

## Advisory Sub-Committee on Orchid Hybrid Registration

### Changes to the Register following *Genera Orchidacearum* 5

#### Announcement by the Chairman of AsCOHR

The RHS Advisory Sub-Committee on Orchid Hybrid Registration (AsCOHR) met on the 25th May and continued discussion on the implications for the International Orchid Hybrid Register of name changes made in *Genera Orchidacearum* (GO) volume 5. The main adjustments concern generic boundaries of the *Oncidiinae*.

Several new contributions were received, and all evidence was carefully considered by AsCOHR members. At my request the RHS Advisory Committee on Nomenclature and Taxonomy (ACONAT; a body of independent taxonomists and scientists) looked at the issues earlier this year and advised that the GO5 treatment should be accepted as it is. Additional opinion of other orchid scientists was sought, and the vast majority agreed with the interpretation published in GO5.

After discussion and a vote (not attended by GO authors/editors), AsCOHR advised the RHS that all changes proposed in GO5 should be accepted, with the following adjustments: *Ida* will be replaced by *Sudamerlycaste*, *Brasiliorchis* will be replaced by *Bolbidium*, and *Ada*, *Brachtia* and *Mesospinidium* are to be included within *Brassia*.

This recommendation will undoubtedly be unpopular with a number of people, especially those who will miss *Odontoglossum crispum* and its hybrids. However, all generic names in present use will be retained in the Register, and the online version is soon to be changed to make it searchable by synonyms; thus it will be possible to easily retrieve *Odontoglossum* and other records.

With this enhancement to the Register, it will also still be possible to register *Odontoglossum*

hybrids without any problems. It also means that if researchers produce compelling evidence to support an alternative view in the future and this is accepted, the Register will be able to accommodate such changes.

The views of researchers and orchid amateurs who are against some of the GO changes have been circulated widely. The main reasons why AsCOHR recommended accepting the GO5 nomenclature were:

- it is consistent with current interpretation of other groups in the *Orchidaceae* and other plant families;
- it is based on solid evidence and a large sample base;
- the international team behind GO research is well recognised and includes scientists who have a lifelong experience of the *Oncidiinae*;
- recognition of broad genera shows plant relationships and is horticulturally more useable than the recognition of smaller ones;
- the interpretation is supported by most international scientists and by the members of ACONAT.

Implementing the changes to *Orchidaceae* in the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families and to the Register will take place over the next few months, and it is very much hoped that synonyms and other fields will be accessible by November 2011. Julian Shaw and Mark Chase will be at the Singapore World Orchid Conference to talk about the changes.

**Johan Hermans**



**Julian Shaw**

#### From the Registrar

In this edition we start with an announcement from the Chairman of AsCOHR on the recent controversial orchid name changes.

Then some welcome news – publication of the new *Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids 3 Year Addendum 2008–2010* and improvements to the online version of the International Orchid Hybrid Register (page 4).

Finally, we move on to more controversy: how to spell *Warsce-watsit*.

**Photo:**

Janet Cubey

## Implementing the new classification proposed in GO5

As the Chairman has announced above, at the May meeting AsCOHR eventually decided to accept all of the new classification proposed in *Genera Orchidacearum* volume 5. Most of the revised system has already been implemented in the Register over the last few years, and some changes, such as separation of *Miltoniopsis* from *Miltonia*, have been warmly welcomed. However, certain other changes in the *Oncidiinae*, particularly the generic boundaries of *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium*, had been postponed, as they had met with most objections, both from within and without AsCOHR. It is the loss of the name *Odontoglossum*, as it becomes a synonym of *Oncidium*, that has caused most angst; with a sense of reluctance, this change was eventually accepted by AsCOHR.

The Registrar is well aware of the annoyance, anguish and plain confusion that these changes are creating for people who simply want to look up their plants in the Register or register hybrids. He has received e-mails that range from the sympathetic to the unprintable. He would like to offer the following advice: please continue to use whichever names you personally like on your plants and on your applications for registration. The old names will continue to be entered in the Register as synonyms so that data can be retrieved. It is hoped that before the end of the year the online version of the Register will be searchable by the old generic names.

### Outline of the main changes (including those already implemented)

#### *Oncidiinae*

- *Brassia* has been expanded to include *Ada*, *Bractia* and *Mesospinidium*. This follows a post-GO5 publication which AsCOHR felt it was

appropriate to include in the changes.

