

**DESCRIPTIVE TERMINOLOGY FOR THE ORCHID JUDGE**

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A Guide To Making Or Understanding Orchid Descriptions

Third Revised Edition

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Q.  
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## INTERNATIONAL CODE OF NOMENCLATURE FOR CULTIVATED PLANTS

The assignment of names to plants is called nomenclature and has reference to a person or book that deals with names. Taxonomy, the science of classification, and nomenclature are inseparable. Identification is of paramount importance in taxonomy.

The goal of plant nomenclature is to provide one correct name to be used with each designated type of plant. This has been achieved through the development of two interrelated Codes of Nomenclature. The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Botanical Code) primarily has to do with the botanical names in Latin form of plants emanating from the wild. The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (Cultivated Code) covers the names of plants produced and maintained in cultivation. The Cultivate Code embraces the basic botanical nomenclature established by the Botanical Code but emphasizes the naming of plants valued by their growers because of certain desirable characteristics. This includes cultivated varieties of species, natural hybrids, individual variants found in the wild and vegetatively and artificially produced progeny. Both Codes are regularly updated, the Botanical Code is updated and re-examined during the meeting of each International Botanical Congress while the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants is responsible for updating the Cultivated Code. The International Orchid Commission, following the Cultivated Code, publishes *The Handbook on Orchid Nomenclature and Registration*.

In the Cultivated Code Article 28 deals with the nomenclature of cultivated plants. Some of the noteworthy rules governing the use of clonal names are:

1. New clonal names must be in a modern language and the name must not be in Latin.
2. If the name of the taxon to which the species belongs is changed the clonal name remains the same.
3. Two or more clones within the same genus are allowed to bear the same name.
4. Beginning January 1, 1959, new clonal names are not permitted to be the same as the botanical or common name of the genus or species.
5. After January 1, 1959, new clonal names which are published are required to have a description and may be in any language.
6. A recommendation is made that all clonal names be registered with a registration authority to avoid duplication or misuse of clonal names.

The term cultivar, a shorten form of cultivated variety, replaces the use of variety since variety applies to a taxonomic level in the hierarchy of plant classification. It should be added that in practice the fine distinctions among subspecies, varieties, and forms are often lost.

## THE DESCRIPTION

### A. Plant Names

1. Scientific Names - Purpose
  - i. To give a brief botanical description.
  - ii. To honor an individual.
  - iii. To show geographical location.
2. Horticultural Names in nonscientific language (fancy names).
  - i. Grex name - name for a cross.
  - ii. Cultivar (clonal) name - name for one plant and its multiplications.

### B. The Accepted Sequence For Botanical Descriptions:

What are the characterizing features?

The descriptive series should proceed from the general to the specific, from the gross characteristics to detailed morphology - from the outside inwardly (flower structure).

1. Vegetative
  - i. Size of the plant  
Small, medium, large - measurements
  - ii. Appearance - growth habit  
Single, clustered, erect, prostrate, climbing, scandent, decumbent, etc.
  - iii. Pseudobulbs  
Shape, cross section, appearance, indented, furrowed, markings, etc.
  - iv. Leaves  
Sessile or with petiole (petiolate)  
Number per pseudobulb  
Arrangement  
Shape - base, apex, margin  
Vestiture, surface markings, substance, texture
2. Inflorescence
  - i. Origin  
Basal, terminal, axillary
  - ii. Habit  
Ascending, decumbent, pendulous, recurved, etc.
  - iii. Determinate or indeterminate
  - iv. Type  
Single bloom, raceme or panicle

- v. Characteristics of peduncle or rachis  
Nodal distance, size, flower array or arrangement
- vi. Flower  
General appearance, size, overall shape, spread,  
adnation, substance, texture.
  - I. Sepals and petals  
Color, markings, venation, surface, vestiture, texture,  
substance, measurements
  - II. Labellum  
Color (s), shape, margin, callosities (if present), apex,  
venation, markings, surface, vestiture, texture,  
substance, lobes, spur, measurements.
  - III. Column  
Shape, length, color, apex, anther cap, stylidia,  
staminode, foot, measurement

ABOUT THE HABIT (APPEARANCE) OF THE PLANT OR ITS INFLORESCENCE:

If you mean:

Term to use:

Curved upward  
Straight up  
Lying flat with the tip rising upward  
Lying flat  
Curved backward  
Drooping or hanging down  
Climbing like a vine

ascending  
erect  
decumbent  
prostrate  
recurved  
pendulous  
scandent

ABOUT THE POSITION OF LEAVES OR A PART:

If you mean:

Term to use:

On side nearest to axis or stem  
On side away from the axis or stem  
Nearest the point of attachment  
Away from the point of attachment  
One part on one side at the node and the next part  
on the opposite side of the next node  
Parts opposite one another at the node  
Situated close together (not united)  
Arranged in two rows  
Folded lengthwise together  
Close together  
Spreading

adaxial  
abaxial  
proximal  
distal  
  
alternate arrangement  
opposite arrangement  
approximate  
distichous  
conduplicate  
compact  
diffused

ABOUT THE SHAPE OF A PART:

If you mean:

Term to use:

Varying from typical  
Imperfectly formed  
Suddenly changing in size and shape  
Needle-shaped  
Sharp pointed  
Tapering to a slender point  
Ending sharply  
Having wings  
Ending in a sharp point  
Shaped like a bow  
Having an awn or bristle-like appendage  
at the tip  
Not regular in shape

aberrant  
abortive  
abrupt  
acicular  
aculeate  
acuminate  
acute  
alate  
apiculate  
arcuate  
  
aristate  
asymmetrical

Gradually tapering  
Curved like a sword  
Flattened laterally  
Triangular

attenuate  
falcate  
compressed  
triquetrous

#### ABOUT THE COLOR:

If you mean:

Term to use:

The purest white  
Pure white  
Milk white  
Turning white  
Brown  
Rusty colored  
Deep brown  
Dirty brown  
The purest red  
Red  
Rosy  
Scarlet  
Brown-red  
Orange-red  
Green  
Deep green  
Light sea green  
Olive green  
Clear bright blue  
Light bright blue  
Violet  
Lemon yellow  
Golden yellow  
Pale yellow  
Brown yellow

niveus  
candidus  
lacteus  
albescent  
fuscus  
ferrugineus  
brunneus  
luridus  
carmine  
rubescens  
roseus  
coccineus  
rubiginose  
cinnabarinus  
virescent  
atroviridis  
glaucus  
olivaceus  
cyaneus  
azureus  
violaceus  
citreus  
aureus  
lutescens  
ochraceus

#### ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF COLOR:

If you mean:

Term to use:

Tinged with that color spreading through that part  
Faintly colored  
Dully colored  
Deeply colored  
Brightly colored  
A mixing of color

suffused  
dilute  
obscure  
saturated  
vivid  
infused

ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE PLANT:

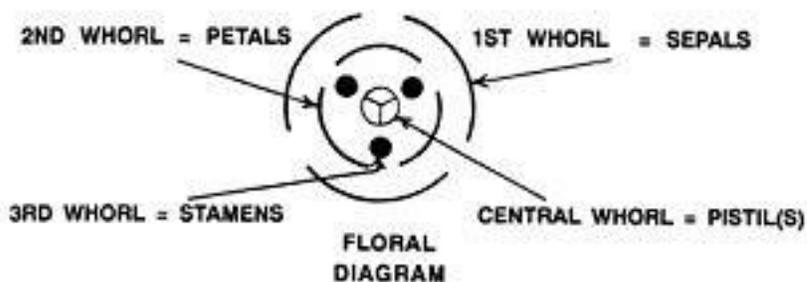
If you mean:

Small  
Very small  
Broad and dwarf  
Tall  
Healthy appearing  
Tall and stout

Term to use:

pumilus  
pusillus  
depressus  
elatus  
robust  
giganteus

## FLORAL TERMINOLOGY



PETALS = COROLLA  
 SEPALS = CALYX  
 } = PERIANTH

STIGMA + STYLE + OVARY = PISTIL = THE GYNOCIDIUM

ANTHER + FILAMENT = STAMEN = THE ANDROECIUM

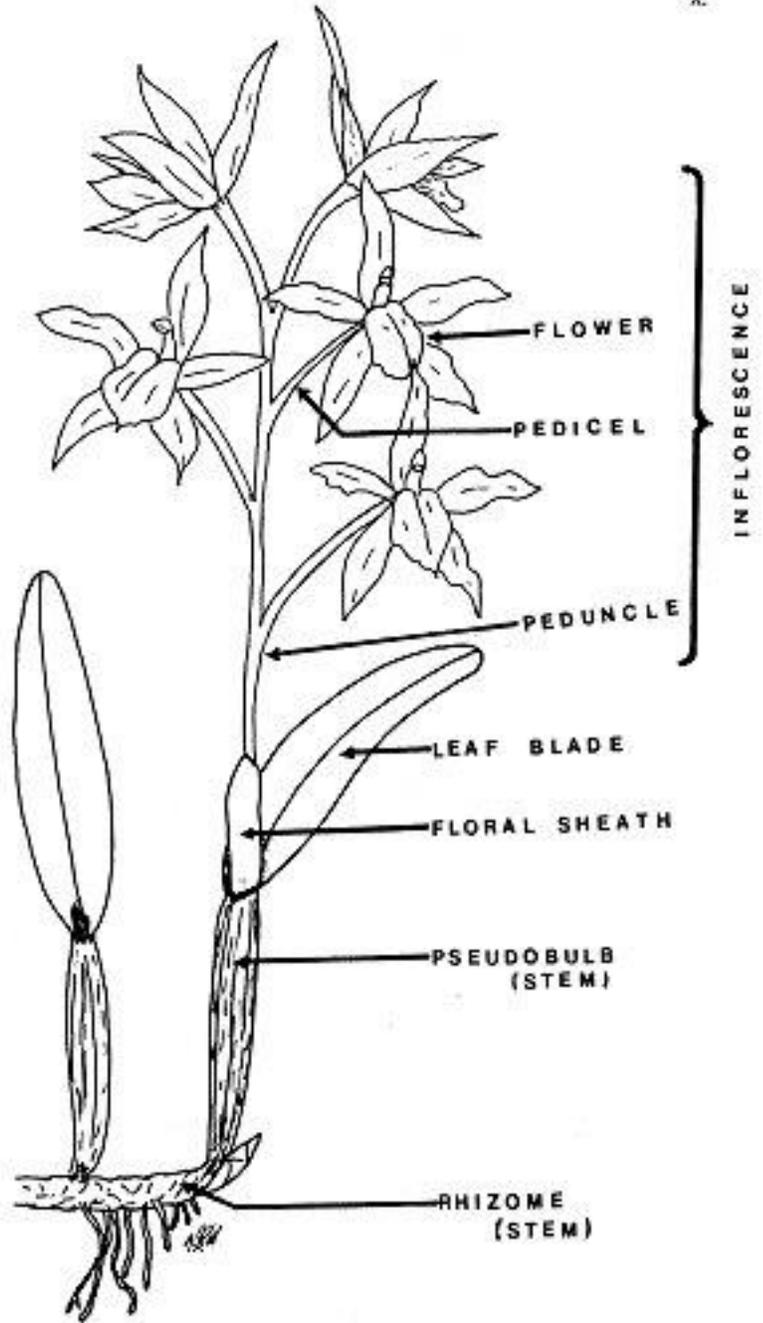
STYLE  
 STIGMA  
 FILAMENT  
 ANTHER (1 OR MORE)  
 } FUSED TO FORM COLUMN

- GYNANDRIUM
- GYNOSTEGIUM
- GYNOSTEMIUM

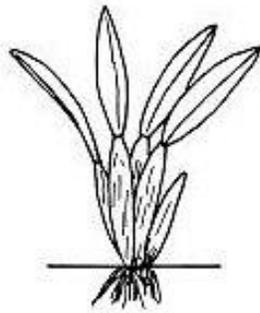
IF THE FLOWER HAS:	TERM TO USE:
ALL 4 WHORLS .....	COMPLETE
1 WHORL MISSING .....	INCOMPLETE
BOTH SEXUAL WHORLS .....	PERFECT
1 SEXUAL WHORL MISSING .....	IMPERFECT
BOTH SEXES IN ONE FLOWER .....	MONOECIOUS
SEXES IN SEPARATE FLOWERS .....	DIOECIOUS
FLOWER CAN BE BISECTED INTO	
TWO EQUAL HALVES ---REGULAR	
FLOWER INCAPABLE OF BEING	
DIVIDED INTO TWO EQUAL HALVES---IRREGULAR	

WHERE THE TERMINAL FLOWER OPENS  
 FIRST AND ARREST THE GROWTH OF THE AXIS----DETERMINATE

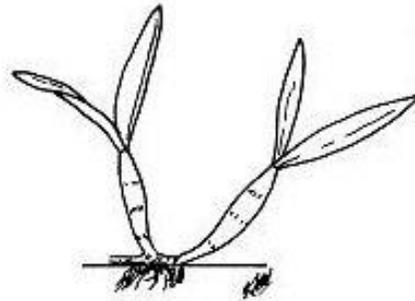
WHERE THERE IS CONTINUAL GROWTH OF THE  
 FLORAL AXIS, THE TERMINAL BUD LAST TO OPEN--INDETERMINATE



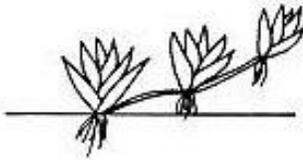
## STEM GROWTH HABIT



AGGREGATE



ASCENDING

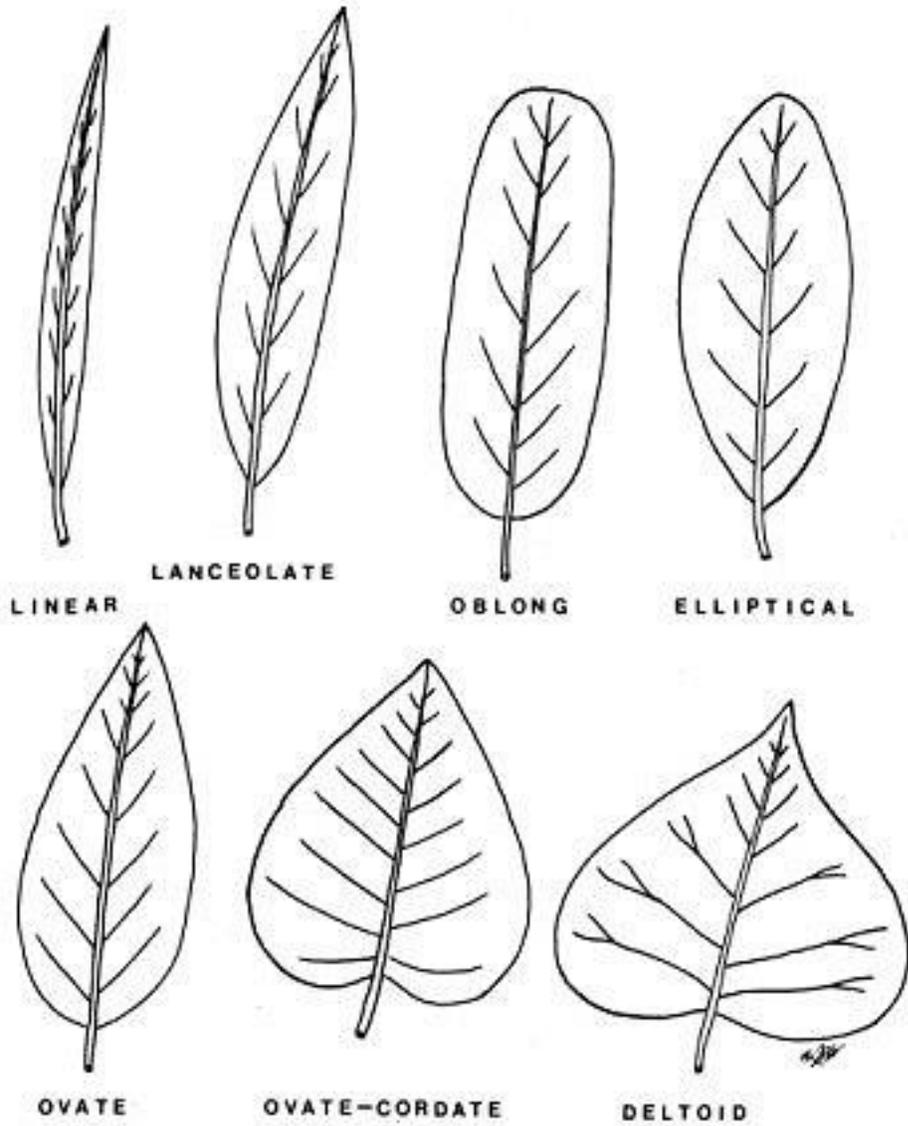


STOLONIFEROUS

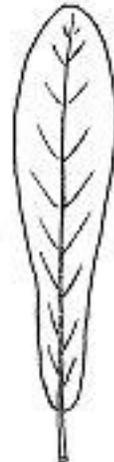


REPENT

# GENERAL SHAPE VARIATION



# GENERAL SHAPE VARIATION



SPATULATE



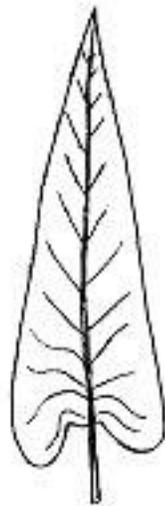
OBLANCEOLATE



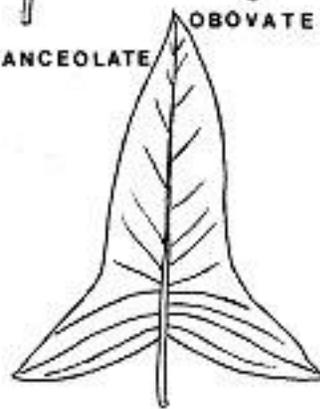
OBOVATE



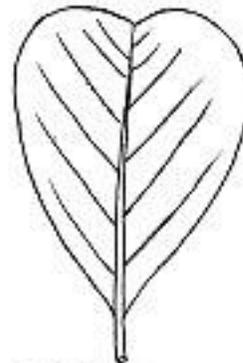
CUNEATE



AURICULATE



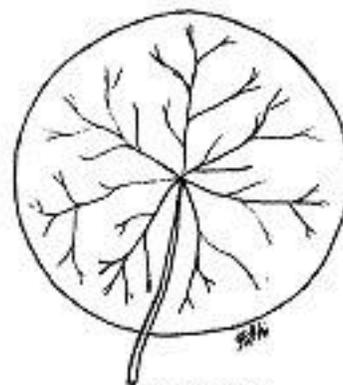
HASTATE



OBOVATE



RENIFORM



PELTATE

MARGINS OF PARTS

xiv.



ENTIRE



SERRULATE



SERRATE



DOUBLY  
SERRATE



DENTATE



CRENATE



SINUATE



UNDULATE

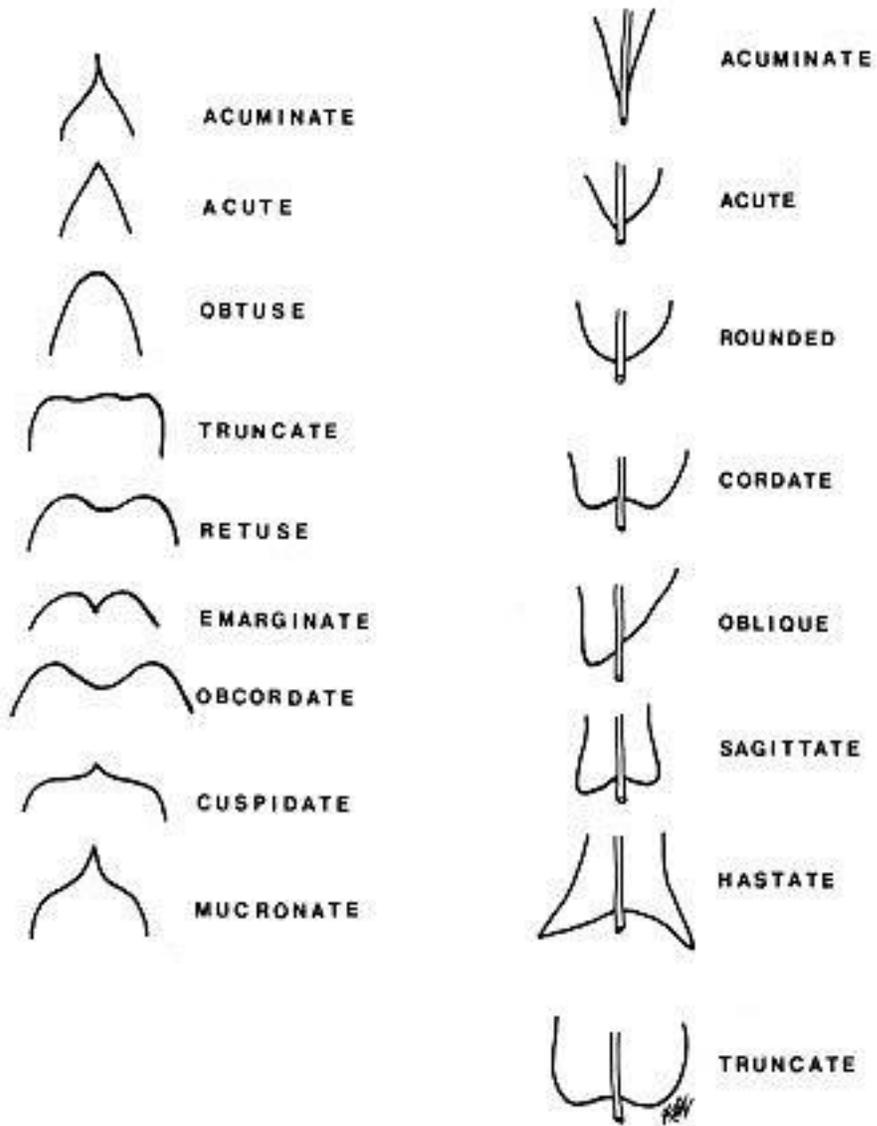


INCISED



LANCINIATE

# APICES AND BASES



# MARKINGS



PUNCTATE



TESSELLATED



BARRED



MACULATE



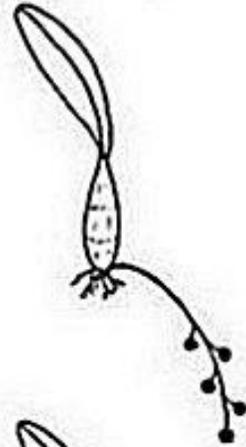
VITTATE

## HABIT OF INFLORESCENCE

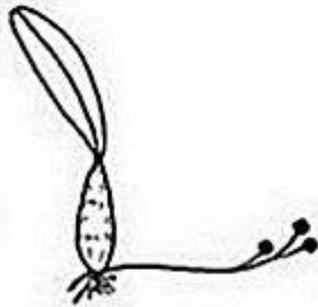
ASCENDING



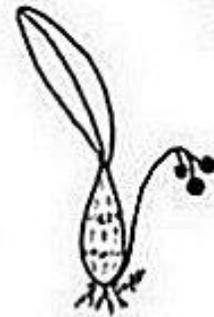
PENOUSLUS



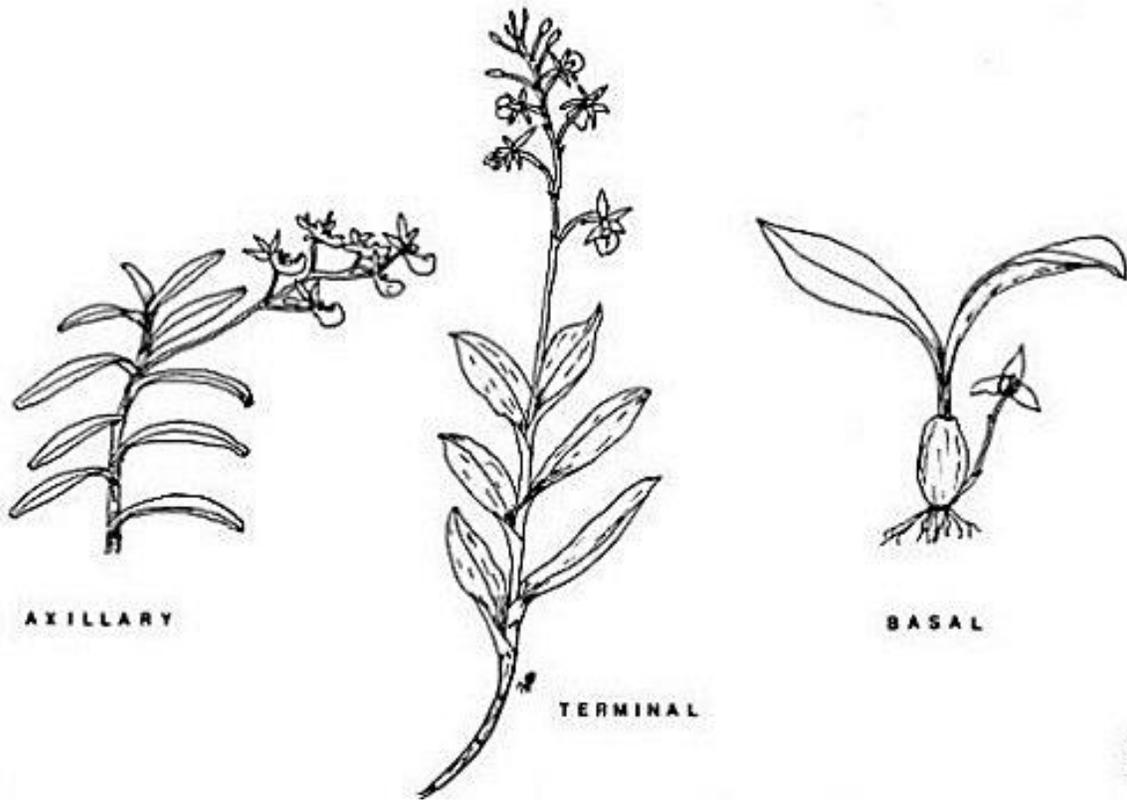
DECUMBENT



RECURVED



## ORIGIN OF INFLORESCENCE



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## TYPES OF INFLORESCENCES



SOLITARY



SPIKE



RACEME



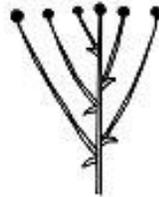
PANICLE



UMBEL  
SIMPLE



UMBEL  
COMPOUND



CORYMB



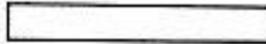
CYME



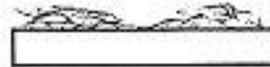
HEAD

**VESTITURE**  
(surface covering)

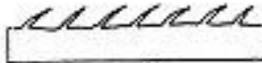
XX.



