



# GREATER LAS VEGAS ORCHID SOCIETY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2003 2pm

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE USUAL PLACE, THE NEVADA GARDEN CLUB BUILDING,  
WASHINGTON AND TWIN LAKES, TWO BLOCKS EAST OF VALLEY VIEW.  
BUILDING WILL BE OPEN AT 1PM

**Carol Siegel, Newsletter Editor**

CAROL SIEGEL- PRESIDENT  
CLARICE DEAN -VICE-PRESIDENT  
EILEEN MCKYTON- SECRETARY  
DIANA SMITH- TREASURER

AND...

Dan Mumau, Michael Lawless - Membership Hospitality Chairmen  
Lillian Patterson- Photographer and Historian  
Dan Mumau and Tony Billitere- Raffle Chairmen  
Phyllis Bond, Leslie Doyle, Shelly North and Eileen McKyton- Special Events Chairmen  
Jeri Lee and Tony Billitere- Community Liaison  
Alex McKyton -Building Chairmen and Webmaster  
Tex Severance- Show and Tell Guru  
Tex and Gidget Severance- Judging Chairmen  
Scotty Nogaim- Election Chairman, Raffle Lady  
Steve Ninemire Library Chairman Clarice Dean, Assistant Librarian  
Clarice Dean- Trip Chairman  
John Haydukavitch-Video Chief  
Shelly North-Classy Club Apparel Chairlady

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October 5, 2003	Charles Weckerle-Thrun on "Potting Orchids"
November 2, 2003	Karen Muir, "Japanese Grand Prix of Orchids"
December 7, 2003	Fourth Annual International Food Fest/Holiday Party.
January 4, 2004	John Salventi, Parkside Orchids, "Dendrobium"
February 1, 2004	Carol Siegel "The Sex Life of Orchids"
March 7, 2004	Ron Coleman "Wild Orchids of North America"
April 4, 2004	Charles Rowden, "Orchid Photography"
May 2, 2004	Norman Fang, Owner of Norman's Orchids "Phalaenopsis"
June 6, 2004	Glen Decker, Owner Piping Rock Orchids, "Phragmipedium"

July 11, 2004	Virtual Greenhouse Tour SECOND SUNDAY
August 1, 2004	Barbecue
Sept 12, 2004	Mike Blitz, Exotic Orchids of Maui SECOND SUNDAY
October 3, 2004	Aaron Hicks, "The Orchid Seed Bank"
November 7, 2004	The Further Exploits of Bill Bergstrom in Mexico
December 5, 2004	Fifth International Food Fest and Holiday Party
January 9, 2005	Mike Glikbarg SECOND SUNDAY

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While a Mexican fiesta was being held in the park, we had a party of our own at the September meeting. (We hear our members are still driving around looking for parking spots - such devotion...) Even so, we had a big turnout and lots of fun. Dan Mumau and Mike Lawless were psychic and prepared a Mexican feast for our meeting without being told there was one in the park. It was delicious, and they are great caterers (362-5251 A Catered Affair).

Mike Glikbarg of Orchids of Los Osos did a wonderful talk on growing specimen orchid plants and kept raving about how our club is the most vital and involved he has ever seen and that he is so impressed with us! I, too, am impressed with the involvement and participation and vitality of club members. As Diana Smith says, our Sundays are EVENTS, not just meetings! Marsha Hawley pitched in and ran the membership desk in her friendly and competent way, and Steve Ninemire, our new librarian, did a great job running the library. Many members brought in show and tell plants including Jeannie Salles, Karen Good, Carol Siegel, Clarice and Dennis Dean- and Mike Levin did an intelligent and informative presentation of the plants. Thanks to everyone who sets up and tears down, vacuums and cleans.

The room was fragrant with blooming orchids, and everyone went home with arms full of orchids and wallets emptied of cash. Diana Smith and Mike Levin donated lots of blooming plants to the raffle, and Mike Lawless and Dan Mumau, great friends of the club, donated boxes and boxes of purple dendrobiums, too. Mike Levin delighted us with his orchid sales, and Mike Glikbarg wowed us with hundreds of gorgeous orchids. We made \$220 on the raffle. It was heaven.

