**The Genus Phragmipedium**

**Type:** **Phragmipedium caudatum [Lindley] Rolfe 1896**

frag-muh-PEE-dee-um

Common Name: **refers to the separated wall in the ovary**

Etymology: Greek for partition or division and a slipper or shoe. An illusion to the three chamber-like divisions of the ovary and the slipper-shaped lip.

Characteristics: Plant habit is grass-like

Leaves linear-lanceolate, held nearly erect, no tesselations

Flowerscape is jointed, tall, multiflowered, some branched

Petals long, twisted, dorsal sepals undulate

Twenty-six (according to Kew) sympodial terrestrials, lithophytes or less commonly epiphytes are found in low to upper elevation, hill to montane forests, grasslands and cliff faces from southern Mexico to Bolivia and western Brazil **(**mid-Central America south to mid-South America)

These tropical American species were removed from the Paphiopedilum in 1896 by Rolfe creating the genus Phragmipedium.

These plants have short, erect stems, each with gracefully arching, grooved, narrow, leathery leaves. The entire to sometimes branching, solitary to few flowered inflorescence has a few species with flowers that have extremely long, slender petals with some over 2.5 feet (6.5m) in length and extremely twisted. These petals were originally thought to serve as ladders for the pollinating insects. Most of the species have similar spreading petals and free dorsal sepal; the lateral sepals are united for their entire length forming a synsepalum. The tri-lobed lip has incurved side lobes and the midlobe is inflated and pouch-like. The flowers have a short, stout column with two laterally-placed fertile stamens, each bearing a two-celled anther, and a dorsally-placed sterile shield-shaped triangular to elliptic staminode; pollen granular; ovary three-celled. The typically brown and green flowers last about a month and will suddenly drop off, still in pristine condition.

Section Micropetalum

P. besseae

P. schlimii

Section Platypetalum

P. lindleyanum

{. sargentianum

Section Phragmipedium

P. caudatum

P. lindenii

P. wallisii

P. warcscewiczianum

Section Himantopetalum

P. caricinum

P. klotzscheanum

P. pearcei

Section Lorifolia

P. boissieranum

P. longifolium

P.vittatum

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| **Species** | **Season** | **Progeny/**  **Awards** | **Awards** | **Plant size, temp, flr size,** | **Inflr size, #flrs** |
| andreettae | Fall | 22/1 | CHM | Sm, Warm 2” 5cm | To 6.4”  successive |
| *besseae \** | Late W & Spg | 682/125 | 8FCC,2CCM,2CCE,73AM,  39HCC,1AQ | Sm,Cool,to 2.5” | To 16”, 1-4 |
| *boissierianum* | Fall thru Spg | 141/14 | 4AM,CBM,CBR,CCM,2CHM,  5HCC | M, W-Cool, 6” | To 3’, 4-6 |
| *brasiliense* |  | 2/0 |  |  |  |
| *caricinum* | W thru Fall | 64/9 | 4CCM, 1AM, 4HCC | M, H-W, 3” 8cm | To 2’, 1-3 |
| *caudatum* | Winter thru  Summer | 147/82 | 1FCC,2CCE,16CCM,41AM,  22HCC | Lg, W-Cold, 2.5’ 75cm | 2’, 3-6 |
| *dalessandroi* | Sum thru W | 103/3 | CHM, 2AM | M, Cool-W, |  |
| *fischeri* | F thru Spg | 150/3 | CHM, AM, HCC | Sm, Cool, 2” |  |
| *hirtzii* | Free bloom | 27/4 | CBR, 3HCC | M, W, 3.5” 9cm | 16”, 5-7 succ |
| *humbotdtii* | S & Summer | 129/17 | FCC,2CCM,2CHM,8AM,2HCC,  2CBR | Sm, W, 4”10cm | To 14” 2-4 simultaneous |
| *klotzscheanum* | Summer | 22/1 | JC | S, H-Cool,to 1.6” | To 24”, 1+suc |
| *kovachii* | Spring | 122/16 | 5FCC, CHM, 10AM | Lg, C-C, 7.25”18c | 3’, 4 succ |
| *lindenii* | F - W | 9/8 | 2CCM,2CBM, AM, 3HCC | Lg, C-C, 2”w 5cm | 16” petals 40c |
| *lindleyanum* | F - Spg | 98/7 | CCM, 2CBM, 2AM,2HCC | Lg, Cool-W,3”7.5 | To 4’, few to sev sequent |
| *longifolium \** | Fall or any time | 592/39 | 12AM,8HCC,9CCM,CCE,  7CHM,2CBM | M-L, W-C, 8”  (20cm) | To 36”, 7-9  successive |
| *pearcei* | Summer | 122/27 | 4AM,12HCC,CCE,7CCM,CHM,  CBM,CBR | Sm, C-W,2”5cm | 5.5”,multi-flowered |
| *richteri* | Spg to Fall | 33/13 | 4AM,4HCC,3CCM,CHM,CBR | M, Cool-W |  |
| *sargentianum* | W thru Spg | 362/3 | 2CCM, CBM | M, W-Cool  4”10cm | To 4’, several to many, seq |
| *schlimii \** | Fall or any time | 429/31 | 8AM,7HCC,CBM,2CCE,9CCM,  CHM,3JC | M, W-Cool,to 3” 7.5cm | 12”, 6-10 fragrant |
| *tetzlaffianum* | Summer | 5/2 | 2CHM | Spiraled dorsal | 1-4 seq |
| *vittatum* | Sum & Fall | 12/2 | HCC, CBM | M-Lg, W-Cool | 3.5’, 1-3 succ |
| *wallisii* | Free blooming | 65/33 | 15AM,4FCC,10HCC,2CCM,  CHM | W to Cold, | To 16”, few lg flowers |

Other Information: Recently-released IUCN Red List assessments for slipper orchids from the temperate Northern Hemisphere show that a 79% of species are threatened with extinction. Mike Fay

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