

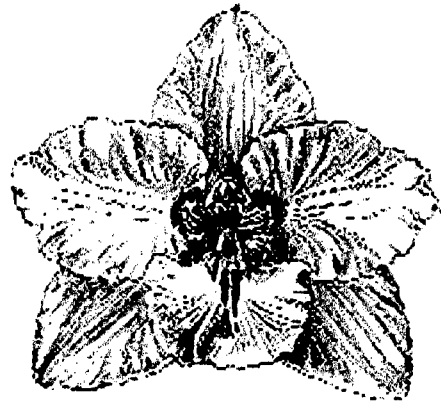
# Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

Volume 5

February 2009

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## Special Edition Rhynchostele Species

This is a continuation of Special Editions of the Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter this time devoted to producing a reference edition of the Rhynchostele species. Dr. Guido Deburghgraeve has an extensive collection of odontoglossum alliance species and provided us with a DVD of the flowers of the species in his collection. This edition is devoted to showing these flowers. The pictures are augmented by the Power Point slides of a fine talk by Steve Beckendorf and (2) the complete list of Rhynchostele species as produced by Kew Gardens. This list contains what they consider as the recognized names as well as the historical names applied to each species.

The pictures have (when available) both a facing photograph and a profile photograph. Where there are multiple photographs of the same species, this is done to show the variability within the species. A number of these species are marked with an X indicating a natural hybrid. Please see the explanation and definition of natural hybrids by Steve Beckendorf in the newsletter following the photographs.

The Alliance is indebted to Dr. Guido Deburghgraeve for supplying the DVD of his flowers, to Stig Dalstrom for consulting on the material, the picture of *R. oscarrii* and to Dr. Steve Beckendorf for his consultation, flower pictures, the use of his Power Point slides and explanation of the material contained in this issue.

World Chcek List of Selelcted Plants  
Rhynchostele  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

**Rhynchostele Rchb.f., Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 10: 770 (1852).**

**Rhynchostele aptera (Lex.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 146 (1993).**

Rhynchostele aspersa (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 147 (1993).

**Rhynchostele bictoniensis (Bateman) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 147 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele candidula (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 147 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele cervantesii (Lex.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 148 (1993).**

Rhynchostele cervantesii subsp. membranacea (Lindl.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 148 (1993).

**Rhynchostele cordata (Lindl.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 148 (1993).**

Rhynchostele × duvivieriana (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 148 (1993).

**Rhynchostele ehrenbergii (Link, Klotzsch & Otto) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 149 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele galeottiana (A.Rich.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 149 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele hortensiae (R.L.Rodr.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 149 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele × humeana (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 149 (1993).**

Rhynchostele londesboroughiana (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 149 (1993).

**Rhynchostele maculata (Lex.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 150 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele madrensis (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 150 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele majalis (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 150 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele oscarii Archila, Selbyana 27: 14 (2006).**

**Rhynchostele pygmaea (Lindl.) Rchb.f., Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 10: 770 (1852).**

**Rhynchostele rossii (Lindl.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 151 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele stellata (Lindl.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 151 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele uroskinneri (Lindl.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 151 (1993).**

**Rhynchostele × vexativa (Rchb.f.) Soto Arenas & Salazar, Orquídea (Mexico City), n.s., 13: 151 (1993).**

Names in **Bold** indicate accepted names, plain list indicated non accepted names



