



Royal  
Horticultural  
Society

### Registration fee increase

From 1st January 2010 the registration fee increased to £10.00 per application. This is the first price increase for 20 years, necessitated by the economic downturn and rising costs.

The RHS subsidises plant name registration as part of its charitable purpose; however, there is a limit to the extent that it can subsidise any one item, when it is such a large organisation with diverse interests in the world of horticulture.

Those involved in financial planning and budgeting have set a target of a 75% cost recovery rate for orchid registration and the price increase is a step towards that goal. It is likely there will be a further modest fee increase in 2011. The dollar equivalent price is reviewed annually, based on the average daily exchange rate over the past six months. It is currently set at \$16.50 per application.

## AsCOHR Newsletter June 2010

### Advisory Sub-Committee on Orchid Hybrid Registration

#### AsCOHR: why and who?

The purpose of this sub-committee is to advise the RHS in matters relating to orchid nomenclature and taxonomy and their application to the International Register of Orchid Hybrids (Sander's List), for which the RHS is the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) appointed by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS).

The sub-committee reports to ACONAT (the Advisory Committee on Nomenclature and Taxonomy). ACONAT advises the RHS on all aspects of plant nomenclature and taxonomy, particularly the names used in the *RHS Plant Finder*, an annual index of plants available through horticulture in the UK, which has come to be regarded as setting the standard for horticultural plant names.

The membership of AsCOHR is drawn from RHS members from around the globe who are botanists, professional growers or hobbyists with a particular interest in orchids. The sub-committee meets twice-yearly in London, UK, usually in May during the Chelsea Flower Show week and in the late autumn.

The members are currently:

- Mr Johan Hermans, UK (Chairman)
- Prof. Mark Chase, UK (Vice Chairman)

- Mr Ian Chalmers, Australia
- Dr Phillip Cribb, UK
- Mr Munekazu Ejiri, Japan (JOGA)
- Dr John Elliott, Singapore (OSSEA)
- Mr Peter Furniss, USA
- Dr Robert Griesbach, USA
- Mr Peter Hunt, UK
- Mrs Liz Johnson, UK (McBean's Orchids)
- Dr Ron McHatton, USA (AOS)
- Mr Chris Purver, Jersey (Eric Young Orchid Foundation)
- Mr Frank Röhlke, Germany (Roellkeorchideenzucht)
- Mrs Joyce Stewart, UK (WOC Trust)

Dr Janet Cubey, UK, Chairman of the Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), Secretary to the Editorial Committee for the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP), and the RHS Chief Horticultural Data Development Manager, who has oversight of all RHS ICRA registers and horticultural databases, also attends the meetings.

Other RHS staff members attending are Mr Richard Sanford as the meticulous Minute Secretary, and Mr Julian Shaw, the International Orchid Hybrid Registrar.

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## Dollar payments

Due to increasing bank charges the cost to the RHS to cash a US dollar cheque now well exceeds the value of a single registration fee. Consequently, the RHS is unable to accept dollar cheques for single applications. Payment of the fee by credit card is the preferred form of remittance. It also avoids the need to issue credit notes. Later in 2010 the RHS is switching over to an improved, more secure software system for processing credit card payments to meet new UK government financial industry standards. This means that cards will be charged the same day that the registration is made, rather than at the end of the calendar month as currently.

## Generic boundaries in *Oncidiinae*

With the publication last autumn of *Genera Orchidacearum* volume 5, the May 2010 meeting of AsCOHR will be the time to review the changes in generic boundaries and make a decision on their implementation in the Register. A short summary of the anticipated changes is provided below.

- *Ada* includes *Brassiopsis* and *Brassia glumacea*
- *Baptistonia* included in *Gomesa*
- *Caucaea* expanded to include some *Oncidium*
- *Cischweinfia* retained
- *Cochlioda* included in *Oncidium*
- *Comparettia* retained
- *Cuitlauzina*, including *Osmoglossum*, removed from *Odontoglossum*
- *Cyrtochilum* expanded by transfer from *Odontoglossum* subgenus *Serratolamnia*, and subgenus *Ungisepala*
- *Erycina* includes *Psygmorchis*
- *Gomesa* expanded to include *Baptistonia*, *Binotia*, *Rodrigueziella*, *Rodrigueziopsis*, and many Brazilian *Oncidium* species
- *Hofmeisterella* retained
- *Ida* replaced by *Sudamerlycaste*. Final transfers made by Archila M., F. 2009. *Sudamerlycaste* Archila, Addendum et corrigendum, 3. *Richardiana* **10**(1):21–28
- *Ionopsis* retained
- *Leochilus* retained
- *Macradenia* retained
- *Maxillaria* splits into *Maxillaria s.str.*, *Brasiliorchis*, *Camaridium*, *Christensonella*, *Inti*, *Mapinguari*, *Maxillariella*, *Nitidobulbon*, *Ornithidium*, *Rhetinathe*
- *Miltonia* includes *Phymatochilum*, exclude *Miltoniopsis*
- *Miltoniopsis* separated from *Miltonia*
- *Odontoglossum* no longer used; genus split between *Cuitlauzina*, *Cyrtochilum*, *Oncidium*, *Rhynchostele*, *Rossioglossum*
- *Oncidium* expanded to include most of *Odontoglossum*, *Sigmatostalix*, *Symphyglossum*, *Mexicoa*, *Miltonioides*, *Collare-stuartense*
- *Otoglossum* includes *Onc. globuliferum*, *Onc. arminii*, etc.
- *Psychopsis* includes *Psychopsiella* and transfers from *Oncidium*
- *Rhynchostele* includes *Amparao*, *Cymbiglossum*, *Lemboglossum*, *Mesoglossum*
- *Rodriguezia* retained
- *Rossioglossum* includes *Ticoglossum*, *Chelyorchis*
- *Tolumnia* transfers from *Oncidium*
- *Trichocentrum*, transfers from *Oncidium*
- *Trichopilia* retained
- *Vitekorchis* includes *Onc. excavatum*
- *Zelenkoa* transfer from *Oncidium*

