NEWSLETTER OF THE

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CENTRAL NEW YORK ORCHID SOCIETY

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Affiliated with the American Orchid Society and the Orchid Digest

SLIDE SHOW: NATIVE ORCHIDS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

appy New Year!!! Once again we find ourselves faced with the New Year to round out the holiday season. And now that Old Man Winter seems to have finally found Central New York, let's welcome him to our next meeting with a few thoughts of Spring! Right

now, as our tropical orchids keep warm in greenhouses, at our windowsills, and under light stands, their temperate relatives lie in dormant sleep deep beneath the ground. As they wait for the warmth of April and May to burst forth in bloom, join CNYOS member Rich Groll for a sneak preview of what's to come! Long time member, club photographer, purveyor of orchid supplies, and all around good guy (Hey—wipe that smirk off your face!), Rich has been photographing our beautiful native orchids for several years. This can often be challenging given that many of them favor fairly inaccessible areas such as bogs. But undaunted by this challenge, Rich has hunted them down—and the result is an incredible collection of slides that document many of our native species. So join us on January 6TH at 2:00^{PM}, at St. Augustine's Church as we invite Rich to take us native orchid hunting!

W Officers Elected for 2002! The Holiday Dinner held last month marked the end of the terms for our 2001 officers. Dave Ditz and Gary Stensland stepped down from their respective posts of President and Vice President, and a new slate of offi-

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cers was presented by the election committee to be unanimously approved by the membership. This year, however, the club is trying something a little different—tagteam officers! Both Deb Coyle and Dianne Bordoni have graciously agreed to serve as our first Co-Presidents, and Judi Witkin and Ken Renno have agreed to serve as Co-Vice Presidents. The rest of the officers will

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remain the same, with Elinor Burton serving as Treasurer, Barb Weller as Secretary, and Jeff Stuart as Newsletter Editor. In addition, Val Introne has agreed to take over as the club librarian. So, please give your help and support to our new officers, and go out of your way to thank those who have stepped down. The club owes a special debt of gratitude to Past President Dave Ditz for all of his work running the club over the last two years—he did a fine job , so when you see Dave be sure to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication!

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY:

CNYOS celebrated the Holiday Season on December 2ND at the Pier 57 Restaurant in Liverpool. Between 25-30 members and their spouses attended to enjoy the good food, companionship, and in general partake of the holiday festivities. Member Judi Witkin provided the club with a few holiday decorations and favors for the tables (thanks Judi!), and Dave Ditz presided over his last meeting before stepping down as club President. In addition, there was an exceptional show table! MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2[™], 2001

1. Treasurer's report: \$3,000 with approximately \$380 in unpaid bills.

2. Show report from Deb Coyle: Carousel Mall has changed some of the rules, and want to allow us only 2 tables and one day for the show, with set-up to start after 9:30[™]. Shoppingtown Mall has been contacted once again.

3. On 12/18/01 Iris Cohen will be on the WCNY daily show to give a presentation on orchids. She will need plants.

4. There is a Hobby and Craft meet at the N. Syracuse Library coming up. Iris will represent Bonsai, and Dolores, orchids.

5. Flower and Garden Show- this year (2002), the fee per booth is \$650, as opposed to \$75 for 2001. The contact person does not want to be contacted until 2/02. Last year (2001) the vendors who supplied the orchids for sale were MaryCarol Frier and A&P.

6. Junior League-Holiday Shops this event is held on Veteran 's Day weekend, with a cost of \$300/booth.

7. Officers for the new year were elected. Deb Coyle & Dianne Bordoni will serve as Co-Presidents, Judi Witkin and Ken Renno will serve as Co-Vice Presidents.

