

Cymbidium Chatter'

Edition 23 - Sept 21 2020



(Purely Dreaming x Ultimate Ray) 'LOL'
Photograph: Greg Bryant

Welcome to this edition of Cymbidium Chatter and the very good news that COVID-19 numbers are at much lower levels and that we are on track to come out of lockdown next week! Apart from this heartening news the Spring sunshine certainly has a bit of warmth to it which in itself makes you feel that much better!

All the main Cymbidium shows around Australia would have now been held and growers will be hard at work re-potting their plants. I have had a reasonable flowering this season but a few plants, that would have been in full flower come show time, are still a couple of weeks away from being in full bloom. As mentioned in a previous Cymbidium Chatter I have been busy relocating all the plants in my collection, in the hope that the better light conditions will see an improved flowering next season. At the same time as moving the plants around, I have been undertaking a ruthless cull of my Cymbidiums and I have managed to sell quite a number of them on the Facebook market place site. If you haven't tried this site it is certainly worth trying as it is free, not incurring any of the fees associated with eBay and it seems to attract genuine buyers!

In this edition of CC you can read Joshua White's Part 2 of the Cym Death Wish grex. I have received very positive feedback about Part 1. Several people commented that although they choose not to grow this type of Cymbidium, they did find the article of great interest - thanks and congratulations Joshua!

While the 3 Amigos continue to produce some wonderful new flowers, this week's edition features some of the flowers from Victoria, with our president, Terry Poulton, producing some great looking flowers. Ian Mordue another COSV member, sent me some photographs of two seedlings from one of his own crossings, I am sure you will find the resultant offspring very interesting. To round out the contributions from COSV I have included several seedlings flowered by Jim Frame, Surf Coast Orchids. Jim informs me that he is enjoying tremendous sales at the Torquay Farmers Market.

To round out this edition I have also included some photographs from Bryants Orchids. Greg continues to produce some wonderful new flowers, his strike rate for producing quality show bench Cymbidiums, is first class!

Finally thank you to those people who have sent me photographs during the past week, it makes my job of producing Cymbidium Chatter all that much easier - please keep them coming, your input is greatly appreciated!

— Children of Death —

The Descendants of Death Wish

By Joshua White

This article is intended as a follow-up to my article on Cym. Death Wish, this time focussing on its progeny. To date, there are 12 registered hybrids with Death Wish and at least 8 others that are yet to be registered, with the majority of them having been made by Kevin and registered by him or Royale Orchids after his passing. Jody Cutajar has kindly provided some of background on the names for some of the crosses.

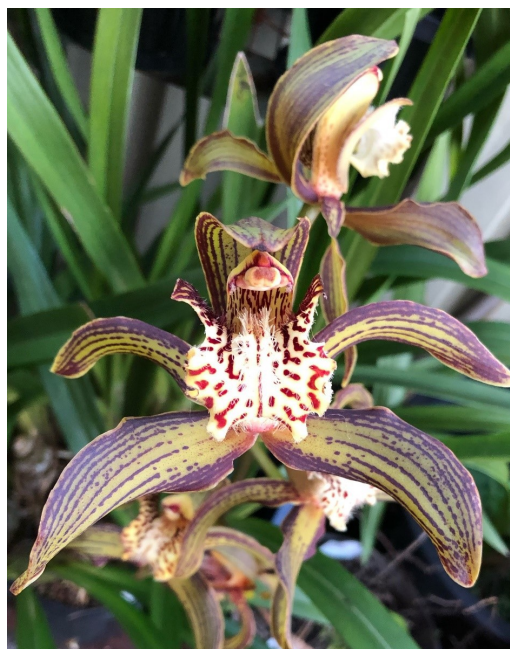
Cym. Amy Winehouse (tracyanum X Death Wish)

This grex was initially made around 10 years ago, with two different crosses (both with *tracyanum* 'Spice' as the pod parent and each with a different Death Wish) were offered in the 2012 Royale Orchids Catalogue. Kevin described them as follows:

1. "Cym. *tracyanum* style flowers that will be incredibly dark due to the chocolate/solid red lip from 'Withering Glance'. Plants will be quite compact to boot." Kevin's prediction was accurate, as the photo below left is the result of this cross.
2. "Different colour is expected with this similar crossing. 'Saratoga' is also a compact grower with a contrasting solid red labellum. More green/spotting on sepals and petals."

It was later remade using Death Wish 'Speckled Spectre' X *tracyanum* 'Tiger Tail' (the result of which is pictured below right). The grex was registered in 2016 and named after the late British singer.

Both photos were kindly provided by Teresa Bourke of NSW.



