

Genus *Comparettia*

The genus was first discovered and described by Poeppig around 1835 in Ecuador. It was named after the well-known plant physiologist, Professor Andreas Comparetti.

The plants have small pseudobulbs and are not much over one inch tall. The developing bulbs are covered with scales which become papery and are shed at maturity. Each pseudobulb will be topped by one to three leathery lanceolate leaves. In some species the leaf is purplish beneath. The slender, arching flower spikes arise from the base of the pseudobulb and have 5 to 7 mostly rose-purplish or spotted flowers. The spikes are usually twice as long as the leaves so all the flowers are visible.

The spurred flowers are unique in that they bear three spurs while appearing to have only one per flower. The dorsal sepal is erect, and the two lateral sepals are fused to form the long external spur of the flower. The two lateral petals are equal to or slightly larger than the dorsal sepal and the three are in a fan-like arrangement



Comparettia falcata
 'Memoria John Foley'
 HCC/AOS (77 points)
 Photo: Charles Marden Fitch

Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AD	AQ	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	Total	Strengthen	Weakness
<i>Comparettia falcata</i>	26/264		1	3	1				2				7	Intensify color of the progeny	
<i>Comparettia ignea</i>	40/745		3	1	1	1			7	1			14		
<i>Comparettia coccinea</i>	8/10									3	1		4		
<i>Comparettia speciosa</i>	21/295							1	5				6	Can enhance lip make it wider	
<i>Comparettia macrolepton</i>	27/29		7	3	2				4			2	18		

Genus *Ionopsis*

There are probably only two species of *Ionopsis*. Both are small plants found at low elevations throughout the New World. As twig epiphytes, they grow best on mounts of wood or cork with warm temperatures and high humidity. (Chase 2002).

The pseudobulbs are minute and obscure by the proportionately large, thick or cylindrical leaves. The delicate little flowers are borne in large numbers in an airy, branching panicle, and are usually white, lilac or pale purple, often with darker veins. (Hawkes 1951).

Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AD	AQ	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	Total	Strenghten	Weakness
<i>Ionopsis brevifolia</i>															
<i>Ionopsis burchellii</i>															
<i>Ionopsis minutiflora</i>											1		1		
<i>Ionopsis papillosa</i>															
<i>Ionopsis satyrioides</i>			1								1		2	Could impart dark, pink hue to its progeny.	
<i>Ionopsis utricularioides</i>	16/30		3	2	1				2	1			9	Deep plum purple segments and brilliant purple lip	Rolling back of petals and Low flower count
<i>Ionopsis x atalibae</i>															
<i>Ionopsis zebrina</i>															

Genus *Rodriguezia*

The Genus *Rodriguezia* was described by the Spanish botanist H. Ruiz and J. Pavón in 1794 based on Peruvian material, the genus *Rodriguezia* comprises about 47 species distributed throughout the Neotropics. Most of the species are found in South America, especially in the humid tropical forest of Brazil (Bock 1988). Within the Oncidiinae the genus can be recognized by the caespitose or elongate rhizomatous habit, the sigmoid seedlings when young that develop conduplicate coriaceous leaves in the adult stage, the lip with two striking stigmatic arms and two teeth at the apex and a nectary formed by the fusion of the labial base, sepals and column (Chase 2002).

References

- Alex D. Hawkes. 1951. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Major Genera of Cultivated Orchids – XI. Vol. 20. (5). Pp 284.
- Chase M. W. 2002. The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Oncidium. Pag. 118.
- Sheehan Marion and Tom. 1977. Orchid Genera, Illustrated – 58 – *Comparettia*. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 46. (9). Pp. 804 – 805.