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Weller, CNYOS Secretary





DECEMBER SHOW TABLE

Cvpripedium Alliance

Cypripedium Alliance		<i>Phal.</i> Leucadia Gold x Wappaoola <i>V. coerulea</i>	" Capella
Paph. Leeanum (sic) (<i>insigne</i> x spicerianum) Phrag. Schroderae (<i>caudatum</i> x Sedenii)	Witkin "	Oncidium Alliance	
Paph. concolor	Coyle		
Paph. Vanda M. Pearman (bellatulum x delenatii)	Cohen	Burr. Nelly Isler (Stephan Isler x Milt. Kensington)	Cohen
Paph. Shadow Wings (Gloriosum x Super Shadows)	"	Onc. Twinkle (cheirophorum x ornithorhynchum) Odm. naevium (sic)	Witkin Stuart
Paph. spicerianum	Stuart	Onc. ornithorhynchum	"
Paph. Leeanum	"	Hwra. Mini-Primi (Rdcm. Primi x Lchs. oncidioides Osmoglossum pulchellum	s) " "
Cattleya Alliance		Onc. ornithorhynchum	Kot
		Onc. unknown	"
C. Wilsoniana (C. bicolor x C. harrisoniana [sic])	Capella	Br. Santa Barbara (Edvah Loo x Rex)	Capella
<i>Bc.</i> Marcella Koss (<i>C.</i> Bob Betts x Languedoc) <i>Epi. ciliare</i>	" Witkin	Dendrobium	
C. Cyril (loddigesii x percivaliana)	Braue		
Bc. Maikai (B. nodosa x C. bowringiana)	"	Den. Gordon Shigeura (Ram Misra x lithocola)	Cohen
L. spectabilis	"	Den. Okayama Gold (Midas x Yellow Ribbon)	Coyle
B. cucullata	Ditz	Den. unknown	Powell
Vandaceous		Miscellaneous	
Neost. Lou Sneary (Neof. falcata x Rhy. coelestis)	·	Dendrochilum cobbianum	Capella
Tblm. kotoense	Witkin Braue	Lpths. tentaculata Aërgs. biloba	Witkin Ditz
	Hae)	Cym. erythrostylum	Stuart
Phal. hieroglyphica	Bordoni "		
Phal. tetraspis	"	l Ir	ris Cohen

CNYOS CALENDAR

March 14-17, 2002	Central New York Flower & Garden Show , State Fair Grounds: CNYOS will have an information booth & display, and will sell orchids & supplies to the public—this is our largest fund-raiser of the year!
April 18-21	Genesee Region Orchid Society Show , Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, NY. Contact: Jeanne Kaeding, 161 Crosman Terr., Rochester, NY 14620; (716) 442-3202.
April 26-28	Southern Tier Orchid Society Spring Show , Oakdale Mall, Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY. Contact: Gail Kirch, 1099 Powderhouse Rd., Vestal, NY 13850; (607) 723-3414.
September 27-29	2002 CNYOS Annual Fall Orchid Show & Sale: Location and Details to be announced.

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MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS...

CLUB REMINDERS

Orchid-Growing Supplies are now available, including fir bark, sphagnum, sponge rock, charcoal, and 40W fluorescent tubes. Call Rich Groll for details on pricing and availability.

The CNYOS Club Library is now located at St. Augustine's church. Make arrangements with Val Introne (682-8595) if you want to borrow an item from the Library.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BLOOMING ORCHIDS FOR THE MONTHLY SHOW TABLE!!!

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

January 2002

Judi Witkin

We Need Volunteers for the rest of 2002! Please consider signing up at the next meeting!

2002 AOS CALENDARS AVAILABLE!

A limited number of AOS calendars for 2002 will be available at the next meeting on a first-come, first-served basis. These had originally been ordered for our fall show, but did not arrive on time.

CNYOS On-Line Members!



Phalaenopsis bellina (violacea), photograph by Vagisha Sharma, with digital enhancement by J. Stuart.

CNYOS IS NOW ON-LINE!

CNYOS's new team of web-masters, Charles Ufford and Jeff Stuart, are working on a club website. Although just in the beginning stages, the site is up and running-or rather up and under construction—at www.paphiopedilum.net. We've got lots of ideas and they'll be discussed at the next meeting if there's time. Photos from both the September meeting and the show are currently posted there. What would YOU like to see on our own website? We're open to your ideas!