**GLABROUS**  
DEVOID OF HAIRS OR ANY STRUCTURE



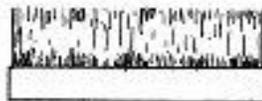
**ARACHNOID**  
COBWEBBY



**BARBED**  
SHORT, RIGID, REFLEXED PROCESSES



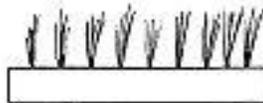
**BEARDED**  
TUFT, LINE OR ZONE OF HAIRS



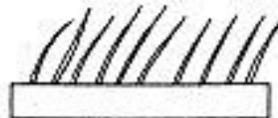
**CANESCENT**  
HAIRS DENSE, FINE, WOOLY



**CILIATE**  
HAIRS AT MARGIN ONLY



**FLOCCOSE**  
HAIRS IN PATCHES OR TUFTS

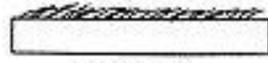


**HISPID**  
LONG STIFF HAIRS

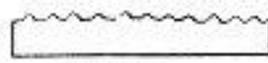
**VESTITURE II**  
(surface covering)



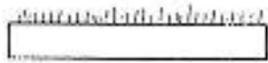
**HIRSUTE**  
WITH LONG, COARSE, STIFF HAIRS



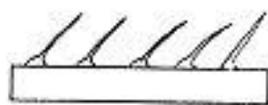
**PANNOSE**  
HAIRS MATTED, FELTLIKE



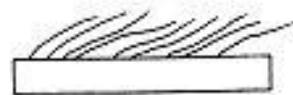
**PAPILLOSE**  
COVERED WITH MINUTE TUBERCLES



**PUBERULENT**  
MINUTELY PUBESCENT OR DOWNY



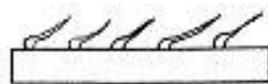
**SCABROUS**  
STIFF, THICKENED HAIRS



**SERICEOUS**  
LONG, SILKY HAIRS, USUALLY APPRESSED

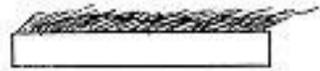


**SETOSE**  
HAIRS BRISTLELIKE

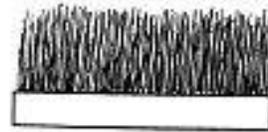


**STRIGOSE**  
SHARP, COARSE, BENT HAIRS WITH BULBOUS BASE

**VESTITURE III**  
(surface covering)



**TOMENLOSE**  
HAIRS WOOLLY, MATTED

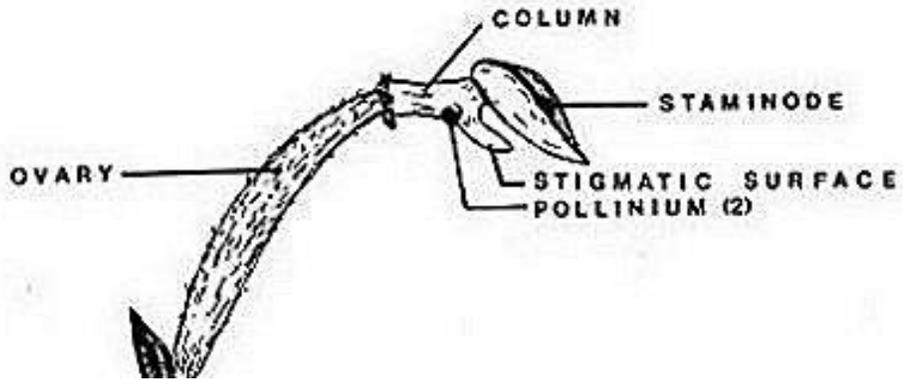
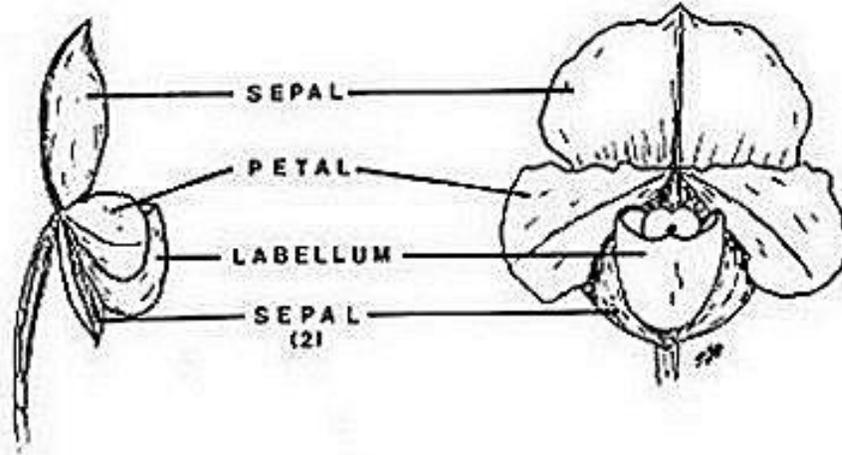


**VELUTINOUS**  
LONG, DENSE, STRAIGHT, SOFT HAIRS

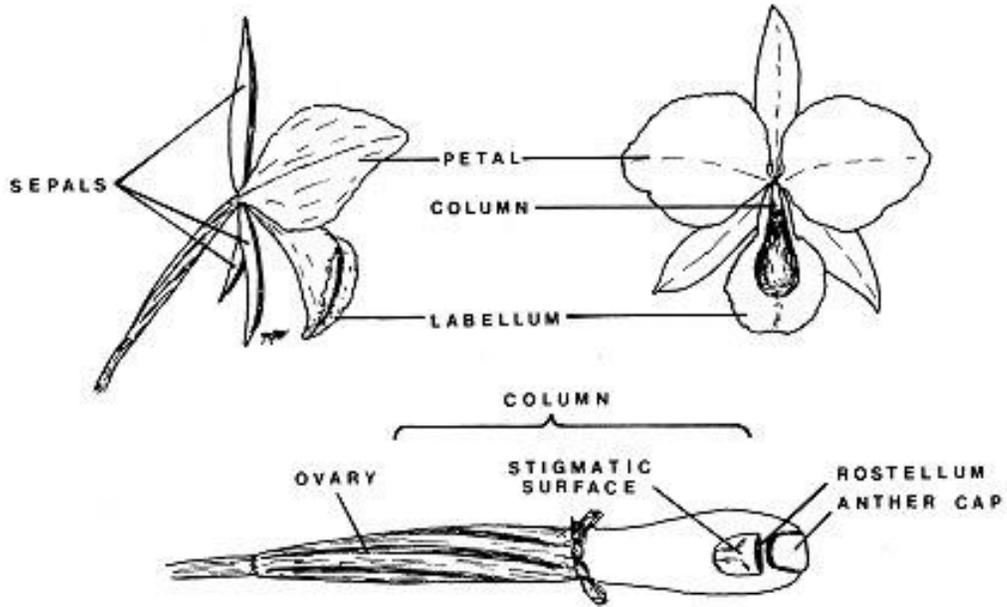


**VILLOUS**  
LONG, SOFT, CROOKED HAIRS

# DIANDROUS



MONANDROUS



## THE GLOSSARY

A glossary by definition is an alphabetical list of terms relating to a specific subject or text. This glossary lists brief definitions of the most important recurrent terms used commonly in the study and pleasure of orchids.

Interalphabetized with the vocabulary are the main prefixes and combining forms used. You will notice that, while they are generally of Greek or Latin origin, many have a special meaning in orchids. Many of the listed terms occur as specific epithets and are adjectives or are used as adjectives. Therefore, they must agree in gender with the genus to which they are connected. It is for this reason, most of the specific epithets are included with one or two endings, each preceded by a hyphen. Where the epithets end in - us, the masculine form is given first, followed by the feminine ending - a and then the neuter ending - um. Those Latin adjectives ending in - is belonging to a different declension and are both masculine and feminine so only the neuter ending - e is given. The reason for giving the declensions is to make it easier to recognize and understand the meaning of the root term regardless of its ending.

### - A -

a, or an. A prefix in compound words meaning without or lacking, usually denoting some absence of a quality or structure.

abaxial (ab-AX-ee-al) The side away from the central axis or stem; dorsal.

abruptus, -a, -m (ab-RUP-tus). Changing suddenly rather than gradually.

acaulescent (ak-aw-LESS-ant), Stemless or apparently so, or with the same stem subterranean.

acaulis (a-KAW-lis), Without a stem or a very short stem.

accrescent (ak-CRESS-ent), Enlarging with age, as the sepals or petals of some flowers.

aceriform (a-CER-a-form), Shaped like a maple leaf.

acerose (a-CER-ose), Needle shaped.

achlamydeous (a-cla-MEED-e-us) Without a calyx or corolla.

acicular (a-CIC-u-lar) Slenderly needle-shaped.

acinaciformis (a-sin-a-si-FORM-is), Shaped like a curved sword.

acotyledonous (a-KOT-a-lee-don-us) Lacking a cotyledon.

acklandiae (ak-KLAN-dee-eye). A name taken to honor Lady Ackland the wife of Sir Thomas Ackland who introduced the species of *Cattleya* from Brazil.

acropetally (ak-ROW-petal-ly). Developing from below upwards; from the axis outward.

acrotonic (ak-ROW-ton-ic). Produced at the end or tip; in the Orchidaceae where the rostellum or viscidium is developed at the apex of the anther.

actinomorphic or -ous (ak-TIN-o-morph-ic). A term applied to a flower where the parts of each whorl are similar in shape and the flower can be divided into two equal halves along more than one longitudinal plane.

aculeatus, -a, -um (ak-yew-li-AY-tus). Prickly, sharp pointed; aculeate.

aculeolate, (ak-yew-o-late). Provided with diminutive prickles.

acuminatus, (ak-yew-min-AY-tus). Tapering at the end to a gradual point.

acute, (ak-YEWT). Terminating in a sharp or well-defined angle.

AD, The abbreviation for the Award of Distinction given by the American Orchid Society to a cross, exhibited individually or collectively, representing a worthy new direction in breeding.

adaxial, (ad-AX-e-al), The side toward the central axis or stem (ventral); the upper side of a leaf.

adherent (ad-HERE-ent), Attached or joined but normally separate.

adnate (ad-NAYT), With one attached entirely or partially to a dissimilar organ; the fusion of unlike parts.

aduncus, -a, -um (a-DUNG-kus), Curved inward; hooked.

adventitious (ad-ven-TISH-us) Indicates buds, roots, etc. which develop in an irregular position or at an unusual time.

adventive (ad-VEN-tive) Growing spontaneously, but not native; imperfectly naturalized.

aemulus, -um (EYE-mew-lus) Rivaling; emulating; trying to equal.

aerial, (AIR-ee-al) In the air.

aestival (es-ti-VAL) Appearing in summer.

aestivation (es-ti-VAY-shun) The arrangement of the parts of the flower in the bud.

affinis, -e (af-FYE-nis) Related or similar to.

affinity, (af-FINN-i-ti) Having similarities of character suggesting a relationship.

africanus, -a, -um (af-rik-CAN-us) Native of Africa.

agglomerate (a-GLOM-er-ayte) Heaped or crowded into a dense cluster but not adhering.

agglutinate (a-GLOO-tin-ayt) United together with a sticky substance like glue.

aggregatus, -a, -um (ag-greg-GAY-tus) Clustered together in a crowded dense mass; aggregate.

ala (pl. ae) (al-AY) A wing; also the lateral petals of a papilionaceous corolla.

alatus, -a, -um (al-AY-tus) Having wings or winglike parts.

alba or album (AL-ba or AL-bum) A clear white; frequently used to describe a white or pale form of a species or hybrid whose flowers are normally colored.

albescens (al-BESS-senz) Whitish; becoming white.

albidofulvus, -a, -um (al-bid-o-FULL-vus) Yellow and white.

albidus, -a, -um (AL-bid-us) Whitish

albino (AL-bye-no) A plant not producing chlorophyll, usually a lethal condition.

albostratus, -a, -um (al-bo-strye-AY-tus) Striped with white.

albus, -a, -um (AL-bus) White.

alifolius, -a, -um (al-lee-FOH-lee-us) Leaves with wings.

allele (ah-LEEL) One of the alternate forms of a gene located at the same position on a homologous chromosome.

alliaceous (ah-lee-A-shus) Having an odor or taste of garlic or onion.

alliance (a-LIE-ance) A group plants associated by appearance, genetics or classification.

allopatric (al-o-PAT-rik) Said of species or populations occurring in the same geographical area and overlapping in range.

aloifolius, -a, -um (al-o-i-FOH-LEE-us) With leaves similar to those of the genus Aloe.

alpestris, -e (al-PEST-ris) Located in the lower mountains.

alpinus, -a, -um (al-PYE-nus) In the high mountains; above tree-line.

alternate (OF LEAVES, ETC.) (AWL-ter-nayt) Borne not opposite each other on the axis but located at regular intervals and at different levels.

altissimus, -a, -um (al-TISS-ee-mus) Very tall, or tallest of all its associates.

altus, -a, -um (AL-tus) Tall.

alveolate, (al-ve-o-LATE) Honeycombed.

alveolation, (al-ve-o-LAY-shun) A honeycombed condition.

alveoli, (al-ve-o-LIE) Pits or depressions suggesting those of a honeycomb.

alveolus, -a, -um (al-ve-o-LAY-tus) Honeycombed, having angular depressions by thin partitions.

AM The abbreviation for the a flower quality award in the American Orchid Society denoting an Award of Merit of 80 to 90 points.

amabilis, -e (a-MAH-bill-iss) Lovely in appearance.

ambiguus, -a, -um (am-BIG-yew-us) Uncertain, doubtful.

amboinensis, -e (am-bor-NEN-sis) Native of the island of Amboina in  
Malaysia.

amesianus, -a, -um (aims-i-AY-nus) Honoring a member of the Ames  
family who were prominent in orchids  
in the United States.

amethystinus, -a, -um (am-eh-this-TYE-nus) Pale violet in color.

amethystoglossus, -a, -um (am-e-this-toh-GLOSS-us) Having an  
amethyst-colored  
lip.

amoenus, -a, -um (am-EEN-us) Charming; delightful.

amorphous (a-MORE-fuss) Without form or shape.

amphicarpous (am-fi-CARP-us) Producing two kinds of fruit.

amphigean (am-fi-JEE-an) Found in both the Old and New World; plants  
distributed  
in both hemispheres.

amplexicaulis, -e (am-plex-i-KAW-lis) Having leaves or bracts clasping the  
stem.

ampliatus, -a, -um (am-pli-AY-tus) Enlarged.

amplus, -a, -us (AM-plus) Large, spacious; great, splendid.

ampullaceus, -a, -um (am-pew-LAY-see-us) With a flask or bottle-shaped  
appearance.

anagenesis - (an-a-GEN-i-sis) Evolutionary change having a continuous  
succession of forms replacing one another  
without branching.

analogous (an-AL-o-gus) Structures related in function or use but not in  
origin.

anastomosing (a-NASS-to-moh-zing) Forming a network.

anceps (AN-ceps) Two-edged; wavering.

ancipital (an-SIP-i-tal) Compressed or flattened with two edges.

ancipitous (an-SIP-i-tus) Flattened.

androgynous (an-DROJ-in-us) With both male and female flowers on the same inflorescence; both male and female.

androecium (an-DREE-see-um) The stamens collectively; the male part of the flower.

androphore (an-DRO-for) A support or column on which stamens are raised.

anemophilous (an-e-MOF-il-us) Having wind-borne pollen.

aneuploidy (an-NEW- ploy-de) A change in the chromosome number caused by the loss or addition of parts of the genome, usually on chromosome at a time.

angiosperm (AN-jee-o-sperm) Plants of the class Angiosperma that have their seeds borne within a pericarp (ovary).

angraecoid (an-GRYE-koyd) Any orchid or group of orchids resembling the genus *Angraecum* in habit.

angustifolius, -a, -um (an-gus-ti-FOH-lee-us) Having narrow leaves.

annual (AN-yew-ul) A plant that goes through its complete life cycle from seed to death in one year.

annulus (AN-yew-lus) A ring.

annulatus, -a, -um (an-yew-LAY-tus) Provided with rings.

anomalus, -a, -um (an-OM-al-us) Having irregular arrangement; a departure from regular.

anosmus, -a, -um (an-OZ-mus) Lacking any scent.

antenniferous, -a, -um (an-ten-IF-fer-us) To bear antennae.

anterior (an-TEER-i-or) On the front side and away from the axis.

anthelate (an-THA-late) With elongate flower-bearing branches.

anther (AN-ther) The pollen bearing part of a stamen; in orchids the apical part the column.

anther-cap (AN-ther cap) The covering over the pollinia of the orchid's column.

anthesis (an-THEE-siss) The period or state of the elaboration in a flower.

anticous (an-TIC-o-lus) The part most remote or turned away from the axis; the forward part of something.

antipodal (an-TIP-o-dal) On opposite sides; the exact opposite.

antrorse (an-TRORSS) Directed upward or forward.

apertus, -a, -um (ap-ERT-us) Exposed; open, bare.

apetalous (a-PET-a-lus) Lacking petals.

apex (AY-peks) The tip of a structure; the end of the axis.

aphyllus, -a, -um (AY-fill-us) Without leaves.

apiatus, -a, -um (a-pee-AY-tus) Like a bee.

apical (AY-pi-cal) At or near the tip.

apiculatus, -a, -um (a-pik-yew-LAY-tus) A sharp and short, but not stiff, in which a structure might end.

apicule (AY-pik-yewl) A short point at the tip of a leaf or floral structure.

apiferus, -a, -um (a-PIFF-er-us) to bear a bee-like flower.

apocarpous (ap-o-CARP-us) Having separate carpels.

apogamous (a-POG-a-mus) Developed with fertilization; parthenogenetic.

apomorphy (AP-oh-morf-ee) Any character not ancestral within a given taxon.

apophysis (a-POF-a -sis) An enlargement or swelling of the surface of an organ.

appendage (ap-PEND-age) An attached subsidiary structure or secondary part.

appendiculatus, -a, -um (a-pen-dik-yew-LAY-tus) Having appendages such as a crest or any vestiture.

appressus, -a, -um (ap-PRESS-us) Lying close to or flat against another organ.

approximate (a-PROK-si-mit) Positioned close together but not united.

apterus, -a, -um (AP-ter-us) Wingless.

AQ An abbreviation for the Award of Quality given by the American Orchid Society for a quality group of plants.

aquatic (a-QUAT-tic) Living in the water.

arachnoid (a-RACK-noyd) Similar to a cobweb with slender entangled hairs.

araneose (a-RAN-e-os) Like a spider's web.

arboreous (ar-BOR-us) Tree-like or pertaining to trees.

arborescent (ar-BOR-es-cent) Approaching the size and habit of a tree.

artic-alpine (AR-tic-AL-pine) Used for plants of artic and alpine distribution but found only south of the Artic zone.

arcuate (AR-kyew-ayt) Moderately curved; arching.

areolate (AH-re-o-late) Marked out into small spaces; reticulate.

areole (AH-re-ole) A small space on a surface; an intervening space such as between the veins of a leaf.

aremiacus (a-REM-e-akus) Having fragrance.

argenteus, -a, -um (ar-JEN-tee-us) Silvery.

argillaceous (ar-JILL-a-shus) Of clayey quality.

arietinus, -a, -um (a-ri-eh-TYE-nus) Shaped like a ram's head.

aristatus, -a, -um (a-ris-TAY-tus) Having bristle-like appendages.

armed (ARMD) Provided with thorns, prickles, spines, barbs, etc.

armeniacus, -a, -um (ar-men-i-AY-kus) Apricot colored.

articulatus, -a, -um (ar-tik-yew-AY-tus) Jointed; having a node or joint.

ascendens (a-SEN-denz) Curving upwards: rising at an oblique angle.

asepalous (a-SEP-a-lus) Without sepals.

aseptic (AY-sep-tic) The complete absence of contamination by microorganisms; germ free.

asepsis (AY-sep-sis) The methods used to prevent contamination of an object or place by microorganisms; also the methods use to prevent the infection of a person.

asexual (ay-SEK-shul) Without the involvement of sexual structures; sexless.

asper, -a, -um (AS-per) Roughened.

asperatus, -a, -um (as-per-AY-tus) Rough to the touch.

assurgent (as-SURG-ent) Ascending.

asymbiotic (a-SYM-be-ot-ik) Growing without the nutritional help of a mycorrhizal fungus.

asymmetrical (ay-sim-MET-ri-kal) A lack in the proportion of the parts of a structure.

atratus, -a, -um (a-TRAY-tus) Appearing dark.

atropurpureus, -a, -um (a-tro-pur-PUR-ee-us) Dark purple in color.

atrorubens (a-tro-REW-benz) Deep reddish colored.

attenuatus, -a, -um (at-ten-yew-AY-tus) Gradually tapering to a point.

angustifolius, -a, -um (aw-GUS-ti-foh-lee-us) Having large leaves.

augustus, -a, -um (aw-GUST-tus) Majestic, noble.

aurantiacus, -a, -um (aw-ran-tee-AY-kus) Orange colored.

aureoflavus, -a, -um (aw-ree-FLAY-vus) Golden yellow.

aureus, -a, -um (AW-ree-us) Golden color.

auricle (AW-rik-ul) An ear-shaped appendage or lobe.

auriculatus, -a, -um (aw-rik-yew-LAY-tus) Furnished with ear-like appendages.