*R. bicktoniense sulfurea*



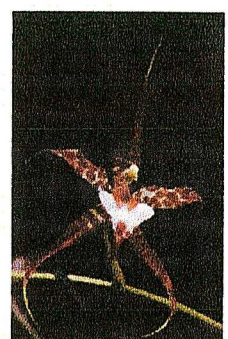
*R. bicktoniense*



*R. bicktoniense alba*



*R. cordata*



*R. cordata sulfurea*



*R. ehrenbergii*



*R. galeottiana*



*R. hortensiae*



*R. maculata*



*R. maculata*





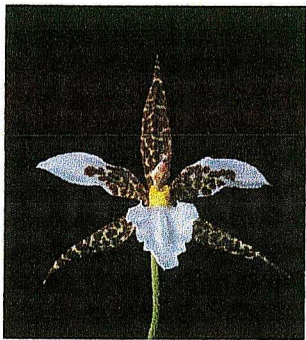
*R. madrense*



*R. pygmaea*



*R. rossii*



*R. rossii*



*R. stellatum*



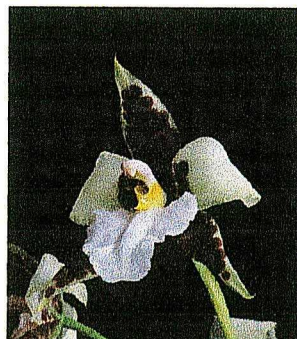
*R. uro-skinneri*



*R. uro-skinneri*



*R. X humeanum*



*R. oscarii*

What is a Rhynchostele?

Is it a Lemboglossum?

Yes. In 1984 Federico Halbinger created the new genus Lemboglossum for a group of Mesoamerican species that are distinct from the "true" South American Odontoglossums



*Lemboglossum rossii*  
1984

What is a Rhynchostele?

However, in 1993 Miguel Soto and Luis Salazar realized that *Rhynchostele pygmaea* belongs in the same genus as the Lemboglossums

Since *Rhynchostele* is a much older genus name, the similarity required the transfer of all the Lemboglossums to *Rhynchostele*

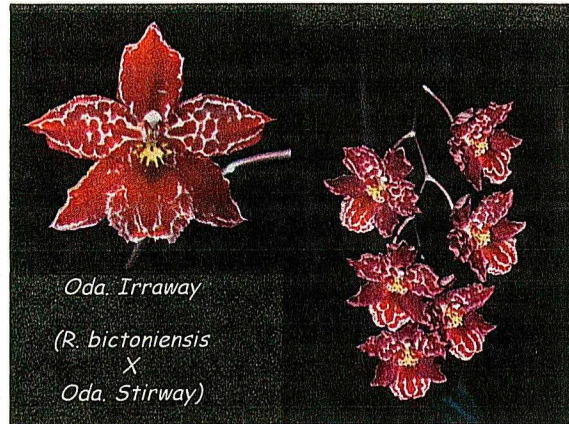
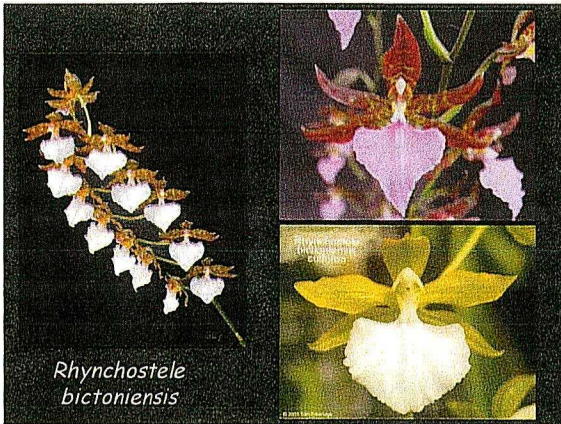
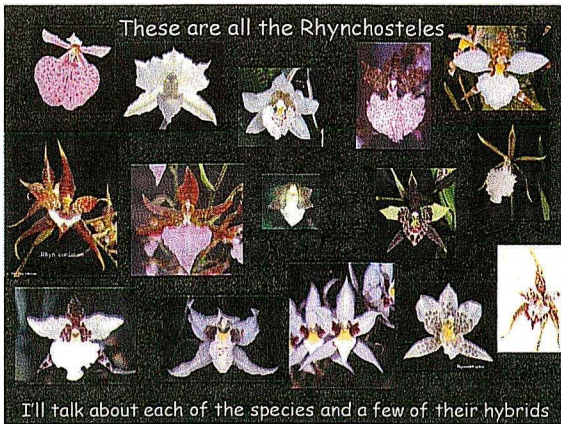
*Rhynchostele pygmaea*

