

## Judges' Commendation

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Instances in which the Judges' Commendation is possibly more provoking and difficult to use exist when the plant in question can be measured, and found wanting, by expressed standards but where a single characteristic is so overwhelmingly superior that it cancels out the negative consideration of weaker qualities. *Cymbidium* Tethys, represented here by three clones, illustrates that arresting quality of color which justifies, in the judging team's own statements, the exclusion of other judging standards (such as size, conformation etc., by which the clones might fail to be recognized by awards) through turning to the Judges' Commendation. *Cynoches haagii* 'Miami' might also serve to illustrate this point. The *Cymbidium* Tethys clones were awarded at the same judging and indicate, possibly, a unique quality of the cross more than the unique quality of individual clones. And we also presume the judges felt that the color revealed in the *Cymbidium* Tethys clones was a unique and hence unassessable departure from standards of reddish cymbidiums previously expressed, much the same as blue phalaenopsis, sun-yellow pansy miltonias, solidly pink paphiopedilums etc., and thus required the Judges' Commendation to properly spotlight the desirable qualities of these striking plants. In instances such as the above, much fruitful discussion can and does arise among individual judges.

I feel — and I have heard similar opinions expressed by other judges — that the Judges' Commendation is an extremely valuable and provocative award which is perhaps used less frequently than its potential demands. It would be interesting to hear the comments of others concerning this topic.