Cym. Arachnid (Death Wish X erythraeum)

I originally touched on this grex in my article about *Cym. erythraeum* in Issue 3d (the last supplement for April 2020). Named for its spidery flowers, it was registered in 2011. Kevin made the cross at least 3 times that I am aware of (each time using *erythraeum* var. *flavum* 'Paradise') with a different Death Wish each time.

Death Wish 'Dark Invader' X *erythraeum* 'Paradise' was released in 2015 and a number of growers have flowered plants from this crossing (including myself). Every example I have seen has favoured *erythraeum* in flower size and fine foliage, although plant size and flower count varies. Unfortunately they also only flower once per bulb with a single spike (behaviour I attribute to *erythraeum*) and they are not particularly vigorous growers. The flowers last around 6 to 8 weeks and are scented.

'Paradise' was the pod parent for the crosses with Death Wish 'Withering Glance' and 'Dreamtime', both of which were released as seedlings in 2018.

When asked about the Death Wish hybrids, Andy Easton commented that "Kevin's use of *Cym. erythraeum* was a good addition to the line". Andy himself made two crosses using Death Wish, which are covered later in this article.

Photos: an example of the grex exhibited at a COSV meet-ing (top), a different seedling shown at the OSCOV show (middle) and one of my plants exhibiting the strong *erythraeum* influence in the shape and style of the bloom (bottom).



Cym. Beatriz Kunning (Death Wish X Arachnid)

This diploid cross was registered by Robert Agnes in 2018 for his good friend, as he had received seed of it from Kevin. Kevin offered seedlings in 2015 and described them as follows: "For those who like the spidery types on very compact growing plants. Should have plenty of orange tones as well."

The two different examples I have found online vary significantly; one is a yellow-orange with a solid red lip, whereas the second is a strong green overlaid with russet spotting and a heavily-spotted lip. To the best of my knowledge, this has only been made once using (Death Wish 'Speckled Spectre' X Arachnid 'Wendy Dhu').

Cym. Cliff Duncan (Veronica Clowes X Death Wish)

This grex got its name when a customer asked to have it named after his friend and was registered in 2019 (after Kevin's passing). Kevin had previously offered seedlings from two crosses in 2015, both of which used Veronica Clowes 'Royale' as the pod parent:

1. X Death Wish 'Speckled Spectre': "Veronica is *erythraeum* x *hookerianum*. A similar mixture to my previous offerings. These should take a cooler temperature."
2. X Death Wish 'Vampire Slayer': "Similar cross to the above but using a chocolate/red lip Death Wish."

Cym. Ensign of Death (ensifolium X Death Wish)

Andy Easton made this diploid cross “primarily to produce some strongly WT progeny that might be stripey and fragrant” and was successful in his endeavour, as shown by the photo provided (right, courtesy of Andy Easton).

The crosses was registered in 2018 by J. Sloniker.

Cym. Euphanasia (Death Wish X Valley of Death)

I suspect this cross was triploid, based on the ancestry of Valley of Death (which is Yowie Flame X Mighty Mouse, registered in 1989 by Geyserland Orchids).

Jody noted that its name was a simple play-on-words. It was registered in 2011.



Cym. Henri Choo (Enzan Shining X Death Wish)

This is another triploid cross made by Kevin. It was registered in 2009 and named for a friend of his.

Graham Morris has a selection of this grex (which appears on eBay from time to time as divisions of the mother plant) and was named for the farm he used to live at – ‘Craigburn’ (photo courtesy of Graham Morris).

Cym. Immortal (erythrostylum X Death Wish)

One of the few Death Wish crosses not made by Royale Orchids; instead, this was registered by Kim Hang in 2018. To the best of my knowledge, all extant plants have been made using Death Wish ‘Saratoga’ and seedlings appear on eBay from time to time.

Cym. Muscat Moonshine (Khan Flame X Death Wish)

This cross was registered in 2008 and named for the purple colouration of the flowers. As per a few other crosses, it is likely triploid due to the Death Wish line being diploid.

Cym. Sundaani Mandy (Sundaani Treasure X Death Wish)

Cym. Sundaani’s Wish (Winter Fire X Death Wish)

Both these crosses were made by Pauline Hockey (Sundaani Orchids in Noarlunga, South Australia) and registered in 2018. I know very little about them and have not been able to find any photos online, either.

