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ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC

COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

JUDGES HANDBOOK

Containing

PRINCIPLES OF AWARD JUDGING

and

JUDGING BY-LAWS

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ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

JUDGES HANDBOOK

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These By-laws and Principles of Award Judging replace and supersede all previous editions.

PRINCIPLES OF AWARD JUDGING

This document sets out the principles for the scoring of Awards, and is an expansion of By-law 6, which is supreme if any dispute arises.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council system of judging is designed to recognise new or superior forms of orchid species and to reward lines of hybridisation leading to improvement in flower form and colour in all genera. Recognition is also to be given to growers who exhibit plants that evidence superior culture. Ideally these two elements should provide the foundation of all judging decisions.

Judges must be knowledgeable of the species used in hybridising and the parents of any particular hybrid. Judges must also be familiar with the dominant features transferred by the species and hybrids and the reasonable expectation of breeding lines. This will enable them to decide whether the hybridiser's goals have been achieved and whether in the judge's eye an award is merited.

Judges must have a well-developed concept of perfect flower form and optimum cultivation. They may then appraise complex hybrids on a personal concept of theoretical perfection. In the judging of any particular flower or plant both elements should be considered, though in varying degrees.

Plants should project indefinable qualities of charm, attractiveness and personality. The effect may be due to unusual colour combinations, flamboyant lip patterns, unique flower carriage, non-traditional flower form, evenness of spike or flower grouping and other eye-catching qualities.

2. JUDGING ETHICS

Ethical standards are a set of moral ideals for intent and behaviour. Normally they are unwritten and they delineate what is right and wrong, what is and what is not acceptable behaviour. Each judge occupies a position of trust so that all competitors know that their plant will be treated fairly and equitably according to the judging or show rules. By nature, we are all different and may therefore have a different perception of when a standard will be breached. To this extent it is better to err on the side of caution and not score the plant than to be the subject of an ethical violation, real or apparent, which could generate bitterness and acrimony on either the accused or the accuser. There are a number of obvious, and some not so obvious, ethical issues that have to be considered in orchid judging. Some are listed below.

Conflict of interest.

Probably the most obvious but nobody should take part in the judging of their own flowers or plants, but the matter is broader than that. You need to consider carefully whether you should be involved where plants are submitted by a relative, close friend or even enemy. The owner of a plant to be considered should leave the judging area so that there is no question of the judging process being anything less than impartial. In a show judging situation, a panel member should leave the panel while there is a personal interest in any class or genera being judged.

Bias.

Strong personalities can lead the group to their opinion. It is essential that the chairperson of the panel

should act promptly to eliminate any such bias. Conversely it is tempting for less experienced (and sometimes experienced) judges to watch the hands of others before showing their vote. This is a trend that individual judges must avoid. You should be able to make up your own mind and vote without waiting to see how the vote appears to be going. This is where voting on paper (award scoring) is generally superior to open hand voting (class judging at shows).

Prejudice

May be termed more severe than bias because it implies that someone has a favourable or unfavourable opinion of a colour, flower characteristic, the plant or the plant owner.

Undue influence and or intimidation,

Both these imply that there is an outside influence on the awarding of a plant. This may not be so obvious at the time of judging but may be conveyed by a casual comment or inflection of the voice at the time of judging. Beware of taking heed of comments like “Look at that flower!” or “Is that award quality!”

that are said either overenthusiastically or sarcastically. As a judge you are accredited to make and stand by your own decisions without being influenced by any other judge or plant owner.

Bribery

Bribery is the opposite extreme of intimidation, and usually is with compensation of goods or services to ensure that a flower/ plant is awarded. The ‘prize’ may take the form of plants, all expenses paid invitations, or more blatantly cash in hand.

Appearance of impropriety

Accurate and quick assessment of a flower is the mark of a competent judge however care must be taken not to give the impression that any flower or plant has been excluded from or given undue consideration. Remember that at all times when you are acting as an OCNZ judge your actions both individually and collectively reflect on the image of the OCNZ.

3. OCNZ AWARDS

Quality Awards

To be recommended for a Quality Award a plant should receive a mean score of:-

First Class Certificate, (FCC/OCNZ), 90 or more points,

Award of Merit, (AM/OCNZ), 80 or more points,

Highly Commended Certificate, (HCC/OCNZ), 75 or more points.

Award of Distinction. (AD/OCNZ)

This Award is given for an unusual feature of a plant which cannot, in the opinion of the Judges, be evaluated otherwise in the Council system.

The recommendation must record the specific unique feature for which the Award was recommended i.e., unique colour or a uniquely new inter-generic combination. The AD should not be used as a sympathy award for a plant that does not quite measure up as an HCC. No score is used and the recommendation requires a majority vote of the judges present with a minimum of 3 judges supporting the award.

Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM/OCNZ)

To obtain a CBM a plant must be a species or natural hybrid, rare or unusual in cultivation. It should be well established and in flower. The purpose of the award is to grant recognition once only to a species or natural hybrid for which definitive information on form, colour, size, and floriferousness in cultivation may not be readily available thus providing a base record against which other cultivars may be judged for standards of excellence at subsequent submissions. The owner may be required to provide evidence of identification before the award proceeds. A majority vote of the judges present is required with a minimum of 3 judges supporting the award. No point scale is used.

Certificates of Cultural Commendation and Excellence (CCC/OCNZ & CCE/OCNZ)

Judges should be cautious not to engage in the endless awarding of large specimen plants of easy to grow species. The points scale is designed to place more emphasis on the difficulty of attaining an outstanding level of culture in the plant being judged.

The Chairperson will ask the panel if a plant should be scored for a cultural award. If nominated the plant is then scored using the following scale. A mean score of 80 or more points is required for a CCC award and 90 or more points for a CCE award.

Size and condition of Plant	30
Floriferousness	30
Freshness and condition of Blooms	20
Difficulty of growing plant to specimen size	20
Total Points	100

Plant Breeders Award (PBA/OCNZ)

Six different siblings in flower from the same seed capsule to be exhibited at the same time. Award to recognize: Quality or outstanding colour or new breeding line. At least one of the plants exhibited to have received an OCNZ quality award and the rest to be near award quality. Previously awarded clones may be included in the group. No judging form to be used for the award but a hand vote or secret ballot to be used. The judging team must record the specific values for which this award is granted. If the hybridizer & exhibitor are different, each shall receive a certificate. The Award is not given a cultivar name. A majority vote of the judges present is required with a minimum of 3 judges supporting the award.

4. JUDGING GUIDELINES

Comments Applicable to Both Points Scales

The overall plant should appear in a healthy condition with the spike to be judged free of any major flower blemishes and have no missing flowers or buds. A plant with buds or flowers detached may be judged if these were accidentally broken in transit and are exhibited with the plant. Plant and flowers should be free of pests and disease.

The plant should be outstanding for its type in as many characteristics as possible. Bi-generic and multi-generic hybrids should show commendable improvement rather than the expected average from the combination of their parents. Characteristics of species in recent parentage should be taken into account. Any one fault should not be penalised more than once.

Form

A flower to be judged must be mature or set. The flower form should be symmetrical. Twisting, reflexing and other distortions, if not natural to the genus, should be penalized.

Colour

Flower colour should be definite, clear and bright, evenly dispersed throughout. Markings should be well defined and evenly distributed. Irregular spotting when characteristic in any genus should not be penalised.

Size

Size should be at least comparable with that which could be expected from the parentage, i.e., the geometrical mean.

Flower to be measured as in Section 7 on page 10.

Substance and Texture

Substance should be sufficient to hold the petals and sepals firm and be not less than the average of the parents.

Texture is the desirable features of a flower surface that enhances appearance.

Generally, the flower should be of great substance and texture, refined quality, firm, fresh, lustrous and without blemish.

Habit and arrangement of inflorescence

The stem should display the flowers in a pleasing manner, clear of the foliage. The stem should not be twisted or distorted and should be strong enough to support the flowers unaided. Flowers should not be bunched on the inflorescence although this may be acceptable in some genera (e.g., *Miltonia*, coloured *Phalaenopsis*).

Floriferousness

It is desirable that 75% of the flowers on the inflorescence to be judged should normally be open. This is particularly important in genera that are prone to fading. It does not apply to sequential flowering genera. Sequential flowering genera should be judged when the spike is fresh.

The flower count should be comparable with that which could be expected from the parentage. Where a species or hybrid is normally expected to produce only one, or in exceptional circumstances, two flowers on its inflorescence, then the plant should be judged under the Single Flower Point Scale. These plants should not be unfairly penalised. Although a plant with one flower may be judged, judges should be aware that

in different flowerings of a particular cultivar, flower size could be inversely proportional to the number of flowers on a stem.

Overall Impact

Although not awarded points, plants should project indefinable qualities of charm, attractiveness and personality. The effect may be due to unusual colour combinations (floral or vegetative), flamboyant lip patterns, unique flower carriage, non-traditional flower form, evenness of spike or flower grouping and other eye-catching qualities.

Specific guidelines for defined genera appear later in this document by genus.

The Awards Points Scales

Multiflowered

The multiflowered scale is to apply to plants that are expected to have more than one flower on a spike.

Flower form		30
Flower colour		30
Other characteristics		
Size of flower	10	
Substance and texture	10	
Habit & arrangement of inflorescence	10	
Floriferousness	10	40
Total		100

Single flowered

The single flowered point scale is to apply to those plants that would normally be expected to only produce a single flower per inflorescence (or in exceptional circumstances two flowers).

Flower form		30
Flower colour		30
Other characteristics		
Size of flower	10	
Substance and texture	15	
Stem & presentation	15	40
Total		100

5. PRESENTATION OF A PLANT FOR AN AWARD

There are two ways that an award appraisal can be initiated. One is through nomination by a member of a judging panel at a show or seminar and the other is by the owner requesting that a plant be assessed. This could be at a show or at a local judging event. Note that while the owner need not accept an award that has arisen from nomination at a show or seminar, it must be accepted if the appraisal is owner initiated. An appraisal may also be initiated at a club meeting (by a member of a local judging panel or by owner request) and an owner may request their plant be judged at his/her home.

Because you may be approached by another grower about the awarding of a plant you should be aware of the requirements so that you are able to discuss the practicalities of the judging process with the inquirer. This may include an initial observation of the plant to assess suitability.

The Procedures for Award Judging are set out in section 6.1, page 64, of this Handbook.

When a plant is presented for award consideration the characteristics and background of the plant must be researched. The leader of the panel may ask you to do the research and present the details to the team or it may be researched and discussed as a joint exercise.

The panel needs to consider such things as the specific qualities of the genus or cultivar, characteristics of the genera, lines of breeding, and similar awards given by OCNZ and other judging systems. If the plant is a hybrid you will need to assess if it is an improvement over the parents involved. Much of this research information can be found using the OrchidWiz programme which is provided for each judging panel.

The standard of awards granted here in New Zealand must be comparable with other Judging Systems to maintain the credibility of the OCNZ judging system.

There are some floral characteristics, which are so undesirable and unacceptable that they should prevent the plant being eligible for award consideration. These characteristics include obvious colour breaks, failure of the flower to open fully, excessive cupping, extreme plane variation, column and staminode twisting, severe twisting or notching of petals or sepals, badly unbalanced dorsal. However, at all times due consideration must be given to the inherent characteristics of the genus being assessed as what is unacceptable in one genus may be an attribute in another e.g. some of the New Guinea Dendrobiums.

While discussion about aspects of the plant under consideration prior to appraisal is in order, and can in fact benefit the process, it is essential that no attempt is made by any participant to influence or bias the judging. If you feel at any time that anyone is trying to influence the outcome this should be brought to the attention of the panel leader.

If the panel leader thinks that the plant or inflorescence is not mature enough for best evaluation the exhibitor will be advised to submit the plant again at a later date.

The leader will then ask the judges if they wish to score the plant and any one judge may nominate the plant in which case scoring will take place. If no nomination is received then the plant is deemed to have been judged and of course to have not achieved the minimum score of 75 points. A plant cannot be evaluated more than once on the same blooming.

6. COMPLETION OF THE SCORE SHEET (Form 3)

The score sheet has been designed to incorporate all of the award types that require scoring i.e. quality awards, cultural awards and display judging. The Award of Distinction, Certificate of Botanical Merit and Plant Breeders Award do not require scoring.

You should make sure that the score sheet is fully completed and correctly added. Apart from incomplete detail in the heading section of the form the major errors are

- 1) using the multi flowered scale for a single flowered genus or vice versa and
- 2) incorrect additions.

You may not feel able to participate in scoring a plant because you are not familiar with the particular genera or do not consider the plant presented is up to standard. Any judge may abstain from scoring at any time without having to give a reason.

When scoring is completed the points of the accredited judges are listed in numerical order and if the range of points is within 5.0 points inclusive the mean (average) score can be calculated. If the range is exceeded the Chairperson announces the range of scores without identifying the judges.

All judges have the opportunity to reconsider their score but under no circumstances must a judge feel that they are being pressurised to change their score up or down. It must be remembered however that not changing a score may mean that those at the ends of the range are not included in the final result. This can make a significant difference to the final award score where small groups of judges are involved. Generally, it is better to be prepared to review your score where needed so that you can have a say in the final outcome.

If after review the scores are still outside the 5.0 points inclusive band, the Chairperson will calculate the median (the mid-point of the range of scores) and then discard the scores furthest away from the median until the scores remaining fall within the range. The mean is then calculated.

Ideally the judging panel scores should be well clustered around the mid-point of the mean range. Mean scores of 75 and over suffice for an HCC, 80 and over an AM and 90 and over an FCC.

Be aware of differences that occur in other judging systems. In the AOC system 85 points suffices for an FCC. The RHS system has no HCC equivalent.

7. COMPLETION OF THE AWARD APPLICATION (Form 4)

The accurate completion of the award documentation is an important function of the judging process. The completed form along with the award photo provides the historical record of the awarded plant. As in most judging systems the Award is subject to final ratification by the COA. Following ratification, the award details are published on the OCNZ web site.

If the award is to proceed after scoring of the flower, the award application form has to be written up and this should be done as soon as possible after the judging appraisal. This will avoid any deterioration in the flowers which could arise before measuring and describing takes place.

Owners Details

This information should be available before the appraisal begins but in a show situation this may not be possible. Note that the name should be recorded as the owner wants it shown on the certificate. The length of ownership is required if the award is for culture.

Plant

It is important that the details recorded in this area of the form are correct.

You cannot assume that the details on the plant label are right. Any errors should have already been discovered when researching the plant prior to scoring and noted at that time. Be sure that the Genus name is the currently valid RHS name for the genus. The hybrid grex or species name also needs to be checked with RHS paying particular attention to hyphens and apostrophes. Note that for other than cultural awards a hybrid grex must be registered with the RHS before the award can proceed.

The cultivar name (or varietal name for a species) may not be available at the time of judging but the name should be included before the application is submitted for approval.

Measurement

All measurements must be recorded in millimetres (mm).

The natural spread is recorded in three measurements.

- Across the petals at their widest part (Not required for Masdevallia & Pleurothalid)
- Across the widest part of the flower that is visible, be it Lip, Petals or Sepals.
- Vertically, from the top to the lowest edge of the flower.

a) Dorsal Sepal

i) Width. Measured without manipulation or damage to the flower at the widest point.

ii) Length. The distance from the point of attachment or confluence to the tip measured along the central vein without manipulation or damage to the flower, including caudae in Masdevallia etc.

b) **Ventral or Lateral Sepal** - Width and Length measured as for Dorsal Sepal.

c) **Petal** - Width and length measured as for Dorsal Sepal. Not required for Masdevallia and Pleurothalid.

d) **Lip** - Width and length measured as for Dorsal Sepal. Not required for Masdevallia and Pleurothalid.

Note - *Spur length is measured from its attachment to the labellum to the tip, and should be recorded separately.*

The flower should be measured with calipers covering all the dimensions shown above and recorded in the relevant boxes on the form. Details of Inflorescences, Flowers and Buds which are recorded in the same section of the form should also be entered at this time. Care needs to be taken not to damage any of the flower segments during the measuring process as the award photograph(s) will not have been taken.

Description

The importance of correctly describing the flower cannot be over emphasized as this becomes the official record of the award. In writing up a description you must remember that it should always be possible to create a mental picture of the awarded bloom from the description provided without referral to the photo.

Uniform standards in describing awarded plants and flowers are critical to maintaining accurate records for the purpose of comparison. Use of the standard terminology contained in the glossary will assist in maintaining uniformity in recording the characteristics. The description should be brief and accurate explaining clearly why the particular cultivar was recommended for an award.

The following points are provided to give guidance in writing the description.

- a) **Form:** Include a short descriptive sentence about the shape of each part of the flower, noting in particular features such as is it oval, spatula, concave, convex, reflexing. What are its characteristics; is it frilly edged, tails crossed, does it have an elongated pouch, warts, hairs, side lobes or keels.
Review the points scale to ensure that all significant characteristics have been covered. Mentally break down the flower to individual pieces and make sure that you have included the reasons for the award.
For cultural awards this should include the plant size and number of spikes and flowers.
- b) **Colour:** Particular attention should be paid to describing colours as accurately as possible. If they are available the RHS standards or Gibbon's stamp colour guides should be quoted. Appreciate the depth of colour in the flower. Identify the main colour, the background colour or the overlay colour. Note the clarity, intensity and hue on each of the sepals, petals, lip, lobes and keels. Note any patterns, marking, spots, stripes, and edging, blushing or rendering of colour at the axial parts of the tepals.
- c) **Substance:** The substance of the flower is the quality of density, thickness or firmness in the segments. This should be noted where it is of better quality than would normally be expected for the plant.
- d) **Texture:** This is the surface quality of a flower and should be noted if it enhances the appearance. Your comments should state if it is waxy, velvet, wrinkled, smooth, iridescent, glowing, sparkling, crystalline?
- e) **General Comments:** Note the attractiveness; is it striking or exceptional. Spike presentation; does it stand clear, above foliage, upright. Is there good spacing, symmetrical, arching, straight, strong, self-supporting, directional tendency whether pendulous or erect: under, over or clear of foliage.
Avoid describing the bad points of the plant or flower, remember that you are awarding it!
- f) **Cultural awards:** The description must include the measurement of the overall spread of the plant and the size of the pot (if applicable). Flower measurements must include at least the horizontal and vertical spread of a representative flower.