We want to thank Liz Leone, who will be stepping down as our Librarian, for all her work setting up and running the library. The library was her idea, and her hard work and initiative has added an educational element to our club. We are so lucky to have this brilliant woman in our club. By the way, she steps down because she has just been named President of the Commercial Board of Realtors and needs the time to do that job. We love you, Liz, and are very proud of you. We are grateful to Steve Ninemire for accepting the important job as Librarian.

Clarice Dean, (and what would we do without Clarice...) presented our Native Species of the Month, *Brassavola nodosa*. This epiphytic plant, found throughout Mexico to Venezuela and Brazil, is called "Lady of the Night" because it attracts moths with its delightful fragrance in the night. Easy to grow, the 8" inflorescence arises from the leaf axil and supports long-lived, heart-shaped, pale green to white flowers that are night fragrant. By the way, our club sent seeds of species we have crossed to Myers Conservancy and the Orchid Seed Bank for the first time.

Come to our October meeting and learn from Butch aka Charles Weckerle-Thrun who will be doing a hands-on presentation on potting different genera. He is bringing a potting table and will show how to set one up and do a good job of potting. He visited us a number of years ago and is really an experienced grower and a great speaker. He encourages you to bring plants to pot and problem plants to discuss (no buggies, please). We thank Aaron Schave, Sandra Swan, Roland and Norma Hui, and Steve Ninemire, in advance for preparing snacks and drinks for the meeting.

At our November meeting, we will be holding elections for 2004. The current board has had so much fun and success that they are willing to run again for 2004- Carol Siegel for President, Clarice Dean for Vice-President, Eileen McKyton for Secretary, and Diana Smith for Treasurer. It has been a joy working together. We encourage members who would like to run for office to call our nominating Chairlady, Scotty Nogaim, 363-3991. You can't lose in this club. If you don't win, we will make you Chairman of any committee you want. This is all about having fun, learning, and making friends. If you want to participate in any way, give me a call. We want you and your unique talents.

There is a lot to do for club members this fall. On Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, Leslie Doyle and Terry Wilsey will represent us at the Fall Meeting of the Nevada State Garden Clubs. There will be gardening classes, and our club will be providing the school snacks in the morning. Leslie has made up club flyers, and I have had pencils imprinted with the club name to include. We have 99 members. Perhaps one of the meeting delegates will want to be the 100<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, we will take part in the Day with the Experts at the Desert Demonstration Gardens. Roland Hui and Jerry Lee will be our ambassadors from 8-12 in the morning. We still need two people for the afternoon (12-4.) We will provide you with flyers and culture sheets. You just meet and greet the public and answer questions about the club and orchids in general. Take part. Thousands of people come to this events and hundreds of vendors. You will enjoy it.

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Clarice is arranging our Club Safari to the East-West Orchid Show at the New Otani Hotel in Los Angeles. We think the cost of the trip will be around \$30-35. There is no admission fee to the show, and everyone will buy his own food. Plan on a long day of pleasure, learning and shopping in the company of friends. We will leave at 6 am and return around midnight, tired but happy. We may even get a chance to visit Norman's Orchids on the way. I am going to the show, and I can hardly wait. The vendors- the classes- the orchids- the fun.... You must pay for the trip at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Come!!

Also on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 10-4, the Nevada Garden Clubs will be having its Fall Flower Show. Phyllis Bond and Shelly North will be lending their artistic talents to our orchid display—but we need your plants! Bring them to the Garden Club Building on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> after 5 pm. Pick them up on Saturday after 4pm. If you are going on the Safari, you can pick them up at Phyllis's house on Sunday. We are hoping that our gurus, Tex and Gidget Severance, will do the judging. There are hundreds of ribbons to win. You WILL get a ribbon if you bring a plant. Let your orchids strut their stuff and get the admiration they- and YOU- deserve. Below are a few hints for your beauties that you are bringing to the show.

## PREPARING YOUR PLANTS FOR THE SHOW: GOING TO THE ORCHID BEAUTY PARLOR

Our plants need a beauty treatment before being entered for display or judging.