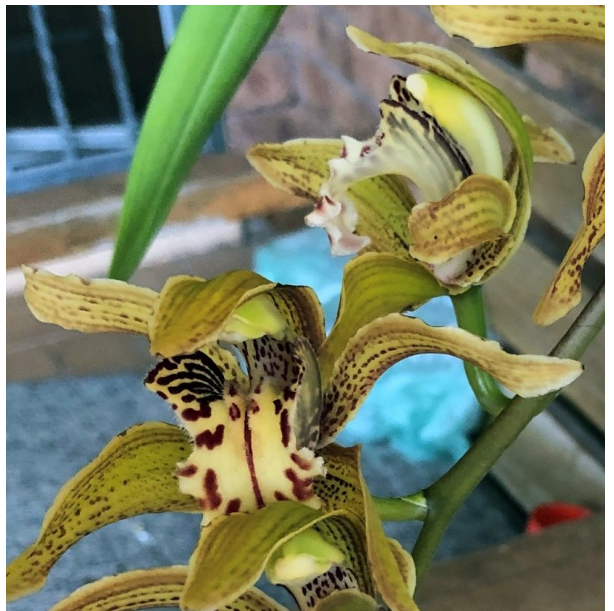
Cym. That's Outrageous (Ken Siew X Death Wish)

Kevin offered seedlings from this grex in his 2015 catalogue and described his expectations for the cross as follows: "Another in the spidery Death Wish line. Compact growing plants with large arching spikes on mature plants." The grex was registered the following year (2016), although I was unable to find out the origin of the name.

The grex has been made at least three times, all using Ken Siew 'Royale' as the pod parent and each of Death Wish 'Saratoga', 'Speckled Spectre' and 'Vampire Slayer' as the pollen parent.

The cross has a lot of *tracyanum* character (unsurprising, since it contributes just over 50% of the genetics) but, as Kevin predicted, is more compact than *tracyanum*.

Photos: a seedling from the cross using Death Wish 'Speckled Spectre' (top); a seedling from the cross using Death Wish 'Saratoga' (bottom, courtesy Teresa Bourke). Based on photos of other seedlings available online (such as the one flowered by Nado at Springfield Orchids), the labellum often looks like that shown in the photos, although I have seen one that strongly resembled that of *tracyanum* as well.



Cym. (Alnwick Castle X Death Wish)

This cross was made about 10 years ago and offered in the 2012 catalogue (using Death Wish 'Withering Glance'): "[Alnwick Castle] 'Dover Heights' has been used for the yellow that it imparts. Is an open flower and I hope that the Death Wish will dominate. Compact growers." The cross was later remade using Death Wish 'Ginger', a seedling of which is shown in the photo.

Kevin's aim was reported to have been to introduce yellows into the Death Wish line; as of last year, it was still Royale Orchids' intention to register this cross.



Cym. (Bennett-Poei X Death Wish)

Two different crosses of this unregistered grex were offered in Kevin's 2015 catalogue and he described them as follows:

1. "BP 'Atlantis' is a very productive orange (iridioides x tracyanum) back onto one of my chocolate/red lip type Death Wish's. Arching. Productive and colourful. What more could you ask for...oh, and 'spidery' flowers."
2. "Similar to the above cross but made with the finest orange type Death Wish [Speckled Spectre]. Expect a totally different result from this cross. Lots of orange colouration."

Cym. (Death Wish X Charm)

I know very little about this cross other than it was made using Death Wish 'Underbelly' and Charm 'Elegance' AM/OSNSW.

Cym. (Death Wish X Rosefieldense)

Seedlings of this cross were offered in 2017 by Royale Orchids at the Santa Barbara Summer Hummer. The Rosefieldense used was an unnamed clone, whilst the Death Wish was 'Withering Glance'.

Cym. (Death Wish X Toni Benton)

Another cross I know little about other than that it was made using Death Wish 'Underbelly' and Toni Ben-*ton* 'Royale'.

Cym. (It Started With A Kiss X Death Wish)

Another of Kevin's hybrids that is yet to be registered. I am not sure when it became available, nor which specific parents were used, but knowing the parentage of It Started With A Kiss (Rosemary Goode X Pywacket), I would expect plenty of *tracyanum*-style flowers favouring red.

Cym. (lowianum X Death Wish)

This cross was made by the late David Gynn of Sequoia Cymbidiums in NSW. It was one of several crosses that were at the lab at the time of his passing. A list of available crosses was subsequently offered by Firetail Orchids in mid 2019 (with seedlings shipped from the lab early 2020), with all proceeds going to David's family. Without knowing which particular parents were used, I would hazard a guess that these will resemble Gatonense when they eventually flower.

Cym. (Tracyanum Alexander X Death Wish)

Another Death Wish cross made by Andy Easton, who described it as follows: "We have always had a great selection of improved *tracyanum*-lookalikes and this is one of our new crosses. Compact habit, good upright spike and of course plenty of fragrance too."

It is a triploid cross, however, and thus almost certainly a dead-end. Photo of a seedling bloomed around 2016/2017 (courtesy of Andy Easton).



That covers all the Death Wish progeny that I am aware of, although it is quite possible that there are other unregistered crosses that are unknown to me. Personally I can't see any new Death Wish hybrids being made, as the focus is now on the next 1-2 generations beyond Death Wish. A grower I know has used Amy Winehouse in hybridising, whilst I am experimenting with Arachnid and the other Death Wish offspring I have been able to obtain.

