

Building Block

***Miltoniopsis vexillaria* (Rchb.f.) God. -Leb., Orchidophile (Argenteuil) 9: 63 (1889).**

The Flag-Like Miltonopsis

Synonyms

- *Odontoglossum vexillarium* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron., n.s., 6: 901 (1876).
- *Miltonia vexillaria* (Rchb.f.) G.Nicholson, Ill. Dict. Gard. 2: 369 (1886).
- *Odontoglossum vexillarium* var. *lehmannii* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron., n.s., 13: 586 (1880).
- *Odontoglossum vexillarium* var. *superbum* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron., n.s., 16: 364 (1881).
- *Odontoglossum vexillarium* var. *rubellum* Van Geert, Nursery Cat. (Auguste Van Geert) 83: 19 (1882).
- *Odontoglossum vexillarium* var. *purpureum* L.Linden & Rodigas, Lindenia 1: t. 13 (1885).
- *Miltonia vexillaria* var. *leopoldii* A.H.Kent in H.J.Veitch, Man. Orchid. Pl. 8: 111 (1892).
- *Miltonia vexillaria* var. *rubella* A.H.Kent in H.J.Veitch, Man. Orchid. Pl. 8: 111 (1892).
- *Miltonia vexillaria* var. *stupenda* A.H.Kent in H.J.Veitch, Man. Orchid. Pl. 8: 111 (1892).

Miltoniopsis vexillaria is endemic to the central mountains and slopes of the Cordillera Occidental from the states of Antioquia and Caldas in Colombia and is less frequently found southward into northern Ecuador's Imbabura province near the market town of Otovalo at 5,900 feet (1,800 m). Notably, the *Mps. vexillaria* occurring in Ecuador and farther south into Perú has a much smaller flower than those occurring in Colombia.

The pale green plants are about 12 inches (30 cm) tall. Approximately four flat blossoms are borne on inflorescences about 12 inches (30 cm) long. The large, showy flowers are 2 to 4 inches (5 to 10 cm) across. They may be pink, often with white margins on the segments, or they may be white, sometimes with pink flush or pink stripes. The lip, which has yellow markings at the base, is also decorated with maroon stripes and blotches (Baker 1993).

Mps. vexillaria is extremely variable, 40 varieties and forms were found in the state of Antioquia, these included *Mps vexillaria* var. *belatula* (near white), *Mps vexillaria* var. *lineata* (spotted), *Mps vexillaria* var. *virginalis* (white) and *Mps vexillaria* var. *gloriosa* (purple), identified according to the drawing and description of Bawman (1866). Other varieties such *Mps. vexillaria* var. *Carolina*, *Mps vexillaria* var. *superba* (dark mask) and *Mps vexillaria* var. *Leucoglossa* (White labellum) were also found in Antioquia. (Manzur 2005).



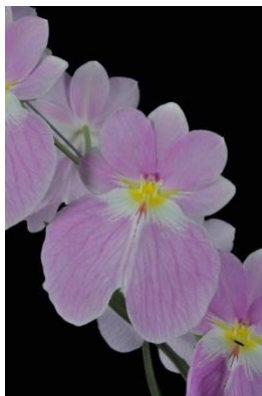
Miltoniopsis vexillaria var. alba 'Manizales' AM/AOS (80 points)

The large number of cultivars of *Mps. vexillaria* available to the early hybridizers was another reason why this species was repeatedly used in the early hybrids. Sander's Orchid Guide (1927 Edition) lists 18 cultivars of *Mps. vexillaria* (*Miltonia vexillaria*), and the RHS awarded 48 different cultivars of *Mps. vexillaria* (*Miltonia vexillaria*) between 1873 and 1930.

Mps. vexillaria 'Memoria G.D. Owen', FCC/RHS (1896), *Mps. vexillaria* 'Leopoldin', FCC/RHS (1889) and *Mps. vexillaria* 'Superba', FCC/RHS (1884) contributed a dark red or red purple mask to their progeny. *Mps. vexillaria* 'Rubella' contributed dark pink color to its progeny, and *Mps. vexillaria* 'Hillian' was frequently used because contributed with large size and good shape flowers. *Mps. vexillaria* 'Lambeauiana' AM/RHS (1907) and FCC/RHS (1910) impart excellent shape and good light color. (Liebman 1982).

According to OrchidWiz x8.2 *Mps. vexillaria* showed 112 Offspring (First generation) and 2,779 total progenies. About AOS awards, there are 3 JC, 2 FCC, 25 AM, 7 HCC, 5 CCE, 5 CCM and 2 CHM. Most of the awards are granted for Colombian Orchids.

Mps. vexillaria has contributed its flower size, shape and growth habit to most contemporary hybrids, other important attribute of this Colombian species is its long inflorescence and floriferousness.



Miltoniopsis vexillaria Susana' FCC/AOS (92 points)

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