- *Cochlioda* included in *Oncidium*.
- *Comparettia* expanded to include *Scelochilus*.
- *Cyrtorchilum* separated from *Odontoglossum* (subgenera *Serratolamnia* and *Unguiseipala*) and *Oncidium*. Also includes *Dasyglossum*, *Irenea*, *Trigonochilum* and *Siederella*.
- *Gomesa* expanded to include most of the Brazilian *Oncidium*, *Baptistonia*, *Binotia*, *Rodriguezella* and *Rodriguezopsis*. Also included in *Gomesa* are the following recently described critical genera: *Alatiglossum*, *Ampliglossum*, *Anettea*, *Brasilidium*, *Carenidium*, *Carriella* (syn. *Carria*), *Castroa*, *Concocidium*, *Coppensia*, *Kleberella*, *Menezesiella*, *Neoruschia*, *Rhinocerotidium*, *Rhinocidium*. Those wishing to adopt these may like to know that Patricia Harding and co-authors have produced a book on this group due out in August.
- *Miltoniopsis* separated from *Miltonia*.
- *Odontoglossum* mainly included in *Oncidium*. Some species transferred to *Cuitlauzina* (including *Osmoglossum*), *Cyrtorchilum*, *Otoglossum*, *Rhynchostele* (including *Amparoa*, *Cymbiglossum*, *Lemboglossum*, *Mesoglossum*), *Rossioglossum* (including *Chelyorchis* and *Tichoglossum* as synonyms).
- *Oncidium*: some parts separated to *Cyrtorchiloides*, *Gomesa*, *Grandiphyllum*, *Nohawilliamsia*, *Tolumnia*, *Trichocentrum*, *Vitekorchis*, *Zelenkoa*, but also expanded to include *Chamaeleorchis*, *Cochlioda*, *Collare-stuartense*, *Heteranthocidium*, *Mexicoa*, *Miltonioides*, *Odontoglossum*, *Sigmatostalix*, *Solenidiopsis* and *Symphyglossum*.
- *Psychopsis* upheld as distinct from *Oncidium*, and expanded to include *Psychopsiella*.
- *Tolumnia* separated from *Oncidium*.
- *Trichocentrum* enlarged to include many species previously included in *Oncidium*.

**Under the new classification, *Cochlioda* and most of *Odontoglossum* are included in *Oncidium*, while *Miltoniopsis* is separated from *Miltonia*.**

**Thus × *Vuylstekeara* Saint Aubin, with parents *Miltonia* Avranches and × *Odontioda* Moulin de Fliquet, is reclassified as a cross between *Miltoniopsis* and *Oncidium*, and becomes × *Oncidopsis*.**

#### Above:

× *Oncidopsis* Saint Aubin 'Grosnez Castle', painted by Deborah Lambkin. This orchid was given an Award of Merit in October 2008 (RHS, Lindley Library).

***Sudamerlycaste fimbriata*;**  
previously known as  
***Lycaste fimbriata***  
and ***Ida fimbriata***

**Above:**

*Sudamerlycaste fimbriata*,  
painted by Nellie Roberts.

This orchid was given an  
Award of Merit in November  
1934 (RHS, Lindley Library).

## **Maxillariinae**

- *Sudamerlycaste* separated from *Lycaste*. (The name *Ida* is used for this concept in GO5, but it is predated by *Sudamerlycaste*, which therefore has priority.) Incidentally, it was decided not to accept the new genus *Selbyana* proposed by Archila as a split from *Lycaste*.
- *Maxillaria* divided into several genera, including *Brasiliorchis*, *Camaridium*, *Christensonella*, *Inti*, *Mapinguari*, *Maxillariella* (somewhat questionably; some of these segregates are likely to be included in *Maxillaria* once again in GO6). Research since the publication of GO5 has shown that the name *Brasiliorchis* is predated by *Bolbidium*.

## **Zygopetalinae**

Most of these changes are also summarised and adopted in the popular book by P. Harding, *Huntleyas and related orchids* (2008; Timber Press).

- *Acacallis* included in *Aganisia*.
- *Chondrorhyncha* reduced to 6–7 species.
- *Cochleanthes* reduced to two species.
- *Galeottia* includes and has priority over *Mendoncella*.
- *Pabstia* replaces *Colax* Spreng., because the name *Colax* was already in use for another genus when *Colax* Lindl. was published.
- *Pescatoria* expanded to include *Bollea*. The spelling *Pescatoria* was adopted over *Pescatorea*. This affects the spelling of several hybrid generic names. Those that were published using the spelling *Pescatorea* as a component may need to be corrected to reflect the spelling *Pescatoria*, when it forms part of a compound formulaic name.