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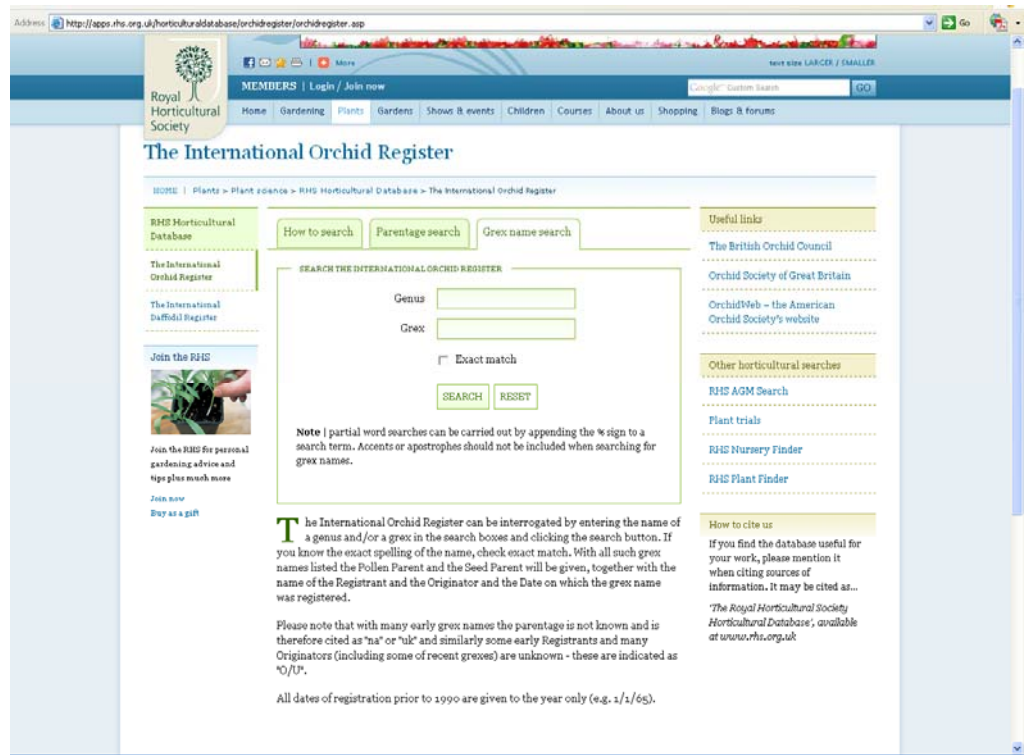
## The online version of the Orchid Hybrid Register

The register may be searched online at <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>

Additional new information on registering orchid hybrids, and the rules governing grex names can now be found at [www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/Plant-science/Plant-registration/Orchids](http://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/Plant-science/Plant-registration/Orchids)

Application forms can be downloaded from this site in English, Japanese and Portuguese.

During the last year there have been some adjustments to the data displayed on the on-line version of the register. A generic synonym is now displayed, so that hybrids previously listed as, for example, *x Brassolaeliocattleya* show this name as a synonym under the current generic placement, usually *x Rhyncholaeliocattleya*. There is also an indication if a grex name is accepted or regarded as a synonym. This is particularly useful in situations where there has been a duplicate registration, or where in the past several names have been used for the same hybrid. Also the name of the registrant or originator is now shown in full, rather than an abbreviated form. Natural hybrid names are also indicated as such. It should be noted that the hybrid register is not designed to provide information on species names. Consequently, entering a species name in the grex name search will result in an



erroneous message that it is a natural hybrid. Information on species names should be sought from the International Plant Names Index (IPNI; [www.ipni.org](http://www.ipni.org)) or the Kew World Monocots checklist (<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>).

