

Genus *Phalaenopsis*  
Subgenus *Phalaenopsis*  
Section *Phalaenopsis*  
Species *aphrodite*  
Rchb.f 1862  
Building Block Report

Connie Koehler  
Student Judge  
DJC  
February, 2021



The common name for *P. aphrodite* is “Greek Goddess of Beauty & Light”. The plant is found from Taiwan (southeastern) to the Philippines (northern) in primary and secondary forests at elevations of sea level to 1000 feet. It is often confused with *P. amabilis* but differs in the red lip disc, the triangular mid lobe and smaller flowers of 3” compared with 4”. *P. aphrodite* flowers from October until April. *P. aphrodite* is also known as the “other large white showy flower” in the genus *Phalaenopsis*. The Philippine subspecies is a rarity in modern collections, however, the Taiwan subspecies has been artificially propagated in vast quantities and is now commonly available.

***Phalaenopsis aphrodite subs. formosana:***

The distribution of this subspecies is in Taiwan ~ endemic to only a small region of the mainland and a few outlying islands (Babuyan, Lan-yew. It is named for its place of origin in Taiwan which is historically known as Formosa. The plant bears apple-green leaves with somewhat smaller flowers. The flowers clearly show the four-toothed callus which is characteristic of *P. aphrodite* vs. *amabilis*.

***Primary Hybrids: P. aphrodite has been awarded 66 times; produced 62 f1 offsp., and 33,353 progeny.***

Cross	Award/points	Name	Year	# Offs.
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x <i>P. schilleriana</i>	5 AM; 1 CCM; 3 HCC; 1 JC ~ 10 total	<i>P. Leucorrhoda</i>	1875	44/108 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x <i>P. Cassandra</i>	2 AM; 1 AQ; 1 CCM; 2 HCC ~ 7 total	Timothy Christopher	1982	204/750 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x <i>P. equestris</i>	1 CHM; 1 AM ~ 3 total	Intermedia	1886	63/102 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x <i>P. rimestadiana</i>	0	Gilles Gratiot	1920	35/32,546 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x Jardin des Plantes	0	Fanchette	1949	15/9,013 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> subsp. <i>formosana</i> x <i>P. sanderiana</i>	0	Yoshino	1924	10/18,613 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x <i>P. sanderiana</i>	0	Alger	1930	9/21,726 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x <i>P. stuartiana</i>	0	Ariadne	1896	8/23,093 total progeny
<i>P. aphrodite</i> x <i>P. amabilis</i>	0	Bataan	1943	7/16,007 total progeny

***Flower Characteristics for P. aphrodite: description taken directly from “Phalaenopsis A Monograph by Eric Christenson pg. 196)***

“Showy, membranous, white, the lip and callus variably marked with yellow and red, the column white. Dorsal sepal elliptic to ovate, obtuse-rounded, 4 x 2 cm, the lateral sepals obliquely ovate, acute to subacute, to 4 x 2 cm. Petals broadly sub-rhomboid, clawed, obtuse-rounded, to 4 x 4 cm. Lip three-lobed, to 3 cm long, to 4 cm wide across the expanded lateral lobes, the lateral lobes obliquely ovate, clawed, broadly rounded-obtuse, incurved-erect

forming a cylinder, the midlobe triangular-hastate, the apex bluntly obtuse flanked by a pair of tendril-like appendages, the callus uniseriate, the posterior edge notched forming four erect teeth, the anterior edge obtuse-rounded. Column stout, fleshy. Pedicel and ovary to 3.5 cm long. “



***P. Leucorrhoda* ( *P. aphrodite* x *P. schilleriana*) Natural Hybrid with 10 awards; 44 f1; 108 total progeny**



***P. Timothy Christopher* ( *P. aphrodite* x *P. Cassandra*) 204 F1; 750 total progeny; 7 awards**



*Phal. x intermedia* ~ (*P. aphrodite* x *P. equestris*) Total of 3 awards; 62 F1; 102 total progeny



*P. Gilles Gratiot* (*P. aphrodite* x *P. rimestadiana*) No awards; 35 F1; 32,546 total progeny.