

# AOS Judging

All information gathered from...

the AOS Handbook

the AOS Style Guide

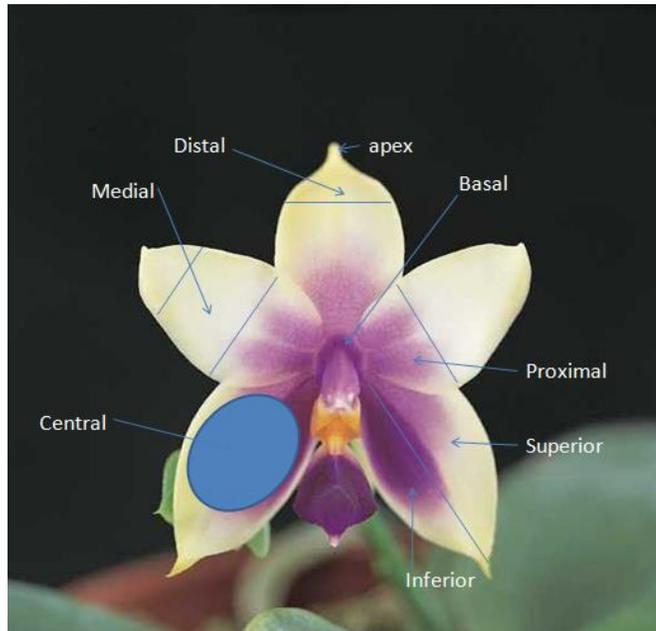
AOS Award Descriptions

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ALL descriptions follow a prescribed format

It is NOT the order in which the measurements are taken.

1. Flowers, buds, number of inflorescences
2. Description of plant and container if appropriate
3. Flower base color if appropriate
4. dorsal sepal (or sepals if taken together)
5. lateral sepals (or synsepal) if not included with dorsal sepal
6. petals
7. lip including crests, keels and spur
8. column and anther cap (or staminode)
9. substance
10. texture
11. ovary if noteworthy
12. floral bracts if noteworthy
13. rachis if noteworthy
14. country of origin for botanical awards
15. verification of identity
16. Any judges comments of note, i.e. ....precluded higher score
17. Period

**Award of Quality (AQ)**

Awarded once to a strain (the result of a mating of specific cultivars), exhibited by a single individual as a group of not less than 12 different clones or the inflorescences thereof, of a raised species or hybrid, which may or may not have been made before, when the result is of sufficient improvement over the former type. The parental cultivar epithets and the hybridizer of this strain, (not necessarily the registrant of the hybrid), must be provided by the exhibitor upon entry. At least one cultivar of the exhibited strain must receive, or have received, a flower quality award.

It is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned.

The specific values for which this award is granted must be recorded by the judging team.

The Award of Quality is not given a cultivar name

**Certificate of Cultural Merit (CCM)  
and Certificate of Cultural Excellence (CCE)**

The cultural award is awarded to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must have been in the care of the exhibitor at least six months immediately prior to the award.

CCM: The plant must score between 80-89 points.

CCE: The plant must score at least 90 points.

Scoring:

Size and condition of plant (50 points)

Floriferousness (30 points)

Condition of bloom (20 points)

Template: \_\_\_ flowers and \_\_\_ buds on \_\_\_ inflorescence; plant is \_\_\_ x \_\_\_ grown in \_\_\_; flowers are \_\_\_ shape \_\_\_ color; dorsal sepal is \_\_\_; lateral sepals are \_\_\_; petals are \_\_\_; lip is (includes callus, disk, lobes, throat, column & anther cap) \_\_\_; substance is \_\_\_; texture is \_\_\_.

**Points for Scoring**

points	FCC	AM	HCC
50	45-50	40-44	38-39
40	36-40	32-35	30-31
35	32-35	28-31	26-27
30	27-30	24-26	22-23
20	18-20	16-17	15
15	13.5-15	12-13.5	11-12
10	9-10	8	7.5
9	8-9	7.5-8	6.5-7
8	7.5-8	6.5-7	6
7	6.5-7	5.5-6	5.25-5.5
6	5.5-6	5	4.5
5	4.5-5	4	3.75

**Sequence of Floral Parts**

**Number of Flowers;** (numbers 1-10 are spelled out, as are numbers that begin a sentence. Numbers between 21-99 are hyphenated if spelled out. Twenty-two)