8. DISPLAY AND CLASS JUDGING

Display Judging

When show organisers request that a show be judged it normally includes the judging of displays. The display judging is normally undertaken after the class judging but before the judging of quality awards. It is essential that all judges taking part are familiar with the Show schedule as to the specific rules that apply at each show.

Judging of cut flowers or potted plants that are arranged for effect in displays is probably one of the most individual aspects of orchid judging. The design or general arrangement of a display should create a visual impact that is aesthetically pleasing and holds the interest of the viewer. This is achieved by the judicious placing of quality orchid flowers along with foliage (and possibly flowering) plants and the display props to create balance and proportion. Supporting orchid flowers and foliage can be used to create a variation in texture, colour and overall harmony.

Every display should have at least one focal point and larger displays may have more than one. Premium flowers or flowers that are fresh and of award quality rather than the display props should create these focal points. Lines of contrast that take the viewer's eye to these focal points enhance displays. These lines of contrast may be generated by colour (e.g. flowers or shadow) or by different plant foliage textures.

Quality displays will have a sensible ratio of flowers to plants and flowers to props and are well balanced without the display appearing to be lopsided while generating a flowing and harmonising rhythm.

When the show schedule does not specifically exclude the use of flowers that are not orchids the displays should be penalized if the proportion of orchids to other flowers is out of balance. The effective use of foliage plants can add a variety of textures and background that will enhance the display.

The orchids should have clearly written labels that are taxonomically correct and unobtrusive yet can be read by the viewer without moving on to the display. The labelling should not be a distraction or a major eyesore. Look for general tidiness and finish in the display such as finished paint work, the disguising of pots, flower supports, hidden stands, and if material drapes are used that the draping lines are realistic and that strong creases in the drapes are disguised.

Some shows have a theme and how well the theme is interpreted and implemented into the design is the objective judges should look for. The display should normally be able to convey the theme without the excessive use of props that will distract the viewer from the flowers. Where there is no show theme the originality and effect of the underlying display arrangement will be the objective.

Class Judging.

There are a number of differences between award judging and class judging at a show. A large proportion of the OCNZ awards are given to plants displayed at shows which is to be expected when quality plants are assembled in one venue. Be aware however that the show schedules may differ in requirements from the award guidelines and will take precedence where they exist.

Class judging needs a change of emphasis. Award judging focuses on the worth of a single

bloom while in class judging the focus shifts to the whole plant. Mental application of the cultural scale rather than the quality scale may be more appropriate in this situation.

The Bylaws relating to show judging are covered in 6.3 while 4.1.4 provides that Associate Judges and Registered Observers may assist in show judging with the approval of the appropriate chairperson. Every opportunity should be taken to be involved as it gives exposure to a greater number of plants and can be a helpful learning experience particularly if trainees can be paired with a competent judge.

9. PHOTOGRAPHY OF FLOWERS AND PLANTS

A quality photograph is paramount in maintaining a permanent and accurate visual record of the plant or flower in the Awards System. The guidelines require a photograph of the flower or plant to be submitted with the Award Application form. Photographs must be of a high standard to accurately represent the plant. Out of focus and sub-standard photographs can mean that the award will not be ratified. It is important to remember at all times that this is part of the official record of the award and therefore **photographic technique is more important than artistry**.

The award photograph is required to be an entire front on image of a single flower on which the award was assessed. The flower portrait should fill the frame as much as possible. To do this while maintaining sharp focus requires a camera with close focus ability and cannot be achieved without the use of a tripod. Cultural awards require the foliage and inflorescences to be shown and where the inflorescence is tall this may require more than one photograph – foliage, flowers and whole plant.

The plant and pot should be clean and any unsightly foliage, labels and stakes removed if they are likely to appear in the photograph. The flower (or plant) being photographed must be positioned as the main focal point, forward looking, attractively positioned to show the flower to the best advantage. The camera should be positioned at right angles to the plane of the flower so petal and sepal sizes are not distorted relative to each other.

A board covered with matt black cloth on one side and sky gray-blue on the other side will make a suitable background. Use whichever side gives a good contrast against the flower – an acceptable result will not be achieved photographing a dark flower against a black background. A very light colour will distract from the flower. The plant should be positioned far enough in front of the backboard to ensure the background is out of focus. Ensure that the background is taut with no creases and there should not be any shadows or bright spots which will be a distraction in the photograph. Some additional background material may be required for larger plants when a whole plant photo is required for a cultural award.

The camera should be on a tripod or fixed stand. This is important to ensure there is no camera shake which will affect the sharpness of the image. While you may be able to achieve a sharp image in a landscape photo a close up is very different. The close proximity to the flower accentuates any movement making the use of a support essential.

Always use that highest image quality and size settings that the camera is capable of. Award images must be a minimum of 6 megapixels (2000 x 3000 pixels), larger is preferred. Digital cameras have far more settings than did film cameras. Be familiar with all of them before shooting any awarded orchids.

Depth of field problems are often encountered at close range but by keeping the camera parallel to the major vertical and horizontal planes of a flower, most segments can usually be brought into focus. Any that lie outside these planes can usually be dealt with by stopping down the lens aperture as necessary (f-16 to f-32 are common settings).

The best results are achieved when your photographs are taken between 10am and 4pm when light conditions are more suitable. Avoid bright sunlight because this will cause harsh shadows and bright spots. A light cloudy day is preferable to bright full sun. If the photograph is being taken outside choose a breeze free position to lessen the chance of movement. A white or light coloured wall adjacent to your subject will give some reflected light on the side of the plant and reduce harsh shadows. A large piece of white cardboard is a suitable alternative. Remember to have the sun behind the camera in relation to the plant being photographed. If using flood lights or other indoor lighting be sure that the camera's white balance is correctly set for the light source being used. It is good practice to take several photographs varying the exposure for each one.

Some faults to be avoided are the background being in focus, shadows or other distractions on the background, shadow on plant, flower not presented or arranged at its best, flower not "front on", leaves not clean, plant label or stakes showing, loss of colour because of bright light.

10. NOMENCLATURE RULES AND REGULATIONS

You need a general knowledge of plant nomenclature, especially that relating to cultivated orchids, to understand the international orchid registration procedures maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society. This will help you to interpret labels that are hard to understand and you will be able to complete an award or plant registration application.

To allow for proper identification every orchid has only one name that is separated into several terms. There are four basic parts to a name: **Generic name**, **Grex epithet**, **Cultivar name** and **Parentage** (unless a species). In human terms these equate to race, surname and christian name.

Detailed examples of format and typography can be found in the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP). The ICNCP now supersedes the Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration.

Generic name. The first term is the generic name specifying the genus the orchid belongs to e.g. *Cattleya*, *Cymbidium*, *Laelia*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Phalaenopsis*, etc. It is written in italics with an initial capital letter.

Many hybrids are the result of combining two or more compatible genera to form multigeneric hybrids such as *Laeliocattleya*. Generally when two or three genera are involved the generic name will be a combination of their names. A manufactured name is used when more genera are involved and these are usually in a latinised form. Standard abbreviations as defined by the RHS may be used when indicating the genus of any plant, ie. C., Cym., L., Paph., Phal.

Grex epithet. The second term is the grex epithet or name which is used to identify a specific species or hybrid grex. Species and hybrids are treated differently.

Species. Species names always start with a small letter and are written in italics (or a single straight underline). Some species have varietal forms. This indicates that although

the plants in question fall within the parameters of the description for the particular species, there may be significant variations sufficient to allow for a varietal section. An example is *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *Rosea*

Hybrids. Hybrid names always begin with a capital letter and are written in roman type. The form must be a unique name and is governed by certain nomenclature rules detailed in the ICNCP.

An example is *Pleione* Fujiyama 'Teal' where *Pleione* is the generic name, Fujiyama is the grex name, and 'Teal' is the cultivar or clone name.

Cultivar name. This is an individual name normally given by the owner to a specific plant within a hybrid cross, or to an individual plant of a species. It is written in Roman type with an initial Capital letter and is always within 'single' quotes, never "double" quotes. Caution must be exercised that a cultivar name has not previously been used for another plant of that grex or conversely that a different cultivar name is applied to a grex which already has a cultivar name.

Parentage. Every plant, including the species, has parents. The parents of a species will always be from within the same species. This will be either with pollen from a flower on the same plant (called a selfing), or pollen from a different plant of the same species (called a sibling cross).

An unregistered hybrid will have two parents listed, but in an extreme case, four or more may be shown. This will arise when one or more of the parents used has not been registered. Before such a cross can be registered the earlier parental crosses must first be registered.

A plant that has not been registered is still a recognised plant and may be entered as such in any form of judging. If, however, it receives an OCNZ quality award, it must be formally registered with the RHS before the award can be validated. Note that registration is not a prerequisite for a cultural award.

An example of a multiple parent listing is:

Cym. [(Profita x Sensation) x (devonianum x insigne)] = Cym. (Allara x VogelSang) = Cym. Maree Porter.

Brackets () are used to designate an unregistered cross. Parentheses [] are used to define unregistered crosses where more than one unregistered cross is involved.

If one bloomed this plant as a seedling, and gave it a Cultivar name, the label on the plant could read: Cym. Maree Porter 'Waikanae' The cultivar name is unique to this seedling and it is the only grex from the cross on which it can be used. If this cultivar was mericloned it would always carry the name Cym. Maree Porter 'Waikanae'

Botanists are famous for their lumping, or splitting, of generic classifications on a regular basis. This has often been required as knowledge of a particular genera has increased, but many species known and awarded previously as separate species may have been lumped into larger classes or separated into smaller ones e.g. *Laelia purpurata* is now listed as *Cattleya purpurata*.

There have recently been significant changes in generic names within the *Cattleya* and *Oncidium* alliances. Many species have been moved to different Genera and a number of new Generic and Intergeneric names have been created. While these changes have been adopted by the RHS and have been updated within OrchidWiz they have not been readily accepted by all authorities.

These changes cause a great deal of confusion as many growers are reluctant to change their plant labels. You will find that plants that are presented for judging can have a label showing either the old or new name. One of the big advantages of OrchidWiz is the inclusion of both versions of the Generic name.

Owners of plants should regularly check the new registrations listed in one of the publications recording newly recorded hybrids such as The Orchid Review (RHS publication) or Orchids Australia (the AOC publication). A record of the registration of all hybrids up to 2022 is available within OrchidWiz.

11. REFERENCES - Where to find more information

There is a wealth of information available. New reference books have continued to appear and the internet, through search engines such as Google, has given us the ability to find information on almost any subject very quickly. The three main fields of information which can yield information relating to orchid judging are reference books, magazines and electronic databases.

For many years the hybrid registration data was contained in a series of volumes known as Sanders Register of Orchid Hybrids. For some years the hybrid register has been maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society and the data can be downloaded from the RHS website in .pdf format. The information from these volumes is now readily accessible from databases such as OrchidWiz (up to 2022) or OrchidPro.

Books;

There are some excellent encyclopedias available containing lots of information relating to species of most genera. Be aware that while the information in them will be correct at the time of publication subsequent changes in classification and naming makes them less reliable as the time since publication increases. Data on many species will also become less relevant in older publications due to the improvements made through line breeding. Orchid Society or Town Libraries are likely to have some of these books available. Purchases would be through specialist bookstores or online suppliers such as Amazon.

Some examples of encyclopedia type books are;
Encyclopedia of Cultivated Orchids, Alex Hawkes (1975)
Flora's Orchids, David Banks (2005)
The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Orchids, Alec Pridgeon (1992)
Home Orchid Growing, Rebecca Northern (1950)
The New Encyclopedia of Orchids, Isobyl la Croix (2008)

Additionally, there are a number of specialized books available providing in depth information on a single genera or alliance or of the orchids of a country or climatic area. Some examples are;
The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium, Chase & Zelenko (2003)
Tropical Slipper Orchids, Harold Kooperwitz (2008)
Dendrobium and Its Relatives, Lavarack & Harris (2006)

There are many books available but some you will find are much more suited as coffee table books than providing suitable judging material.

Magazines;

Some good material can be found here with some articles specifically directed toward judging. They can all be useful and differ on the emphasis they place on different aspects.

Examples are;

Orchid Digest – issued quarterly and well-illustrated. This one regularly devotes an issue to an in-depth study of a single genus.

Orchids – issued monthly the official journal of the American Orchid Society. A wide subject range and well-illustrated including the highest awarded plants from their judging system.

Orchids Australia – issued bi-monthly the official journal of the Australian Orchid Council. Includes a range of articles and club news, has a pictorial record of recent AOC awards and RHS registrations.

Electronic Databases;

Almost anything can be found through a search engine on the internet. Care must be taken however that the information is drawn from reliable sources and accurately portrayed.

OrchidWiz – While this programme ceased accepting additions to its database from June 2022, it is still a valuable resource. However, no OCNZ awards from 2022 onwards are included. The database contains the RHS registrations and award data and photos from a number of international judging systems. Illustrations are numerous, sometimes overwhelming, and a lot of cultural and habitat information is also included.

When using this software as a judging or learning tool however you need to be aware that very little of the American Orchid Society award detail has been added since 2009 and as they grant the largest number of awards each year this is a significant omission.

You also need to remember that not all of the many photos included are of awarded plants and also that some of the data from overseas systems (e.g. Brazil) relates to show results rather than from an award system.

OrchidPro – Some years ago the AOS replaced their Awards Quarterly publication with an electronic version. Designed for use within their judging programme it contains details and photos of all their awards along with additional information such as their judge's handbook and the RHS registrations. The annual subscription is currently \$US50 which includes quarterly updates.

12. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Terms relating to shape:

Surface textures

bullate	blistered or puckered.
ceraceous	or cereous waxy.
coriaceous	having a leathery texture.
farinose	mealy.
glabrous	hairless.
hispid	bristly.
hirsute	hairy.
papillose	small bumps or protuberance.
pilose	densely haired.
pubescent	covered with fine hairs.
rugose	a rough or wrinkled surface
tessellation	a chequered pattern.
verrucose	with a warty or bumpy surface.

Other terms relating to shape

aculeate	prickle-shaped.
arcuate	curved like a bow.
auricles	ear-like lobes, often paired, as on the labellum or column
campanulate	or campanuliform bell-shaped.
caudate	having a 'tail' or narrowed, apical extension, as some sepals and petals
ciliate	fringed with cilia or tiny hairs.
clavate	club-shaped, thickened towards the apex, sometimes said of some pseudobulbs and pollinia
cordate	heart-shaped.
crispate	curled.
cristate	crested.
cucullate	hooded or hood-shaped.
cuneate	or cuneiform wedge-shaped.
cymbiform	boat-shaped.
dentate	referring to a toothed margin, the teeth pointing perpendicularly
denticulate	minutely toothed.
elliptic	ellipse-shaped, oblong with regularly rounded ends.
ensiform:	sword-shaped.
falcate	sickle-shaped.
fimbriate	finely fringed, as the margin of the labellum
flabellate	fan-shaped.
hastate:	spear or halbert-shaped, with the basal lobes turned outward.
hippocrepiform	horseshoe-shaped.
hypochile	the basal portion of the labellum in some genera, e.g. Stanhopea
keel	a fleshy ridge, as on a labellum.
labellum	lip, the median modified petal of an orchid flower.
lamelia	raised membranous outgrowths on the labellum
lacerate	appearing torn, as the margin of a sepal or petal.
lanceolate	lance shaped.
lateral lobes	the two lobes on either side of the midlobe of a three lobed labellum
ligulate	strap shaped.
lorate	thong- or strap-shaped.
lunate	half-moon-shaped.
mentum	a 'chin' formed by the fusion of the lateral and the column-foot.
mesochile	the middle portion of the labellum in some genera
midlobe	the middle lobe of a three-lobed labellum, usually brightly coloured and furnished with calli, keels, and or lamellae.
navicular	boat-shaped.
obcuneate	inversely wedge-shaped.

obovate	egg shaped, the broader end in the middle.
ovate	egg-shaped, the broader end below the middle
pandurate	fiddle-shaped.
pyriform	pear-shaped.
quadrate	square or rectangular.
reclinate	turned or bent downward.
recurved	curved backward or downward.
reflexed	abruptly bent or turned downward or backward.
reniform	kidney shaped.
rostellum	part of the median stigma lobe of orchid flowers
rostrate	beaked.
sagittate	arrow-head-shaped.
staminode	a sterile stamen
stellate	star-shaped.
subulate	awl-shaped.
triquetrous	three-angled; three-winged.
trullate	trowel-shaped.
truncate	with one end squared off.
tubercle	a small, wart like protrusion, as on the callus on an <i>Oncidium</i> flower
uncinate	hook shaped.
undulate	wavy, as the margin of a sepal or petal
valvate	margins of sepals or petals not overlapping.