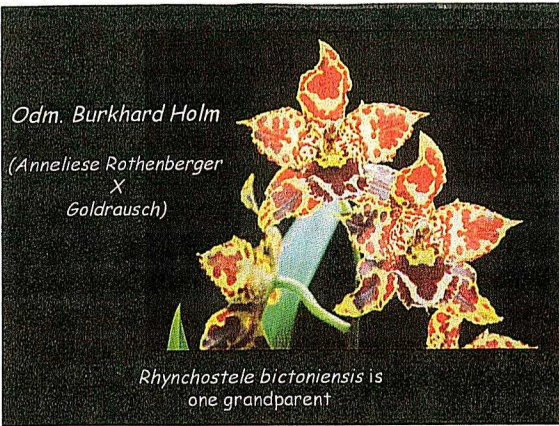


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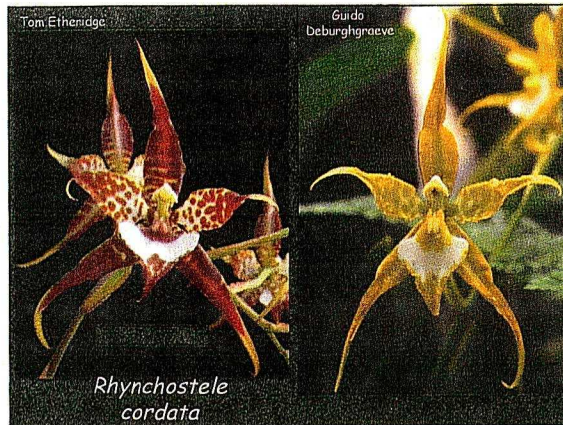
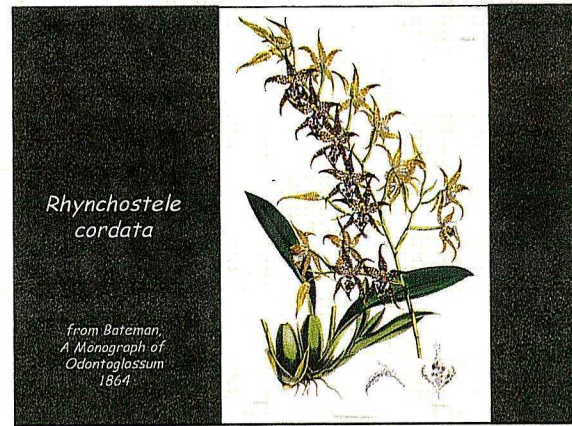


