

Fredclarkeara

Name after Fred Clarke, who is avid and untired orchid breeder and owner of Sunset Valley Orchids. *Fredclarkeara* comprises *Catasetum*, *Clowesia* and *Mormodes*. I am still remembered the spectacular *Fredclarkeara* After Dark that I saw at the last Tokyo Orchid Show. It was a massive specimen plant, bearing unimaginable dark flowers.



According to Fred Clarke the best traits of the three genera were incorporated in its makeup. *Mormodes* imparted color and a strong inflorescence, *Clowesia* is dominant for shape, multiple inflorescence and flower longevity; and *Catasetum* contributed for flower size and lip shape and is known to complement or intensify bloom color.

Fdk After Dark is the combination of *Mormodes* Painted Desert and *Catasetum* Donna Wise. Apparently *Ctsm.* Donna Wise contributed with the dark coloration and combining with Mo. Painted Desert produced not just dark flowers, also other colorations like red or spotted and even green.



Mormodia Painted Desert 'Cranberry Delight'
AM/AOS (80 points)
Clowesia Rebecca Northen x *Mormodes* *sinuata*

Photo: Greg Allikas



Catasetum Donna Wise 'Susan' AM/AOS (82 points)
Catasetum *tenebrosus* x *Catasetum* *Orchidglade*

Photo: Charles Rowden

As expected *Fdk.* After Dark have been recognized internationally with 105 awards included 58 AOS awards, 1 AD, 9 FCC, 32 AM, 7 HCC, 7 CCE and 2 CCM.



Fredclarkeara After Dark 'Baker's Black Hole'
HCC/AOC 79.9 Points

Photo: C. McMonagle



Fredclarkeara After Dark 'Lily Bugz' AM/AOS
(82 points)

Photo: Tom Kuligowski

Breeding with *Fredclarkeara* is relative recent, there are just registered 18 first generation offspring and 32 total progenies. We will be expected new promising hybrids featuring new colors and enhanced shaped in the coming years.

Fred Clarke registered in 2014, *Fdk.* Enter Light a cross between *Fdk.* After Dark and *Ctsm. pileatum* var. *imperiale*. *Ctsm. pileatum* imparted color, flattening the lip and increasing natural spread and petals width. The well-arranged flowers are a rich, burgundy red with a heavy waxy substance.

Fdk. Enter Light 'Grasshoper' AM/AOS was made with the green *Fdk.* After Dark 'Morning After' and a green *Ctsm. pileatum* 'Dinner Plate'. The result was a new and completely different flower color in a *Fredclarkeara*; excellent overall flower shape, wide petals and clear green color. (Clarke 2022).

For judging *Fredclarkeara*, I would choose Cymbidium or general scale.



Fredclarkeara Enter Light 'SVO Grasshopper'
AM/AOS (86 points)
Fredclarkeara After Dark x *Catasetum pileatum*
Photo: Arnold Gum

References

- Clarke F. 2022. *Catasetinae*. Supplement to *Orchids – The Bulletin of the American Orchid Society*. October 2022.
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