We have a favor to ask you! Have you visited the web site and tried to download the newsletter? Or might you be able to receive the newsletter directly *via* e-mail? Before you come to the January meeting, please try to access the newsletter on the website (www.paphiopedilum.net). Hard copies of THE ORCHID ENTHUSIAST are fairly expensive to produce and are just barely covered by your annual dues. CNYOS could save a lot of money if more members opted for electronic distribution. Try it out and let us know what you think! We'll discuss it at the January 6[™] meeting.

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SPOT LIGHT ON...

RHYNCHOLAELIA DIGBYANA, BRASSAVOLA CUCULLATA & BRASSAVOLA DAVID SANDERS

BRASSAVOLA DIGBYANA ([Lindley] Schlecter) is the famous orchid that is the responsible party for the "B" in many Blc.'s, that is, Brassocattleyas and Brassolaeliacattleyas. Although now accurately called *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, the orchid is still horticulturarly known as *Brassavola digbyana* because of the hundreds of hybrids that have been registered with that name. The large 4-5 inch (10-12.5cm) flowers have a deeply fimbriate lip that has added the fringe to many Cattleya hybrids. The color is usually glassine green and the flowers are night fragrant indicating a moth as the pollinator. *R. digbyana* is found in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras, often in severe conditions of bright light and prolonged dryness, occasionally growing epiphytically on cactus. In cultivation however, we





can grow *digbyana* with our Cattleyas under intermediate temperatures and moderate to bright light. This orchid does not appreciate prolonged wetness, for that reason many orchidists choose to grow it mounted so that the roots may dry quickly.

BRASSAVOLA CUCULLATA ([Linné] R. Brown) is a much smaller plant, which prefers to grow mounted as well. Its pseudobulbs are long and thin, and typically produce a single flower in the summer (sometimes more). Like it's cousin *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, the flowers exude a powerful fragrance at night. It comes from the West Indies, Central and northern South America where it is a warm to cool growing epiphyte of coastal rainforests up to 1800 meters in elevation. As long as bright light is provided, this delightful Cattleya relative is quite adaptable and will bloom regularly.

BRASSAVOLA DAVID SANDER: This is the primary hybrid between

Brassavoloa cucullata and Rhyncholaelia digbyana and features the best characteristics of both parents; the dancing, spidery shape of *B. cucullata* and the broad fimbriated lip of *R. digbyana*. The single-flower-per-inflorescence tendency of both parents is also passed on to this hybrid. Grow this hybrid in bright Cattleya light under intermediate temperatures in an open potting mix. *Brassavola* David Sander was registered by Sanders in 1938.

Reference: Photos © Greg Allikas. The Orchid Photo Page by Greg Allikas: http://www.orchidworks.com/. Brassavola cucullata photo: http://www.orchideen-online.de/gallery/bassavola_cucullata_01.htm. Text reference, Greg Allikas (http://www.orchidworks.com/) & Jeff Stuart.



Brassavola David Sander ©2001 Greg Allika:

IMPORTANT!!! Dues Soon Due!

Over the next few months, CNYOS will be looking for your annual membership dues (due each December). Check the label on this newsletter: if it reads "C" you are a Courtesy mailing. If it reads "M01," you are a paid member and owe dues for the new season. "M02" reflects a paid status. "CM" denotes a Commercial Mailing. These labels may not be entirely up to date, so if you've already paid, your status will be updated by the next newsletter. If, however, you are currently receiving this newsletter as a courtesy and haven't joined the club, you will be removed from our mailing list in December. A few exceptions will be made, including commercial vendors and representatives of various gardening organizations. Annual club dues are \$15.00 per person or \$17.00 per family, payable to CNYOS. Dues should be mailed to CNYOS Treasurer Elinor Burton, at 301 Sherbrooke Rd., Manlius NY 13104.

