

Species Data Sheet

Paphiopedilum dianthum

Tang & F.T.Wang, Bull. Fan Mem. Inst. Biol., Bot. 10: 24 (1940)

[Paff-ee-oh-PEH-di-lum die-ANTH-um]

Found in southwestern China and northern Vietnam growing lithophytically on north or more-or-less north-facing ledges or in cracks in a limestone rock or cliff face, forming a stout root ledge that catches leaf litter, building up its own soil mound in dappled shade at elevations of 1600 to 4700 feet (500 to 1450 m) just below the summits of karst limestone hills. It is a warm to cool growing lithophyte with a wet spring and summer and a distinct lessening in the winter months. The leaves are dark green above and paler beneath and the plant blooms in the fall on an erect to arching pendant, green inflorescence with several [1 to 5] simultaneously opening flowers. Paphiopedilum dianthum has long glabrous inflorescences usually bearing two to five green flowers with a white margin to the dorsal sepal and a white staminode.

A sister species to Paph. parishii, it differs from that species by having an erect rather than horizontally held inflorescence and bearing fewer flowers on the spike. The dorsal sepal is whiter than that of Paph. parishii. It is almost always lithophytic, not epiphytic. This species has not been used much in hybridizing.

Paphiopedilum dianthum and its close ally the epiphytic Paph. parishii are the only two Chinese green-leaved species with two- or more-flowered inflorescences. In this it closely resembles Paph. hirsutissimum. Large plants can bear up to 15 growths but six or seven is more usual.

In nature, they tend to grow in colonies ranging in size from a few to hundreds of plants in areas from one to more than 600 square meters. The pH readings at sites ranged from 6.5 to 7.9.

Paphiopedilum dianthum is not among the most sought-after species.

Synonyms:

Paphiopedilum parishii var. dianthum

Paphiopedilum aranianum

Varieties / forms:

Paphiopedilum dianthum f. album



Paphiopedilum dianthum
'Wildgayle Prancing Pony' AM/AOS
Jul 2006, NS 11.5 x 12.0 cm



Paphiopedilum dianthum f. album

Awards:

Paphiopedilum dianthum has received 19 AOS awards as shown in table below:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	JC	CCM	CCE	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS		6	9				1	2	1	12
Year(s) Awarded		1990-2008	1990-2015				2008	1989-2017	1990	

Breeding Characteristics:

Paphiopedilum dianthum has just started being used with only one awarded progeny, but it does appear that interest is increasing. The advantages of using Paph. dianthum is multiflora, general flower shape, and white dorsal sepal based on a sample of one awarded cross.

An indication of interest in breeding with Paph. dianthum is shown in the following table:

Paph. dianthum	1980	1990	2000	2010	Total
Register Crosses	0	2	4	7	13
Assoc. Awards	0	0	0	1	1

Awarded Hybrid (only one awarded progeny):

Paphiopedilum Chamber of Puppets (Paph. Pinocchio x Paph. dianthum), 2015, Monsoon Flora, no progeny, one HCC/AOS award.

References:

www.orchidspecies.com

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

<https://secure.aos.org/aqplus/SearchAwards.aspx>

OrchidWiz.Database x5.2, update: March 2019

Birk, L. A.; The Paphiopedilum Growers Manual, 2004.

Orchid Digest, Oct., Nov., Dec. 2018, An Annotated Checklist of Paphiopedilum Species, Koopowitz, H.; Vol. 82, pp. 178-235

Orchids, Apr. 1999, Wild Paphiopedilums, Cribb, P.; Vol. 68, pp. 340-349



Paph. Chamber of Puppets
'Springwater' HCC/AOS
Nov 2014, NS 10.3 x 10.3 cm