**The Genus Mexipedium**

(Soto Arenas, Salazar & Hágsater) V.A. Albert & M.W. Chase 1992

Type: **Mexipedium xerophyticum**

**mex-ih-PEE-dee-um**

Common Name: Mexican Slipper Orchid

Etymology: Honoring the country of Mexico and Greek for sandal -

 referring to the slipper-shaped lip

Flower size: ½ - 1”

Characteristics: the deeply pouched, inflated and slipper-shaped lip has obscure, incurved side lobes

The genus Mexipedium consists of one small, quite attractive sympodial, terrestrial or lithophyte found in mid elevation, coastal scrub of south-western Mexico (Oaxaca) in dry, open scrub dominated by succulents and cacti or usually on exposed steep cliffs of limestone. This minute, inconspicuous, colony-forming plant has an erect, leafy stem with the base subtended by two to three, sterile bracts and has silvery-green leaves. The erect, hairy, sometimes branched, red, one to two-flowered inflorescence has small, white, thinly textured flowers, borne successively. The flowers are densely covered with pale brown hairs on the outer sepal surfaces, and the dorsal sepal forms a hood over the lip. The tip of the dorsal sepal and short column are pink colored. The deeply pouched, inflated and slipper-shaped lip has obscure, incurved side lobes.;

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| Species | Season | Progeny/Awards | Awards | Plant size, temp, flr size, | Inflr size, #flrs |
| *xerophyticum* | Fall | 0/8 | 2CCE, CBR, 3CCM, 2HCC | Small, hot to warm, ½-1” | 21/2-51/2”, 1 or 2 short-lived flrs |

**This is a monotypic genus removed from Cypripedium because of the fleshy, coriaceous leaves, the very small flowers and the unilocular ovary, branched inflorescence, valvate sepal aesitvation and inflated lip.**

References:

OrchidWiz Database X5.1

Orchidspecies.com

Alrich, P. & Higgins, W., 2008, “The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera”, Selby Botanical Gardens Press, P. 244

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