

## What Is In an Orchid Name?

Every so often you come across a name, which you can't immediately place. In such cases, I usually start to drill down into the family tree to determine how that name came into being.

Recently someone on the Orchid Board asked for advise on the cultural requirements needed for ***Brassoepilaelia* (Bpl.) Fiftieth Anniversary 'Newberry'**.



Since I have a weakness for ***L. anceps*** hybrids, I decided to check whether this might be a plant I ought to pursue.

The clonal name immediately gives away that this is a Carter & Holmes plant, but the genus is unusual. Consulting the RHS database, I learned that:

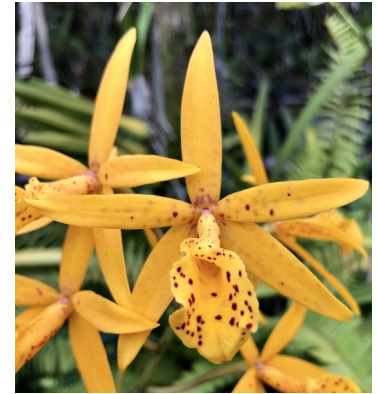
- The currently accepted genus name has changed to ***Vaughnara*** (*Brassoepilaelia* being a synonym due to taxonomic changes).
- The parentage is (***Brassocattleya Richard Mueller*** x ***Epidendrum conopseum*** [previously *Epi. magnoliae*])

It is quite obvious that there is no laelia in this combination, so why the 'laelia' in the original genus name?

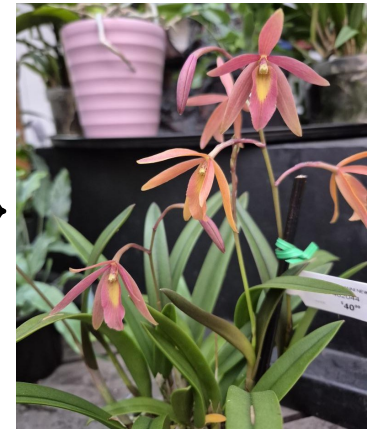
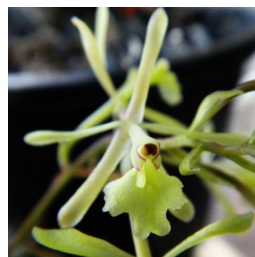
It could not come from the pollen parent, which is an *Epidendrum* species, though correctly it should be ***Epi. conopseum*** (*Epi. magnolia* is a synonym). Thus, we have to take a closer look at Bc. Richard Mueller.

- Looking up Bc. Richard Mueller we learn that the parentage is (***Brassavola nodosa*** x ***Cattleya milleri***). BUT, *Cattleya milleri* was originally classified as a *Laelia* (one of the rupicolous *Laelias*); it was only transferred to *Cattleya* in 2011.

The mysteries can now be solved:



When Mrs. W. Boyd registered **Richard Mueller** in 1965, it was as a ***Brassolaelia***.



When Carter & Holmes registered **Fiftieth Anniversary** in 2003, it was correctly as a ***Brassoepilaelia***, since Richard Mueller at that time was still a ***Brassolaelia***.

In 2011 *Laelia milleri* changed to ***Cattleya milleri***, thus Richard Mueller became a ***Brassocattleya***, and thereby the *Brassoepilaelia* morphed into ***Brassoepicattleya***, which had previously been replaced with the artificial ***Vaughnara***.

Nobody is forcing you to update plant labels with this type of revisions. We are free to use any previously legitimate name for a plant, except we must update to correct current name if:

1. Entering the plant for ribbon judging at a show.
2. Entering the plant for AOS judging.
3. Registering a new hybrid with the RHS.