

An Orchidist's Lexicon **by the Oregon Orchid Society**

An Orchidist's Lexicon is a long awaited resource for orchid growers and hobbyists. The first edition was published in 1969 by the Oregon Orchid Society and became a valuable resource for many orchid hobbyists, and has continued to be sought even after all these years. It has taken 35 years for the pamphlet to be updated (certainly deserving revision long before now), but the revision is here now and it is much appreciated.

Although the pamphlet is not designed for the uninitiated, there is some basic information on describing the components of an orchid, identifying the parts of the world various genera originate, linking common orchid names with their botanical names, identifying orchids with fragrances (including in a separate category those with unpleasant fragrances), some basic information on major orchid societies, and a conversion table of measures of length, liquids and temperature.

While the above sounds like a lot of information, it only encompasses about a quarter of the pamphlet's 96 pages of content. Almost a quarter of the pamphlet's content is devoted to multigeneric crosses. The authors have painstakingly identified the name of each multigeneric hybrid name accepted by the Royal Horticultural Society (at press time) and the genera involved in creating the hybrid. About a quarter of the pamphlet is a listing of generic names, coupled with the author who named the genera, a guide to pronunciation, the etymology of the word, and a key to the parts of the world the genera may be found in nature. The remaining quarter is a glossary of words used largely by botanists and orchiphiles.

All told, this is a handy reference that is literally packed with information for the orchid hobbyist. A limited number of these pamphlets are available from ROA, and if the interest is there, more can be ordered – see Sue Akin.

– Jim Creech