**Promenaea**

**Promenaea** Lindl., *Edward’s Bot. Reg.* **29**, Misc. 13 (1845)

**Type species:** *Promenaea lentiginosa*

**Derivation of name:** From the Greek Promeneia, a priestess at Dodona, mentioned by Herodotus in his chronicles.

**Description:** Epiphytic, caespitose, pseudobulbous herbs. Roots terete, produced from rhizome. Pseudibulb ovoid to ovoid-oblong, compressed, sometimes obscurely four-angled, sulcate, enclosed by 1-4 imbricating sheaths, upper ones foliaceous, apically 1-3 leaved. Leaves subplicate-venose, articulate, membranaceous, narrowly lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, acute to acuminate, abaxially carinate, narrowed at base into a conduplicate petiole, grey-green to medium green, paler abaxially. Inflorescences lateral, 1-4 per shoot, 1-(rarely 2-)flowered, produced from axils of lower sheaths on mature pseudobulb, peduncle terete, suberect to arching, provided with one or two triangular-lanceolate, acute, conduplicate, clasping bracts; ﬂoral bract oblong-lanceolate, loose, membranaceous, shorter than ovary, pale greyish green. Flower; resupinate, large for plant, spreading, sepals and petals creamy white to pale greenish yellow to bright yellow, immaculate or variously spotted or transversely striped with red-purple to violet-brown, spots and blotches often concentrated on proximal half, labellum white to cream with yellow apex, greenish yellow to bright yellow, or solid black-purple, often heavily spotted with red purple, mostly in basal portion; disc and callus white to yellow, sometimes blotched with red-purple, column white to pale yellow, blotched with purple or solid dark purple toward base. Dorsal sepal free, erect to curved over column, narrowly oblong-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, concave, acute to acuminate, often apiculate. Lateral sepals narrowly oblong-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, obliquely inserted on column foot, concave, acute to acuminate, often apiculate, forming a mentum. Petals narrowly ovate to ovate, acute to acuminate. Labellum unguiculate, articulate to apex of column foot, elliptic-oblong to obovate, trilobed, lateral lobes oblong-subfalcate to linear-elliptic, rounded to subacute, erect, midlobe broadly elliptic to obovate-suborbicular, subacute to rounded or emarginate, concave to convex; disc provided with a prominent, trilobed, laminar crest, running from base to about the apex of side lobes. Column semi- terete, clavate, arcuate, erect, with a foot, sometimes provided with indistinct stigmatic auricles; anther cap cucullate, elliptic-ovate, keeled, ﬂattened, two-celled, pollinia four, in two pairs of different sizes, sessile on a triangular-elliptic to oblanceolate, hyaline viscidium; stigma transversely slit-like.

**Distribution:** Endemic to eastern Brazil in South America.

**Reference:**

Pridgeon AM, Cribb PJ, Chase MW, Rasmussen FN. 2009.*Genera orchidacearum, Vol. 5*.