Australasia (oss-strall-AYS-ee-ah) A region consisting of Australia and islands of the southwest Pacific.

australis, -e (aw-STRAY-lis) Southern.

autophyte (aw-toh-FYT) A plant capable of making its own food; a green plant.

autumnalis, -e (aw-tum-NAL-is) Blooming or occurring in autumn.

auxin (AWK-zin) A class of plant hormones which effect specific growth responses.

awl-shaped (AWL-shaypt) Tapering gradually upward from the base to a slender or rigid point.

awn (AWN) A bristle-like part or appendage; any small pointed process.

axil (AK-sil) The angle formed between any two organs.

axile (Ak-e-ill) In the axis.

axillaris, -e (ax-ill-AIR-is) Borne in the axil; in or related to the axis.

axis (AK-siss) The central part of a longitudinal support on which organs or parts are arranged; the main stem.

- B -

baccate (BAK-ate) Being pulpy or fleshy like a berry.

bascillaris, -e (bass-ill-AIR-iss) Rod or stick-shaped

backbulb (BAK-bulb) An old pseudobulb usually leafless and commonly used for asexual propagation.

back cross (BAK-krawss) Mating one of the progeny back to one of the original parents.

bactericide (bak-TEER-i-side) A chemical substance that kills bacteria.

bambusifolius, -a, -um (bam-boo-see-FOH-lee-us) With leaves linear like a bamboo.

banded (BAN-ded) Marked with cross bars or horizontal lines of color; with prominent ribs or other structures.

barbatulus, -a, -um (bar-BAT-yew-lus) With a small beard.

barbatus, -a, -um (bar-BAT-tus) Bearded.

barbed (BAR-bd) Furnished with rigid points or short bristles, usually reflexed as the barb of a fish-hook.

barbigerus, -a,-um (bar-BIJ-er-us) With a beard of long weak hairs forming a fringed lip on some plants.

bark The external group of tissues of woody stems or roots external to the growing tissue.

basal (BAY-sul) At or near the base.

basifixed (BAY-su-fix-ed) Attached at the base.

basionym (bay-so-NIM) A specific or intraspecific name which has priority and is retained if transferred to a new or different taxon.

basipetal (bay-si-PET-al) Developing from the apex toward the base; from the tip down.

basitonic (bay-so-TON-ik) Having the rostellum or viscidium associated with the base of the anther.

beaked (BEE-ked) Ending in a firm prolonged slender tip.

bellus (BELL-us) Having beauty.

benchmark (BEN-sh-mark) A standard or point of reference.

bi- or bis A Latin prefix signifying two, twice, or doubly.

bicallose (bye-KULL-os) Having two callosities.

bidentate (bye-DEN-tate) With two teeth.

biennial (bye-EN-ee-ul) Of two years: a plant that requires two years to flower and produce seed.

binomial system (by-NOHM-ee-al SYS-tun) The system of naming plants, animals or microorganisms whereby each living organism has at least a generic and a specific name.

biotype (bye-O-ty) Members of a local population with identical tolerance ranges; essentially a genotype.

boliviensis (bo-LIV-e-en-sis) From Bolivia.

borealis, -e (bor-ee-AY-lis) Northern: from the north.

boss (BAWSS) A prominent center or projection on a flat circular surface.

"botanical" (bo-TAN-i-kul) A term used in orchidology to indicate a species of orchid that is not grown commercially for its flowers.

brachiatus, -a, -um (brack-ee-AY-tus) Branched or having long tails or arms.

brachypetalus, -a, -um (brack-ee-PET-a-lus) Having petals looking like arms.

bract (BRAKT) A modified leaf that cover the developing stem or flowers.

bracteatus, -a, um (brack-tee-AY-tus) Having bracts.

bracteiform (BRACK-tee-form) Like the shape and form of a bract.

bracteole (BRACK-tee-ohl) A small bract.

bracteosus, -a, -um (brak-tee-OH-suss) Having bracts or the tendency to develop them.

bractlet (BRACK-let) A secondary bract, as one upon the pedicel of a flower.

branchlet (BRAN-sh-let) One of the divisions of a branch.

brasiliensis (brah-ZIL-ee-n-sis) From Brazil.

brevis, -e (BREV-is) Short: abbreviated.

brevifolius, -a, -um (brev-ee-FOH-lee-us) Short leaved.

breviscapus, -a, -um (brev-ee-SCAY-pus) Having a short scape or flower stalk.

bristle (BRISS-al) A stiff, slender hair or any slender body resembling a hair.

bristly (BRISS-ly) Provided with bristles.

brumalis, -e (broo-MAY-lis) Winter flowering.

brunneus, -a, -um (BRUNN-ee-us) Brown or russet colored.

buccinator (BUCK-sin-ay-ter) The shape of a shepard's horn.

bucephalus (byew-SEFF-ay-lus) Bull headed.

bud (BUHD) The growing area of a stem or flower covered usually by scale leaves.

bulb (BUHLB) A subterranean leaf-bud with fleshy scales or coats.

bulbiferous (BUHLB-if-er-us) Bearing bulbs.

bulbil (BUHLB-bill) A small bulb.

bulbosus, -a, -um (bohl-BOH-sus) Having bulbs or being bulb-like

bulbiformis, -e (buhl-bi-FORM-is) Shaped like a bulb.

bullatus, -a, -um (bull-AY-tus) Having a blistered surface or puckered.

bursicle (BER-sick-ul) A pouch-like receptacle.

bursicule (Ber-sick-cul) The pouch-like expansion of the stigma into which the caudicle of some orchids is inserted.

caducous (ka-DUC-us) Falling off very early.

calathiform (kal-ATH-i-form) Cup-shaped.

**CBR** A abbreviation for a Certificate of Botanical Recognition award given by the American Orchid Society to a cultivar of a species or natural hybrid deemed worthy of recognition for rarity, novelty and educational value.

caerulescens (see-roo-LESS-enz) Having a tendency to be blue; bluish.

caeruleus, -a, -um (see-ROOL-ee-us ) Pale indigo blue; dark blue.

caesius, -a, -um (see-see-us) Blue-gray.

caespitosus, -a, -um (ses-pi-TOH-sus) Growing in dense mate: a tft.

calcaratus, -a, -um (kal-kar-AY-tus) Having a spur.

calcareus, -a, -um (kal-KAIR-ee-tus) Pertaining to lime or chalky; lime loving.

calcariformis, -e (kal-kair-i-FORM-iss) Shaped like a spur.

calceolatus (kal-see-oh-LAY-tus) Shaped like a shoe.

californicus, -a, -um (kal-i-FORN-i-kus) Of California.

callistus, -a, -um (kal-ISS-tus) Very beautiful.

callosity (kal-LAHSS-i-tee) A thickened and hardened part.

callus (KAL-lus) A hard protuberance or thickening.

calocheilus, -a, -um (kal-oh-KYE-lus) With a beautiful lip.

calyptratus, -a, -um (kal-lip-TRAY-tus) Having a small cup-shaped hood.

calyptrisformis, -e (kal-lip-tree-FORM-iss) Having a hood shaped form.

calyx (KAY-likes) The collective term for all of the sepals; the outer whorl of a flower.

cambium (KAM-bee-um) A layer of dividing cells located between the xylem and phloem which produces secondary xylem and phloem.

campanulatus, -a, -um (kam-pan-yew-LAY-tus) Bell-shaped; cup-shaped with a broadened rim.

canaliculatus, -a, -um (kan-al-i-kyew-LAY-tus) Having longitudinal channeled with grooves.

candidus, -a, -um (KAN-did-us) Pure lustrous white.

canescens (kan-ESS-enz) Having offwhite or gray hairs.

canus, -a, -um (KAY-nus) Offwhite; ash-colored.

cap (KAPP) A sac-like removable covering of a part, as an operculum or anther cap.

capensis, -e (kay-PEN-siss) From the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

capillaris, -e (kap-ill-AIR-is) Very slender: hairlike

capillatus, -a, -um (kap-et-AY-tus) Growing on a head or dense cluster; shaped like a head.

capitulum (ka-PIT-u-yew-lum) A close body of sessile flowers; a small head.

capsule (KAP-syew) A simple dry dehiscent fruit composed of two or more carpels.

cardinalis, -e (kar-din-AY-liss) Scarlet or cardinal red.

caricinus, -a, -um (kar-i-SYN-us) Resembling a sedge.

carina (ka-RYE-na) A keel-like part of ridge on the surface of a leaf or floral segment.

carinatus, -a, -um (ka-ri-NAYT-us) With a keel.

cariniferus, -a, -us (ka-ri-NIFF-e-rus) Bearing a keel.

carneus, -a, -um (KAR-nee-us) Flesh-colored, deep pink.

carnosus, -a, -um (kar-NOH-sus) Fleshy: pulpy.

carotene, KAIR-o-teen) Any of several orange or red crystalline hydrocarbon pigments found in the chromoplasts of plants.

carpel (KAR-pel) One or several modified leaves making up all or a part of a pistil; a simple pistil has a single carpel.

cartilaginous (kar-ti-LAJ-in-us) Firm and tough but flexible, like cartilage of the core of an apple or pear.

cataphyll (KAT-a- fill) An undeveloped leaf, as at the beginning of growth; a bract which is sheath-like at the base of the pseudobulb or leaf found in certain orchids.

cauda (KAW-da) A tail or tail-like appendage; the singular of caudae.

caudatus, -a, -um (kaw-DAY-tus) Having a tail or tails.

caudicle (KAW-dik-ul) The thread-like or strap-shaped stalk of a pollinium.

caulescens (kaw-LESS-enz) Having the tendency to develop stems or producing a visible stem.

cauline (KAW-line) Belonging to the stem.

cavus -a, -um (KAH-vus) Having a pit; hollow or with a cavity.

CCE The abbreviation for a Certificate of Cultural Excellence award given by the American Orchids Society to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must score over 90 points on the point scale.

CCM The abbreviation for a Certificate of Cultural Merit award given by the American Orchids Society to the exhibitor of a specimen plant of robust health and appearance with an unusually large number of flowers. The plant must score between 80 and 89 points inclusive on the point scale.

cebolleta (seh-boh-LEE-ta) With leaves that resemble the chive whose French name is ciboullete.

cell (SELL) The structural and functional unit of plants and animals which is surrounded by a membrane; also a compartment of an organ.

cellular (SELL-yew-lar) Made up of cells or arranged like cells.

centrifugal (sen-TRIFF-yew-gul) Moving or tending to move or develop from the center outward.

centripetal (sen-TRIP-i-tal) Moving or developing from the outside to the center; the opposite of centrifugal.

centrum (SEN-trum) The center part of any structure: the central air space in hollow stems.

cepifolius, -a, -um (sep-i-FOH-lee-us) With leaves like those of an onion.

cepiformis, -e (sep-i-FORM-is) Onion shaped.

ceraceus, -a, -um (se-RAY-see-us) Like wax; waxy.

cereolus, -a, -um (se-OH-lus) Waxy

cerinus, -a, -um (seer-EYE-nus) Wax colored; the appearance of wax.

ceruus, -a, -um (ser-NEW-us) Nodding or drooping.

channeled (CHAN-uld) Grooved longitudinally; canaliculate.

chartaceous (char-TAY-shus) With the texture of writing paper; papery.

chimaera (kim-EER-a) A mythological monster that spewed fire: plants comprised of a mix of genetic tissues.

chinensis, -e (chin-NEN-sis) From China or referring to China.

chloranthus, -a, -um (klo-RAN-thus) With green or yellow-green flowers.

chlorchilon (klo-ro-KYE-lon) Having a green labellum.

chlorophyll (KLOR-o-fill) The green pigment found in chloroplasts that is responsible for the production of food by the process of photosynthesis.

chlorops (KLOR-ops) Pale green.

chlorotic (KLOR-rot-ik) Becoming yellow due to the breakdown of the chlorophyll.

chorisis (KLOR-i-sis) The separation of an organ (leaf, petal, stamen, etc.)

into more than one.

chromogen (KRO-mo-jen) To produce color; a precursor of a biochemical chemical which is responsible for a color.

chromoplast (KROH-mo-plast) A pigmented plastid in cells containing red or yellow pigment; the coloring pigment found in flowers and fruits.

chromosome (KROH-mo-sohm) The gene-containing structures made up of DNA plus protein in the nuclei of eucaryotic cells.

chrysanthus, -a, -um (cries-AN-thus) Golden flowered.

chrysocrepis, -e (cries-o-KREEP-iss) Golden shoed.

chrysothyrsus, -a, -um (cries-o-THEER-sus) With golden racemes.

chryotis, -e (cries-OH-tis) With golden ears.

chrysotoxus, -a, -um (cries-o-TOKS-us) In a golden arch.

cilia (SIL-ee-a) Having hairs at the margin of a structure.

ciliate (SIL-ee-ate) Marginally fringed with hairs,

ciliolate (SIL-ee-o-late) Minutely ciliate.

cinereus, -a, -um (sin-EER-ee-us) A light gray or ash color.

cinnabarinus, -a, -um (sin-na-bar-EYE-nus) The color of vermilion

cinnamomeus, -a, -um (sin-na-MOH-mee-us) Brown colored like cinnamon.

circinatus, -a, -um (sir-sin-AY-tus) Coiled from the tip downward.

circumboreal (sir-kum-BOHR-e-al) The northern regions of the world.

circumferential (sir-kum-FER-ent-u-al) At or near the circumference, surrounding around structure.

circumscissile (sir-kum-SISS-ul) Dehiscing by a regular transverse circular line of division.

cirratus , -a, -um (si-RAY-tus) Possessing tendrils.

cirrus (SEER-rus) A tendril or tendril-like; the tendril-like extension on the species of the genus Phalaenopsis.

citrinus, -a, -um (si-TRYE-nus) Lemon colored.

citrosmus, -a, -um (si-TROZ-mus) Lemon scented.

clade (KLAYD) A taxon consisting of a single species and its descendants; also grade.

cladistics (KLAY-dist-iks) The study which involves the analysis of the knowledge concerning the similarities among organisms and usually results in a branched diagram, the cladogram.

cladogenesis (KLAY-doh-jen-i-sis) Evolutionary change having a treelike branching of the taxa.

cladogram (KLAY-doh-gram) An hypothesis in the form of a diagram of the phylogeny of a taxon or group showing the features upon which the clade is based.

cladophyll (KLAY-doh-phil) A flattened stem with the appearance of a leaf and often bearing flowers or leaves on its margin.

classification (class-if-i-KAY-shun) The placing of a plant or animal or groups of plants or animals in groups or categories according to a particular plan or sequence and in conformity with a nomenclatural system.

clavatus, -a, -um (klav-AY-tus) Shaped like a club.

clavellatus, -a, -um (klav-el-LAY-tus) Shaped like a small club.

claw (KLAW) The narrowed base or stalk of a petal, sepal or lip.

cleft (cl-EFT) Deeply cut.

cleistogamous (klise-TOG-a-mus) Self-pollinating in the unopened or just opened flower.

clinandrium (kli-NAN-dree-um) The anther bed in orchids; that part of the column in which the anther is located.

cline (KLYNE) A gradation of genetic properties of a population along an environmental gradient.

clonal name (KLOHN-al) The name given to a particular clone; cultivar.

clone (KLOHN) The group of individual organisms produced asexually from a single cell, group of cells or a sexually produced individual.

clypeatus, -a, -um (kli-pee-AY-tus) Like a shield.

cm. The abbreviation for centimeter, a unit of length in the metric system which is equal to one-hundredth of a meter or 0.39 inch.

coetaneous (ko-a-TAN-ee-us) Of the same age; flowering as the leaves expand.

coalesce (koh-a-LESS) Similar parts of a flower growing together.

coalescence (koh-a-LESS-ents) The union of similar parts or organs.

coarctatus, -a, -um (ko-ark-TAY-tus) Crowded or pressed together.

coccineus, -a, -um (kok-SIN-ee-us) Bright scarlet in color.

cochlearis, -e (kok-lee-AY-ris) Shaped like a spoon.

cochleatus, -a, -um (kok-lee-AY-tus) Spiraled like a snail shell.

coelestris, -e (see-LESS-tis) Sky blue in color.

coevolution (koh-EV-a-lew-shun) The evolution of a species that closely parallels or follows the evolution of another.

coherent (koh-HEAR-ent) The union of two or more similar parts or organs.

colchicine (kohl-chi-SEEN) A carcinogenic compound obtained from the liliaceous genus *Colchicum* which is used artificially to double the chromosome numbers through the interference of the microtubule function during mitosis.

collateral (koh-LATT-er-al) Side by side or corresponding to the same position.

collinus, -a, -um (kol-LYE-nus) Referring to or from a hill.

colonial (koh-LOW-nee-al) Forming colonies; used chiefly for plants with subterranean connections.

coloratus -a, -um (kol-or-AY-tus) Having color.

colossus (ko-LAHS-sus) Very large; gigantic in size.

column (KOL-um) The coalesced stamens and pistils united into one body in the Orchidaceae; botanically known as the gynostemium.

column foot (KOL-um-foot) A proliferation at the base of the lower side of the column to which the labellum is usually attached.

column wings (KOL-um-wings) The flat appendages projecting from the apex of the column of some orchid genera as in the genus *Oncidium*.

columnar (KOL-um-nar) Column or pillar shaped.

coma (KOH-ma) A tuft of hairs, especially at the tips of seeds.

comatus, -a, -um (koh-MAY-tus) Furnished with hair.

commissure (kom-MISS-yur) The surface by which one carpel meets another.

communis, -e (ko-MEW-nis) Commonly found; growing with others.

commutatus, -a, -um (ko-mew-TAY-tus) Changing or having changed.

comose (KOH-mose) Furnished with or resembling a tuft of hairs.

compactus, -a, -um (kom-PAK-tus) Compact or densely arranged.

complanatus, -a, -um (kom-plan-AY-tus) A part flattened or level.

complete (kom-pleet) A flower possessing all four whorls, that is, sepals, petals, stamens and pistil(s).

complex (kom-plex) A taxonomic designation for a group of species whose separation is based on minor characteristics that are not clearly distinguishable.

complicate (KUM-pli-kayt) Folded upon itself.

compot (KOM-pot) The shortened form of community pot; a pot having several to many seedlings.

compound (KOM-pound) Composed of two or more similar parts united into one whole; example: compound leaf - a leaf divided into separate leaflets.

compressus, -a, -um (kom-PRESS-us) Flattened especially laterally.

concavus, -a, -um (KON-ka-vus) Hollowed out like a basin.

conchiformis, -e (kon-chee-FORM-is) Shaped like a shell.

concinnus, -a, -um (kon-SIN-nus) Neat: elegant.

concolor (KON-kol-or) Of uniform color.

conduplicate (kon-DOO-pli-kayt) Folded together lengthwise.

confluent (KON-floo-ent) Merging into one; blended into one.

conformis, -e (kon-FORM-is) Conforming to type. Also similar to related species.

congeneric (kon-jen-AIR-ik) A species in the same genus; crowded together.

congestus, -a, -um (kon-JEST-us) Crowded or concentrated into a small area or space.

conglomerates, -a, -um (kon-glo-mer-AY-tus) Densely clustered or heaped together.

conjugatus, -a, -um (kon-joo-GAY-tus) Coupled or in pairs.

conjunctus, -a, -um (kon-JUNK-tus) Joined together.

conical (kon-ee-cal) Cone-shaped.

connate (kon-NATE) United; fusion of like parts.

connective (kon-NEK-tiv) The portion of a stamen which connects the two locules.

connivent (kon-NYE-vent) Coming into contact; converging.

conoidal (kon-OH-i-dal) Nearly conical.

conopseus, -a, -um (kon-OP-see-us) Having a covering; gnat-like.

contorted (kon-TOR-ted) Twisted; bent or twisted on itself.

conspecific (kon-SPEE-sif-ic) Of the same species.

conspersus, -a, -um (kon-SPUR-sus) Scattered.

constrictus, -a, -um (kon-STRIK-tus) Drawn together.

contracted (kon-TRAK-ted) Drawn together.

convallarioides (kon-val-lar-i-OH-i-deez) Like the common Lily of the Valley, Convallaria.

convergence (kon-VER-jence) A type of parallel evolution resulting in a similar form or structure in different organisms.

convolute (KON-vo-loot) Rolled up longitudinally.

coralloid (KAW-ral-oyd) Coral-like.

cordatus, -a, -um (kor-DAY-tus) Heart-shaped.

coriaceous, -a, -um (kori-AY-see-us) Leathery in texture.

corm (KORM) An erect, thickened, underground stem lacking fleshy scale leaves but having thin scaly leaves.

cormatose (KOR-ma-tos) Bearing corms.

corneus, -a, -um (KOR-nee-us) Tough or horny.

corniculatus, -a, -um (kor-nik-yew-LAY-tus) Furnished with a small horn or horn.

cornigerus, -a, -um (kor-NIJ-er-us) Possessing horns.

cornu-cervi (kor-new-SIR-vee) Like a stag's horn; flattened like an antler.

cornucopiate (kor-nu-KOH-pee-ayt) Shaped like a horn of plenty  
(cornucopia).

corolla (ko-ROL-la) A collective term for all of the petals; the second whorl  
of floral segments.

corolline (ko-ROL-line) Seated on a corolla; corolla-like, petaloid or  
belonging to a corolla.

coronarius, -a, -um (ko-ro-NAY-ri-us) Encircling like a crown.

corrugatus, -a, -um (ko-roo-GAY-tus) Wrinkled or in folds.

cortical (KOR-ti-kal) Belonging to the bark (cortex).

corymb (KOR-imb) A flat-topped or convex open flower cluster, in the  
stricter term it is equivalent to a contracted raceme,  
progressing in its flowering from the margin inward.

costa (KOS-ta) A rib; a midrib or mid-nerve.

costatus, -a, -um (kos-TAY-tus) Ribbed.

cotyledon (kot-i-LEE-don) The foliar portion or first leaves (one, two or  
more) of the embryo as formed in the seed; the  
seed leaves of the embryo.

crassifolius, -a, -um (krass-i-FOH-lee-us) Thick leaved.

crassinodis, -e (krass-i-NOH-dis) Having markedly swollen nodes.

crateriform (CRAY-ter-i-form) In the shape of a saucer or cup.

crenatus, -a, -um (kren-AY-tus) With shallowly rounded teeth; obtusely  
rounded teeth.

crenulatus, -a, -um (kren-yew-LAY-tus) Finely crenate.

crepidatus, -a, -um (krep-i-DAY-tus) With a shape of a sandal or slipper.

crested (KREST-ed) Bearing elevated ridges or projections on the surface,  
especially on the labellum.

cretaceous, -a, -um (kret-AY-see-us) Chalky white.

crimped (kr-IMPED) Puckered into small waves.

criniferus, -a, -um (kry-NYE-tus) With hairs on the surface; long weak hairs.

crispus, -a, -um (KRISP-us) Finely waved on the margin; curled.

cristagalli (kris-ta-GAL-ly) Like a cock's comb.

cristatus, -a, -um (kris-TAY-tus) Bearing a crest.

cross (KRAWSS) To physically transfer the pollen from the anther of one plant to the stigma of another or the offspring resulting from this activity.

cruciatu, -a, -um (kroo-si-AY-tus) In the shape of a cross.

cruentus, -a, -um (kroo-EN-tus) Having the color of blood.

crumenatus, -a, -um (kroo-men-AY-tus) With the shape of a purse.

cryptogram (KRYP-to-gram) A plant reproducing by spores instead of seeds, such as fern, mosses, or algae.

crystallinus, -a, -um (kris-tal-LYE-nus) Having the appearance of ice.

cucullatus, -a, -um (kew-kew-LAY-tus) Hooded or hood-shaped; cowled.

cucumerinus, -a, -um (kew-kew-mer-EYE-nus) Having the appearance of a cucumber.

cultigen (KUL-ti-JEN) A plant which has risen through cultivation.

cultivar (KUL-ti-var) The shortened form of cultivated variety; a cultivated variety which has resulted from the asexual propagation of a single plant; a clone.

cultivation (kul-ti-VAY-shun) The growing and caring of plants for food or enjoyment.

cultratus, -a, -um (kul-TRAY-tus) With the shape of a knife blade.

cuneatus, -a, -um (kew-nee-AY-tus) Wedge-shaped; narrowly triangular with the acute angle downward.

