



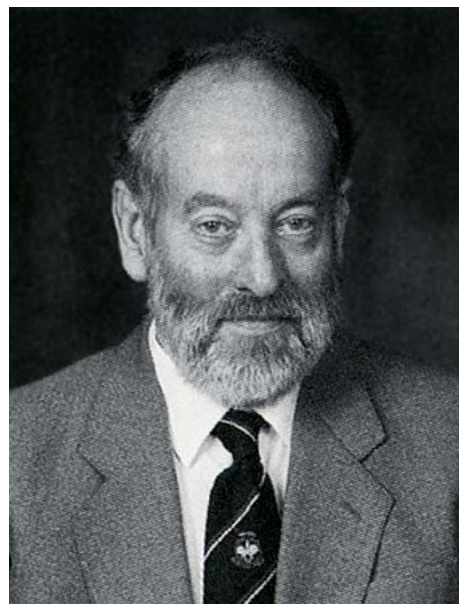
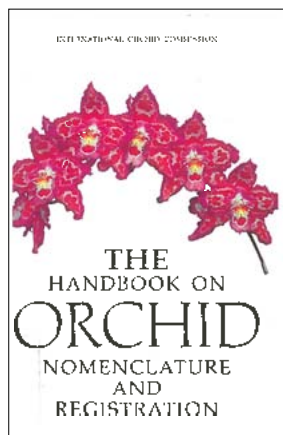
Obituary: Peter Hunt (1936–2013)

IT WAS WITH SADNESS that we learned of the death of the former Orchid Registrar, Peter F. Hunt, on 31 December 2013.

Together with his wife Doreen he was involved in operating the Register of orchid hybrids from 1990 until his retirement in February 2001. Originally working as an orchid botanist in the herbarium at Kew from 1959 to 1971, Peter was a member of the RHS Orchid Committee from 1960 to 1982, and of RHS ORAC (now the Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group) from 1992 to 2012, acting as Secretary of that Committee from 1997 to 2000.

He and his wife Doreen were largely responsible for the production of three Addenda to *Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids* from 1986–90 to 1996–98. With the late Jack Greatwood and Phillip Cribb, he helped to revise the Society's *Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration* for its second, third and fourth editions (right).

He was also the author of five books including *Discovering Botany* (1979), *Orchidaceae* (1973), *The Country Life Book of Orchids* (1978), and *The International Book of Orchids* (1979), and *The Orchid* (1987) with photography by Takashi Kijima, edited a further five translations



PHOTOS: THE ORCHID REVIEW (PETER HUNT); JANET CUBEY (JULIAN SHAW).

and adaptations, wrote 19 scientific papers and numerous book reviews. He was also a past Secretary to the International Orchid Commission, to the British Orchid Council, and Programme Secretary and Newsletter Editor of the Wiltshire Orchid Society.

The 107th volume of *The Orchid Review* was dedicated to him "in recognition of this huge commitment to orchids, so painstakingly undertaken."

He was a generous, kindly and helpful man who was ever ready to share his wide expertise, or to entertain with anecdotes from his full life. An obituary appeared in *The Orchid Review* 122 (1305): 12 (March 2014).

x *Peterhuntara*, a hybrid genus for the combination *Papilionanthe* x *Phalaenopsis* x *Rhynchostylis* x *Vanda*, was recently named in his honour. ■

Welcome to the annual newsletter from OHRAG. The group is primarily concerned with matters that affect the registration of orchid hybrids, particularly nomenclature and procedures. This newsletter presents information drawn from items that have arisen during the last year.

Julian Shaw

A text-only version of this newsletter was distributed with *The Orchid Review*, volume 122, Number 1307 (September 2014). Any citation should make reference to the latter.

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Genera *Orchidacearum* volume 6 – further changes to genera

SINCE THE PUBLICATION in February 2014 of *Genera Orchidacearum* volume 6, the final volume of the series, the following additional changes have come to light, which have all been enacted in the Register.

- *Psychopsiella* has been reinstated as distinct from *Psychopsis*.
- *Arachnis breviscapa* has been transferred to *Dimorphorchis*. This is the first time that *Dimorphorchis* has appeared in the Register and several new hybrid genera were required to accommodate the hybrids. For details see *Phytotaxa* 161 (1): 61–85 (20 Feb 2014). ■



Psychopsiella limminghei

PHOTOS: DALTON HOLLAND BAPTISTA (ORCHID); ORCHIDEENGARTEN.

Changes in OHRAG membership

During the past year, **Peter Furniss** (USA) and **Frank Röhlke** (Germany) have both left OHRAG; we would like to thank them for their valuable input and observations, and wish them well for the future. So far there is one new member, **Marei Karge-Liphard** of Orchideengarten Nursery, Germany (above), who we are pleased to welcome.

