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## SPECIES DATA SHEET

### ***Paphiopedilum rothschildianum***

*Subgenus: Polyantha*

*Species: rothschildianum (Reichenbach fil.) Stein 1888*



In approximately 1888, the then “*Cypripedium*” now “*Paphiopedilum*”, was introduced by Saner and Co, of St. Albans who imported it from New Guinea. At the request of profession Reichenbach, the name of Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, a Victorian of the royal horticulture society and accomplished orchid grower was given to the plant. The identity of the taxon, *Paph. elliottianum*, found in the Philippines, is currently thought to be a clone of *rothschildianum*. This is based upon the research of Atwood in 1985. He found that the pollination system is deceptive as evidenced by the egg-laying behavior of the flies and presentation of eggs on the staminode; the paucity of larvae found among the flowers; and the absence of reward available once the pollinator is trapped. Cribb - 1997-1998, based upon Asher’s research, agreed or believed that *Paph. elliottianum* is a clone of *rothschildianum*.

**Plant description:** The leaves are 4 to 8 in number. They can be as long as 60cm and 4 to5 cm wide. Plain green in color. The inflorescence may be up to 45cm long and bear 4 to 6 flowers. The bloom may be 14 to 35 cm across. The incandescence can be as tall as 60 cm.

**Flower Description:** The flowers open simultaneously. The dorsal and ventral sepals range from bone white to ivory to soft yellow. The lateral sepals are almost mirror images of each other. Their base color is overlaid with mahogany colored longitudinal stripes and are duplicated in the modified leaf that subtends each flower. The petals and pouch are usually the same color as the sepals. The petals are overlaid with spots and stripes of the same color as the sepal stripes. A unique characteristics is the unusually long staminode as compared to the rest of the genus and is shaped to resemble a hairy grasshopper’s leg. The hairs on the staminode are said to resemble the stalked insect eggs that the pollinator eats.

**Progeny & Awards:** There are 361 progeny for this species. The impressive award list:

#### Awards from 1965-2013

AM	65
HCC	36
CCM	10
FCC	26
AQ	2

***Primary Hybrid Examples:***



***Gollgoldi***

*Rothschildianum x armeniacum*



***Woluwense***

*Rothschildianum x niveum*

## ***References***

Koopowitz, Harold. 2008, *Tropical Slipper Orchids—Paphiopedilum and Phragmipedium*

[www.slipperorchid.info](http://www.slipperorchid.info)

*AOS Orchids Plus*

[wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)

*Orchid Wiz*