

Building Block

Brassia arcuigera Rchb.f., Gard. Chron. 1869: 388 (1869).

The arching Brassia

Synonyms

- *Brassia lawrenceana* var. *longissima* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron. 1868: 1313 (1868).
- *Brassia antherotes* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron., n.s., 12: 782 (1879).
- *Brassia antherotes* var. *longissima* (Rchb.f.) Teusch., Bailey 9: 124 (1961).
- *Brassia hinksoniana* H.G.Jones, Lilloa 34: 8 (1974), nom. illeg.
- *Brassia longissima* (Rchb.f.) Nash in L.H.Bailey, Stand. Cycl. Hort. 1: 541 (25 March 1914).

Brassia arcuigera is the more widespread (Central America to the Andes) of the *Brassia* group, they can be found on both sides of the Andes in premontane rainforests on most covered trees at altitudes of 200 to 1500 meters. It has been most frequently confused with *B. caudata* to which Schechter has contributed by stating that the pseudobulbs of *B. longissima* carry one or two leaves on their tops (Teuscher 1959).

Dorsal sepal upright, long and wide near base, lateral sepal pendant, long; petals long, curved upward at base, and their long-drawn-out tips gradually curving inward until they meet, behind or in front of the dorsal, after which they frequently curve upward again. Lip is wider in proportion to its length than is that of *B. caudata*, and the dorsal sepal as well as the petals (not the lateral sepals) are always much longer. Flowers of *B. arcuigera* has no callus teeth, but the callus ridges, instead of termination abruptly (being truncate).



Brassia arcuigera 'Santa Barbara' AM/AOS (80 points)

According to OrchidWiz x7.3 *Brs. arcuigera* had been granted with 15 AOS awards. 6 AM, 5 HCC, 3 CCM and 1 CBR.

Regarding breeding. *Brs. arcuigera* had been used to produced 49 offspring (first generation) and 284 total progeny and *Brs. Edvah Loo* breed by W.W.G. Moir registered in 1966 yield 41 offspring and earned 16 awards.

Brassidium is the cross between *Brassia* and *Oncidium* and *Brassidium Longlen* (*Brs. arcuigera* x *Onc. Leucochilum*) received 11 AOS awards, 5 AM, 5 HCC and 1 CCM. The hybrid is highly influenced by *Brassia*. *Oncidium* impart a separation of petals and lateral sepals that create a star shape flower. Yellow color or intensity of it probably also came from the *Oncidium* side.

Brassidium Longlen 'Rosemary' HCC/AOS (77 points)
Brassia arcuigera x *Oncidium leucochilum*



Brassidium Gilded Urchin is an interesting cross, *Brs. arcuigera* and *Onc. Wentworthianum*, flowers well space are bright yellow and segments wide taking from *Oncidium*. The only negative aspect could be the curved tips of the segments.



Brassidium Gilded Urchin 'Brianna' AM/AOS (81 points)
Brassia arcuigera x *Oncidium wentworthianum*

Photo by: Jorge Enrique Céspedes Trigueros

References

- Baker Gary. American Orchid Society Bulletin D. 1986. Sexy Spiders – Breeding with Brassias 1 – *Brassia* and Bigeneric Hybrids Vol. 55. 11 Pp 1092 – 1106.
- Teuscher H. 1955. Three Forms of *Brassia longissima*. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol 24(12) Pp 6.
- OrchidPro
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X7.3
- www.orchidspecies.com. Retrieve 2-10-22
- www.wcsp.science.kew.org