The use of numerals and alphanumeric codes as grex epithets

OCCASIONALLY, NUMERALS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED in registered grex epithets as part of a name, such as *Phalaenopsis* Nankung's 4.55 PM, apparently based on the title of a popular song. More recently, several breeders in Taiwan have begun using alphanumeric codes as grex names, such as *Phalaenopsis* Ben Yu JM 167, or *Phalaenopsis* Fuller's 3476. These designations may already usefully exist in the nursery as cross or seedling numbers, or even as cultivar epithets for statutory plant protection, hence their use is understandable. However, OHRAG takes the view that they are codes rather than names, and as they may differ by only one digit from another designating a very different hybrid, it is felt that the use of these as grex epithets could easily lead to confusion, particularly on handwritten labels. Hence, OHRAG has recommended that such alphanumeric codes no longer be accepted

for registered grex epithets. Breeders are advised that there is a place on the application form in the top left-hand corner to record the alphanumeric cross code, and that this code is recorded in the registration database. However, it would be appreciated if real names, rather than codes, could be proposed as grex epithets in future applications.

Numerals will continue to be used in the register when they are part of a longer name, or as a year of publication or registration to distinguish between homonyms (identical names), and in situations where unregistered and unnamed historical hybrids are entered in the register as in the case of *Phalaenopsis* Guillaumin unnamed 4 (*Phal. mannii* x *Phal. Wiganiae*) as found in Guillaumin, A. (1930) *Arch. Mus. Nat. Hist. Natur.* 6 (6): 75–79. ■



Registration by email

AN INCREASING NUMBER of applications are now dealt with entirely by email. While a web page that provides an electronic service for applications is still some way off, the registration team is happy to accept applications by email. A downloadable application form in pdf format is available at: www.rhs.org.uk/plants/pdfs/plant-registration-forms/orchid-hybrid-registration

This may be filled out electronically and sent as an email attachment to orcreg@rhs.org.uk

If your software does not allow you to write on the form, there are several options. Some print out the application form, fill it out and then scan the page and send that as an attachment. Others produce their own template, closely following the layout and wording of the original application form, using a word processing program. They are then able to fill out this template and, after saving a copy, attach it to an email. Still others prefer to use a spreadsheet such as Excel to email applications, and a few simply

type the details in an email following the order in which information appears on the application form. The main requirement is that the resulting application request should be clear and legible to the RHS orchid registration team.

We try to operate a paperless system for electronic applications, so please try to avoid applications that are presented upside-down, or very dark and difficult to read. Even if you apply by post, including an email address helps to speed up a response. ■

Above. **Recent hybrid *Paphiopedilum Emstor*, registered in 2013.**

THIS IS A QUESTION frequently asked of the registrar. Popular wisdom suggests that because there is only one correct name for each plant, the Register should list only one name for each hybrid. Perhaps because the grex is parentage-defined and consequently the Register can be used to trace a plant's pedigree, some draw a parallel with

To provide answers to these sorts of queries more is needed than just a list of accepted names; one must include as many names known to be in use as possible and provide enough information about them to satisfy enquirers. The RHS Horticultural Taxonomy unit operates registers for several other plant groups in addition to orchids, including *Clematis*, conifers, *Dahlia*,

The usefulness of synonyms

The same hybrid cross may have been made under several different names, especially where parent species or genera have been synonymised as classifications change. For example, *Phragmipedium Lemoinierianum* (*Calurum* × *Sedenii*, registered by Lemoinier in 1888) has 3 synonyms:

- *Calurum Rougieri* (Chauvière, 1892)
- *Compactum* (Ingram, 1893)
- *Lemoinieri* (Lemoinier again, also 1888)

Information about the plant may appear in old publications under any of these names.

Why are there sometimes several names for the same hybrid in the Register?

pedigree registers for animals, and in consequence anticipate only one entry for each hybrid. However, to answer this query let us consider what the purpose of the Register is. The function of a plant register is primarily to act as a nomenclatural tool, or nomenclator, as they are sometimes called. That is, an annotated checklist from which one can obtain information about a name, enabling one to answer such queries as, is this name valid? How does it apply? Is this the correct name for a plant? And, is this plant or hybrid known under other names?

Delphinium, *Dianthus*, *Lilium*, *Narcissus*, and *Rhododendron*, and these are now styled as "Register and Checklist of..." to reflect this nomenclatorial function. You may have noticed this subtle change in the title of the Orchid Register supplements issued with *The Orchid Review*.