1. All dried sheaths should be removed so the clean pseudobulb is shown.
2. Old dried inflorescences should be cut off.
3. Leaves should be wiped with "fat" milk to clean off hard water spots and give a natural sheen to the leaves.
4. Stake the inflorescence so the flower presents itself for best effect. Cut the stake so that it is not visible above the flower it is supporting. Hide any twist ties out of the way so they don't stick out.
5. Tuck any tags or labels down into the pot out of sight.
6. Top off the plant with a layer of fresh bark.
7. Clean the pots so they are tidy-looking.
8. Leave diseased or infested plants at home.
9. Water your plants thoroughly before judging. They will get thirsty.
10. Put your mailing address labels on bottoms of pots to make it easier to find after show OR put a colored sticker on the bottom or write on a piece of masking tape. Make a list of all the plants you have brought in. Keep it at home. Make a list of all important information that is on your tags in case a tag is lost.
11. Put TWO tags in each plant in case one falls out. Put one in at an angle.
12. Don't forget to clean the stems of your orchids with a tissue

I am going to speak on "The Sex Life of Orchids" at the San Diego Orchid Society in October, at the Sacramento Orchid Society in November, at the Utah Orchid Society, at our society, and at the San Diego Horticultural Society in 2004. I have done other talks on pleurothallids and on native orchids, but everybody only wants this talk. Why do you think that is? HMMMM....

In keeping with Mike Glikbarg's talk, I am including an article on "Growing Specimen Plants" printed with kind permission of Wilford B. Neptune, MD. that Clarice found for me. Also with kind permission of the New York Times online is a fascinating article on salep (Turkish orchid ice cream!) that is denuding the forests. Also with permission of the Ataman Hotel in Cappadocia, Turkey (isn't the web great!!) I have included another article on salep.

See you on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Keep safe! Keep Blooming!! Love, carol

# The Growing of Specimen Plants

I am frequently asked how to grow specimen plants. Facetiously, one can answer simply that one grows a plant well for 7-10 years, and, *voilà*, one has a specimen plant. This may or may not prove successful.

I have been raising orchids since 1972 and still consider myself an amateur. I grow them in a 14' × 28' greenhouse, equally divided between two rooms with minimum night temperatures of 48°F and 62-65°F. The greenhouse is attached to the north side of my house where the experts state that a greenhouse should never be located; moreover, to the west are a house and a large tree, which further restrict sunlight. As a result of the combination of location and notorious New England winters, I am constantly in search of light. One bonus is that I need no shading other than plant material. No direct sun falls on the greenhouse during the months of November, December and January. Although this limits my ability to grow and flower certain orchids, my collection currently numbers 155 different genera.

I have considered plants of all kinds to be similar to stocks and bonds: if they do not do well, they should be replaced with ones that will produce. By constantly upgrading the quality of any collection, one can acquire a group of awarded or award-quality plants which will bloom reliably and offer a source of enjoyment. Remember — it costs as much in time and money to grow an inferior plant as a superior plant. Even with excellent care, a poor flower will rarely improve.

I have been successful in growing and blooming all of the plants in my collection, although some do better than others, even

species in the same genus. I have a problem common to many orchid growers — that of liking all orchids. I realize some flowers are more attractive than others, but it makes little sense to take the time and energy to produce a specimen plant unless there will be a favorable ratio of flowers to foliage and unless the flowers will be attractive and perhaps even spectacular. Ideally, the plant should be attractive even when not in bloom.

When one finds a plant that grows well with multiple leads or keikis, this is a treasure which should not be divided. I tend not to divide plants until they become too large to manage comfortably, unless I have learned they do better as small, pot-bound plants.

To prepare a specimen plant, it is potted up but not repotted in the usual sense. With some of the genera, the *Cattleya* subtribe in particular, this may present a problem because the roots should not be disturbed more than necessary. The medium may have decomposed to the point that it must be removed for the future welfare of the root structure. Cymbidiums are ideal for potting up (repotting in a larger pot), the size of the pot limited only by what is manageable. For me this will usually be a 14"-pot for miniatures. Many of the orchids I have been successful in growing on to specimen plants have extensive root systems, e.g., cymbidiums and dendrobiums. When they need potting up there is little or no medium left, so that one merely needs to add new potting mix around the roots in the larger pot.