cuniculus, -a, -um (kyu-NIK-u-lus) A nectary hidden within the floral tube above the ovary which is tubular in structure.

cupreus, -a, -um (KEW-pree-us) Copper colored.

curtus, -a, -um (KER-tus) Short, broken off; incomplete.

curvatus, -a, -um (ker-VAY-tus) Curved, bent or arched.

curvifolius, -a, -um (ker-vi-FOH-lee-us) Having curved leaves.

cuspidatus, -a, -um (kus-pi-DAY-tus) Tipped with a sharp and firm point.

cuticle (KEW-ti-kul) The outer layer of waxy material produced on the outer walls of the epidermal cells.

cutting (KUT-ting) A plant resulting from dividing a plant asexually.

cyaneus, -a, -um (sy-AY-ne-us) A bright blue in color.

cyathiformis, -e (sye-ATH-i-form-is) Shaped like a cup.

cycle (sy-KUL) A circle; used for the series of similar parts of a flower.

cyclic (sy-KLICK) Arrangement of parts in circles or whorls, as opposed to a spiral arrangement.

cylindricus -a, -um (sil-IN-dri-kus) In the shape of a roller or cylinder; long and slender.

cymbiformis, -e (sim-bi-FORM-iss) Shaped like a boat; convex and keeled.

cyme (SYM) A usually broad and somewhat flattened determinate inflorescence, i.e., with its central or terminal flowers blooming earliest.

cymose (SYE-mohz) Like a cyme.

cymule (sye-MULE) A diminutive cyme or portion of a cyme.

cystolith (sis-to-LITH) A stone-like concretion formed in the epidermis of some plants, usually calcium carbonate.

cytogenetics (syé-to-jé-NÉT-iks) The merger of cytology and genetics which results in the study of the role the cellular activity plays in inheritance.

cytokinins (syé-to-KIN-ins) A group of chemical substances (plant hormones) which influence cell division.

cytology (syé-TOL-o-gee) The branch of biology dealing with the study cells and cellular activity

- D -

dactyloides (dak-ti-OH-i-deez) With the appearance of fingers.

debilis, -e (DEB-ill-is) Weak or frail.

deciduous (de-SID-yew-us) Falling at the end of one season of growth or life as the leaves in Fall; not persistent.

decipiens (de-SIP-iens) Deceptive; having a different quality.

declinate (dek-LIN-ayt) Bent or curved downward or forward.

decompound (dee-COM-paund) More than once compound or divided.

decorus, -a, -um (dek-o-rus) Appearing decorated; becoming.

decumbens (dee-KUM-benz) Reclining, but with the summit ascending.

decurrens (dee-KUR-enz) Extending downward from the point of insertion.

decurved (deKURVD) Curved downward.

decussate (de-KUSS-ayt) Alternating in pairs at right angles resulting in an opposite arrangement of four rows up and down the stem.

defectus, -a, -um (dee-JEK-tus) Lower in quality.

deflexus, -a, -um (dee-FLEX-us) Bent or turned abruptly downward.

defoliation (dee-foh-li-AY-shun) To cause the leaves to fall.

dehiscence (dee-HISS-enz) Method of opening of fruits, anthers, etc. at maturity.

dehiscent (dee-HISS-ent) Opening regularly by valves, slits or pores as in a capsule or anther.

delicatus, -a, -um (del-KAY-tus) Being tender or delicate.

deliquescent (del-i-QUESS-ent) Softening or the wasting away, as in some perianths; branching without a continuous main axis.

deltoides, -a, -um (del-TOY-dee-us) Broadly triangular in shape.

dendricolus, -a, -um (den-dri-KOH-lus) Growing epiphytically on trees.

dendrogram (DEN-droh-gram) A hypothetical diagram of the phylogenetic history of a taxon.

dendroideus, -a, -um (den-DROY-dee-us) Shaped like a tree.

densiflorus, -a, -um (den-si-FLOR-us) With flowers densely clustered.

densifolius, -a, -um (den-si-FOH-li-us) With heavy or compact foliage.

densus, -a, -um (DEN-sus) Thick or compact.

dentatus, -a, -um (den-TAY-tus) Having teeth.

denticulatus, -a, -um (den-tik-yew-Lay-tus) Minutely toothed; slightly dentate.

depauperatus, -a, -um (dee-paw-per-AY-tus) Stunted or imperfectly developed.

depressus, a-, -um (dee-PRESS-us) Somewhat flattened above; pressed down.

dependens, (dee-PEND-enz) Hanging downward.

descending (dee-SEND-ing) Turning downward in a gradual manner.

determinate (de-TUR-min-ayt) With a definite number; in an inflorescence with a single terminal flower opening before those below.

di- or dis. The Greek prefix signifying two or twice.

diagnosis (dye-agg-NOH-sis) The description which is required to be in Latin that must accompany the description of a new taxon.

diandrous (due-ANN-drus) Having two stamens.

diaphanus, -a, -um (dye-AFF-an-us) Light, delicate and almost transparent.

diaphragm (dye-a-PHRAM) A dividing membrane or partition.

dicarpellous (dye-KAR-pel-lus) Possessing two carpels.

dichogamy (dye-KOG-a-me) The stamen and pistils maturing at different times thereby preventing self-pollination.

dichotomus, -a, -um (dye-KOT-o-mus) Forking regularly in pairs.

Dichotomous Key (dye-KOT-o-mus kee) An analytical means of identification to groups of organisms which is divided into two contrasting divisions and contrasting pairs of subdivisions.

dichromus, -a, -um (dye-KROH-mus) Of two distinct colors.

diclinous (di-KLYN-us) With one sex; the androecium and gynoecium in separate flowers.

dicotyledonous (dye-kot-i-LEE-don-us) A plant whose embryo has two cotyledons; two seed leaves.

didymus, -a, -um (DID-i-mus) Twin; found in pairs; somewhat two-parted.

difformis, -e (di-FORM-is) Of uncommon form; abnormal for the genus.

diffusus, -a, -um (dif-FEW-sus) Widely or loosely spreading; open.

digitatus, -a, -um (dig-i-TAY-tus. Suggesting the shape of an open hand; finger-like.

dilatatus, a, -um (dye-la-TAY-tus) Widening or spreading out.

dimorphus, -a, -um (dye-MOR-fuss) Occurring in two forms such as leaves, flowers or fruits of dissimilar form on the same plant.

dioecious (dye-EE-shus) The male and female flowers on separate plants or on the same plant in separate flowers.

diploid (DIP-loyd) Having two sets of chromosomes, the normal condition in vegetative cells.

dipterus, -a, -um (DIP-ter-us) Possessing two wings.

disc (DISK) A rounded and flattened structure on the basal or median part of the labellum; more commonly found on the midlobe of the labellum.

discolor (DIS-kol-or) Of two different colors.

dissectus, -a, -um (dis-SEK-tus) Cut or divided into narrow segments.

distal (DIS-tul) Away from the point of attachment.

distichus (DIS-tik-us) In two vertical rows or ranks within a single plane.

distinct (dis-TINKT) Separate; not united; evident.

diurnus, -a, -um (ye-URN-us) In the daytime; occurring in the day.

divaricatus, -a, -um (dye-vair-i-KAY-tus) Spreading at a wide angle.

divergens (dy-VERJ-enz) Inclining away from each other.

divisus, -a, -um (di-VYE-sus) Divided or lobed at the base.

division (di-VIZH-un) The largest category of classification of plants according to the rules of nomenclature which includes an aggregation of classes; Also the process of propagating plants asexually by cutting or breaking apart the pseudobulbs, or stems to produce another or several plants.

dixanthus, -a, -um (dye-ZAN-thus) With flowers of two shades of yellow.

dm (decimeter) On the Metric scale one tenth of a centimeter or equal to 3.937 inches; the abbreviation for decimeter.

DNA The abbreviation for deoxyribonucleic acid, the self-replicating, macromolecule present in the chromosomes of all living organisms and is the carrier of the genetic code. Usually a double helix in molecular configuration but circular in bacteria.

dolabriformis, -e (do-lab-ri-FORM-is) Axe or hatchet shaped.

dolosus, -a, -um (do-LOH-sus) Having the same appearance of another plant.

dominant (DOM-i-nant) In heredity, an allele which masks the expression of the alternate form of the gene located at the same position on a homologous chromosome.

dorsal (DOOR-sal) In morphology, upon the back or relating to the back or outer surface of the organ (abaxial).

dorsiventral (DOOR-si- VEN-tral) A flattened structure and having definite dorsal and ventral surfaces.

downy (DOW-ni) Having very short and soft hairs.

draco (DRAY-ko) Having reference to a dragon.

drupe (dr-OOP) A fleshy or pulpy fruit with the inner portion of the pericarp hard or stony.

dubiosus, -a, -um (doo-bee-OH-sus) Of doubtful genuineness; questionable.

dulcis, -e (DULL-sis) Sweet.

dumosus, -a, -um (doo-MOH-sus) Low and bushy.

dunensis, -e (doo-NEN-sis) Referring to sand dunes.

duplicate (DOO-pli-kayt) Consisting of two identical parts.

- E -

E- or Ex-, A prefix in compound words meaning destitute of or without.

ebracteatus, -a, -um (ee-brak-tee-AY-tus) Without bracts.

eburneus, -a, -um (ee-BURN-ee-us) Ivory-white; like ivory.

ecalcarate (ee-KAL-kar-ayt) Lacking calcar or spur.

ecallose (ee-KAL-lohz) Without hard protuberances or callosities.

echinatus, -a, -um (ek-in-AY-tus) Provided with prickles or bristles.

echinocarpus, -a, -um (ek-in-o-KAR-pus) A spiny fruit.

ecocline (EE-ko-clyn) Series of biotypes within a species that shows a genetic gradient correlated with a gradual environmental gradient.

ecology (ee-KOL-o-ji) The study of life in relation to the environment.

ecornutus, -a, -um (ee-kor-NEW-tus) Without horns.

ecostate (ee-KOS-tayt) Without a rib or midrib.

ecotype (EE-ko-type) A genetic variant within a species which is adapted to a particular environment yet remains interfertile with all other members of the species.

edaphic (ee-DAFF-ik) Environmental factors that work through the soil.

edentate (ee-DEN-tayt) Without teeth.

effusus, -a, -um (ef-FEW-sus) Very loosely spreading.

eglandulose (ee-GLAN-dyew-lodz) Lacking glands.

elatus, -a, -um (el-AY-tus) Taller than expected in regards its parts or organs.

elatior (el-AY-ti-or) Taller.

elegans (EL-e-ganz) Graceful in appearance; excellent.

ellipsoid (e-LIP-soyd) Solid but with an elliptical outline.

elliptical (e-LIP-ti-cal) With the form of an ellipse, rounded almost equally at both ends.

elongate (e-LONG-ayt) Stretched out in length.

emarginatus, -a, -um (ee-mar-jin-AY-tus) Having a shallow notch at the extremity.

embryo (EM-bri-oh) The rudimentary plantlet within the seed.

endemic (en-DEM-ik) Confined geographically to a single area.

endocarp (EN-do-carp) The inner layer of the pericarp.

endogenous (en-DODGE-en-us) Growing throughout the substance of the stem, instead of by superficial layer; growing or developing from or on the inside.

epigynous (e-PIDJ-i-nus) Said of a flower in which the floral parts arise from the top of the ovary.

epseudobulbous (e-soo-do-BUL-bus) Lacking pseudobulbs.

equalis, -e (ee-KWAY-lis) Equal; even.

equestris, e (ee-KWES-tris) Pertaining to a horse; handsome like a knight

equitant (EK-kwi-tant) Said of leaves folded lengthwise and in two flat rows; used of conduplicate leaves which enfold each other at the base in two rows.

erectus, -a, -um (er-REK-tus) Upright; erect.

ericoides (e-rik-OH-i-deez) Resembling the heath of the genus Erica.

erinaceus, -a, -um (r-rin-AY-see-us) Spiny like a hedgehog.

erosus, -a, -um (ee-ROH-sus) Having an irregular margin as if chewed.

erostrate (e-ROSS-trayt) Lacking a beak.

erubescens (e-roo-BESS-enz) Becoming rosy red; with a blush.

erythrocarpus, -a, -um (e-ri-thro-Kar-pus) With red fruit.

esculentus, -a, -um (es-kew-LEN-tus) Edible or referring to eating.

estriatus, -a, -um (es-tri-AY-tus) Without stripes.

ethylene (ETH-ill-een) A gas that acts as a growth regulating substance and causes premature flower senescence.

europaeus, -a, -um (yoor-o-PEE-us) European.

etiolated (e-ti-o-LAY-ted) Blanched and without chlorophyll that is commonly accompanied elongation and weakness of the entire plant or plant part.

evanescent (ev-a-NESS-sent) Short lived; lasting a short time.

evectus, -a, -um (e-VEC-tus) Stately in appearance.

evergreen (EV-er-green) Keeping the green foliage all year; the opposite of deciduous.

evocation (ev-o-KAY-shun) The beginning of the development of an organ.

evolution (ev-o-LEW-shun) The process by which a species or group of organisms have changed over time, in response to the selective factors in the environment.

exaltus, -a, -um (eks-as-per-TAY-tus) To glorify; praise; tall.

exasperatus, -a, -um (eks-as-per-AY-tus) Having a rough surface.

excavatus, -a, -um (eks-kav-AY-tus) Hollowed out.

excellens (eks-CELL-ens) Excellent.

excelsus, -a, -um (eks-SELL-sus) Tall.

eccentric (eks-CEN-trik) Off-centered or one-sided.

excisus, -a, -um (eks-SYE-sus) To cut out or off.

exfoliating (eks-foh-lee-AY-teng) Scaling or peeling off in thin layers.

exiguus, -a, -um (eks-IGG-yew-us) Scanty; small; poor.

eximius, -a, -um (eks-IMM-i-us) Select, extraordinary; excellent.

excrescences (eks-KRESS-en-ses) Outgrowths from the surface.

excurrent (eks-KUR-rent) Running out or projecting, as a leaf base which extends beyond the margin of the blade.

exine (EKS-ine) The outer coat of a pollen grain.

exotic (ek-ZOTT-ik) Foreign; not native; strange.

expansus, -a, -um (eks-PAN-sus) An increase in size; to spread out.

explant (EX-plant) A piece of tissue taken from a plant to be transferred to an appropriate tissue culture medium.

expressivity (Ex-pres-siv-i-tee) A measure of the uniformity of the phenotypic expression of a gene in a particular environment.

exserted (ek-SER-ted) Projecting beyond an envelope.

exsiccated (EK-sik-kay-ted) Dried or giving that appearance.

extrorse (eks-TRORS) Facing outward.

exudans (eks-YEW-danz) To sweat out; gradually ooze out.

- F -

falcate (FAL-kayt) Scythe-shaped; curved and flat, tapering gradually.

family (FAM-i-lee) In taxonomy; a taxon in classification which is a major subdivision of an order or suborder consisting of related genera or a single genus.

fallax (FAL-laks) Deceptive; false.

farinaceus, -a, -um (fa-ri-NAY-see-us) Containing starch; starch-like.

farinosus, -a, -um (fa-ri-NOH-sus) Covered with meal-like powder; mealy.

fasciation (fa-see-AY-shun) A malformation caused by an abnormal apical meristem.

fasciatus, -a, -um (fa-see-AY-tus) Expansion of stems, branches, etc. so they have the appearance of having coalesced; clustered.

fascicle (FAS-i-kul) A close bundle or cluster.

fascinator (fa-si-NAY-tor) To attract irresistibly; fascinating.

fastigiatus, -a, -um (fa-sti-jee-AY-tus) With branches in groups or bundles;  
borne from a common point.

faucal (FO-cal) Formed or occurring in or near throat of a gametopetalous corolla.

faveolate (FAV-ee-o-late) Also favose meaning honey-combed; pitted.

FCC The abbreviation for the American Orchid Society award which is given to an orchid species or hybrid that scores 90 or more points on the point scale used by the American Orchid Society. It is the highest quality award given by the society.

fecundation (fee-kun-DAY-shun) The fertilization of the female by the male to produce offspring.

fenestralis, -e (fen-neh-STRAY-lis) Pierced with holes or window-like openings.

ferrugineus, -a, -um (fer-roo-JIN-ee-us) Rust colored; rusty.

fertilis, -e (fer-TILL-is) Capable of producing seeds or viable pollen.

fertilization (fer-ti-li-ZAY-shun) The process following pollination where the male gamete unites with the female gamete to produce a zygote that develops into a new individual; the practice of applying nutrients for the growth of the plant.

fertilizer (FER-ti-lye-zer) Materials organic or inorganic that provides the elements essential for plant growth.

ferus, -a, -um (FER-us) Wild.

festivus, -a, -um (fe-STYE-vus) Variegated with bright colors; bright.

fetidus, -a, -um (FET-i-dus) With an offensive smell.

fibrillosus, -a, -um (fib-ri-LOH-sus) Made up of fine threads or fibers.

fibrosus, -a, -um (fye-BROH-sus) Composed of fiber or appearing so.

filament (FILL-a-ment) The stalk of the anther; like a thread.

fimbriatus, -a, -um (fim-bree-AY-tus) Fringed.

fimbrillate (FIM-bri-layt) Having minute fringe.

fistularis, -e (fis-tyew-LAIR-is) Hollow and cylindrical.

flabellatus, -a, -um (fla-bel-LAY-tus) Fan-shaped or broadly wedge-shaped.

flaccidus, -a, -um (FLAK-si-dus) Without rigidity; lax or weak.

flagelliformis, -e (fla-jell-i-FOR-mis) Whip-shaped; resembling a lash.

flavescens (fla-VEH-senz) Yellow or turning yellow.

flavidus, -a, -um (FLAV-i-dus) Yellow.

flavus, -a, -um (FLAY-vus) Yellow.

flexuosus, -a, -um (flek-shoo-OH-sus) Curved alternating in opposite directions.

flora (FLOOR-ah) The plants characteristic of a region, period, or specific environment.

floret (FLOOR-et) A small flower, usually one of a dense cluster.

floriculture (floor-ih-CULL-ture) The cultivation and management of ornamental and flowering plants.

floriferous (FLOOR-if-er-us) Freely flowering.

florula (floor-UHL-ah) A small flora.

foetid (FEE-tid) Smelling badly.

foliaceus, -a, -um (fo-li-AY-see-us) Having leaves; leaf-like in texture and appearance.

foliage (fo-LEEG) Leaves.

foliar (fo-LEE-er) Relating to a leaf.

foot (FOOT) In orchids an extension of the base of the column beyond its point of attachment to the pedicel of the flower.

footcandle (FOOT-kan-del) A unit of illumination on a surface equivalent to that produced by the illumination of one candle and equal to one lumen per square foot.

foramen (foh-RAY-men) An opening or aperture.

forcing (FOR-sing) To hasten the speed of growth, development or maturation of flowers or fruits by artificial means such as light, ethylene gas, etc.

forked (FORKD) Branching into nearly equal parts.

form (FORM) A taxonomic term to indicate an infrequent variant such as albinism.

formosanus, -a, -um (for-mo-SAY-nus) Native to the island of Formosa.

formosus, -a, -um (for-MOH-sus) Very ornamental and beautiful.

formula (FOR-mew-la) Used for hybrids which gives the seed parent followed by the pollen parent with the two separated by the multiplication sign X.

fornicatus, -a, -um (for-ni-KAY-tus) Arched over; having scale-like appendages in the corolla tube.

fractiflex (FRAK-ti-fleks) To break up in a zigzag pattern.

fragrans (FRAY-granz) Sweet smelling.

free (FREE) Not joined to any other structure.

fringed (FRINJD) With hair-like appendages on the margin: ciliate.

frond (FRAHND) The leaf of a palm or fern but not having the same structure.

frondose (FRAHD-doz) Leafy; frond-like or bearing fronds.

fructication (fruk-ti-f-KAY-shun) The act of coming to fruit or organs of fruiting.

fruit (FROOT) The seed-bearing product of a plant, simple, compound or aggregated whatever form.

fruticosus, -a, -um (froo-ti-KOH-sus) Shrubby or relating to shrubs.

fugacious (few-GAY-shus) Falling or fading very early.

fulvus, -a, um (FULL-vus) Tawny.

fungicide (FUN-gi-syde) A substance that kills or inhibits the growth of a fungus. Certain fungicides are active on the surface of the treated material or plant while others (systemic fungicides) are designed to control the pathogen after being absorbed by the plant.

funiculus (fu-NIK-yew-lus) The free stalk of an ovule or seed.

funnelform (fun-NEL-form) In the shape of a funnel; infundibuliform.

furcatus, -a, -um (fer-KAY-tus) Forked; two horned.

furfuraceus, -a, -um (fer-fer-RAY-shus) Scaly or scurfy.

furrowed (FER-rohd) With longitudinal grooves.

fuscatus, -a, -um (fus-KAY-tus) Grayish brown.

fusiformis, -e (few-si-FOR-mis) Spindle-shaped; swollen in the middle and narrowing gradually toward each end.

- G -

galeatus, -a, -um (ga-lee-AY-tus) A hooded or helmet-shaped portion of the perianth.

gamete (GAM-eet) A sex cell which is either male (mirogamete) or female (megagamete).

gamopetalous (gam-o-PET-a-lus) Having the petals more or less united.

gamophyllous (gam-o-FILL-us) With leaves united.

gamosepalous (gam-o-SEP-a-lus) All of the sepals united; the calyx a single structure.

gelidus, -a, -um (JEL-i-dus) Found in very cold regions.

geminatus, -a, -um (jem-i-NAY-tus) A paired structure; twin.

gemma (JEM-a) A bud; a budlike structure which can reproduce the plant.

gemmae (JEM-yewl) A small bud or budlike structure.

gene (JEEN) The unit of inheritance; that part of the chromosome responsible for the manifestation of a particular characteristic.

gene pool (JEEN pool ) The sum total and variation of all the genes and their alleles present in a breeding population or species at one time.

genera (JEN-e-ra) The plural of genus; a group of homogeneous species; the first part of the name of an organism in the binomial system.

generation (jen-e-RAY-shun) The period from fertilization to death; the period going from a 1-celled stage of the plant to the next 1-celled stage.

genetics (je-NET-iks) The science of heredity and variation.

genetic code (je-NET-ik kood) The sequence of nucleotides along the DNA of an organism within which is incorporated the information necessary for protein synthesis.

genetic engineering (je-NET-ik engineering ) The isolation of useful genes from a donor organism or tissue and the incorporation into an organism not possessing them.

geniculatus, -a, -um (je-nik-yew-LAY-tus) Bent abruptly, as the human knee.

genome (je-NOME) All of the genes present in the chromosomes or set of chromosomes that specify all the inherited traits of a cell or individual.

genotype (JEE-no-type) The gene makeup of a cell or organism

genus (JEE-nus), pl. genera (JEN-e-ra) A subdivision of family taxon and consists of one or many species

which have similar characteristics  
and are assumed to have a  
common ancestry.

germination (jer-min-NAY-shun) The beginning of growth and development  
of a seed, spore, bud or other structure.

gibbosus, -a, -um (gib-BOH-sus) Protuberant or swollen on one side.

giganteus, -a, -um (jye-gan-TEE-us) Very large; enormous; giant size.

gigas (JYE-gas) A giant.

glabrantus, -a, -um (glab-RAY-tus) Becoming smooth at maturity or with  
age.

glabrous (GLAY-brus) Smooth; not pubescent or hairy.

gladius, -a, -um (glad-i-AY-tus) Sword-shaped; in the form of a  
sword-blade, either straight or somewhat  
curved.

gland (GLAND) A secreting surface or structure; any protuberance or  
appendage having the appearance of such an organ.

glandular (GLAN-dew-lar) Bearing glands or the nature of a gland.

glaucophyllus (glaw-ko-FILL-us) The leaves covered or whitened with a  
bloom.

glaucus, -a, -um (GLAW-kus) Having a bluish-gray, bluish-green or whitish  
bloom on the surface.

globosus, -a, -um (glo-BOH-sus) Spherical in form or nearly so.

globular (GLOB-yew-ler) Nearly globose.

glochid (GLO-kid) A barbed hair or bristle.

glomeratus, -a, -um (glo-mer-RAY-tus) Compactly clustered.

glomerule (GLOM-e-rule) The inflorescence composed of a cluster of  
flowers opening from the center outward (cyme)  
and growing at the end of its own stalk.

gloriosus, -a, -um (glow-ri-OH-sus) Splendid; magnificent; renowned.

glumaceus, -a, -um (gloo-MAY-see-us) Chaffy in texture; having glumes as in the grasses.

glume (GLOOM) A small chaff-like bract common in grasses.

glutinosus, -a, -um (gloo-tn-OH-sus) Covered with a sticky exudation.

gracilis, -e (GRAS-ill-us) Graceful and slender.

grade (GRAYD) A taxon consisting of all those species that have attained a certain level of advancement based upon a specific feature or group of features thus forming a taxon not necessarily having phyletic relationships.

graminifolius, -a, -um (gram-in-i-FOH-li-us) With grass-like leaves.

grandifolius, -a, -um (grand-i-FOH-lee-us) Having larger leaves in comparison.

grandiflorus, -a, -um (grand-i-FLOOR-us) With larger flowers by comparison.

grandis, -e (GRAND-is) Great; showy; big.

granulosus, -a, -um (gran-yew-LOH-sus) Composed of, or appearing as if covered by minute grains.

gratissimus, -a, -um (grat-ISS-i-mus) Pleasing; delightful.

graveolens (grav-ee-OH-lenz) Smelling strongly; with a heavy odor.

green pod ( green pod) Horticultural term for seed capsules which are taken before dehiscence and allows for surface sterilization of the capsule and the sowing of the still immature embryos on an appropriate medium.

gregarious (gri-GAIR-i-us) Growing in large colonies, associated but not matted.

grex (GREKS) All of the plants resulting from a specific hybrid cross and are given a name which must not be scientific name.

grossus, -a,-um (GROH-sus) Very large.

guatemalensis, -e (gwat-i-ma-LEN-sis) From Guatemala.

guttaus, -a, um (gut-TAY-tus) Spotted with small dots.

gynoecium (jye-NEE-si-um) The female part of the flower with the pistil or pistils.

gynandrous (jyeNAN-drus) Having the stamens and pistils united into one organ, as in the orchid flower.

gynophore (jye-o-FOR) The stipe of a pistil.

gynostemium (jye-no-STEEM-me-um) The term for the column in the Orchidaceae.

