

Building Block

***Vanda merrillii* Ames & Quisumb., Philipp. J. Sci. 47: 211 (1932).**

Merrill's Vanda

Synonyms

- *Vanda merrillii* var. *immaculata* Ames & Quisumb., Philipp. J. Sci. 52: 462 (1933).
- *Vanda merrillii* var. *rotorii* Ames & Quisumb., Philipp. J. Sci. 56: 462 (1935).

Vanda merrillii, is a tall-growing species endemic to the Philippines. Flowers are lacquered dark crimson-on-yellow. The dark crimson color tends to be solid on the outer portions of the sepals and petals, but usually takes the form of thin longitudinal bars and small speckles on the basal portions. The column is ivory white; the midlobe of the labellum is a somewhat dull red-brown.

The first hybrids of *V. merrillii* were registered in the late 1940s. Foster Botanical Gardens in Hawaii registered *Vanda Mary Foster*, a cross of (*V. merrillii* x *V. sanderiana*) and it got an HCC/AOS (77 points) in 1961. Unfortunately, not pictures and descriptions are shown.

There is a rare color form, *V. merrillii* var. *rotorii*, which has solid oxblood-red flowers with a white column, and another one, *V. merrillii* var. *immaculata*, which has yellow flowers and lacks red markings. These two varieties are rarely seen and apparently have not been used to any great extent in hybridizing. (Glove, 2003).



Photography by Claude W. Hamilton

Vanda merrillii var. *rotorii* 'Hamlyn' AM/AOS (83 points)

V. merrillii, other source for red Vandas has flowers with red pigments, although these are usually expressed as spots or overlays on a basically pale-yellow flower. Some of the best cultivars have a nearly solid mahogany-red overlay with a very attractive, lacquered texture. The flowers are very fragrant, and they have an open shape with wavy sepals and petals. (Fuchs, 2018).



Photography by Claude W. Hamilton

Vandachostylis Roll on Red 'Memoria Georgie Miles' HCC/AOS (78 points)
Vandachostylis Crownfox Red Gem x *Vanda* Peggy Foo

V. merrillii, mate very well with *Ascocenda* hybrids. One of them, *Ascocenda* Red Gem (*V. merrillii* x *Asctm curvifolium*) received 2 AM and 3 HCC and it had been crossed multiple times producing superb hybrids like *Vandachostylis* Roll on Red. *V. Ng Hee Seng*, has chrome yellow petals and sepals with cherry red splashes on their tips.



Vanda Red Gem 'OK Too' HCC/AOS 79 Points

Photography by McCulloch

Looking at OrchidWix X6.1, there is a good production of hybrids throughout 10 generations. *V. Ken Kone* from 1997 earned 8 AM/AOS awards and 1 HCC/AOS and 8 AM/AOS. Most of them awarded because the intensity of colors.

10 Generations of Progeny				
G	Grexes	Awdd.	% Awdd.	Awds
1	77	20	26.0%	64
2	136	19	14.0%	51
3	100	22	22.0%	38
4	22	1	4.5%	1
5	16	3	18.8%	6
6	21	1	4.8%	1
7	21	7	33.3%	15
8	49	17	34.7%	39
9	67	23	34.3%	48
10	13	3	23.1%	4



Photography by Alex Maximiano

Vanda Ken Kone 'Crownfox Leopard' AM/AOS (84 points)
Vanda merrillii x *Vanda Guo Chia Long*

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