STOS NEWS: NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER ORCHID SOCIETY

The January 18[™] meeting will feature STOS member Luis Matienzo speaking on "Orchids of the Americas." He will discuss the culture of various orchid species of Central & South America and will relate their culture to the geography and weather where they grow naturally. Luis is a long-time STOS member and grower for 24 years. His in-depth knowledge of the history, breeding and habitat of orchids makes his more formal presentations something to look forward to. He is originally from Lima, Peru but has spent most of his life in this country, traveling often to South America for business, as a visiting University Professor, and for pleasure. On his travels he takes time and effort to learn as much as he can about the native orchids of the countries he visits.

Monthly meetings begin at 2:00[™] in the Vestal Public Library. For directions, etc. call STOS president Dave Clemens at 570-879-4244 or e-mail him at <cclemens@epix.net>.

GROS News: News from the Genesee Region Orchid Society

GROS will ring in the New Year with their first meeting on January 7[™], when GROS member Jeanne Kaeding will present a program entitled "Flasking: Growing Orchids from Seed," based on her own experiences in this fascinating aspect of orchid growing that's part science, part art. A long time GROS Member, Jeanne has been growing orchids since 1978, first on the windowsill, then under lights (with iguanas) and currently in a greenhouse. Now she's trying to grow them in flask. Jeanne will describe the basic procedures she uses to propagate orchids from seed, including some of the problems she has encountered and techniques she has learned in the process. Jeanne will also be bringing some finished flasks to demonstrate what the results of typical orchid seed sowings look like.

Taken with permission from *The Orchid Collection*, Newsletter of the Genesee Region Orchid Society, Vol. 24, No. 4, January 2002, Phil Matt, Newsletter Editor (716) 288-7025.



FEATURE ARTICLE

A VISIT TO OZ!

By Jeff Stuart Central New York Orchid Society Newsletter Editor

uring the last week of November, I found myself in Monterey on business. flew out the Saturday Ι after Thanksgiving, looking forward to exchanging the dreary late November days of Central New York for the sunny California coast. Unfortunately, the trade was not quite what I had in mind, as the weather turned out to be overcast, rainy, and a bit on the chilly side. But still, I was in Monterey-Cannery Row, Fisherman's Wharf, Pebble Beach, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium all beckoned me to visit. But the one place I was really anticipating was one that not many "normal" tourists to the area take the time to look up... The Orchid Zone!

Monterey has a long and interesting history. Right near Fisherman's Wharf is the spot where US Marines landed in 1846 during the war with Mexico, and raised the US flag over the Custom's House that still stands nearby. In the early twentieth century the Bay area became home to a multi-million dollar fishing industry—sardines! And Cannery Row was where all of those sardines met their canned fate. Although the canneries have closed and the sardine industry has shut down, Monterey still has to be one of the best places to get seafood. Specialties include abalone and worldrenowned calamari.

As someone from the Northeast, I am always amazed when I visit California by the diversity of the plants in the landscape—and how different they are from what we are used to in Central New York. Palm trees, hedges grown from geraniums, Agaves the size of Voltzwagens, blooming jade plants and poinsettias used as shrubs, and Clivias and Calla lilies used as garden plants, just to name a few. In the Northeast, most of these plants never find their way out of the greenhouse or the living room. Of course, the mild weather enjoyed by most of the state makes for ideal conditions for growing orchids.

With a few days to spend before the conference started—I had to fly in early to get a good rate—I decided to take an afternoon and pay a visit to Terry Root and The Orchid Zone. Knowing that California has more orchid growers than probably any other state in the country, when I found out I was traveling to Monterey, I took a look on the internet to see who would be nearby—The Orchid Zone was front and center. CNYOS



Terry Root: Founder of The Orchid Zone

FEATURE ARTICLE, CONT.

past president Tony Paroubek had been there a few years before so I asked him to put in a good word for me. When I got into Monterey, I gave Terry a call to get directions, and few hours later I was on the way up Route 1 North along the coast.



Aerial view of The Orchid Zone. An observatory is seen in the lower left, with the geese paddock near center.

