**The Genus Selenipedium**

Reichenbach f. 1854

Type: Selenipedium chica

se-lee-ni-PEE-dee-um

Common Name: Moon Slipper

Etymology: Greek for moon or crescent and sandal or shoe

Referring to the lunar-crescent shape of the curled over edge of the lip

The genus Selenipedium consists of approximately five sympodial epiphytes found in low to mid elevation, hill to montane forests and grassy slopes from Panama to Peru, Venezuela, northern Brazil, the Guianas and Trinidad.

Characteristics: tall growing, bamboo-like; has grass-like leaves

These tall, erect plants have often branching, rather woody, clustered or well-spaced, hairy stems, subtended by sheathing bracts below, each with numerous, broad to narrow, veined, pleated, sparsely hairy leaves, The terminal, erect or branching, few-flowered inflorescences has small, yellow to red flowers covered with spots. The dorsal sepal is erect to hooded over the lip; the lateral sepals are joined for two-thirds of their length, and the narrow petals have wavy margins. The pale yellow, tri-lobed lip has obscure but entire side lobes. The slipper-shaped mid-lobe is incurved on the front margin and is hairy within.

NOTE: In the past Selenipedium, closely related to the other slipper type orchid genera, Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium, have usually all been treated in the one genus Cypripedium.

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| Species | Season | Progeny/  Awards | Awards | Plant size, temp, flr size, | Inflr size, #flrs |
| *aequinoctiale* | S & S | 0/1 | CBR | M-Lg, H-W, 1 3/5” | Short, sev to 10 |
| *chica* | Fall | 0/1 | AM | Lg to giant, hot, 1” | Many flrs |
| *isabelianum* | Summer | 0/0 |  |  | Successive 1-many flrs |
| *palmifolium* | Over sev months | 0/1 | CHM | Very lg, hot, 2.8” | 8”, 1 at a time |
| *X sedenii* | Late Fall | 0/1 | CBR | Nat hybrid – best | Looking flr |

Other Information:

Greek Mythology: Selene was a daughter of the Titans Hyperion and Thea. She was the goddess of the moon, who bore Zeus two daughters, but she really loved Endymiion with whom it is said that she had fifty daughters.

References:

OrchidWiz Database X5.1

Orchidspecies.com

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