## **Other related changes**

Generally most species retain their epithet when they change genus. There are however a few exceptions, the worst of which are:

- *Oncidium crispum* becomes *Gomesa imperatoris-maximiliani*.
- *Odontoglossum crispum* becomes *Oncidium alexanderi*.

Many new hybrid genera have had to be created and published to support the new classification. At the same time, a large number of hybrid genera have become synonyms. If a hybrid genus contains a component genus that becomes a synonym, then it too will become a synonym. For example, *Odontoglossum* is a component of 131 hybrid genera, all of which automatically become defunct once *Odontoglossum* is synonymised. In recent years, all new hybrid genera published, along with their components, have been included in IPNI (short for the International Plant Names Index, and available at [www.ipni.org](http://www.ipni.org)). It is also hoped to make the full RHS database of orchid hybrid generic names searchable online soon.

The other major source of confusion is the creation of numerous grex homonyms – that is, duplication of the same grex name caused by transferring a grex into a genus where that name is already in use.

For example, x *Wilsonara* Adonis, x *Odontioda* Adonis and *Odontoglossum* Adonis all end up in *Oncidium*. In order to distinguish them, therefore, the date of registration has been added to the end of the epithet, so they become *Oncidium* Adonis (1921), *Oncidium* Adonis (1917) and *Oncidium* Adonis (1918) respectively. An additional help to separate them is the retention of the former generic assignment, so for each one the more familiar generic name will also be displayed on the web version of the Register. There are about 400 sets of grex homonyms in *Oncidium*.

 **Julian Shaw**

## New Addendum to *Sander's List*

The 11th Addendum to the 1961 *Sander's List*, covering the period January 2008 to December 2010, has just been published by the RHS. Compiled by International Orchid Registrar Julian Shaw, with the assistance of Hannah Griffiths, this new addendum lists 10,546 new hybrids and extends to cxxxiv + 836 pages. On sale at £60 from RHS Enterprises (ISBN 9781907057199), it was already one of the best-grossing RHS publications in May (see [www.rhsshop.co.uk](http://www.rhsshop.co.uk)).

Well known to amateur growers and multinational orchid nurseries alike, *Sander's Complete List of Orchid Hybrids* (compiled by nurseryman Henry Sander) was first published in 1906. The RHS took on publication in 1960, and the list became a formal register. Addenda were published in 1971 and then at 5-year intervals until 1999, when publication became 3-yearly, reflecting the increased volume of global orchid hybrid production.

The Register (from which the addenda to *Sander's List* derive) currently contains over 148,000 entries, while Julian and Hannah deal with new registrations at the rate of 300–500 per month. The Register is available to search online (<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister>), and is updated daily.

Since 2010 marked the 50th anniversary of RHS operation of the Register, an article by the Registrar outlining the history of the list appeared in *The Orchid Review* **118**(1290): 80–87 (June 2010). This will also shortly be available online from a new website (currently under construction by Peter Sander) which will provide information on the Sander family and their horticultural activities.