If one comes across an unfamiliar plant perhaps in a nursery catalogue, or even in an old journal, how is one going to discover further information? This is where the registers come in. These registers

provide details on the original place of publication for a name, its synonyms, and often a description or parentage details. They also indicate if the name in question should be used or if it is a synonym of another name. In short, a register aims to provide a universal index to all names within its particular remit. Therefore, its use and function extends far beyond use in judging for awards or seeking parentage in breeding programs. ■



PHOTO: RAFAËL GOVAERTS

Off he set for the library of the botanic garden in Maise and asked to consult a global list of plants. To his disappointment he found that no such list was available.



BACK IN 1988, WHILE a university student in Belgium, Rafaël Govaerts became increasingly concerned about the threat of extinction facing so many plant species and the need for urgent conservation measures. It occurred to him that the first step in identifying which species were most at risk was to obtain a list of all known plants and mark it up. So off he set for the library of the botanic garden in Maise and asked to consult a global list of plants. To his disappointment he found that no such list was available. Not one to be easily discouraged he decided to prepare such a list himself. And so he began, while still a university student, to start work on his global checklist of plants. It so happened that the first entry in his alphabetical list was an orchid, the genus *Aa*.

currently available online through the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (WCSP). These data in turn provide the basis for The Plant List, Wikispecies and the e-Monocots initiative.

The basic data was drawn from *Index Kewensis*, a Victorian project at Kew to catalogue all published seed plant names that started with a bequest from Charles Darwin, and, from 1999, its online version the International Plant Names Index (IPNI). The entries were standardised bibliographically and entered in the WCSP at their appropriate status and rank, along with data on geographical distribution. In other words Rafaël, along with advice from other specialists in particular plant families, has tried valiantly to work out which

Rafaël Govaerts and the World Checklist at Kew

The first volume appeared in print as Govaerts, R. (1995) *World Checklist of Seed Plants 1* (1, 2): 1–483, 1–529. MIM, Deurne.

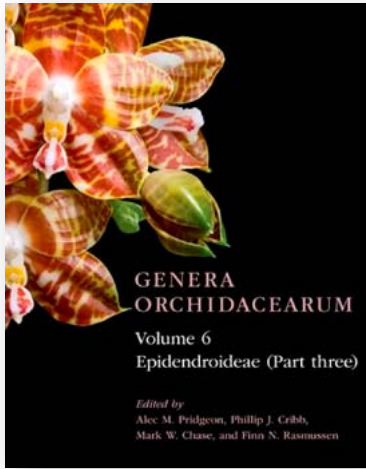
Now, some 26 years later, Rafaël is employed by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to work on a global checklist, which is still growing. The first family to be made available online was *Fagaceae* in 1996. With the resources at Kew, the number of families was expanded. From 2001, efforts focused on the Monocotyledons which were first published online in 2003 as part of the World Checklist of Monocotyledons (Monocot Checklist).

After completing the monocots, other families have gradually been completed and are

names are synonyms and list them as such. It is this consultative approach that marks the WCSP as different, authoritative and much more useful than just a list of all published names which inevitably includes many duplicated entries such as synonyms.

The WCSP is updated daily. This is on the basis of small details resulting from feedback from users who spot errors (very few, considering the size of the data set), information from other data users such as The Plant List, taxonomists who notice things in the course of their work, and from newly published literature that arrives in the Kew library each week. These updates may range from small notes on additional geographical records to





« major taxonomic revisions. Then, once a year, there is a major import of all the new annual entries from IPNI. This explains why newly described species usually do not make an immediate debut in the WCSP.

When using the WCSP it is important to remember that it is species-based with a global perspective. Hence most infraspecific names (subspecies, varieties and forms) are listed as synonyms, even though they might be valid concepts, particularly in ecology or horticulture. For orchids, the WCSP follows the generic limits proposed in *Genera Orchidacearum*, and it comes as no surprise therefore that most instances of disputes with the WCSP concern the generic delimitations in orchids. Whether you like the classification proposed in *Genera Orchidacearum* or hate it, it is useful to have an accessible, consistent, international standard when preparing a checklist, particularly when dealing with such a diverse and difficult family as *Orchidaceae*. In general, taxonomic disputes at species level are few. For example, there have been disputes on only four of the 17,077 names in *Myrtaceae* – clearly, this gifted compiler is not the sort to get stuck up a gum tree!

