

Changes in the Cattleya Group:

In the Quarterly Supplement to the International Register of Orchid Hybrids Volume 115, Number 1277, September-October 2007, Julian Shaw made the following announcement:

Implementation of changes from *Genera Orchidacearum* volume 4

At the May 2007 meeting of APOHR it was unanimously agreed that the generic limits proposed in *Genera Orchidacearum* vol. 4, and taken up by the Kew World Monocots Checklist, should be adopted and implemented in the International Register of Orchid Hybrids. Consequently many new nothogenera are required, some of which are here validated in accordance with ICBN Art. H.9.1. They are authored by J.M.H. Shaw, unless otherwise stated. Work on this major undertaking has already started. To complete the adjustment of nomenclature in the Register will require several months, and during this period some records in the on-line version of the Register temporarily may be under an incorrect generic placement. The main changes involve the separation of *Rhyncholaelia* from *Brassavola*, separation of *Guarianthe* from *Cattleya*, and the transfer of Brazilian *Laelias* to *Sophranitis*. *Schomburgkia* species are now divided between *Laelia* and *Myrmecophila*. This means that a grex formerly regarded as *Brassolaeliocattleya*, could now be regarded as *Rhyncholaelia* (*Brassavola*) x *Sophranitis* (*Laelia*) x *Guarianthe* (*Cattleya*), or any combination of these genera.

In order for Wildcatt to follow future registrations recorded by the orchid registrar, it was necessary to implement these changes in Wildcatt as well. Since our source of information for the new orchid hybrids is the Quarterly Supplement published by the RHS, and since these specific changes were not published, it was necessary to propagate these changes through the Wildcatt data independently from the RHS, since we do not have direct access to the RHS database.

Changes were made by starting with the species that had been transferred to new genera and generating progeny lists for these. Once the list of progeny had been generated, the appropriate genera were added and/or subtracted from the combination of genera defined by their particular nothogenus. From the new combination, the new genus name was then determined, which was then used to replace the old genus name.

There were a small number of combinations which apparently had not yet been named, or at least their names had not yet been published. These are listed in Wildcatt as Noth####, where Noth stands for Nothogenus, and a number follows to make the name unique. These will be replaced with the proper names when they are discovered.

The process of renaming also created some 400 duplicate names. These were made unique by appending the registration year to the name in parentheses, and in the very small number of cases where the duplicates were registered in the same year, they are further distinguished by adding a dash and a sequence number to the date, i.e. 1981-1, 1981-2, etc.

What does all of this mean for Wildcatt users? There is bound to be a great deal of confusion when folks are trying to figure out to write on their tags. One thing to keep in mind is that with the exception of just

a few names, most hybrid names are unique within a breeding group. In Wildcatt you always locate an orchid by hybrid(or species) name. If the genus attached to that name does not agree with the one you have written on your tag, it is probably because it has changed, and you need look no farther to see what it has been changed to.

These name changes can be checked by generating a genealogy tree and species chart for the orchid in question. The combination of genera displayed on the species chart should agree with the combination defined for the genus name. If you run across any errors here, please let us know.

If you are looking for awards on a plant in the Cattleya group you will encounter another problem. Wildcatt has not yet made any changes in the AQ data to agree with the changes made in the Sander's data, so you will probably have difficulty finding awards in the Cattleya group if you are using Quick Information to do the search for you. If the name has changed, quick info will not be able to locate its awards. The solution is to use the AQ part of Wildcatt. Type the orchid name into the hybrid field, and leave the genus field blank. This will find awards on this name, regardless of its genus. We expect to make appropriate changes to the AQ data for the next update.

The total number of hybrid names affected by this change was about 28,500.