

NOMENCLATURE

Correct Writing of Orchid Names

Species and their variants

Each species has a Generic Name, (or first term), eg. *Masdevallia*, also a **Specific Epithet**, (or second term), eg. *coccinea*. The two terms combine to form the specific name of the species: *Masdevallia coccinea*.

When written they are **always** in *italics* or underlined. The generic name always begins with a Capital letter but the specific epithet is written with a small letter first - even when it is derived from a personal name.

A varietal epithet (third term) is given to a distinctive race or population within a species. It is preceded by the abbreviation var. (for variety) or subsp. (for subspecies) in Roman letters, and is in *italics* or underlined without a capital.

A special clone of a species may be given a cultivar epithet (third or fourth term). It is not latinised, in italics or underlined. It is in Roman, with a Capital and has **single** quotes.

examples;

Dendrobium kingianum 'Inferno' (3rd term) *Coelogyne cristata* var. *hololeuca* 'James'(4th term)

Dendrobium kingianum 'Inferno' (3rd term) *Coelogyne cristata* var. *hololeuca* 'James'(4th term)

Artificial Hybrids

The generic name (first term) begins with a Capital letter and is in *italics* (preferred) or underlined. The second term is always a registered hybrid name, known as a **grex epithet**. It is not latinised or underlined. It is printed in Roman letters and the initial letter is a Capital.

examples; *Paphiopedilum* Hawkesbury River

Paphiopedilum Hawkesbury River

A special clone of a hybrid may be distinguished by a cultivar epithet. These are generally only given to superior clones of horticultural merit. It is in Roman letters, has a capital, and is in **single** quotes. Remember there are no "*varieties*" in *hybrid orchids, only cultivars*.

examples; *Paphiopedilum* Hawkesbury River 'Amber'

Paphiopedilum Hawkesbury River 'Amber'

In orchids, the same grex name applies to all the progeny raised from any, each and every 'mating' of two parent plants which bear the same pair of specific names and/or grex names.

Example: If any plant of the grex *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon is crossed **with any** plant of the species *Dendrobium kingianum*, the resulting progeny will **all** bear the grex name *Dendrobium* Telekon.

All official hybrids are registered with the Royal Horticultural Society, London. These new names appear in periodicals such as *The Orchid Review* (U.K.), *Orchids* (u.SA) and in the Australian publications; *Orchids Australia*, *The Australian Orchid Review* and *The Orchadian* (for Australian native orchid hybrids only).

These hybrids later appear (every 5 years) in updated volumes of *Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids*, which is also now available on CD-ROM.