

Species Report

Phalaenopsis fasciata

The Striped Flower Phalaenopsis

Synonyms

- *Polychilos fasciata* (Rchb.f.) Shim, Malayan Nat. J. 36: 23 (1982).
- *Phalaenopsis fasciata* f. *flava* O.Gruss & Kleefeld, Orchidee (Hamburg) 2(6)E: 4 (2016).

Endemic to the Philippines (Luzon, Bohol, Mindanao). Its colors range from light yellow, deep yellow to orange-yellow, with a greenish hue on some flowers. Flowers are waxy and firm, this heavy substance, as well as the cinnamon brown horizontal and transverse bars on all segments, can be passed on to its progeny.

Usually got confused with *P. lueddemanniana*, specifically *P. lueddemanniana* var. *ochracea*, this variety lacks most or all of its anthocyanin pigments, resulting in a pale flower with greenish yellow to pale brown barring against an off-white ground color. In contrast, *P. fasciata* shows an intense yellow ground color.

As a parent in hybrids, *P. fasciata* lends strong yellow color, a red lip, and fine pale-brown spotting over most of the flower. The yellow color does fade with time although not as extensively as hybrids made with such species as *P. manni*. Most modern yellow Phalaenopsis hybrids have some *P. fasciata* in the background.

Hybrids between traditional striped hybrids, obtained from *P. equestris*, and yellow hybrids, produced from *P. fasciata*, make remarkably vigorous progeny.

One drawback to using this species in breeding is the feathering, or streaking of red, along the leading edge of the petals on many of its hybrids. Using this characteristic in breeding perpetuates it in future hybrids. (Livingston 2002).

Regarding negative breeding aspects, it bears fewer flowers per inflorescence, sepals and petals often have waxy margins; the form is frequently very open, and in some clones the flower segments are nearly tubular. (Conkin 2002).

According to OrchidWiz X7.3 *P. fasciata* produced 125 offspring (First Generation) and 11,452 total progenies.

References

- Christenson, E. A. 2001. Phalaenopsis a monograph.
- Conkin D. 2002. Orchid Digest. Pilgrimage to the Holy Grail Vol. 66 (4) Pp 232.
- Livingston B. Orchid Digest. Hybridizing with Phalaenopsis species Vol. 66. 2002. Pp 209.
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