

## ***Aliceara - Gombrasiltonia***

*Gombrasiltonia* is the combination of *Brassia*, *Miltonia* and *Gomesa*, when using *Oncidium* instead of *Gomesa* it is called *Aliceara*. *Gomesa* was recently expanded by M.W. Chase and N.H. Williams to include many former *Oncidium* species. Morphology, particularly the angle of lip attachment to the column, has historically been the fundamental character used in establishing generic limits in the subtribe Oncidiinae. But today the vegetative and a few floral/inflorescence characters link these taxa with a mainly Brazilian distribution. Certain species were all transferred to *Gomesa* on this basis rather than separated from *Gomesa* based on their floral differences. (Alrich and Higgins 2017).

According to OrchidWiz X8.2 *Aliceras* comprised 278 and *Gombrasiltonia* 49 members. The first *Aliceara* registered by Ernest T. Iwanaga in 1964 was *Aliceara* Pacesetter (*Brassidium* Coronet x *Miltonidium* Lustre), Iwanaga named the grex *Aliceara* in honor of his wife, Alice. because *Miltonidium* Lustre is now *Oncidium*, currently this hybrid is a *Brassidium*. The second *Aliceara*, crossed by Goodale Moir in 1967 was *Aliceara* Brown Feathers (*Miltonidium* Surprise and *Brassia* Chieftain) and the same case than the previous one, *Miltonidium* is now considered *Oncidium*. So, the grex is *Brassidium* and *Aliceara* is a synonym. This cross is not shown offspring, perhaps for the difficulty regarding genes incompatibility. Supporting this idea is the fact that one of the parents *Onc.* Surprise (*Onc.* Fuscatum x *Onc.* Sawyer) a promising hybrid just yield just 4 offspring.



*Brassidium* Pacesetter  
'Vashon' HCC/AOS (78  
points)

The following year we find the first of a significant trend, the use of *Gomesa varicosa* or its descendants with *Miltassias* to create *Gombrassiltonia* with large, flamboyant yellow lips. The first grex was *Gombrassiltonia* Dancing Lady (*Miltassia Festiva* x *Gomesa varicosa*) created by Moir in 1968. (Baker 1986).



*Gombrassiltonia* [Gbt.] (Alcra.) Dancing Lady. Photo by Dr. Tom Ott

*Gomesa varicosa*  
Photo by Australian Orchid Council; Grower Woolf D.



*Gomesa varicosa* produced a lot of flowers with nice eye catching wide brilliant labellum, regarding size comparing the lip with the sepals, these are small but crossing with *Miltassia* correct this negative aspect. Looking up on Orchid Wiz X8.2, *Gomesa varicosa* have 111 offspring (First Generation) and 628 total progenies. Looking at the most used and awarded one most of hybrids are interspecific, crossed with other *Gomesa* and from this list two *Oncidesa* are shown, *Oncsa*. Sweet Sugar (*Oncsa*. Aloha Iwanaga x *Gom. varicosa*) and *Oncsa*. Taka (*Oncsa*. Goldiana x *Gom. varicosa*).



*Oncidesa* Taka 'Noelridge'  
CCM/AOS (87 points)  
*Oncidesa* Goldiana x *Gomesa varicosa*  
Photo by Nile Dusdieker



It is likely that many of these crosses produced very limited progeny. One of the major difficulties in hybridizing within the vastly promiscuous *Oncidium* or *Gomesa* alliance is the great diversity of chromosome count encountered. This results in no viable seed in many cases, and a very low number of plants when germination does occur. Generally

speaking, we can expect only 50 to 150 plants from a germinated cross, occasionally more, but more frequently less (even as few as 5 to 10 plants). (Carpenter 1981).

The advantages of better Alicearas hybrids include the propensity to make large plants with multiple front-leads and their ability to bloom twice a year. (Liebman 1983).

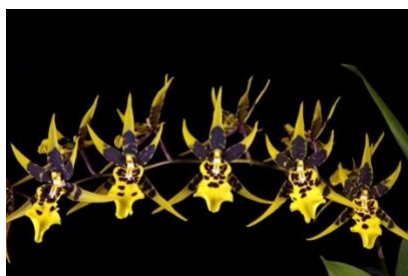
In 1976 W.W.G. Moir registered *Aliceara* Dorothy Oka (*Brat.* Cartagena x *Onc.* Elegance). Flowers are stellate and larger inherited from *Brat.* Cartagena, another important attributed is the well space flowers arrangements; *Onc.* Elegance imparted coloration. This cross received 2 AM, 1 HCC and 1 CCM, AOS awards.

*Gombrassiltonia* (formerly *Aliceara*) Maury Island is an interesting cross between *Brat.* Vino and *Gom.* Marshalliana. Flowers are bright yellow, prominent maroon lip. *Miltonia regnellii* component of its background is an astounding very nice flat flower with segment well balance. *Gom.* Marshalliana can contributed with open pleasant maroon doted petals but not with flowers counting.

*Aliceara* Maury Island 'Vashon' AM/AOS  
(81 points)  
*Bratonia* Vino x *Gomesa marshalliana*



One recently awarded, recipient of the Milton Carpenter Award for the best *Oncidium* intergeneric hybrid was *Brassidomesa* Golden Star 'Sonoma Gem' AM/AOS. This cross has won third time this prestigious award. According to the grower, Alan Koch, this cross is always in flower at the nursery and grows in any of his three different climate – controlled greenhouses.



*Brassidomesa* Golden Stars 'Sonoma  
Gem' AM/AOS (82 points)  
*Gomesa echinata* x *Brassidium* Shooting  
Star  
Photo by Ramon de los Santos

Also, at the same judging an AQ was awarded to *Bdm.* Golden Stars (*Gom.* echinate 'Gold Country 4N' x *Brassidium* Shooting Star 'Sandwolf') AQ/AOS, it was recognized for uniformity of all plants in color, yellow with contrasting marking.

*Brassidomesa* Golden Stars '(echinata  
'Gold Country 4N' x Shooting Star  
'Sandwolf')' AQ/AOS (0 points)  
*Gomesa echinata* x *Brassidium* Shooting  
Star  
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To judge *Aliceara/Gombrassiltonia* I would suggest using the *Miltonia* or general scale.

## References

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