Terms relating to floral parts:

anther	the pollen-bearing portion of the stamen.
bursicle	the pouch like expansion of the stigma into which the caudicle of the pollinarium is inserted.
capitate	appearing in heads, as some inflorescences
capitulum	a dense head of flowers
caudicle	extensions of tissue derived from the anther and connected to pollinia.
claw	a long and narrowed basal portion of a sepal or petal (including labellum)
clinandrium	the portion of the column that supports the anther
column	the organ of the orchid flower representing the fusion of stamens, styles, and stigmas.
column-foot	a basal extension of the column to which the labellum is attached, often flexibly.
column wings	paired protuberances or winglike flanges on the column
corymbose	a broad flat topped inflorescence in which the outermost flowers open first
disc	an elevated region of the labellum, usually the midlobe, distinguished by colour and / or accessory features such as calli, keels, or lamellae
epichile	the apical portion of the labellum in some orchid genera, e.g. <i>Stanhopea</i>
galea	a hood or "helmet" formed by the dorsal sepal or fusion of dorsal sepal and petals in some orchids.
imperfect	in flowers, having only male or female parts; unisexual
labellum	The lower central petal of orchid flowers, usually developed to attract pollinators
non-resupinate	referring to orchid flowers which do not twist 180 degrees during development or which twist a full 360 degrees, with the result that the labellum is uppermost
osmophore	a gland, usually floral, which produces fragrances that attract pollinators
ovary	the part of the pistil which contains ovules
ovule	the unit of the ovary which contains the egg cell and becomes the seed
perfect	in flowers, having both male and female parts; bisexual
perianth	the sepals and petals of a flower.
petal	the whorl of flower parts just inside the sepals, usually colourful, the median petal of orchids, the labellum, is often differentiated in form and or function.
pistil	the female portion of the flower consisting of the stigma, style, and ovary with ovules.
pollinarium	a functional unit in orchid pollination, consisting of two or more pollinia, stalk or stipe, and viscidium.
pollinium	a mass of pollen grains.
resupinate	referring to orchid flowers which twist through 180 degrees during development with the result that the labellum is upper most.
sectile	referring to pollinia in loosely coherent packets.
sepal	the outermost whorl of flower parts.
speculum	the shiny, coloured region of the labellum region as in some <i>Ophrys</i> species.
spur	saccate or tubular extension of the labellum (or other floral parts) in many orchid species often bearing nectar.

stamen	the male portion of the flower, consisting of the pollen-bearing anther and filament.
stelia	column teeth.
stigma	that portion of the pistil that receives the pollen
stipe	the stalk connecting the pollinia and viscidium in a pollinarium
style	the elongate portion of the pistil between stigma and ovary
synsepal	a floral part formed by the partial or complete fusion of two or more sepals terete pencil-like; round in cross-section
viscidium	the sticky portion of the rostellum which is connected to the pollinia

Terms relating to colour pattern descriptions

banded	Distinctive horizontal stripes of one colour over another
blotched	Colour disposed in broad, large irregular blotches
bordered	As edged but surrounding colour broader
candy striped	Normally red striped on a white background
diaphanous	permitting the light to shine through.
discoidal	Where a large spot of one colour is in the centre of a different colour
dots	Colour disposed in very small round spots
edged	A very narrow band on the edge of the petal/sepal
enamel	Very shiny appearance
hyaline	colourless or translucent.
maculation	spotting or marking.
marbled	As veined but edges further blurred
ocellated	Where a large spot of one colour has another spot of a different colour
painted	Colours are dispersed in streaks of unequal intensity
pellucid	wholly or partially transparent.
peloric	Lateral petals mutated to resemble the lip
picotee	Ornamental edging around the rims of the petals
polychrome	Having as many as six or seven different colours.
pure colour	No red pigments in the flower
spotted	Colour disposed in small spots
splashed	Two toned petals, sepals normally single toned
striped	Distinctive transverse stripes of one colour over another
tessellated	Distinctive colour arranged in small squares.
variegated	Colour disposed in various irregular sinuous spaces
veined	Distinctive irregular veins on the surface
vini colour	Deep purple almost black
waterfall	Colour pattern imitating a waterfall on the labellum as found in Miltoniopsis
zoned	Same as Discoidal but with concentric bands more numerous

Terms relating to the Inflorescence

axil	the angle formed by a petiole and stem or, on an inflorescence, pedicel and rachis.
basal	flower at the base of an organ or part such as the stem or pseudobulb.
cymose	a broad divaricately branched inflorescence, of determinate or centrifugal type.
heteranthous	an apical inflorescence produced on a separate shoot which does not develop to produce a pseudobulb and leaves.
hysteranthous	used of an apical inflorescence produced after the pseudobulbs and leaves have developed.
panicle	a branched raceme.
pedicel	the stalk of an individual flower in an inflorescence
peduncle	the stalk of a solitary flower or an entire inflorescence
proteranthous	of an apical inflorescence produced before the pseudobulbs and leaves on the same shoot.
raceme	an unbranched inflorescence of stalked flowers
rachis	that portion of an inflorescence, above the peduncle, bearing flowers
scape	a leafless peduncle: commonly, the leafless stalk of an entire inflorescence
spathe	a bract surrounding or subtending an inflorescence
umbel	a more or less flat topped inflorescence in which the pedicels arise from the same point, much like an umbrella
unguiculate	having a claw; commonly said of a perianth segment

Terms relating to plant habit

acuminate	referring to an apex (leaf, sepal, etc.) which tapers to a fine point.
acute	referring to an apex that is broadly tapered.

bifid	two-lobed.
bifoliate	two-leafed.
bract	a leaflike organ.
canaliculate	channelled with a longitudinal groove.
distichous	in two ranks or rows on opposite sides of an axis
entire	smooth and continuous; said of the margin of a leaf or leaflike organ
equitant	with leaves overlapping and arranged in two ranks or rows
erose	referring to the irregular margin of a leaf or leaflike organ which appears to have been chewed.
flexuose:	bent alternately in opposite directions. fusiform spindle-shaped, as some pseudobulbs glomerate densely clustered.
internode	the region of an axis between two successive nodes
lamina	the blade (of a leaf, sepal, petal etc.).
monopodial	referring to a growth habit which new leaves develop from the same meristem or growing point.
node	the region on an axis (stem, rhizome etc.) to which other plant parts eg. leaves are attached
oblanceolate	tapering towards the base more than towards the apex.
petiole	the stalk of a leaf.
pseudobulb	the variously thickened portion of an orchid stem
ramicaul	the leafy stem of some sympodial orchids such as those in subtribe Pleurothallidinae; distinguished from the rhizome.
retuse	notched at the apex of a leaf or flower part
rhizome	the indeterminate axis of many plants (such as sympodial orchids) which successively gives rise to new shoots and flowers; often horizontal and may be underground but not necessarily.
subequitant	(leaves) half folded sharply in. the midrib.
sulcate	furrowed lengthwise, such as pseudobulbs.
sympodial	referring to a growth habit in which new shoots arise successively from auxiliary buds of a rhizome
terete	circular in transverse section, cylindrical and usually tapering.
tuber	a thickened, usually underground storage organ consisting of stem tissues; commonly ascribed (incorrectly) to orchids
tuberoid	a thickened, underground storage organ with stem and root tissues
unifoliate	one leafed.

General Terms

acranthos	applied to a sympodium with a main axis of annual portions of successive axes, each beginning with leaf scales, and ending with an inflorescence.
adnation	fusion of unlike parts, e.g. labellum with column; contrasted with connation.
angulate	more or less angular.
applanate	flattened out or horizontally expanded.
appressed	lying flat for the whole length of the organ.
aristate	Having a long bristle at its apex.
apicule	a short, sharp point.
bifurcate	forked.
caespitose	tufted; growing in small clumps.
callus	a waxy or fleshy protuberance, as on a labellum
capsule	a dry fruit splitting along one or more sutures; the fruit type in the orchid family
cataphyll	scale-like leaf, as on a rhizome or base of a stem
cauline	borne on the stem.
conduplicate	folded once longitudinally down the middle
connation	fusion of like parts, e.g. sepal with sepal; contrasted with adnation
conspecific	belonging to the same species.
crenate	scalloped, toothed with crenatures.
crenulate:	crenate, but the toothings themselves small.
cuspidate	tipped with a sharp, rigid point.
deflexed	bent backward or downwards.
divaricate	extremely divergent.
echinate	having prickles, as some orchid ovaries and capsules
emarginate	notched, usually at the apex.

epiphyte	a plant growing on another.
fasciculate	clustered or bundled.
foliaceous	leaflike.
fugacious	withering away early; ephemeral.
furfuraceous	scurfy, having soft scales.
glaucous	covered with a bluish-grey or sea green bloom
gyrose	curved backward and forward in turn.
hamate	hooked at the tip.
imbricate	overlapping, as the scales on a snake
intergeneric	the result of crossing plants from two or more distinct genera
intrageneric	the result of crossing two plants within the same genus.
keikei	a vegetative offshoot formed at a node, as on an inflorescence.
linear	at least 12 times longer than broad, with the sides parallel.
lithophyte	a plant which grows on rocks.
meristem	in plants, undifferentiated tissue which retains the ability to provide new cells.
mucronate	having a sharp terminal point
multicostata	many-ribbed.
muricate	rough, with short and hard tubercular excrescence.
nervose	prominently nerved
obligate	restricted to a particular way of life.
obtuse	blunt or rounded at the apex.
orbicular	circular, spherical.
paleaceous	chaffy.
papillae	a rounded projection from a portion of an epidermal cell, a small bump or protuberance.
peltate	disc-shaped, the stalk arising from the undersurface.
pendent	hanging.
plicate	folded or pleated.
plueicostate	many ribbed.
plurisulcate	many grooved or furrowed.
porate	set with pores.
porrect	directed outward and forward.
praemorse	bitten off at the apex.
protocorm	the embryo before primary differentiation is complete.
reticulate	netted.
retorse	directed backward or downward.
retuse	shallowly notched at a rounded apex.
revolute	rolled back from the margin.
rosulate	in rosettes.
rotund	rounded in outline.
saccate	with a conspicuous hollow swelling.
saprophyte	a plant which derives nourishment, in whole or in part, from dead organic material.
scarious	dry and papery, often said of bracts.
secund	to one side, as flowers on an inflorescence.
septate	divided by partitions.
septum	a partition.
serrate	referring to a toothed margin, the teeth pointing forward
sessile	lacking a stalk.
setaceous	thread- or bristle-like.
setose	bristly.
spicule	a small, sharp point.
subcylindric	half cylindrical.
subspreading	half or somewhat having an outward direction.
subquadrate	half square, somewhat square.
subsimilar	somewhat similar.
subtend	to insert below, as a bract below a flower.
trichome	a plant hair.
tridactylate	literally, three fingered, with three narrow lobes.
trifid	three cleft.
velamen	the outermost tissue of roots of many orchids, dead at maturity and capable of absorption and short-term storage of water and nutrients.

13. KNOWLEDGE OF GENERA

FLOWER CHARACTERISTICS

The Principles of Award Judging advise that the Council system of judging is designed to recognise new or superior forms of orchid species and to reward lines of hybridisation leading to improvement in flower form and colour in all genera. Recognition is also to be given to growers who exhibit plants that evidence superior culture. Ideally these two elements should provide the foundation of all judging decisions.

To achieve this objective, it is necessary to have a good understanding of the species used in hybridising as well the parents of any particular hybrid. Much of this information will be learned by experience but the subject is so extensive that no one can be expected to absorb or keep up to date with it all. The important thing then is to know where to find the information.

Judges must also be familiar with the dominant features transferred by the species and hybrids and the reasonable expectation of breeding lines. This will enable you to decide whether the hybridiser's goals have been achieved and whether in the judge's eye an award is merited.

Accredited judges must have a well-developed concept of perfect flower form for any particular genera and understand the optimum standard of cultivation that plant can achieve. Only then can they then appraise complex hybrids against their own concept of theoretical perfection. When a plant is being considered both elements should be considered, though in varying degrees depending on the type of award being considered.

In the process of scoring a plant or flower you are making an assessment of how well the subject compares with your mental picture of what a perfect flower of that cultivar would be. To be worthy of an award the plant should be outstanding for its type in as many characteristics as possible.

Bi-generic and multi-generic crosses should show an improvement which is greater than the expected average from the combination of their parents. Characteristics of species in recent parentage should always be taken into account.

Plants should project indefinable qualities of charm, attractiveness and personality. The effect may be due to unusual colour combinations, flamboyant lip patterns, unique flower carriage, non-traditional flower form, evenness of spike or flower grouping. These and other eye-catching qualities should encourage judges to score plants highly.

Form (shape of a flower)

A flower presented for judging must be mature or set. The flower form should be balanced and symmetrical, both are essential for quality of form. A vertical line drawn through the flower should bisect the flower into two symmetrical halves giving a mirror image. Slight asymmetry may not preclude an award but should always result in a lower score. Twisting, reflexing and other distortions, if not natural to the genus, should be penalised. Where a species occurs in the recent parentage consideration must be given to the effect that the species may have on the progeny.

The shape of Complex hybrids should approach a full round or oval circle completely filled in. There should be no light showing between the flower parts particularly near the base of the column. The ideal flower should be flat, without excessive cupping or reflexing. When flat flowers are viewed from the side the petals should be held close to the plane of the dorsal sepal. At all times consideration must be given to the dominant gene characteristics

in the background breeding of the flower.

While the following comments refer more particularly to complex hybrids, with due consideration to the parentage involved, they apply to all flowers;

Sepals should be broad and fill in the gap between the petals and the lip. They should form an equilateral triangle apart except in plants where there is a synsepal. If the edges of the sepals are wavy this should be even.

The **Dorsal Sepal** should be large, full and round with the size in proportion to the rest of the flower. It should be flat to slightly concave and except where it is a characteristic of the genus there should not be reflexing.

The **Ventral Sepals** should form a background to the lip or pouch and extend low enough to give a balanced appearance. In Paphiopedilums the top of the ventral sepal should overlap the bottom of the dorsal sepal when viewed from the back.

Petals should form an inverted equilateral triangle with the lip when viewed from the front which is a opposite of that formed by the sepals. Generally reflexing of the petals is a fault but the species characteristics could have an effect. If the petal edges are undulating this should be even. Notches in the petal edges are undesirable and should be penalised when obtrusive.

Labellum (Lip or Pouch) should be proportionate to the size of the rest of the flower. In most examples it will be closed towards the base and more or less rolled around the column. It should be held in such a way that it gives balance and beauty to the form of the flower. All shapes are acceptable but when viewed from the side, the lip should curve down and not jut out at right angles to the plane of the other segments. If the edge of the lip is wavy this should be even. Where the lip has side lobes these should enhance the appearance of the lip in proportion to the whole flower.

Colour

The flower colour should be definite, clear, bright and strong, and evenly dispersed throughout the petals and sepals without washing out at the mid veins. Bright, fresh, glistening colours are highly desirable and should be given recognition. The lip colour needs to be considered separately in evaluation of the general colour and appearance of the flower to see if it contrasts, complements or is consistent with the general colour.

We each have our own colour preferences but we must take care that we do not let our preferences or prejudices influence our colour appraisal.

Markings, stripes and shadings should be well defined, distinct and distributed to enhance the colour appearance of the flower. They may create symmetrical patterns or show regular lines or patterns, which enhance the style of the flower. Suffusion of one colour over another should be regular and harmonious. Improperly distributed colour should be avoided but polychromes and mottled colours must not be automatically discarded. Irregular spotting which is characteristic of many genera in the Oncidium alliance should not be unduly penalised. Sepal staining or pigmentation on the back of the sepals due to excessive light during the bud stage, should be penalised only if it gives an undesirable appearance.

Judging should preferably be carried out in daylight, avoiding light within 2 hours of sunrise or sunset, as this enhances the red hue. The light should be coming over your shoulder,

leaving back and side lighting to the 'effects' people.

Different types of artificial light will affect the flower colours. Fluorescent lights give a green tinge while incandescent lights give an orange tinge. These effects also need to be remembered when taking the award photograph.

Size.

The guidelines are designed to reward size on the basis that bigger is better. This was appropriate when the guidelines were first developed and in general it still is particularly for standard complex hybrids. However, for some years hybridisers have sought to produce miniature or intermediate plants in a number of genera and this trend is continuing. No doubt this has partly been driven by increasing heating costs and customer demands to grow more plants in a finite area.

Flower size in these plants will not reach that of the standard versions. Because there are usually fewer generations involved it is much more important that parentage is taken into account in assessing the points for size.

The size, floriferousness and substance to be expected in hybrids, particularly primary hybrids, will be the geometrical mean rather than the average of the two parents. Most hybridisers have noted that if a small flower is crossed with a large flower the progeny always seems to be nearer to the features of the smaller parent.

As an example, when *Cym. suave* (20 mm) is crossed with a large flowered *Cymbidium* hybrid (100mm) the resultant flower size would be closer to 44 mm than 60mm.

It should be noted however that the presence of polyploidy could distort these ratios.

Arithmetical mean $(20+100)/2 = 60$ mm

Whereas Geometrical mean $\sqrt{20 \times 100} = 44$ mm

Substance

This is the thickness and turgidity of the flower tissue and should be sufficient to hold the petals and sepals firm and in place. You should be aware that light shining from behind the flower could give the appearance of reduced substance.

Texture

This is the surface appearance of the flower tissue. Good texture is a desirable feature that will enhance its appearance. The flower may appear crystalline like dusted sugar crystals or be like patent leather depending on its parentage.

Generally the flower should be of refined quality, firm, fresh, lustrous and without blemish.

Floriferousness

It is desirable that 75% of the flowers on the inflorescence to be judged should be open.

This is particularly important in genera that are prone to fading species and hybrids. It does not apply to any of the sequential flowering genera as in some of the multi-floral

Paphiopedilum. Sequential flowering genera should be judged when the spike is fresh. The flower count should be comparable with that which could be expected from the parentage.

Where a species or hybrid is normally expected to produce only one, or in exceptional circumstances, two flowers on its inflorescence, then the plant should be judged under the Single Flower Point Scale. These plants should not be unfairly penalised where this is their normal characteristic.

Although there are times when a plant with one flower will be judged, you need to be aware that the number of flowers on a stem, and the number of stems carried by the plant, can have an effect on the flower size.

As with many other factors the flower count should be in keeping with what could be expected from the parentage.

Flower Habit and Arrangement.

The stem should be straight or gently arching, strong and long enough to lift the flower(s) out of the foliage and display the flowers in a pleasing manner. It should be able to support and hold the flower upright and should not be skewed, at an unnatural angle, twisted or distorted. In general flowers should be well spaced on the inflorescence and not bunched. They should either all face approximately in the same direction or be well spaced around the spike giving an overall cylindrical shape such as is seen in pendulous miniature Cymbidiums.

Cattleya Alliance (Standard)

The modern standard Cattleya is the full round circumscribed circle form typified by the labiata or exhibition type. After many generations large lavender and white cattleya approached perfection in the later 20th century. Subsequent breeding has brought improvement in the form of other colour varieties as well as increases in the colour range. The standard of yellow flowers is now close to that of the lavenders.

Hybridising over more recent years has also seen advances in hybrids with intermediate or miniature flowers of standard shape and these are also considered here. Because of this when considering size, we must forget that “bigger is best” and be fully aware of the expectations from the parentage involved.

The name is in honour of William Cattley, an early English orchid enthusiast, who was the first to flower the plants in Europe.

Form

The flower should be tending to fullness and roundness. A circumscribed circle, drawn with the column base as the centre, should touch the petal and sepal tips and the lower lip margin. The flower parts should fill the greater part of the interior of the circle.

Within the circle the segments should form two nearly equilateral triangles - one formed by the sepals and the other inverted formed by the petals and the lip. Crippling can still be a problem with large flowered yellows and seems to increase in severity with the age of the plant.

