six were a careful selection of TAXA that I believed then and still do, warranted a specific or variety name.

I was well aware of the complexity of the genera then, more so now and I fully endorse Andrew's remarks. As I had not joined the debate until now on THE CONTINUING SAGE - Andrew's remarks were premature at that time.

Bob Bates could not be expected to fully appreciate this complexity with his very limited field experience compounded by living in another state.

#### TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Since 1980 I have been involved with researchers in the east, supplying material for use in taxonomic revision of the genera, I have high hopes that a number of the orchids under discussion will be named and described - further that one species previously reduced to synonym will be reinstated. Both authors should be aware of this.

Figure 3(3) P. plumosa (small blunt after Andrew).

During the east of Esperance to Israelite Bay expedition in 1980

a PTEROSTYLIS was recorded from five different locations. At that time this species was placed under P. aff plumosa. However in the official report, this determination was changed to P. plumosa

L. CADY. Both authors should be aware of this. Prior to this publication one of the professionals involved wrote - that he was of the opinion that the species was in fact P. plumosa (the WA form). I made this information available to W.A.N.O.S.C.G. at the September 1982 meeting.

I agree with Andrew that it is far more widely distributed than previously thought, having recorded it from the Oldfield and Jerdacuttup rivers and Nell Foote recorded it from Jerramungup. The actual distribution will be far wider than this.

Figure 5 P. plumosa? (narrow filiform after Andrew)
This plate in my paper of 1981 is precisely the same as in
Orchids of South-Western Australia, Hoffmann and Brown, Page 322.

I do not agree with this determination and can see no reason for lumping it as a variety and consider it to be a species in its own right (time will tell). We have seen it from numerous locations to the east and west of Albany where it often grows around the perimeter of granite rocks sheltering under low shrubs and sometimes growing in moss on the rock. To me this little orchid is the most attractive of all our "birds".

Figure 2 (left of plate) P. barbata (small wheatbelt after Andrew) I agree with Bob that this species warrants at least a variety name. This opinion was shared by a Herbarium botanist in September 1974 when I delivered a pot of five (between Kondinin and Narembeen,)he confirmed a first recording and suggested it could warrant a name. We have since seen this orchid from Pingaring to Lake Grace arcing around to Quairading.

Figure 4 (left) P. barbata? (Late large after Andrew)
This appears to be Andrew's "late large". We know it from the one location (since bulldozed and cultivated) west of Manjimup, recorded in November 1977. We have done negligible field work in this area at that time. This species is the most robust we have seen, the filiform pointed dorsal sepal can extend up to 7cms above the galea. As Andrew has recorded it over a range Augusta and Denmark this distribution should warrant a name.

Figure 4 (TR variation)

Figure 3 (2) P. Sp

This is the most common and abundant "BIRD" in our experience in the south-west corner across to at least Cheynes Beach. It has a flowering spread over Oct-Nov and in the right year well into December. It is flowering now around Albany, this species has the most dense and largest plumes on the labellum that we have seen.

Surprisingly neither author appears to have covered it.

Reproduced below are pages 36 December 1981.

from 'The Orchadian'

36

THE ORCHADIAN

A Further Look at Pterostylis barbata Lindley and Pterostylis plumosa Cady - and Six Other Possible "Bird Orchids" in Western Australia

by Ron L. Heberle

Peter Vaughan's article in *The Orchadian* of December 1979 and Andrew Brown's follow-up in the June 1980 issue highlight some stimulating and interesting information on this highly specialised group. Both writers seem to agree that the two discussed are the sole representatives, although Andrew suggests there could be a hybrid in Western Australia. Both quote Alex George and Leo Cady to support this viewpoint, although Alex George has some reservations and suggests that some further research is necessary. How very true.



Figure 1: Pterostylis turfosa or P. barbata? (flowers August-September). × .5



Figure 2: Pterostylis barbata?-ex Narembeen XI (flowers August-September) . PTERROSTYLLE BARGATA FAMBICA. Hoguin &

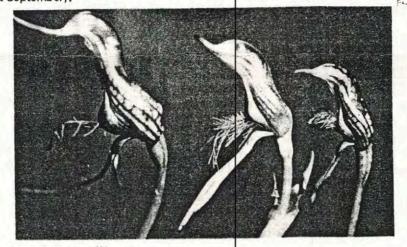


Figure 3: Three Pterostylis spp. (?) From left (1) ex Rocky Gully (Sept-Oct), (2) ex Young's Siding (Sept-Oct) - possibly P. plumosa? (3) ex Esperance (Aug-Sept).

