

Building Block

***Phalaenopsis sanderiana* Rchb.f., Flora 65: 466 (1882).**

Sander's *Phalaenopsis*

Synonyms

- *Phalaenopsis amabilis* subvar. *sanderiana* (Rchb.f.) Ames, *Orchidaceae* 2: 228 (1908).
- *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* var. *sanderiana* (Rchb.f.) Quisumb., *Philipp. J. Sci.* 74: 182 (1941).
- *Phalaenopsis amabilis* var. *sanderiana* (Rchb.f.) R.S.Davis, *Amer. Orchid Soc. Bull.* 18: 744 (1949).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* var. *marmorata* Rchb.f., *Gard. Chron., n.s.*, 20: 812 (1883).
- *Phalaenopsis alcornis* Rchb.f., *Gard. Chron., ser. 3*, 1: 799 (1887).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* subvar. *alba* A.H.Kent in H.J.Veitch, *Man. Orchid. Pl.* 7: 35 (1891).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* subvar. *marmorata* (Rchb.f.) A.H.Kent in H.J.Veitch, *Man. Orchid. Pl.* 7: 35 (1891).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* var. *punctata* O'Brien, *Gard. Chron., ser. 3*, 9: 78 (1891).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* subvar. *punctata* (O'Brien) A.H.Kent in H.J.Veitch, *Man. Orchid. Pl.* 7: 35 (1891).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* var. *alba* (A.H.Kent) Stein, *Orchid.-Buch*: 511 (1892).
- *Phalaenopsis amabilis* f. *alba* (A.H.Kent) Ames, *Orchidaceae* 2: 228 (1908).
- *Phalaenopsis amabilis* f. *marmorata* (Rchb.f.) Ames, *Orchidaceae* 2: 228 (1908).
- *Phalaenopsis amabilis* f. *punctata* (O'Brien) Ames, *Orchidaceae* 2: 229 (1908).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* var. *pulcherrima* Rolfe, *Orchid Rev.* 19: 310 (1911).
- *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* f. *alba* (A.H.Kent) Christenson, *Phalaenopsis: a monograph*: 207 (2001).

Phalaenopsis sanderana spelling in this way by Sweet and *Phalaenopsis sanderiana* according to Christenson, was named in honor of Frederick Sander, was introduced by him in 1882 through specimens collected by Roebelen.

P. sanderiana can be found in the province of Davao and Amboanga on the southern side of the island of Mindanao, as well as on the islands of Balut and Sagarami off southern tip of the province of Davao and on the islets in Dumanquilas Bay on the southeastern end of the province of Amboanga.

P. sanderiana flowers are normally white with variable degree of purple suffusion toward the edges of the sepals and petals. Although now rare in cultivation, strains of *P. sanderiana* have been line bred for solid, dark pink flowers. Most of the darker clones (F4 to F7 generations) were affected by inbreeding depression, a genetic weakness, and proved to be poor growers. (Christenson 2001).

The horse-shoe shaped callus of *P. sanderiana* is a distinct characteristic from those of the other large-flowered species in this section.

In 1883, two flowering plants received an FCC from the RHS in London, one shown by Sir Trevor Lawrence, the other by Mr. W. Lee. It was reported that Mr. Lee's flowers had better color and shape, but Sir Trevor Lawrence's plant had more flowers on the inflorescence.

There are recognized one variety and one forma of *P. sanderiana*. *P. sanderiana* var. *marmorata*. Repeating Sweet's quote of Reichenbach, var. *marmorata* was described as having flowers with the "sepals and petals tinged outside yellowish white, with a certain green hue, the lateral sepals have numerous rows of purple spots at the base. The side segment shows three broad basilar purple bars, nearly parallel, and some purple spots. The mid part is neatly marbled with fine purple stains on the side, purple dots in mid-line, and very light purple wash between those three areas"

P. sanderiana f. *alba*, this form lacks any pink suffusion in the sepals and petals. Once common and artificially propagated in horticulture, this color morph appears to be extremely rare in modern collections.

A clone *P. sanderiana* 'Varina', exhibit by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis C. Vaughn, was awarded an FCC, 91 points by the judges of the American Orchid Society on January 13, 1965. The following is the description of the awarded plant:

"A large plant of excellent culture with five pairs of leaves, the longest 14". An outstanding color form; deep pink color with almost no venation Nax Botanical Trophy Winner in 1965, for the most outstanding species".

P. sanderiana is not as large-flowered as *P. amabilis* and *P. Aphrodite*. It bears flowers with pinkish flowers that are not as evenly or as darkly colored as *P. schilleriana*.

Unlike the other species in this section, which are strongly spring-flowering, *P. sanderiana* blooms in mid to late summer.

According to OrchidWiz X7.1, there are 117 Offspring, first generation and 27,201 progenies. There are few awarded on the first generations and the seventh to ninth generations showed the greatest among of awards.

15 Generations of Progeny				
G	Grexes	Awdd.	% Awdd.	Awds
1	117	10	8.5%	10
2	239	18	7.5%	31
3	405	31	7.7%	69
4	837	116	13.9%	238
5	1,823	236	12.9%	545
6	3,326	360	10.8%	750
7	4,735	580	12.2%	1,332
8	5,843	797	13.6%	1,944
9	5,425	749	13.8%	1,721
10	2,765	345	12.5%	788
11	912	140	15.4%	412
12	525	74	14.1%	200
13	184	17	9.2%	43
14	60	6	10.0%	17
15	5	1	20.0%	1

Breeding white Phalaenopsis seemed not hard but looking for yellow 's Phalaenopsis hybrids became a difficult endeavor. Although progenies shown some fade yellow colors, flowers shape are not as the breeder expected.

P. sanderiana crossing with P. Gold Coast produced P. Sandalwood and according to Conkin D. this cross was a step in the right direction, but it has not registered progeny and was a dead end (Conkin D. 2002). Revising OrchidWiz X7.1, there is 1 AM/AOS awarded in 1965. The brief description of the award described: Eighteen unusual salmon color flowers on one spike.

References

- Christenson, E. A. 2001. Phalaenopsis a monograph. Pp. 204 – 207.
- Conkin, D. Orchid Digest Pilgrimage to the Holy Grail. Vol 66. No 4. 2002. Pp. 235
- OrchidPro
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X7.1
- Sweet, H.R.1980. The Genus Phalaenopsis. Pp. 30 – 33.