Definitions

Hybrid

A hybrid is the result of breeding one orchid with a different orchid, be they species or hybrids.

Intergeneric hybrids are produced by crossing different genera.

Keiki

Occasionally an orchid plant will bear a little plantlet off of its flower stem or pseudobulb. This is called a keiki (pronounced "kay-kee" or "kee-kee"; the Hawaiian word for baby or child). They occur naturally when growth hormones accumulate at a node on the flower spike. The production of keikis can also be induced through the use of keiki paste. This paste consists of concentrated growth hormones and is applied directly to the node.

A keiki is the product of asexual propagation by a mature plant resulting in an exact clone of its parent

Monopodial

Following extracted from https://myfirstorchid.wordpress.com/2016/08/12/monopodial-and-sympodial-orchids/.

Monopodial orchids grow as a single upright “stem” with one leaf following another on opposite sides of the center. Monopodial orchids are repotted in the center of the pot as they will grow straight up. Common monopodial orchids are Phalaenopsis, Paphiopedilums, and Vanda (shown above).

Orchids with this characteristic pattern of growth do not contain water reservoirs (no pseudobulbs) apart from their leaves and thick roots, thus should be watered just as the medium in which they are potted in dries out completely.

At the base of monopodial orchids are small nodes that lie dormant, often for a very long time. Occasionally, however, monopodial orchids will multiply by starting a new shoots at the base of the plant and in this way develop into sizable specimen plants. The new plant is called a “basal Keiki.”

See also **Simpodial** below.

Pseudobulb

Sympodial

Following extracted from https://myfirstorchid.wordpress.com/2016/08/12/monopodial-and-sympodial-orchids/.

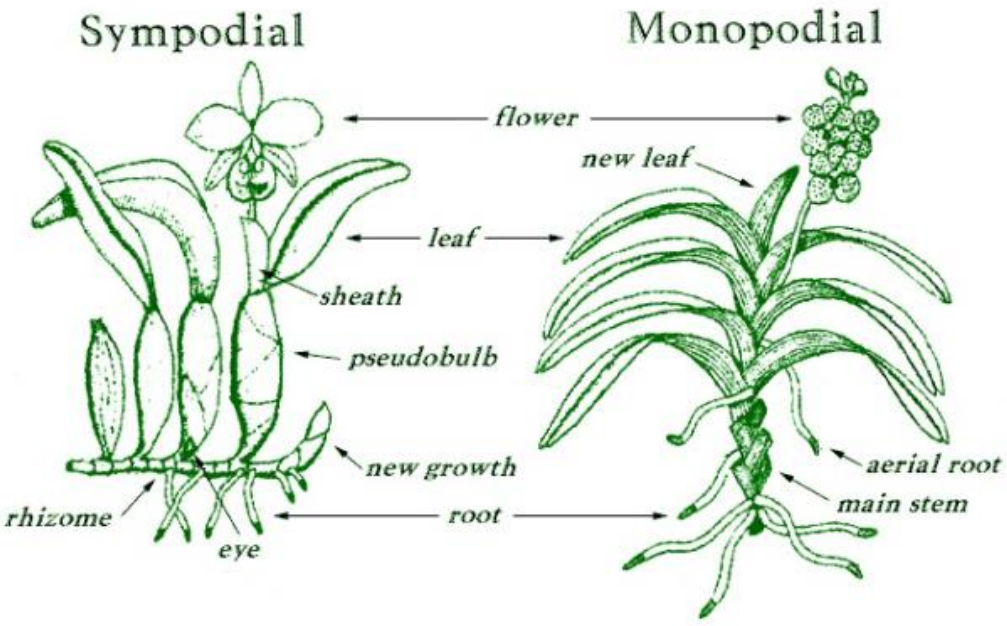
Sympodial growth is defined as an orchid that does not grow from a single vertical stem but from a stem that is more or less horizontal. They have the appearance of looking like flower bulbs but they are not. Their real function is to store water. These kind of orchids can go for prolong durations without water until the medium dries out because they store water in their pseudobulbs.

Sympodial orchids grow new pseudobulbs from the base of the previous pseudobulb and over time develop multiple growth leads along a single horizontal stem. This horizontal stem is called the rhizome. From the rhizome roots will grow. Most orchid genera are sympodial such as the Cattleya, Cymbidium, Dendrobium and Oncidium.

A pseudobulb refers to and individual “shoot” of a sympodial orchid which has a chunky base to hold water topped with leaves. Sometimes the pseudobulb is small and the leaves are long (as in Cymbidiums, shown at above, 1st pic above). Sometimes the pseudobulbs are long and thick (they look like leaf canes) and the leaves are small (as in Dendrobiums, shown above, 2nd pic above). Bloom spikes usually come from where the outermost leaf meets the pseudobulb. To assist in anchoring a sympodial orchid in the pot, a clip can be placed across the pot and between the pseudobulbs to secure.

See also **Monopodial** above.

The following picture contrasts monopodial and sympodial.



Size division

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Species

Loosely speaking, species orchids are native orchids that grow (or grew) wild somewhere in the world.

Specimen size

What you get after many years without dividing.

When the plant has an age, a size, a health rarely seen in cultivation and in nature and could be taken as "example" of perfection or state of art of that species or hybrid.

Even miniature orchids can become specimens due to the amount of growth.

Sympodial

Terete

Vandas have three main leaf forms:

- strap leaf - leaf is open
- terete leaf - leaf resembles a pencil
- semi-terete leaf - leaf is almost closed.

Basically there are actually two types - strap and terete. Others such as sem- and quarter-terete are simply hybrids of these two. A terete-leaved plant will typically take very high light levels [1].

See the book "Vandas and Ascocendas" by David Grove.

[1] This quote is taken from http://www.orchidboard.com/community/beginner-discussion/13359-quarter-terete.html.