



Kunia Orchid Society Newsletter

January 2022

<http://www.kuniaorchidsociety.org/> or www.facebook.com/KuniaOrchidSociety

Edited by Denise Stewart

A Message from Our President

Dear Kunia Orchid Society Members & Friends,

Because of the continued COVID-19 challenges, we have not been able to have our in person monthly meetings and our annual show. We will continue to have our virtual meetings every other month in 2022. The first zoom meeting will be in January, the next one in March, and so forth through the year until we are able to meet again at Mililani Ike Elementary School. Because of the current uncertainty, we are not planning to have our annual show again this year. In its place are considering having an outdoor plant sale in the first quarter of the new year. We have the donated orchid plants to sell from Henry & Penny. We could possibly add to that other orchid or various plants that members could donate. We invite any suggestions from our members for this possible outdoor plant sale and other activities we might be able to have during this restrictive shutdown period?

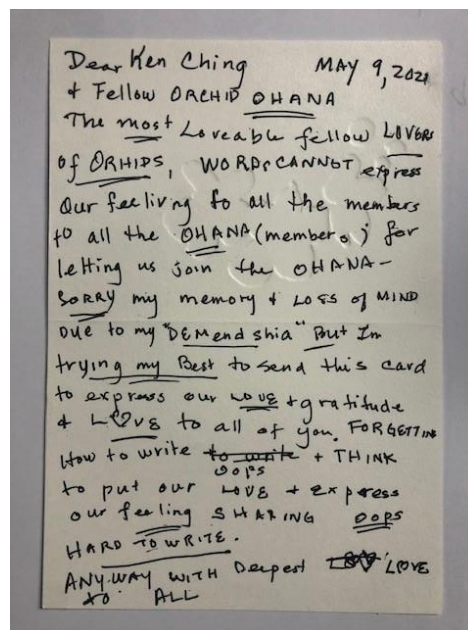
I have known Bill & Hilda Takamatsu for many years. Initially I did not know too much about them except that they worked at H & R Nurseries, and they belonged to many orchid clubs on Oahu. One of my earliest experiences with Hilda was when we went on a Hilo Orchid Safari, and although she was quite new to KOS at that time, she helped everyone wrap and pack their newly acquired orchids for shipping back to Oahu. I always remembered her willingness to help others with what she had learned about orchids through the years.

I received this sweet thank you card from Hilda earlier this year expressing her gratitude to you, her fellow members of the Kunia Orchid society.

Hilda had a special place in her heart for all of the members of the Kunia Orchid Society and she would often express her love and gratitude for all of you. She told me she always felt the kindness of the members whenever she attended our meetings and events. Today, 12/17, Bill called me to tell me that Hilda passed away. We will certainly miss her smiling face, generous nature, and always willingness to share her talents.

It would be difficult to find another person like Hilda, but we must work on finding replacements for us aging seniors. As we miss valuable contributors in our society, we need our younger, more energetic members to step up to take on more responsibilities. In the new year, let us look for ways that we can accomplish the goal of promoting orchid culture and knowledge in our society and community.

Aloha,
Ken Ching



“It’s a New Year to Grow Orchids!”



Learn about growing orchids to enjoy at home, bring to Judging events or Shows in 2022. It’s not too early to start now as the year begins. Get some tips on growing healthy plants, learn about Orchid Merit Judging criteria and judging at Shows. Presentation will be followed by Q&A.

Brad Lau has been growing orchids for more than 15 years and has a wide collection of about 1000 orchids. He has been the President of the Honolulu Orchid Society since 2017 and is an accredited HOS Judge. He lives in Mililani with wife Linda Inouye, has three children and two grandchildren.

KOS General Meeting January 4, 2022 7:00pm

Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89854782564> to join meeting

Meeting ID: 898 5478 2564

Passcode: No passcode needed

If you are still having issues with Zoom and would like personal attention, please leave Adam a message at 808-295-4842 or email him at adam.almeida@gmail.com.



Orchid Blossom Midge

By Susan Jones

Reported and described from Southeast Asia, Australia, and, within the United States, Hawaii and Florida, *Contarinia maculipennis*, the orchid blossom midge, is a recently arrived pest to orchid growers. Larvae similar to *C. maculipennis* have been intercepted at United States ports of entry on *Dendrobium* species orchids shipped from Cambodia, Japan and Thailand, according to Avis Hamon, PhD, writing in *Orchid Pests and Diseases*, 2002 edition (American Orchid Society, Delray Beach).

The orchid blossom midge is a member of the gall midge family (Cecidomyiidae), so named for the galls that form in plants attacked by some species during their larval stage. The orchid blossom midge is polyphagous (feeds on many types of plants) and will attack orchid buds and flowers. This can cause bud blast, as well as damage and deformity to the developing floral tissues. Because the midge larvae flourish in conditions with high humidity and require a damp medium in which to pupate, they thrive under conditions ideal for growing orchids.



"Orchid Maladies and Problems" ...