In my experience certain orchid genera and species have shown more potential for specimen plants. The classic example is *Oncidium sphacelatum*. I frequently hear other growers denigrate this species apparently because it is so notoriously easy to grow. It has the reputation of growing

<sup>1</sup>203 Mt. Vernon St., West Newton, Massachusetts 02165.

into as large a clump as one is willing to carry. One objective is to produce flowers. It is difficult for me to understand the criticism of a 12"-pot with multiple, branched inflorescences, 30 to 40 inches long, covered with attractive yellow flowers.

To grow a specimen plant, one obviously must give it good culture year in and year out. I will not attempt to cover the basic requirements of the various genera in terms of light, food and water. One hopes that as the plant grows there will be multiple leads, or keikis, and that it will form a uniform circle, perhaps helped by the confines of the pot. Specimen plants on plaques are an entirely different story, but I have had success with *Meiracyllium wendlandii* on a slab of tree fern and *Miltonia Bluntii* on cork bark. In spite of what seems to be good cultural practice on my part, certain genera, such as those in the *Odontoglossum* alliance, may grow into large plants but tend to die off in the center of the pot. In contrast, several of the evergreen dendrobiums, *Den. kingianum* in particular, will produce multiple leads as well as keikis and will readily produce an attractive pot plant and spectacular specimen plant with multiple inflorescences. Its flowers have the added feature of lasting a long time.

Grooming is always important. It becomes essential in growing a specimen plant if for no other reason than to observe the growth and health of the plant constantly. Even though the plant may produce multiple leads, I have not learned any tricks for guiding the direction of growth other than taking advantage of the confines of the pot. As the inflorescences develop it is important that they be trained into the most advantageous position for ultimate viewing. This can be achieved readily with wire guides or stakes. Some purists might object to this, but the whole point with a specimen plant is to produce an effect.

My personal preferences, undoubtedly influenced by success, have been for orchids that will justify their care and bench space by producing a spectacular display: *Ansellia*

*africana*; *Bifrenaria harrisoniae*; *Brassia maculata*; many cattleyas (my favorite, *C. Porcia* 'Cannizaro', AM/AOS makes a huge plant but justifies the space it occupies by its spectacular floral display); *Chondrorhyncha aromatica* in a basket; coelogynes such as *Coel. cristata*, *Coel. massangeana* and *Coel. pandurata*, which will also do better in baskets; any of the cymbidiums, miniatures in particular; *Dendrobium anten-*



Above, *Cattleya Porcia* 'Cannizaro' (*Armstrongiae* × *bowringiana*) has received a few quality awards (including an FCCIAOS in 1988) and several awards for culture. It readily produces sizable specimen plants. Below, *Dendrobium kingianum* forms more manageable but still specimen-sized clumps with long-lasting flowers. Cultivar 'Ruth' AM-CCMIAOS, was grown by Louis A. Jaskow, Jr., and photographed by Charles Marden Fitch.





Many *Coelogyne* species and hybrids quickly become specimen plants with their multiple leads, rapidly maturing growths and long, arching racemes of colorful flowers. *Coelogyne cristata* 'Noel Wilson' CCMIAOS, grown by Featherhill Exotic Plants and photographed by Richard Clark, received 100 points.

*natum*, which makes a superb pot plant and will be in bloom a minimum of seven months of the year; *Dendrobium kingianum*; *Dendrobium infundibulum* and *Den. williamsonii* as well as several others in the nigrohirsute group have been very easy; any of the *nobile* dendrobiums and their hybrids; any of the dendrochilums; many of the encyclias and epidendrums; any of the lycastes and angulocastes (for some reason I have had problems with anguloas); *Oncidium sphacelatum*; and some of the vandaceous species that produce multiple keikis, such as *Ascocentrum miniatum* and *Neofinetia falcata*.

Although I have been successful with many oncidiums, I have not done as well with most members of the *Odontoglossum* alliance except in intergeneric hybrids containing *Oncidium*, such as *Aliceara*, *Macellanara* and *Odontocidium*. However, I have produced a spectacular specimen plant of *Osmoglossum pulchellum*. Currently I am working on a pot of *Aspasia lunata* which shows promise.

*Paphiopedilums* and *phragmipediums*

have proved to be very individualistic. Although most will grow and bloom well, for me they simply refuse to make multiple leads so that a specimen plant has usually been out of the question. On the other hand, I do reasonably well with the multiflowering, strap-leaf types, and at one of the recent international flower shows my plant of *Paphiopedilum Neptune* 'Mars' AM/AOS (*Io* × *rothschildianum*) won the RHS gilt medal for best of show. At the time there were five inflorescences with 22 open, large flowers.