The ventral sepals should be broad and fill the gap between the petals and the lip. Symmetry is important here and the tips of the sepals should form an equilateral triangle. The sepals should be broad and flat and preferably straight with a minimum of reflexing at the tips. Twisting and recurving are not acceptable. The dorsal may cup forward slightly.

The petals should be relatively wide, balanced, frilled or undulated at the margins according to the breeding but must not fall forward.

The midrib should not be prominent with no lateral reflexing from the midrib. The petals may overlap across the dorsal sepal but their size should be in balance with the other segments.

The lip should be proportionate to the petals, closed towards the base and more or less rolled around the column.

This is a major part of the flower and will vary somewhat depending on the background. It should always be symmetrical but may be crisped or frilled trumpet or isthmus. The lip should be in proportion to the size of the petals and most will have a lip about the same size as the petals. Rhyncholaelia influence will generally produce lips larger than the petals. Note that the coccinea lip is a narrow one and this can show up in hybrids.

The flower should be nearly flat when viewed from the side, the lip curving down and not jutting out at right angles to the plane of the sepals.

There will be some variation in the angle of the lip depending on the breeding involved. When checking the flower for flatness watch for rolling back of the edges of the sepals.

Colour

Flower colour should be clear and bright, evenly dispersed throughout and not 'washed out' at the petal midrib.

The intensity of colour will be determined by genetic composition. If the colour is a new or unexpected hue or intensity it should be attractive and distinctive enough to be considered an improvement over that expected from the cross. Any blotchiness, missing colour or muddiness is not acceptable and should be penalised.

The hue should not be broken or splashed except where it is well defined and pleasing to the general effect.

Where patterns or splashing are present, they should complement and enhance the general colour of the flower.

Lip markings, particularly edging, should be well defined and in a symmetrical pattern. The lip will generally be more prominently and richly coloured than other segments but may be blending or pleasantly contrasting. Colour breaks or muddiness should be penalised.

Substance and texture

Heavy waxy substance and crystalline texture are qualities sought.

Good substance is now expected as a standard through polyploidy forms. The texture should generally be sparkling and crystalline or velvety. Any dullness in the surface texture would usually indicate that the flower has aged.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The stem should be strong and upright, displaying the flowers without crossing, crowding, twisting or distortion.

A strong upright stem is necessary to display the flowers to their best advantage and should be clear of the foliage to avoid crowding.

Floriferousness

The number of flowers expected will vary according to the parentage.

Floriferousness is closely related to parental background and the size of flowers. While cattleyas with one exceptional flower may be judged there should be two or more flowers to be considered. A single flowered species in recent parentage (i.e. *C. coccinea* or *pumila*) will influence this.

Cattleya Alliance (Modern & Other)

The Cattleya Alliance is a vast, diverse and complex group of orchids with many variations in plant habit and flower form, colour and size. In the previous section we discussed those plants with flowers of classic *labiata* or exhibition shape regardless of actual flower size. Here we discuss all those that do not fit into that category.

Many of the plants considered here are of more recent origin than the *C.labiata* types and consequently awareness of the characteristics of the background species assumes greater importance.

Form

Flowers should be well proportioned and where appropriate uniform in shape. The overall impression of the flower shape must be pleasing. The segments should form two nearly equilateral triangles - one formed by the sepals and the other inverted formed by the petals and the lip. Because of diversity within the group not all flowers may fit this criterion. Those that do not should still have an overall symmetry and pleasing appearance. Petals should be as flat and full as their genetic background will allow.

Colour

Flower colour should be clear and bright and evenly dispersed throughout. Colour patterns or a mixture or suffusion of strong colours should combine to produce a pleasing effect.

A greater range of colours with more pronounced variations or markings can be expected. If the colour is a new or unexpected hue or intensity it should be attractive and distinctive enough to be considered an improvement over that expected from the cross. Any blotchiness, missing colour or muddiness is not acceptable and should be penalised.

Where patterns or splashing are present, they should complement and enhance the general colour of the flower. The lip will generally be more prominently and richly coloured than other segments but may be blending or pleasantly contrasting. Colour breaks or muddiness should be penalised.

Substance and texture

Heavy waxy substance and sparkling crystalline texture are important features.

Substance and texture can vary considerably according to the species involved. In general substance should be heavier than *labiata* type cattleyas.

Texture may be glossy (e.g. hybrids with *C. guttata*), leathery (e.g. hybrids with *C. bicolor*), satiny (e.g. hybrids with *C. walkeriana*) or anywhere in between

It may be appropriate not to heavily penalise flowers lacking these qualities where the breeding lines are incapable of providing them.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The stem should display the flowers in a pleasing manner, clear of the foliage.

A strong upright stem is necessary to display the flowers to their best advantage and should be clear of the foliage to avoid crowding. This is particularly important with multi-flowered bifoliate involving species such as *Gur. bowringiana* or *C. guttata*

Floriferousness

The flower count should be comparable with what could be expected from the parentage. Multiple spiking may be rewarded here where this is expected and is not merely due to the plant being of a specimen size.

Floriferousness is closely related to parental background and size of flowers. It is important to keep parentage in mind when evaluating floriferousness as some hybrids, particularly the bifoliate cattleyas, can be expected to have a much greater flower count than hybrids involving say *C. coccinea* or *C. aclandiae*.

Cymbidium (Standard)

Cymbidiums are probably the best known of the orchid genera. They have been the backbone of the commercial orchid industry for many years, most orchid growers have them in their collection and they are still what are most commonly referred to as an orchid by the general public. Because of this it is important that we as judges do not adopt a blasé attitude and treat them as common.

The Handbook states that any Cymbidium may be judged including cut spikes. The entire spike being judged should be free of any major flower blemishes. If there is more than one spike on the plant being considered the best spike is to be selected and from that spike one flower will be designated for the determination of form and colour. When cut spikes are being considered there should be sufficient stem below the lowest flower to indicate clearance of the foliage.

For the purposes of clarification, the following are defined as large flowered Cymbidium species.

1. *Cymbidium erythrostylum*
2. *Cymbidium sanderae* (formerly *parishii* 'Sanderae')
3. *Cymbidium lowianum*
4. *Cymbidium hookerianum* (formerly *grandiflorum*)
5. *Cymbidium iridiodes* (formerly *giganteum*)
6. *Cymbidium eburneum*
7. *Cymbidium tracyanum*
8. *Cymbidium insigne*

The generic name comes from the Greek word "kymbe" a boat, referring to the boat like shape of the lip.

Form

The flower should be tending to fullness and roundness. Some fine cultivars have a more open star-like appearance; other good forms may be slightly cupped. Excessive cupping is a fault.

Within the circle the segments should form two nearly equilateral triangles - one formed by the sepals and the other inverted and formed by the petals and the lip. Appearance will be governed by parentage. The overall expectation for form will be to see an improvement over that of the parents.

The dorsal sepal is almost always curved forward or hooded but this should not be pronounced. Furling or reflexing of flower parts is undesirable.

Twisting and recurving or reflexing are not acceptable. The dorsal may cup forward slightly but should be penalised if this is considered to be too pronounced.

The lip should be broad, in proportion, well displayed and never pinched or turned under at the distal end.

This is a major part of the flower and while it may vary somewhat depending on the background it should always be symmetrical and be in proportion to the size of the other segments.

Colour

If one colour is suffused over another this should be harmonious not blurred. Veining, if present, must be regular and distinctive.

If the colour is a new or unexpected hue or intensity it should be attractive and distinctive enough to be considered an improvement over that expected from the cross. Any blotchiness, missing colour or muddiness is not acceptable and should be penalised.

Sepal staining should be penalised if it detracts from the overall effect.

Sepal staining can arise where plants are flowered in high light conditions. As it will be present on the back of the segments where it is prominent from the front this could also indicate a lack of substance. Where patterns or splashing are present they should complement and enhance the general colour of the flower.

The lip should be distinctively coloured either to contrast with the other flower parts or to blend in a concolour effect.

The lip can be more prominently and richly coloured than other segments particularly with banding or spotting at the distal edge or side lobes. Any colour bleeding or muddiness should be penalised.

Size of flower

Generally a flower 110mm or over in natural spread should score high points for size. Classification as a standard, intermediate or miniature type is determined by size of flower. Those to be considered as standards will either be bred from the species identified above as large flowered or be 100mm or more in natural spread even though there may be miniature species in their parentage.

Substance and texture

The flower surface should be fresh with a lustrous sheen.

Good substance is now expected as a standard particularly with polyploid forms. The texture should be fresh and lustrous. Any dullness in the surface texture would usually indicate that the flower has aged.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The inflorescence may be erect or arching but not twisted. Flowers must be clear of the foliage and should be well spaced and displayed.

A strong upright stem is necessary to display the flowers to their best advantage clear of the foliage. Flowers should be evenly spaced to provide a good display. Overcrowding or bunching on the stem is a fault.

Floriferousness

While the number of flowers expected will vary according to parentage, there should be an average of eight flowers and buds per spike unless immediate parentage negates this possibility, e.g. *Cym. eburneum* hybrids.

The number of flowers will always be influenced by parentage however on well grown plants there can be considerably more flowers than the eight described as the expected minimum. Consequently unless indicated by parentage a higher flower count must be present to score highly in this section. Conversely while a spike with less than eight flowers could still be considered it should be heavily penalised.

Cymbidium (Intermediate)

Plants in this group must have a miniature flowered or foliated species in their parentage. Where flowers are over 100mm in natural spread they should be presented as Standard Cymbidiums even though they have miniature parentage.

Because there is a greater variation in shape within this class Intermediate Cymbidiums should not be thought of as merely dwarf Standard Cymbidiums.

Form

The flower should be symmetrical in form and well balanced. More variations in acceptable form are possible with Intermediate Cymbidiums than would be desirable in Standard Cymbidiums.

The segments should form two nearly equilateral triangles - one formed by the sepals and the other inverted and formed by the petals and the lip. Appearance will be governed by parentage. The overall expectation for form will be to see an improvement over that of the parents.

Excessive hooding, furling or reflexing of flower parts is not desirable.

Twisting and recurving or reflexing are not acceptable. The dorsal may cup forward slightly but should be penalised if this is considered to be too pronounced.

The lip should be broad, proportionate to the rest of the flower and not turned under at the distal end. With more than one spike on the plant to be judged, the best spike will be selected and one flower will be designated for determination of form.

This is a major part of the flower and while it may vary somewhat depending on the background it should always be symmetrical and be in proportion to the size of the other segments.

Colour

Because of the ancestral species involved, blurred colours are a common fault and must be heavily penalised. Development of intermediates has progressed to the point where colour evaluation should be the same as for Standard Cymbidiums.

If the colour is a new or unexpected hue or intensity it should be attractive and distinctive enough to be considered an improvement over that expect from the cross. Any blotchiness, missing colour or muddiness is not acceptable and should be penalised.

Polychromes (three or more colours excluding the lip) are quite acceptable but should not be smudged or lifeless.

Where patterns or splashing are present, they should complement and enhance the general colour of the flower.

The lip colour must enhance the general effect.

The lip can be more prominently and richly coloured than other segments particularly with banding or spotting at the distal edge or side lobes. Any colour bleeding or muddiness should be penalised.

Size

Flower size should be over 60mm and under 100mm natural spread.

Care should be taken that plants considered here meet the parentage as well as size requirements. Small or poorly grown standards do not comply. This applies particularly in a show judging environment

Substance and texture

Polyploidy is common in Intermediate Cymbidiums and substance is rarely weak. The flowers should be fresh and with a lustrous sheen.

Good substance is now expected as a standard particularly with polyploid forms. The texture should be fresh and lustrous. Any dullness in the surface texture would usually indicate that the flower has aged.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The inflorescence may be erect, arching or pendulous, but in all cases the flowers must be displayed clear of the foliage. Flowers should be well spaced; bunching is a common fault in Intermediate Cymbidiums.

A strong upright stem is necessary to display the flowers to their best advantage clear of the foliage. Flowers should be evenly spaced to provide a good display. Overcrowding or bunching on the stem is a fault and should be penalised.

Floriferousness

There should be an average of at least 12 flowers and buds per spike unless immediate parentage negates this possibility, e.g. *Cym. virescens* hybrids

Cymbidium (Miniature)

Miniature Cymbidiums must have miniature flowers and foliage with a miniature flowered and foliated species in their recent parentage. A plant with several inflorescences evenly distributed is highly desirable. Cut sprays are not eligible to be judged. Foliage should be clean and glossy without excessive trimming and with dead husks removed.

Form

Acceptable form for Miniature Cymbidiums allows some leeway but the sepals and petals should have enough width to give the appearance of flower roundness. They may be flat or slightly concave.

The segments should form two nearly equilateral triangles - one formed by the sepals and the other inverted and formed by the petals and the lip. Appearance will be governed by parentage. The overall expectation for form will be to see a commendable improvement over that of the parents.

Excessive hooding, furling or reflexing of flower parts is not desirable.

Twisting and recurving or reflexing are not acceptable. The dorsal may cup forward slightly but should be penalised if this is considered to be too pronounced.

The lip should be full and wide, lending balance to the flower with no turning under at its distal end.

This is a major part of the flower and while it may vary somewhat depending on the background it should always be symmetrical and be in proportion to the size of the other segments.

The best spike will be selected and one flower designated for determination of form.

Colour

Stripes, shadings or overlays of colour must enhance the overall colour effect. Fresh glistening colours are to be strongly favoured.

If the colour is a new or unexpected hue or intensity it should be attractive and distinctive enough to be considered an improvement over that expect from the cross. Any blotchiness, missing colour or muddiness is not acceptable and should be penalised.

The lip colouring should be distinctive and add to the beauty and charm of the flower.

The lip can be more prominently and richly coloured than other segments particularly with banding or spotting at the distal edge or side lobes. Any colour bleeding or muddiness should be penalised.

Size

Flower size should be 60mm or under. Any flower with a natural spread exceeding 60 mm, or hybrids with larger foliage (e.g. bred from Cym. madidum), should be considered as an Intermediate Cymbidium.

Care should be taken that plants considered here meet the parentage as well as size requirements. Small or poorly grown intermediates do not comply. This applies particularly in a show judging environment

Substance and texture

The substance of an award quality Miniature Cymbidium should be not less than the average of its parents. Flowers should be fresh with a lustrous sheen.

Good substance is now expected as a standard particularly with polyploid forms. The texture should be fresh and lustrous. Any dullness in the surface texture would usually indicate that the flower has aged.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The inflorescence may be erect, arching or pendulous but in all cases the plant should display its flowers free of interference from the foliage. Flowers should be spaced so that they display themselves well.

A strong upright stem is necessary to display the flowers to their best advantage clear of the foliage. Flowers should be evenly spaced to provide a good display. Overcrowding or bunching on the stem is a fault.

Floriferousness of spike and plant

There should be an average of at least 12 flowers and buds per spike unless immediate parentage negates this possibility (e.g. *Cym. virescens* hybrids).

Asian (Chinese) Cymbidiums - the Jensoa group

Though the majority of Cymbidiums come from Asia this is a group of seven that have been cultivated in China and Japan for many centuries.

They are: *Cymbidium ensifolium*,
Cymbidium sinense,
Cymbidium kanran,
Cymbidium cyperfolium,
Cymbidium faberi,
Cymbidium munronianum
Cymbidium goeringii

When judged in Asia the plant's age and recorded history are important factors in their placing and awarding. Likewise, the pot they grow in is also part of the judging.

Plants with variegated foliage and those containing the red factor are prized and highly sought after. The perfumed flowers are not large and showy and they do not always display above the foliage. The flower is starry shaped and usually there are between two and nine flowers per inflorescence. Flower segments are usually long and narrow and the petals tend to come forward as though protecting the column. In Chinese cymbidiums this is considered a desirable trait.

Cym. sinense has a longer inflorescence and more flowers than other members of this group. All members of this group are very variable in colour and appearance. Colours range from white through yellow and orange to dark purple, often with striping.

It is important to remember when assessing these plants that they are to be considered according to our guidelines and not be influenced by other systems which may place their emphasis on different factors. Because this group are not yet commonly seen, research will be necessary to ensure that plants being evaluated are excellent examples of the particular species. Where the plant being evaluated is a hybrid it should show a commendable improvement over the parents.

Form

The flower should be symmetrical in form and well balanced. The petals can come forward and may enclose the column. They should be excellent examples of the genus to score well for form. The effect of hybridising with cymbidiums of 'normal' form will become evident as recent hybrids come into bloom. Twisting, reflexing or other distortions should be penalised.

Colour

Flower colour should be definite, clear and bright, evenly dispersed throughout. Any markings should be well defined and evenly distributed.

Size

Expectation for size will depend on the species involved. For hybrids the size should exceed the geometric mean derived from the parentage involved.

Substance and Texture

Substance may vary depending on parentage but should generally be good and able to hold the petals and sepals firm. The texture should be fresh and lustrous. Any dullness in the surface texture would usually indicate that the flower has aged.

Habit and Arrangement

The flower should be facing forward and the stem should always be strong enough to support it. For multiflowered spikes normal cymbidium requirements will apply

Floriferousness

As the majority of the species in this section have only one flower on the inflorescence the single flowered scale would be used for assessment and the preferred minimum flower count will not apply.

Dendrobium (Nobile and Phalaenopsis types)

Many of the hybrids considered in this section have several generations of breeding in their background so the expected standard is well defined. Many of the Den. phalaenopsis type species themselves had good form providing a quality platform for hybridists to work from. Big advances were seen in Den. Nobile hybrids with the arrival of the Yamamoto types in the 1970's.

Form

The flower should generally be circular in outline, the dorsal and ventral sepals wide and evenly spaced. The dorsal sepal should not be hooded. There is a tendency for petals in Nobile type flowers to lean forward. Held flat in one plane is the ideal so this should be penalised if it is considered excessive

Petals should be broad and rounded, overlapping the sepals. The Nobile type species generally have narrower petals so the degree of roundness will depend on parentage.

The broad lip must not jut forward nor turn under and should be large enough to balance the flower. In the Nobile types the lip should be wider across than the dorsal sepal while in the Phalaenopsis type it will be approximately the same width

Colour

This should be clear and fresh without smudging or blurring. Although many Phalaenopsis types will carry the colour of flower segments into the lip, more pronounced colour contrast is normal for the Nobile types. Sepals and petals may vary in colour intensity often fading toward the centre of the flower. In such cases the transition should be even with no blotches of colour. The dark eye present on the lip of most Nobile types should be well defined without bleeding of colour into the surrounding area.

