

FEB. 2017 BULLETIN

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# Eastern Suburbs Orchid Society Inc.

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## NEXT MEETING: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017

at 7:45 pm. At St. Luke's Community Hall, Cnr. of Arden St., and Varna Street, Clovelly. NSW 2031 **\*\*A show of Members' orchids every month. \*\*Visitors always welcome.**

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:** Single \$12:00, Family \$18:00. Due 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017

**Guest Speaker:** to be announced.

**Our supper break is a chance to socialize with each other. Thanks to those who regularly bring something along to go with our cup of tea etc.**

**Minutes Last Meeting:** Acceptance of the November Meeting Minutes held on Monday 21 Nov 2016 are held over until the February Meeting.

**New Member:** Please welcome **Deb Campbell** and make her feel at home amongst friends.

**Correspondence: Inwards:** Various bulletins and advertisements for shows.

Correspondence from OSNSW for us to advise them of our judging requirements for our annual show.

Request for a guest speaker at Maroubra Garden Club.

**Treasurers Report:** Updated list of Financial members circulated to Committee.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**19 March** Manly-Warringah Orchid Auction, Cromer Community Centre, Fisher Rd. North.

**31 March-1 April** Castle Hill International Orchid Fair, Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill Showground.

**1-2 April** Concord Garden Club 63rd Vegetable and Floral Art Show, Concord Community Centre

## NOMENCLATURE

Many of you are aware of the importance of correct nomenclature (Method of naming plants) but there are many plant labels and benching cards incorrectly completed. Whilst it is understandable that some of our membership have plants with unknown heritage, there are many who do not write benching cards with what is on the plant label. One or two members have been heard to say that "Names are not important." Others regularly ask what are the correct names of our plants. John McAuley has attempted to overcome this by writing a "SIMPLE GUIDE TO WHAT YOUR LABEL MEANS". This document, does not go into great depth but may be useful to members to identify why the naming of plants and use of the correct writing of labels and benching cards is important. John's article makes up the rest of this bulletin.

## A SIMPLE GUIDE TO WHAT YOUR LABEL MEANS (NOMENCLATURE)

### INTRODUCTION

Orchids are divided into species and hybrids. Orchid species occur naturally from the Arctic to the Sub-Antarctic. Their names consist of the **genus** name and the **specific epithet** or **species name** (e.g., *Phalaenopsis amabilis*). Except for naturally occurring hybrids, all man-made hybrids consist of the genus name and the hybrid name, usually chosen by the hybridizer (e.g., *Paphiopedilum* Bel Royal).

### Genus

All plants are members of particular plant families, and these in turn are divided into genera, which vary greatly in size, some containing a single species, others a few thousand. The scientific names of many plants, particularly wild plants, consist of two words; the first part of this name, gives the **genus** the plant belongs to. The **first letter** of this first part of the name is always **capitalised**.

### Species

Genera are then divided into species, the basic unit of plant classification. The second word in a plant's scientific name provides us with this detail and is known as the **specific epithet**, the **first letter** and all letters are in **lower case**.

Once a genus has been mentioned in text it may be abbreviated to its recognised shortened name (e.g. *Cattleya* = **C.** and *Phalaenopsis* = *Phal.*).

### Subspecies

When wild plants are found growing over a wide geographic area, populations of these plants situated in situations which do not allow gene-flow between them and the type, therefore they may evolve slightly different characters. These can be distinguished as **subspecies** of a particular species. The word subspecies is usually



**Fig 1** *Paph. primulinum* subsp. *purpurescens*

abbreviated to **subsp.** but should not be written in italics, although the scientific name of the subspecies is written in italics. (e.g. *Paphiopedilum primulinum* subsp. *purpurescens* Fig 1) Where a species also has a subspecies the type species will be given a subspecies name similar to that of the specific epithet. (e.g. *Paphiopedilum primulinum* subsp. *primulinum* Fig 2)



**Fig 2** *Paph. primulinum* subsp. *primulinum*

### Varieties



**Fig 3** *Paph. adductum* var. *anitum*

Varieties have differences between the typical appearances of the species and are variations within the species. A variety would have significant horticultural differences from the typical species, such as growth habitat or size for example, and is only found in a fraction of the general population. Variations are not limited to a distinct geographical area and are usually small populations within the type species population with some overlap allowing gene-flow. The word **variety** is usually abbreviated to **var.** but should not be written in italics, although the scientific name of the subspecies is written in italics. (e.g. *Paphiopedilum adductum* var. *anitum* which has a distinguishing black dorsal sepal Fig 3)

To find out if your plant is a genuine subspecies, or variety consult the Kew Checklist which is recognised by both by the AOC and ANOS as well as most learned botanical institutions throughout the world. Accepted names and accepted natural

hybrid names are in **bold** whilst unaccepted names and synonyms are not. Click on any name, accepted or otherwise, for more information about when and where they were described, and by whom and even where they come from.

Bear in mind that this database and the hybrid register mentioned later are both dynamic. As such, change is continuous as scientific studies, discoveries and new hybrids come to light.

