



# THE YAK

Volume 36, Number 4

April 2022



*R. coeloneuron*

Fraser South Rhododendron Society  
is a chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society

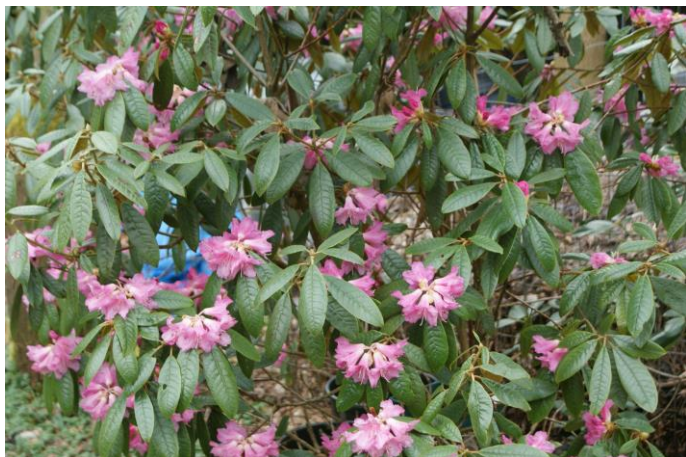
<http://frasersouthernrhodos.ca>

Map : <https://goo.gl/maps/ZB1m1jnF9DP2>

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third  
Wednesday of each month (except June,  
July, and August).

In person meetings are not being held at this  
time.

## Cover:



R. coeloneuron

Rhododendron subsection: *Argyrophylla*

Height: shrub 3.6-4m (12-13 feet), branchlets densely rufous, tomentose, eglandular, leaf bud scales deciduous

Leaves: oblanceolate, 8-12 cm long, 2.1-3.5 cm broad, apex acute or obtuse. Base tapered; upper surface somewhat shiny, slightly rugulose, margin flat, glabrous, midrib grooved, moderately or sparsely hairy; underside with a thick, woolly, rufous, continuous or discontinuous (patchy), bistrat indumentum, upper layer a form of stellate, under layer whitish rosulate hairs.

Petiole: 1.3-2 cm long, densely tomentose, eglandular

Inflorescence: a racemose umbel of 4-8 flowers

Pedicel: 0.7-1 cm long, densely rufous tomentose, eglandular

Corolla: funnel-campanulate, 4-4.3 cm long, pink or purplish

Epithet: with impressed nerves

Found SE Sichuan, 2,100 m (7,000ft), hardness 4, blooms April-May

Source: - *Pocket Guide to Rhododendron Species* by J.F.J. McQuire and M.L.A Robinson based on the descriptions of H.H. Davidian

## This Month

**Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

**Place:** Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

**Title:** "Gardening with Rhododendrons" by Chris Southwick

Chris will provide some basic information about rhododendrons and azaleas and explain why they are such popular plants to grow. Using her own garden as an example, she will discuss conditions for growing these plants successfully and how they can be used in gardens. She will end her presentation by sharing the answers to the questions that she gets asked most frequently.

**Bio:** Chris Southwick had the good fortune to be born into a family that loves the outdoors, gardening, and rhododendrons in particular. Her grandparents were Ted and Mary Greig, who were pioneering rhododendron and alpine plant enthusiasts on Vancouver Island. They passed on an appreciation for plants to their son Jim and their daughter-in-law Jean, Chris's mother.

.... Continued on page 13

## Next Month

**Date:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

**Place:** Zoom meeting from the comfort of your own home

**TITLE:** The online "No Beer Bottle required" Truss Show (details in this month's YAK).





## 2021 OFFICERS

President:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Past Pres:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Harold Fearing	604-857-4136
Directors:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
	Robert Talbot	604-720-0134
	Nancy Moore	604-859-3690
Programme:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Membership:	Evelyn Jensen	604-857-5663
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Vacant	
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

## Reminders - !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR MEETING SPEAKERS. PLEASE SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO THE YAK EDITOR.**

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**Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter or else you will be stuck with the editors choices.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Members are **Encouraged** to send their own "In the Garden" photos to the editor for inclusion in the YAK.

## From the President



What a glorious end to March!! The warm weather seemed to make everything pop. The daffodils are all open in our garden. My first rhododendron to bloom is "Snow Lady".