Keeping orchid maladies & problems at bay is a great New Year's resolution!

Related articles will be shared throughout the year, as a resource from Kunia's

Affiliated Society membership with the AOS. We hope you enjoy these articles.

Thank you, Leland Nakai, for submitting this topic to the Education Committee!

Orchid Blossom Midges can destroy a whole season's flowering.

Life Cycle

The small, flying adult midges lay large quantities of eggs in flower buds. The eggs and developing larvae are virtually undetectable inside the closed bud, until the damage from the feeding larvae becomes evident, according to Paul Johnson, PhD, Insect Research Collection, South Dakota State University, Brookings.

Midge larvae are small (approximately 7/64–1/8 inch [2.5–3 mm] in length), white, and resemble fungus-gnat larvae in appearance. When present, as many as 30 insects have been found in a single flower bud. This is their most visible stage. At maturity, larvae jump from the plant to the surface of the potting medium by curling

and uncurling their bodies in a springlike fashion for propulsion. They then burrow into the top layer of the medium to pupate. The tiny adult flies emerge about three weeks later. They are approximately 1/16 inch (1.5 mm) in length, with long banded legs, large eyes, long antennae, spotted wings, and a wingspan of about 7/64–1/8 inch (2.5–3 mm). They mate shortly after emergence.

Symptoms

The midges have been found primarily on *Dendrobium* and *Vanda*, with recent reports on *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium* and *Phalaenopsis*, and may affect other orchids as well. Recent imports from Southeast Asia, Australia and Hawaii should be isolated initially until they are determined to be free of this pest and any others. Evidence of possible orchid blossom midge infestation includes bud blast, brownish spots that appear chewed, holes in buds and floral tissues, and fungal infections that may follow in areas damaged by the midges. The midge larva is most prevalent in temperate areas and can be identified by their presence inside unopened flower buds (no other maggots are found within buds) and peculiar capability of self-propulsion enabling them to spring several centimeters around flower parts. Under favorable conditions, this pest can become entrenched within 14 days. A serious infestation can be devastating, rapidly destroying an entire flowering if left unchecked, according to Gene Monnier, owner of J.E.M. Orchids, Delray Beach, Florida.

Controls

While methods for controlling the midge have not been fully determined, effective sanitation is important. Remove all damaged, molding or dropped buds. Eradicate weeds in the growing area, as well as in and around plants, says Johnson. Healthy plants are more resistant to pests and diseases than weaker ones. Overcrowded plants allow pests and disease to spread through a collection more quickly than those given adequate growing space.

Applications of pesticide may be useful, such as Diazinon granules to the medium to eradicate burrowing larvae and Orthene (used with a penetrant such as LI 700) to foliage and buds to control egg-laying adults and larvae, according to Johnson. Repeat the spraying of foliage and buds weekly for three to four weeks to eliminate the pest at each stage of its development, according to Monnier. While the above pesticides may prove effective, results have not yet proven conclusive, says Andy Easton, director of education, American Orchid Society. Always use chemical controls in accordance with dosage and safety recommendations from the manufacturer. For a severe infestation, it is advisable to remove all inflorescences before applying the pesticide.

Biological controls, such as Hymenopteran predatory wasps, have proven effective against other gall midge species, and may be useful for *C. maculipennis* as well. Further research is needed to definitively determine effective controls for this serious pest.

References

Dodge, Vivian M. 2003. "Sun Protection." *Vivi's Orchid Corner*. 8(6).

_____. 2000. "Tips for August." *Vivi's Orchid Corner*. 5(7).

Withner, Carl L. 1997. "Good Orchid Growing or the Concept of Stress on Plants." *Orchid Society of Nova Scotia newsletter*, May.

Susan Jones was the editor of Awards Quarterly and assistant editor of Orchids. American Orchid Society, 16700 AOS Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33446



The time has come to renew your 2022 Kunia Orchid Society membership.

Last year, your membership dues and donations helped fund our KOS monthly meetings, newsletters and other KOS expenses. With the challenges and restrictions brought about by COVID-19, we still plan to provide continued orchid education opportunities for our members and the general public for the coming year.

As soon as permitted, we would like to resume our past fund raising efforts, such as our annual orchid show and other fund raiser opportunities to meet our future association expenses. Until then we appreciate your kokua by completing the membership renewal form found at the end of this newsletter and sending it back with your check. Please encourage any of our past members to join us once again.

Mahalo,
Kunia Orchid Society Board of Directors



Kunia Orchid Society – 2022 Membership Application

- ☐ **\$15 Regular Membership Renewal (Jan 1 to Dec 31); \$20 if paid after Jan 1st**
☐ **\$20 New Membership (Jan 1 to Dec 31)**

Tax Deductible Donation, if any:

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \$ _____

Complete and mail to:

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed

Please make Check Payable to: Kunia Orchid Society Your Cancelled Check will be your receipt
Mail to P.O. Box 893956, Mililani, HI 96789

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____