Specimen plants require 7-10 years of dedicated care, and all orchids are not suitable nor worthy of the time and effort. At some point during preparation, many will fail in spite of attention to detail. Many of my fellow growers are somewhat critical of the bench space required by some of the giants, cymbidiums in particular, but most will agree that when in bloom they produce enough oohs and ahs to make the effort worthwhile. ■

# Special ATAMAN

## Cappadocia

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### Warm winter's drink: SALEP



With the coming of cold winter days, Turkey's cake and pudding shops begin serving salep in place of ice cream. On the ferryboats which ply their way between the European and Asian shores of Istanbul with smoke trailing from their funnels and chased by flocks of seagulls, many of the passengers order steaming cups of this delicious warming beverage. Salep is made from the powdered root of several species of wild orchids, and is both tasty and nourishing. It keeps the body warm in cold weather and increases resistance against the colds and coughs of winter.

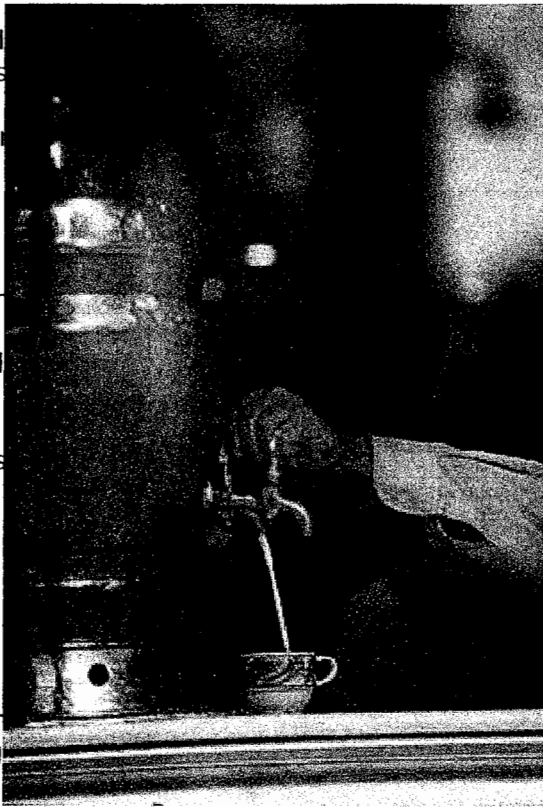
The Turks have been drinking salep for many centuries. After they became converted in the 8th century to Islam, a religion which prohibited the consumption of alcoholic drinks like wine and *kımız* (made from mar'sh milk), non-alcoholic beverages like *boza* (made from maize), *şıra* (grape juice) and salep took their place. While *şıra* was the preferred drink of the summer months, *boza* and hot salep were the drinks of winter. Also known as *çayırotu* or *çemçiçeği*, salep is believed to be good for disorders of the intestines, colds and coughs; improve the appetite and increase virility. Ancient folklore relates that it was an ingredient of love potions brewed by witches.

In Ottoman times salep was an ingredient of invigorating pastes prepared for the sultans, along with ginger, coriander, senna, black cumin seeds, coconut, aniseed and numerous other herbs and spices. In winter salep prepared as a drink with milk was sold by street vendors, who kept it warm in large copper jugs on a brazier. Their customers would warm themselves by the brazier and drink salep out of large cups without handles.

A traditional drink of the Middle East, salep was introduced to Europe, and became popular, particularly in England, where it was sold in salep shops, and served with bread and butter. Gradually, however, as coffee drinking became widespread, its use in Europe died out.

The largest tubers are gathered from orchids growing in forested mountainous regions, while those growing in meadows and high pastures are smaller. They grow best in soil with a high lime content, and those with the finest aroma and richest in starch are found at altitudes of 1000 to 1100 metres. In Anatolia most orchid species belong to the genera *Orchis* and *Ophrys*. Wild orchids are most abundant in the provinces of Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman, Bitlis, and the Black Sea provinces, particularly Kastamonu. They flower in April and May, and then seed. Some of the flowers are scentless, while others produce a sweet scent that is strongest in the evening, and their colours vary from white to various tones of purple.