My photo (above) is a small dry bed on the south side of our deck. Very white with hyacinth and the ground cover which I can't remember the name of but blooms early in spring. The green leaves are an allium yet to bloom. Looking around our garden, I have observed a lot of white from the snow drops, the hyacinths and our star magnolia.



The second photo is a forsythia bonsai, I think about 10 years old, with nice trunk which is in bloom.

Our speaker this month is Chris Southwick talking about "Gardening with rhododendrons". I refer to the bio. in this YAK.

Respectfully, *Gerald Nemanishen*

## *FSRS Business Items*

### ***New Members***

Please join me in welcoming new members Katherine and Darin Wagner from Maple Ridge. Welcome to the group and we look forward to meeting you soon!

### ***Open Garden Season***

Open garden season is rapidly approaching and we are looking for members that are willing to open their garden and allow FSRS members to visit.

Open gardens are a good opportunity to see unfamiliar plants, see how others have done things, and be comforted by the fact that you are not the only one with weeds, weevils, and general garden debris. This is a relaxed version of a garden tour where the garden owner indicates the date and times that the garden is open for viewing. Please keep in mind that some of our members are still part of the work force, so evening or weekend openings are preferred. As simple as that!

Please contact any of the executive if you are willing to have an open garden this year.

### ***Online “No Beer Bottle Required” Truss show***

For the last couple of years we've had a YAK truss show in lieu of our in person show. To change things up this year we will have the truss show online as part of our May zoom meeting.

As the title implies, we are asking people to share some of the rhododendron blooms from their gardens with or without “beer bottles”. You can even leave the truss on the bush! There are no categories, no winners, no prizes, just the satisfaction that these beautiful blooms are being shared with other members and perhaps igniting an interest for an addition to their garden.

Nancy Moore has once again kindly offered to put together the truss pictures in a presentation for the May meeting, All truss pictures should be submitted in jpeg format (up to a maximum of 10 per member) and submissions should be sent to Nancy at [nlmoore@telus.net](mailto:nlmoore@telus.net) no later than Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. She will then work her magic for the May show.

So when you're out working or walking in your garden over the next few weeks remember to have your camera / phone / tablet / iPad handy so you can snap your beauties as they emerge.

### ***Upcoming Vacancies***

A reminder that the positions for FSRS Membership and FSRS Programs will be soon be available and the executive is looking for volunteers to take these positions. Please consider contributing to the group by volunteering for one of these positions. Contact one of the executive with any questions you may have on either position.

## **AGM Award Presentations**

The following awards were presented at the annual AGM held on March 16, 2022.

### **Ella J. Crabb Memorial Award**

Barb Mathias

Barb Mathias has cheerfully offered her home and garden for our June picnics and silent auction (with grandchildren helpers and musical entertainment). As an exemplary secretary, she has hosted executive meetings, made plant sale posters, shared cashier duties for the sales, and even done stints as kitchen helper.

For this generous participation, we are pleased to present her the Ella Crabb Memorial Award.

Thank you Barb

### **Harold Johnson Memorial Award**

John Dodd

John Dodd has been a loyal member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society since 2001. He has served on the executive and for many years has graciously opened his stunningly delightful garden to us at the peak of its spring beauty. His quiet but helpful presence at all the plant sales and his professionalism in preparing the financial audits for the AGMs is much appreciated.

For all this, we are proud to present him the Harold Johnson Memorial Award.

Thank you, John

## *From the Editor*

Happy Easter everyone! Even as Mother Nature continues to confuse us with weather for fall, winter, and spring all in the same day, the garden is starting to show its color. This is really one of my favourite times of the year. I love looking at the trees that are now showing hints of color as the leaves are starting to emerge. Everything looks so fresh and new.