**Number of Buds;**

**Number of Inflorescences;**

**Form-Arrangement-Presentation;**

**General Flower Color;** (Compound color terms are hyphenated yellow-green, unless it is modified by a noun sky blue.)

**dorsal sepal;** (give form and color)

**lateral sepals;** (give form and color)

**petals;** (give form and color)

**lip (pouch), spur, column (staminode), ovary;** (includes callus, disk, lobes, throat, and anther cap)

**substance;**

**texture.**

Correct Spelling for descriptions:

**Colors-**

- Amethyst
- Burgundy
- Chartreuse
- Fuchsia
- Lavender
- Mahogany
- Raspberry

**Terminology-**

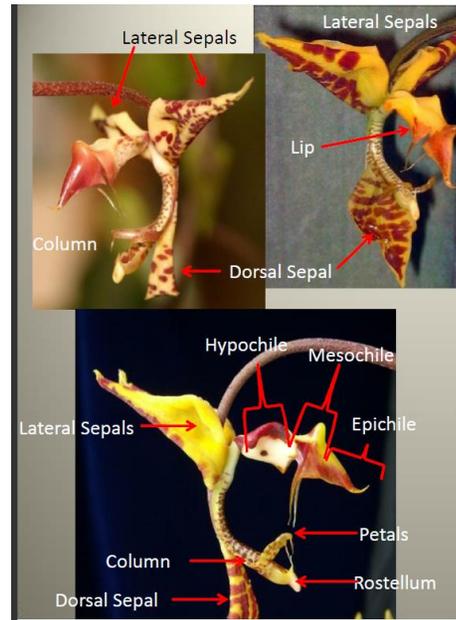
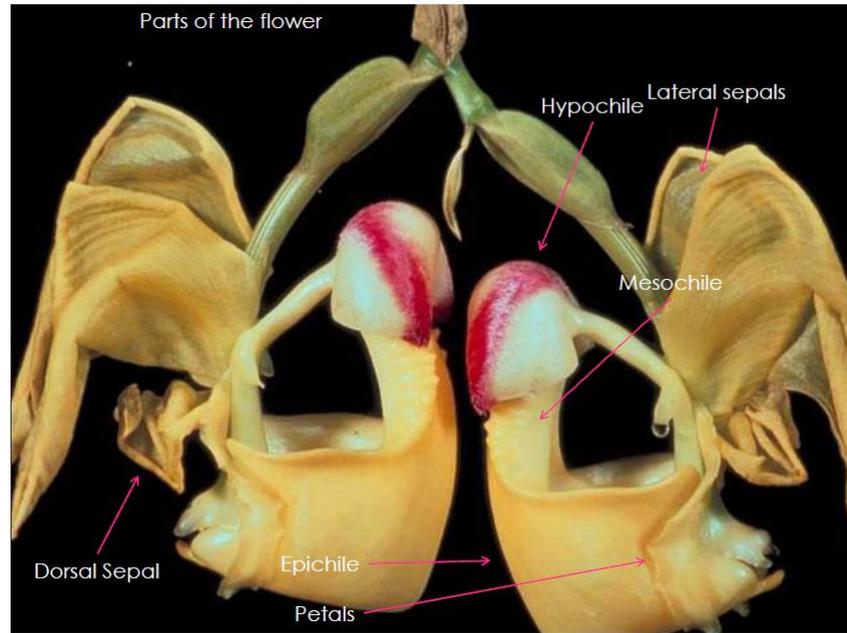
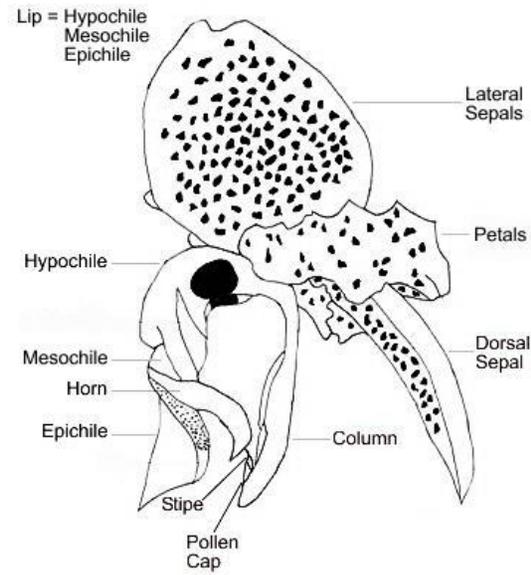
- Apices
- Crystalline
- Hirsute
- Iridescent
- Midlobe
- Overlaid
- Side Lobes
- Striped
- Tessellation
- Venation

