

Genus *Dracula*

Benedict Roezl collected in Colombia the first plant of *Dracula*. Reichenbach described it in 1872 and placed on the genus *Masdevallia*. He called this species *Masdevallia chimaera*, later he recognized that some species do not fit well in the *Masdevallia* genus and Reichenbach put them on a section. The genus *Dracula* was created in 1978 by Carl Luer.

Draculas are found at high elevations usually above 5,000 feet up to 8,000 feet in humid, breezy, mountain forests. These plants typically experience long moist periods among clouds and cool to intermediate temperatures.

The leaves of *Dracula* compared with *Masdevallia* are more or less coriaceous and thinner, sometimes even plicate, with a sharp, prominent, dorsal keel along the midrib. The blades are usually tapered into short, sulcate, secondary stems which also are usually formed in dense clusters.

The most distinctive features of *Dracula* are the petals and lip. The apex of the tiny, thick petals is usually conspicuously bivalvate and papillose. The lip is partitioned into two parts: a basal hypochile and an apical epichile. The hypochile is oblong with erect margins, deeply cleft centrally, and attached to the base of the column-foot without an extension. The oblong, rounded to transversely reniform epichile is commonly concave, but it may be flat or even convex as it is in *Drac. andreettae*, and it is often coursed by elevated, radiating veins. (Luer 1979).

I suggested general scale for judging *Dracula*.



Photo by Ross Leach

Dracula andreettae 'Solar Place'
CHM/AOS (82 points)

Summary of *Dracula* species, progenies and AOS awards

Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AD	AQ	CC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	Total
<i>Drac. vampira</i>	24/31	3	12	3						2				20
<i>Drac. gigas</i>	13/21		2	1							1			4
<i>Drac. hirtzii</i>	10/10	1	5	3						1	3			13
<i>Drac. bella</i>	9/10		7	6						1			1	15
<i>Drac. chimaera</i>	9/10	1	5									1		7
<i>Drac. roezlii</i>	9/13		4	3							1		1	9
<i>Drac. cordobae</i>	8/9		5	5						2		1		13
<i>Drac. polyphemus</i>	8/8		2								1			3
<i>Drac. robledorum</i>	7/7		8							1			1	10
<i>Drac. sodiroi</i>	6/7			1					1	2			1	5
<i>Drac. spectrum</i>	6/6		1	1	1						1			4
<i>Drac. wallisii</i>	5/5		1	3									1	5
<i>Drac. gorgona</i>	4/4	2	5	4						1	1			13
<i>Drac. lotax</i>	4/5		4	1						1		1		7

References

- Luer C.A. 1979. The Genus *Dracula*. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 48 (7): 702.
- Gettel S. 1998. *Dracula* Orchids. Vol. 67 (10): 1020.
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