The flowering current `King Edward` opened up shortly after the dispatch of the March YAK and right about the time that the Rufous Hummingbirds made their appearance. In past years, the males arrived first followed by the females a few weeks later but this year both appeared within days of each other. Also recently joining the over wintering birds at the feeders are the gold finches. General activity and feathered numbers have temporarily declined as nesting season is underway. The Douglas squirrel(s) continue to drop by daily and sit inside the caged feeders enjoying their snacks. Unfortunately the grey and black squirrels with their voracious appetites at this time of year have taken

to decapitating rhododendron buds looking for food as they can't access the feeder goodies.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard made their annual spring appearance late last month and could be seen daily enjoying a dip and relaxing pool side in the sun. Now Mr. Mallard is appearing solo so I assume he's left the Mrs. at "home" minding the nest while he escapes to freshen up. He appears to be mindful of "pool etiquette" and other than the odd feather never leaves a mess.

It was nice this month to actually be able to take pictures of rhododendrons blooming for "In the Garden" and the front cover. Even with some cool nights we have a number blooming. When documenting the attributes of the cover rhododendron, *R. coeloneuron*, I needed a glossary to understand some of the terms used. I found the glossary that was published in the YAK back in 2019 which I've included at the end of this YAK for anyone else that might need a refresher in rhododendron related terminology.

Soil prep in the vegetable patch continues and the peas, lovers of cool weather, have been planted. The four legged gardening crew with my help continues to clear winter and wind storm debris. The oldest member of the gardening crew has decided to go into semi-retirement or perhaps a more supervisory like role preferring to snooze in the garden beds while work continues around him. The pruning work of the youngest member continues indiscriminately and I wonder how her digestive system can handle the variety of woody items that are chewed and swallowed.

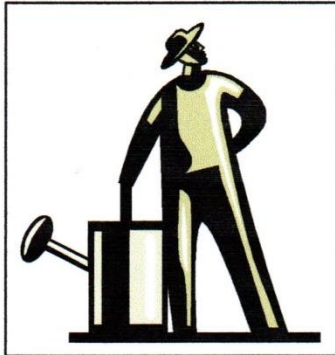
I hope you will join us this month for the presentation from Chris Southwick. Her gardening experience and involvement with various rhododendron gardens and organizations will provide us with very insightful information. AND plan to participate in the "No Beer Bottle required" Truss show next month, even if you only submit one truss. Enjoy your long weekend and whatever Easter traditions you adhere to!

*Maureen Worden*





The following articles originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, September 2009 by Harold Fearing



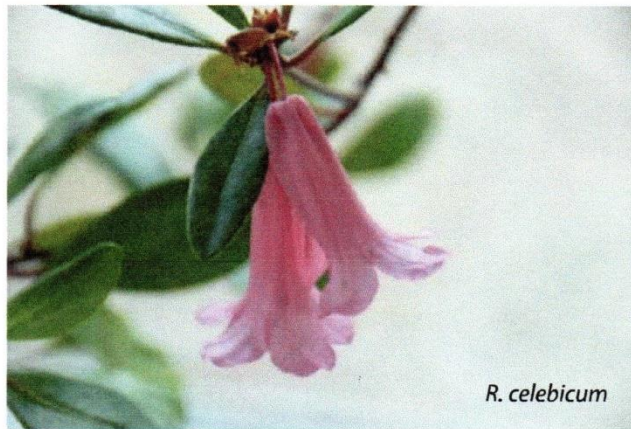
From the President

### Notes From the Chair

“Irrational exuberance” - that is a phrase coined by Alan Greenspan, when he was Chairman of the US Federal Reserve system, to refer to the tremendous enthusiasm in the mid 1990's for stocks, with no thought for the future. As we know, that period led to a rapid increase in stock prices followed by an even more rapid decrease when the dot-com bubble burst and reality set in.

I was musing about this, and wondering if the term could apply to gardeners as well, as I was potting seedlings up to one gallon pots this summer. As I had potted up more than 2000 pots at the time, I decided perhaps I had been overly exuberant in planting seeds last year and should try to be a bit more rational next time. I could see also that the term might apply to someone like the gardener who plants 12 zucchini plants, so that they will have a few zucchini to share with friends, not realizing that in our climate one plant usually requires a wheelbarrow to cart away the crop.

However the term really applies to my experiences with vireya seedlings. But to tell that story I have to go back a few years to 2006 when Fraser South hosted the Western Regional ARS Conference at Harrison Hot Springs. On a whim I had earlier that year bought several vireyas from the Rhododendron Species Foundation, but didn't know much about them. At that meeting I had a conversation with Glen Jamieson, who is an enthusiast and the BC expert on vireyas and, now, the new editor of the ARS Journal. He told me about them, showed me some samples and convinced me that I had made a good decision to give them a try.



