

# Cypripedium

 Lindley 1753

## SUBFAMILY Cypripediodeae

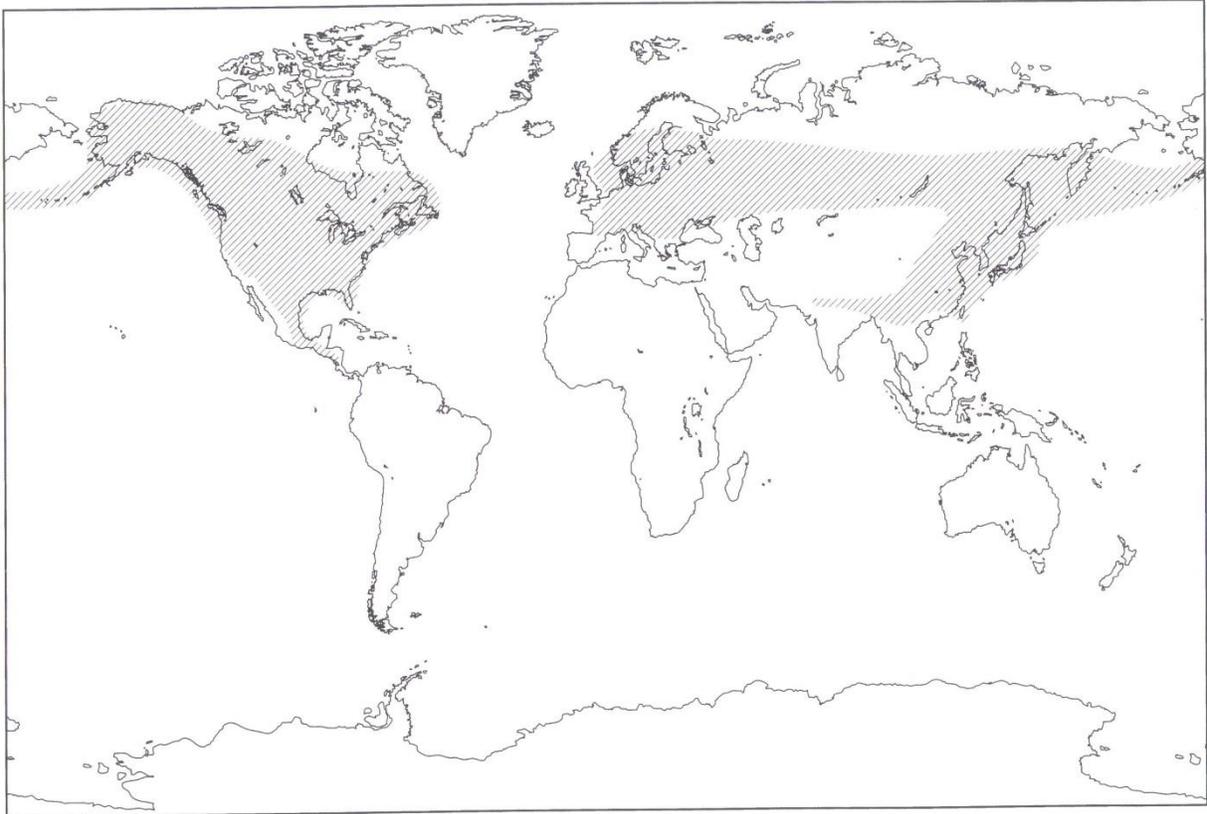
**ETYMOLOGY:** From the Greek ‘*Kypris*’, a name for Aphrodite (Venus) who was born on the island of Cyprus, and ‘*pedilon*’, a sandal or slipper, in reference to the shape of the lip. The suffix was incorrectly Latinized vernacular names in Europe such as ‘Frauensschuh’, ‘Marienschuh’, and ‘Lady's Slipper’, the lady being variously considered to be Aphrodite, Venus or the Virgin Mary.<sup>3</sup>

**SYNONYMS:** *Arietinum* Beck 1833; ‘*Calceolus* Miller 1754; ‘*Corisanthes* Stued. 1840; ‘*Criosanthes* Raf. 1819; ‘*Fissipes* Small 1903; *Hypodema* Rchb.f 1841; ‘*Sacodon* Raf 1836

**TYPE SPECIES:** *Cypripedium calceolus* L.

**DESCRIPTION:** Terrestrial *herbs*. *Roots* elongate, fibrous, arising from a short to elongate rhizome; *rhizomes* present, short to elongate, creeping. *Shoots* erect, leafy, clustered or well-spaced, terete, hairy, glandular or glabrous, the base enclosed by two to four sheathing sterile bracts, one- to several-leaved above; *pseudobulbs* absent. *Leaves* one-several, usually plicate, prostrate, spreading or suberect, lanceolate, ovate, elliptic, oblong or cordate, obtuse to acute or acuminate, green, spotted with blackish maroon in some species, glabrous or hairy, ciliate or not on the margins. *Inflorescence* terminal, one- to many-flowered; *rachis* terete, hairy, glandular or glabrous; bracts usually leaf-like but smaller than the upper most leaf, rarely linear. *Flowers* usually showy, concolorous or two-coloured; *pedicel* obscure to elongate, elongating after fertilization in some species; *ovary* unilocular, three-ribbed, glabrous, hairy or glandular. *Dorsal sepal* erect to hooded over lip, ovate, lanceolate or elliptic, obtuse, acute or acuminate, glabrous or pubescent on the outer surface, rarely pubescent within ciliate or not; *lateral sepals* usually fused to form a concave synsepal that is similar to the dorsal sepal, but free and linear-lanceolate in section *Criosanthes*. *Petals* free, spreading, incurved or clasping the sides of the lip, elliptic, ovate, lanceolate, linear-lanceolate or sub-pandurate, rounded, obtuse, acute or acuminate, often pubescent in basal half within, usually ciliate. *Lip* deeply pouched and inflated, slipper-shaped or urn-shaped, glabrous or hairy on outer surface; side *lobes* incurved, entire, often much reduced; *midlobe* deeply saccate, incurved or not on front margin, hairy within especially on lower surface. *Column* porrect, short, stalked; *anthers* two, bilocular, borne on short obtuse to acute filaments; *pollen* powdery or viscid; *staminode* terminal on column, sessile or stalked, oblong, ovate, cordate or linear, Hat, convex or conduplicate, glabrous to papillose or finely pubescent, ciliate or not; *stigma* stalked, dependent, tripartite, more or less papillose. *Capsule* erect to pendent, three-ribbed, cylindrical to almost ellipsoidal.<sup>3</sup>

**DISTRIBUTION:** A genus of about 47 species widespread in Europe, temperate Asia across to Japan and China and the Himalayas, Sakhalin, the Kurile and Aleutian Islands, North America, and south to Guatemala and Honduras.<sup>3</sup>



## References

<sup>1</sup> Jay Pfahl's IOSPE at [www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)

<sup>2</sup> **Aldridge, Peggy. 2008.** *An Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera*. Selby Botanical Garden Press.

<sup>3</sup> **Chase MW. 2006.** Cyripedioideae. In: Pridgeon AM, Cribb PJ, Chase MW, Rasmussen F, eds. *Genera Orchidacearum, Vol. 1*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 105-161.

<sup>4</sup> **la Croix, Isobyl. 2008.** *The New Encyclopedia of Orchids*. Timber Press

<sup>5</sup> **Meisel, Kaufmann, Pupulin 2014.** *Orchids of Tropical America*. Cornell University Press