Substance and texture

The crystalline texture of the Nobile type Dendrobiums and the velvet texture of many Phalaenopsis types add greatly to their visual appeal. Texture may be crystalline or matte depending on parentage but should always be lustrous and fresh.

Substance may vary depending on parentage but should generally be good and able to hold the petals and sepals firm. As with many orchids a dull surface texture probably indicates aging of the flowers.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

With Nobile types the flowers should be evenly distributed on each pseudobulb of the previous season. The flowers should be well arranged on the inflorescence without undue bunching. The flowers should ideally be presented facing toward the viewer.

The inflorescence of Phalaenopsis types may be erect to arching and the flowers should display themselves without excessive overlapping. The flowers should present themselves in a symmetrical manner without excessive overlapping or being too widely spaced.

Floriferousness

In Nobile hybrids, floriferousness should be assessed on the percentage of flowering nodes on the cane being judged. A cane with every node on the upper two-thirds producing at least two flowers should gain near maximum points. Floriferousness in Phalaenopsis types will depend on parentage but as a guide 8-12 flowers would normally be expected on a Den. Biggibum inflorescence.

Dendrobium (Other types)

The Dendrobium genus is found through much of Asia and is extremely large and diverse. There is a big variation in flower shape, colour and size. Well known Dendrobiums included in this group are Ceratobium, Dendrocoryne but there are many other types that have sepals and petals more or less equal to each other.

Form

The flowers should be uniform in shape. Many different shapes can be seen here depending on the species involved but there should be uniformity among the flowers on an individual plant.

Petals can be twisted or flat. A lot of variation can be expected here. *D. lasianthera* will have perfect corkscrews while *D. formosum* will be perfectly flat like a cattleya.

Individual flowers should still exhibit the expected symmetry of the type. The lip should add balance to the flower. The shape of some like *D. spectabile* may even be considered grotesque but they can still show symmetry in their composition.

Colour

The flower should exhibit both harmony and brilliance of colour. The lip should be distinctively and attractively coloured. Colours should be clear and bright and any markings should be distinct and well defined. Muddied colours and indistinct markings should be penalised. Many have distinctive variations in lip colour and marking. In others the lip colour will mirror that of other segments and many of these may have variations in shape such as heavy fimbriation.

Size of flower

The size of many flowers in this group will be greatest in the vertical plane. There are many species in this group resulting in a great variety of flower size and shape. Expectations for size will depend on the parentage involved.

Substance and Texture

Substance may vary depending on parentage but should generally be good and able to hold the petals and sepals firm. Texture may be crystalline or matte depending on parentage but should always be lustrous and fresh.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

They may gracefully arch, but should not droop so that individual flowers present themselves poorly. Flowers should not be bunched on the inflorescence. A fault among the *Dendrocoryne* group can be the weakness of the stem causing the flowers to droop. This can be seen in many hybrids where breeding for size of flower has not been matched by strength of stem.

Floriferousness

Expectations will vary with the species involved. A massed floral effect is desirable and flowers arranged sparsely on the stems should be heavily penalised. The quantity of flowers produced will vary with the species involved. Not all flowers may be open at once and some will tend to sequential flowering. With some plants, particularly the yellow flowered Indian Dendrobiums the blooms are relatively short lived while the nigro-hirsute group, while appearing delicate, are very long lasting. Watch for freshness of bloom when assessing substance and texture.

Lycaste

A relatively small genus with around 50 species the lycaste has been grown for over 150 years but have not been as popular as some of the mainstream orchids. *L. skinneri* has been the basis of the large flowered hybrids. Greater interest over the last 30 years or so has seen a big improvement in flower quality. Lycaste can be very floriferous and some of the smaller flowered species such as *L. aromatica* are very fragrant.

In establishing the genus Lindley noted that Lycaste was 'a beautiful woman' of ancient Greece.

Form

There are now several generations of breeding in *L. skinneri* type hybrids so the expected standard is well established. More diversity can be expected in hybrids involving the smaller flowered species. The flower form should be symmetrical with the sepals forming an equilateral triangle. The sepals should be flat and held in one plane. They are generally longer than they are wide and tapering to the tips. In some of the newer hybrids the sepals are so broad they are almost round and in these cases the flower must still have a balanced and pleasing appearance. Faults include reflexing of the sepal tips and excessive or random furling of margins.

The petals are much smaller than the sepals and tend to wrap around the top of the column with the tips folded or flared back. Watch for symmetry and balance in the way the column is enclosed. The lip will form an inverted triangle with the petals which is smaller than that formed by the sepals. The base lines of the two triangles should be parallel. The lip should be aligned vertically with the dorsal sepal. In some hybrids the lip tends to roll under and this should be penalised if it is excessive.

Colour

The flower colour should be rich and vibrant without any sign of spots or blemish. In many flowers the segments will be the same colour or nearly so. In others the petals and/or the lip may be a contrasting colour in which case it should be harmonious. Muddiness or indistinct colour sometimes seen as a greenish or brownish cast a fault and should be penalised.

Size

The species have a big variation in flower size from the possible 15cm of *L. skinneri* to the 5cm or so of *L. aromatica*. Size in hybrids will be linked to parentage but the *L. skinneri* type hybrids can be expected to achieve 12 to 15cm.

Substance & Texture

Substance is should be able to hold the sepals firm and straight. These flowers can bruise easily which should not in itself be seen as evidence of poor substance. Texture can be crystalline or matte but good texture will be shown in a flower which is fresh and lustrous in appearance. Dullness of colour can indicate an aged flower.

Stem and Presentation

The inflorescence is single flowered. The flower stem is formed at the base of the pseudobulb generally before, but sometimes with, the new growth. Depending on parentage few to many flowering stems can be produced from each pseudobulb but 10 or more could be expected. The stem should be strong enough to support the flower unaided but because the flowers bruise easily they are often staked particularly to prevent travel damage for a show.

Masdevallia

Masdevallia are part of the Pleurothalidinae and the genus has recently been divided into 18 new genera. Care will be needed to ensure that they are correctly handled particularly as new hybrids are created incorporating the new generic names.

Masdevallia typically have a very short rhizome giving them a tufted appearance. Many of the plants are miniature with flowers that are large relative to the plants that produce them.

The generic name honours Jose Masdeval a Spanish physician and botanist.

Form

The flowers display great diversity in size, shape, texture and colour with the sepals and caudae being the most obvious part of the flower. The sepals are joined at the base to varying degrees with some species being tubular. The ideal flower will have a dorsal standing perpendicular with straight ventral caudae running parallel to each other. In some cases, the ventral caudae will be crossed. This should not be considered a serious fault unless there is also marked furling of the sepals.

Colour

The flower colour should be clear and bright and any veining or spots should be well defined. The caudae will often be a different colour from the rest of the sepal. Muddiness and poorly defined markings should be treated as faults. Hybrids that have Masd. veitchiana parentage may give the appearance of a purple haze over the base colour caused by many small hairs on the surface.

Size

There is a big variation in flower size from the possible 50cm of Masd. macrura to miniatures of 5mm or so like Masd. Wagneriana. Many hybrids are primary or still close to the species so the expected size will depend on parentage.

The vertical measurement is taken from the tips of the caudae. The measurement across the visible limits may also be at the caudae tips where they are spreading as in Masd. triangularis. The lip, petals and column are usually very small and hidden within the flower. These parts are not measured for an award

Substance & Texture

Substance should be strong which will be evidenced by the caudae held straight and the ventral sepals not rolling under at the base of the caudae. Good texture will be shown in a flower which is fresh and lustrous in appearance. Dullness of colour can indicate an aged flower.

Stem and Presentation

With very few exceptions the inflorescence is single flowered. The flower stem is formed at the base of the leaves or on the leaf stem. The stem should be strong enough to support the flower unaided and should be long enough to hold the flower well clear of the foliage.

Miltoniopsis

Line breeding and the introduction of polyploidy clones have improved the modern hybrids through increased size, fuller flowers and less reflexing. Floriferousness has improved and presentation tends to be better with flowers held well above the foliage.

Form

The flowers should be a well-filled-in oval form.

The charm of Miltoniopsis comes from their oblong to ovoid shape where the prominent lip balances the smaller overlapping petals and sepals. The sepals should form a slightly flattened triangle that occupies the upper portion of the flower.

The sepals and petals should be balanced, wide, but may reflex slightly at their tips. The petals should be flat or slightly reflexed and should fill the gaps between the sepals overlapping them slightly. While some reflexing of the sepals and petals is normal significant reflexing is a fault.

The lips should be predominantly large and symmetrical.

The lip should be flat and symmetrical. While the edges may be wavy they should not be floppy and there should not be a prominent midrib. The lip can have a waist near the base which is a fault if it compromises the symmetry or fails to overlap the sepals.

Colour

The colour should be definite, crisp and fresh. Any mask should be sharply defined and symmetrical. Odd colour blotches, as distinct from waterfall lip markings are common in many Miltoniopsis and should not be penalised unless they are a distraction.

The colour should always be clear and if multicoloured they should be clearly defined or pleasantly blended. While Miltoniopsis are known for their striking intense colours there are clones that are equally striking in subtle pastel shades. Don't confuse a pastel flower with a muddy one. If blushing is present, it should be uniform and never blotchy. Waterfall patterns or masks on the lip should be in a pleasantly contrasting colour.

Substance and texture

The velvety texture of good Miltoniopsis should be recognised and rewarded.

Texture may sometimes be crystalline but is normally matte. The substance tends to be lighter than in some other orchids and as a consequence the flowers are prone to bruising or heat damage.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The inflorescence may be upright or gracefully arching. Flowers should be well spaced and well displayed.

The flowers should alternate along the inflorescence and only slightly overlap. A cluttered or poorly spaced inflorescence should be penalised.

Floriferousness

Miltoniopsis must have at least three flowers and/or buds on the stem.

Modern breeding has significantly improved this area so that multiple inflorescences on pseudobulbs can be expected. To score highly well grown plants should be expected to carry two inflorescences of four flowers each.

Oncidium Alliance

This is a large and diverse group showing considerable variation in plant and flower size, shape and colour. As a result of a recent review there have been a lot of name and generic changes. Care will be needed to ensure these are correctly handled – Odontoglossum have been transferred to Oncidium and many Oncidium are now found in Gomesa.

Form

In general, the *Onc. alexandrae* type flower form should tend toward roundness, fullness and flatness fitting within a circumscribed circle. There have been many generations of breeding in this group so the standard is now well defined. Not all flowers in this alliance fit the full round form however and should not be penalised for this e.g. Brassia or Tolumnia etc. Flower segments may be serrated or frilled, providing that this does not destroy the overall form. Care must be taken to ensure that the lip is flat and proportionately developed. Plants showing *Onc. Alexandreae* (syn *Odm*, *crispum*) type form should have lips approximately equal in size to the petals and sepals. Others will show considerable variation according to parentage.

Colour

The flower colour should have well-defined patterns. On some plants the flowers will be heavily marked while others will show little or may be self-coloured.

Markings should be reasonably well balanced though some variations in spotting are normal. The total effect of various colour combinations should be to give the flower a pleasing bright appearance. The ideal is well balanced markings with a mirror image on each side and flowers approaching this should score highly. Muddiness of colour or markings that are poorly defined should be penalised.

The colours of the lip mask and crest should add to the attractiveness of the flower. Some species within the alliance are prone to fading of the lip colour as the flowers age.

Size of flower

Generally branched spray types will have smaller flowers. In some inter-generics flower size may be smaller than expected, and while this will necessitate a lower score for flower size, it may be easily offset by high evaluations in other areas. Considerable variation in flower size can be expected. Flower size will always be governed by parentage so it will be necessary to look closely at this aspect before determining points.

Substance and texture

The substance should be greater than the average of the parents. Texture should be fresh and crystalline. Any tendency towards transparent spots in pastel flowers must be heavily penalised. Hybrids in the *Onc. alexandrae* group can have a crystalline texture while others will be velvet or matte. A dull surface can indicate a flower that has aged.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The inflorescence may be simple or branched depending on parentage. Lateral branches should be strong enough to carry the flowers without drooping. Where lateral branching is present a well balanced arrangement is sought. In all cases the blooms should be evenly spaced and well presented. Bunching and clustering of flowers in some inter-generics is a serious fault. This can arise when one parent is many flowered and the other has only one or a few. Hybrids with *Miltonia moreliana* often exhibit this characteristic.

Floriferousness

In general spikes should have at least eight flowers and buds. A big variation in flower count will be seen among plants in this group depending on the parentage.

Paphiopedilum (Complex Hybrid)

The Complex Paphiopedilum Hybrids of today have flowers which are large, round and reasonably flat. They also have heavy substance and are long lasting.

There have been many generations of breeding since the first hybrid was produced (Harrisianum 1869) and thousands of hybrids were produced during the most popular years from the 1930s to 1980s. Breeding for shape may have reached its peak at this time and subsequent years have seen a concentration on increasing size and the range of colours. The COMPLEX description refers to the many generations and multiple species involved in their background.

Form

The desirable form of complex hybrid flowers is round to broadly oval, balanced and filled. The ideal shape we expect to find in these hybrids is a full flat circle with the sepals and petals not extending beyond the circumference. While the pouch protrudes in front it should still be aligned vertically. In most flowers you will find some degree of cupping, that is the outer edges of the dorsal sepal and petals bending forward, and while a certain amount is acceptable a flatter flower is preferred. Excessive cupping should be penalized.

Symmetry is an important feature and a line drawn from the central tip of the dorsal petal through the staminode to the tip of the pouch should produce a mirror image in both halves. The dorsal sepal should be large, rounded and slightly concave.

The preferred dorsal sepal shape is a semi to three quarter circle. It can be flat or slightly concave but should never reflex backwards. There is almost always a groove running vertically at the midline and often you will find some folding at the top. These features should be penalized if considered overly prominent.

Reflexing of any flower parts is undesirable.

This is the bending backward of the outer edges of sepals or petals and so is the opposite of cupping. This is not a desirable feature and if present it should always be penalized.

Petals should be broad with length in proportion to the rest of the flower.

You should expect to see petals that are displayed in a horizontal plane and held back tightly against the sepals. Symmetry is important. Wider petals tending to roundness are ideal but not so that they obscure the dorsal unduly. Notching at the tips or ruffling at the edges should not be too pronounced.

The ventral sepal (synsepalum) should be large enough to background the pouch and, when viewed from behind the flower, must lock with the dorsal sepal and neither should reflex at the junction.

The ventral sepal should complete the circle formed by the dorsal sepal and while you may find that it bends forward it should match the degree of cupping in other segments. You should expect to see the back edges fitting tightly against the dorsal and holding it in place and the lack of this feature is a fault.

The pouch to be full in proportion and not protrude excessively forward nor hang down and expose the staminode. A split ventral sepal does not disqualify the flower so long as the overall effect is not discordant.

You will find a lot of variation in pouch shape and size and this should always be in balance with the other segments of the flower. There should not be any indentations or dimples. Twisting of the staminode or pouch is sometimes evident and when seen this feature should be heavily penalized.

Colour

This should be clear and definite with banding, spots and markings well defined. Breaks in the pouch colourings are common and should be heavily penalized. Blurred colour overlaps are distracting and should be penalized.

There is a lot of variation in flower colour which will range from the white, yellow, green range to rust red, brown and purple. We are looking for clear colours so muddiness should be penalized. As with the form, symmetry of colour in both halves is important.

The dorsal sepal colouring may be similar or in contrast to the petals and pouch and may have a white background or margin. Darker colouring on the dorsal is generally concentrated at the base. Spots should be bold and contrast with the background.

The petals may have a darker midline and you may find variation in the colour of the upper and lower sections.

The pouch should be uniformly coloured and may show fading toward the lower tip.

Size

Invariably white Paphiopedilum Complex Hybrids will be smaller than other colours.

Before the turn of the century the expectation for overall width was 8-10cm but this has now increased to 12cm or more. With recent breeding white hybrids are now much closer in size to other hybrids.

The width of the dorsal also needs to be considered in assessing points for size.

The exception is the more recent "teacup" paphiopedilums arising from the addition of small flowered species into the parentage.

Substance and texture

Substance in Paphiopedilums is generally heavy. Transparent edges on the dorsal are frequently encountered. Some greens may lack substance. A waxy or varnished texture is characteristic.

Good substance is now an expected feature in this group.

Be aware that as flowers age the surface texture or appearance will become dull.

Stem and presentation

The stem should hold and present the flower well above the leaf axial. The stem measurement is taken from the axial to the base of the ovary.

The flower should be facing forward and the stem should always be strong enough to support it. Staking is allowed but should never be a distraction.

Paphiopedilum (Multifloral, Species or Other)

The Paphiopedilums considered here will usually be species or those having at least one parent at or close to species level. There are a large number of species in the family with a great deal of variation in size, shape and colour therefore we can expect considerable variation in the plants to be judged. In general, we are looking for an improvement over the parents without loss of the species character and charm.

Form

The flowers should be well proportioned and symmetrical. When compared with complex hybrids more variation in pouches may be expected but proportion must not be lost.

The plants reviewed in this section will be species or much closer to species than those considered in the complex section. The shape should be a circle with the sepals and petals not extending beyond the circumference. While the pouch protrudes in front it should still be aligned vertically. In most flowers you will find some degree of cupping, that is the outer edges of the dorsal sepal and petals bending forward, and while a certain amount is acceptable a flatter flower is preferred. Excessive cupping should be penalized but there may be a greater variation than would be acceptable in complex hybrids.

Symmetry is an important feature and a line drawn from the central tip of the dorsal petal through the staminode to the tip of the pouch should produce a mirror image in both halves.

The preferred dorsal sepal shape is a semi to three quarter circle but will depend on parentage. It can be flat or slightly concave but should never reflex backwards. There is almost always a groove running vertically at the midline and often you will find some folding at the top. These features should be penalized if considered overly prominent.

Petals that are displayed in a horizontal plane and held back tightly against the sepals are a desirable feature but there will be more variation than in complex hybrids. Symmetry is important. Notching at the tips or ruffling at the edges should not be too pronounced.

