



Building Block Data

Paphiopedilum (after Cribb 1998)

Subgenus Polyantha

Species Lowii (Lindley 1847)

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Student Judge

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The Lowii is the gem of the alliance with its intense and varied colorations. This species has a wide growing range from the peninsular Malaysia throughout much of Indonesia into Borneo and Celebes. It varies greatly in depth of color, size, and shape of its flowers. For the most part, they are epiphytic in nature but some will also be lithophytes. The AOS has recognized 83 different clones of lowii with flower quality awards.

Description:

Most *Paphiopedilum lowii* have a chartreuse dorsal sepal with a blush overlay of purple-brown pigment at the base. Characteristically, the sepal reflexes beginning at the base and the age the flower margins turn progressively. The somewhat "square" pouch is commonly moderate brown and the spoon shaped petals are soft yellow or cream to chartreuse base sporting distinct brown spots. The distal portions of the petals tend toward a purple or light lavender

color. Three to six flowers usually form on an inflorescence which if not staked will form a horizontal arch. They typically have 4 to 6 leaves which are 20-40 cm long and 3-6cm wide and are uniformly green. Blooms are 9 to 17cm at their widest point. The terminal inflorescence is 62 to 100cm long, erect to arching as previously stated.

Blooming time is spring and summer.

In 1980, *Paphiopedilum lowii* 'Malaysian Princess' AM/AOS set a new standard for *lowii*. *Paph. lowii* 'The Queen' AM/AOS and *Paph. lowii* 'Fantastic' AM/AOS were very close in being awarded with FCC. The natural spread of these flowers is in excess of 7 inches. Due to the size, color, and floriferousness of *lowii*, this species has become very important in the breeding of multiflora hybrids.

History:

Paphiopedilum Lowii (Lindley) Stein was first described by Lindley in Gardener's Chronicle 1st series 7:765 (1947)
It was transferred by Stein in Stein's Orchideenbuch, 476 (1892)

Etymology—named after the discoverer, Hugh Low, who found them in trees during an expedition to Mr. Kinabalu.
The common name gives rise to the discoverer, Low's Paph.

Varieties and Forms:

Paph. Lowii fma. aureum (Cribb-Orchidis view 98: 109 (1990) Slipper Orchids of Borneo, 73. (1997)—albino form..

Paph. Lowii var. richardianum (Asher and Beaman) Orchid Digest, 52 (2): 61-62 (1988)

Paph. Lowii var. lynniae (Garay Garay in Lindleyana, 11(4): 232-233 (1996)

Synonyms:

<i>Cordula Lowiana</i>	[lindley] Rolfe 1912
<i>Cyprideium Cruciforme</i>	Zoll. Morel 1854
<i>Cypripedium Lowii</i>	Lindl. 1847
<i>Paph. lowii f.aureum</i>	P.J. Cribb 1997
<i>Paph. lowii var. aureum</i>	P.J. Cribb 1990
<i>Paph. lowii var. lynniae</i>	(Garay) O. Grass and Roeth 1997
<i>Paph. lynniae</i>	Garay 1996

Primary Hybrids:

<i>Paphiopedilum Lowii</i>	<i>Primary Hybrids</i>
<i>charlesworthii</i>	<i>quadriga</i>
<i>druryi</i>	<i>memoria anton-moellenberndt</i>
<i>adductum</i>	<i>low hum</i>
<i>glanduliferum</i>	<i>mattakesset</i>
<i>haynaldianum</i>	<i>toni semple</i>
<i>kolopakingii</i>	<i>alex's spots</i>
<i>parishii</i>	<i>robinianum</i>
<i>philippines</i>	<i>berenice</i>
<i>rothschildianum</i>	<i>julius</i>
<i>sanderianum</i>	<i>mrs. reginald young</i>
<i>stonei</i>	<i>mercatelii</i>

Awards:

AM	70
AQ	2
CCE	1
CCM	6
FCC	3
HCC	39
JC	2



Paph. adductor



Paph. parishii

Paph. rothschildianum



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References

Koopowitz, Harold. 2008, *Tropical Slipper Orchids—Paphiopedilum*
Cribb, Phillip 1997, *Slipper Orchids of Borneo*
www.slipperorchid.info
AOS Orchids Plus
[wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paphiopedilum_lowii)