**Substance (thickness/firmness)**

- Average
- Good
- Very good
- Hard
- Firm
- Leathery
- Medium
- Thick
- Thin
- Heavy

**Texture (flower surface)**

- Crystalline
- Diamond Dust
- Glistening
- Glossy
- Iridescent
- Luminous
- Matte
- Satin
- Shiny
- Sparkling
- Varnished
- Velvety
- Waxy



### Judging Exhibits

#### General Arrangement (35 pts):

- Balance
- Contrast
- Dominance
- Proportion
- Rhythm
- Scale

#### Quality of Flower (35 pts)

#### Variety (20 pts)

**Labels (10 pts)** Completeness, correctness of names, neatness, legibility.

**Silver Certificate (85-89 pts)** Needs ¾ of the vote of at least 5 judges.

**Gold Certificate (90-100 pts)** Needs ¾ of the vote of at least 5 judges.

#### Diphthongs

- ae – as ee in meet
- au – as au in taught
- ei – as ei in height
- oe – as ee in meet
- eu – as ew in yew
- ui – as oo as in food

#### Consonants

- c – as a k before (a, o, u)  
as an s before (e, i, y)
- ch – mostly as a k but can be a ch  
at the front of a word
- g – hard as in grab before (a, o, u)  
soft as in ginger before (e, i,

Divide names into syllable containing just one vowel or diphthong

If it contains a person's name try to keep the pronunciation as it would be non-Latinized.

A bi or di in front of a word meaning two should have a long i followed by the word as in bigibbum or bicolor

Which syllable is emphasized?

If the vowel in the penultimate (next to last) syllable is long then this syllable is emphasized

If the vowel in the penultimate syllable is soft then emphasis is on the antepenultimate (third to last) syllable, which at times might be the first syllable).

### Educational Exhibit Certificate

Awarded to an educational exhibit that furthers the knowledge and education of the public regarding orchids. Consideration should also be given to displays that further conservation awareness. Must score 80 pts.

#### Educational Exhibit

- Educational Value 25 pts
- Effectiveness of Presentation 25 pts
- Clarity of labeling explanation 25 pts
- Appropriateness/Attractiveness of Staging 15 pts
- Originality 10 pts

#### Conservation Displays

- Educational Value 20 pts
- Effectiveness of presentation 20 pts
- Adherence to conservation ideals 25 pts
- Clarity of labeling explanation 10 pts
- Appropriateness/Attractiveness of Staging 15 pts

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE/SHOW \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PLANT \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTAGE \_\_\_\_\_

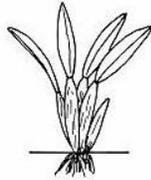
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CIRCLE POINT SCALE USED	POINTS SCORED									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>FLOWER FORM</b>										
GENERAL FORM	15	15	20	15	15	15	15	15	15	20
SEPALS ("DORSAL SEPAL)	5	5	10	5	5	5	5	7	4*	
PETALS ("LATERAL SEPALS)	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	8*	
LABELLUM ("POUCH)	5	5	5*	5	5	9	5	4	3	
CAUDAE									3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	30	30	40	30	30	30	30	30	35
<b>COLOR OF FLOWER</b>										
GENERAL COLOR	15	15	20	15	15	15	15	15	15	20
SEPALS ("DORSAL SEPAL)	7	8	10	5	6	5	10	7	5*	
PETALS ("LATERAL SEPALS)			5	5	5	5	5	5	10*	
LABELLUM ("POUCH)	8	7	5*	5	9	5	5	5	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	30	30	40	30	30	30	30	30	35
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>										
SIZE OF FLOWER	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
SUBSTANCE AND TEXTURE	10	20	10	5	10	10	10	10	10	7
HABIT AND ARRANGEMENT OF INFLORESCENCES)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5
FLORIFEROUSNESS	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	8
FLORIFEROUSNESS AND STEM										
STEM									5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	40	40	40	40	20	40	40	40	40	30

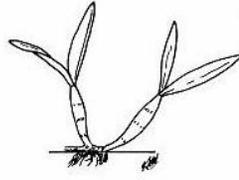
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TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_

