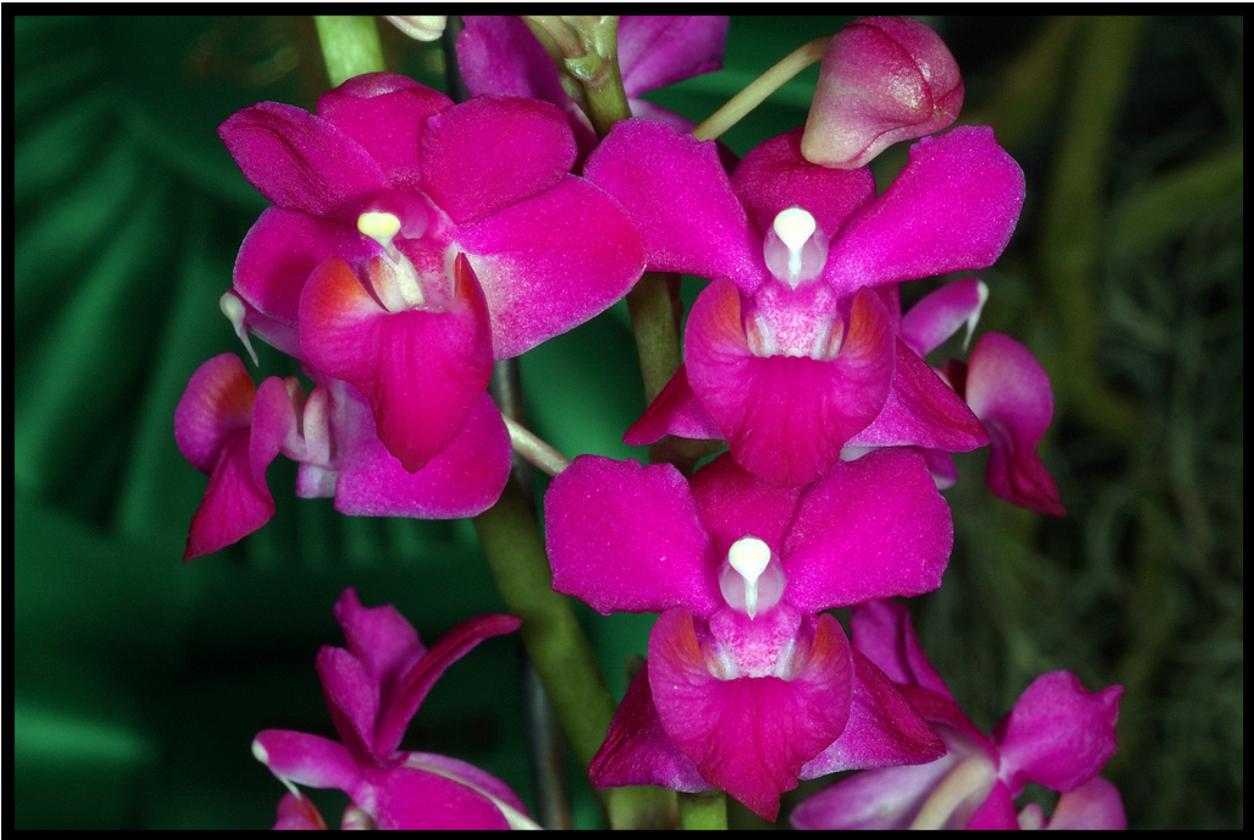


Building Block Report
Phalaenopsis
section Esmeralda
species pulcherrima
syn: Doritis pulcherrima

March 2021
Connie Koehler
Student Judge



Lindley originally described *P. pulcherrima* as an epiphyte which proved to be incorrect. The three species of Esmeralda are all terrestrial or lithophytic growing among moss and rocks. Unique characteristics include stiffly erect inflorescences which is an adaptation to a terrestrial environment. Plants in this section also produce a unique root system which is a root collar circling the plant. This formation is thought to be another adaptation to rooting in and raising above the layer of leaf litter.

Hybridizers have noted a complex pattern in *P. pulcherrima* similar to *P. equestris*. These two species cross easily with each other and with their secondary hybrids.

Key Characteristics to the species of section Esmeralda:

P. buyssoniana ~ flowers large, dorsal sepal to 2.2 cm long

P. pulcherrima ~ flowers small dorsal sepal to 1.2 cm long and lateral lobules of midlobe are large, erect and subparallel to 5.5 mm long; midlobe of lip not particularly tapered, 4 mm wide at base.

P. regniereiana ~ lateral lobules of midlobe small, involute, to 3mm long; midlobe of lip tapered, 2 to 3 mm wide at base.

Some confusion around whether or not *P. pulcherrima* is in the *Phalaenopsis* subgenus or in the *Diorites* has created concerns for the interpretation of previous hybrids. Christenson comments that someone with the knowledge of breeding *doritaenopsis* should delineate which species was accentually used in early hybridization.

Flower specifics:

Brilliant saturated cerise, the erect lateral lobules of the midlobe of the lip orange, disk of the midlobe white, the column white. Dorsal sepal obtuse-rounded 1.2 x 0.6 cm long. Petals sub similar and sub-equal to the dorsal. The Lip is three-lobed, 1.2 cm long. Column straight, stout, with a pair of knee-like projections at the base.

Distribution:

Widespread from northeast India and southern China throughout Indochina to Malaysia. Sumatra and East Malaysia. Elevation range of 100-1200 m.

Other Varieties:

pulcherrima f. *alba*

P. pulcherrima f. *albiflora* (produces flowers with white sepals and petals that contrast with a rose-colored lip.)

P. pulcherrima f. *coerulea* (This form produces bluish violet flowers. The amount of cerise pigmentation is variable. Favored by modern selections resulting in bluish lavender flowers.

Awards and Progeny: 161 awards; F1 offsp: 286; Progeny 10,790

Top Hybrids (> than 5% pulcherrima)

% pulcherrima	name	awards
63%	Talitha Klehm	10 AM; 1 AQ; 7 HCC; 2 JC
50%	Purple Gem	12 AM; 3 CCM; 14 HCC; 1 JC
50%	Pixie Star	10 AM; 1 CCM; 10 HCC
50%	Firecracker	4 AM; 1 CCM; 8 HCC; 1 JC



Talitha Klehm
(pulcherrima x buyssoniana; rimestadiana; schilleriana; amabilis)



Purple Gem
(*P. pulcherrima* x *P. equestris*)



Pixie Star
(*P. pulcherrima* x *equestris*; *schilleriana*; *aphrodite*; other)

References:

Phalaenopsis a Monograph by Eric Christenson

Orchid Wiz

Orchid Pro

www.orchidspecies.com

[www. bluenanta.com](http://www.bluenanta.com)

www.orchid roots

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