

Building Block Species Report

Gomesa varicosa (Lindl.) M.W.Chase & N.H.Williams

The veined *Oncidium*

Synonyms

- *Ampliglossum varicosum* (Lindl.) Campacci in Colet. Orquídeas Brasil. 3: 85 (2006)
- *Coppensia varicosa* (Lindl.) Campacci in Bol. CAOB 62: 56 (2006)
- *Oncidium varicosum* Lindl. in Edwards's Bot. Reg. 23: t. 1920 (1837)
- *Oncidium euxanthinum* Rchb.f. in Gard. Chron. 1869: 1158 (1869)
- *Oncidium geraense* Barb.Rodr. in Gen. Spec. Orchid. 2: 193 (1882)
- *Oncidium lunaeum* Anon. in Gard. Chron. 1850: 168 (1850)
- *Oncidium rogersii* Bateman in Gard. Chron. 1868: 1317 (1868)
- *Oncidium varicosum* var. *charlesworthii* Anon. in Gard. Mag. (London) 1892: 566 (1892)
- *Oncidium varicosum* var. *concolor* Cogn. in C.A.Cogniaux & A.P.G.Goossens, Dict. Icon. Orchid., *Oncidium*: t. 18 (1897)
- *Oncidium varicosum* var. *lindenii* Anon. in Gard. Chron., ser. 3, 26: 441 (1899)
- *Oncidium varicosum* var. *rogersii* (Bateman) Rchb.f. in Gard. Chron. 1870: 277 (1870)
- *Oncidium varicosum* var. *southorangense* Grey in Amer. Garden 1895: 74 (1895)
- *Oncidium varicosum* var. *vexillarium* Rchb.f. ex Kraenzl. in H.G.A.Engler (ed.), Pflanzenr., IV, 50(80): 165 (1922)
- *Oncidium vexillarium* (Rchb.f. ex Kraenzl.) Königer in Arcula 16: 390 (2008)

Gomesa varicosa are found growing in Goias, Bahia, Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo, and Parana states of Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay at elevations of 500 to 1800 meters.

It is epiphytic, medium sized, cool to warm growing orchid with ovoid, elongate, slightly compressed and rugose, pseudobulbs that have 2 to 3 apical, lanceolate, coriaceous yet flexible, curved leaves. Blooming in the fall and winter on a basal stiff panicle, usually pendant, branched, lax and 2 to 5' long and carrying many non-fragrant, variable sized flowers. (Pfahl IOSPE).

There are great qualities imparted by *Gom. varicosa* to its hybrids. Besides the large-skirted lip, these are long-lasting flowers, even with the pollen removed, which in most orchids causes them to fold up. Throughout the hybrids there is a type of growth always reminiscent of *Gom. varicosa* in the shape of the pseudobulbs with a desire to stand away from the media and/or tree branches as if wanting air between them and the media.

Crossing *Gom. varicosa* with other genera, it imparted magnificent qualities, *Gomonia* Lee Hirsh (*Gom. varicosa* x *Milt. spectabilis*), *Oncidesa* Jack Pot (*Onc. fuscatum* x *Gom. varicosa*),

Gomonium Mtdm. Mai Tai (*Miltonia Festiva* x *Gom. varicosa*), *Gomonium* Merle Pennock (*Gmn. Lee Hirsch* x *Gom. varicosa*), *Gmn. Golden Giant* (*Gmn. Lee Hirsch* x *Gom. Nona*), *Gmn. Charming* (*Gmn. Yellow Charm* x *Gmn. Mai Tai*), *Gmn. Carioca* (*Milt. Sergipe* x *Gom. varicosa*), *Gmn. Kilauea* (*Milt. Purple Queen* x *Gom. varicosa*) and *Gomiltidium* Golden Sunset (*Miltonidium Crimson Crest* x *Gom. varicosa*), *Gombrassiltonia* Monte Cristo (*Bratonia Cartagena* x *Gom. varicosa*), *Gbt. Surprise Creek* (*Brat. Charles M. Fitch* x *Gom. varicosa*).

Each one had the beautiful, large skirt of *Gom. varicosa* with other shapes and colors, multiple branching and a very lovely display. (Moir 1978).



Gomonium Lee Hirsch

Photo by OWZ



Gomonium Lee Hirsch 'Vaughn' AM/AOS 86

Photo by OWZ



Gombrassiltonia Monte Cristo 'Cascades'

AM/AOS 80 Points

Photo by OWZ



Gombrassiltonia Surprise Creek 'Vashon'

AM/AOS (82 points)

References

- Midgett R. J. 1989. An All-yellow Form of *Oncidium urophyllum*. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 58 (2). 124.
- Moir G. and Moir M. 1978. The Varicosa Oncidiums. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 47 (6). 499
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X9.1
- www.orchidspecies.com.
- www.wcsp.science.kew.org