

The Global Orchid Taxonomic Network at a click

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

Now with a new user interface, the online database on taxonomic information by Lankester Botanical Garden includes more than 7,000 orchid names, completely cross-referenced and with evaluated synonymies.

The electronic file on each one of the names accepted by the taxonomists at the research center includes *free, immediately downloadable* protologues, type images, illustrations of the original materials, historical and modern illustrations, photographs, pertinent literature and, when available, digital images of species pollinaria.

An index (under the button “List of species”) allows the users to search for any published name, independently if it is accepted or not by the taxonomic compilers. Synonyms are linked to their accepted name, where additional materials (including images) are available for download.

*Hundreds* of new species names and documents (mostly protologues), images (including high-res files), publications and other materials relative to orchid systematics, distribution and history are added to the database on a monthly basis (new entries can be searched by clicking on the “New records” button).

Since March, 2012, *new pages* are devoted to the orchid species recorded in the rich system of national parks and other protected areas in Costa Rica (“National Parks” button), updated checklists of the orchid floras of Central American countries (“Floras” button) and to interesting aspects of orchid history.

Under the button “Collectable plates”, the research staff at Lankester Botanical Garden makes available to the public the most detailed images of orchids from the collections at the Center, organized in a series of collectable plates that can be *downloaded for free*. New ones are added each week.

Supported by the University of Costa Rica and the Darwin Initiative, *EPIDENDRA, The Global Orchid Taxonomic Network* counts with the collaboration of respected taxonomists and leading botanical institutions worldwide.