

Why Is My *Potinara* Not A *Potinara*? Part 3 in The Name Changing Game

By Richard Pippen, Ph.D

Professor Emeritus, Western Michigan University
Naples, Florida

Now I am going to tell you at the beginning—this will be very complicated, so bear with me. There are at least **five** reasons why your *Potinara* is no longer a *Potinara*. *Potinara* (*Pot.*) is a man-made genus (called a nothogenus) that was created by the combination of species from four different genera: *Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Sophronitis*. Anytime that you involve species from so many different genera, there is always the possibility of confusion when taxonomists play the “genus shuffle game.”

The **first** reason that some *Potinara* are not *Potinara* is that if the *Brassavola* species used was *Brassavola* (*B.*) *digbyana*, it is no longer *Brassavola* but now *Rhyncholaelia* (*Rl.*) *digbyana*. (You will recall that was discussed in an earlier NOS Newsletter article).

The **second** reason is that the Brazilian species of *Laelia* are no longer *Laelia* but now *Cattleya*.

The **third** reason is that the species of *Sophronitis* are no longer *Sophronitis* but now *Cattleya*. So, that means that if the *Brassavola* species originally used to create the *Potinara* was *Rhyncholaelia digbyana*, and the *Laelia* and *Sophronitis* species are all now *Cattleya*, then the new genus name for these plants is *Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (*Rhyncholaelia* x *Cattleya*), or *Rlc*.

The **fourth** reason your *Potinara* is not *Potinara*, is due to another twist in the naming game—some species that were originally *Cattleya* have been transferred out. *Cattleya auriantica*, *C. bowringiana*, and *C. skinneri*, are now in the genus *Guarianthe* (*Gur.*). So if *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* was combined with a *Laelia* that is now a *Cattleya* and another *Cattleya* that is now a *Guarianthe*, then you have *Rhyncholaelia* x *Cattleya* x *Guarianthe* = *Rhynccattleanthe* (*Rth.*)

Take *Potinara* Burana Beauty, for example (one of my favorites, small fragrant yellow flowers with red splash on the petals). It is a cross between *Potinara* (now *Rhynccattleanthe*) Netrasiri Starbright and *Cattleya* Netrasiri Beauty. If you trace its ancestry back to its “great great (or so) grandparents” you find that *Brassavola* (now *Rhyncholaelia*) *digbyana*, *Laelia* (now *Cattleya*) *crispata*, *Sophronitis* (now *Cattleya*) *coccinea* and *Cattleya* (now *Guarianthe*) *aurantiaca* were involved. Using the old terminology, that is *Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Laelia* x *Sophronitis* = *Potinara*. Using the new names, however, you have *Rhyncholaelia* x *Cattleya* x *Guarianthe* = *Rhynccattleanthe* (*Rth.*)



And a **fifth** reason your *Potinara* is not *Potinara* is that if the *Brassavola* species used was one other than the old *B. digbyana*, then those plants are now *Brassavola* x *Cattleya* = *Brassocattleya* (*Bc.*) or *Brassavola* x *Cattleya* x *Guarianthe* = *Brassocatanthe* (*Bct.*)

So to find the new name of your Potinara you need to know (1) if *Rhyncholaelia digbyana* or another *Brassavola* species was involved and (2) the nature of the *Cattleya* involved, whether or not it was a former *Laelia* or *Sophronitis*, or one of the *Cattleya* species that is now *Guarianthe*. To know this you may have to look at the genealogy of crosses back several generations (like the *Potinara* Burana Beauty example above).

Here is a simple chart to help with the process of determining the new names. Remember that **all** of these crosses have *Cattleya* in them including the changes associated with the *Laelia* and *Sophronitis* names. ☺

<i>Rhyncholaelia digbyana</i> ?	<i>Cattleya</i> now <i>Guarianthe</i> ?	New Name
Yes	Yes	<i>Rhyncattleanthe</i> (<i>Rth.</i>)
Yes	No	<i>Rhyncholaeliocattleya</i> (<i>Rlc.</i>)
No	Yes	<i>Brassocatanthe</i> (<i>Bct.</i>)
No	No	<i>Brassocattleya</i> (<i>Bc.</i>)

Remember, whatever the name, it is still an orchid and a great plant!

I have listed some examples of potinaras and their new names in the table below. If yours do not appear below, then you can find the correct names at the Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Registry website at www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registerpages/orchiddetails.asp

The Old Way

Potinara

Potinara Beaufort Gold
Potinara Chia Pet
Potinara Egyptian Queen
Potinara Frank Gilmore
Potinara Hattie Sims
Potinara Haw Yuan Gold
Potinara Hawaiian Prominence
Potinara Hisako Akatsuka
Potinara King's Jewels
Potinara Little Toshie
Potinara Love Call
Potinara Samantha Duncan
Potinara Shin Shiang Diamond
Potinara Susan Fender

Potinara

Potinara Burana Beauty
Potinara Free Spirit
Potinara Netrasiri Starbright
Potinara Roy's Magic
Potinara Shinfong Little Love
Potinara Thi-Ti
Potinara Twentyfour Carat

The New Way

***Rhyncholaeliocattleya* (*Rlc.*)**

Rhyncholaeliocattleya Beaufort Gold
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Chia Pet
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Egyptian Queen
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Frank Gilmore
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hattie Sims
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Haw Yuan Gold
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hawaiian Prominence
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Hisako Akatsuka
Rhyncholaeliocattleya King's Jewels
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Little Toshie
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Love Call
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Samantha Duncan
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Shin Shiang Diamond
Rhyncholaeliocattleya Susan Fender

***Rhyncattleanthe* (*Rth.*)**

Rhyncattleanthe Burana Beauty
Rhyncattleanthe Free Spirit
Rhyncattleanthe Netrasiri Starbright
Rhyncattleanthe Roy's Magic
Rhyncattleanthe Shinfong Little Love
Rhyncattleanthe Thi-Ti
Rhyncattleanthe Twentyfour Carat

Potinara

Potinara Hoku Gem

Potinara Richard Young

Potinara

Potinara Crimson Sunrise

Potinara Neapolitan Cutey

Potinara Stardust Memory

Potinara Texas Sunrise

Brassocattleya (Bc.)

Brassocattleya Hoku Gem

Brassocattleya Richard Young

Brassocatanthe (Bct.)

Brassocatanthe Crimson Sunrise

Brassocatanthe Neapolitan Cutey

Brassocatanthe Stardust Memory

Brassocatanthe Texas Sunrise

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References

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Taylor’s Guide to Orchids, by Judy White - 1996 - Gardening - 400 pages

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