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Building Block Report

Paphiopedilum bellatulum [Rchb.f] Stein 1892

Subgenus Brachypetalum Haller 1897

Description:

This species is the most distinctive of the group and has played a seminal role in the production of various hybrid slipper orchids. It is distinctive enough to stand apart from the other species. Among its distinguishing features are large discrete spots of a rich wine-burgundy color that more or less uniformly cover the dorsal sepal and the petals. The spots on the pouch tend to be smaller and also uniformly distributed. Basic background color of the flowers is a way shite but pale green and also soft yellow shades have been noted. Petals range from oval and pendant to circular and horizontally held. The couch can be narrow and elongated. Unlike the other species in the subgenus, Paphiopedilum bellatulum has short, weak flower stems so that the flowers droop and are presented resting on top of or next to the leaves.



Distribution/Habitat:

In the wild, Paphiopedilum bellatulum ranges from Myanmar through northern Thailand and into southwestern China. Plants grow at mid altitudes and are usually associated with steep limestone outcroppings. Roots thrive in leaf mold and moss or on moist, mossy covered limestone rock in shady spots.

Synonyms:

Cordula bellatula Rolfe 1912; Cypripedium bellatulum Rchb.f 1888; Paphiopedilum bellatulum f. album (O'Brien) Braem 1998; Paphiopedilum bellatulum var. album O'Brien 1896