*R. celebicum*

As most of you know vireyas are tropical rhododendrons, natives of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and surrounding areas. There are some 300 species, so vireyas make up a significant fraction of the species in the genus *Rhododendron*. Although they are from the tropics, they grow mostly in the forests in the mountains, where it is cooler, moist and shady. Thus in the summer here they do just fine in a shaded, open greenhouse or place in the garden. Many are epiphytic, so they need very well drained soil, similar to orchids. Most do not stand freezing temperatures however, so in the winter they have to be brought inside and treated like house plants. Those that I have seen in flower, mostly at the RSF, can be spectacular as flowers, though often a bit straggly as plants.

Anyway as a result of this conversation with Glen I bought a few more at the next RSF plant sale the following year. So for several years we have been growing a half dozen or so vireyas. In the summer they are in our open poly-greenhouse where they are regularly watered by the sprinkler system. In the winter we have brought them in to a table by the window in my office, and I have conned Ginny into taking care of them, watering and feeding them along with her orchids.

There are many leaf shapes and sizes, just as for the temperate rhododendron species. One I have, *R. phaeochitum*, has new leaves covered with a rusty indumentum on both surfaces, which is rather attractive. Another, *R. celebicum*, has bloomed now for two years, even as a small plant. The flowers are tubular, red or pink, and hang down in clusters of a few. Individually the flowers are not that spectacular, but at least in the second year the plant was covered with blooms, with at least some blossoms showing over several months as I remember. And another, *R. retusum*, has bloomed once, in February, with a cluster of red/orange flowers. In the house, when nothing else was blooming, they were really nice.

So, buoyed by some success with vireya plants I ordered some seeds last year from the RSF seed exchange.



They sprouted nicely and are now at the seedling stage, just a few inches high in a couple of flats. The two most successful were *R. kawakamii* and *R. armitii*. *R. kawakamii* has open clusters of light yellow flowers. It is a native of Taiwan. *R. armitii* comes from Papua New Guinea, has long tubular white or pink flowers, and from the picture looks like it will be really nice. (Thanks to Glen Jamieson for providing the pictures of these two.)

But in my exuberance I didn't think about the future. This winter I can easily keep a couple of flats in the basement under lights, but next summer these plants will go into one gallon pots and next winter I will have 50 or 60 one gallon pots that have to be overwintered



*R. kawakamii*



*R. retusum*

inside. Even Ginny, though she is a saint, is not going to allow me to bring that many pots into our living room! What to do? I don't know. Maybe I will sell some next summer, or maybe I will have some nice contributions to our raffle a year from now. In the meantime, though it has been a bit irrational, I have had fun trying out this new group of rhododendrons.

As we start a new year I hope all of you will bring your exuberance, (rational I hope), to our meetings, along with friends and others who might be interested in joining us. We have good programs coming up. We will have our usual plant sales and raffles at the meetings, as well as the goodies FSRS is famous for. So come join the fun!

*Harold Fearing*



*R. armitii*



*From the Garden*



*Mary Fleming*



*Magnolia "Eric Saville"*



*Magnolia "Anna"*



*R. campanulatum* ssp. *campanulatum*



*Chemainus*



*R. principis*





*PJM*



*R. pachysanthum*



*Noble House*



*Cream Crest*



*R. wallichii*



*Double Winner*



*Jim Barlup Hybrids*

Picture credit : Jim Barlup



*Purple Moon (Violet Mist x Black adder x Hollis Hope)*



*Purple Twilight (Jonathan Shaw x Plum High)*



*Quiet Elegance (Sun Blush x Tia)*



*Quiet Journey (Bambi x r. proteoides x Christina Dee)*



*Raspberry Mist (Violet Mist x Black Adder)*



*Raspberry Spirit (Jonathan Shaw x Violet Mist)*





*Recital (Mindys Love x Jessie's Song)*



*Rocky Point (Glenna x Claire)*



*Rose Dancer (Violet Mist x Plum Passion)*



*Rose Dew (Percy Wiseman x Recital)*



*Rose Dust (Winter Spice x Muffy)*



*Rose Passion (Summer Sunrise x Plum Passion)*

## **Chris Southwick Bio cont'd**



Chris has been gardening all of her adult life. When she moved to Nanaimo from the Fort Nelson, B. C. area in 1992 she purchased a property just off of Hammond Bay Road and began gardening with rhododendrons in earnest at that time having purchased some lovely rhodos with that property.