After winding my way through rural and residential neighborhoods, I arrived at The Orchid Zone. My first impression of the place was that of a ranch. Several greenhouses are spaced about the grounds, interspersed with a few trees and a network of roads connecting them. Large *Opuntias* (prickly pear cacti) lined many of the roads. As I parked the car under a tree, a few cats scattered—in another setting I would have called them barn cats. It seemed natural to start at the building painted with the words "The Orchid Zone" on the side. And, indeed, that is where I found Terry Root.

Terry has been growing orchids for about 20 years and The Orchid Zone (or OZ), formerly the Monterey Orchid Company, has been around for about half of that time. For the first several years the emphasis was on slipper orchids—Paphs and Phrags. One of the more famous hybrids to come out of "The Zone" is *Paph*. Screaming Eagle, that remarkable combination of the long-petaled *Paph*. sanderianum and *Paph*. Bernice (*philippinense* x *lowii*). And some of the best line-bred *Phragmipedium besseae* also originated there, including shades from deep red to salmon orange. Terry eventually branched into other orchid genera, including Phalaenopsis, Miltonia, and Masdevallia (along with a spattering of others, including Lycaste and Zygopetallum). One thing about The Orchid Zone is clear; things are not done on a small scale! With roughly 77,000 square feet divided among 6 greenhouses, OZ caters to a wholesale-only market. Orchids, however, are not the only things that make Terry tick—in addition to the greenhouses, the land of OZ boasts its own domed astronomical observatory

Shelves of orchid flasks in the propagation lab.



and a gaggle of exotic African geese! Terry explained that the extent of the operation is so vast that he's not able to get away much—these hobbies make for enjoy-able diversions to his mainstay.

When I met Terry, he was in the flasking lab. OZ does all of its own breeding and several employees were seated in front of hoods handling orchid pods, corms and protocorms under sterile conditions. The shelves along the walls were loaded with flasks of fledgling orchids—Paphs, Phrags, Miltonias, and Masdevallias, just to name a few. There must have been at least a thousand flasks, if not more.

We left the flasking labs and went to tour the green-



A typical greenhouse at OZ filled with orchids.

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houses. They were huge. There are six in all, comprising some 77,000 square feet. At least one was entirely dedicated to newly deflasked seedlings, set out



A collection of blooming stud plants for breeding complex Paph hybrids.

in flat after flat on the large benches. Two others housed primarily slipper orchids. The first contained primarily complex Paphs and Miltonia hybrids— Phragmipediums and Paphiopedilum species and other hybrids were located in a separate greenhouse. A large table in the front of the first house had many of his stud plants that were currently in bloom. The range of size and color was incredible. And on the benches, there must have been nearly a thousand in bloom. Some of the flowers were as large as 6 or 7 inches in diameter, lots of spots, reds, solids and greens—my favorites! The benches upon which the orchids resided were equally impressive. At one point Terry wanted to show me a specific group of complex Paphs, but there was no space to walk between the benches. With the mere



Bench after bench of complex Paph. hybrids.

move of a lever, the entire bench—which measured roughly 8-10 feet wide by 30-40 feet long—shifted to the right making room to maneuver. A conservative guess is that there were at least 10 such benches in that greenhouse, all equally massive, each capable of being moved on rollers with minimal effort.



Phrag. besseae hybrids.

A visit to the #3 house was a real treat for someone who fancies slipper orchids. There was a full bench dedicated to *Phrag. besseae* hybrids—on that one small bench alone were at least a dozen blooming plants surely deserving of AOS awards. The new generation of Phrag. Hanna Papow (*besseae x schlimii*)



Hundreds of blooming Paph. Maudiae-type hybrids.

were a site to see—all made with a tetraploid *besseae* parent. Several benches were filled with first-bloom Maudiae-type hybrids of the deepest color and exquisite form, and there was a large number of species Paphiopedilums as well; one bench had a large number of *Paph. mastersianum* in bloom, an uncommon species in hobbyist collections and responsible for the wonderful gloss present in many Maudiae-type hybrids. And several incredible blooming plants of the rare and beautiful *Paph. sangii* graced the far end of

FEATURE ARTICLE, CONT.