One of the problems with the implementation of new generic boundaries is the creation of numerous homonyms, that is, cases where the same name is used for several different hybrids. As these come to light the year of registration or publication is added after the grex epithet in parentheses to help distinguish them. In cases where homonyms have the same date they are numbered (1), (2), etc.

It is planned to make more data and new searches available, hopefully by the

end of 2011, pending continued software development. This is expected to include the notes field, which contains literature references and information on the grex name. A further much needed innovation is to make the register searchable by synonyms. This would enable one to search for a hybrid by its old name such as *x Sophrolaeliocattleya*, *x Brassolaeliocattleya* or the soon to disappear favourite *Odontoglossum*. This search facility has the obvious advantage of enabling names in older literature to be found easily, and avoids using the new names for those who prefer traditional nomenclature, or may have doubts about molecular taxonomy and cladistics.

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## Significant developments in the history of orchid hybrids and their registration

As 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of RHS operation of the register of orchid hybrids, the following list of noteworthy events has been included. A short history of orchid registration was published in *Orchids* (American Orchid Society Magazine) 71(6): 540–543 (June 2002).

**1847.** William Herbert reported that he obtained pods from his cross-pollination of *Orchis* x *Ophrys*, but failed to collect and sow the seeds as he was away. (*Journ. Hort. Soc.* 2: 104)

**1853.** John Dominy, who worked for James Veitch, began to artificially cross-pollinate orchids deliberately attempting to produce new hybrids.

**28 Oct 1856.** James Veitch shows hybrid *Calanthe* flower to Dr Lindley. (*Gard. Chron.* 1858: 4)

**Aug 1859.** Five *Cattleya* hybrid plants exhibited at Horticultural Society meeting.

**Dec 1859.** FCC awarded by Horticultural Society for *Cattleya* x *Veitchii*.

**24 Aug 1865.** First recorded flowering of orchid hybrid in France, *Cattleya* Auguste Rivière. (*J. Soc. Imp. Cent. Hort.* 12: 268–291, May 1866)

**1871.** First known list of orchid hybrids published by F.W. Burbidge (1847–1905) listing 17 hybrids. From 1871 onwards, *Gardeners' Chronicle* begins to list all new orchid hybrids.

**1872.** Maxwell T. Masters (then editor of *Gardeners' Chronicle*) introduced first hybrid formula name for bi-generic hybrid (x *Philageria* for *Lapageria* x *Philesia*, a non-orchid). This was

taken up by E.F. André in 1875, and is now the standard method for forming botanical hybrid generic names.

**1891.** Kew botanist Robert Rolfe begins to publish *The Orchid Review*, and commenced listing new orchid hybrids with the first issue.

**1897.** x *Sophrolaeliocattleya* named. First tri-generic hybrid formula name in orchids.

**1906.** First Sander's list of orchid hybrids appears. (Sander's had been publishing *Orchid Guides* for some time. These gradually contained more and more hybrids, until the 1906 list.)

**1910.** E.A. Bowles proposes use of *-ara* suffix for quadrigenic names (e.g. x *Potinara* instead of x *Brassolaeliocattlionitis*). It was officially adopted into the Botanical Code in 1950.

**1911.** Rolfe & Hurst, *The Orchid Stud-Book* appears. Lists all known orchid hybrids to 1907.

**1946.** "Complete" list published by Frederick Sander. (He was actually somewhat selective and declined to include a number of foreign hybrids, particularly from Germany)

**1953.** W.T. Stearn, first *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants* published. Term 'grex' introduced.

**1957.** Sander's introduce an application form and a registration fee (5/-, 25p).

**1960.** Two-volume list of hybrids issued by David Sander, who along with his assistant, Marjorie Wreford, estimated it took 50,000 hours from 1952 to compile..

**1960.** RHS hosts 3rd World Orchid Conference in London. Negotiations then resulted in transfer of Orchid list compilation to RHS, who also took on Marjorie Wreford as staff.

**1961.** RHS commences orchid registration work. ORAC (Orchid Registration Advisory Committee) formed – now called ASCOHR (Advisory Sub Committee on Orchid Hybrid Registration).

**1969.** Marjorie Wreford's health failing, RHS takes on Doreen Hunt temporarily to compile register.

**1970.** Marjorie Wreford retires. RHS employs Jack Greatwood as registrar.

**1990 Feb.** Greatwood retires. Doreen Hunt takes over as registrar, inheriting a backlog of about six months' applications. Computerisation of register commences.

**31 Mar 1992.** Peter Hunt took early retirement and joined Doreen as List compiler.

**7 Nov 1992.** Backlog of registrations cleared. Computerisation completed.

**Jan/Feb 2001.** Peter and Doreen Hunt retire. Present registrar and assistant take up posts.

**Oct 2009.** Eighth edition of ICNCP (International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants) published, introducing new taxonomic rank for grex, formally providing for naming of Groups within a grex.

**2010.** Fiftieth Anniversary of RHS operation of International Register of Orchid Hybrids..

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