- H -

habit (HAB-it) The general appearance of the plant, its form, general features and mode of growth.

habitat (HAB-i-tat) The natural locality in which a plant grows.

haft (HAFT) The narrow constricted portion of an organ or part.

hairs (HAIRZ) The general term for the many kinds of small and slender vestitures which are technically known as trichomes.  
Special types are; setose, villous, comose, pubescent, hirsute, etc.

halberd-shaped (hal-BERD) Shaped like an arrowhead; same as hastate.

halophyte (hal-o-FHYT) A plant associated with a saline soil.

halophytic (hal-o-FIT-ic) Growing in saline conditions.

hamate (HAY-mayt) Hooked at the tip or apex.

hamulus, -a, -um (HAY-mu-lus) Said of pollen grains that possess small, hooked processes.

hapuu (hah-POO-oo) The Hawaiian term for tree-fern fiber.

harpophyllous, -a, -um (har-po-FILL-us) Possessing sickle-shaped leaves.

hastatus, -a, -um (has-TAY-tus) Shaped like an arrowhead or a spear.

hasilabius, -a, -um (has-ti-LAY-bee-us) Having a spear-shaped lip.

head (HED) A dense cluster of sessile or nearly sessile flowers or fruits on a very short axis or receptacle.

helicoid (HEL-i-koyd) Curved or spiralled in the form of a snail-shell.

heliotropism (hee-li-OH-tro-piz-um) The response of most plants to turn toward the light.

hemi- (HEM-i) A Greek prefix signifying half.

hemiepiphyte (hem-ee-EPP-i-fyte) A plant whose life cycle include both terrestrial and epiphytic phases.

hepta- (HEHP-ta) The Greek designation often used a prefix or suffix for seven.

herb (ERB) A plant without a persistent woody stem above ground; also plants used as seasoning or in medicine.

herbaceous (her-BAY-shus) Having the characteristic of a herb; leaf-like color and texture.

herbal (her-BAL) An early botanical work of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that described many of the plants known at the time.

herbarium (her-BAIR-ee-um) A collection of preserved specimens in liquid or dried, pressed and mounted on sheets of paper that are identified and systematically arranged.

herbarium specimen (her-BARE-ee-um SPEH-si-men) A dried and pressed plant specimen mounted on a sheet of paper commonly referred to as a herbarium sheet. Each sheet is labeled with the plant's correct name, where it was found and who identified and collected the

specimen; also  
used for a  
specimen  
preserved in a  
liquid.

herbicide (HER-bi-syde) Any chemical used to eradicate plants.

hermaphrodite (her-MAF-ro-dyt) With stamens and pistil(s) in the same flower; The term monoecious is a preferable term in plant science.

heterocarpus, -a, -um (het-e-ro-KAR-pus) Producing more than one kind of fruit.

heterogamous, (het-e-ROG-a-mus) Having two kinds of gametes; bearing two or more kinds of flowers.

hexa- (HEX-a) The Greek for six, used as a prefix or suffix in compounded words

hippocrepiform (hip-po-CRAP-i-form) Horse-shoe shaped.

hirsute (HIR-soot) Covered with long, somewhat coarse or stiff hairs.

hirsutulus, -a, -um (her-SUT-u-lus) Slightly hirsute.

hirsutissimus, -a, -um (her-soo-TISS-ee-muss) Most hairy; very hairy.

hirtellous, (her-TEL-us) Minutely hirsute.

hispidus, -a, -um (HISS-pis-us) With bristles or rigid, bristly hairs.

hispidulus, -a, -um (hiss-PID-yew-lus) A diminutive of hispid; minutely hispid.

hoary (HOHR-ee) Covered with a close white or whitish pubescence.

holophyletic (HOHL-loh-fy-let-ick) A cladistic term referring to a phylogenetic group which come from one ancestor and includes all of the derivatives from that one ancestor.

holotype (HOHL-loh-type) A specimen used or designated by the author of a species or genus as the representative of that taxon and which was used for the original description in the publication of the nomenclatural type.

Homo- (HOH-mo) Usually used as a prefix from the Greek meaning one or alike.

homocarpous (ho-mo-Kar-pus) All of the fruits alike, as in a composite flower.

homogamous (ho-MOG-a-mus) Bearing one kind of flower.

homologous (ho-MAHL-o-gus) Similar in origin and structure but not in function; the opposite of analogous.

homomorphous (ho-mo-MOR-fus) Having perfect flowers of only one kind; similar in form.

homonym (HOM-o-nim) Any two or more identical names based on different types, only one of which can be legitimate under the rules of taxonomic priority.

horny (HOR-nee) Hard and dense in texture; corneous.

horticulture (hor-ta-CUL-tur) The botanical science that deals with growing fruits, vegetables, flowers or ornamental plants.

host (HOHST) A plant from which a parasite derives its nourishment; a plant upon which an epiphyte grows.

humidity (hew-MID-i-tee) The degree of moisture in the atmosphere; usually referring to the ratio of the amount of water vapor actually present in the air to the greatest amount possible at the same temperature.

humifuse (hew-mi-FUSE) Spreading over the ground.

humilis, -e (HEW-mil-is) Shorter than most of its kind; low growing.

humus (HEW-mus) The organic part of the soil which is in the process of decomposition by microorganisms.

hyacinthinus, -a, -um (hye-a-sin-THYE-nus) Having the appearance of a hyacinth.

hyaline (HYE-a-lyn) Thin and translucent or nearly transparent.

hybrid (HYE-brid) The resulting offspring of two plants or animals of different species or varieties or as in orchids the result of crossing two different genera. The cross between members of the same species does not constitute a hybrid.

hydrophyte (HYE-dro-fyte) A plant living in the water or preferring moist conditions.

hyemalis, -e (hye-em-AY-lis) Flowering in the winter.

hygroscopic (hye-gro-SKOP-ik) A material with ability to take up or absorb moisture from the atmosphere such as the velamen on the roots of many orchid roots.

hypanthium (hye-PAN-thee-um) A floral cup or tube developed by extra growth of the margin of the receptacle.

hyperboreus, -a, -um (hye-per-BOR-ee-us) Found in the far-north.

hyphae (HYE-fee) Singular hypha. The individual thread-like structures that make up the body of the fungus, the mycelium.

hyphaematicus, -a, -um (hye-fee-MAT-i-kus) Blood red beneath.

hypochil (HYE-po-kyle) The basal part of the divided labellum in the Orchidaceae that is often fleshy or modified in some manner.

hypocrateriform (hye-po-CRATE-er-i-for-mis) Having a border spreading at right angles to a slender tube.

hypogaeous (hye-poh-GEE-us) Growing or living below the surface of the ground.

hystrix (HISS-triks) Bristly.

igneus, -a, -um (EG-nee-us) Having a fiery red color.

illustris, -e (ill-LUS-tris) Very bright; brilliant.

imbricatus, -a, -um (im-bree-KAT-tus) Closely overlapped.

immaculatus, -a, -um (im-mak-yew-LAY-tus) Spotless; without a blemish.

immarginate, (im-MAR-ji-nayt) Lacking a margin, rim or edge.

immersus, (im-MER-sus) Completely under water.

imparipinnate (odd-pinnate), (im-PAR-i-pin-nayt) Pinnate with an odd  
terminal leaflet.

imperfect, (im-PER-fekt) A flower lacking one of the two sexual whorls  
(stamens or pistils).

implexus, -a, -um (im-PLEKS-us) Entangled; interlaced.

impregnation (im-preg-NAY-shun) The fertilization of the ovule by the  
pollen tube; also the infiltration of a  
substance.

impressus, -a, -um (im-PRESS-us) Bent inward; hollowed or furrowed as if  
by pressure.

inaequalis, -e (in-ee-KWAY-lis) With unequal parts.

incanus, -a, -um (in-KAY-nus) Very gray; incanescent.

incarnatus, -a, -um (in-kar-NAY-tus) Flesh colored.

incertus, -a, -um (in-SER-tus) Uncertain; with some doubt.

incisus, -a, -um (in-SYE-sus) Cut sharply and irregularly, more or less  
deeply.

incorrect names (in-kor-REKT NAYMS) Names which do not conform to  
all of the required provisions set  
forth by the International Code of  
Nomenclature.

incomputus, -a, -um (in-KOMP-tus) Without any adornment.

incrassatus, -a, -um (in-krass-AY-tus) Thickened.

incumbent (in-KUHM-bent) One organ leaning upon another.

incurvus, -a, -um (in-KER-vus) Curved inward.

indefinite (in-DEFF-in-it) Inconstant in number; very numerous.

indehiscent (in-di-HISS-ent) Not splitting open by valves or along regular lines.

indeterminate (in-dee-TER-min-ayt) Growing on from the apex; said of those kinds of inflorescence whose terminal flowers open last, hence the growth or elongation of the main axis is not arrested by the opening of the first flowers.

indigen (IN-di-jen) A native inhabitant.

indigenous (in-DIJ-en-us) Native to a country or region; not introduced.

indivisus, -a, -um (in-div-EYE-sus) Undivided.

indumertus, -a, -um (in-du-MEN-tus) A rather heavy hairy or pubescent covering.

induplicate (in-DEW-pli-kayt) With the edges folded or turned in.

induratus, -a, -um (in-dew-RAY-tus) Hardened.

inferior (in-FEAR-i-or) Beneath or below, outer or anterior.

inferior ovary (in-FEAR-i-or o-va-ree) The flower parts are inserted above the ovary.

inflatus, -a, -um (in-FLAY-tus) Swollen or appearing inflated with air.

inflexed, (in-FLEXD) Turned abruptly or bent inward; incurved.

inflorescence (in-floor-ESS-ents) The flower or flowers of a plant and the way they are arranged.

infra- (IN-frah) In compound terms indicating below.

infraspecific (In-frah-spi-SIFFik) Within the species.

infundibulum (in-fun-DIB-yew-lum) Funnel-shaped.

innate (in-NATE) Borne at the apex of the supporting part.

innovation (in-o-VAY-shun) An offshoot from the stem.

inodorus, -a, -m (in-o-DOOR-us) Without a scent.

inorganic (in-or-GAN-ik) Any substance not produced by a living organism.

inscriptus, -a, -um (in-SKRIP-tus) Marked or inscribed.

inserted (in-SER-ted) Attached or growing from a part.

insignis, -e (in-SIG-nis) Admirable or distinguished.

integer (in-te-JER) All or entire.

inter- (in-ter-) Found in compound words as a prefix to denote between.

interfoliaceous (in-ter-FOH-li-AY-shus) Between the leaves of a pair.

intergeneric (in-ter-jen-NAIR-ik) Between two or more genera.

intermedius, -a, -um (inter-MEE-di-us)

internode (IN-ter-nohd) The area of a stem between two nodes or joints.

interruptus, -a, -um (in-ter-RUPP-tus) Not continuous.

interspecific (in-ter-speh-SIFF-ik) Between two or more species.

intortus, -a, -um (in-TORT-us) Twisted around itself.

intra- (IN-trah) Compounded as a prefix in words to mean inside or within.

intramarginal (in-tra-MAR-jin-al) Within or near the margin of a structure.

introduced (in-tro-DEWSD) Brought in from another region.

introsus, -a, -um (in-TROR-sus) Turned to face inward or toward the axis.

inverted (in-VER-ted) Turned over; upside down.

involute (IN-vo-loot) Rolled inward.

iridifolius (eye-rid-i-FOH-li-us) With leaves like those of an Iris.

irregular flower (ih-REG-u-lar flower) A flower with dissimilar parts of the same kind; having bilateral symmetry; zygomorphic.

irroratus, -a, -um (ir-ror-AY-tus) Sprinkled with dew or moisture.

isotype (EYE-so-tyt) A duplicate specimen taken from the original collection or designated material used by the author of the taxon to represent the new taxon.

isomerous (EYE-so-mer-us) The members of the various series of flower parts of equal number.

isthmus (ISS-mus) A narrowed portion or segment of a flower or structure.

ixioides (iks-i-OY-deez) Having the appearance of the African genus *Ixia* in the Iridaceae.

- J -

japonicus, -a, -um (ja-PON-ik-us) Relating to Japan, Japanese.

javanicus, -a, -um (ja-VAN-ik-us) From Java.

JC The abbreviation for the Judges Commendation award given by the American Orchid Society. Given by a judging team to flowers or plants awarded for a distinctive characteristic or aspect of historical or other importance.

jointed (JOYN-ted) With articulations; with nodes.

jugosus, -a, -um (joo-GOH-sus) Furrowed; connected.

juncifolius, -a, -um (jun-si-FOH-lee-us) Having leaves similar to the Juncaceae, the rushes.

juvenile (jew-vi-NIL) A plant part not yet mature; immature.

- K -

karyology (kair-ee-OLL-oh-gee) The science or study of chromosome morphology

karyotype (CAIR-ee-oh-type) The chromosome characteristics of a cell.

keel (KEEL) A central dorsal ridge, like the keel of a boat.

keiki (plural keikes) (KAY-kee) A Hawaiian term for an adventitious offshoot, offset or new growth; an immature plant.

key (key) A key is a written implement used in the identification of plants or other organisms consisting of a series of contrasting statements or propositions requiring the identifier to make comparisons and decisions based on statements in the key as related to the material to be identified; taxonomic key.

- L -

labellum (lah-BEL-lum) Lip; a perianth part, particularly the lip of an orchid flower which is a modified petal.

labiatus, -a, -um (lab-i-AY-tus) With a large lip.

labyrinthiformis, -e (lab-i-rin-thee-FORM-iss) Having complicated sinuous lines of winding passages.

laceratus, -a, -um (la-se-RAY-tus) Torn irregularly as in a torn piece of paper.

laciniatus, -a, -um (la-sin-i-AY-tus) Slashed; cut into narrow pointed lobes.

lactescens (lak-TESS-senz) Yielding a milky juice.

lacunosus, -a, -um (lak-yew-NO-sus) Covered with depressions or perforated with holes.

laevigatus, -a, -um (lee-vig-AY-tus) With a smooth polished surface.

lamella (la-MEL-la) plural: lamellae. A thin flat plate or laterally thickened ridge.

lamellate (LAM-el-layt) Made of thin flat plates or laterally thickened ridges.

lamina (LAM-in-a) The blade or expanded part of a leaf, petal, etc.

laminatus, -a, -um (lam-i-NAY-tus) Made up of plates or scales.

lanatus, -a, -um (lan-NAY-tus) Woolly or having that appearance.

lanceolatus, -a, -um (lan-see-o-LAY-tus) Shaped like a lance; several  
times longer than wide, broadest  
toward the base and  
narrowed at the apex.

lanuginosus, -a, -um (lan-oo-jin-OH-sus) Cottony or woolly; covered with  
soft downy hairs.

lasioglossus, -a, -um (lay-zee-o-GLOSS-us) With a rough or woolly lip.

lateralis, -e (la-ter-AY-lis) On or by the side; lateral.

latex (LAY-teks) The milky juice found in some plants.

latifolius, -a, -um (lat-i-FOH-lee-us) Possessing broad leaves.

latilabrus, -a, -um (lat-i-LAY-brus) With a broad lip.

laxus, -a, -um (LAKS-us) Appearing loose rather than dense.

lead, (LEED) An elaborating bud; new growth.

leaflet, (LEEF-let) A part of a compound leaf.

leaf-stalk (LEEF-stawk) The stem of a leaf which is the petiole.

lectotype (LEK-toh-tyt) This is a specimen or other element selected to  
serve as the nomenclatural type when no holotype  
was designate at the time of publication or as long  
as it is missing.

legitimate name (le-JIT-i-mit) (NAYM) The name given to a plant in  
accordance with articles of the  
International Codes of  
Nomenclature.

lenticularis, -e (len-tik-yew-LAY-ris) Having a lens shape.

lentiginosus, -a, -um (len-tij-in-OH-sus) Freckled in appearance.

leonis (lee-OH-niss) Strong as a lion.

leopardinus, -a, -um (lee-o-par-DYE-nus) Orangish- or yellowish-brown in color; spotted like a leopard.

lepidotus, -a, -us (le-pi-DOH-tus) Covered with small, scurfy scales.

lepidus, -a, -us (LEP-id-us) Pleasing, pretty or elegant in appearance.

leptosepalus, -a, -um (lep-to SEP-al-us) With slender sepals.

leucochilus, -a, -um (lew-ko-KYE-liss) With a white lip.

leucoplast (lew-ko-PLAST) A colorless plastid found in cells which are involved in the synthesis of volatile compounds contained in essential oils

leucorrhodes, -a, -um (lew-ko-ROH-dus) Rosy-red in color.

ligneous (LIG-nee-us) Like wood.

ligulatus, -a, -um (lig-yew-LAY-tus) Having a strap-shape.

limb (LIM) An expanded part of a petal, lip or leaf.

liladinus, -a, um (lye-la-SYE-nus) Lilac in color.

limbatus, -a, -um (lim-BAY-tus) Possessing a distinct margin of a different color.

linearis, -e (lin-e-AY-ris) The structure long and narrow with parallel margins.

lineatus, -a, -um (lin-ee-AY-tus) Lined with thin parallel stripes.

linguiformis, -e (ling-gwee-FOR-miss) Tongue-shaped.

lingulatus, -a, -um (ling-u-LAY-tus) Tongue-shaped lip (LIP) Each of the upper and lower divisions of a bilabiate corolla or calyx.

lithophyte (LITH-o-fyte) A plant inhabiting rocky places.

lithophitic (lith-o-FIT-ic) Growing on rocks.

litorial or littorial (li-TOR-ee-al) Growing on shores or pertaining to shores.

lividus, -a, -um (LIV-id-us) Bluish-gray or lead in color.

lobatus, -a, -um (lo-BAT-tus) Having lobes.

lobe (LOHB) Any segment of an organ, especially if rounded.

lobulate (LOB-yew-layt) Having small lobes.

lobule (LOB-yewl) A small lobe.

locule (LOK-yewl) A cavity or compartment.

longicollis, -e (lon-jee-KOL-liss) With a long neck.

longicornu (lon-jee-KOR-noo) Having a long horn.

longifolius, a, -um (lon-jee-FOH-lee-us) Possessing long leaves

longiscapus, -a, -um (lon-jee-SKAY-pus) Having a long flower stalk or  
scape.

loratus, -a, -um (lor-AY-tus) Strap-shaped.

lucid (LEW-sid) With a shiny surface.

lunatus, -a, -um (loo-NAY-tus) Having the shape of a half-moon or  
crescent.

luridus, -a, -um (LEW-rid-us) With a dingy color.

luteolus, -a, -um (loo-tee-OH-lus) Pale yellow in color.

luteo-purpurea, -a, -um (LOO-tee-o-poor-POOR-e-us) A yellowish-purple  
or yellow and  
purple.

luteus, -a, -um (LEW-tee-us) A golden-yellow in color.

lutescens (loo-TESS-sens) Yellow or becoming yellow.

lyrate (LYE-rayt) Pinnatifid with a large and rounded terminal lobe and  
with the ower lobes small.

- M -

macranthus, -a, -um (ma-KRAN-thus) With large flowers.

macroceras (mak-ro SER-us) Possessing a large horn.

macrochilus, -a, -um (mak-ro-KYE-lus) With a large lip.

macrophyllus, -a, -um (mak-ro-FILL-us) Having large leaves.

macrostachyus, -a, -um (mak-ro-STAY-chee-us) With long tails as in an  
ear of corn.

maculatus, -a, -um (mak-yew-LAY-tus) Blotched or mottled.

macule (MAK-yew) A blotch or spot of pigment.

maculosus, -a, -um (mak-yew-LOH-sus) Spotted or blotched.

magnificus, -a, -um (mag-NIF-ik-us) Splendid; showy.

magnus, -a, -um (MAG-nus) Great; big.

majalis, -e (ma-JAY-lis) Blooming in May.

major (MAY-jor) Larger than most of its group.

majus, -a, -um (MAY-jus) Large in comparison with others in its group.

malquique (mal-KEE-ke) The Mexican term for tree fern and tree-fern fiber.

mammillatus, -a, -um (mam-mil-Lay-tus) With processes that are  
nipple-shaped.

manicatus, -a, -um (man-i-KAY-tus) Having long sleeves or sheaths.

manubrium, -a (ma-NOO-bree-um) A handle or having the appearance of  
one.

marcescent (mar-SESS-ent) Withering but persistent.

marginalis, -a, -um (mar-jim-AY-lis) Put upon or attached to the edge.

marginatus, -a, -um (mar-jin-AY-tus) Having a distinct margin or border.

marmoratus -a, -um (mar-mor-AY-tus) Appearing like marble; mottled.

matutinus, -a, -um (ma-too-TYE-nus) Occurring in the morning.

maxillaris, -e (mak-sil-LAIR-iss) Having the appearance of jaws.

medium (MEE-dee-um) The substances, organic or inorganic, which are used to support the growth of an organism in culture and can be a solid or liquid; also, the materials, organic or inorganic, used to cultivate and physically support the growth of plants.

medius, -a, -um (MEE-dee-us) In the exact middle or center. Median.

meiosis, (my-OH-sis) The two divisions which halve the number of chromosomes from diploid to haploid and is commonly called reduction division.

meleagris, -re (mel-ee-AY-gris) Speckled like a guinea-fowl.

membranaceus, -a, -um (mem-bra-NAY-shus) Thin, rather soft, and more or less transparent and pliable.

meniscoidal (men-iss-KOY-dal) Similar to a disk or meniscus; like a watch crystal.

mentum (MEN-tum) A basal projection in some flowers of the Orchidaceae produced by the sepals and foot of the column.

mericlone (MAIR-i-klohn) A plantlet which is the result of dividing the meristematic tissue of a particular clone and growing in an appropriate medium.

meristem (MAIR-i-stem) A tissue whose cells are capable of active cell division and differentiation into specialized tissues.

meristematic (MAIR-i-sta-mat-ik) A tissue or area of a plant capable of growth by cell division.

