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Joining previous issues of *Renziiana* covering *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, and *Vanda*, the current issue focuses on everything *Cattleya* – morphology, classification as the result of DNA sequence data, distribution, biogeography, ecology, conservation, pollination, breeding, and cultivation. The primary author for this issue is the widely acknowledged expert on Laeliinae and especially *Cattleya*, Cássio van den Berg. He recounts the taxonomic history of the genus and explains the rationale for lumping *Sophronitis* and Brazilian *Laelia* species into *Cattleya* as series of *C.* subgenus *Cattleya* section *Crispae*. He reminds us that Robert L. Dressler argued for the same reclassification 25 years ago strictly on the basis of interfertility.

For me the most interesting information in this issue is van den Berg's thorough treatment of the distribution, biogeography and ecology of the species as a key to successful cultivation of the species. For instance, although *C. aclandiae*, *C. nobilior*, and *C. walkeriana* occupy dry habitats in the savannas and 'Caatinga' of inland Brazil, *C. amethystoglossa* grows in even more arid habitats in full sun on the palm species *Syagrus coronata*. How many plants of *C. amethystoglossa* and others have we killed by purposeful (but well-meaning) overwatering and/or excessive shading? Photos of several species *in situ* illustrate this section.

Phillip Cribb joined van den Berg in writing up a short history of the genus and also a section on morphology with an excellent watercolour of *C. labiata*. For the most part the description is accurate, but I think we should be using the term 'capsule' by now instead of 'seed pod'. Legumes have pods, but orchids have capsules. 'Pod' has always been in common parlance in orchid media, but the term is morphologically, developmentally, and taxonomically incorrect with respect to orchids. Adding insult to injury, the caption for the capsule of *C. dowiana* × Hardyana on page 9 is referred to as the "Seed *pot* [my emphasis]," an obvious but unfortunate typographical error by the editors.

The issue is richly illustrated by excellent photos that would have reproduced better on a coated paper stock (a la *Orchid Digest*), but then the publication costs would have been higher. Everyone can afford this reasonably priced but highly informative exposition on one of the world's favourite orchid genera. Everyone will keep it as a authoritative reference.

Alec Pridgeon