

***Catasetum pileatum* Rchb.f.**

Synonyms

- *Catasetum bungerothii* N.E.Br. in *Linden* 2: 21 (1886)
- *Catasetum bungerothii* var. *album* Linden & Rodigas in *Linden* 4: 8 (1888)
- *Catasetum bungerothii* var. *aurantiacum* Cogn. in *Linden* 10: 57 (1894)
- *Catasetum bungerothii* var. *imperiale* (L.Linden & Cogn.) Cogn. in C.A.Cogniaux & A.P.G.Goossens, *Dict. Icon. Orchid.*, *Catasetum*: 1A (1897)
- *Catasetum bungerothii* var. *lindenii* Gower in *Garden* (London, 1871-1927) 46: 477 (1894)
- *Catasetum bungerothii* var. *pottisianum* L.Linden & Rodigas in *Linden* 3: 19 (1887)
- *Catasetum bungerothii* var. *randii* Rodigas in *Ill. Hort.* 37: 117 (1890)
- *Catasetum bungerothii* var. *regale* Gower in *Garden* (London, 1871-1927) 46: 477 (1894)
- *Catasetum imperiale* L.Linden & Cogn. in *J. Orchidées* 5: 316 (1895)
- *Catasetum pileatum* var. *album* (Linden & Rodigas) Hoehne in *Fl. Brasília* 12(6): 90 (1942)
- *Catasetum pileatum* var. *imperiale* (L.Linden & Cogn.) Cogn. ex Hoehne in *Fl. Brasília* 12(6): 90 (1942)
- *Catasetum pileatum* var. *lindenii* (Gower) Hoehne in *Fl. Brasília* 12(6): 90 (1942)
- *Catasetum pileatum* var. *regale* (Gower) Hoehne in *Fl. Brasília* 12(6): 90 (1942)
- *Catasetum* × *splendens* var. *imperiale* (L.Linden & Cogn.) Rolfe in *Orchid Rev.* 3: 18 (1895)

Plants of *Catasetum pileatum* can bear two inflorescences per bulb, opening either simultaneously or successively, are common, and there may be as many of 14 or even 16 of the rather large pleasantly fragrant flowers on each raceme.

Its male flower may be described as follows: the shallowly cup-shaped lip spreads about 7 cm. (2.75 inches) wide at the rear. In the center it has a deeper green-colored depression which on the reverse side protrudes as a short obtuse, green tipped spur. The inside of the lip around the green depression is colored bright orange, while the rest of the lip as well as the two petals are creamy white. The horizontally spreading sepals are about 3.4 cm (1 1/3 inches) long. Their color is creamy white, flushed yellowish green, becoming orange towards the tip. They are partly folded into the greenish yellow, orange-tipped dorsal sepal behind them, giving the illusion of one large petal with a darker center line. (Teuscher 1953).

Ctsm. Orchidglade is one of the most successfully hybrid in this group, it comprises *Ctsm. pileatum* and *Ctsm. expansum*. According to OrchidWiz x9.1, its hybrid produced 75 offspring and it earned 48 awards, according to Fred Clarke, one desirable feature of this type of breeding is the tendency to flower twice a season.

Ctsm. Diana's Dots (*Ctsm.* Orchidglade x *Ctsm. tigrinum*) shows the influence of *Ctsm. tigrinum*. The broad petals of this species are a rarity in *Catasetum* flowers and will slowly change the perception of how a well-formed advance *Catasetum* hybrid should look. (Clarke 2022).

When *Ctsm. pileatum* is backcrossing to *Ctsm.* Orchidglade produced *Ctsm.* Bound for Glory (*Ctsm. pileatum* x *Ctsm.* Orchidglade). Interestingly both AOS awards are not getting any red pigment. There is a red *Ctsm. pileatum* called variety Imperiale 'Pierre Couret', that it been used for yield hybrids with red coloration.

Clowesetum Raymond Lerner (*Clowesia russelliana* x *Ctsm. pileatum*) is an interesting crossed between two quite different shaped and colored flowers. The main improvement is the lip, which is a contribution of *Ctsm. pileatum*.

In order to add variation on the line breeding other *Ctsm. pileatum* crosses with other species in the group. The earliest cross registered was *Ctsm.* Sumani (*Ctsm. pileatum* x *Ctsm. saccatum*), Although *Ctsm. saccatum* has a fair amount of color, often totally red brown, the progeny came out mostly ice green color. This showed a dominance of the *Ctsm. pileatum* parent.

One of the early crosses using *Ctsm. pileatum* was with the strange-looking *Ctsm. gnomus*. It was named *Ctsm.* Mestizos. The heavily folded and convoluted lip of the *Ctsm. gnomus* parent clashed strongly with the large, flat *Ctsm. pileatum* lip, producing a rather unexpected recurving of the lip in the progeny. A similar line of breeding used in two later crosses made the 1980s employed *Ctsm. sanguineum* as the female parent rather than *Ctsm. gnomus*. (Monnier 1990).

The continued reintroduction of *Ctsm. pileatum* is evident in *Ctsm.* Jamie Lawson XOXO (*Ctsm. pileatum* x *Ctsm.* John C. Burchett). The flowers are starting to look like an exceptionally colorful *Cts. Pilleatum* on steroids! As an additional benefit, this type of selective breeding has reduced the problem of petal and sepal wilt. (Clarke 2022).

References

- Monnier G. 1990. A current history of Catasetinae Breeding – 1: Catasetum. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 54, No 10. 994.
- Teuscher G.R. 1953. *Catasetum pileatum* Reichb. F. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 22 (8)
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