The back edges of the ventral sepal should be fitting tightly against the dorsal and hold it in place and the lack of this feature is a fault.

You will find a lot of variation in pouch shape and size and this should always be in balance with the other segments of the flower. There should not be any indentations or dimples. Twisting of the staminode or pouch is sometimes evident and when seen this feature should be heavily penalized.

Colour

Unusual colours and colour combinations can all be considered but they should be clear, fresh and glistening without colour confusion or blurring. Markings should be evenly balanced on opposite sides of the flowers.

There is a lot of variation in flower colour which will range from the white, yellow, green range to rust red, brown and purple. Colours should be clear so any muddiness should be penalized. As with the form, symmetry of colour in both halves is important.

The dorsal sepal colouring may be similar or in contrast to the petals and pouch. Darker colouring on the dorsal is generally concentrated at the base. Spots or stripes should be bold and contrast with the background.

The petals may have a darker midline and you may find variation in the colour of the upper and lower sections.

The pouch should be uniformly coloured and may show fading toward the lower tip.

Substance and texture

Giving due regard to the breeding, flowers should have a waxy or varnished sheen. Substance in Paphiopedilums is generally heavy and is an expected feature. Transparent edges on the dorsal are frequently encountered. Some greens may lack substance. Be aware that as flowers age the surface texture or appearance will become dull.

Stem and Presentation

The stem should hold and present the flower well above the leaf axial. In Multiflorals flowers should be spaced so that they display themselves well.

The flower should be facing forward and the stem should always be strong enough to support it unaided. You should see symmetry in the way the flowers are arranged on the inflorescence. The lowest flower should be well clear of the foliage.

Floriferousness

Multifloral Paphiopedilums should have two or more flowers open per stem with the exception of those that open successively, i.e. Sub-group Cochlopetalum, which can have one flower per stem. Paphiopedilum flowers are generally long lasting so where they are multiflorals it is preferable that all flowers are open and set. Be aware however that some such as *P. lowii* have sequential tendencies while others like *P. glanduliferum* are simultaneous bloomers. If the inflorescence normally has more than one flower the multi-flowered points scale should be used. In other cases, the single scale will apply.

Phalaenopsis

The classic large sized white, pink or purple phalaenopsis is now well established through many generations of breeding. The introduction of more species brought a greater range of colours including brown and yellow shades as well as various combinations of stripes and spots. Due to the influence of the species used to increase the colour range, the flowers may lack regularity of arrangement on the spike and shape may not always fit the 'classic' pattern.

In more recent years we have seen the introduction of the 'Harlequin' type characterised by strong but unusual colour variations and also miniatures with flowers of good shape through the introduction of small flowered species like Phal. Equestris and Phal. pulcherimma.

Form

The flowers should have a pleasing well-balanced shape with sepals and petals as broad and flat as possible taking breeding into consideration. Standards bred predominantly from Phal. amabilis species will be more or less circular in outline. These flowers of classic shape should have broad petals almost as wide as long and may be overlapping across the dorsal. Sepals and petals should be flat without reflexing or cupping. The tips of the sepals should form an equilateral triangle. The lip should be balanced and parallel with the dorsal. Both halves of the flower should be symmetrical.

The intermediates and miniatures bred from other species will exhibit considerable variation in form. These plants may not reach the standard of the flowers referred to above and may show considerable variance depending on their ancestry but they should still have balance and symmetry.

Colour

Colours should be balanced and uniform through all the flowers on the spike. Spots, stripes and bars should be definite and distinctive. Shading should be pleasing. The colours should be clear and bright without any muddiness. If there is shading this should be well balanced across the flower. Where spots or stripes are present, they should be regular and even and mirrored on each side of the flower.

Harlequin type flowers have Phal. Golden Peoker in their background and they are likely to display unusual colour variations, such as uneven, irregular or different sized blotches and spots. If the flower in question has this feature, it should not be penalised. The patterns in these flowers may be irregular but this does not affect the colour which should be clear and well defined without bleeding or smudging.

Size

Recognition has to be given to the fact that parentage will determine size. There is a big range of size among the various species which can be strongly reflected in the hybrids depending on the number of generations involved. As an indication miniature will be around 50mm while the classic standards will generally exceed 100mm. Harlequins and other multi specie crosses will be somewhere between.

Substance and texture

Substance should be good as the blooms are generally long lasting but it is likely to be heavier in hybrids incorporating the smaller flowered species.

The surface should be either crystalline or waxy. Dullness of the surface is likely to indicate older blooms. Whether it is or not it is not a desirable feature.

Balance, proportion and arrangement

The flowers should be both well-spaced and well displayed. The inflorescence may be upright or arching but should be strong enough to support the flowers. The flowers should be evenly spaced without overlapping. They should be evenly placed and facing the same way on each side of the inflorescence.

Floriferousness

The number of flowers will vary according to the breeding. Generally, standards will have seven or more flowers but plants with flowers other than white, pink or purple may have fewer flowers depending on breeding. The classic standards can have significantly more flowers than the minimum of seven stated here but this will depend on parentage and as with many other orchids an increase in flower numbers can result in a reduction in flower size. The numbers will also be dependent on maturity of the plant and quality of culture. You will always need to check parentage as this will have a significant effect on flower numbers.

Sequential flowering plants should not to be penalised, e.g. *Phal. violacea*.

Phragmipedium

This genus makes up the cultivated South American division of the Slipper family. About 30 species are currently known and they have become more popular in recent years particularly since the discovery of the brightly coloured *Phrag. besseae* in 1980 and more recently *Phrag. kovachii*. Some excellent hybrids have been produced, and a significant number of awards have been made to plants of this genus.

Phragmipediums are grouped into five sections, according to their structure. The characteristics carried through from background species should be considered when judging phragmipedium hybrids.

Form

There is considerable variation in flower structure within the members of this genus but flowers should always be well proportioned and symmetrical. The shape should be a circle or oval with the sepals and petals not extending beyond the circumference. Note that the petals of Phragmipedium section Phragmipedium types and hybrids will not fit this mould.

While the pouch protrudes in front it should still be aligned vertically.

You can find some degree of cupping, that is the outer edges of the dorsal sepal and petals bending forward, and while a certain amount is acceptable a flatter flower is preferred particularly in Phragmipedium section Micropetalum types.

Symmetry is an important feature and a line drawn from the central tip of the dorsal petal through the staminode to the tip of the pouch should produce a mirror image in both halves.

Colour

Unusual colours and colour combinations can all be considered but they should be clear, fresh and glistening without colour confusion or blurring. Markings should be evenly balanced on opposite sides of the flowers.

There is a lot of variation in flower colour which will range through red, white, green, yellow, brown and purple. Colours should be clear so any muddiness should be penalized. As with the form, symmetry of colour in both halves is important. Some plants can have brilliant red or orange flowers and judges should be careful not to be over influenced by this when pointing colour or other sections of the score sheet.

The dorsal sepal colouring may be similar or in contrast to the petals and pouch. The pouch should be uniformly coloured and may show fading toward the lower tip.

Substance and texture

Giving due regard to the breeding, flowers should have a waxy or varnished. Rather than fading over time flowers have a tendency to hold their appearance and then drop suddenly. Be aware however that as flowers age the surface texture or appearance will become dull.

Stem and Presentation

The stem should hold and present the flower well above the leaf axial. In Multiflorals flowers should be spaced so that they display themselves well. The flower should be facing forward and the stem should always be strong enough to support it unaided. You should see symmetry in the way the flowers are arranged on the inflorescence. The lowest flower should be well clear of the foliage.

Floriferousness

Multifloral Phragmipediums should have two or more flowers open per stem and it is preferable that all flowers are open and set. Note however that sequential types tend to lose one flower at the same time as, or shortly before, the new one opens. If the inflorescence normally has more than one flower the multi-flowered points scale should be used. In other cases, the single scale will apply.

Phragmipedium section Himantopetalum

This section includes *Phragmipedium caricinum*, *christiansenianum*, *ecuadorensis*, *klotzscheanum*, *pearcei* and *richteri*.

- Plants are fairly small, with long, narrow leaves that look like grasses.
- The flowers are also fairly small and most show some irregularity in the dorsal which is not considered a fault. The flowers, which open one at a time, should face straight ahead and their slender, twisting petals generally point downward.
- The rim of the pouch is smooth.

Phragmipedium section Lorifolia

This section includes *Phragmipedium boissierianum*, *cajamaracae*, *czerwiakowianum*, *dariense*, *gracile*, *hartweggii*, *hincksianum*, *hirtzii*, *longifolium*, *reticulatum*, *roezlii* and *vittatum*.

- Petals are twisting, pointed, curly-edged and are about 3 times longer than the dorsal sepal.
- When measuring a flower from this section, judges should be less concerned with the natural spread but look for overall proportions and symmetry.
- A freshly opened bloom will show a disproportionately small pouch sitting on a large synsepal. After the flower has been open for about three days, the pouch will have matured and will be in better proportion.
- One important feature, unique to this section, is that every species has protuberances along either side of the pouch.

Phragmipedium section Micropetalum

This section includes *Phragmipedium andreetae*, *anguloid*, *besseae*, *fischeri*, *kovachii*, *manzurii*, *schlimii* & *xerophiticum*. These are small- to medium-sized plants with wide leaves.

- Flowers conform more to handbook standards with well-shaped flowers that are full, round and flat.
- Petals and sepals are of even length and show a velvety texture; petals generally growing horizontally.
- Dorsal sepals are somewhat cupped, so judges should not look for completely flat dorsal sepals.
- The pouch opening is small and smooth, and the sides of the pouch have windowlike slits.
- Older plants will branch out and their flower count will be higher.

Phragmipedium section Phragmipedium

This section includes *Phragmipedium caudatum*, *exstaminodium*, *guianense*, *humboldtii*, *lindenii*, *wallisii* & *warscewiczianum*.

- Large flowers with extremely long, slightly twisted petals at least 45 - 50 cm and longer. Longer petals are definitely desirable as mature petals shorter than 40 cm indicate a fault.
- The dorsal and synsepal are usually long, droopy and twisted, so that would not be considered poor shape.
- The rim of the pouch must flow in one smooth line without protrusions, and the leaves are quite stiff and stand straight up.

Phragmipedium section Platypetalum

This section includes *Phragmipedium kaiteturum*, *lindleyanum* and *sargentianum*

- Good width on the petals is a positive trait and narrow petals with many twists are less desirable.
- Length of petals should be approx. double the length of the sepals and pointing to the sides; dorsal stands up.
- The rim of the pouch is smooth and flows in one line; leaves are quite long and stiff. The flower bracts of plants in this section are small, and flowers open in succession.

Pleione

There are around 15 species in the genus which is closely allied to Coelogyne and their cluster-forming pseudobulbs make them somewhat unique in habit. Having a deciduous habit these orchids can withstand very low winter temperatures and, maybe as a consequence of this, are popular in this country.

They have been grown on the continent for many years where they are popular with alpine garden groups and a number of hybrids have been created, particularly by Ian Butterfield in the UK.

The name pleione is derived from Greek mythology after the mother of Pleiades.

Form

The flowers have a starry appearance with sepals and petals are generally about the same width. The ideal form would have the tips of sepals, petals and lip equally spaced around the circumference of a circle with the sepals and petals held straight and all in the same plane.

In reality the dorsal tends to be cupped and the other segments tend to droop downward. In all cases the extent will be governed by parentage though there can be variation within different plants within a grex. Undue reflexing or cupping should be penalised.

The lip tends to jut forward at angle from the other segments. It can be quite broad, tends to fold around the column and in some varieties is fimbriated.

Colour

The sepals and petals are generally of one colour. The lip varies in colour and is usually heavily marked with spots or stripes of a brighter or contrasting colour. Markings should be clear and distinct. In some varieties the markings are pale but they should still be distinct with defined edges.

Size

While flowers are generally around 100mm in width there is some variation in size among the species and the expectation for size will therefore depend on the parentage.

Substance and Texture

Substance is generally of average quality. Some flowers do not appear to have good substance indicated by drooping or floppy petals and sepals. Care should be taken not to penalise doubly for form and substance. Flowers are not generally long lasting 14 days being average.

Some forms will have a crystalline texture while in others it will be velvety or matte. Dullness can indicate aged flowers.

Stem and Presentation

The stem should be strong enough to hold the inflorescence without drooping. It should be long enough to hold the flowers clear of any foliage. The inflorescence comes with the new growth and the rate of leaf growth varies according to parentage.

Care needs to be taken when assessing these plants for cultural awards. When well grown these plants are capable of producing more than one flowering growth from a pseudobulb and more than one flower on the inflorescence. Some pseudobulbs with double flowered inflorescences would generally be expected to achieve high marks for floriferousness.

Sarcochilus

The genus Sarcochilus (about fourteen species) are distributed in tropical and sub tropical regions. All but one are endemic to Eastern Australia and the mountain ranges from Queensland to Victoria. Most are small epiphytes: however, three robust species grow on cliff faces in humid gullies or gorges, where there is bright light, humidity and free movement of air. Growth habit is Vandaceous. The flower spikes come from between the leaves and there is a wide range in flower size and number of flowers per spike. They are sometimes sequential flowering with a great variety of flower shapes. The shapes vary from small bells to starry types, with anything in between. The flowers are long lasting and often fragrant.

The name comes from the Greek words meaning fleshy lip.

Form

The classical shape displays radial symmetry (the petals and sepals are equally spaced like a five bladed propeller). In flowers of this type petals and sepals will be well overlapped and held in the one plane. Reflexing or cupping would not normally be expected depending on parentage.

With hybrids involving the smaller flowered species much more variation in shape can be expected but symmetry should still be evident.

The labellum is centrally positioned and generally small and relatively inconspicuous.

Colour

Colour can range from clear glistening white, through pinks to reds and through greens to yellows and gold. Colours should be clear and bright. Where there are markings they should be well defined and distinct without blurring. Patterning should be symmetrical.

Size

Because of the variation in size among the species the expectation for size will depend on parentage. Flowers of the classic hartmannii type will normally have flowers 30mm or more in width

Substance and Texture

Substance in this group is generally heavy holding the flower segments well. Many will have a crystalline texture particularly when the large whites are involved.

Balance proportion arrangement

The inflorescence can be few to many flowered depending on parentage. The inflorescence can be upright or arching and should display the flowers evenly. Undue drooping probably indicates a weak stem unable to hold the weight of the blooms. Multiple inflorescences should not be bunched but evenly displayed.

Floriferousness

The number of flowers to be expected on an inflorescence depends on parentage. Well grown plants can be very floriferous even when young.

Be aware that many of the small flowered species are sequential flowering which may well carry through to hybrids.

Vandaceous

The classic Vanda and Ascocenda have several generations of breeding so that the standard for shape is well defined. With hybrids that have at least one parent at or close to species level, we should expect an improvement over the parents.

The genus name Vanda is derived from the Sanskrit word for orchid.

Form

The flower should be generally circular in outline and flat when viewed from the side.

The sepals should be broad and rounded and arranged in an equilateral triangle. The dorsal sepal should be as nearly equal to the ventral sepals as possible. The petals should be broad and rounded as nearly equal to the dorsal sepal as possible and should fill the gap between the sepals. The lip should complement the rest of the flower in size and shape.

Any spur or nectary, if present, should also be harmonious with the rest of the flower.

This is the shape typical of the classic Vanda based on *V. sanderiana* and *V. corulea* breeding. The best of these flowers are flat with the sepals and petals held in one plane – this is checked by looking at the flowers from the side. The other Vanda species are smaller flowered and of varying shapes and colours. *V. sanderiana* is dominant for shape while the other species have increased the range of colours.

Crossing with the small but brightly coloured *Ascocentrum* species has produced classic shapes in flowers of intermediate size with a wide range of colours.

On a proportion of terete leaf Vandas and *Ascocentrums*, basal thinning of the petals can be expected depending on species and breeding.

Some hybrids may exhibit the paddle shaped petals typical of *V. tricolour* and other similar species.

Colour

The colour of the flower should be definite and clear. When two or more colours are suffused, they must be harmonious and not mottled.

Coloured venation, if present, should be definite and distinctive. Venation is a characteristic of the large flowered vanda species particularly

The lip should be attractively coloured. This may be of the same colour or a contrasting colour in which case it should be pleasing and harmonious.

Size of flower

Considerable size variation in the size of *Ascocendas* may be expected depending on the relative proportions of *Ascocentrum* and Vanda in their parentage.

The larger flowered Vandas can be 12cm or more while *Ascocendas* would normally be a bit over half that size.

Balance, proportion and arrangement of inflorescence

The inflorescence may be erect or gracefully arching depending on the parental background, with the flowers well-spaced and displayed. Plants involving Vanda and *Ascocentrum* will generally have an upright inflorescence while on *Aerides* or *Rhyncostylis* they are pendant. Intergeneric hybrids will vary depending on parentage. In all cases the flowers should be symmetrically arranged and not too widely spaced on the inflorescence.

Floriferousness

Because of the sequential nature of many Vandaceous inflorescences, it is almost impossible to determine when most of the inflorescence is open and set. Nevertheless, it is essential that any inflorescence should be mature enough to show the true potential of the flower. The number and size of flowers to expect will vary according to the species and breeding. Because there are big differences in the number of flowers on the inflorescence among the various genera background checks will be essential in assessing this area.

OCNZ JUDGING BY-LAWS

1. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

1.1 Committee on Awards (COA)

1.1.1 The COA shall consist of 7 members:

- (a) The Chairperson, appointed by the OCNZ Executive; and
- (b) Three members, appointed by the OCNZ Executive; and
- (c) The three Regional Chairpersons, elected by their Regions.

1.1.2 The COA is charged with the maintenance and overall supervision of the OCNZ Judging System. The COA reports to the OCNZ Executive.

1.2 Appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of COA

1.2.1 The OCNZ Executive will seek, from Accredited, Senior or Reserve Judges, written nominations for the position of COA Chairperson, to be submitted by 1 October in each year. Nominees must be Accredited or Senior Judges of the OCNZ Judging system. All nominations must be signed or assented to by the nominees. Nominations and assents may be submitted to the Executive by email in one or more messages.

1.2.2 At its last scheduled meeting in each calendar year the OCNZ Executive will appoint the COA Chairperson. The Executive will consider but will not necessarily be bound by the submitted nominations.

