

Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum (Lindl. ex Hook. f.) Pfitzer 1892

The Shaggy Paphiopedilum

SUBGENUS *Paphiopedilum* SECTION *Stictopetalum* Haller 1897³



Synonyms

Cordula hirsutissima [Lindl. ex Hook. f.] Rolfe 1912; **Cypripedium hirsutissimum* Lindl. ex Hook. f. 1857; *Paphiopedilum chiwuanum* Tang & F.T.Wang 1951; *Paphiopedilum esquirolei* var. *chiwuanum* (Tang & F.T.Wang) Braem & Chiron 2003; *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* f. *alboviride* O.Gruss & Koop. 2008; *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* f. *viride* O.Gruss & Roeth 1999; *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* var. *chiwuanum* (Tang & F.T.Wang) P.J.Cribb 1987³

Description

This medium-sized, warm to cool growing terrestrial or lithophytic species found in northeastern India and Myanmar [the other varieties below are found in northern Thailand, Laos and Vietnam as well as southwestern China] at altitudes of 700 to 1800 meters in leaf litter pockets in forks or at the base of trees or on steep limestone cliff faces in narrow crevasses that has 5 to 7, distichous, linear-oblong to linear-ligulate, obtuse at the obliquely bilobed apex, clear green, spotted purple beneath leaves that blooms in the spring with a longlasting, 12" [30 cm] long, single flowered, densely pubescent inflorescence that is green and has dark purple hairs and an elliptic floral bract that is 1/4 the length of the ovary. This orchid is a shade loving, terrestrial orchid in thin soil on rocks that likes to be kept evenly moist throughout the year.³

Range and Habitat

The Shaggy Paphiopedilum is native to Northeast India and Myanmar. Plants are found in the regions of Mizoram (former Assam), Nagaland and Manipur, near the border with Burma in the Naga and Lushai mountains at heights of 700-1200 m. Some other varieties of this species are found in northern Thailand, Laos

and Vietnam as well as southwestern China. *Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum* can be found growing in a thick layer of humus next to tree trunks, on rocks covered with moss and along the walls of the cliffs; but their favorite habitat is the hollows of branches of trees, where thick moss grows and rotting leaves gather. This species is a medium-sized, warm to cool growing terrestrial or lithophytic species, up to 45 cm high, that has 5 to 7, distichous, linear-oblong to linear-ligulate, obtuse at the obliquely bilobed apex, clear green, spotted purple beneath leaves. The leaves are 16-45 cm long and 1.5-3.0 cm wide. This plant blooms in the spring with a long-lasting, 12" (30 cm) long, single flowered, densely pubescent inflorescence that is green and has dark purple hairs and an elliptic floral bract that is 1/4 the length of the ovary. It is a large flower, 10-15 cm tall and all parts are covered with hairs. Upper sepals are pale yellow or pale green in color. Its lower part and middle are covered with shiny dark black and purple patches, and the wide border on the edge is pale yellow, light green or dark green. It is wide-hearted to an elliptical, with a convex vein on the outside, with wavy and pubescent margins. Lower sepals look like the upper, but smaller, ovoid, pale green with purple specks along the veins. The petals are shaped like a scapula, horizontally extended or slightly tilted forward and twisted. At the base they are narrow, green or pale yellow, covered with dark purple specks and blackish hairs. The edges of the petals from the base to the middle are corrugated. The broad apical part of the petals is bright-violet with a rounded apex. The helmet-like lip is colored in colors from dark green to light green or pale yellow and strewn with pink-purple specks and tiny black warts.⁶

F-1 Hybrids and Progeny



Paphiopedilum Hans Strahl AM/AOS

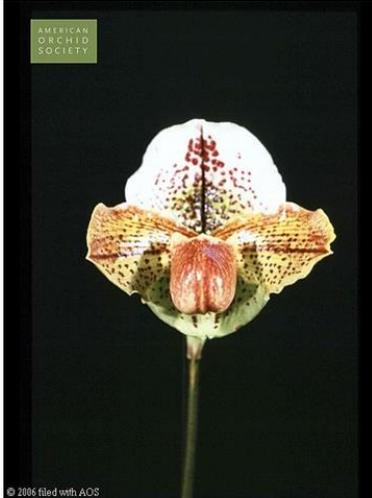
(Bidborough x *hirsutissimum*)



Paphiopedilum Invincible AM/AOS

(*hirsutissimum* x Monsieur de Curte)

The preceding are the two most awarded of the F-1 generation. *Paph hirsutissimum* is a dominant parent in both, especially Hans Strahl.



