

Checklist for Recording the Description of Orchids

Field number _____ Collected by: _____ Date: _____
month/day/yr

Location: _____
Geographic Locality _____ Latitude, ° Longitude, °

Identification _____
Genus _____ species _____ References _____
Described by: _____ Identified by: _____

Plant form: _____ Plant size (growth length), cm _____ Growth _____
(erect, creeping, arching, fan, clumped, canes, distichous, equitant) Monopodial or sympodial

Root notes (thickness, succulent?, etc.) _____

Pseudobulbs (PB) _____
present? (Y/N) internode axial shape section shape sheathing
number (compressed? ribbed?) bracts?

Dimensions, give _____
range, mm height width thickness PB separation, mm

Leaves Number per pseudobulb _____ (where variable, give range)

Number of leaves per growth: _____

Plan shape _____
subulate, linear, oblong, lanceolate, oblanceolate, ovate, obovate, elliptate, spatulate, deltoid, reniform,
chordate, triangular, trullate, sagittate, hastate, lingulate

Transverse shape _____
conduplicate, pleated, terete, semiterete, flat, keeled, rolled, furrowed,

Leaf tips _____
acute, acuminate, bifid, indent, obtuse, retuse, emarginated, awn, praemorse, tridentate, caudate, truncate

Leaf margins _____ (smooth, crenate, serrate, etc.)

Dimensions, _____
mm length width thickness surface texture surface color/pattern

Flowers

Inflorescence

Total stem length, mm _____ Bract/spathe notes _____ Determinant (Y/N)? _____

Origin _____
axillary, basal, terminal, leaf/petiole join (leaf base), axillary leaf opposed

Type _____
single-flowered, spike, panicle (spray), raceme, cymose, umbel, or fascicled No. Flowers _____

Pedicel _____
Length, mm Thickness, mm Notes (shape, etc.) _____

More flower notes: _____

<i>Perianth</i>	Flower dimensions, mm:		_____	_____	_____	
			Width	Height	Front to Back	
	Color	Shape	L X W, mm	Color Pattern	Margins	Notes
Dorsal sepal	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
L. sepals	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Petals	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Labellum	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	vestiture (callus, hairs, papillae, ridges, ...)		resupinate?(Y/N)	spurs, or nectaries?	fragrance?	

Lip notes: _____

<i>Column</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Color	Shape	L X W, mm	Margins	Anter cap
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Mentum?	Vestiture	Pollinia no.	Pollinia attach. (caudicle/stipe)	Notes
Column notes:	_____				

Ovary	_____	_____
	L X W, mm	Shape

Seed pod	_____	_____	_____
	L X W, mm	Shape	Seed pod and seed notes

<i>Collection notes:</i>	_____	_____	_____
	Pressed plant?	Pressed flowers?	Pickled flowers?

<i>Photography notes:</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Plant?	Exposure ID	Flower detail?	Exposure ID	Dissected flower?

See drawings illustrating descriptive terms in Bechtel *et al.* 1992, Sheehan & Sheehan 1994, Hudgson *et al.* 1991 and Stewart 1995.

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