

Trichocentrum

Type species *Trichocentrum pulchrum*

The generic name refers to the presence of a slender spur (from the Greek *trichos*, hair, and *kentron*, spur). This structure is typical of *Trichocentrum pulchrum* and many related species.

Trichocentrum can be easily recognized by the lack of appendages at the base of the lip, by the free sepals and the column without a foot. The plant looks like miniature mule-ear oncidiums, a group of orchids with which *Trichocentrum* is closely related, with solitary, sometimes coriaceous leaves, and reduced pseudobulbs. (Pupulin 2000).

The mule-ear types may be the most familiar to many of us, especially as some species such as *Trt. undulatum* and *Trt. carthagenense* are reported natives of Florida. Others in this group, such *Trt. aurisasinorum* and *Trt. tigrinum*, have found their way into many collections. The lovely *Trt. lanceanum* and *Trt. luridum* have joined where their ranges overlap in both Trinidad and Colombia to produce an outstanding natural hybrid known as *Trichocentrum x haematochilum* because of its blood red lip. These mule-ear types have larger leaves than the classic *Trichocentrum*.

The rat-tailed types have roll what would have been a fairly typical mule-ear leaf up into a tight cylinder to reduce surface area, it is called terete leaves and its shapes helps the rainwater drip off quickly. *Trt. jonesianum* and *Trt. stacyi* are two of the most beautiful flowers belonging to this group. (Miranda 2017).



Mule-ear type
Trt. undulatum 'Carmen' HCC/AOS 78 Points
Photo by C. Hamilton



Oncidium stacyi 'Ricky Moore' CCA/SFOS 87 Points
Photo by S.F.O.S taken from OrchidWiz X9.1

Summary of *Trichocentrum* species, progenies and AOS awards

Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AD	AQ	CC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	Total
<i>Trt. lanceanum*</i>	57/156		20	9	1				1	10				41
<i>Trt. splendidum*</i>	48/114		14	8	1					1	1			25
<i>Trt. luridum*</i>	28/104		1	3	1			1		7	1		2	16
<i>Trt. lindenii</i>	28/47			1									1	2
<i>Trt. carthagenense</i>	17/61		4	1										5
<i>Trt. cebolleta</i>	15/34		2	2	1					3			1	9
<i>Trt. aurisasinorum</i>	15/27		2	1						7			1	11
<i>Trt. jonesianum</i>	14/15		8	1						2			1	12
<i>Trt. microchilum</i>	12/19		1							2				3
<i>Trt. nanum</i>	11/12		3						1	3				7
<i>Trt. stramineum</i>	11/21		2	3						6	1		1	13
<i>Trt. stacyi</i>	10/16		21	1						5			1	28
<i>Trt. bicallosum</i>	9/35		3		1									4
<i>Trt. tigrinum</i>	8/9		3	4	1					3				11
<i>Trt. cavendishianum</i>	8/11		3	6					1	1				11
<i>Trt. sprucei</i>	7/12		1	1										2
<i>Trt. pfavii</i>	5/8			1						5	1			7
<i>Trt. lacerum</i>	5/7		1		1					4				6
<i>Trt. fuscum</i>	5/5										1			1
<i>Trt. oestlundianum</i>	4/4										1			1
<i>Trt. haematochilum</i>	3/7			1										1
<i>Trt. pulchrum</i>	2/3		1		1				1	3			2	8
<i>Trt. albococcineum</i>	2/10										1			1
<i>Trt. candidum</i>	2/3										1	1		2
<i>Trt. undulatum</i>	2/2			1										1
<i>Trt. pumilum</i>	1/1				1					7			1	9

References

- Miranda T. 2017. Genus of the Month – *Trichocentrum*. *Orchids*. Vol. 86 (11): 818.
- Pupulin F. 2000. *Trichocentrum*. *Orchids*. Vol. 69 (3): 226
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X9.1
- www.orchidspecies.com.
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