I hope the reader has found this article both interesting and useful. If anyone has any photos to share of the crosses for which I was unable to source images, please send them to Geoff for inclusion in a future issue, as I (and I'm sure other readers) would be most interested to see them!

TeePee's Treasures



Cym Zenera 'TeePee'



Cym Kimberley Valley x McLure's Quest 'Starquest'



Cym Joan's Charisma x Kimberley Lady



Cym Kimberley Splash 'TeePee'



Two big ones: Regal Princess 151mm



Cym Laramie Joy 'Tall Gold' 145mm



Cym Regal Flames 'TeePee'



From Ian Mordue

Left: Cym Radiant Vulcan



Attached is a photo of Radiant Vulcan that won for me at a COSV meeting a couple of years ago and some seedlings from it that flowered for the first time this year. All off small plants in 6 inch pots, so not so many flowers this year, even though the Radiant Vulcan has 11 - 12 flowers per spike and the other parent 15 flowers (it was a white seedling from an unregistered cross I did some time ago of Balkis "Compact" X Valley Paradise "Shangri La". Interestingly all the seedlings from the cross with Radiant Vulcan are white so far.



The 3 Amigos delivered yet again with the Champion Cymbidium 60 - 90mm at the Orchid Club of South Australia, Spring Show. Cym Mem Amelia Earhart x Pacific Sparkle was hybridised by Andy Easton. Congratulations to all involved!

Bryants Orchids



Left: (Purely Dreaming x Ultimate Ray) "LOL". Unusual lip with pointy tip but also because of its whiteness and almost complete lack of any colour.



It is always interesting to see the offspring produced, here Serene Splash 'Angelina' (right above) and (left above) Kimberley Splash 'TeePee' were combined to produce the seedling (right). This flower was shown at a show in South Australia. In this case both parents have influenced the outcome with Cym Serene Splash 'Angelina' being the dominant parent.



Cym [Joanstar "Sensuous" x (Wonder Arc x Winter Alvin)] "Ab Fab".



[(Wyong Flame x Blazing Fury) x Hypno Beauty] "Treasure" - a new seedling that has a fantastic pedigree. Some new genes for our red & pink breeding lines. A large flower with a large broad labellum.



(Fresh Charisma x Serene Splash) "Pastel". This beauty will be used in our white & green lines




(Justis Pearl x Fresh Charisma) "Guru".

Bryants Orchids

10:03 am Wed 16 Sep surfcoastorchids.com.au

SURF COAST ORCHIDS


Collection Mericlones **Seedlings** Spikes About Contact



20 221148 Teisha x Sunstroke

Orchid Quantity

Name 20 221148 Teisha x Sunstroke
Colour Lemon




Description

20 221148 Julie Hawkes 'Teisha' x Intense Gold 'Sunstroke'
Standard Upright Large Soft Lemon flower Pink bluish Red spot lip
September 2020 first Flowering 10 flowers on spike
Hybridizer David Keanelly

10:04 am Wed 16 Sep surfcoastorchids.com.au

SURF COAST ORCHIDS


Collection Mericlones **Seedlings** Spikes About Contact



20 233151 'Jedi x Wraith'

Orchid Quantity

Name 20 233151 'Jedi x Wraith'
Colour Burgundy




Description

20 233151 'Jedi x Wraith' (M.Joan Bryant x Blazing Rose X Pepper Blaze)
Standard Arching Cupped Blood Red flower Burgundy Red lip
September 2020 First flowering 7 flowers on spike
Hybridizer Greg Bryant

10:04 am Wed 16 Sep surfcoastorchids.com.au

SURF COAST ORCHIDS


Collection Mericlones **Seedlings** Spikes About Contact



20 233152 'Jedi x Wraith'

Orchid Quantity

Name 20 233152 'Jedi x Wraith'
Colour Deep-pink




Description

20 233152 'Jedi x Wraith' (M.Joan Bryant x Blazing Rose X Pepper Blaze)
Standard Arching Cupped Rich Pink flower Red feined lip
September 2020 First flowering 7 flowers on spike
Hybridizer Greg Bryant

10:04 am Wed 16 Sep surfcoastorchids.com.au

SURF COAST ORCHIDS


Collection Mericlones **Seedlings** Spikes About Contact



20 249173 Picture x U Beaut

Orchid Quantity

Name 20 249173 Picture x U Beaut
Colour Soft-pink



Description

20 249173 Dural Dream 'Picture' x Kirby Lesh 'U Beaut'
Standard Arching Cupped Soft Pink Striated flower Cherry spot lip
September 2020 first flowering 10 flowers on 2 spikes
Hybridizer Gordon Gilles

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