<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>

### Forms

Individuals with distinct characteristics found within the geographic range of a species or subspecies may be recognised as **forms** (forma.). These differ from subspecies and varieties as they are generally individuals and not populations although they can occur throughout the natural range of the species and are seldom correlated with geographical distribution. The word **form** is usually abbreviated to **forma**. but should not be written in italics, although the scientific name of the subspecies is written in italics. (e.g. *Paphiopedilum venustum* **forma. album**). Most albanistic orchids are forms and not varieties which may come as a surprise to many growers.



**Fig 4** *Paph. venustum* forma. **album**

### Natural Hybrids

Some natural hybrids between two species are found in the wild. The name of these plants require a multiplication sign between the genus and species names, However as most people don't like to use the multiplication sign found amongst symbols within their software programme, they use a lower case "x" instead. (e.g. *Phalaenopsis x rolfeana* **Fig 5**). The entire name, except the 'x', appears in italics. *Phalaenopsis x rolfeana* is a natural hybrid between *Phalaenopsis equestris* and *Phalaenopsis sanderiana*. It is important to note that *Phalaenopsis x rolfeana* is only used for wild-collected plants. An alternative way to write it is *Phalaenopsis (equestris x sanderiana)*



**Fig 5** *Phal. x rolfeana*

It should be noted that if a man-made hybrid has the same species as parents as a natural hybrid, the grex would most probably not be the same and if it is, the natural hybrid will conform with the nomenclature above and the man-made hybrid as per below. (e.g. A Man-Made hybrid between *Phalaenopsis equestris* and *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* is *Phalaenopsis Hebe*.)

### Man-Made Intra-generic

**Man made** Intra-generic hybrids are given a **Gre**x name. The Grex name always starts with an upper case letter and is never italicised. (e.g. *Cattleya Walkerinter*. Which is a primary hybrid between *Cattleya walkeriana* and *Cattleya intermedia*.) (NB. Grex is used exclusively for orchids.)

### Man-Made Inter-generic

Inter-generic hybrids are usually given a new hybrid name encompassing parts of the generic names of the parents. (e.g. *Rhyncholaeliocattleya Cynthia* which is *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* x *Cattleya walkeriana*.) When the Intergeneric genera names are too long for labels, it is acceptable to use the accepted abbreviations. In the case above, *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* can be reduced to *Rlc*. (Occasionally an 'x' is given before the hybrid genus name, but rarely, if ever, used for orchids these days.)

The Royal Horticultural Society is the International Register for hybrids. In it one can search by parents or by Grex.

<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/orchidregister.asp>

### Clonal Name and Cultivar

The term 'Clonal name' is usually used for orchids', whereas 'Cultivars' are usually used by the horticultural industry in general.

Orchids, both species and hybrids with desirable characteristics such as flower colour, size, and variation etc, resulting from plant hybridisation and selection, or by natural variation, are recognised by being given **Clonal names**, to be written in addition to their genus, specific name or grex.

The word or words of the cultivar epithet are the final element of the full name and are enclosed in **single quotation marks**. The first letter of each word is **capitalised**, and the word or words are **never written in italics**. (Species e.g. *Paphiopedilum micranthum* 'Banyena') (Hybrid e.g. *Dendrobium* Warringah 'Purple Heaven')

A common fault often seen is when a clonal name is incorrectly preceded by "var."  
(NB. Awarded plants must be given a Clonal name.)

### Awarded Plants

In Australia we have various awards which can be given to species or hybrids. **Quality** awards are for the plant and consist of:

- **First Class Certificate (FCC),**
- **Award of Merit (AM),**
- **Highly Commended Certificate (HCC)**

**Cultural** awards are for the grower and consist of:

- **Award of Cultural Excellence (ACE)**
- **Award of Cultural Merit (ACM)**
- **Award of Cultural Commendation (ACC)**



Fig 6 Rlc. Sylvia Fry 'Wallacia' FCC/AOC-NSW 1971

In addition to the above awards there are also two others for plants:

- **Award of Distinction (AD)**, which is for a distinctive feature.
- **Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM)** which is for a species or natural hybrid which is rare and can be used as a benchmark for future judging

There is one other which is given to a breeder for an outstanding feature or achievement relating to the culture of orchids not adequately covered by another award. This is the **Award of Special Recognition (ASR)**

The method of recording an award against a plant name is by writing the following after the Clonal name: First the **award initials**, followed by a **forward slash** and the **awarding authority initials**, followed by the **state** and, if known the year of award.

(e.g. *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* Sylvia Fry 'Wallacia' FCC/AOC-NSW 1971 Fig 6) where AOC is the Australian Orchid Council.

(Another example: *Cattleya* John Broderick 'Flamer' AM/AOS 2016 ) where AOS is the American Orchid Society.

It must be noted that **not all countries** have the same titles for their awards.

### Conclusion

There are many other aspects of Nomenclature but the basics are contained in this document. If, like me, you take care of names and correctly labelling your plants, you will find it will add another interesting aspect to your hobby; especially when you start researching a prized plant's genetic history. It can even help when deciding to purchase plants, by knowing what all those attached names and initials mean. (Note: The Clonal name and award remains with the plant and any divisions or mericlones from it.)

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