-- merous (MAIR-us) A suffix meaning having parts; such as 3-merous, having three parts of each kind.

mesocarp (MES-o-karp) The middle of the three layers of the pericarp.

mesochil (MES-o-kyle) The middle portion of the labellum when divided into three parts.

mesophyte (MES-o-fyte) Plants growing in intermediate condition in regard to moisture.

meter (MEE-ter) A measure of length in the Metric System equal to 39.37 inches or ten decimeters; abbreviated m.

micropyle (MYE-kro-pyle) The opening in the integuments of the ovule through which the pollen tube must pass to discharge the male gametes for fertilization.

midrib (MID-rib) The middle or main vein of a leaf.

militaris, -e (mil-it-AY-ris) Appearing like soldiers.

mimicry (mim-a-CREE) The superficial resemblance of one organism to another or to natural objects among which it lives and thereby secures an advantage by doing so.

minature (MIN-ah-tur) A small plant; arbitrarily: a small orchid plant six inches or less.

minax (MYE-naks) Appearing to be threatening or forbidding.

miniatus, -a, -um (min-ee-AY-tus) Cinnabar-red or vermilion in color.

minimus, -a, um (MIN-i-mus) The smallest.

minus, -a, -um (MYE-nus) Smaller.

minutus, -a, -um (mye-NEW-tus) Very small,

minutissimus, -a, -um (mye-new-TISS-i-mus) The very smallest.

mirabilis, -e (mye-RAB-il-is) Wonder; astonishing.

miticide (MYE-ti-syde) A substance which is effective in controlling mites; an insecticide.

mitosis (my-TOH-sis) Nuclear division, involving the appearance of chromosomes, their longitudinal replication, and equal distribution to the newly formed parts to the daughter nuclei in the two resulting daughter cells.

mitratus, -a, um (mye-TRAY-tus) Having the appearance of wearing a head-band, head-dress or cap.

mitriformis, -e (mye-tri-FOR-miss) Shaped like a head-band or cap.

millimeter (MILL-li-mee-ter) The measure of length in the Metric System equal to .03937 of an inch. Abbreviated mm.

modestus, -a, -um (mo-DESS-tus) Moderate or modest.

monandrous (mo-NAN-drus) Having a single stamen.

moniliformis, -e (mo-nil-i-FOR-miss) Like beads with alternate swellings and constrictions.

monoclinous (mon-o-KLYE-nus) With both sexes in the same flower; the opposite of diclinous.

monocotyledon (mon-o-KOT-il-lee-don) A plant like an orchid whose embryo has only one seed leaf.

Monocotyledoneae (mon-o-kot-ill-e-DOHN-ee-ee) One of the two classes of plants that bear the seeds in a closed ovary (angiospermous) and whose seeds have only a single cotyledon or seed leaf. They rarely exhibit secondary growth, the leaves usually have parallel veins, and their flowers are 3-merous. It includes the grasses, lilies, palms, irises, sedges, and the orchids.

monoecious (mon-EE-shus) Having functional stamens and pistils in separate flowers on the same plant.

monogynous (mon-NOJ-i-nus) With a single style.

monopetalous (mon-o-PET-a-lus) With only one petal or the petals united to form one body or organ.

monophyletic (mon-oh-fye-LET-ick) A taxon having a single common ancestor.

monopodial (mob-o-POH-dee-al) The vegetative form of growth where the main axis of the plant is produced by apical growth.

monostichous (mo-NOSS-ti-kus) In a single row.

monostrosity (mon-STROSS-i-tee) A deformed or atypical plant.

monotypic (mon-o-TIP-ic) A genus with just one species; with one type.

montanus, -a, -um (mon-TAY-nus) Living in the middle mountain areas.

morphology (mor-FOLL-o-jee) That branch of biology that deal with the form and structure of plants and animals.

moscifera (ma-SKIFF-er-a) Having the appearance of fly.

moschatus, -a, -um (mos-KAY-tus) With the scent of musk.

muscosus, -a, -um (mew-KOH-sus) Covered with a slimy secretion.

muco (MEW-kro) A short and small abrupt tip.

mucronatus, -a, -um (mew-kron-AY-tus) Tipped with a short and abrupt point.

mucronulatus, -a, -um (mew-KRO-ule-aye-tuss) With a small muco or sharp point.

multiflorus, -a, -um (mul-tee-FLOR-us) Having many flowers.

multigeneric (mul-tee-jen-AIR-ik) Meaning many genera; hybrids consisting of several genera.

muralis, -e (mew-RAY-lis) Found growing on walls.

muricatus, -a, -um (MEW-ri-KAY-tus) Rough with short hard points.

muriculate (mew-ri-KAY-yew-late) Very finely muricate.

muscariformis, -e (mus-ka-ree-FOR-mis) Looking like a brush

muscosus, -a, -um (mus-KOH-sus) Having the appearance of a moss.

mutabilis, -e (mew-TAB-il-is) Variable in color or other characteristics.

mutation (mew-TAY-shun) A sudden, heritable change appearing in an individual as the result of a change in the genes or the chromosomes, or of an increase in chromosome number; also includes genetic changes occurring in somatic cells.

muticus, -a, -um (MEW-tik-us) Without a point or blunt.

mycelium (mye-SEE-lee-um) The collective term for all of hyphal threads making the vegetative body of a fungus.

mycorrhiza, -e (my-coh-RHYZ-ah) The symbiotic relationship of a fungus with the root, rhizome or seed tissue of a plant which may be superficial or internal.

myrianthus, -a, -um. (meer-ee-AN-thus) With innumerable flowers.

myrmecophilous (mer-me-KOFF-ill-us) Ant loving or inhabited by ants.

- N -

naevius, -a, -um (NEE-vi-us) With freckles.

naked (NAY-ked) Without the usual covering; missing certain organs such as leaves; lacking any vestiture.

nanellus, -a, -um (nan-ELL-us) Very dwarf.

nanus, -a, -um (NAN-us) Dwarf.

napiformis, -e (nap-i-FOR-miss) Shaped like turnip.

nascent (NAS-cent) The process of coming or having recently come into existence such as the new tissue of a meristem.

natural hybrid (NAT-yew-ral HYE-brid) A hybrid produced in the plant's native home naturally and not an artificial hybrid produced by a person.

nasutus, -a, -um (nas-YEW-tus) Having or appearing to have a large nose.

natans (NAY-tanz) Floating.

navicularis, -e (nav-ik-yew-LAY-ris) With a boat shape.

nebulosus, -a, -um (neb-yew-LOH-sus) Cloud like or in the clouds.

necrotic (ne-KROT-ik) The cells and tissues becoming blackened usually due to injury or disease.

nectar (NEK-tar) A sugary secretion exuded from a glandular area that attracts an insect who uses the material for food and in the process customarily pollinates the flower.

nectariferous (nek-tar-IF-fer-us) Producing nectar.

nectary (NEK-tar-ee) Any place or organ where nectar is secreted.

neglectus, -a, -um (neg-LEK-tus) To overlook a plant.

nemoralis, -e (nem-o-RAY-lis) Growing in woods.

neo (nee-o-) Used as a prefix meaning new.

neotropical (nee-o-TROP-i-kal) A term which designates the region that includes South America, the West Indies, and the tropical part of North America.

neotype (nee-o-TYPE) A specimen or other material selected to represent a taxon when the original material used for the basis of the taxon is missing.

nephroid (NEFF-royd) Kidney shaped; reniform.

nerve (NERV) In botany, a large vein or slender rib.

nervosus, -a, -um (ner-VOH-sus) With prominent veins or ribs.

netted (NET-ted) Having interwoven lines or veins.

neutral (NEW-tral) Spoken of a solution or substance that has a PH of 7.0 which indicates a balance between an acid or alkaline condition.

nidulatus, -a, -um (nid-yew-LAY-tus) Existing in a nested condition.

niger, nigra, nigrum (NYE-ger) (NYE-gra) (NYE-grum) Black in color.

nigrescens (nye-GRESS-enz) Blackish.

nitidus, -a, -um (NIT-id-us) Shiny.

nitens (NYE-tenz) Becoming shiny or glaring.

nivalis, -e (niv-AY-lis) Snow-white.

niveus, -a, -um (NIV-ee-us) Snowy or growing near snow.

nobilis, -e (NOH-bil-is) Noble or well known.

nocturnal (nok-TER-nal) Coming out at night.

nocturnus, -a, -um (nok-TERN-us) Blooming at night; appearing at night.

node (NOHD) Any place on the main axis of the stem where there is a branch a leaf, a whorl of leaves, or a bud; a knot-like or knob-like enlargement.

nodosus, -a, -um (no-DOH-sus) With knots; with many joints.

nomenclature NO-men-klay-cher) The method of naming plants based on the international rules that botanists have agreed upon in order to promote a uniform and reasonably stable system.

notatus, -a, -um (no-TAY-tus) Marked or spotted.

nothogenera (nuth-o-JEN-e-ra) The multigeneric hybrids in orchids.

nubigenus, -a, -um (new-bi-JEN-us) Found among the clouds or at a high elevation.

nucleus (NEW-klee-us) The membrane-bound compartment containing the chromosomes in eukaryotic cells.

nucleolus (new-klee-OH-lus) The dense body or bodies within the nucleus of a cell associated with ribosomal RNA synthesis.

nudus, -a, -um (NEW-dus) Without a covering or nude.

nutans (NEW-tanz) Nodding.

nutrient (NEW-tri-ent) Any substance that provides nourishment for the maintenance of the life of any living organism.

nutrition (new-TRISH-un) The processes through which food materials are taken in by a living organism and converted to living tissue.

- O -

ob- (AHB) A Latin prefix used to indicate the opposite or the inverse.

obcordatus, -a, -um (ob-kor-DAY-tus) Heart-shaped with the attachment at the apex.

obcompressus, -a, -um (ob-kom-PRESS-us) Flattened dorso-ventrally instead of laterally.

obconical (ob-KON-i-cal) Inversely conical, having the attachment at the apex.

oblanceolate (ob-LAN-see-o-layt) In the shape of a lance with the broadest part at the point of attachment.

oblade (ob-LATE) Circular but flattened at the poles.

oblique (o-BLEEK) With unequal sides; slanting.

oblong (OB-long) Two or three times longer than broad and with parallel sides.

oblongifolius, -a, -um ( ob-long-gi-FOH-li-us) Having oblong leaves.

obovate (ob-OH-vayt) Inverted ovate; ovate with the narrow end near the point of attachment.

obovoid (ob-OH-voyd) Having the form of an egg with the broad end apical.

obryzatus, -a, -um (o-bry-ZAY-tus) Pure gold in appearance.

obsolescence (ob-so-LESS-ENZ) Becoming rudimentary or extinct.

obsolete (ob-sol-LEET) Not evident; rudimentary; extinct.

obtrullate (ob-tru-LAYT) Trowel-shaped with the widest axis above the middle.

obtusus, -a, -um (ob\_TOO-sus) Blunt or rounded at the tip.

obtusifolius, -a, -um (ob-too-si-FOH-li-us) With leaves blunt or rounded at the tip.

ocellatus, -a, -um (O-sell-LAY-tus) Having what appears to be eyes.

ochraceus, -a, -um (o-KRAY-see-us) Yellowish in color.

ochroleucous (o-kra-LEW-cus) Yellowish-white.

ocrea (o-KREE-ah) A tubular stipule or confluent pair of elongate stipules.

ocreate (o-KREE-ayt) With sheathing stipules.

ocreolae (o-KREE-o-lee) Having smaller or secondary sheaths.

oculatus, -a, -um (ok-yew-LAY-tus) With dark spots looking like eyes.

odontochilus, -a, -um (o-don-toh-KYE-lus) With a toothed lip.

odoratus, -a, -um (o-do-RAY-tus) Being fragrant.

odoratissimus, -a, -um (o-do-ra-TISS-i-mus) With a strong fragrance.

officinalis, -e (o-fiss-in-AY-lis) A plant or substance formerly recognized for its medicinal purpose.

offset (AWF-set) A lateral growth or offshoot capable of producing another plant.

offshoot (AWF-shoot) A lateral growth; in Hawaii a keiki.

oleginous (o-lee-AJ-in-us) Having the quality of oil; like oil.

oliganthis, -a, -um (o-lig-ANTH-us) With a few flowers.

olivaceus, -a, -um (o-liv-AY-see-us) Olive-green in color.

oncioides (on-sid-di-OY-deez) Similar to the members of the genus *Oncidium*.

opaque (O-PAYK) Dull and not translucent.

operculate (o-PERK-yew-layt) Having a lid or what appears like a cap.

operculum (o-PERK-yew-lum) A cap or a covering like a lid; in orchids, the anther cap.

opposite (OP-po-sit) The condition where an opposing pair of branches or leaves occur at each node; also applies to stamens when they occur directly in front of the petals.

orbicularis, -e (or-bik-yew-LAY-ris) Round in outline; in the shape of a disc.

orbiculatus, -a, -um (or-bik-yew-LAY-tus) Circular like a disc.

organelle (or-GAN-el) A specialized part of a cell performing a specific function.

organic (or-GAN-ik) Any substance produced by a living thing.

organism (or-GAN-iss-um) Any living individual consisting of a single cell or a group cells making up tissues of different parts.

orifice (OR-i-fiss) An opening.

originator (or-r-RIJ-i-nay-ter) The person who made or registered the hybrid or assigned the responsibility.

ornithorhynchus, -a, um (or-nith-o-RINK-us) With the appearance of a bird's beak.

ortho- (OR-tho-) Usually used as a prefix to mean exact, straight, upright or correct.

osmosis (oz-MOH-sis) The diffusion of water through a selectively permeable membrane to seek an equilibrium of concentration.

osmundine (oz-MUN-deen) The fiber cut from the fern of the genus *Osmunda* which is used as a potting medium for many epiphytic orchids.

ovalis, -e (o-VAL- is) Broadly elliptical.

ovary (o-va-ree) The structure that is a part of the pistil which contains the ovules.

ovatus, -a, -um (o-VAY-tus) Egg-shaped, with the broader end basal.

ovoid (o-VOYD) Having an ovate outline.

ovulate (OH-vyew-layt) Bearing ovules.

ovule (OH-vyewl) The structure in seed plants containing the egg cell which after fertilization matures into a seed.

ovuliferus, -a, -um (o-vyew-LIFT-er-us) To bear ovules.

- P -

pachyphyllus, -a, -um (pak-ee-FILL-us) Having thick leaves.

paleaceous (pal-ee-AY-shus) Chaffy in appearance.

pallens (PAL-len-z) Changing to pale or light in color.

pallidus, -a, -um (PAL-li-dus) Pale in color.

palmatus, -a, -um (pal-MAY-tus) Radiately lobed or divided like the fingers from the palm of a hand.

paludosus, -a, -um (pal-yew-DOH-sus) Found growing in marshes.

palustris, -e (pal-US-tris) Of or growing in marshes.

panduratus, -a, -um (pan-der-RAY-tus) Fiddle-shaped.

panduriformis, -e (pan-dew-ri-FOR-miss) Shaped like a violin.

panicle (PAN-i-kul) A loose irregularly compound inflorescence with pedicellate flowers, such as a branched raceme or corymb.

paniculate (pan-ik-yew-layt) Borne in panicle; resembling a panicle.

paniculatus, -a, -um (pan-ik-yew-LAY-tus) The flowers borne in a panicle; the flowers arranged resembling a panicle.

pannose (PAN-nosz) Having the appearance or texture of felt or woolen cloth of very close texture.

panniformis, -e (pan-ni-FOR-mis) Having a felt-like layer of trichomes (hairs).

papilio (pa-PILL-ee-o) Like a butterfly.

papillose (pa-PILL-osz) Bearing minute nipple-shaped projections.

parallelism (pair-ah-LEL-ism) The independent occurrence of the same or similar trends or features between two or more lineages of plants.

paraphyletic (pair-ah-fy-LET-ick) A cladistic term for a monophyletic group which is not holophyletic since it does not include all descendants of a common ancestor.

parasite (PA-ra-site) An organism growing on another living organism and gaining its nutrition from that organism.

parenchyma (pa-RINK-a-ma) A soft undifferentiated tissue composed of cells without thickened walls.

parietal (pa-RYE-e-tal) Borne on or pertaining to the wall or inner surface of a capsule or ovary.

paripinnate (pa-ree-PIN-nayt) (abruptly or even-pinnate) Pinnate with unequal number of leaflets, i.e., without a terminal leaflet.

parted (PAR-ted) Cleft or divided almost to the base.

parthenogenesis (par-then-o-JEN-e-siss) Developing seeds without fertilization; apogamous.

partitus, -a, -um (par-TYE-tus) Cleft almost but not quite to the base.

partial (par-SHUL) Secondary in rank.

partitioned (par-TISH-und) Separated into compartments or chambers internally by horizontal walls

parviflorus, -a, -um (par-vi-FLOR-us) Having small flowers.

parvifolius, -a, -um (par-vi-FOH-lee-us) With small leaves.

parvus, -a, -um (PAR-vus) Small.

passerinus, -a, -um (pass-e-RYE-nus) With appearance or marked like a sparrow.

patens (PAY-tenz) Spreading or broad and flat.

patent (PA-tent) Opening or spreading widely.

pathogen (PATH-o-jen) An organism that causes a disease.

pathological (path-o-LOJ-i-kul) Diseased.

pathology (path-OLL-o-jee) The study or science of diseases;  
phytopathology is the science of plant diseases.

patulus, -a, -um (PAT-yew-lus) Flat, broad or spreading.

paucus, -a, -um (PAW-kus) A few. Used in compound words as a prefix or suffix to mean few.

peat (PEET) The partially decomposed bodies of plants but more commonly coming from the peat moss Sphagnum which is also used in a dried form for orchid culture media since it retains moisture.

pectinatus, -a, -um (pek-ti-NAY-tus) Pinnatifid with narrow closely set segments; comb-like.

pedalis, -e (pee-DAY-lis) Approximately one foot long.

pedate (pee-DAYT) Palmately divided or parted, with lateral segments 2-cleft.

pedicel (PED-i-sel) The stalk for a single flower; the division of the peduncle which bears the flower.

pedicellate (PED-i-sel-layt) Borne on a pedice.

peduncle (pe-DUNG-kul) A primary flower stalk, supporting a single or many flowers.

peduncularis, -a, -um (pee-dunk-yew-LAY-riss) With long peduncles or with peduncular flower-stalks.

pedunculatus, -a, -um (pee-dunk-yew-LAY-tus) Borne on a peduncle.

pellicle (pel-i-KALO) An evident surface membrane or epidermis.

pellucid (pel-LOO-sid) Clear or transparent.

peloric (pe-LOR-ik) An abnormal formation of a flower where some part of the perianth is doubled or simulates another part.

peltatus, -a, -um (pelOTAY-tus) Shield-shaped and attached to the support (stalk) by the lower surface.

pendant (also pendent) (PEN-dent) A structure suspended or hanging.

pendulus, -a, -um ( PEN-dew-luss) Hanging or drooping; suspended downward.

penicilliate (pen-i-SIL-lee-ayt) Brush-like.

pennatus, -a, -um (pen-AY-tus) Like a feather.

penta- (PEN-ta-) Commonly used as a prefix to mean five.

pentadactylus, -a, -um (pen-ta-DAK-til-lus) Having five fingers.

pentamerous (pen-TAM-er-us) Divided into five parts.

pentaploid (PEN-ta-ployd) The abnormal genetic makeup of the organism having five sets of chromosomes per cell.

perbellus, -a, -um (per-BELL-us) Extraordinarily beautiful.

percussus, -a, -um (per-KUSS-us) With perforations or having that appearance.

perennial (per-ENN-i-al) A plant whose life cycle is three or more years long.

per- (PER) A Greek prefix for around.

perfect (PER-fekt) Describes a flower possessing both functional pistil(s) and stamen(s).

perfoliate (per-FOH-lee-ayt) Said of a leaf whose stem appears to pass through it.

pergameneous (per-gah-MEE-nee-us) With the texture of parchment.

peri- (PARE-i) A Greek prefix meaning around, about or beyond.

perianth (PARE-i-anth) The floral whorls, consisting of the calyx and corolla (if present) without respect to their form.

pericarp (PARE-i-karp) The modified leaves making up the outer wall of the ovary.

peripheral (per-RIFF-er-al) On or near the edge or margin.

perlite (purr-LITE) A heat-expanded type of vermiculite, a phosphate rock, which is used in potting media to enhance aeration.

persistent (per-sis-tent) Lasting or remaining attached.

pertusus, -a, -um (per-TEW-sus) Having an opening or gap.

pervianus, -a, -um (per-ROO-vee-an-us) From Peru.

pesticide (PESS-ti-side) A chemical agent that is used to destroy pests.

petal (PET-al) A part of the corolla; a segment of the second whorl of a flower.

petaloid (PET-a-loyd) Colored or resembling a petal.

petiolatus, -a, -um (pet-i-o-LAY-tus) Possessing a petiole.

petiole (PET-ee-ohl) The leaf stalk.

petiolulate (PET-ee-ohl-layt) Having petiolules or leaflets.

petiolule (pet-ee-oh-LUL) The stalk of a leaflet.

pH (pee-AITCH) The logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen-ion concentration in mole per liter of a solution which is measure of the acidity or alkalinity; neutral being a pH of 7.0, below is acid and above is alkaline.

phaenogamous or phanerogamous (FEE-no-gam-us) (FEE-ne-ro-gam-us)  
The plants with flowers having stamens and pistils and producing seeds.

phenotype (FEE-no-type) The external visible characteristics giving the appearance to the organism.

phoenicius, -a, -um (fee-NISH-us) Purple-red.

photoperiodism (foh-toh-PERR-i-o-dism) The effect of day length on flowering, dormancy, vegetative development, leaf fall, and other aspects of plant behavior.

photosynthesis (foh-toh-SIN-the-siss) The synthesis of carbohydrates with the formation of oxygen and carbon dioxide by chlorophyll using light as the energy source.

phyllodium (FIL-lo-dee-um) A dilated petiole having the form and functioning as a leaf.

phyllotaxy (FILL-oh-tak-see) The manner in which the leaves are arranged on the stem or axis.

phylogenetical (fye-loh-je-NET-ik-ul) The race history of a type or taxon of organisms; the evolutionary changes of a type or taxon of organisms.

phylogeny (fye-LOG-en-ee) The ancestral history of a taxon as seen in the development of the individuals making up the taxon.

