

## Species Report



### *Aerangis fastuosa* [Rchb.f.] Schlechter 1914

Family Orchidaceae  
Subtribe Aerangidinae

*Aerangis fastuosa* is commonly known as the 'Magnificent *Aerangis*'. It is widespread across Madagascar from the eastern coastal forests to the central plateau. *Fastuosa* was formally named by Rudolf Schlechter in 1914 and first described by Heinrich Reichenbach in 1881. *Aerangis fastuosa* is known for its large, white, long-lasting, star-shaped, fragrant flowers. Characteristic of the genus *Aerangis*, it has a very long rostellum. *Fastuosa* can flower every year, under low light, and is thought to be less prone to disease.

#### **Description:**

Known to have a highly variable morphology, it is a small plant with a woody stem able to grow up to 60mm. In some cases it can appear almost stemless. The roots are fine and numerous and sporadically have dark spots or banding. The leaves are thick and succulent and usually oblong. Dark green in color with a grey/reddish tint under high intensity light. There are usually 4 to 6 leaves with the top surfaces which can be wrinkled and rough. The surface can also range from glossy to dull and one lobe or bilobed.

The pedicel is typically 20mm long and can be winged. The spur is thin and straight and can be coiled. The spur is usually twice the length of the pedicel but can range as long as 5 times the length.

The flowers are relatively large and have between one to six flowers. They are white in color and usually star shaped or trumpet shaped. Often the flowers look slightly closed. Common to all orchids, *Aerangis fastuosa* has an outer short composed of three sepals and an inner whorl composed of three petals, one of which has been modified into a lip. The dorsal sepal is usually ovate with the base being thicker than the tip. It can range in size - 15-30mm x 5-8 mm. The lateral sepals can be a more lanceolate shape with the tip is much thinner than the base representing a spear shape. The rostellum is elongated and can reach and penetrate the spur. It has been measured in range between 5-13 mm. The column is short and thick. The anther can be doubly toothed at the top and have a pointed horn. The ovaries are typically 15-25mm in length.

### **Habitat and Ecology**

*Fastuosa* is a slow growing epiphytic plant found living in coastal forests. It can tolerate low levels of light but seem to benefit from higher level. Preferring high humidity it can live in forests with climates include hot, dry seasons. The flowers bloom annually in spring (September - February in Southern Hemisphere and March-April in the Northern Hemisphere). The fragrance noted at night resembles that of a tuberose.

### **Synonyms**

*Angraecum fastuosum* Rchb.f. (1881)  
*Angorkis fastuosa* (Rchb.f.) Kuntze (1891)  
*Rhaphidorhynchus fastuosus* (Rchb.f.) Finet (1907)

### **Awards: ( 16 awards, 8 F1 offspring, 9 Progeny)**

Org.	Award	Genus	Name	Cultivar	Flwrs	Year
AOS	AM	Aergs.	fastuosa	Fran Gay	9	1977
AOS	AM	Aergs.	fastuosa	Taylor's Frosty	18	1988
AOS	CBM	Aergs.	fastuosa	Seminole	2	1968
AOS	CCM	Aergs.	fastuosa	Freeman	28	1995
AOS	CCM	Aergs.	fastuosa	Suzy	26	1995

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AOS	CCM	Aergs.	fastuosa	Taylor's Frosty	18	1988
AOS	CHM	Aergs.	fastuosa	Jay	2	1978
AOS	HCC	Aergs.	fastuosa	Kilimanjaro Snow	11	1988



*Aergs. fastuosa* Fran Gay



*Aergs. fastuosa* Taylor's Frosty



*Aergs. fastuosa* Kilimanjaro Snow

**References:**

Orchid Wiz and Orchid Pro software programs

Vandas and Ascocendas by David L. Grove

AOS.org

Orchid species.com

orchids.org

bluenanta.com (orchid roots)

wikipedia.org

orchid central.org