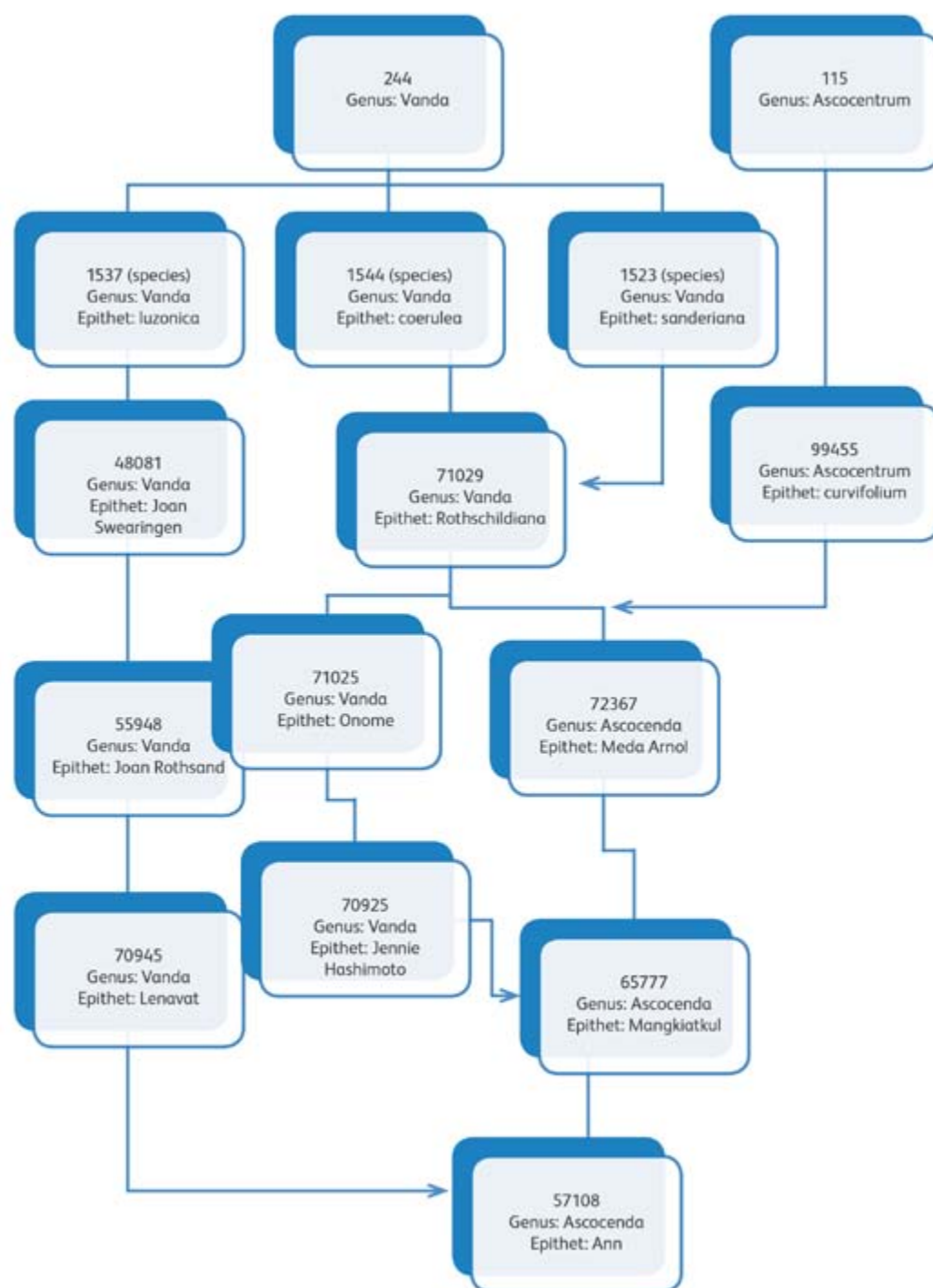
**Photo:**  
Janet Cubey

## Names commemorating Józef von Rawicz Warszewicz (1812–1866)

There are several hundred epithets that commemorate this well-known Polish plant collector, and to make life more interesting, the epithet is spelt in many different ways. For example, there is *Lobelia warszewiczii*, *Siphocampylus warszewiczii*, *Ribes x warszewiczii*, *Salvia warszewicziana*, and *Odontoglossum warszewiczianum*. In

the Kew World Checklist the decision has been made to adopt a standardised spelling of the name in epithets. After all, Warszewicz only spelled his own name one way, and there is no evidence he ever varied. This might seem like a commonsense, pragmatic move. However, it was rejected by ACONAT (the RHS Advisory Committee on Nomenclature and Taxonomy) as being beyond the scope of changes permitted by the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*. This was because the variant spellings have arisen by different botanists using transliterations into different languages, rather than by error. Hence the Register is required to maintain the variant spellings.

 **Julian Shaw**



## Some features of the new web version of the Register

Work is now well under way to provide a new experience for online users of the International Orchid Hybrid Register.

In addition to the present searches, it is intended to provide:

- searches by synonym, for example using *Odontoglossum* or x *Laeliocattleya*;
- access to additional fields, such as notes on names;
- searchable access to the hybrid genus data, including full names, abbreviations and parentage;
- generation of genealogical trees.

It is hoped that these new features will be available online before the end of 2011.

### Left:

A prototype version of the tree for x *Ascocenda* Ann gx.

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