-phyllum (FILL-lum) Commonly used in compound words referring to leaves.

phylum (FYE-lum) Usually used by zoologists for the largest category of classification which includes a group of classes; synonymous with Division used by botanists.

phymatochilus, -a, -um (fye-mat-o-KYE-lus) With a swelling on the lip.

phytology (fye-TOL-o-jee) The study or science of plants.

phytotoxicity (fye-toh-tok-siss-i-tee) Poisonous to plants.

picturatus, -a, -um (pik-tew-RAY-tus) Variegated.

pictus, -a, -um (PIK-tus) As if painted.

pileatus, -a, -um (pil-ee-AY-tus) Possessing a cap.

pilosus, -a, -um (pye-LOH-sus) Endowed with long soft hairs.

pinnatus, -a, -um (pin-NAY-tus) Having leaflets arranged on each side of a common axis like a feather.

pinnatifid (pin-NAT-i-fid) Pinnately cleft or divided.

pisiform (PY-se-form) Having a pea-shaped.

pistil (PISS-til) The central whorl of a flower which bears the seeds and consists of the ovary, stigma and style (when present).

pistillate (PISS-til-layt) Having a pistil or pistils and usually with the stamens absent.

pitted (PIT-ted) With small depressions or pits.

placatus, -a, -um (plak-AY-tus) Quiet or calm.

placenta (pla-SEN-ta) A part of interior of the ovary which is the attachment for the ovules.

plaited (PLAT-ted) Plicate or folded lengthwise as a closed fan.

planus, -a, -um (PLAY-nus) Having a flat surface.

plasticity (plas-TISS-i-tee) The degree to which a given genotype may vary in appearance under different environmental conditions.

platy- A Greek term used in compound words to mean broad, wide or flat.

plenus, -a, -um (PLEE-nus) Double or full.

plesiomorphy (PLEE-zee-oh-more-fee) A cladistic term referring to the implied phylogenetic history of a plant or taxon.

plicatilis, -e (plye-ka-TYE-liss) Folded or pleated.

plicatus, -a, -um (PLYE-kay-TUS) Folded or pleated like a fan.

ploidy (ploy-dee) Refers to the chromosome number level carried in each cell of the plant.

plumosus, -a, -um (ploo-MOH-sus) With fine and elongate hairs resembling the plume of a feather.

pollen (POL-len) The small spore of a plant produced in the anther of the stamen which eventually produces the male gametes.

pollinarium (pol-li-NAIR-ee-um) A structure produced in some members of the Orchidaceae, consisting of a set of pollinia from the anther with associated parts the viscidium or viscidia and stipe.

pollination (pol-li-NAY-shun) The physical transfer of the pollen from the anther to the receptive surface of the stigma.

pollinia (pol-LIN-ee-ah) A mass of pollen grains which are coherent and are shed as a unit.

polliniferous (pol-li-NIF-er-us) Bearing pollen.

poly- (POL-ee) In compound words, a Greek prefix meaning many.

polyanthus, -a, -um (pol-i-AN-thus) With many flowers.

polybulbon (pol-i-BUL-bon) Possessing many bulbs.

polyembryony (pol-i-EM-bra-nee) The production of more than one embryo in a single ovule.

polygamodioecious (pol-i-GAM-oh-di-e-sus) Polygamous but primarily dioecious.

polygamous (pol-IG-ah-mus) Having both bisexual and unisexual flowers on the same plant or different plants of the same species

polymin (POL-i-min) A nonscientific term denoting a hybrid between a polyploid and a miniature Cymbidium.

polymorphous (pol-i-MOR-fuss) Having several forms; varying as to habit.

polypetalous (pol-i-PET-al-us) A flower with separate petals.

polyphyletic (pol-i-fye-LET-ik) Having more than one ancestral origin.

polyploid (POL-i-ployd) A plant that has more than two sets of chromosomes.

polystele (pol-i-steel) A singular structure with several vascular cylinders

polytopic (pol-i-TOP-ik) Said of a species or variety occurring in several geographically discontinuous areas.

population (pop-yew-LAY-shun) The collection of progeny from a single mating or from several similar matings.

porosus, -a, -um (por-ROH-sus) With small holes or pores.

porrect (por-REKT) Directed outward and forward

posterior (pos-TEER-i-or) Next to or toward the main axis; opposite of anterior.

praecox (PREE-koks) Blooming early.

praemorsus, -a, -um (pree-MOR-sus) Appearing as if bitten off at the end.

praestans (PREE-es-tanz) Standing in front; distinguished.

prasinus, -a, -um (pray-SYE-nus) Grass green.

prehensile (pree-HEN-sil) Clasping or grasping.

prickle (pr-ICK-al) A small and more or less slender, sharp outgrowth from the epidermis.

primary (PRY-mary) To designate the first part to develop or the main part.

primordium (pri-MOR-dee-um) The first recognizable undifferentiated tissue in the development of an organ.

primulinus, -a, -um (prim-yew-LYE-nus) With the appearance of a primrose.

princeps (PRIN-ceps) A distinguished one.

prismatic (priz-MAT-ik) Having the appearance or shape of prism with angular and flat sides.

prismatocarpus, -a, -um (priz-mat-o-KAR-pus) Having ovary walls that are prism like with three flat side and three sharp angular sides.

proboscideus, -a, -um (proh-bos-SID-ee-us) Like a snout or elongated nose.

proboscis (proh-BOH-siss) The elongated mouth parts of a feeding insect.

process (PROSS-ess) An extension of any surface or part beyond the main outline.

procumbens (pro-KUM-benz) Lying on the ground or trailing but without rooting at the nodes.

productus, -a, -um (proh-DUK-tus) Extended or lengthened.

profusus, -a, -um (proh-FEW-sus) Very numerous; produced abundantly.

proliferating (pro-lif-fer-AY-ting) Producing buds or plantlets from leaves or as other offshoots.

prophyllum (pro-PHIL-lum) The bracteole at the base of an individual flower.

prostrate (PROS-trayt) Lying flat on the ground.

proterandrous (pro-ter-AND-rus) The anthers maturing before the pistils in th same flower.

protergynous (pro-ter-GIN-us) The stigma maturing before the pollen and anthers in the same flower.

protocorm (PRO-toh-korm) The tuber-like mass of cells resulting from the envelopment of the seed prior to the production of the leaves and roots.

protologue (PRO-toh-log) The original information published with the description of a new taxon.

proximal (PROK-sim-al) Indicating the part nearest the point of attachment.

pruinous, -a, -um (prew-in-OH-sus) With a waxy powdery secretion or "bloom" on the surface.

psammophilous (sam-MOF-phil-us) Having its habitat in sand.

pseudo- (SOO-doh) A prefix (Greek) used in compound words to denote false.

pseudobulb (soo0doh-bulb) A false bulb which is actually a thickened stem.

pseudobulbous (soo-doh-BUL-bus) Producing a pseudobulb.

pseudobulbless (soo-doh-BULB-less) Lacking a pseudobulb.

pseudocopulation (soo-doh-COP-u-lay-shun) A mode of pollination in some orchids in which the structure and odor from the flower resembles (mimics) a female insect and male insects attempting copulation transfer pollen from one flower to another.

psycodes (sy-KOH-deez) Fragrant.

ptercarpus, -a, -um (tar-o-KAR-pus) Possessing a winged fruit.

puberulent (pew-BEH-ru-lent) With very fine hairs but with a few long hairs.

pubescens (pew-BESS-enz) Covered with hairs which are short, soft and down-like.

pudicus, -a, -um (PEW-dik-us) Modest.

pugioniformis, -e (pew-ji-o-ni-FORM-is) Shaped like a dagger.

pulchellus, -a, -um (pul-KEL-lus) Beautiful.

pulcher, pulchra, pulchrum (PUL-ker) Very pretty; lovely; handsome.

pullus, -a, -um (PULL-us) Dark in color.

pulverulent (pul-VAIR-u-lent) Having a powdered appearance as if covered by minute grains of dust.

pulvinatus, -a, -um (pull-vin-AY-tus) A cushion; having a swelling or elevation.

pumilus, -a, -um (PEW-mill-us) Dwarf; small.

punctatus, -a, -um (punk-TAY-tus) Dotted with depressions or tiny spots.

punctulate (pu-TIK-yew-layt) Minutely punctate.

pungent (PUN-junt) Terminating in a hard sharp point.

purpurascens (per-per-RAS-senz) Purple or turning purple.

purpuratus, -a, -um (per-per-AY-tus) Colored or marked with purple.

purpureus, -a, -um (per-PER-ee-us) Purple colored.

purus, -a, -um (POOR-us) Without a spot; one color.

pusillus, -a, -um (pew-SILL-us) Insignificant or very small.

pustulate (PUS-tew-layt) Possessing slight elevations like blisters.

pygmaeus, -a, -um (pig-MEE-us) Very small; dwarfish.

pyramidalis, -e (peer-a-mid-DAY-liss) Shaped like a pyramid.

pyriformis, -e (peer-i-FOR-miss) With the shape of a pear.

pyxidate (pi-X-i-dayt) Furnished with a lid.

- Q -

quad- (KWAD) Latin used more often as a prefix for four.

quadratus, -a, -um (kwad-RAY-tus) Nearly square; having four side.

quadricolor (KWAD-ri-ko-lor) Having four colors.

quadricornis, (kwad-ri-KOR-niss) With four horns.

quadrigeneric (kwad-ri-jen-AIR-rik) Concerning four genera.

quaquaversal (kwa-kwa-VERS-al) Twisting or turning variously.

quadernatus, -a, -um (kwa-ter-NAY-tus) In fours.

quin- (Kwin) Latin, used in compound words to mean five.

quinatus, -a, -um (kwin-AY-tus) In fives.

quinqvenervis, -e (kwin-kwe-NER-viss) With five nerves or veins.

quinqvepartitus, -a, um (kwin-kwe-PAR-ti-tus) Having five parts.

quinqvevulnerus, -a, -um (kwin-kwe-VUL-ner-us) With five wounds or  
blood-red spots.

- R -

raceme (ray-SEEM) A simple, unbranched inflorescence of pedicelled  
flowers on a common but more or less elongated axis.  
The most common type inflorescence in the  
Orchidaceae.

racemiform (ray-se-FORM-is) In the form of a raceme.

racemosus, -a, -um (ras-see-MOH-sus) The flowers in a raceme or having  
the appearance of a raceme.

rachis (RAY-kiss) The axis of the inflorescence.

radians (RAY-di-anz) Projecting out from a common center.

radiatus, -a, -um (ray-di-AY-tus) Spreading from or arranged around a  
central point.

radical (RAD-i-kul) Produced from the root or the base of the stem.

radicans (RAD-ik-anz) Possessing rooting stems.

radicle (RAD-i-kul) The part of the embryo within a seed which is below the  
cotyledons and develops into the root system.

radix (RAD-iks) The root.

rameal (RAM-ee-al) Belonging to a branch.

ramet (RAM-et) An individual member of a clone.

ramicaul (RAM-ih-call) The branching of a stem; the secondary stem of the Pleurothallidinae.

ramification (ram-ih-FYE-kay-shun) Branching.

ramosus, -a, -um (ram-OH-sus) Branching or having branches.

ramulose (ram-YU-lowse) With numerous branches.

raniferus, -a, -um (ran-NIF-fer-us) To bear frogs.

ranks (RANKS) In rows.

raphides (RAF-i-deez) Needle-like crystals found in the cells of most plants that are more commonly calcium oxalate.

rarus, -a, -um (RARE-us) Uncommon; rare.

raucus, -a, -um (RAW-kus) Rough; uneven; raucous.

receptacle (re-SEP-ta-kul) The more or less expanded part of an axis which bears the organs of a flower (the torus) or the collected flowers of a head.

recessive (ree-SESS-iv JEEN) The member of a pair of genes whose phenotypic expression is masked or suppressed by the dominant gene.

reciprocal cross (re-SIP-ro-kul KRAWSS) The repeat of a cross where the original roles of the ovary parent and the pollen parent are reversed.

reclinatus, -a, -um (rek-lin-AY-tus) Turned downward or falling back from perpendicular.

recondite (REK-on-dyet) Hidden; not easily seen.

rectus, -a, -um (REK-tus) Upright; erect.

recurvus, -a, -um (ree-KER-vus) Curved downward or backward.

reflexus, -a, -um (ree-FLEK-sus) Abruptly bent or folded backward or downward.

refulgens (re-FUL-jenz) Shining brightly.

regalis, -e (ree-GAY-liss) Outstanding in merit.

reginae (rej-JYE-nee) Like a queen; queenly.

regius, -a, -um (REE-ji-us) Of royal quality; regal.

regular (REG-yew-lar) Uniform in shape or structure.

remotus, -a, -um (ree-MOH-tus) Not close together; scattered.

reniformis, -e (ree-ni-FOR-miss) The shape of a kidney.

repandens (ree-PAR-denz) Having a gently wavy or fluted margin;  
undulate.

repens (REE-penz) Creeping; prostrate and rooting at the nodes.

replicatus, -a, -um (rep-li-KAY-tus) Folded backwards.

resiniferous -a, -um (res-in-NIF-er-us) Producing resin.

respiration (res-pi-RAY-shun) The exchange of carbon dioxide for oxygen in  
the cells, the carbon dioxide produced in the  
intracellular processes in which food is  
oxidized with the release of energy.

resupinate (ree-SOO-pin-ayt) The twisting of the ovary 180 degrees as the  
flower elaborates so that the flower turns  
upside down in presentation. Many orchids  
develop in this manner.

reticulatus, -a, -um (re-tik-yew-LAY-tus) Having the form of a network.

reticulum (re-TIK-yew-lum) A network of fibers.

retinaculum (re-tyn-NAK-yew-lum) Any of the small glands or bodies  
resembling glands at the base of the  
stalk of the pollinium; usually the  
viscidium.

retorse (re-TRORSS) Directed back or downward.

retusus, -a, -um (ree-TEW-sus) Having a shallow notch at a rounded apex.

reversion (ree-VER-shun) A change backward, as to an earlier condition.

reversionary (ree-VER-shun-ary) With the characteristics of a reversion.

reversus, -a, -um (ree-VER-sus) Turned around.

revolutus, -a, -um (rev-oh-LEW-tus) Rolled backward from the margins or apex.

rhizomatose (rye-zoh-MAT-os) With the character of a rhizome.

rhizome (RYE-zohm) Any prostrate or subterranean stem, usually rooting at the nodes and becoming upcurved at the apex to produce leaves.

rhombic (ROM-bik) Having the outline of an equilateral oblique-angled figure

rhomboid (ROM-boyd) A solid with a diamond shape.

RHS The abbreviation for Royal Horticultural Society; responsible for registering all orchid hybrids.

rib (RIB) A primary or prominent vein of a leaf; a costa.

rigidus, -a, -um (RIJ-id-us) Stiff; unbending.

rimosus, -a, -um (ri-MOH-sus) Having chinks or cracks, as in old bark.

ringens (RIN-jenz) Gaping open; used for labiate flowers with open throat or mouth.

riparian (ri-PAR-ee-an) Growing along rivers or streams.

rivalis, -e (ri-VAY-liss) Growing along streams

root (ROOT) An organ which is the descending axis of the plant, usually growing in the opposite direction from the stem, without nodes or internodes, usually developing underground but also aerially and functions to absorb moisture and minerals from the air or substrate.

root hairs Unicellular epidermal cells having the appearance of hairs which are produced just above the region of maturation in young roots and function in absorption.

rosette (roh-ZET) A cluster of structures or organs in a circular form.

rostellate (ros-TELL-ayt) The diminutive of rostrate, somewhat beaked.

rostellum (ros-TELL-um) A small beak; a slender extension from the upper edge of the stigma in the Orchidaceae.

rostratus, -a, -um (ros-TRAY-tus) Having a beak-like projection.

rotatus, -a, -um (ro-TAY-tus) Shaped like a wheel; flat and circular in outline.

rotundatus, -a, -um (ro-tun-DAY-tus) Nearly circular; rounded.

rotundifolius, -a, -um (ro-tun-di-FOH-li-us) Having round or rounded leaves.

rubellus, -a, -um (roo-BEL-us) Reddish colored.

ruber, rubra, rubrum (ROO-ber) Red.

rubescens (roo-BESS-senz) Reddish colored; suffused with rose.

rubri- (ROO-bra-) Found in compound words to mean red.

rubro-oculatus, pa, -um (roo-brok-ok-yew-LAY-tus) With red-eyed.

rubro-purpureus, -a, -um (roo-bro-poor-POOR-ee-us) Reddish purple.

rubiginosus, -a, -um (roo-bij-in-OH-sus) Rust colored.

ruderal (ROO-der-el) Growing in waste places.

rudiment (ROO-di-ment) An imperfectly developed and functionally useless organ; a vestige.

rufescens (roo-FESS-senz) Reddish brown.

rugosus, -a, -um (roo-GOH-sus) Roughened with wrinkles.

rugulosus, -a, -um (roo-gew-LOW-sus) Finely wrinkled.

ruminate (room-in-NAYT) Looking as though chewed.

runcinate (run-sin-ayt) Sharply incised with the segments directed backward.

runner (RUN-ner) A filiform or a very slender stolon.

rupestris, -e (roo-PESS-triss) Growing in rocky places such as cliffs or ledges.

rupicolus, -a, -um (roo-PIK-o-lus) Found growing in rocky places

- S -

sabulose (SAB-yew-lobz) Located near or in a sandy place.

saccatus, -a, -um (sak-KAY-tus) Sac-shaped.

sagittatus, -a, -um (saj-it-TAY-tus) Shaped like an arrow-head, the basal lobes directed backward and downward.

saccharinus, -a, -um (sak-ka-RYE-nus) Sweet.

salinus, -a, -um (sal-LYE-nus) Growing in saline places; salty.

sanctus. -a, -um (SANK-tus) Sacred; holy.

sanguineus, -a, -um (sang-GWIN-e-us) Blood colored.

sanguinolens (sang-OH-lenz) Close to blood in color.

sanguinolentus, -a, -um (sang-gwin-o-LEN-tus) With blood-red spotting or veins.

sapidus, -a, -um (SAP-id-us) Savoury; pleasant flavored.

saprophyte (SAP-roh-fyte) A plant deriving its nutrition from dead or decaying organic matter of another plant or animal.

saprophytic (sap-pro-FIT-ik) Existing as a saprophyte.

sarcanthine (sar-KAN-theen) Similar to any Asiatic monopodial orchid.

sarcodes (sar-KOH-deez) Fleshlike in substance.

sativus, -a, -um (sat-TYE-vus) Cultivated.

saxocolus, -a, -um (sax-IK-o-lus) Dwelling in or near rocky places.

scaber, scabra, scabrum (SKAY-ber) Rough.

scabrous (SKAY-brus) Rough or gritty to the touch.

scalariform (ska-LAIR-i-form) With marking suggestive of a ladder.

scale (SKAYL) Any thin scarios body, usually a degenerate leaf, sometimes of epidermal origin; a trichome, if disc-shaped or flattened.

scalloped (SKAL-lopd) With rounded teeth or lobes; crenate.

scandent (SKAN-dent) Climbing.

scape (SKAYP) A leafless peduncle arising from the ground which may bear scales or bracts but no foliage leaves and may be one- or many-flowered.

scaposus, -a, -um (skap-OH-sus) Bearing a scape or scapes.

scariosus, -a, -um (skay-ri-OH-sus) Thin, dry and membranaceous, not green.

scion (SYE-on) The cutting used in grafting.

sclerenchyma (SLUR-ink-ki-muh) A strengthening tissue made up of dead thick-walled cells that are either long cells called fibers or short cells called sclerids.

scobicular (sco-BIK-yew-lar) Having the appearance of grains of sawdust.

scoparius (sco-PAR-ee-us) Broomlike, like a bundle of twigs.

scorpoid (sco-PEE-oid) Circinately coiled while in bud.

scrotiformis, -e (skro-ti-FOR-miss) Pouch-like.

sculptus, -a, -um (SKULP-tus) Having a carved appearance.

scurfy (SKER-fee) Having scale-like or bran-like particles.

scutellaris, e (skew-tell-AY-ris) Platter-shaped.

sebosus, -a, -um (seb-OH-sus) Tallowy; greasy.

sectile (SEK-til) Having the quality of being able to be cut smoothly with a knife.

section (SEK-shun) A taxonomic category below the rank of subgenus which is a subdivision of a genus.

secundus, -a, -um (sek-KUN-dus) Borne along one side of the axis: turned to one side.

seed (SEED) The ripened ovule, consisting of the embryo, with or without endosperm usually with a seed coat.

seed pod (SEED pod) The horticultural term for the fruit or capsule of an orchid.

seedling (SEED-ling) A growing seed; the young plant that produces its first leaves and roots until it reaches its first flowering.

segment (SEG-ment) One of the parts of a leaf or other structure that is cleft or divided.

self-fertilization (SELF-fer-ti-lye-ZAY-shun) The fertilization of an ovule with its own pollen; selfing.

self-pollination (SELF-pol-in-AY-shun) The pollination of a flower by its own pollen.

selligerus, -a, -um (sel-LIJ-er-us) Shaped like a saddle.

semi- (SEM-i) Latin denoting half, used in compound words as a prefix.

semi-alba (semi-i-AL-buh) The horticultural term to mean a white flower with a colored lip.

semi-apertus, -a, -um (semi-i-ah-PER-tus) A half open flower.

semiterete (semi-ter-REET) Nearly round in cross section.

senilis, -e (sen-NYE-lis) Aged; belonging to old people.

sepal (SEE-pal) A division of the calyx; the outermost whorl of a flower.

sepaline (SEP-a-leen) Made up of sepals; resembling a sepal.

septate (SEP-tayt) Divided by partitions or cross-walls.

septum (SEP-tum) A cross-wall or partition.

sericeus, -a, -um (ser-ISS-e) Covered with a silky down; silky.

serpens (SER-penz) Creeping; like a serpent.

serratus, -a, -um (ser-AY-tus) With sharp teeth pointing forward.

serrulate (ser-YEW-layt) Finely serrate.

sesquipedalis, -e (sess-kwee-pee-DAY-liss) One-and-a-half feet long.

sessilis, -e (SESS-il-iss) Lacking a stalk of any kind.

seta (SEE-tah) A bristle.

setaceus, -a, -um (se-TAY-see-us) Bristle-shaped; furnished with bristles.

setiformis, -a, -um (se-ti-FORM-iss) In the form of a bristle.

sexual propagation (SEK-shoo-al prop-a-GAY-shun) Increasing a plant population through the production and growth of seed.

sheath (SHEETH) A tubular protective envelope covering a developing stem or inflorescence.

shoot (SHOOT) A new growth originating from a root or stem.

shrub (SHRUB) A woody perennial, usually with several stems.

siculiformis, -e (sik-yew-li-FORM-iss) Shaped like a dagger.

sigmoid (SIG-moyd) Doubly curved like the letter S.

signatus, -a, -um (si-NAY-tus) To mark; designate; to affix.

siliceus, -a, -um (si-LISS-e-us) Composed of silica; abounding in sand.

silky (SIL-kee) With the texture or appearance of silk.

similis, -e (SIM-ill-iss) Similar to.

silvestria, -e (sil-VES-triss) Growing in woods.

simple (SIM-pul) Unbranched or not divided; opposite of compound.

simulans (SIM-yew-lanz) Resembling.

sinensis, -e (si-NEN-sis) Native to China.

sinistrorse (sin-ist-TRORSS) Turned to the left.

sinuatus, -a, -um (sin-yew-AY-tus) With a deeply wavy margin or edge.

sinus (SYE-nus) The cleft or recess between two lobes.

smooth (SMOOTH) Lacking roughness; an inaccurate way used to describe the absence of pubescence.

sobole (so-BOL) A shoot; a basal shoot.

socialis, -e (so-si-AY-liss) Forming colonies; allied.

solaris, -e (so-LAY-ris) Found in sunny places.

solitary (SOL-i-tay-ree) Borne alone, singly; blooming with a single flower.

sordidus, -a, -um (SOR-did-us) Appearing dirty in tint, chiefly applied to a structure when of impure white.

sparsus, -a, -um (SPAR-sus) A few.

spathaceous (spa-THAY-shus) With a sheath or a sheath-like bract.

spathe (SPATH) One or more bracts which subtend or enclose an inflorescence.

spathulatus, -a, -um (spath-yew-LAY-tus) A broad flat blade; oblong, with the basal end attenuated like a spatula.

speciation (spee-see-AY-shun) The change over time of two or more species from one ancestral form; phyletic speciation is transformation in time due to mutation, recombination and selection.

species (SPEE-sheez) A botanical and horticultural term used as a singular or plural to indicate a particular kind; a fundamental category in taxonomy.

specimen (SPESS-i-men) A plant exemplifying a taxon; an individual in a herbarium collection.

speciosissimus, -a, -um (spee-see-o-SISS-i-mus) Showy; very handsome; beautiful.

speciosus, -a, -um (spee-see-OH-sus) Beautiful.

spectabilis, -e (spek-TAB-il-is) Spectacular; visible.

speculum (SPEK-yew-lum) Reflecting like a mirror.

spermatophyte (spur-MAT-o-fite) A plant bearing true seeds.

sphacelatus, -a, -um (sfass-ee-LAY-tus) Having the appearance of being diseased.

sphagnum (SKAG-num) The generic name for a bog moss used in potting media to maintain moisture; also used partially decomposed and known as peat moss.

spheroidal (sfeer-OY-dul) A solid being nearly spherical in shape.

spicatus, -a, -um (spy-KAY-tus) Having the arrangement or resembling a spike.

spiciformis, -e (spye-FOR-miss) Having the form of a spike.

spiculose (spye-KU-lohse) Having a surface covered with fine points.

spike (SPYKE) A form of inflorescence with the flowers sessile upon an elongated axis. Only a very few orchids have this type of inflorescence.

spikelet (SPYKE-let) A small secondary spike.

