

## ***Cattleya caulescens* (Lindl.) Van den Berg, Neodiversity 3: 5 (2008).**

Caulescent's Laelia

### **Synonyms**

- *Laelia caulescens* Lindl., Edwards's Bot. Reg. 27: t. 1 (1841).
- *Bletia caulescens* (Lindl.) Rchb.f. in W.G.Walperts, Ann. Bot. Syst. 6: 431 (1862).
- *Hoffmannseggella caulescens* (Lindl.) H.G.Jones, Caldasia 10: 493 (1970).
- *Sophronitis caulescens* (Lindl.) Van den Berg & M.W.Chase, Lindleyana 15: 116 (2000).
- *Bletia crispilabia* (A.Rich. ex R.Warner) Rchb.f., Xenia Orchid. 2: 61 (1863).
- *Laelia crispilabia* A.Rich. ex R.Warner, Select Orchid. Pl. 2: t. 6 (1865).
- *Laelia cinnabarina* var. *crispilabia* (A.Rich. ex R.Warner) A.H.Kent in H.J.Veitch, Man. Orchid. Pl. 2: 63 (1887).
- *Hoffmannseggella crispilabia* (A.Rich. ex R.Warner) H.G.Jones, Bradea 1: 266 (1972).
- *Laelia mantiqueirae* Pabst ex Zappi, Kew Bull. 50: 424 (1995).
- *Cattleya caulescens* f. *fantinellii* (Rosim & Locatelli) Van den Berg, Neodiversity 9: 4 (2016).
- *Hoffmannseggella caulescens* f. *fantinellii* Rosim & Locatelli, Colet. Orquídeas Brasil. 12: 486 (2016).

The type specimen, which was in Martius's herbarium, was collected in the Sierra de Piedade in Minas Gerais. According to Blumenschein it grows north of São João del Rei flowers between July a September in Brazil.

There was some early confusion about this species as Lindley in Bot. Reg. 28, sub t. 62 (1842) reduced the name to a synonym under *Laelia flava* and this species was described as having purple-violet flowers, and *L. flava* has only yellow blooms.

In 1842 the variability and complexity of the rupicolous Laelias was not yet understood and pressed herbarium specimens did not always clearly show the color or details of flower structure.

The Orchid Digest account of Pabst's research does include it in the key and text, but a picture is lacking. It is distinguished in the key by the lip being long and narrow when spread flat, twice as long as broad.

According to present thinking, this is probably a separate species related to *L. crispate* and does not have anything, of course, to do directly with *L. flava*. But we still are not certain of its actual status. Dr. Withner thinks it is likely to be the same as *L. mantiqueirae*. They occur at the same altitude, grow in the same general region and may have the same lip configuration. Further field observations and better herbarium material could resolve this problem. Cunha Filho's research (1996) indicates a congener species to *crispilabia*.

## Descriptions

The plant habit is medium in size with the pseudobulbs short, enlarged at the base, 3-8 cm. tall. The leathery leaf is somewhat concave and 6-12 cm. long. The flower stalk, as the name *caulescens* indicates, is taller than the leaves, and produces five or six well-spaced blooms. The lip is five-nerved, and the front edge is strongly crisped. The sepals are 2 cm. long with the dorsal about 2.5 mm. wide, the lateral 3-3.5 mm. The petals are 2 cm. long x 3 mm. wide, attenuate in shape. The lip is presumably 15-16 mm. long and 10-11 mm. wide, the column 7.5 mm. long.

## Hybridization

According to OrchidWiz x4.3 there are 3 plants awarded in 2012 of *C. caulescens* in Germany and Brazil. Also, *C. caulescens* has 11 First Generation (F1) offspring and the hybrid *C. Marcelo Miranda* (*C. caulescens* x *C. labiata*) has seven offspring and 2 AOS awards, 1 AM and 1 HCC.

## References

Withner, C.L., 1988. *The Cattleyas and their relatives*. Volume II: The Laelias. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.  
Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X4.3  
World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (WCSP) Kew.org. Retrieve October 3, 2018 from <http://wcsp.science.kew.org>.