

SPECIES DATA REPORT

Cattleya grandis Lindl. & Paxton 1850-1

Pronounced: GRAND-is (showy, grand)

Common Name Grand Laelia

Flower Size 4 to 5" [10 to 12.5 cm]

Once upon a time there was a beautiful orchid named for an equally beautiful lady, a Roman Vestal Virgin called Laelia.

ORIGIN/HABITAT: Brazil. Plants are found only in a small region in the Serra da Onça in southern Bahia. This orchid grows somewhat inland at about 500 ft. (150 m) in transition forests between the tropical forests along the coast and the dry interior. Plants grow in the upper branches of tall trees approximately 80 ft. (25 m) above the ground where light is very bright.



PLANT SIZE AND TYPE: A large, 17–22 in. (42–55 cm) sympodial epiphyte. Even though they grow in very bright light, plants are entirely green with no red-purple coloring on the leaves or pseudobulbs.

PSEUDOBULB: Up to 9 in. (22 cm) long by about 1.4 in. (3.5 cm) wide. The flattened pseudobulbs are variably club-like to spindle-shaped.

LEAVES: 8–14 in. (20–35 cm) long by 1.8 in. (4.5 cm) wide. A single erect, stiff, leathery leaf is carried at the top of each pseudobulb. It is rounded at the tip and varies in shape from oblong to lanceolate.

INFLORESCENCE: Up to 10 in. (25 cm) long. An erect to arching flower spike emerges from the top of the most recently matured pseudobulb. Flowers are nicely spaced along the upper portion of each inflorescence.

FLOWERS: 2–6. The large, showy blossoms, which last about 2 weeks, are 4.7–5.5 in. (12–14 cm) across. Sepals and petals are nankeen-yellow to bronze-yellow, narrow with very wavy margins, open fully, and usually twist or reflex along the midribs. The 3-lobed lip is 2.4 in. (6 cm) long and is white with pale to dark rose-purple veins in the throat and at the base of the midlobe. Side lobes curl upward to meet and form a tube around the column. The somewhat reflexed, very frilly midlobe may be suffused with lilac-rose.

Awards:

Origin	AM	HCC	Total
AOS	3	1	4

Hybrids: Total of 27 registered to the 2nd generation

Only one hybrid has an award dated 1962, two have offspring of their own but not awarded, all are intergeneric hybrids within the *Cattleya* family.

Cattleya Pittiana (1902) HCC/AOS 78 pts. is an orchid hybrid originated by Pitt in 1902. It is a cross of *C. dowiana* x *C. granulosa*. It is considered a "primary hybrid" because it is a cross between two species. No photo or other information found.

Cattleya Mossiae (*C. grandis* x *C. lawrenceana*) 3 offspring, *C. Pasadena Pageant* (*C. Moaiaiae* x *C. Prosperity*); *C. Joe's Choice* (*C. Mossiae* x *C. Canhamiana*); *C. Michel Ocelot* (*C. Mossiae* x *C. nobilior*) none have awards or offspring.

Cattleya Albanensis (*C. grandis* x *C. warneri*) 2 offspring – *C. Memoria Baroness Schro* (*C. Albanensis* x *C. Hardyana*); *Ctt. Delores* (*C. Albanensis* x *Ctt. Mantinii*) neither have awards or offspring.

There are at least two known natural hybrids of *L. grandis* both of which have also been produced artificially in cultivation. Its hybrid with *Cattleya amethystoglossa* is called *Laeliocattleya Pittiana*, and with *Cattleya warneri* is called *Lc. Albanensis*. Because orchid growers seem to have a strange fixation for flat-petal flowers, *L. grandis* has not been very popular as a parent in breeding hybrids. Its ruffled, sometimes twisted petals are just not gauche. Early breeders who made crosses just to see what would happen, did some work with *L. grandis* crossing it with several large-flowered *Cattleya* species like *C. labiata*, *C. mossiae*, *C. schroederiae* and *C. lawrenceana* and a few important *Laelias* like *L. purpurata* and *L. cinnabarina*. Once they saw the results of crossing two great large-flowered *Cattleya* species like *C. warszewiczii* and *C. mossiae*, however, they lost interest in *L. grandis*.

Synonyms:

Bletia grandis Rchb.f 1861

Brasilaelia grandis (Lindl. & Paxton) Gutfreund 2006

Cattleya grandis (Lindl.) A.A.Chadwick 2006

Chironiella grandis (Lindl.) Braem 2006

Hadrolaelia grandis (Lindl. & Paxton) Chiron & V.P.Castro 2002

References:

OrchidWiz X4.3

Orchidspecies.com

Orchids.org

Chadwick, Arthur <http://chadwickorchids.com/content/cattleya-grandis-laelia>