*Rhynchostele rossii*

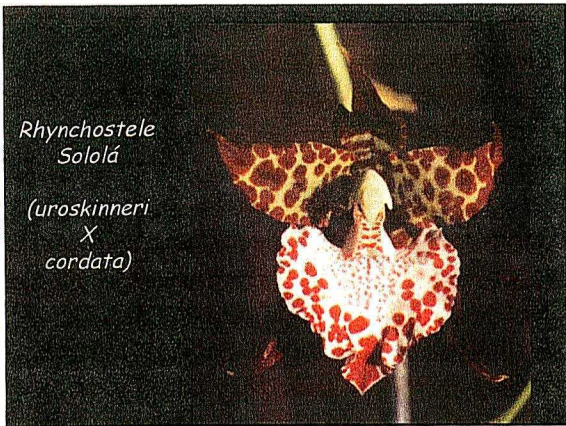










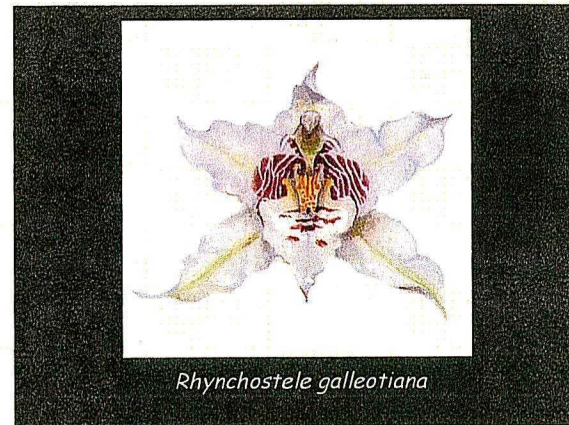
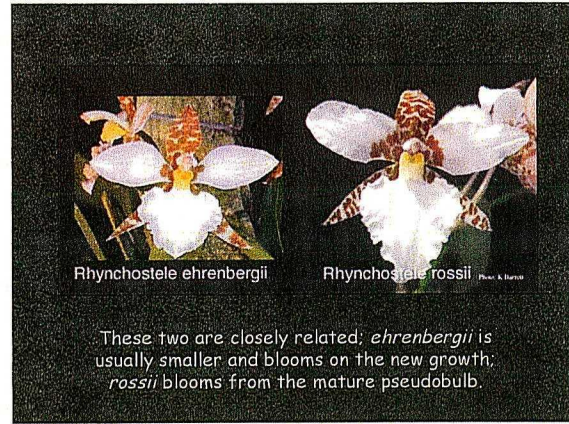


The six species we've looked at account for all of the registered *Rhynchostele* hybrids

	progeny	graxes	generations
<i>bictoniensis</i>	300	4	
<i>uroskenneri</i>	141	4	
<i>rossii</i>	133	4	
<i>maculata</i>	38	4	
<i>cordata</i>	38	2	
<i>cervantesii</i>	15	2	
<i>aptera</i>	0		
<i>majalis</i>	0		
<i>hortensiae</i>	0		
<i>ehrenbergii</i>	0		
<i>cardiula</i>	0		
<i>stellata</i>	0		
<i>madrensis</i>	0		
<i>galleotiana</i>	0		
<i>pygmaea</i>	0		

Now let's look at some of the other *Rhynchosteles*.  
Several would make good parents.

	progeny	
	gexes	generations
<i>bictaniensis</i>	300	4
<i>urosikinneri</i>	141	4
<i>rossii</i>	133	4
<i>maculata</i>	38	4
<i>cordata</i>	38	2
<i>cervantesii</i>	15	2
<i>optera</i>	0	
<i>majalis</i>	0	
<i>hortensiae</i>	0	
<i>ehrenbergii</i>	0	
<i>candidula</i>	0	
<i>stellata</i>	0	
<i>madrensis</i>	0	
<i>galleotiana</i>	0	
<i>pygmaea</i>	0	







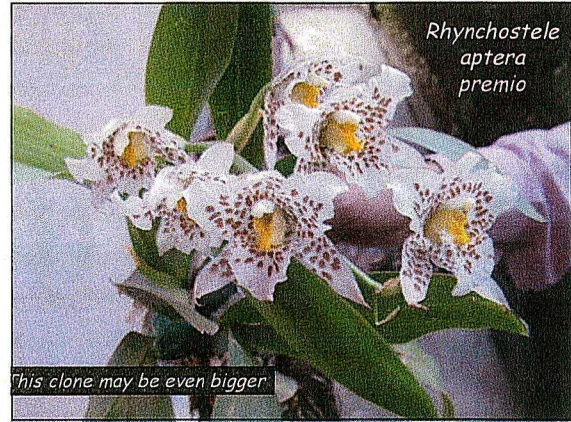
*Rhyncho스테le aptera 'Rio Verde'*



*Rhyncho스테le aptera alba 'Rio Verde'*



*Rhyncho스테le aptera* has the largest flowers of the genus, up to 10 cm natural spread. It's compared here to *Rst. Red Nugget*.



*Rhyncho스테le aptera premio*

*This clone may be even bigger*

**Rhyncho스테le Culture:**

- cool to cool intermediate
- moderate light - most species live down under the canopy on large branches or vertical trunks
- copious water during the summer months
- about half the species want a dry winter rest; the others don't

dry -	<i>cervantesii</i>	wet -	<i>bictoniensis</i>
	<i>galleotiana</i>		<i>cordata</i>
	<i>candidula</i>		<i>rossii</i>
	<i>madrensis</i>		<i>urosinneri</i>
	<i>majalis</i>		<i>ehrenbergii</i>
	<i>aptera</i>		<i>hortensiae</i>
	<i>maculata</i>		<i>stellata</i>