spilopterus, -a, -um (spy-LOP-ter-us) With spotted wings.

spine (SPYNE) A strong, sharp-pointed woody body arising from the wood of the stem.

spinus, -a, -um (spy-NO-sus) Possessing spines.

spinulosus, -a, -um (spy-new-LO-sus) With small spines.

spiralis, -e (spy-RAY-lis) Having an arrangement in a spiral.

splendens (SPLEN-denz) Showy; radiant.

splendidus, -a, -um (SPLEN-did-us) Magnificent; glorious.

spore (SPOHR) A simple reproductive body more often composed of a single detached cell but without an embryo.

sport (SPORT) A sudden change from normal in a plant part; a mutation.

spray (SPRAY) The small braches bearing leaves, flowers, etc.; the pesticide material or its application used to treat or prevent disease.

spur (SPER) A hollow sac-like tubular extension of some part of the flower, usually nectariferous.

squalens (SKWAY-lenz) Looking dirty or dull in color.

squalidus, -a, -um (SKWAY-li-dus) The flowers dull in color; dirty.

squamellate (skwam-EL-layt) With tiny or secondary scales.

squamosus, -a, -um (skwam-OH-sus) Provided with a ragged scurfy surface.

stachys- (STAK-iss) A Greek word used in compound words meaning spike-like.

stalk (STAWK) A supporting stem such as a petiole. peduncle, pedical. filament or stipe.

stamen (STAY-men) The male structure of a flower which is pollen bearing.

staminate (STAM-in-ayt) Having stamens; male.

staminode (STAM-in-ohd) A sterile stamen, or any structure without an anther which corresponds to a stamen.

standard (STAN-dard) The dorsal dilated petal or sepal of a flower.

station (STAY-shun) A particular locality for a given plant.

stele (STEE-al) The central vascular cylinder.

stellatus, -a, -um (stell-AY-tus) Shaped like a star.

stem (STEM) The main body of a plant bearing roots below and leaves and eventually flowers above.

stenophyllus, -a, -um (sten-o-FILL-us) With narrow leaves.

sterile (STAIR-ill) Unproductive; infertile; free of any contaminating microorganisms.

stigma (STIG-ma) The apical portion of the pistil of a flower which receives the pollen for effective pollination and the eventual fertilization.

stigmatic (stig-MAT-ik) Belonging to or characteristic of the stigma.

stipe (STYPE) The slender stalk-like support of a structure such as the pollinia in the Orchidaceae.

stipel or stipellum (STIP-el) An appendage of a leaflet similar to a stipule.

stipitatus, -a, -um (stip-i-TAY-tus) Having a stipe or stalk.

stipule (STIP-uhl) An appendage at the base of some leaves or on each side of their insertion.

stolon (STOH-lon) An above the ground stem modified to run horizontally on the surface to usually take root at the nodes.

stoloniferous (sto-lon-IFF-er-us) Producing stolons.

stoma, stomate (STOH-mah) (plural - stomata (sto-MAH-tah) The opening between two guard cells in the epidermis of a leaf or stem which allows for gaseous exchange between the air and the internal tissues within the leaf or stem.

stramineus, -a, -um (str-MIN-e-us) Straw-colored; straw-like.

stratiotes (str-ti-OH-teez) Like a soldier.

streptopetalus, -a, -um (strep-toh-PET-alus) Having twisted petals.

striatus, -a, -um (stry-AY-tus) Marked with fine longitudinal lines or marks.

strictus, -a, -um (STRIK-tus) Very straight and upright; erect.

striga (STRIG-ah) A small straight hair-like scale.

strigosus, -a, -um (strig-OH-sus) Provided with appressed sharp straight and stiff hairs.

striolatus, -a, -um (stry-o-LAY-tus) Faintly striped or with fine lines.

strobile (STROB-ill) The inflorescence with imbricate scales similar to a cone.

style (STYLE) The unusually attenuated portion of the pistil connecting the stigma to the ovary; the stalk for the stigma.

stylidia (STEL-li-dee-ah) The column wings when present.

sub- A Latin prefix meaning under, lower or less.

subacute (sub-AK-ute) Less than acute.

subcordatus, -a, -um (sub-kor-DAY-tus) Somewhat heart shaped.

subcoriaceous (sub-kor-i-AY-shus) Nearly leathery in texture.

subequal (sub-EK-whal) Almost the same in size.

suberect (sub-ee-REKT) Nearly upright.

suberosus, -a, -um (soo-BER-osz) Corky in texture.

subfalcatus, -a, -um (sub-fal-KAY-tus) Somewhat curved or hooked.

subgenus (sub-jeen-us) A category in taxonomy below the rank of genus but above the rank of species.

submersus, -a, -um (sub-MER-sus) Growing under the water.

suborbicular (sub-or-BIK-yew-lar) Almost circular.

subpetiolate (sub-PET-ee-o-layt) Almost possessing a petiole.

subplicate (sub-pli-KAYT) Nearly plicate.

sessile (sub-SESS-ill) Almost stalkless.

subspecies (sub-SPEE-sheez) In taxonomy, a taxon between the rank of species and variety.

substance (SUB-stans) The thickness and firmness of tissue.

substrate (sub-STRAYT) The material upon which a plant grows.

subtended (sub-TEN-ded) To stand below and close to.

subterete (sub-ter-REET) Nearly or imperfectly terete.

subterraneus, -a, -um (sub-ter-RAY-ne-us) Below ground.

subtribe (sub-TRYB) A taxonomic grouping of genera below the rank of family.

subulatus, -a, -um (sub-yew-LAY-tus) Awl-shaped; tapering from base to apex.

subulifolius, -a, -um (sub-yew-li-FOH-li-us) With the leaves awl-shaped.

succulent (SUK-yew-lent) Soft and crushable; fleshy.

sucker (SUK-er) A vegetative shoot of subterranean origin.

suffused (SUF-few-sed) To overspread; to diffuse beneath.

sulcatus, -a, -um (sull-KAY-tus) Grooved or furrowed longitudinally.

sulphureus, -a, -um (sull-FEW-re-us) Light yellow in color like sulphur.

super- or supra (sue-PER) Used as a Latin prefix meaning above.

superbiens (sue-PER-bi-enz) Stately and grand.

superbus, -a, -um (sue-PER-bus)

superposed (sue-per-POHZD) One on top of another.

superior (sue-PEER-i-or) The ovary is completely above the attachment of the calyx.

supinus, -a, -um (sue-PYE-nus) Position on its back: prostrate.

surculose (sur-KEW-osz) Producing suckers.

suture (SUE-cher) A junction or seam of union; a line of opening or dehiscence.

sylvaticus, -a, -um (sill-VAT-i-kus) Referring to woodlands or forests.

sylvestris, -e (sill-VEST-ris) Growing in woods.

symbiosis (sim-bi-OH-siss) Two dissimilar organisms living together for mutual benefit

symbiotic (sim-bi-OT-ik) The mutual relationship of two dissimilar organism living together with the benefit to both.

symmetrical (sim-MET-rik-al) The flower is regular as to the number of its parts; having the same number of parts in each whorl.

sympatric (sim-PAT-rik) Said of a species or populations occurring in the same geographical location, overlapping in range.

sympetalous (sim-PET-al-us) With the petals united; gamopetalous.

symphysis (SIM-fiss-iss) Growing together.

synplesiomorphy (sim-PL EEZ-ee-oh- more-fee) A cladistic term meaning shared ancestral character state; as opposed to synapomorphy.

sympodial (sim-POH-di-al) The growth habit of the stem in which the shoot has limited growth and the new shoot arises from the base of an old shoot; opposite of monopodial.

synapomorphy (syn-APP-oh-more-fee) The cladistic term meaning shared derived character state, implying a common phylogenetic history as opposed to symplesiomorphy.

synonym (SIN-o-nim) In taxonomy, a scientific name considered the same for a species of plant or animal, hence it is not legitimate.

synsepalum (sin-SEP-a-lum) The lateral sepals typically are coherent; a characteristic of the Subtribe Cypripedilinae in orchids.

systematics (sis-tem-AT-iks) The attempt of trying to detect, describe and explain the diversity found in the plant and animal world based on the formalization of a hierarchical system of nomenclature.

- T -

tabularis, -e (tab-bew-LAY-riss) With a flat surface like a table.

tactile (tak-TIL) Sensitive to touch.

taedigerus, -a, -um (tee-DIJ-er-us) Bearing a torch.

taenialis, -e (tee-ni-AY-liss) With bands or ribbons.

taurinus, -a -um (taw-RYE-nus) With horns like a bull.

taxon (pl.taxa) (TAK-son) Used to designate a taxonomic category of any rank.

taxonomy (tak-SON-oh-mee) The science of classification that deals with the arrangement of plants or animals into categories according to their natural affinities.

tardus, -a, -um (TAR-dus) Late.

tendril (TEN-drill) A slender clasping or twining outgrowth of a stem or leaf.

tenebrosus, -a, -um (ten-eh-BROH-sus) Growing in dark shady places.

tenuifolius, -a, -um (ten-yew-i-FOH-li-us) Having slender leaves.

tenuis, -e (TEN-yew-ss) Thin; narrow; slender.

tepal- (TEE-pul) Used for sepals and petals which are so similar that they are not readily differentiated from one another.

teratological (ter-a-to-LOJ-ik-ul) A monstrosity; relating to a monstrosity.

teres (TEH-reez) Long and cylindrical; terete.

terete (teh-REET) Cylindrical but having a circular transverse section.

teretifolius, -a, -um (teh-ree-ti-FOH-li-us) With terete leaves.

terminal (TER-mi-nal) On the end; apical.

terminology (ter-min-OLL-oh-jee) The terms of description and general use in a given science or subject.

ternatus, -a, -um (ter-NAY-tus) In groups of three.

terrestrial (ter-RES-tri-al) Of the ground or soil; a land plant

terrestris, -a, -um (ter-REST-tris) The ground.

tessellatus, -a, -um (tess-sel-LAY-tus) With a checkered or mosaic pattern.

testa (pl. testae) (TESS-ta, TESS-tee) The hard outer coat of a seed.

testaceus, -a, -um (tes-TAY-se-us) Having a brick-red or brownish-red color.

tetrad (TET-rad) A group of four.

tetragonus, -a, -um (tet-TRAG-go-nus) With four angles.

tetraploid (TET-tra-ploid) The condition in the individual cells of an organism which have four sets of chromosomes.

thallus (THAL-lus) An undifferentiated plant body; the plant body without true roots, true stems or true leaves.

thyrses (THURSS) A contracted cylindrical or ovoid and usually compact panicle.

thyrsiflorus, -a, -um (thur-si-FLOR-us) Having flowers in a contracted cylindrical or ovoid and usually compact panicle.

tibicinis, -e (tib-i-SYE-niss) Resembling a flute or trumpet.

tigrinus, -a, -um (ti-GRYE-nus) Marked like a tiger.

tissue culture (TIH-shew KULL-ture) The method of propagating plants by excising cells or portions of tissue of a plant and growing them on an appropriate culture medium.

titanus, -a, -um (ty-TAY-nus) Very large.

tomentosus, -a, -um (to-men-TOH-sus) Densely pubescent with matted wooly hairs.

tomentum (toh-MEN-tum) Closely covered with wooly hairs.

tonsus, -a, -um (TON-sus) Sheared or shaved smooth.

topotype (TOH-po-ty) A specimen collected, usually later, from the same locality that the author of the taxon collected the original material representing the taxon.

torose (TOR-osz) Cylindrical with contractions or swellings at intervals.

torridus, -a, -um (TOR-rid-us) Found growing in hot, dry places.

tortilis, -e (TOR-ti-liss) Twisted or coiled.

torus (TOR-us) The receptacle of the flower.

totipotency (toh-ti-POH-ten-see) The principle that the DNA of the nucleus has the capacity to control a complete program for the development of an organism.

toxicarius, -a, -um (tok-si-KAY-ri-us) A toxic or poisonous substance.

trailing (TRAY-ling) Prostrate but not rooting.

translucent (tranz-LOO-sent) Allowing light to pass through but not transparent.

transpiration (tran-spir-AY-shun) The process of losing water vapor from a plant through the stomata of the leaves and stem.

transplanting (tranz-PLAN-ting) The moving of a plant from one place to another.

transverse (tranz-VERSS) Across; a cross section.

trapeziformis, -e (trap-ee-zi-FORM-iss) Unsymmetrically four-sided; like a trapezoid.

tremulus, -a, -um (TREM-yew-lus) Quivering or trembling.

tri- (TRY) A Latin prefix denoting three in compound words.

triandrus, -a, -um (trye-AN-drus) Having three stamens.

tribe (TRYBE) The taxonomic division of an Order; a group of related genera.

tricarpus, -a, -um (try-KAR-pus) Composed of three carpels.

trichome (TRYE-kohm) The botanical term for any hair-like outgrowth of the epidermis.

tricolor (TRYE-col-or) Having three colors.

tricostate (trye-KOSS-tayt) Possessing three ribs.

tridentatus, -a, -um (trye-den-TAY-tus) With three teeth.

trifidus, -a, -um (TRYE-fid-us) Three cleft.

trifoliatus, -a, -um (trye-fol-AY-tus) With three leaves.

trigeneric (trye-jen-ER-ik) A hybrid made by crossing three genera.

trigonus (TRIG-o-nus) With three angles.

trilinguis, -e (trye-LING-gwiss) Having three tongues.

trilobate (trye-LOH-bayt) With three lobes.

trimerous (TRIM-er-us) The parts in threes.

trimorphous (trye-MOR-phas) Existing in three forms.

triploid (TRIP-ployd) The condition in which each cell possesses three times the haploid number of chromosomes.

tripudians (trye-PEW-di-anz) Moving like dancing.

tripunctatus, -a, -um (trye-punk-TAY-tus) Being three spotted.

triquetrous (trye-KWEE-trus) With three corners.

trisected (TRYE-sek-ted) Cut deeply into three parts.

tristis, -e (TRIS-tiss) Dull colored.

triumphans (trye-UM-fanz) Excelling over all others.

tropicus, -a, -um (TROP-ik-us) In or from the tropics.

trullate (trull-layt) Trowel-shaped.

trulliferus, -a, -um (tru-LIFF-er-us) Having a trowel.

trulliformis, -e (trull-i-FORM-iss) Having a trowel form.

truncatus, -a, -um (trun-KAY-tus) Ending abruptly, as if cut off  
transversely.

tubatus, -a, -um (tew-BAY-tus) Trumpet-shaped.

tuber (TEW-ber) A swollen and fleshy underground stem having many bud  
and eyes.

tubercle (TEW-ber-kul) A small tuberlike body above or under the ground.

tuberculatus, -a, -um (tew-ber=kew-LAY-tus) Having small processes or  
wart-like bodies.

toberosus, -a, -um (tew-ber-OH-sus) Looking like the potato tuber.

tumidus, -a, -um (TEW-mid-us) Swollen.

tunicatus, -a, -um (tew-ni-KAY-tus) Having enclosing coats or layers.

turbinatus, -a, -um (ter-bin-AY-tus) With the shape of an inverse cone; like  
a top.

turgidus, -a, -um (TER-jid-us) Swollen or thickened as if swollen.

type (TYPE) The original specimen or material representative of a species  
or other taxon chose by the author to represent that new  
taxon.

typicus, -a, -um (TIP-ik-us) Used in classification to refer to the originally described or ordinary variation.

- U -

ubiquitous(yew-BIK-wi-tus) Occurring everywhere.

uliginosus, -a, -um (yew-lij-in-OH-sus) Found in wet places or marshes

umbel (UM-bel) An inflorescence in which the peduncles or pedicels arise a common point on the floral axis.

umbilicate (um-bil-i-KAYT) With a depression in the center.

umbonate (um-BO-nayt) Having a stout projection in the center; bossed.

umbrosus, -a, -um (um-BROH-sus) Like an umbel; preferring shade.

uncinatus, -a, -um (un-sin-AY-tus) Bent like a hook.

undulatus, -a, -um (un-dew-LAY-tus) Having a wavy surface or margin; repand.

unguiculatus, -a, -um (un-gwik-yew-LAT-tus) Contracted into a claw or narrow stalk at the base.

uni- (YEW-ni) A Latin prefix meaning one.

unicornis, -e (yew-ni-KOR-niss) With one horn.

uniflorus, -a, -um (yew-ni-FLOR-us) The peduncle with a single flower; one flowered.

unilateral (yew-ni-LAT-er-ul) On one side.

unisexual (yew-ni-SEK-shu-al) Flowers that are either pistillate or staminate not both.

urceolatus, -a, um (er-see-o-LAY-tus) Being hollow and cylindrical or ovoid and contracted at or just below the mouth; urn-shaped.

urens (YEW-renz) Stinging or burning.

urophyllus, -a, -um (yew-ro-FILL-us) With tail like leaves.

utilis, -e (YEW-till-iss) Useful.

utricularioides (yew-trik-yew-la-ri-OY-deez) Bladder shaped.

- V -

vagans (VAY-ganz) Having a wide distribution.

vaginatus, -a, um (vaj-i-NAY-tus) With sheaths.

vallecula (val-LEK-yew-la) The grooves in the intervals between the ridges.

validus, -a,-um (VAL-id-us) Strong; robust.

valvate (VAL-vayt) Opening by valves, as a capsule; in a flowerbud,  
meeting by the edges without overlapping.

valve (VALV) One of the pieces resulting from the splitting open of the  
capsule.

variabilis, -e (va-ri-AY-bil-liss) To vary in form or color.

variegatus, -a, -um (vair-ri-GAY-tus) Changing; variable in form or color.

variety va-RYE-eh-tee) A member or group organisms of a species having  
minor characteristics separating it from the usual  
members of the species.

vascular (VAS-kew-lar) Bearing vessels or ducts.

vegetative (VEJ-e-tay-tiv) Any part of the plant not directly involved in  
reproduction, such as stems, roots or leaves.

vegetative propagation (VEJ-jeh-tay-tiv prop-a-GAY-shun)  
Reproducing a plant through vegetative means  
such as cuttings, divisions, tissue culture or  
meristeming.

vegetus, -a, -um (VEJ-et-us) Lively, vigorous.

vein (VAYN) A vascular bundle forming a part of the framework of the  
conducting and supporting tissue of a leaf or other expanded  
organ.

velamen (vel-LAY-min) The layer or layers of spongy cells on the outside of the root which are epidermal in origin and have the function of absorbing moisture.

velaris, -e (vel-AY-riss) Having what looks like a veil; veil-like.

velatus, -a, -um (vel-LAY-tus) A covering.

velox (VEE-loks) Fast growing.

velutinus, -a, -um (vel-YEW-tin-us) Velvety.

venation (vee-NAY-shun) The appearance of the veining in an organ.

venosus, -a, -um (vee-NOH-sus) Characterized by having veins; with prominent veins.

ventral (VEN-trul) A part of or belonging to the anterior or inner face of an organ; the opposite of dorsal.

ventricosus, -a, -um (ve-tri-KOH-sus) Swollen on one side or unequally.

venustus, -a, -um (vee-NUS-tus) Charming; elegant.

verecundus, -a, -um (veh-re-KUN-dus) Shy; modest; coy.

vermiculite (ver-MIH-cuhl-lite) A relatively inert material which is heat-expanded mica and is used in growing media.

vernal (VER-nal) Appearing in the spring.

vernalis, -e (ver-NAY-liss) Spring flowering; of the spring.

vernation (ver-NAY-shun) The arrangement of leaves in the buds.

vernicosus, -a, -um (ver-ni-KOH-sus) Shiny; appearing varnished.

verrucosus, -a, -um (ver-rew-KOH-sus) Covered with wart-like elevations.

versicolor (VER-si-kul-er) Variously colored.

verticil (VER-ti-sill) A whorl or circle.

verticillatus, -a, -um (ver-tis-sil-LAY-tus) Arranged in a whorl.

verus, -a, -um (VEE-rus) True; genuine; true to type.

vesicle (VESS-i-kul) A small bladder or air cavity.

vesus, -a, -um (VESS-kus) Thin and feeble.

vespertinus, -a, -um (ves-per-TYE-nus) Blooming in the evening;  
concerning the evening.

vestalis, -e (ves-TAY-liss) Clothed with soft hairs.

vestige (ves-TEJ) A rudiment.

vestigial (ves-TEJ-al) An atrophied or functionless part or organ.

vesture or vestiture (ves-TUR ves-TI-tur) Surface covering such as hairs,  
scales, etc.

vexillaris, -e (vek-sill-AY-riss) Showy like a flag or banner.

viable (VI-ab-al) Alive; capable of growing.

viatical (vi-AT-cal) Growing by paths or by roadsides,

villous (VILL-us) Bearing long soft hairs which are not interwoven.

vinosus (vye-NOH-sus) Wine-red color.

violaceus, -a, -um (vye-o-LAY-see-us) Violet in color.

violescens (vye-o-LESS-enz) Near violet; turning violet.

virens (VYE-renz) Fresh in appearance; vivid green.

virescens (vih-REH-senz) With the tendency to turn green; light; green.

virgatus, -a, -um (ver-GAY-tus) Twiggy ;wand shaped; slender, straight and  
erect.

virginalis, -e (ver-jin-AY-liss) Pure white; maidenly.

viridescens (vir-i-DESS-enz) Becoming green.

viridipurpureus, -a, -um (VI-rid-i-poor-POOR-e-us) A greenish purple.

viridiflorus, -a, -m (vi-rid-i-FLOR-us) Having green flowers.

viridis, -a, -um (VIR-i-diss) Green.

virus (VYE-rus) A disease producing agent that is a macromolecule and not cellular in size but is capable of penetrating a cell and using the cellular activity to reproduce itself and cause the disease.

viscid (VISS-id) Sticky; glutinous.

viscidium (vi-SID-ee-um) The viscid portion of the rostellum which is pulled out with the pollinia and stipe and is the structure for attachment to the insect pollinator.

vitellinus, -a, -um (vye-tell-LYE-nus) A deep yellow in color like the yolk of an egg.

vittatus, -a, -um (vit-TAY-tus) Striped the length of the structure,

volutus, -a, -m (vo-LOO-tus) Enrolled like a scroll.

volubilis, -e (vol-YEW-bil-iss) Entwining; turning.

vulcanicus, -a, -um (vul-KAN-ik-us) Found growing on the side of a volcano.

vugaris, -e (vul-GAY-riss) Commonly found; ordinary.

- W -

weed (WEED) Any plant growing where it is not wanted.

wetting agent ( WEH-ting AY-jent) A substance that increases the contact of the liquid being used and the material to which it is being applied.

whorl (HWURL) An arrangement of leaves, floral parts, etc. in a circle around the stem or central axis.

wing (WING) Any thin expansion from a surface bordering or surrounding an organ or part of an organ.

woolly (WOOL-i) Covered with long and tortuous or matted hairs,

wort (WURT) Archaic word meaning plant.

- X -

xanthinus, -a, -um (zan-THYE-nus) Yellow or yellowish.

xanthodon (ZAN-thoh-dun) With yellow teeth.

xantholeucus, -a, -um (zan-tho-LEW-kuss) Yellowish white.

xanthophlebius, -a, -um (zan-tho-FLEE-bi-us) Having yellow veins.

xanthophyllus, -a, -um (zan-tho-FILL-us) With yellow leaves.

xaxim (SHAH-sheem) Brazilian word for tree fern and also for its fiber.

xerophyte (ZERO-fyte) A plant very resistant to drought or lives in very dry places.

xiphifolius, -a, -um (ziff-i-FOH-li-us) Having swordlike leaves.

xylem (ZYE-lem) A plant tissue consisting of tracheid, vessels, parenchyma cells and fibers making up the wood and functioning as a part of the vascular tissue to conduct water.

- Y -

- Z -

zebrinus, -a, -um (ze-BRYE-nus) Striped like a zebra.

zonatus, -a, -um (zoh-NAY-tus) With bands or zones of distinct color.

zygomorphic (zye-go-MOR-fik) Capable of division in only one plane of symmetry to obtain two equal halves; bilaterally symmetrical as in most orchids.

zygote (ZYE-goht) The cell resulting from the union of the egg and the sperm which is the first cell of a new individual; a fertilized egg.