As a general rule, the most recent published taxonomic opinion is followed at specific level unless it is clear from the bibliography that the authors are not aware of recent changes. Experts are consulted for critical taxa and their opinion takes precedence. One challenging area has been dealing with cultivated plants in the WCSP. Since its genesis as a conservation tool the WCSP has only included wild plants. Names of plants that

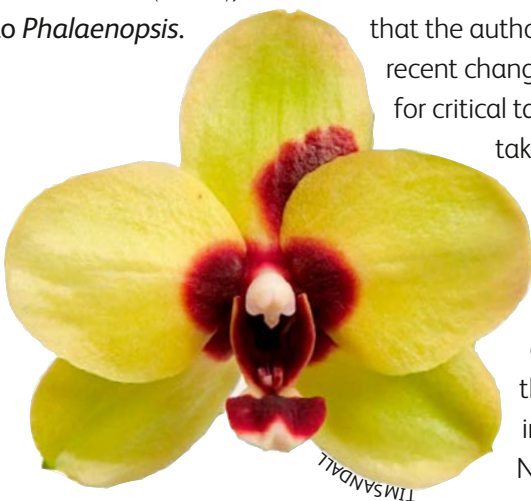
do not occur in the wild are therefore by definition “unplaced”, unless they are cultigens of existing species in which case they are synonymised under them. “Unplaced” is a category indicating that a name cannot be assigned a place within the context of the WCSP. Other reasons for viewing a name as unplaced include: non-compliance with the code of nomenclature; the genus in which it is published is not accepted by the WCSP (hence a new combination is required for it to be placed); or no type specimen is known or the type is too poor to be identified. Currently, Rafaël is considering introducing a new category of “Horticultural name” to avoid the paradox of having to class valid cultivated plant names, such as nothogenera, Latin grex epithets, and artificial hybrids with valid binomials, as “Unplaced”.

In recent years there has been a proliferation of online plant-name lists. While there are many plant data providers online, none reach the standard and utility of the WCSP for several reasons:

- The data are peer reviewed before being released online.
- Global geographical distribution is given for all taxa – aiming to be comprehensive but accurate.
- The data are live so any changes made are visible immediately.
- Many other online data providers use the WCSP data as a backbone.
- The report builder lets you make lists of taxonomic groups or geographical areas as well as count species numbers.

Meanwhile Rafaël is still working away behind the scenes at Kew to enlarge and refine the data in the WCSP. Could this be the greatest student project ever? ■

In *Orchidaceae*, the WCSP follows the generic limits proposed in the *Genera Orchidacearum* series, the final volume of which (above; *Dendrobieae* and *Vandae*) was published in February 2014. The Orchid Hybrid Register also follows GO, which can have large consequences; thus the decision to sink *Doritis*, following volume 6, meant the loss of 47 hybrid genera, the most significant of which was the transfer of names formerly ascribed to × *Doritaenopsis*, such as *Yu Pin Natsume* (below), to *Phalaenopsis*.





Photos. AOS Archives.

IN THE APRIL 2014 ISSUE of *Orchids* (the American Orchid Society's journal), Laura Newton discusses the results of her investigation into Splash-petal *Cattleya* hybrids. She concluded quite convincingly that *Cattleya* Penny Kuroda grex was originally registered with the wrong parentage, *Cattleya* Summer Snow as pod parent instead of *C. Summer Stars*. The result

CATTLEYA Penny Kuroda

is that there are evidently four different registered names for the same grex, three of which are responsible for distinctive breeding lines. Laura raises interesting questions,

including which name takes precedence, and how is this error in the register to be corrected?

In this case the earliest registered name takes precedence, since the mistake in parentage is a correctable error, which does not affect the establishment of the name. That means the basic name for this grex is *Cattleya* Penny Kuroda. But how should this be corrected in the register? If all the resulting hybrids derived from plants with the four available names are treated as having a single parent, many names will become synonyms. Moreover, the different parental hybrids within Penny Kuroda grex have given rise to distinctive breeding lines with peloric or non-peloric flowers, and the lineages would be obscured or easily confused if many of the parents were synonymised. Consequently, the following scheme has been devised in the register. *Cattleya* Penny Kuroda grex is viewed as consisting of four Groups:

- Penny Kuroda Group (peloric);
- Sophia Martin Group (non-peloric);
- Caudebec Group (Penny Kuroda × Sophia Martin);
- Francisco Sueiro Group (Sophia Martin × Caudebec).

Each of these Groups is permitted to retain its lineages within the register, and these are indicated by including the Group name in brackets after the grex epithet: Penny Kuroda (Penny Kuroda Group), Penny Kuroda (Sophia Martin Group) and so on. ■

Above. *Cattleya* Penny Kuroda 'Spots'. Right. *C. Sophia Martin* 'Spots'. The former will from now on be known as *C. Penny Kuroda* (Penny Kuroda Group) 'Spots', and the latter as *C. Penny Kuroda* (Sophia Martin Group) 'Spots'.