## Kew Monocot List of Rhyncho스테le Species

The Rhyncho스테le Species list that follows is available from the Kew Gardens. It can be obtained from the following web-site: <http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home>

One extensive list is at the Kew Monocot Checklist site

<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do>

Type in Rhyncho스테le and it will return the list of accepted

names (bold) and synonyms (regular) that follows. Notice that the natural hybrids are included with an x preceding the name. Steve Beckendorf

## Odontoglossum Alliance Meeting 24 April 2009

The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting for 2009 will be held in Houston in conjunction with the Houston Orchid Society Show and AOS Trustees meeting being held 24-26 April 2009. The show and all events are being held at the Houston Hilton Hotel at 12400 Greenspoint Drive, Houston TX 77060. Phone 281-875-2222, The Web address for the hotel is [www.hiltonhoustonhotel.com](http://www.hiltonhoustonhotel.com). If you are going to stay at the hotel you are urged to make your reservation at the hotel and when you do ask for the "SHOW RATE".

The web site address for show information, organizations and show schedules, among other things is:

[www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org).

Organizations participating are:

Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association

International Phalaenopsis Alliance

Orchid Digest Corporation

Odontoglossum Alliance

Pluerothalid Alliance

Slipper Orchid Alliance.

The Preview party is on Thursday night 7-9 PM for the Show opening and the sales opening. The show is open to the public 24-26 April

The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting is on Friday 24 April commencing at noon with a luncheon. Following lunch there are two talks

1-1:30 PM "Growing Odontoglossums in Hawaii" by Bob Burkey

1:30-2:15 PM Panel Discussion of growing warm tolerant and cool Odonts. The panel will include Bob Burkey, Russ Vernon and audience members known to be knowledgeable in Odont culture.

2:15-3:00 PM Short business meeting followed by an auction of fine *Odontoglossum* Alliance material.

Members of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance are urged to support this meeting by attending and contributing some fine material for the auction. Should you not be able to attend the meeting please send your contribution of Alliance material (plants) to:

**Russ Vernon**

**New Vision Orchids**

**12661 W SR 12**

**Yorktown, IN 47396**

## Editorial

The December 2008 issue of the American Orchid Society publication 'Orchids' contained an article destined for *Lindleyana*, the technical publication on orchids. This article by Chase, et al (the authors) reports their decision making a major change in nomenclature of the *Odontoglossum* Alliance. As I read it these taxonomist authors have now decided to put *Odontoglossums* and several other genera into the single class of *Oncidium*. This decision, made by the group of authors (Mark Chase, Norris Williams, Kurt Neubig and Mark Whitten) is as a result of their study using DNA identification of the characteristics of the species.

The article contains some discussion of the rationale for the name change, but all in terms understandable by a taxonomist active in the field. What is needed is an amateur grower's explanation in terms understandable and convincing as to why we should change our plant tags. How will we now name a cross between *Odontoglossum* and *Cochlioda*? This will still be an *Oncidium*. What do we do with the other intergeneric crosses? I suppose if I cross an *Oncidium* (old *Odontoglossum*) with a *Cochlioda* I will get an *Oncidium*. Gone are *Odontioda*, *Oncidioida*, *Wilsonara*, *Odontonia*, *Vuykstekeara* and perhaps many more. There is no more *Odontoglossum crispum* because there already is an *Oncidium crispum*. So the new name is *Oncidium alexandrae*, nice but very confusing. They could have changed the name of *Oncidium crispum* to something else that is not as widely grown nor as frequently used in hybridization. I suppose all my books listing orchid registrations will no longer be useful. The RHS computer registration listings might be easily changed. Perhaps some cross referencing software could be designed to accommodate we amateur growers. I can already see the confusion that will exist for plant registration at show judging.

I do not see any confusion among our members of The *Odontoglossum* Alliance as to the names of the plants and crosses that we have been growing. What I do see is confusion with this nomenclature going forward. What we currently have is a long history and tradition going back more than a hundred years of the names currently used. I wonder if what are missing here are inputs from the people in the field who grow plants every day using a system that seems to work. Maybe what will come out of this work will be a matrix of all the 'New' *Oncidium* species where the DNA tells us intergeneric breeding that might be possible. That would be a good thing.