In the W.A. Naturalist, 1961, A.S. George discussed P. turfosa and P. barbata and suggested that the only difference between the two is the length of the filiform points and reduced P. turfosa to a synonym of P. barbata as Lindley's name predates Endlicher's and suggests that both the W.A. and the Eastern States species are one and the same, unless further studies reveal substantial differences.

In 1969 Leo Cady named *P. plumosa* so we then had two distinct and different species. In 1971, in *Nuytsia* Vol. I, No. 2 A.S. George suggests that specimens from Young's Siding, W.A. are similar to Cady's *plumosa*, so we are left with *P. barbata* and possibly *plumosa* in W.A. and *plumosa* in the East.

During 1977 Herb Foote, Foundation President of the W.A. Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (then the W.A. Native Orchid Society), visited us at Albany and pointed out that the Albany "Bird Orchids" were markedly different from the *P. barbata* that grows in abundance near his home at the foot of the Darling Ranges near Perth. In 1979 I took specimens collected near our home in Spencer Park, Albany to the W.A. Herbarium where A.S. George confirmed their first recording.

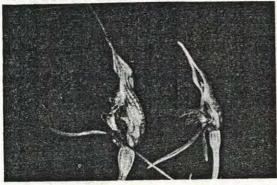


Figure 4: Two Pterostylis spp from Manjimup (flowering November-December). X • 5

Andrew Brown stated in his article in *The Orchadian* that *P. barbata* grew at Albany. I have never seen it within 150 kms of here; nor have I ever recognized a hybrid and have never collected at Busselton.

In August 1840, Ludwig Preiss collected a *Pterostylis* in Stirling Terrace, Albany, right in the town. It was subsequently named *P. turfosa* by Endlicher in 1946. This is the orchid that flowers all around Albany and up to 60 km east and west and 50 km inland in August and September. It would seem that there is a strong possibility that the Albany "bird" is in fact *P. turfosa*; so we could have at least three in the west.

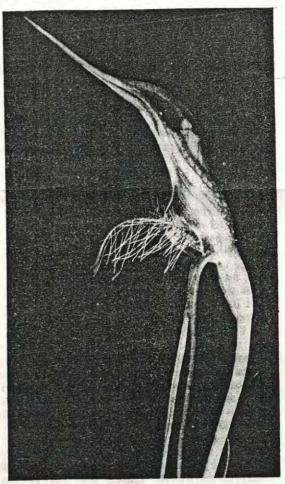


Figure 5: Pterostylis sp. - Tor Bay (flowers October-November). X2

As I have stated in the title: "and six other possible 'bird orchids' " I still have to account for the remaining five. I admit having great difficulties in discussing unnamed and undescribed orchids. I therefore submit photographs that will speak for themselves. Western Australia is a very big State; we still have approximately 15,000,000 hectares of bush in the South West; no more than 1% has been looked at by eyes that can identify what they

To conclude: in offering the results of 20 years or more of field experience, no single person can speak with authority. There will be many "birds" still to be found.

78 Campbell Road, ALBANY, 6330, W.A.

All photographs by R.L. Heberle.

Figure 3(1) P. sp? variety?
Recorded from Manjimup to Rocky Gully, seen flowering only in September in small colonies.

6-10 specimens appear to have affinities with  $\underline{P}$ .  $\underline{barbata}$  but has obvious differences. It is more robust over all. Has not been seen to integrate with other types.

#### SUMMARY

All three authors have much to learn, may the "SAGA" continue. CONCLUSIONS.

I am reminded of what an anonymous scribe had to say in taking me to task after I had given a slide talk at very short notice (5 days) in the June 1981 Bulletin - I have never yet met an orchidologist who whole heartedly agrees with another. So, arguments will continue to rage - if we ever reach total agreement there will be nothing left to learn!

#### R L HEBERLE Albany

Australian Orchid Foundation 107 Roberts Street Essendon Victoria 3040

The Foundation extends its services to your Members by offering a good discount of 15% from the following books that are listed in the Book List of 20th Sept. 85.

The Orchidaceae of German New Guinea.

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We thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Gerald Mc Craith.

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The Foundation would be grateful if you would bring to the attention of your Members, and through your Bulletin, that the following publications are available.

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<sup>-----</sup>postage is extra-----

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Mr A Brown

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