A group of *Paph. mastersianum*, with their glossy green and brown flowers held on tall stems another bench—this species is extremely rare in cultivation and demands exceedingly high prices. This is no doubt due to its recalcitrant nature in cultivation, but Terry has evidently figured out exactly how to keep it happy. One thing I

> did not see much of were the multifloral hybrids that have been a

> Orchid Zone in the past; Terry explained that in latter years he has been

> focussing on the com-

plex hybrids that I saw

in the first house we

visited. He felt that in

many ways hybrization

of multifloral Paphs has

its

although he did feel that

the new breeding lines

of

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limits,

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trade-mark

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incorporating



The strangely beautiful Paph. sangii.

Parvisepalum group (*Paph. armeniacum* and kin) were exciting. He hastened to mention that he was still breeding the multifloral species, and a large group of flowering *Paph. wilhelminae* were testament to this statement. In fact, a good number of his *Paph. rothschildianum* were recently awarded by the AOS.

Several growing areas were dedicated to *Masdevallias*, all of which were grown to their fullest potential. When most of us think of these small-statured orchids, equally small pot sizes come to mind, three to four



A group of *Paph. wilhelminae*, a delightful miniature multifloral species.

inches, at most. Well, unless you're talking the seedlings, that's not how things are done at the Orchid

Zone, where stud plants are grown in one to two gallon containers! And the Lycaste greenhouse contained a number of most remarkable plants, including a few interesting hybrids between Lycaste and Zygopetalums (Zygocaste), Pescatoria (Zygotorea), and Pabstia (Zygo-Zygocaste colax). Northwest Passage (Zygo. Arthur Elle x



A Masdevallia veitchiana hybrid with a flower over 6" tall

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Lyc. skinneri alba) is shown below.



Zygocaste Northwest Passage. The rust-red flowers measure roughly 5" across.

So what's in store for Terry Root and The Orchid Zone in the future? The last few years have seen a shift in the focus of orchid breeding at the Zone. While those large Paph. rothschildianum hybrids still have their place, more emphasis is being placed on the Maudiaetypes and those big complex "Bull Dog" hybrids (e.g., the Paph. Winston Churchill types). Phragmipedium hybridization has been revitalized by the yellow and orange forms of Phrag. besseae, and by the use of colchicine-treated parent plants (tetraploid plants with larger and more colorful flowers, which also tend to be more fertile). Although much time and energy in the past had been dedicated to breeding new and improved Phalaenopsis hybrids, that effort has been completely abandoned due to the stiff competition coming from overseas. However, Miltonias, Lycastes, Zygopetalums, and new efforts in the Oncidium section, especially Odontoglossums, are providing an infusion of fresh new hybrids and breeding directions.

The analogy between the name "OZ" and the wizard are almost unavoidable... But unlike the terrifying and fiery façade that Dorothy faced, I found Terry to be welcoming and very hospitable. And by the look of things, he and The Orchid Zone will be providing new and interesting orchids for many years to come.

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Photo credits: Orchid Zone aerial view and flask shelves (both on page 8) ©The Orchid Zone, http://www.theorchid-zone.com. All others © Jeff Stuart, 2001



Next Meeting: January G, 2002. Guest Speaker Rich Groll: Native Orchids of Central New York

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The Central New York Orchid Society meets at St. Augustine's Church, 7333 O'Brien Rd, Baldwinsville, at 2:00[™] on the first Sunday of each month from September through June. Yearly dues are \$15.00 per individual, or \$17.00 family. Dues should be paid to the CNYOS Treasurer, Elinor Burton.

The Orchid Enthusiast

The **CNYOS Newsletter**, *The Orchid Enthusiast*, is a publication of the Central New York Orchid Society and is distributed to the Society's members ten times per year, prior to all club meetings, events, or functions.

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