Significant Species by Group

Hastatum Group

*Oncidium leucochilum* is native to Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. According to Charles Baker, this species grows in dry to humid mountain forests up to 6500 feet. The species has been awarded 17 times by the AOS. It has produced 100 F1 offspring and has 747 total progeny. A significant hybrid with Otostele Summit is Otorhynchocidium Cherry Fudge which has 21 awards but no offspring. Another F1 with Oncidium Golden Guinea is Oncidium Crowborough with 14 awards and 59 F1’s and 207 total progeny. A primary cross with *Oncidium maculatum* produced Oncidium Illustre with 8 awards, 33 F1’s and 38 progeny.

*Oncidium tigrinum* is native to the states of Jalisco, Mexico and Michoacan in Mexico. It is found only in pine-oak forests at 5200 – 7500 feet elevations. The species has been awarded 9 times and has 165 F1 offspring and 746 total progeny. It was used in hybridization extensively in the 1960’s and 70’s. A cross with Oncidium Golden Avalanche in 1962 produced Tiger Butter with 102 offspring and 46 awards. A cross with Oncidium Goldrausch produced Tiger Hambuhren with 62 offspring and 29 awards.

Based on progeny, three other species in this group deserve mention. *Oncidium cariniferum* has 386 progeny. One cross with *Oncidium fuscatum* resulted in Oncidium Debutante with 52 offspring and 14 awards including 7 AM/AOS. *Oncidium hastatum* has 110 progeny and 5 awards. It is also native to Mexico. Oncidium *maculatum is more widespread in Central America. It has been hybridized a lot with* 358 total progeny. It was crossed with *Cyrtochilum retusum* to make Cyrtocidium Roger Cole with 6 awards and 28 total progeny.

Sphacelatum Group

*Oncidium altissimum* has a wide distribution frpm Florida, through Central America to northern South America. The species has been awarded 13 times and has produced 218 hybrids. Along with *Oncidium leucochilum*, it supplied half of the genes to Oncidium Sharry Baby, one of the most popular orchids of all time.

*Oncidium sphacelatum* grows like a weedin many greenhouses and probably in its native habitat in Central America. It has been a prolific breeder with 537 progeny and has been awarded 40 times. Crossed with Gomesa, it is part of Oncidesa Gower Ramsey, a very popular hybrid.

Heteranthum Group

Another Mexican species, *Oncidium incurvum*, is the top hybrid producer in the Heteranthum Group. This cool growing cloud forest species grows at higher elevations in the states of Oaxaca, Puebla, Veracruz. One of its most significant offspring is Cyrtocidium Kolibri with 11 awards including 2 AM and 7 HCC. It has also been crossed with many other Oncidium species and hybrids.