

## Genus *Lycaste*

*Lycaste* have clustered, thick to stout, ovoid pseudobulbs, each with a few large, pleated, deciduous, veined and pseudo-petiolate leaves. Foliage is shed during winter or at the onset of new growth (only in the yellow-flowered *Lycaste*). The several solitary-flowered inflorescences, borne from the base of the pseudobulb, have unusually large, waxy, triangular and long-lasting flowers and are enchantingly fragrant or smell like old soap. The petals, often a different color from the wide-spreading sepals. Arch over the trilobed lip. The lip midlobe of some species is fringed and in other species the lip is entire and fingerlike. The side lobes usually enfold the long, slightly curved, winged or wingless column. The flowers have a slender, slightly curved, narrowly winged, short-footed column. Pollinia four, in two pairs, waxy, deeply grooved, attached to a ribbon-like stipe, viscidium ovate to shield-shaped (Higgins and Alrich 2022).

Regarding taxonomy *Lycaste* was not except of controversy. Some species had moved to the genus *Ida* and members of *Sudamerlycaste* are synonyms of *Ida*. Despite being recognized by the RHS plant database as species of the genus *Ida*, some taxonomist still is using the genus *Sudamerlycaste*.

*Lycaste virginalis*, also known as *Lyc. skinneri*, native of southern Mexico and Central America is the main species of *Lycaste* for breeding. *Lyc. skinneri* 'Perfection', AM/AOS, one of the largest cultivars of this species awarded by the AOS, was field collected in Guatemala (Killeen 1984). I do not sure if the author is referring as "field-collected" a plant that was collected in the forest. I understand that all AOS entries must be cultivated. According to OrchidWiz X9.1, *Lyc virginalis* had the impressive number of total progenies of 885 and it had been received 198 awarded.

*Lyc. Shoalhaven* (*Lyc. virginalis* x *Lyc. Koolena*) is *Lyc. virginalis* backcross. Looking up to OrchidWiz X9.1 is ranks on top, as the one that produced the most offspring and its hybrids earned 32 awards. Sepals are wider and symmetrical.

*Lyc. macrophylla* is other important building block hybridizing *Lycaste*. Breeder are using *Lyc. macrophylla* because progenies can be floriferous, red color is carried over and it can tolerate wide range of cultural conditions.

*Lyc. lasioglossa*, which name means hairy tongue is a small, shiny brown species. *Lyc. lasioglossa* seems to impart a its dark coloration to get deep color on the hybrids.

Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AD	AQ	CC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	CCC	Total	Strengthen	Weakness
Lyc. cochleata	10/18		1	1						1	1				4		
Lyc. virginalis*	108/885	9	63	48	7				2	12	2				143	Enhanced color.	Sometimes should be difficult to grow.
Lyc. xytriophora	12/19									1	1				2		
Lyc. tricolor	13/31		1	1						2	1				5		
Lyc. leucantha	14/32											1			1		
Lyc. campbellii	16/33		2	2					1	2		1			8		
Lyc. dowiana	19/51			2	2					1					5		
Lyc. angelae	2/2														0		
Lyc. deppei	26/66		1	4	1					5					11		
Lyc. macrobulbon*	27/223			2						3	1	1			7		
Lyc. brevispatha	28/82		4	2	2					11	1		1		21		
Lyc. luminosa	3/7														0		
Lyc. lasioglossa	30/402		4	4	1					2					11	Can reduced the size of the hybrid and intensify its color.	
Lyc. aromatica*	32/72		2							13				1	15		
Lyc. cruenta*	35/767		7	3	1					5	4		1		21	Golden color and cold tolerance	
Lyc. xanthocheila	4/5			1											1		
Lyc. macrophylla*	49/705		6	6	2					2	3				19	Floriferous. Red Color. Vigorous grower	
Lyc. crinita	6/16										1				1		
Lyc. consobrina	6/7		1						2	6					9		
Lyc. powellii	6/7		1								1		1		3		
Lyc. bradeorum	7/8		1							2	1				4		
Lyc. schilleriana	9/13		3	6						2	1				12		
Lyc. guatemalensis	9/17		1	1	1										3		

I suggested using *Odontoglossum* scale or general scale for judging *Lycaste*

## References

- Higgins W. and Alrich P. 2022. Orchid Illustrated. Lycaste. Orchids. Vol. 91 (1): 28
- Killeen D. 1984. Lycaste Hybrids Old and New. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 53 (4): 376.
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X9.1
- [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com).
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