

THE W.A. NATIVE ORCHID STUDY & CONSERVATION GROUP



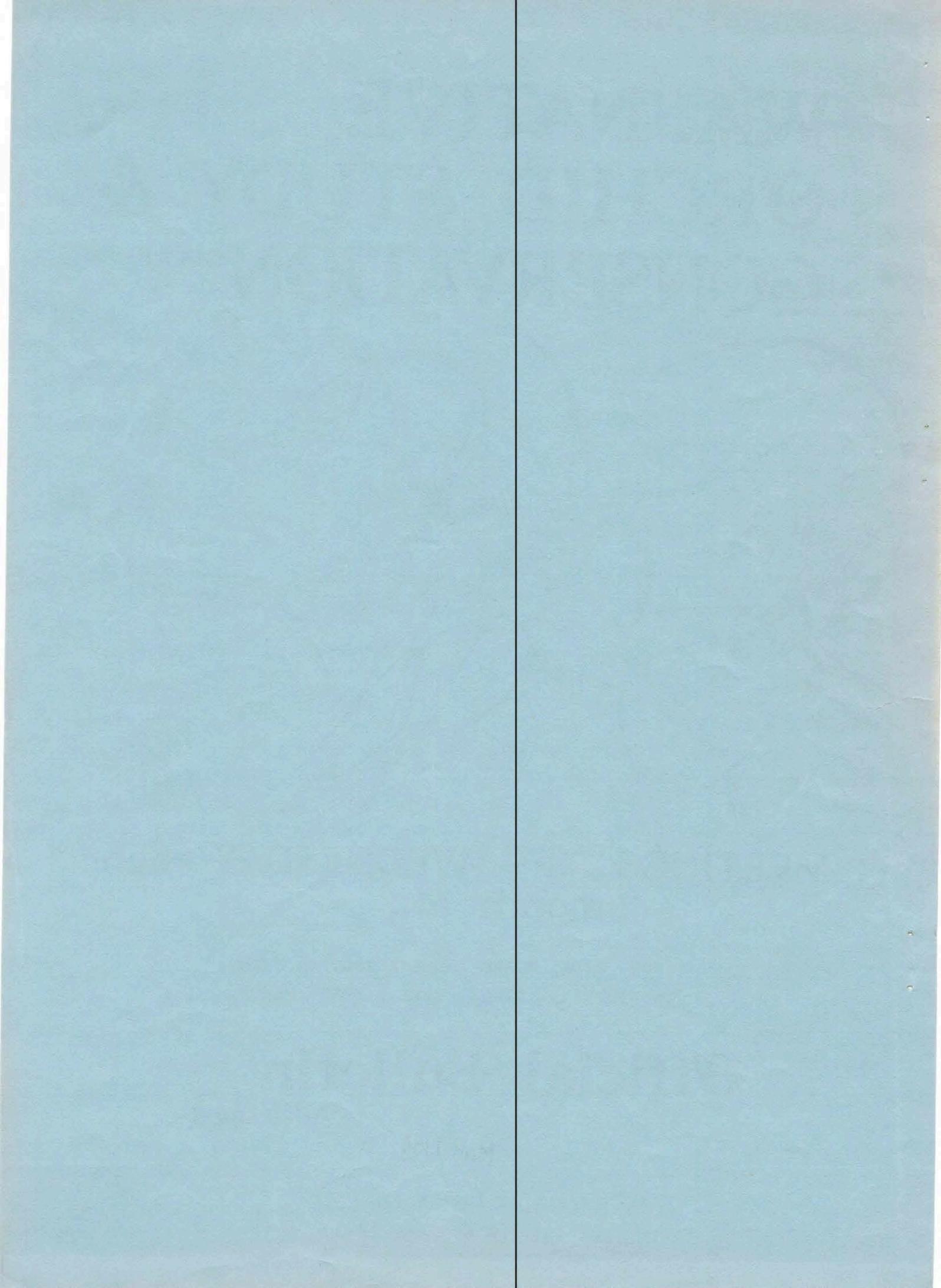
MEETINGS... 3rd WEDNESDAY each
month at..

KINGS PARK BOARD ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
Theatrette, KINGS PARK, WEST PERTH.

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THE WEST AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ORCHID STUDY AND 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 organisations.
- 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.

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 21 - 1984 - 8 p.m.

New Venue- Theatrette Kings Park Administration Building,
Fraser Avenue, Kings Park, West Perth.