1.2.3 The appointment will take effect at the commencement of the first COA meeting in the next calendar year, when any change-over will take place, and will continue until the commencement of the first COA meeting in the following calendar year.

1.2.4 At its first meeting in each calendar year the members of COA will elect, from among their number, a Deputy Chairperson.

1.3 Appointment of members of COA

1.3.1 The three members referred to in By-Law 1.1.1(b) will be appointed by the OCNZ Executive immediately after the OCNZ Annual General Meeting each year. They will normally and preferably be Accredited or Senior Judges, but, if necessary, may be Reserve Judges or non-Judges, however the COA must at all times include a majority of Accredited or Senior Judges. In a year that no AGM is held because of a National Orchid Expo, the appointments will be made at the Executive meeting held at the time of that Expo. Such appointments will continue until the conclusion of the first Executive meeting after the OCNZ AGM in the following year.

1.3.2 The Regional Chairpersons are appointed by their respective Regions, under By-Law 3.

1.4 COA

1.4.1 The COA will consider, and if thought fit will ratify, awards recommended by the judging panels (refer By-Law 6.2).

1.4.2 The COA has the right in its absolute discretion to refuse or withhold ratification of any award.

1.4.3 The COA will hold its first meeting in each new year as soon as convenient, but usually in January or February, at which it will review all ratified awards from the previous year and decide upon the “year” awards under By-laws 8.1 to 8.4.

- 1.4.4 Where possible COA meetings will be held in conjunction with OCNZ Executive meetings, to minimise travel costs
- 1.4.5 COA may also meet at the time of any National Judging Seminar, and on such other occasions as may be necessary.
- 1.4.6 Between meetings, COA decisions may be made by email.

1.5 Duties of COA Chairperson

The duties of the COA Chairperson include:

- 1.5.1 Presiding at all meetings of the COA.
- 1.5.2 Maintaining an up-to-date National Register of judging personnel, comprising Senior, Accredited and Reserve Judges, Associate Judges, Observers and Judging Auxiliaries, including a participation record of judging personnel.
- 1.5.3 Directing the overall organisation of National Judging Seminars.
- 1.5.4 Circulating to all COA members, for ratification or otherwise, the particulars and photographs of award applications submitted.
- 1.5.5 Maintaining the OCNZ Awards Register and photographic collection of all OCNZ awarded orchids.
- 1.5.6 Reporting regularly to the OCNZ Executive on all matters relating to OCNZ Judging.
- 1.5.7 Preparing an annual report to be presented to the OCNZ AGM.
- 1.5.8 Subject to the direction of the OCNZ Executive, providing details and photographs of OCNZ awards to Orchidwiz and/or other national or international orchid awards databases.

1.6 Duties of COA Deputy Chairperson

The duties of the COA Deputy Chairperson include:

- 1.6.1 Assisting the Chairperson in all matters.
- 1.6.2 Keeping the minutes of COA meetings.
- 1.6.3 Carrying out the Chairperson's duties if he/she is absent.

2. JUDGING PERSONNEL

2.1 Classes of Judges in the OCNZ Judging System

- 2.1.1 **Accredited Judges** are responsible for the judging of flowers, plants and displays. They have been trained in the OCNZ System and are responsible for maintaining their knowledge and skills at a high level.
- 2.1.2 **Senior Judges** are Accredited Judges who have been honoured by their peers. They are excused the attendance requirements of Accredited Judges but are expected to continue to give their experience and leadership to the Judging System.
- 2.1.3 **Reserve Judges** are Accredited Judges who have served as an Accredited Judge for minimum of 10 years and by reason of ill health, great distance to travel, or other exceptional circumstances are unable to meet the attendance of Accredited Judges and have been granted reserve status at the discretion of the COA.
- 2.1.4 **Associate Judges** are Judges in training who are to assist in the various judging functions as directed by the appropriate chairperson. Associate Judges are expected to maintain above minimal participation in judging activities and will be called on to make major contributions to Judging Seminars and training sessions.

They may take part in Class judging at shows if approved as defined in By-law 4.1.4.

2.1.5 **Observers** are potential Judges who will assist in the various judging functions as directed by the appropriate chairperson. Observers are expected to maintain above minimal participation in judging activities. They may take part in Class judging at shows if approved as defined in By-law 4.1.4.

2.1.6 **Judging Auxiliaries** - Persons with a keen interest in orchids, judging and associated administration, who are members of a Society affiliated to the OCNZ and are unable to fully participate as Judges, may be invited to become Judging Auxiliaries. Their main contribution will be clerical assistance in judging activities. The appropriate Supplemental Chairperson will discuss the invitation, prior to its issue, with the Regional Chairperson who will advise the Chairperson, COA accordingly. Judging Auxiliaries will be expected to show a significant degree of participation in judging activities other than in judging for Awards.

2.2 **Appointment and Accreditation of Personnel**

2.2.1 **Observer** - Any member of an Orchid Society affiliated to the Orchid Council with a keen interest in orchids may apply through an appropriate Chairperson to be an Observer.

The Observer must pass the Ishihara or equivalent colour vision test before progressing to Associate. A trainee with impaired colour vision may progress through the training system and, after undergoing the usual training to a satisfactory level and at the discretion of COA, may become an Accredited Judge with the proviso that they do not write up a colour description on their own.

An Observer must have a record of satisfactory attendance and performance of up to six meetings before being considered for advancement, but if the local panel agrees, a person may be advanced to associate before this time. Should an Observer not be advanced, the Regional Chairperson will seek comments from the Accredited Judges and pass these on to the unsuccessful candidate who will be re-eligible for consideration in a further six months.

2.2.2 **Associate Judge** - Normally progression to Associate Judge is by promotion of Observers by use of *Form 2*. Provided the Observers have received a three-quarters majority vote from the Accredited Judges within the panel, the appropriate Supplemental Chairperson will recommend their names to the Regional Chairperson who will confirm the promotions and pass on the information to the Chairperson of the Committee on Awards.

During their term as Associate Judges, should they fail to show satisfactory progress, their appointments may be terminated by a three-quarters majority vote of Accredited Judges in a secret ballot at a semi-annual business meeting.

In exceptional cases new entrants who have considerable judging experience elsewhere, for example an Accredited Judge of an international system, may be admitted to the OCNZ system as Associate Judges with the possibility of accelerated promotion to Accredited Judge on recommendation to COA by Supplemental or Regional Chairperson.

2.2.3 **Accredited Judge** - An Associate Judge must normally serve satisfactorily for four years with that status before being considered for advancement to Accredited Judge. Exceptions include transfer from another system as in By-law 2.2.2 para 4 or on return to the OCNZ system after a period of standing down. Accredited Judges of each Supplemental Region will vote in secret ballot on Associate Judges being considered for Accreditation. Only Accredited Judges

will be involved in discussion and normal ethical considerations will apply (e.g., close relatives also being excluded). A three-quarters majority of those present is required for recommendation. Recommendations from the Supplemental Region to the Regional Chairperson may be discussed by the Regional Chairperson with the Accredited Judges of the Region, prior to being passed on to the COA for ratification.

In passing on the recommendation to the Committee on Awards the Supplemental Chairperson shall complete and submit *Form 2*.

Should an Associate not be advanced, after consideration, the Regional Chairperson will seek comments from the Accredited Judges and pass these on to the unsuccessful candidate who will be re-eligible for consideration in a further six months. Any Associate who fails to be advanced after two successive semi-annual meetings will be deemed to have dropped out of the OCNZ Judging System.

2.2.4 **Reserve Judge** - This status may be conferred on Accredited Judges who have served for a minimum of 10 years and by reason of advancing age, ill health, great distance to travel, or for other exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the COA, find it too difficult to meet the minimum attendance requirements of Accredited Judges. An Accredited Judge in such a situation may request the Regional Chairperson to ask the COA for the recognition of such status.

Reserve judges have to judge at least four times a year involving actual or practice scoring of Awards to remain in the System. They must also keep up with trends and changes via their local Sub-Regional Judging Panel.

However, they may not vote on accreditation of Associates and their involvement in Award Judging will be subject to By-law 6.1.4. Reserve Judges may request the Regional Chairperson to ask the COA to enable them revert to full Accreditation subject to them meeting the minimum attendance requirements of Accredited Judges as per By-law 5.7.

2.2.5 **Senior Judge** - This is an honorary status conferred on an Accredited Judge by the COA and cannot be requested by the individual. The Senior status only applies while the Judge is active and subject to the minimum attendance requirements of Senior Judges as per By-law 5.7. The promotion should originate direct from the COA, or by a request in writing to the COA with justification from the Supplemental Region through the Regional Chairperson. Normally they will be expected to have given their experience and leadership to the judges on a generous basis and to continue to do so.

2.2.6 **Satellite Judge**: In exceptional circumstances by reason of remoteness, distance, and/or time from a Supplemental Judging Panel, the COA may on the recommendation of a Regional Chairperson, grant approval for an Accredited Judge to be a Satellite Judge at large and not attached to a Supplemental Panel. Any such approval shall be at the absolute discretion of the COA and may be given on such terms as to maintenance of judging standards as the COA thinks fit in each particular case.

2.2.7 All references within this section 2.2 to a majority vote refer to a majority of those present at the meeting and references to discussion and voting by Accredited Judges includes Senior Judges.

2.3. Membership of Affiliated Society - All personnel in the Judging System must be members of an Orchid Society affiliated to the Orchid Council of New Zealand Incorporated.

3. CHAIRPERSONS OF REGIONS AND SUPPLEMENTAL PANELS

3.1 Appointment of Regional Chairperson and Deputy

- 3.1.1 Each Region (see By-Law 10) will at its first regional business meeting of the calendar year elect a Regional Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson, who must be Accredited or Senior Judges. Their appointment will take effect from the conclusion of that meeting and continue until the conclusion of the first regional business meeting of the following calendar year.
- 3.1.2 The Regional Chairperson will promptly inform the COA Chairperson of the names and contact details of the persons so elected.

3.2 Duties of Regional Chairperson

The duties of the Regional Chairperson include:

- 3.2.1 Co-ordinating OCNZ judging activities in the Region, and the activities of Supplemental Panel Chairpersons in the Region, particularly in regard to judging at shows.
- 3.2.2 Maintaining an up-to-date Regional Register of judging personnel, comprising Senior, Accredited and Reserve Judges, Associate Judges, Observers and Judging Auxiliaries, and their participation record, as received from the Supplemental Panel Chairpersons, and forwarding details of same to the COA Chairperson from time to time on request.
- 3.2.3 Receiving, checking and forwarding to the COA Chairperson applications to enter the judging system and applications for advancements, in accordance with By-Law 2.2 and Forms 1 and 2, and other matters relating to status of judging personnel under that By-Law or By-Law 5.
- 3.2.4 Arranging and presiding at Regional Judging Seminars and business meetings.
- 3.2.5 Receiving award applications, with accompanying judges' score sheets, photographs and payment of award fees, checking the details, and sending them on to the COA Chairperson.
- 3.2.6 Promptly notifying the COA Chairperson of any changes in Regional Chairperson and Deputy, and of any changes in Supplemental Panel Chairpersons and Deputies.
- 3.2.7 Serving as a member of COA.

3.3 Duties of Deputy Regional Chairperson

The duties of the Deputy Regional Chairperson include:

- 3.3.1 Assisting the Regional Chairperson in all matters.
- 3.3.2 Keeping the minutes of Regional meetings.
- 3.3.3 Carrying out the Regional Chairperson's duties if he/she is absent.

3.4 Appointment of Supplemental Panel Chairperson and Deputy

- 3.4.1 Each Supplemental Panel (see By-Law 10) will at its last business meeting in each calendar year elect a Chairperson and Deputy for that panel, who must be Accredited or Senior Judges. Their appointment will take effect from the conclusion of that meeting and continue until the conclusion of the last Supplemental Panel business meeting of the following calendar year.
- 3.4.2 The Supplemental Panel Chairperson will promptly inform the Regional Chairperson of the names and contact details of the persons so elected.

3.5 Duties of Supplemental Panel Chairperson

The duties of the Supplemental Panel Chairperson include:

- 3.5.1 Arranging and presiding at judging meetings and judging opportunities (see By-Law 5), particularly at shows.
- 3.5.2 Maintaining an up-to-date local panel register of judging personnel, comprising Senior, Accredited and Reserve Judges, Associate Judges, Observers and Judging Auxiliaries, and their participation record, and forwarding details of same to the Regional Chairperson immediately after the panel's last meeting in each year and at other times as the Regional Chairperson may request.
- 3.5.3 Ensuring that award application forms are correctly completed and signed, and forwarding same together with judges' score sheets and photographs and award fees to the Regional Chairperson.

3.6 Duties of Supplemental Panel Deputy Chairperson

The duties of the Deputy Chairperson include:

- 3.6.1 Assisting the Supplemental Panel Chairperson in all matters.
- 3.6.2 Carrying out the Supplemental Panel Chairperson's duties if he/she is absent.

4. JUDGING PANELS

4.1 Regional Judging Panels - (See By-law 10)

- 4.1.1 New Zealand will be divided into Regions comprising a number of Supplemental Regions, the number of which shall be proposed by the COA and confirmed by the OCNZ Executive from time to time.
- 4.1.2 All classes of Judging Personnel resident in each Region, including Chairpersons and Deputies, will collectively constitute the Regional Judging Panel.
- 4.1.3 All classes of Judging Personnel resident in each Supplemental Region, including Chairperson and Deputies, will collectively constitute the Supplemental Regional Judging Panel.
- 4.1.4 Accredited Judges including Senior and Reserve Judges may judge in any Region or Supplemental Region at any time. Associate Judges and Observers may participate in Show Judging with the approval of the appropriate Chairperson.
- 4.1.5 The Chairperson (COA), or their appointed deputy, will preside over the Council Judging at a National Show. In the Regions the appropriate Chairperson would normally preside but these arrangements are intended to be flexible and harmonious.
- 4.1.6 The Show organisers should make a request for Council Judging at least two months prior to the show date. Consultation between the Show Marshall and the Judging Chairperson is advisable when preparing the Show Schedule.
- 4.1.7 A qualified judge from any other recognised judging system (other than the OCNZ system) may be invited to join an OCNZ Judging Panel, but in Award Judging there must be a majority of OCNZ Judges involved in the scoring of any particular plant.

- 4.2 **Sub-Regional Panels** - The establishment of a Sub-Region (within a Supplemental Region) is the first step in the development of a new Supplemental Region. The establishment of a Sub-Region will be approved by the COA and by the OCNZ Executive. The local group will appoint a Chairperson and Deputy in

consultation with the Chairpersons of the Supplemental Region and the Region. Normally such Sub-Regional Chairperson will be an Accredited Judge but this may not always be practicable. The Sub-Regional Chairperson will organise training as in a Supplemental Region with assistance from the Region or Supplemental Region as appropriate. When a suitable number of its Judges are Accredited and normally within three years, the Sub-Region will be considered by the COA for status as a Supplemental Region.

5. JUDGING ADMINISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

5.0 Orchid Judging is a dynamic and developing discipline. All Judging Personnel will be expected to take an active part in the continuous learning process. In joining the System entrants should be aware of this continuing commitment and the need to show leadership in their Orchid Society activities.

5.1 **Judging Meetings** – Supplemental Chairpersons will ensure that at least ten judging opportunities are available for their personnel each year. An important part of these judging opportunities involves the scoring of plants for awards. If actual award scoring is not appropriate then practice scoring should be done. On all occasions an attendance register will be maintained for these and all other meetings referred to in By-laws 5.3 to 5.6.

5.2 **Notice of Activities** - All personnel must be given adequate notice of meetings, shows and all judging activities. While this notice may conveniently be given at prior meetings, those members absent must be notified.

5.3 **Regional Seminars** - Within each Region, two Seminars, each lasting one day, will be arranged each year. Such seminars will usually include a short business meeting.

5.4 **Regional Business Meetings** - All Judging Personnel of the Region are to attend the Regional Business Meeting, which will normally be held in association with a Regional Seminar. The Deputy Chairperson will keep minutes.

5.5 **National Seminars** - Each year the COA will organise at least one National Seminar. Where possible the location(s) will be rotated to balance the travel costs.

5.6 **Occasional Meetings** - Other meetings may be arranged from time to time to discuss judging matters and attendance of all personnel is to be encouraged.

5.7 **Minimum Attendance Requirements** - Observers, Associate and Accredited Judges must attend a minimum of:

- one National Seminar every two years,
- one Regional Seminar each year,
- six Judging Sessions involving scoring each year of which four must be Training Sessions.

Senior and Reserve Judges are required to attend a minimum of four Judging Sessions involving scoring each year of which two must be Training Sessions.

While Senior Judges are only required to attend four Judging Session involving scoring each year, they are encouraged to lend their experience and leadership at more frequent opportunities. All attendances will be notified through Regions to the COA who will review sub-standard attendance in accordance with By-law 5.9.

5.8 **Leave of Absence** - The COA may approve a period of leave of absence for an active member of a judging panel, in case of ill health, overseas travel, or for personal reasons. Requests must be made in writing to the Regional Chairperson who will pass on the request with his recommendation to the Chairperson, COA. In cases of prolonged absence, temporary reversion of status to a lower grade may be advised, or training extended.

5.9 Lapsed or Inadequate Attendance

5.9.1 Judging personnel who fail to attend any judging function in one year will be written to at their last known address by their Supplemental Chairperson to ascertain their intentions. If no reply is received the person will cease to be a member of the Council Judging System.

5.9.2 Judges who fail to maintain an adequate attendance record as specified in By-law 5.7 will be asked to provide an explanation and indicate their intentions, by the Supplemental Chairperson who will send a recommendation to the COA through the Regional Chairperson. In general, the alternatives are; to transfer to Reserve Judge status, to revert to Associate Judge status and recover adequate attendance, to resign, or to be excluded from the Judging System. The COA acting on the recommendation of the Supplemental Chairperson will decide on the judge's status. The COA Chair will advise the judge of the COA's decision by email at the judge's last known email address. Any judge who has had their status changed by the COA, may apply to the OCNZ Executive for a review of the COA's decision.

5.9.3 The provisions of By-law 5.9.1 will apply to Reserve Judges who fail to maintain their limited attendance requirements (refer By-law 2.2.4 & 5.7).

