

充滿熱情的春石斛育種家 嶺馨芳蘭園 - 賴慶隆先生

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圖 1. 賴慶隆先生展示園內栽培多年的石斛蘭原生種開花情形

春石斛蘭顏色高雅，花型多樣，有的品種更散發淡雅香氣，是臺灣重要的新興蘭花種類，自然花期在 2-4 月之際，故被稱之為「春」石斛。雖然春石斛在臺灣已嘗試推廣逾十年，但尚未發展大規模的產業，其中一個主要的因素是現有的商業品種多引進自日本等國，若要擴大在臺的產業規模，仍需育成適應臺灣氣候的自有優良品種，才有機會在競爭激烈的國際市場尋求屬於臺灣的優勢。但育種需耗費漫長的歲月，對於現今講求快速獲利的世代，很少有人願意不惜成本投入這個領域，然而，有一位育種者憑著對春石斛的熱愛，已默默投入近 30 年的歲月，他是嶺馨芳蘭園的負責人 - 賴慶隆先生。

賴慶隆先生從小在務農的家庭中長大，對於「種花」的興趣從十幾歲便開始在他的血液中萌芽，但年輕時從事的是印刷業製版的工作，因大量接觸化學物質，導致身體健康受到影響，毅然決定在民國 82 年轉而投入蘭花栽培的領域。而且很快的，在民國 83 年士林官邸的展覽中便一舉奪得當時的大獎，自那時起至今，他的「得獎之路」和育種的熱情也從未間斷。問他為何選擇春石斛為育種的材料，賴慶

隆先生笑著說，就是單純的鍾愛春石斛的美。

自民國 92 年起賴慶隆先生開始至英國皇家園

藝學會（The Royal Horticultural Society，RHS）登錄他所雜交的春石斛組合，至今已超過 100 個以上交配名。除了春石斛蘭，對於其他的蘭花的栽培興趣與經驗也使他分別在 2013 年、2016 年的臺灣國際蘭展拿下全場總冠軍及分組冠軍。

當眾人驚嘆他手裡成就的那些美不勝收的花朵時，他總是謙虛的說，花開得好，是新社的氣候合適，又說他的育種沒有什麼深奧的技巧，就是每年挑選覺得適合的父母本，平均雜交 30-40 個組合（最多也曾達 70 個組合），然後看看會得到什麼好的後裔，希望能育成一個品種，可以突破現在春石斛花期及開花壽命的侷限。也許對賴慶隆先生而言，育種已然成為他生活的一部分，他認為人生可以找到一件有興趣的事情為業，就很值得了。相信他對於蘭花育種的熱情、堅持、毅力終將為臺灣的春石斛開創出嶄新的一頁，有朝一日，賴慶隆三個字也會成為「優良臺灣春石斛」的代名詞。

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A passionate breeder of nobile-type dendrobium, Mr. Lai Ching Lung, Ling Shin Fang Orchid

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Nobile-type dendrobium is elegant in color, diverse in flowers, and some of them even exude a light, elegant fragrance. It is a relatively new orchid crop with potentials in economic cultivation in Taiwan. The flowering season of Nobile-type dendrobium is February to April in Taiwan and it was also called 'spring'dendrobium in Chinese. Although it has been more than a decade for promoting Nobile-type dendrobium in Taiwan, but it has not yet developed in a large-scale industry. One of the key reasons was that most varieties were imported from Japan and other countries which could not fully adapt to Taiwan's climate. It is needed to breed excellent varieties of our own, so that we can seek the advantage of Taiwan in the competitive international market. However, nowadays people are striving for quick profits rather than sparing no expense and efforts to breed new varieties. Mr. Lai Ching Lung was an exception who committed himself to Nobile-type dendrobium breeding for almost 30 years.

Mr. Lai grew up in a farm family. In his teens, he became interested in 'planting flowers'.

But when he was young, he worked in the printing industry. Until he found his health was affected by chemicals, he decided to change his career to become a grower as well as a breeder of orchids in 1993. Soon, in 1994, he won the first prize in an exhibition held in the Shilin Official Residence. Since then, he has won numerous awards and his passion of breeding never fails. When he was asked why did he choose Nobile-Type dendrobium ? Mr. Lai said with a smile that it was simply the beauty of it.

Since 2003, Mr. Lai began to register his hybrid with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), until today there have been more than 100 hybrids he created. Besides Nobile-type dendrobium, Mr. Lai also possess experiences and interests in other orchids. He won the grand champion and group champion in Taiwan International Orchid Show in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

When people marveled at the beautiful flowers that he had made in his hands, he always said humbly that it was just because the climate of Shinshe was suitable for those flowers. He also claimed that what he did was only picking the parents which he believed were excellent to hybrid and then wait and to see what offsprings would get. Every year, Mr. Lai would make 30-40 crosses on average, sometimes may up to 70 crosses. His breeding objective is to breed new varieties of Nobile-type dendrobium which can overcome the limitations of short flowering period per year and short flower longevity.

Breeding has played a big part in Mr. Lai Ching Lung's life. He said it is totally worth it. He engaged at work which he is really interested in. His Persistence, passion and perseverance in breeding orchids would eventually create a brand new page for Taiwan's dendrobium. Someday, 'Lai Ching Lung' will become a synonymous of 'excellent dendrobium variety of Taiwan'.

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