

Building Block

***Miltoniopsis roezlii* (W.Bull) God.-Leb., Orchidophile (Argenteuil)
9: 148 (1889).**

Roezl's *Miltoniopsis* [English Orchid Collector Colombia 1800's]

Synonyms

- *Odontoglossum roezlii* W.Bull, Garden (London, 1871-1927) 4: 20 (1873).
- *Miltonia roezlii* (W.Bull) G.Nicholson, Ill. Dict. Gard. 2: 369 (1886).
- *Odontoglossum roezlii* var. alba W.Bull ex W.G.Sm., Fl. Mag. (London), n.s., 1875: t. 164 (1875).
- *Miltoniopsis santanae* Garay & Dunst., Venez. Orchids Ill. 6: 276 (1976).
- *Miltoniopsis roezlii* var. alba (W.Bull ex W.G.Sm.) Lückel, Orchidee (Hamburg) 46: A119 (1995).
- *Miltoniopsis roezlii* is endemic to western Colombia with an additional variant found in Panama.

It was discovered by Benedikt Roezl in 1873 and described by H.G. Reichenbach as *Odontoglossum roezlii*.

It is found at much lower elevation than *Mps. vexillaria*, 1,000 – 2,500 feet (300 – 760 m.).

The light bluish-green plant is 11 to 15 inches (28 to 38 cm) tall. New growths produce one or two slender inflorescences about 12 inches (30 cm) long that carry two to five flat blossoms. The flowers are 3 to 4 inches (7 to 10 cm) across. They are white with a purple blotch at the base of each petal and an orange-yellow disk at the base of the lip. They are delightfully fragrant. (Baker 1993).

The scapes bear from 1 to 4 flat flowers, typically about 3 inches wide, sepals and petals are white with a purple blotch at the base of each petal. Lip is white, about 2 inches wide, with a tinge of yellow and purple near the crest. The variety alba is rather commonly grown, flowers are entirely white, except for the yellow shading at the base of the lip. It seems all alba varieties are very fragrant, having a scent like the narcissus. (Gadka 1955).

Typical flowers are white with reddish purple splash at the base of the petals; the central mask is yellow. *Mps. roezlii* was the second most common species, *Mps. vexillaria* being the first, used in early hybrids. The red color at the base of the petals contributed important red color genes to later hybrids, which eventually led to the classical red forms. There are pure white, white and yellow forms, which provide the genes for modern yellow hybrids (Rosenfeld 2019).

The main important contribution of *Mps. roezlii* are the coloration on the petals, fragrance is also a lovely trait, and because they came from lower elevations, contribute to make hybrids that can grow in warmer environments.

Crossing *Milt. vexillaria* with *Mps. roezlii* created *Milt. Bleuna* and size of the flower is one of the main attributes. Backcrossing *Mps. roezlii* and *Milt. Bleuna* produced *Milt. St. Andre* and mating it with *Milt. vexillaria* yield the popular chaste *Mps Hyeana*.

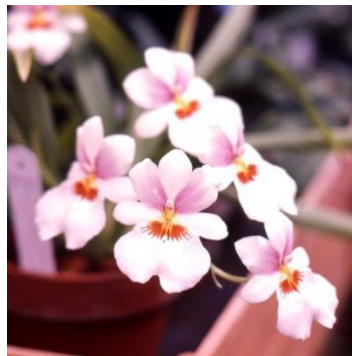


Miltoniopsis Bleuana 'Jeannie' JC/AOS (0 points)
Miltoniopsis roezlii x *Miltoniopsis vexillaria*

Photo by William Ammerman

Miltoniopsis Saint Andre x
Miltoniopsis Bleuana *Miltoniopsis roezlii*

Photo by Lindabury



Reviewing OrchidWiz x8.2, *Mps. roezlii* shown 78 offspring (First Generation) and 2,610 total progeny and earned 1 JC, 4 AM, 10 HCC, 1 CCE, 1 CCM and 3 CHM.

References

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- Gadka J. F. 1995. American Orchid Society Bulletin D. 1955. *Miltonia roezlii* Vol. 24. (6) Pp 375
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