

Significant developments in the history of orchid hybrids and their registration

A short history of orchid registration was published in *Orchids* (American Orchid Society Magazine) 71(6): 540-543 (June 2002).

1847. (Journ. Hort. Soc. 2: 104) Dean 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.

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

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

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

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

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

1872. Maxwell T. Masters (then editor of Gardener's 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. Andre in 1875, and is now the standard method for forming botanical hybrid generic names.

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

1897. x *Sophrolaeliocattleya* coined. 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 sometime. These gradually contained more and more hybrids, until the 1906 list.)

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

1911 Rolfe & Hurst, *The Orchid Stud-Book* appears. Lists all known 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 Cultivated Plant Nomenclature published. Term 'grex' introduced.

1957 Sanders 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.

1990 Feb. Greatwood retires. Doreen Hunt takes over as registrar. Computerisation of register commences.

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

7 Nov 1992. Backlog of registrations inherited from Greatwood cleared. Computerisation completed.

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

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