Joining the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society in 1994, Chris became involved with that chapter and served as program chair, treasurer, vice-president, president, and board member for most of the years since joining the Society. She has co-chaired the annual Show and Sale, judged shows for other Vancouver Island clubs, and was co-chair of the 2012 Fall ARS Regional Conference. She was

honoured with the NRS Bronze medal in 2008.

As a rhododendron species proponent, Chris currently serves on a committee that helped create the Greig Rhododendron Species Garden at Milner Gardens and Woodland in beautiful Qualicum Beach. After retirement from being a school administrator she became a certified Master Gardener to carry on learning about plants and giving back to the gardening community. She is currently the Vice-President of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Society and Past President of the Vancouver Island Master Garden Association. She is also on the Board of Milner Garden and Woodland and the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden.

Chris built a new home in 2008 on just over half an acre. She enjoys sharing her garden of several hundred rhododendrons, including many dwarf species rhodos, many native flowering plants, ferns, Japanese maples, dogwoods, primulas and .... vegetables.



# GLOSSARY

- ACUMINATE** tapering very gradually to a point  
**ACUTE** coming to a point that would be contained within two lines set at 90°  
**ANEMONE-CENTRED** of a double flower with numerous petaloid segments in the centre  
**ANTHER** the pollen-bearing part of the stamen, borne at the end of the stalk-like filament  
**APICULATE** terminating in a small, abrupt point (the point formed only from the vein or midrib)  
**APPRESSED** lying flat  
**ARISTATE** extended into a long bristle  
**ATTENUATE** narrowing gradually  
**AURICULATE** with small, ear-like projections at the base of the leaf  
**AXILLARY** growing from the angle formed by the junction of leaf and stem  
**BLOOM** waxy covering  
**BLOTCH** a defined area of often contrasting colour; may be solid, spotted or a mixture of the two  
**BULLATE** with a blistered or puckered surface  
**CALYX** the outermost whorl of floral parts; in some rhododendrons reduced to a mere rim  
**CAMPANULATE** see figs G and K  
**CAPITATE** forming a dense head-like structure  
**CILIATE** fringed with hairs  
**CLONE** two or more genetically identical individuals originally derived from one plant by asexual propagation  
**CORDATE** with two rounded lobes forming a deep sinus  
**CORIACEUS** leathery  
**COROLLA** the whorl of floral parts immediately inside the calyx; in rhododendron flowers usually fused to form a corolla tube towards the base with free lobes towards the apex  
**CRENULATE** with small rounded teeth  
**CUNEATE** with straight sides converging at the base  
**CUSPIDATE** tapering to a short, narrow point  
**DENDROID** of a hair that is branched like a tree  
**DETERSILE** of an indumentum that is eventually completely shed  
**DIMORPHIC** of scales or leaves that are of two distinct kinds  
**DORSAL** in a rhododendron flower used to refer to the top or upper lobe or lobes  
**DOUBLE** of flowers with numerous extra petals or petal-like organs within the corolla (often developed from and replacing the stamens and or pistil)  
**EGLANDULAR** lacking glands  
**ELLIPTIC** see fig. P  
**EYE** sometimes used interchangeably with blotch but typically a contrasting marking restricted to the base of the corolla  
**FERRUGINOUS** rusty brown  
**FILAMENT** the stalk-like part of the stamen, bearing the anther at its apex  
**FIMBRIATE** with a fringed margin  
**FLARE** sometimes used interchangeably with blotch, but usually a marking with a flame-like outline.  
**FLOCCOSE** with dense woolly hairs that fall away in tufts  
**FUNNEL-CAMPANULATE** intermediate in shape between funnel-shaped and campanulate  
**FUNNEL-SHAPED** see figs A and C  
**GLANDULAR HAIRS** hairs bearing glands at their tips  
**GLAUCESCENT** becoming bluish green  
**GLAUCOUS** bluish green  
**HOSE-IN-HOSE** of flowers with two corolla whorls, one within the other; a normal calyx may or not be present  
**IMBRICATE** overlapping at the margins  
**INFLORESCENCE** a flower cluster  
**INDUMENTUM** the covering of hairs and/or scales; may range from very sparse to dense and multilayered  
**LAMINA** the blade of the leaf  
**LANCEOLATE** see fig. R  
**LEPIDOTE** bearing scales  
**LINEAR** see fig. Q  
**MATT** with a dull surface  
**MUCRONATE** terminating abruptly in a short, hard point (the point formed from the limb and vein/midrib)  
**NECTAR POUCHES** see under nectary  
**NECTARY** nectar-bearing areas on the corolla, sometimes in sac-like protuberances or pouches  
**OBLANCEOLATE** see fig. N  
**OBLIQUE** of a leaf base where the two margins reach the petiole asymmetrically  
**OBLONG** see fig. L  
**OBOVATE** see fig. O  
**OBTUSE** rounded end which would not be contained within two lines set at 90°  
**ORBICULAR** see fig. M  
**OVARY** the basal part of the pistil, containing the ovules; it matures to form the capsule containing the seeds  
**OVATE** see fig. S  
**PEDICEL** the stalk of an individual flower  
**PETALOID** petal-like  
**PETIOLE** the stalk of a leaf  
**PILOSE** with long soft hairs  
**PISTIL** the female reproductive organ, consisting of the ovary at the base, which is prolonged apically into the style that is tipped by the stigma  
**PLASTERED** an indumentum with the components stuck together to form an apparently continuous sheet (sometimes described as agglutinated)