The orchid tubers are gathered while the plant is in flower. Each orchid has two tubers, one the main tuber from which the flower springs and the



other its younger offshoot. Only the young tuber is harvested, leaving the main tuber untouched. The cream-coloured tubers are either egg-shaped or forked. They are washed and then tossed into boiling milk or water for a short while to remove the bitter flavour and make them easier to dry. They are then dried either in the open air or in ovens to speed up the process. After drying they may be stored whole or ground. The principal substances contained in salep vary according to the time of harvesting, but basically consist of mucilage, starch, sugar and nitrates. The colour is generally creamy. Salep is the traditional thickening ingredient in Turkish ice cream, and the substance that lends the characteristic glutinous texture as well as subtle flavour. It is also used mixed with sugar and milk to make the hot drink known as salep, which is served sprinkled with cinnamon. Salep is the most popular hot drink at ski resorts like Uludağ and Kartalkaya, and is sold by street vendors outside football stadiums. When Ramazan falls in winter, as it does this year, salep even appears on the dinner menus of elegant restaurants and luxury hotels.

Salep is expensive, so what is sold as salep may often be made with more cornstarch than the real thing. Therefore, if you do not want to be disappointed, it is better not to drink salep sold in the street. Places to be recommended include the pudding shops of Beyoğlu and along the Bosphorus which are famous for their salep. Even better make it yourself at home, which will save you from going out in cold weather. Salep is simple to prepare. You can buy salep powder from the Mısır Çarşısı (Egyptian Market) in Istanbul, or from other spice shops, and it will keep in a glass jar indefinitely. Just boil up with milk and sugar for a delicious health giving cup of salep.

**Source:**

Skyline 01/2001, Warm winter's drink: Salep  
by Nilgün Tekfidan, journalist



## **Ice cream threatens Turkey's flowers**

**Several rare orchid species found only in Turkey are facing extinction - because of the Turks' love of ice cream.**

Ice cream made from salep - a flour produced from the tubers of dried, wild orchids growing in the mountains of south-eastern Turkey - is a great delicacy in the country.

It is so popular that part of the city of Istanbul has become known as the "ice cream district" and regularly jams up with traffic, such is the demand to sample the dessert.

But scientists have warned that the ice cream industry is threatening a major collapse in the number of orchids.

"The orchids in Turkey are under very serious threat," botanist Ozdemir Ozhatay of Istanbul University told BBC World Service's Outlook programme.

"For this reason it is forbidden to export - but they are still using it in Turkey for the ice cream."

### **Shepherds' evidence**

Ms Ozhatay added that the quantities needed to supply the booming industry were putting the flower under great strain.

"For one kilogram of dried Salep, around 1,000 orchids are needed," she said.

"If you can imagine how many kilograms they are using, this is quite big damage."

Local shepherds - traditional pickers of the orchids - have also offered evidence that the flower is in steep decline in the country.

"Everyone here depends on ice cream," one told Outlook.

"We sell the milk of our goats, and collect orchids. But the flowers are more and more difficult to find - more and more ice cream producers are using them, and it is disappearing.

"You have to go higher and higher into the mountains to find them."

The damage is so great that environmentalists are now calling for a total ban on the use of salep in ice cream.

But such drastic action appears to have little support among the ice cream fanatics in Turkey.

"For a very long time, we have been eating ice cream - why should we stop?" said one. "[If it is banned] we will just eat illegal ice cream."

### Home demand

The locals' attitude is backed by the ice cream manufacturers, most of whom are based in the city of Marash - Turkey's ice cream capital.

Factory owner Mehmet Kumble, whose family firm uses up to three tonnes of salep, or twelve million flowers, every year, said he had no plans to cut back on production.

"Ice cream has been made here since the time of the Ottoman farmers," he said.

"It has always been special because the roots of wild orchids are used."

Orchids were initially popular because the Ottomans believed they were an aphrodisiac.

"It gives the ice cream its unique strength and special taste," Mr Kumble added.

Indeed, since the export ban on orchids came into force, salep ice cream has been available almost exclusively in Turkey.

But how long it will remain on the market even there remains to be seen.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/3126047.stm>

Published: 2003/08/05 14:57:14 GMT

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