STEM GROWTH HABIT



AGGREGATE



ASCENDING



STOLONIFEROUS

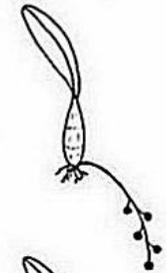


REPENT

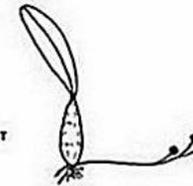
HABIT OF INFLORESCENCE



ASCENDING



PENDULUS



DECUMBENT



RECURVED

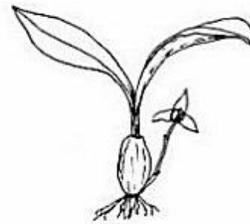
ORIGIN OF INFLORESCENCE



AXILLARY



TERMINAL



BASAL

TYPES OF INFLORESCENCES



SOLITARY



SPIKE



RACEME



PANICLE



UMBEL  
SIMPLE



UMBEL  
COMPOUND



CORYMB



CYME



HEAD

**Judges Commendation (JC)**

Awarded to flowers or plants, individually or in groups, for a distinctive characteristic or aspect of historical or other importance that, in the opinion of the judges is worthy of recognition. **Judges Commendations must record the specific values for which the award is given.** Granted without scoring, by an affirmative vote of at least 75 percent of the judging team assigned.

Template: \_\_\_\_ flowers on \_\_\_\_ inflorescence; dorsal sepal \_\_\_\_; lateral sepals \_\_\_\_; petals \_\_\_\_; lip (includes callus, disk, lobes, throat, column & anther cap) \_\_\_\_; substance \_\_\_\_; texture \_\_\_\_; commended for \_\_\_\_\_.

Example: *Odonotorettia* Mandarin 'Rolfe' JC/AOS

Five flowers on one 27-cm inflorescence; sepals and petals orange-red with light yellow veins; lip with striking red and yellow variegation; commended for stable mutation.

**Award of Distinction (AD)**

Awarded once to a cross, exhibited individually or collectively, representing a worthy new direction in breeding. The award is granted unanimously without scoring by the judging team assigned. **The specific values for which this award is granted must be recorded by the judging team.** If the hybridizer and exhibitor are different, each shall receive a certificate. The Award of Distinction is not given a cultivar name.

Template: \_\_\_\_ flowers on \_\_\_\_ inflorescence; dorsal sepal \_\_\_\_; lateral sepals \_\_\_\_; petals \_\_\_\_; lip (includes callus, disk, lobes, throat, column & anther cap) \_\_\_\_; substance \_\_\_\_; texture \_\_\_\_; awarded for \_\_\_\_\_.

Example: Coronadoara Michael's Delight AD/AOS

Three flowers on one upright inflorescence; flowers light green-yellow with burgundy spots; column white; substance heavy; texture matte; Awarded for the worthwhile creation of a new genus with the potential to miniaturize vandaceous hybrids with relatively large flowers.

**Certificate of Botanical Recognition (CBR)**

Awarded to a cultivar of a species, subspecies, variety or natural hybrid deemed especially worthy of recognition for rarity, novelty, or educational value previously unrecorded by AOS. The entire plant must be exhibited. The plant need have no special horticultural value. No award of any kind may have previously been made to the taxon. No point scale is used, but the award shall be granted only by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the judging team assigned. This award is provisional.

Template: \_\_\_\_ flowers and \_\_\_\_ buds on \_\_\_\_ inflorescence; plant is \_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_ grown in \_\_\_\_; flowers are \_\_\_\_ shape \_\_\_\_ color; dorsal sepal is \_\_\_\_; lateral sepals are \_\_\_\_; petals are \_\_\_\_; lip is (includes callus, disk, lobes, throat, column & anther cap) \_\_\_\_; substance is \_\_\_\_; texture is \_\_\_\_; country of origin \_\_\_\_ taxonomically identified by \_\_\_\_.

Award is provisional upon taxonomic verification

**Certificate of Horticultural Merit (CHM)**

Awarded to a cultivar of a species or natural hybrid with outstanding aesthetic appeal, that contributes to the horticultural aspects of orchidology. The entire plant must be presented and should be in good condition and have sufficient flowers to judge the horticultural merit of the plant. This certificate may be awarded more than once if a plant has characteristics significantly desirable and different from other awarded cultivars. A score of 80 points on the Horticultural Merit scale is required

**Flower characteristics 36 pts:** form (12), color (12), size (12)

**Plant characteristics 36 pts:** robustness (12), condition (12), floriferousness (12)

**Other characteristics 28 pts:** Aesthetic appeal (28)

The distinctive features of the cultivar must be clearly described, measurements recorded and the country of origin noted.

This award is provisional upon taxonomic verification