I urge our members to take a look at this article in the December 2008 issue of 'Orchids' entitled "Taxonomic Transfers in *Oncidinae* to Accord with Genera *Orchidacearum*, Vol. 5". We may have within our membership one or two people who will have heard of this publication to say nothing of having access to it.

I urge the taxonomists who proposed this change to take into consideration the growers of the plants and give them some rational that they can understand in layman's language for this change. Without some reasonable response going ahead with this change borders on arrogance of the part of the authors. Until that response happens I urge our members to NOT change the names on their plant tags.

Editor Odontoglossum Alliance Newsletter

John E. Miller

## OPEN LETTER

Dr. Mark Chase

Jodrell Laboratory

Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew, Richmond,

Surrey TW9 3DS, United Kingdom

The Odontoglossum Alliance noted the printing in the December issue of the American Orchid Society's "Orchid" publication the name changes for a significant number of Odontoglossum alliance species to the name of Oncidium. We understand this name change developed after DNA research on the various species led you to this conclusion.

The Odontoglossum Alliance is an organization of a large number of mostly amateur growers of Odontoglossums and other s in the Alliance. We would like to request that you provide us some more information on this name change as we wish to inform and advise our members. We would like to know the rational for choosing to change the name to Oncidium. What were the advantages and disadvantages of your decision? What were your other alternatives and why were they discarded?

We would like to point out Odontoglossum orchids are not widely grown, principally because of environmental requirements. Therefore we represent a significant number of those growers and we would like to advise them accordingly. We understand the technology of DNA has opened many avenues of investigation providing insight plant physiology. However in our view there is also the history and tradition to be weighed in equally with science and technology. The boom in Odontoglossums began in the 1880's and continued until after World War 1 when other genera really took over in popularity. We have great reluctance to forego our tradition and therefore want to weigh this name change carefully along with advances in science and technology.

Your response to our request will provide us the much needed information that we intend to use to advise our members. Until we hear from you we are advising all our members NOT to change their plant tags.

Sincerely,

Mario Ferrusi

President Odontoglossum Alliance

—— Original Message ——

**From:** Mark Chase  
**To:** mferrusi@sympatico.ca  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2009 6:23 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Odontoglossum

Dear Mario,

Thanks for your letter of 27 January about the transfer of *Odontoglossum* into *Oncidium*. I'm not surprised that the group there is curious to hear about the reasons for this change, although they were briefly covered in the December issue of *Orchids*. I'm writing another paper for *Orchids* explaining this and other changes to the generic taxonomy of *Oncidiinae*, and I will send this along to you when it is completed (in a few days). This decision was taken after many years of study (both morphological and DNA), and I only did this after consulting with many people, including Stig Dalström and other experts on the taxonomy of this group of orchids. No one is pleased by this change, and it was done by looking at overall patterns of morphological evolution in the subtribe. It parallels our decisions to recognize expanded concepts of *Cyrtorchilum*, *Trichocentrum*, *Trichopilia*, *Comparettia*, *Leochilus*, *Cuitlauzina*, *Rossioglossum*, and *Otoglossum*. If we instead had chosen to keep the narrow concepts of these genera, then we would have need to recognize as well an additional 30 or so genera in the subtribe, most of which could not be readily identified by anyone other than an expert in this group. We felt that this was an entirely undesirable situation, and so we went the route of recognizing more broadly circumscribed genera, including *Oncidium*. In any case, this article for *Orchids* will explain more of the rationale for this change.

