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Student Judge  
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The Genus *Rhynchostylis*  
Tribe: Vandeae  
Subtribe: Aeridinae



*Rhynchostylis coelestis*

*Rhynchostylis* (abbreviation Rhy) is a genus closely tied to the genus *Vanda*. It differs in the one-lobed lip of the flower. A relatively small genus, it is comprised of four currently accepted species which are native to the Indian Subcontinent, China, Indochina, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The name is comprised of a compound of two Greek words: “rhynchos” meaning ‘beak’ and “stylis” meaning ‘column’ referring to the broad, fleshy column of the flower. The flowers are displayed in dense racemes and are especially noted for their spicy fragrance.

The plants have leathery leaves which are drought resistant. They grow naturally in warm, moist, shaded tropical areas and do well in cultivation if provided these same conditions.

Despite being in the Vanda tribe, *Rhynchostylis* is very different from Vandas. They grow more slowly and their roots are more fragile. Any direct sun will damage them. However, they will grow without potting medium and often mounted on slats much like Vandas.

Another interesting note is that this genus possesses medicinal properties which warrant pharmacological investigation to include antispasmodic and antiseptic activity. And, several species have been found to contain alkaloids.

### Species:

As of February of 2016, four species have been recognized with many others proposed.

- *Rhynchostylis coelestis* (Rchb.f.) A.H. Kent in H.J. Veitch) Found in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam
- *Rhynchostylis gigantea* (Lindl.) Ridl. Found in Hainan, Andaman Islands, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Borneo, Philippines.
- *Rhynchostylis retusa* (L.) Blume Yunnan, Guizhou, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Assam, Bangladesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Indochina, Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Philippines.
- *Rhynchostylis riefferi* (Higgins) Philippines

## Rhynchostylis coelestis

(See picture on page one)

This species has been used the most in the making of intergeneric hybrids. The plant is short and stout, usually about 23-25 cm tall —the width being greater than the height. The inflorescences (20-30 cm.) are erect and often bear 40 to 50 round, flat flowers. They are well arranged in a cylindrical fashion. Two inflorescences are common. The plant will bloom in the summer/fall timeframe, open at the same time, and bear a strong, pleasing fragrance. Their color is white and many times suffused with violet; the tips and the sepals and petals together with a prominent lip are a deep violet. A pink variety and alba forms exist. A drawback of the species is that the flowers do not last long and the flowers “tilt” making them harder to view.

## Rhynchostylis gigantea:

This species will often produce several inflorescences simultaneously bearing 50 or more flowers all opening at the same time. This characteristic along with the strong fragrance makes for a tremendous display. Gigantea blooms only once a year in January or February. The blooms normally have white sepals and petals with reddish purple blotches and spots with a prominent red-purple lip.

Rhy. gigantea was discovered in Burma by Wallich and described as *Saccolabium giganteum* by Lindley in 1833. Ridley transferred it to *Rhynchostylis* in 1896. There are two subspecies -Rhy.violacea (Lindl.) and E. A.Christenson' endemic to the Philippines.



Rhynchostylis retusa

Also known as the foxtail orchid. The inflorescence is a pendant raceme which consists of more than 100 pink spotted flowers. The blooms are arranged on an axillary pendant up to 60 cm long. The flowers are densely arranged on a cylindrical inflorescence blooming in winter and early spring. It is famous for its use as a hair ornament worn by Assamese women during folk dance Bihu at the beginning of spring. It is also utilized for many medicinal uses.



Rhynchostylis rieferi: (Kew accepted)

This species is only found in the Philippines and was identified by W.E. Higgins in 2013. It is a small, hot growing plant blooming in the summer months. The inflorescence is pendulous and measuring 36 cm long. The fragrant flowers are arranged in a dense fashion with a differentiating 3 lobed lip with spreading side lobes and a straight truncate spur. The flower size is approximately 1 cm.

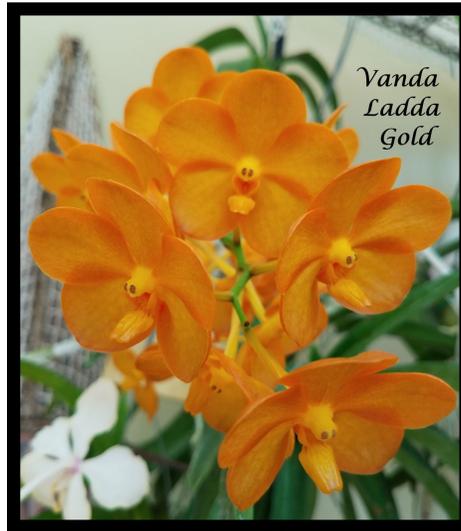


Rhy. rieferi  
Helen Lou

Primary Hybrids and Awards for Rhynchostylis coelestis: 95 awards; 157 F1; 619 progeny:  
 30 AM awards 1 FCC award 12 HCC awards



V. Pine Rivers  
 V. Peggy Foo x Rhynchostylis



V. Ladda Gold  
 V. miniata x Rhy. coelestis



V. Lou Sneary  
 V. falcata x Rhy. coelestis

PRIMARY HYBRID	YEAR	F1 PROGENY	AWARDS
V. PINE RIVERS	1989	18	43
LOU SNEARY	1970	23	32
LADDA GOLD	1975	14	16
BANGKOK SUNSET	2008	13	16
WONG YOKE SIM	1967	12	16
LUKE THAI	1983	22	15
BLUE FAIRY	1963	18	12
THAI NOI	1973	11	11

Primary Hybrids and Awards for Rhy. gigantea: 311 awards, 171 F1, 220 progeny:  
 7 FCC awards 75 AM awards 40 HCC awards

PRIMARY HYBRIDS	YEAR	F1 PROGENY	AWARDS
Suree	1976	4	36
Colmarie	1994	4	34
Memoria Mary Nattrass	1972	2	21
Queen Emma	1961	8	23



Suree  
Phal. hygrochila x Rhy. gigantea



Rhy. Colmarie  
V. Tessellata x Rhy. gigantea



Memoria Mary Nattrass  
Vdps. gigantea x Rhy. gigantea

Primary

Hybrids and Awards for Rhy. retusa 53 Awards 39 F1 48 Progeny  
 9 AM awards 4 HCC awards

PRIMARY HYBRIDS	YEAR	F1 PROGENY	AWARDS
CHORCHALOOD	1970	3	11
BLUE KNOB	1973	3	5



Rhy. Chorchalood  
 Rhy. gigantea x Rhy. retusa



Rhy. Blue Knob  
 Sarco. hartmannii x Rhy. retusa

Primary Hybrids and Awards for Rhy. rieferi no awards and no progeny



Rhy. rieferi  
 'Dick Goboy'