**PUBERULOUS** minutely hairy  
**PUBESCENT** with short hairs  
**RACEMOSE** of an inflorescence whose growing point continues to add to the inflorescence, usually lacking a terminal flower and with a lengthened axis  
**RETICULATE** marked with a network of veins  
**RETUSE** with a shallow, blunt notch at the apex  
**REVOLUTE** rolled downwards  
**RHACHIS** the axis of the inflorescence  
**ROTATE** see fig. J  
**RUFESCENT** becoming reddish  
**RUGOSE** with a wrinkled surface  
**SALVERFORM** a corolla with a long narrow tube and a shorter spreading border at its mouth  
**SAUCER-SHAPED** see fig. F  
**SELF** refers to a corolla of only one colour  
**SEMI-DOUBLE** of flowers with a few extra petals or petal-like organs within the corolla  
**SESSILE** with no stalk  
**SETOSE** of an indumentum consisting of stiff hairs  
**SINGLE** of flowers without additional petals or petal-like organs within the corolla  
**SINUS** the depression between two lobes or teeth  
**SPATHULATE** paddle-shaped  
**STAMEN** the male reproductive organ, consisting of a stalk-like filament bearing the pollen-bearing anther

**STELLATE** star-shaped  
**STIGMA** the apical part of the style which is receptive to pollen  
**STOLONIFEROUS** with (at least some) procumbent stems  
**STRIGOSE** of an indumentum consisting of stiff, appressed hairs  
**STYLE** the usually attenuated, often stalk-like beak to the ovary, with the stigma at its apex  
**TOMENTOSE** with a dense covering of short often more-or-less matted hairs  
**TRUMPET-SHAPED** see fig. I  
**TRUNCATE** terminating very abruptly, as if a piece had been cut off  
**TRUSS** a cluster of flowers  
**TUBULAR** see fig. D  
**TUBULAR-CAMPANULATE** see fig. E  
**TUBULAR FUNNEL-SHAPED** see fig. B  
**UMBELLATE** an inflorescence in which all the pedicels arise from the top of the stem  
**VENTRAL** in a rhododendron flower used to refer to the bottom or lower lobe or lobes  
**VENTRICOSE** swollen or inflated on one side  
**VENTRICOSE-CAMPANULATE** see fig. H  
**VILLOUS** shaggy  
**VISCID** sticky  
**ZYGOMORPHIC** having only one plane of symmetry