- See map -

Topic- Early Orchids and early leaf identification.

Raffle - Jams and pickles donated by Marie.

Supper - 30c head.

Come along, renew old acquaintances and prepare for a busy season.

APRIL COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 4th at Marie's [REDACTED]
at 8 p.m.

BADGES

I am ordering badges again in April - approx cost \$5.00. If you would like one, please ring Fay on [REDACTED] or contact me at the March meeting.

MEETING AND BULLETIN TOPICS

Is there a particular topic you would like? Please let us know and we'll do our best to organise it for you. Don't forget - anyone can write an article or report for the Bulletin - field observations are particularly welcome.

FEES

Fees for 1984 are now due, and as reported in the December Bulletin, there are \$10.00 per Bulletin posted, regardless of whether the membership is single, double, family, city or country.

FIELD TRIPS 1984

- 12 - 13th May - Babakin - Rhizanthella gardnerii
 12th August - Ludlow - Corybas species
 18 - 19th Aug - Eneabba --- Caladenia crebra and
 others. Suggest booking
 at McQueen's Caravan Pk.
 26th August - Boyagin Rock - lots of orchids to
 see there. *laevigata*
 1 - 2nd Sept - Mt Jackson - Caladenia laevigata
 16th Sept - Clackline - Caladenia triangularis
 October Long Weekend - Margaret River/Busselton

METRO AREA

9th Sept
 23rd Sept
 30th Sept
 Mid-October

If any members are 'field tripping' and would like company, please contact Sid Gibbings or any committee member - others might like to join you.

Also, if any member has further field trip suggestions, contact a committee member and we'll try to fit it in.

'THAT BOOK'

That very elusive book "Orchids of South-West Australia" by Hoffman and Brown has been delayed again. We understand from Noel and Andy that the problem lies with the seeming inability of the printers to get accurate or near-accurate colours into the prints. The latest expected date is now May 1984.

To those who have already paid, thank you and receipts have been issued. To those who have ordered but not paid yet - please send your money in by the end of April and keep your fingers crossed.

CAR STICKERS

These are available from the Treasurer at \$1.00 each. Money with order please - add postage for country members.

APPEAL

John Kavalas from N.S.W. is trying to cultivate all the known species of Cryptostylis in Australia. He would like tubers of C. ovata. Please contact Alison Harrington if you can help.

Alison also has tubers of some S.A. species for distribution at the March meeting.

ATLAS MAPS DELAYED

To take advantage of a number of recent computer program developments, and to allow contributors time to complete sight record sheets for the 1983 orchid season, the production of the third series of interim maps has been delayed until towards the end of April. Please ensure you have your completed sheets with me by March 20.