6. ORCHID COUNCIL AWARDS

In recognition of standards achieved, the following Awards are available within the Orchid Council Judging System:

Quality Awards:

First Class Certificate,	FCC/OCNZ
Award of Merit,	AM/OCNZ
Highly Commended Certificate,	HCC/OCNZ
Award of Distinction,	AD/OCNZ
Certificate of Botanical Merit,	CBM/OCNZ
Certificate of Cultural Commendation,	CCC/OCNZ
Certificate of Cultural Excellence	CCE/OCNZ
Plant Breeders Award,	PBA/OCNZ

These Awards are defined in Section 3 of the Principles of Award Judging.

6.1 Procedures for Award Judging

- 6.1.1 If an exhibitor asks that a panel judge a plant then the exhibitor agrees to accept responsibility for items in By-law 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 should the plant be recommended for an Award. If the plant is judged spontaneously by a panel at a meeting or show, the exhibitor has the right to decline the Award.
- 6.1.2 Full and correct details of ownership and parentage must be supplied when plants are submitted for judging. A plant to be considered for a Cultural Award must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least three years.
- 6.1.3 It is the responsibility of the Judging Chairperson to advise the exhibitor of the requirements regarding the associated fee, photographs and registration. Photographers who submit photographs to support an Award Application agree and require that;
- Copyright is owned by the Photographer.
 - Permission is given for the photograph to be printed in OCNZ publications (including the Yearbook, the website and Award compilations on CD or other format), and to be provided by OCNZ for inclusion in OrchidWiz and/or other national or international orchid awards databases as approved by the OCNZ Executive.
 - Permission is given for the photograph to be used by OCNZ and affiliated Judging Groups and by an individual for private research only.
 - The photograph may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Photographer.
- 6.1.4 Three or more Accredited or Senior Judges must be present to constitute a quorum for Award Judging. One of these may be a Reserve Judge. One additional Reserve Judge may be involved for each two additional Accredited or Senior Judges on the Panel.
- 6.1.5 If the Judging Chairperson is of the opinion that a plant or inflorescence is insufficiently mature for best evaluation, they may advise the exhibitor to submit the plant at a later date to a representative panel. Any plant or inflorescence that has been evaluated by an Orchid Council Panel may not be reconsidered by the same or any other Council Panel on the same blooming.
- 6.1.6 The Chairperson of the Judging Panel will ask the Judges whether they wish to score a plant. Any one Judge may nominate for scoring. Any plant that does not receive support is deemed to have been judged. Any Judge may at any time abstain from scoring a plant and need not give their reasons for this abstention.

- 6.1.7 It may be necessary to conduct considerable research prior to scoring a plant and exhibitors should wherever possible, warn a chairperson in advance if they are submitting an uncommon plant. Appropriate reference books may be consulted and comparative measurements made prior to distributing judging forms. Other than pointing out missing flowers, other damage, disease, vermin, or expressing doubt about the name, Judges should avoid specific reference to their estimation of the qualities of the plant under consideration. The ability to reach an independent assessment of a plant to be judged is the mark of a competent Judge.
- 6.1.8 Mericlones.
1. A mericlone that has been awarded in other systems and has also been previously awarded by OCNZ should not normally be considered for further award unless -
 - (a) It is significantly different from the previously awarded mericlone, such that the difference can be accurately and adequately described, or
 - (b) It merits a higher award than that previously given by OCNZ.
 2. A mericlone of a plant that has been awarded in other judging systems is eligible to be considered for a quality award under OCNZ criteria.
- 6.1.9 Judges should be cautious about being influenced by Awards in other Judging Systems particularly bearing in mind the changes in appreciation brought about by time. Often an AM/AOS or AM/RHS given fifteen years ago would not reach a current HCC/OCNZ today, while it may be appropriate to give an HCC/OCNZ to a plant that may have gained a higher Award elsewhere.
- 6.1.10 Following the scoring of an orchid for a quality or cultural award, the points given by the Judges (being Accredited or Senior Judges, and including Reserve Judges as provided under By-law 6.1.4) are listed in order from highest to lowest. The “range” of points for this by-law is the figure obtained by subtracting the lowest score from the highest. If that range is greater than 5 points, the Chairperson will announce the range of scores without identifying the judges and will give any judge the opportunity to reconsider their score but without requiring any judge to adjust their score. If after any reconsideration the range still exceeds 5 points, the median score is calculated as follows:
Count the number of scores, add 1 and divide by 2. Find this position on the list. If it goes through a score (original number was odd), that is the median. If the position is between two scores (original number was even) then the median is the average of the one above and the one below.
Scores are now discarded progressively, starting with those furthest from the median, whether above or below, until the range of the remaining scores is 5 or less. The median is not recalculated. The final score for the award is the average of the remaining scores, to 2 decimal places, and is not rounded up or down to a whole number. The scores of at least 3 Judges must remain for an award to proceed as per By-Law 6.1.4.
- 6.1.11 At Shows an Interim Certificate specifying the Award should be signed by the Chairperson and displayed with the plant.
- 6.1.12 Plants granted Awards are to be registered with the RHS and ratification will be withheld until registration has been confirmed. This does not apply to Cultural Certificates.

- 6.1.13 Except for Cultural Certificates (which are given to the grower rather than the plant), awarded plants must be given a Cultivar epithet if a hybrid or a Varietal epithet if a species, before the Award will be ratified. The epithet should follow the Rules and Recommendations of Nomenclature for Cultivated Orchids published by the International Orchid Commission.
- 6.1.14 The orchid must be photographed. In order to obtain quality award photos, it is important that camera support, such as a monopod or tripod, is used.
- All Awards require an entire 'front on' image of a single flower on which the award was assessed. Where the flowers are small, the photo should be taken as close as possible, still maintaining sharp focus.
 - Photos for cultural awards require the foliage, the inflorescence and the pot to be shown.
 - Plants with tall inflorescences, as in the Oncidium alliance, may require up to three photos, one showing the foliage, one showing the inflorescence, one showing the whole plant.
 - The digital image should be taken on a minimum of 6-megapixel camera set at maximum resolution.
 - Where multiple images are provided the designated award photo must be identified.
 - NO alteration or manipulation to the flower or foliage is permissible.
 - The photos must NOT be manipulated in any way other than colour adjustment to bring the colour true, and only when this is necessary. There must be nothing added, removed or substituted from the original image other than dust spots or scratches. Cropping is allowed so long as the file size remains at or above 1MB.
 - Good quality photography is necessary for all awards. The COA reserves the right to not ratify the award if the photography is of poor quality or has evidence of alteration.
- 6.1.15 Trainee Judges (both Associate Judges and Observers) should score as many plants as possible including flowers and plants rejected by Accredited Judges. Their scores or votes are not used to determine whether the plant gains an Award, or the level of such an Award. In any discussion after Judging is completed the trainees are to be encouraged to contribute their opinion.

6.2 Award Ratification

- 6.2.1 The Supplemental Chairperson is responsible for sending to the Regional Chairperson an accurately completed application form together with the photograph(s) and prescribed fee. This is for any Award recommended from within their region. This material, after checking, will then be sent to the Chairperson of COA. The cost of an award is set at \$25 per award. Any plant that receives multiple awards at any one judging will only incur one award fee.
- 6.2.2 Award recommendations should reach the COA within four months of the date of the Judging otherwise the Award may lapse.
- 6.2.3 For all awards the COA will consider the details including the marking of the Judges, which must be available. For ratification a simple majority will suffice, but for an FCC five or more COA members must be in favour. The discretion of the COA shall be absolute. Should COA consider that a mistake has been made the award application may be rescinded or downgraded.

6.3 Show Judging

- 6.3.1 Council Judges should welcome the opportunity to judge at any show providing that the appropriate arrangements have been made with the Judging Chairperson (ref. By-law 4.1.6). Judges should at all times be aware of their role as representatives of the Orchid Council of New Zealand and attempt whenever possible to educate exhibitors and explain the judging process.
- 6.3.2 Organisation of the show judges is the prerogative of the Regional Chairperson, Supplemental Chairperson or their designated representative. It is recognised that with the multiplicity of shows on certain weekends the number of Council judges available will be limited.
- 6.3.3 The Show Schedule for any show is the guideline for Council Judges and ideally consultation should take place between the Society and the Judging Chairperson (By-law 4.1.6). Some Show Schedules may differ from Council policy and Judges should be flexible in such circumstances. Judges should note however that in placing plants / displays, if an appraisal is not provided by the Society, the appropriate Council appraisal should be used.

7. JUDGES CONDUCT

- 7.1 Judges are to be encouraged to wear their Judges Badges at all times during Judging sessions.
- 7.2 Judges should always accord their fellow Judges the courtesy of respecting divergent opinions. While judging, it is common for Judges to disagree but it is important that they are never disagreeable.
- 7.3 No judge should be present (or within sight) during the judging of any plant or display in which they have an interest.
- 7.4 Judges should feel free to engage in frank discussion after a plant has been scored. The score or comments of individual Judges should not be divulged outside the judging area by judging personnel or assistants.
- 7.5 There should be no need to touch flowers during judging. If any manipulation of the flowers is required it must be done with care by the use of a pen or similar instrument. Judges should not shift, move or carry any plants during judging. If required it should be done, or directly supervised by the Panel Leader, Show Marshall or Judging Chairperson.
- 7.6 Equipment to be carried by Judging Personnel during any judging session includes: Judges Handbook (Containing the Principals of Award Judging and Judging By-laws), a magnifying lens, a suitable measuring device, a show schedule if appropriate, a suitable clipboard and a calculator.

8. ORCHID COUNCIL "ORCHID OF THE YEAR"

- 8.1 At the first COA meeting of the year the ratified Quality Awards for the previous year (usually AM and FCC) will be reviewed and one Quality Award will be selected as the 'Orchid of the Year'.
- 8.2 At the same time the COA may decide to review the Quality Awards given to Cymbidiums during the year and select one as the 'Cymbidium of the Year'.
- 8.3 At the same time the COA shall review the awards given as cultural certificates during the year and may select one as the 'Cultural Award of the Year'.
- 8.4 At the same time the COA shall review all Awards given to Species during the year and may select one as the 'Species of the Year'. This review will include all awards other than the PBA
- 8.5 In all cases the selection must have a photograph that is suitable for reproduction in the OCNZ Yearbook.
- 8.6 **George Fuller Trophy**
This Trophy, in memory of George M Fuller MBE, late Patron of OCNZ and himself a previous winner of the Orchid of the Year, was given by his family and first presented in 2017. It is awarded yearly on a perpetual basis to the exhibitor of the orchid selected as the Orchid of the Year. The Trophy at all times remains the property of OCNZ. The winner each year may have possession of the Trophy until it is required for presentation to the next year's winner. The Trophy shall be returned to OCNZ promptly upon request by the Secretary or by the COA Chairperson.

9. DEFINITIONS AND TERMS USED IN THESE BY-LAWS

- 9.1 Executive means the Executive Committee of the Orchid Council of New Zealand.
- 9.2 Panel or Team applies to a group of Council Judges carrying out judging duties.
- 9.3 Pointing, scoring or assessing is the act of evaluation of a plant or exhibit within the Council Judging criteria.
- 9.4 Exhibit may mean a plant or a group of plants in a display.
- 9.5 Awards Chairperson is the Chairperson of the Committee on Awards (COA).
- 9.6 Missing flowers are defined as flowers aborted or not present at the judging. Flowers present but detached through damage in transport are not regarded as missing.
- 9.7 COA has the right to amend the wording of these rules without altering the intent.

10. REGIONAL STRUCTURE

NORTHERN REGION

Northland Supplemental Region
Auckland Supplemental Region
Waikato Supplemental Region
Bay of Plenty Supplemental Region

CENTRAL REGION

Hawke's Bay Supplemental Region
Taranaki Supplemental Region
Manawatu Supplemental Region
Wellington Supplemental Region

SOUTHERN REGION

Marlborough Supplemental Region
Nelson Supplemental Region
Canterbury Supplemental Region

**ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS
FORM 1 - APPLICATION TO JOIN THE JUDGING ORGANISATION**
Ref By-law 2.2.1

Name (block letters)..... Date of birth:..... /..... /.....

Address:
.....

Postcode:

Email:

Telephone: Home: (0)..... Mobile: (0).....

Have been a member of Orchid Society since

Note: if you are a member of any other judging system (in NZ or overseas)

Judging system

Status: Date obtained: /..... /.....

I understand that involvement with Orchid Council judging requires a significant time commitment and some financial outlay, and I agree to abide by the judging by-laws.

Signature:..... Date: /..... /.....

I recommend the acceptance of the above named as a [*delete two*] Observer / Associate Judge / Accredited Judge in the Supplemental Region.

Colour vision checked:

Supplemental Region Chairperson: Date: /..... /.....

Regional Chairperson: Date: /..... /.....

Approved Registered Observer:
Signed for COA Date: /..... /.....

Approved Associate Judge:
Signed for COA Date: /..... /.....

Approved Accredited Judge:
Signed for COA Date: /..... /.....

[June 2017 revision]

Distribution: 1 copy to Regional, 1 to COA

ORCHID COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INC
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS
FORM 2 - PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE / ACCREDITED JUDGE
Ref. By-law 2.2.2 or 2.2.3

From the _____ Supplemental Region

.....(Name)

who is an Observer / Associate Judge has met or exceeded the attendance requirements at judging and seminars. (if waived under By-law 2.2.2 last paragraph. a special statement is required from the Regional Chairperson.) The candidate has evaluated a representative selection of orchids and generally scored within acceptable limits. As an Associate judge the candidate has performed adequately in presenting orchid material to a group. The Accredited Judges of the above Supplemental Region, have by a three quarters majority taken in secret ballot, recommended promotion to the status of Associate / Accredited Judge.

Supplemental Region Chairperson.....Date/...../.....

Regional ChairpersonDate...../...../.....

Approved as an Associate Judge

Signed for COA.....Date/...../.....

Approved as an Accredited Judge

Signed for COA.....Date...../...../.....

Distribution:- 1 copy to Regional, 1 to COA

Form 3

Orchid Council of New Zealand Score Sheet for Quality, Cultural and Display Judging

Date	Judge's Name	Status	Signature
Plant Name			Cultivar Name
Parentage			

	Feature	Points	Multi flowered	Points	Single flowered
Form -	Overall	15		15	
	Sepals	5		5	
	Petals	5		5	
	Labellum/pouch	5		5	
	SUBTOTAL	30		30	
Colour -	Overall	15		15	
	Sepals	5		5	
	Petals	5		5	
	Labellum/pouch	5		5	
	SUBTOTAL	30		30	
Size		10		10	
Substance & Texture		10		15	
Stem & Presentation		XXXXX	XXXXX	15	
Balance proportion & arrangement		10		XXXXX	XXXXX
Floriferousness		10		XXXXX	XXXXX
	SUBTOTAL	40		40	
	TOTAL	100		100	

REMARKS (continue over page)

Award / Points
/

CULTURAL CERTIFICATE (CCC / CCE)		
Size & condition of plant	30	
Floriferousness	30	
Freshness & condition of blooms	20	
Difficulty in growing to specimen size	20	
TOTAL	100	

DISPLAY JUDGING		
Arrangement Presentation, Placement and visibility, colour, harmony and finish	25	
Effect & Theme (if required) Visual impact, Interest, Balance & proportion, Originality	25	
Quality of Plants and Flowers, Freshness, and Award quality	40	
Labelling Visibility, correctness, ease of reading	10	
TOTAL	100	

PERCENTAGE POINTS TABLE

%	5	10	15	20	25	30	40
70	3.50	7.00	10.50	14.00	17.50	21.00	28.00
71	3.55	7.10	10.65	14.20	17.75	21.30	28.40
72	3.60	7.20	10.80	14.40	18.00	21.60	28.80
73	3.65	7.30	10.95	14.60	18.25	21.90	29.20
74	3.70	7.40	11.10	14.80	18.50	22.20	29.60
75	3.75	7.50	11.25	15.00	18.75	22.50	30.00
76	3.80	7.60	11.40	15.20	19.00	22.80	30.40
77	3.85	7.70	11.55	15.40	19.25	23.10	30.80
78	3.90	7.80	11.70	15.60	19.50	23.40	31.20
79	3.95	7.90	11.85	15.80	19.75	23.70	31.60
80	4.00	8.00	12.00	16.00	20.00	24.00	32.00
81	4.05	8.10	12.15	16.20	20.25	24.30	32.40
82	4.10	8.20	12.30	16.40	20.50	24.60	32.80
83	4.15	8.30	12.45	16.60	20.75	24.90	33.20
84	4.20	8.40	12.60	16.80	21.00	25.20	33.60
85	4.25	8.50	12.75	17.00	21.25	25.50	34.00
86	4.30	8.60	12.90	17.20	21.50	25.80	34.40
87	4.35	8.70	13.05	17.40	21.75	26.10	34.80
88	4.40	8.80	13.20	17.60	22.00	26.40	35.20
89	4.45	8.90	13.35	17.80	22.25	26.70	35.60
90	4.50	9.00	13.50	18.00	22.50	27.00	36.00
91	4.55	9.10	13.65	18.20	22.75	27.30	36.40
92	4.60	9.20	13.80	18.40	23.00	27.60	36.80
93	4.65	9.30	13.95	18.60	23.25	27.90	37.20
94	4.70	9.40	14.10	18.80	23.50	28.20	37.60
95	4.75	9.50	14.25	19.00	23.75	28.50	38.00
96	4.80	9.60	14.40	19.20	24.00	28.80	38.40
97	4.85	9.70	14.55	19.40	24.25	29.10	38.80
98	4.90	9.80	14.70	19.60	24.50	29.40	39.20
99	4.95	9.90	14.85	19.80	24.75	29.70	39.60
100	5	10	15	20	25	30	40

MEASUREMENTS

Dimensions	Width (mm)	Length (mm)	Natural Spread (mm)		Number of	
Dorsal Sepal			Across petals		Spikes	
Petals			Across visible limits of flower		Flowers	
Ventral Sepals			Vertically		Buds	
Lip/Pouch						

UPDATES – SIGNOFFS

Date received	Page No.	Updated section	Alteration
<u>17-02-2026</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Section 3</u>	<u>Min. judges = 3</u>
<u>17-02-2026</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>6.1.12</u>	<u>Remove 'Quality'</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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