

Building Block Species Report

***Cymbidium tracyanum* L.Castle**

Tracy's Cymbidium [English Orchid Grower 1800's and first to flower species] - In Thailand Ueang dinn noe - Phisuea - Ueang chat- Kare karawn khao - In China Xi Zang Hu Tao Lan

Synonyms

- *Cyperorchis tracyana* (L.Castle) Schltr. in Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 20: 108 (1924)
- *Cymbidium zaleskianum* L.Linden in Lindenia 16: t. dccxxviii (1901)

Cymbidium tracyanum were collected with *Cym. lowianum*, which it resembles vegetatively. It was first noticed in 1890 when a plant bloomed in the collection of Mr. Tracy in Twickenham, England.

Cym. tracyanum is similar in color and form, but easily distinguished from *Cym. erythraeum* because flowers are much larger with long hairs on the callus and lip midlobe. It also similar in color to *Cym. irioides*.

This strong-growing species is characterized by tall compressed pseudobilbs and long, broad leaves showing a decided color change below the abscission point, being dark green and corded above, and quite yellow below. The bloom spike appears among the lower bracts and matures in late October to middle December. Assumes the form of a low arch with up to 25 flowers, widely set on good individual stems.

The flowers are large (up to 4 ½ inches or more in diameter) but very slender. The sepals are relatively much broader than the petals, which relax backward to give the flower a drooping appearance. The top sepal curves down over the lip and covers the long column entirely. The lower sepals are twisted forward. The lip is large, undulated and covered with short hairs. The color is cream with small red dots and lines on the front lobe; the side lobes are heavily lined with red. The ground color of the petals and sepals is olive-green to yellow, which is heavily lined with dark purple brown. The flower has a heavy, sweet fragrance and does not keep well when cut. (Crosby 1953).

Substance has been improved with the introduction of polyploid as it mentions on the description of *Cym. tracyanum* 'Salinas' HCC/AOS, shown on the picture below.

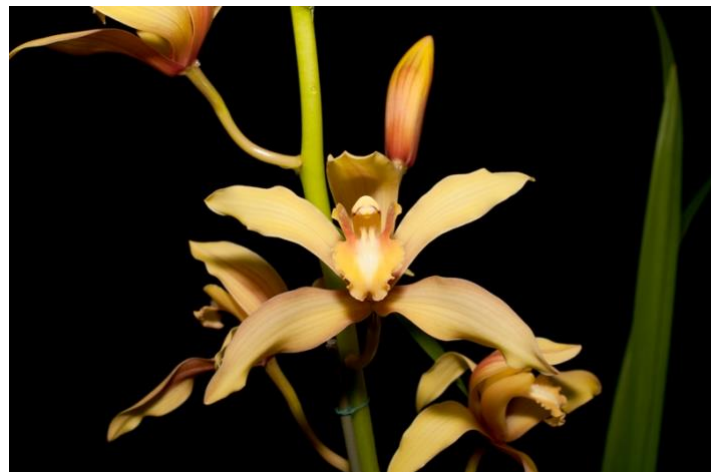


Cym. tracyanum
Salinas' HCC/AOS
(79 points)

Photo: Chaunie Langland

According to OrchidWiz X9.1 *Cym. tracyanum* have 127 offspring (First Generation) and 12,291 total progenies. Also 14 AOS awards, 1 AM, 8 HCC, 1 CCM and 3 JCC.

Cym. Doris (*Cym. insigne* x *Cym. tracyanum*) is the most significant cross using *Cym. tracyanum*. It shown 57 offspring and 3 AOS awards, 1 AM and 2 HCC. It was crossed by McBean in 1932, this is a significant player in Cymbidium breeding of all colors, including reds, with over 5,000 progenies. It was not only an early attempt at breeding reds, it was the start of a line of earlier-blooming Cymbidiums (October in northern hemisphere), which was important in the cut-flower industry. *Cym. Doris* can be traced in the background of the successful Australian breeding line of *Cym. Cronulia*. Another primary cross, *Cym. Hanburyanum* (*Cym. tracyanum* x *Cym. erythrostylum*) is in the background of Ray Dix's successful *Cym. Hot Port* line. (Butcher 2018).



Cymbidium Doris 'Lady Vanessa Darroch' AM/AOS (80 points)
Cymbidium insigne x *Cymbidium tracyanum*

Photo: James Winner

References

- Butcher C. 2018. Red Cymbidiums. Supplement to Orchid.
- Crosby H. W. 1951. *Cymbidium tracyanum*. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 21 (11): 667.
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- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X9.1
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