Steve Hopper

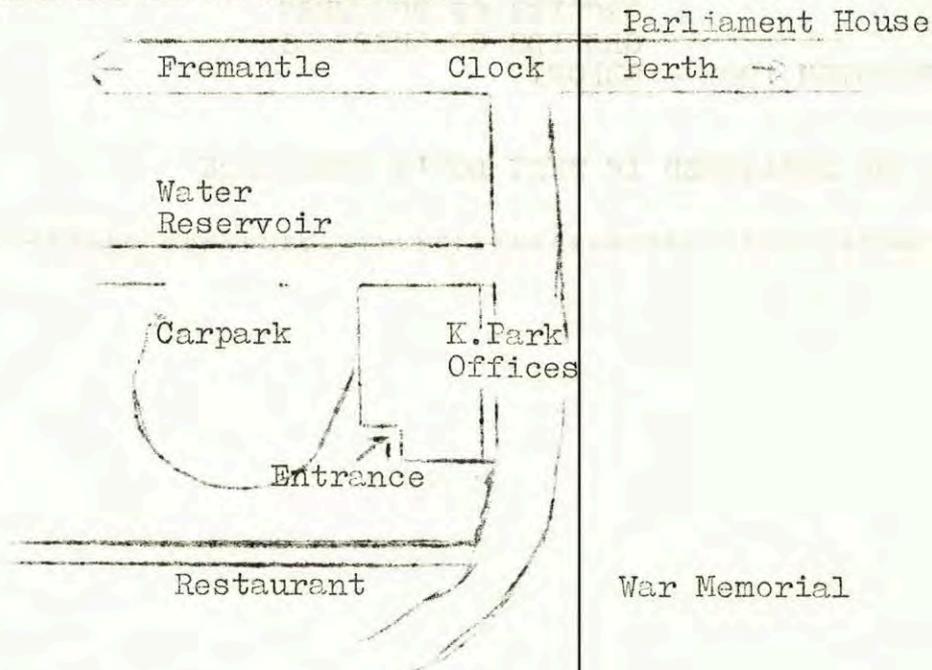
SPECIAL MEETING NOTES

The committee met in January to discuss the interim report on the formation of a new department in which it is proposed to amalgamate the Dept. of Forests, the Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife (Wildlife and Research Investigation areas), the National Parks Authority, the Herbarium of the Dept of Agriculture, the Fauna and Feral Animal Research sections of the Agricultural Protection Board, the Bushfires Board from the Dept of Lands and Surveys, the Waterways Commission and the Kings Park Board. The proposed Department is aimed at total co-ordinated management of all public land.

The committee, after reading the report, composed a letter which was sent to the Task Force. A copy of the letter was also sent to every Member of Parliament and to both the daily newspapers. The West Australian published the letter in mid-January.

In its letter, the committee recommended that the current situation is working adequately and should be retained.

The Secretary has a copy of the letter. Please feel free to request a copy to read.

MUD MAP TO NEW MEETING VENUEWHAT'S IN YOUR LIBRARY?BOOKS

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| A.N.O.S. (Vic) | Native Orchids in Melbourne: an introduction to Cultivation. |
| Aurousseau, M. (ed) | The Letters of F.W. Ludwig Leichardt |
| Cady, Leo & Rotherham, E. | Australian Native Orchids |
| Clements, M.A. | Preliminary Checklist of Australian Orchadaceae |
| Clyne, D. | Australian Rock and Tree Orchids |
| Clyne, D. | Australian Ground Orchids |

Dept. Conservation & Environment The Darling System.

Dockrill, A.W. Australian Indigenous Orchids

Fiveash, Rosa. Australian Orchids

Jenkins, C.F.H. National Parks of Western Australia

Lavarack, P.S. Cape York Orchid Project: Orchids of the
McIlwraith Range

Lutz, Ernest L. How to Embed Flowers in Plastic

McMinnis, W.G. Allan Cunningham: Botanist and Explorer

Nicholls, W.H. Orchids of Australia

Erickson, Rica Orchids of the West

George A. & Foote H. Orchids of Western Australia

***** OVERDUE BOOKS - PLEASE RETURN AT ONCE *****

Clyne AUSTRALIAN GROUND ORCHIDS

Erickson ORCHIDS OF THE WEST

Nichols ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA

ORCHID SYMPOSIUM 1981 - REPORT

NAMES WILL BE PUBLISHED IF THEY DON'T COME BACK

Mr. J. J. ...

Office

Entrance

Restaurant

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

NAME

Native Orchids in Melbourne: an introduction to cultivation.

The letters of W.W. Lawrie & Richard ...

Professor M. ...

Cathy Lee & ...

Glenora M.A.

Glynn D.

Glynn D.

TIME FOR REVIEW

The formation of the Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group has been the greatest single factor in both updating and expanding information on orchids in this state. A number of "extinct" species have been rediscovered, distributions have been updated and a number of popular myths have been exploded. The enthusiasm of the Group and the revisions and classifications done by Alex George and Steve Hopper have been responsible for that faint light at the end of the tunnel. A tremendous amount of work is still to be done, particularly when considering the Pterostylis rufa group, the Microtis unifolia group, some of those unusual Diuris and the many Caladenia "hybrids" which everyone finds so difficult to place in boxes.

Possibly the most significant rediscoveries in recent years have been Caladenia cristata, Prasophyllum triangulare, Pterostylis pusilla and of course the orchid which has captured everyones imagination, Rhizanthella gardneri.

At least twenty new species have been either classified or are at present in the process of being named and so the Group under the guidance of its three professional members - Steve, Alex and Kingsley has made great progress.

Research into the influence of bushfires and the relationship between soil fungi and orchids appear to be an area which must be left to the professionals. Why is it that some species will only flower following summer bushfires? Is there a tie up with the activity of soil fungi? It is possible that the soil temperature increases with the destruction of the undergrowth which in turn creates ideal conditions for increased growth of soil fungi. If so, do the orchids benefit from an increased supply of elements in their food or does the fungi provide a threat to the plants existance which in turn triggers the necessity for flowering and the growth of seed?