Best wishes,

Mark

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Prof Mark W Chase FRS                    [m.chase@kew.org](mailto:m.chase@kew.org)  
 Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory tel: 44-(0)20 8332 5311  
 Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew FAX: 44-(0)20 8332 5310  
 Richmond, Surrey TW9 3DS PA phone: 44-(0)20 8332 5353  
 United Kingdom  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## Response from Steve Beckendorf

Dear Mark,

It was good to get a little time to talk with you in Quito, and when I returned I was interested to see your reply to Mario about the *Odontoglossum*-*Oncidium* transfer. When I read the "Orchids" article, I and others were puzzled by the assertion that keeping *Oncidium* and *Odontoglossum* separate would create such a complex set of genera that only an expert would be able to keep them straight. Instead, it seems to us that lumping *Oncidium*, *Odontoglossum*, *Cochlioda*, *Solenediopsis*, *Sigmatostalix* and a few others into a single genus creates such a heterogeneous set of species that only an expert would be able to understand that they fit into a recognizable grouping. In your words, it seems that this agglomeration "removes any hope for morphological distinctiveness" for *Oncidium*.

From your reply to Mario, it appears that your concern about creating too many new genera (30?) actually applies to the entire revision of *Oncidiinae*, not to the *Odontoglossum*-*Oncidium* question. I don't know anyone who thinks that all the revisions were mistaken. We're focused on this particular decision that includes *Odontoglossum* and the other groups within *Oncidium*. Although regrettably, the up-to-date phylogenies are not included in the recent *Orchids* paper, from your previous publications it appears that *Odontoglossum* could have been preserved by creating at most three new genera not thirty, one each for the *obryzatum* group, for *povedanum*, and for *trilobum*. The other species near *Odontoglossum* are already included within *Cochlioda*, *Solenediopsis*, and the awkward *Collare-stuartense*. It could be that further analysis will show that *povedanum* and *trilobum* are so close that they can be included in a single genus, reducing the need for new genera to just two.



This approach would in some ways be similar to the decisions that you made in two other cases, *Cyrtochiloides* and *Zelenkoa*. In his talk at Quito Norris said that he was unhappy to create a separate genus for the species in *Cyrtochiloides* but felt compelled to do so by the topology of the trees. But of course there was an alternative, sinking *Miltoniopsis* and *Caucaea* into *Cyrtochilum* along with *Cyrtochiloides*. I think the right decision was made; it was sensible not to lump them all, given how distinctive *Miltoniopsis* and *Caucaea* are. Similarly, the creation of *Zelenkoa* could have been avoided by lumping it with a number of disparate genera. As you stated in the Orchids paper, this latter decision, and I think probably both decisions, were "in the interests of nomenclatural stability". I think that maintaining the separation between *Odontoglossum* and *Oncidium* would do at least as much to maintain nomenclatural stability. In addition, it would avoid the creation of an extremely heterogeneous genus.

Finally, the arguments about the importance or insignificance of pollination syndromes are very confusing. In some cases, such as *Cochlioda* or *Symphyglossum*, you dismiss pollinator shifts as taxonomically unimportant. In other cases such as oil gathering by bees, the pollination syndrome is seen as fundamentally tying the entire group together, even though many species, including nearly everything in the "odontoglossum clade", appear not to follow this syndrome. The arguments are so flexible they lose effect.

I hope you'll consider these concerns. I know it would be difficult to change your mind at this point, but I think that something similar to what I've suggested above would give a more useful and more lasting depiction of the relationships between these species.

Respectfully,

Steve Beckendorf

## Auction Material Wanted

**The Odontoglossum Alliance meeting 24 April in Houston, Texas is being organized by Russ Vernon and Bob Burkey. As this meeting is in the south where there are few Odontoglossum Alliance growers, attendance from our membership may be less than usual. However I wish to remind all our members that the plant auctions held at these meetings provide at least half of our resources. The cost of the newsletters mailing and reproduction of a black and white only newsletter is just met with the dues. It is the auction proceeds that permits a newsletter containing multiple color pages. This newsletter has 8 color pages. The cost of this newsletter and its mailing exceeds the quarterly cost that can be supported by the dues alone.**

**Therefore I urge all our members to make an extra effort to provide Russ and Bob with material that can be auctioned at this meeting in Houston. If you are going to attend the meeting please bring your auction material with you. However if you are not planning on attending, mail it. If you are in Hawaii, send it to Bob. If you live elsewhere send it to Russ.**

**Russ Vernon  
12661 W SR32  
Yorktown, IN, 47396**

**Bob Burkey  
64-5131 White Road  
Kamuela, HI, 96743**