**Species Data Sheet**

**Cymbidium *cancaliculatum***

**[kan-aal-kyew-LAY-tum]**

Noted for striated or grooved on upper leaves.

Common Name: The small, grooved leaf Cymbidium, The Channeled Boat-lipped Orchid, or The Tiger Boat-lipped Orchid.

A close-up of a purple flower

Description automatically generated

Cymbidium *canaliculatum,* photography by Jonathan Cara

**General Information**

Cymbidium *cancaliculatum* was described by Robert Brown in 1810 based on a specimen that he collected at Broad Sound, Queensland, during Matthew Flinders’ circumnavigation of Australia on which he was the ship’s botanist. It is vegetatively distinctive and can from large clumps, each new pseudobulb often producing more than one scape with 20-50 or more densely crowded flowers each. A single large plant may carry several hundred flowers.

It can be distinguished from the other Australian species by its highly characteristic leathery leaves, its densely crowded scapes, and by the presence of two, distinct, parallel callus ridges on the lip. It can further be distinguished from C. suave by its inflated pseudobulbs.

ORIGIN/HABITAT: Australia. Plants grow over a large area of northern and eastern Australia. Habitat extends from the northeast corner of Western Australia eastward through the Northern Territory to the Cape York Peninsula in Queensland. It then spreads southward to central New South Wales.

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Distribution Cymbidium cancaliculatum from Kew

**Botanical Varieties (if any)**

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* f. viridiflorum D.P.Banks. 2012

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* f. sparkesii (Rendle) O.Gruss & M.Wolff. 2007

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* f. barrettii (Nicholls) O.Gruss & M.Wolff. 2007

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* var. barrettii Nicholls. 1942

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* f. purpurascens Rupp. 1934

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* f. aureolum Rupp. 1934

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* f. fuscum Rupp. 1934

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* f. inconstans Rupp. 1934

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* var. marginatum Rupp. 1934

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* var. sparkesii (Rendle) F.M.Bailey. 1913

Cymbidium *canaliculatum*  R.Br. 1810

Cymbidium canaliculatum h.v. sparksii

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* h.f. album

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* h.f. auroleum

**Synonyms**

Cymbidium *sparkesii* Rendle. 1898

Cymbidium h*illii*  F.Muell. ex Regel. 1879

**Awards**

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* has been awarded 24 times between 1964 to 2015 (AM – 4; HCC – 10; CBM – 2; CCM – 5; CHM – 1; and JC – 2 ).

**Hybrids**

Cymbidium *canaliculatum* has 75 first generation offspring and 106 total progeny. Cymbidium canaliculatum has been used 8 times as the seed parent and 67 times as the pollen parent.

Cymbidium Helen Bannerman (C. *canaliculatum* x C. *madidum*) registered in 1966 by Mrs. B. P. Cooper and originated by Bronsdon has the largest number of offspring and awards. Cymbidium Helen Bannerman has 6 first generation offspring and a total of 6 progeny. Cymbidium Helen Bannerman has 25 awards between 1965 and 2019 (AD – 1; AM – 10; FCC – 1; HCC – 7; CCE – 2; and CCM – 4).



Cymbidium Oriental Elf, photography by Q.T. Luong

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