The rediscovery of Rhizanthella gardneri has certainly come up with some puzzling features. The plant was reputed to be a saprophyte, living on rotting vegetation and yet field research indicates otherwise as the tubers and roots are found in relatively barren earth below the topsoil. One theory, yet to be proved, is that they get their nutrition from the living roots of the Melaleuca via. the associated soil fungi. This far more likely explanation would mean that the plant is in fact an epi-parasite and not a saprophyte at all.

The group is indepted to Warren Stoutamire for the tremendous work he has done on sexual attraction of wasps by our native orchids. This revealing study has increased the number of known species using this method to ensure fertilisation from one (Cryptostylis ovata) to some fifteen and possibly more species.

There is need for members to review their slide collections with a view to making donations to the Groups collection so that a central , permanent record can be built up.

All in all the Group can be justly proud of its efforts and if past achievements can be taken as a guide we can certainly look forward to an exciting future.

The formation of the Western Analytical-Relive Group and Conservation Study has been the greatest single factor in both gathering and expanding information on birds in this state. A number of "active" species have been rediscovered, and a number of popular birds have been explored. The enthusiasm of the Group and the revisions by Alex George and Steve Hopper have been responsible for the rapid increase of the group. It is still to be done, particularly in the case of the Western Analytical-Relive Group, the Western Analytical-Relive Group, and the many Western Analytical-Relive Group birds, some of those which have been classified as "hybrids" which everyone finds as difficult to place in boxes.

Possibly the most significant rediscoveries in recent years have been Cathartes aura, Protophila exilis, Troglodytes aedon, and of course the Western Analytical-Relive Group birds which has captured everyone's imagination. Rhinoceros, Western Analytical-Relive Group.

All these twenty new species have been either classified or are at present in the process of being named and as the Group under the guidance of the three professional members - Steve Hopper and Langley has made great progress.

Research into the influence of weather and the relationship between soil fungi and birds appear to be an area which must be left to the professional ornithologists. It is here a link up with the lower following summer ornithologists is possible. The soil conditions activity of soil fungi? This is possible. The soil conditions increase with the decrease of the underground which in turn creates ideal conditions for increased growth of soil fungi. It is from an increased supply of elements to the birds that the fungi provide a benefit to the birds. The growth of birds is the necessity for increasing and the growth of birds.

The rediscovery of Rhinoceros, Western Analytical-Relive Group up with some puzzling to them. The birds was reported to be a sapsucker, living on rotting vegetation and yet field research indicates otherwise as the tubers and roots are found in relatively barren earth below the ground. One theory, not to be proved, is that they get their nutrition from the living roots of the Western Analytical-Relive Group. The rediscovered soil fungi is the same theory. The explanation would mean that the plant is in fact an epiphyte and not a saprophyte at all.

The group is indebted to Warren Strommen for the tremendous work he has done on several occasions in the case of our native birds. This revealing study has increased the number of known species using this method to establish fertilization from Western Analytical-Relive Group (to some fifteen) and possibly more species.

There is need for members to review their slide collections with a view to making donations to the Group's collection. A central, permanent record can be built up.

All in all the Group can be truly proud of its efforts and if your contributions can be taken as a whole we can certainly look forward to an exciting future.

Rod Peakall is currently involved in an honours project at UWA entitled "A Preliminary Investigation of the Genetics of WA Orchids". Very little is known about the genetics of Australian Orchids, even areas as basic to genetics as chromosome numbers are yet unexplored.

Rod will be investigating the pollination biology of some of the early flowering species such as Leporella tribracteata and Caladenia aphylla. Other areas of research include chromosome numbers in the different genera, the extent of vegetative reproduction vs sexual reproduction, the extent of self-pollination or otherwise and more.

Rod would appreciate any information on the location of the early flowering species such as Leporella tribracteata and Epistichilus dilatatus. Large populations of these species within the Wetland area are of great interest. Further information from members have clues about the pollination biology of Leporella either observations or perhaps photographs would be keen to communicate with you.

Rod is also wanting to get hold of the Australian Orchid Society Bulletin numbers 22 (1972), 40 (1974), 41 (1975), 43 (1976) and 45 (1976).

If you are able to help in any of these ways you can contact Rod either [redacted]

* Finally did you know that Rod has found that a single flower of Epistichilus ciliatus can produce more than 1,000 seeds.

Apomixis lookup
Self pollination "