Paphiopedilum Erie AM/AOS
(Jim Dandy x Olympic Forest)
Generation 5



Paphiopedilum Personella HCC/AOS
(Personality x Amanda)
Generation 7



Paphiopedilum Lyric HCC/AOS
(Paeony x Lucid)
Generation 6



Paphiopedilum Amandahill HCC/AOS
(Winston Churchill x Amanda)
Generation 7

Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum has produced 2,323 progeny in 11 generations. The most awarded is Erie with 13 Am, 1 AQ, and 7 HCC. It has 21 F-1's and 50 total progeny. Personella is a 7th generation cross and, like many complex Paphs, is of the Bulldog type. . It has 15 awards, all but 1 in Australia. It has been a moderate breeder with 48 progeny. Lyric is an older cross, registered in 1964. It has 3 AOS HCC's and 12 more awards in Australia. It has 160 progeny in 5 generations. Amandahill is a 7th gen hybrid, also of the Bulldog type.

Awards

Paphiopedilum hirsutissimum has 175 AOS awards including 87 AM, 3 CBM, 15 CCM, 3 CHM, 5 FCC, 61 HCC and 2 JC. The earliest award was 1969 and the latest 2018. It has gotten an additional 147 awards from non-AOS organizations

Culture

Light:

This species need a light level of 18000-25000 lux. Strong air movement should be ensured all the time.

Temperature:

The plant is thermophilic in summer and relatively cold-loving in winter. In summer, the average day temperature is 27-28 ° C, at night 20-21 ° C, with a daily amplitude of 12-13 ° C. In winter, the average daytime temperatures are 21-22 ° C, and the night 4-7 ° C, with a daily amplitude of 15-17 ° C.

Humidity:

The humidity is 80-85% in summer and at the beginning of autumn, in the autumn it drops to about 75%, and then further decreases to even 50% for 1-2 months of late winter and early spring.

Substrate and growing media:

You can use any loose and well conductive water substrate, which retains part of the moisture, but does not absorb. The accumulation of mineral salts in the pot should be prevented.

Watering:

In the summer and in the beginning of autumn the plant should be watered abundantly, paying attention to the fact that the substrate does not soak and damp. In the fall, watering should be gradually reduced.

Fertilizer:

Plants should be fertilized every week 1/10-1/4 of the recommended dose of fertilizer for orchids. In the period of active growth, a fertilizer with a high nitrogen content is usually used, and from the second half of the summer switch to a fertilizer with a high phosphorus content, which promotes better flowering and helps new growth to reach maturity before the onset of winter.

Rest period and repotting:

The amount of water should be reduced to the cultivated plants in the period of 3 winter months, so that they are practically dry for 1-2 months and can only be mistaken from time to time. However, the amount of water supplied should be increased if the plants start showing signs of weakness. Fertilization should be stopped until more intense watering starts in the spring. Dry resting period is necessary to induce flowering. Keep the

temperature around 4 ° C in December and stop watering for 30-40 days, only occasionally misting the plants, so that they can be kept in good condition.

Plants should be repotted before the substrate breaks down and before it ceases to be well-drained, usually every two years. Repotting should be carried out immediately after flowering. If it needs to be done in the summer, the plants should be kept in the shade and in the cold until they adapt again.⁶

References

Aldridge, Peggy. 2008. *An Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera*. Selby Botanical Garden Press.

¹**la Croix, Isobyl. 2008.** *The New Encyclopedia of Orchids*. Timber Press

³Jay Pfahl's IOSPE at www.orchidspecies.com

⁴OrchidWiz.Database X5.3

⁵**Chase MW. 2006.** Cyripedioideae. In: Pridgeon AM, Cribb PJ, Chase MW, Rasmussen F, eds. *Genera Orchidacearum, Vol. 1*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 153-161.

⁶<https://travaldo.blogspot.com/care-and-culture.html>

⁷<http://slipperorchids.info/paphdatasheets/cochlopetalum/primulinum/index.html>

<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/qsearch.do>

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