**Species Data Sheet**

**Clowesia rosea**

[klo-wes-ee-ah ROH-zee-ah]



Clowesia rosea, photography by Lorens Grobler

**General Information**

PLANT SIZE AND TYPE: A 7-18 in. (18-46 cm) sympodial epiphyte. These plants, while very similar vegetatively to Catasetum, have bisexual flowers instead of the male or female blossoms normally found in Catasetum species.

PSEUDOBULB: 1.6-2.4 in. (4-6 cm) long, but occasionally growing to 4 in. (10 cm) tall. They are 0.6-1.0 in. (1.5-2.5 cm) thick at the base but taper to a relatively sharp point at the tip. The conical pseudobulbs have several nodes which are concealed by grayish overlapping sheaths. The tops of these sheaths bear flat, triangular apical spines 0.1-0.3 in. (0.2-0.7 cm) long after the leaves fall.

LEAVES: 6-16 in. (15-40 cm) long. 4-5 thin, heavily veined, deciduous leaves, sometimes even more, are carried on the upper part of each pseudobulb. The blades are 1.2-2.4 in. (3-6 cm) wide but taper to a sharp point at the tip. They narrow gradually toward the base and are attached to the pseudobulb at a joint when they are only 0.1-0.3 in. (0.3-0.8 cm) wide.

INFLORESCENCE: 3.5-4.7 in. (9-12 cm) long. The pendent inflorescence is produced from the basal nodes of the most recently matured pseudobulbs, which have usually lost their leaves by the time flowering occurs. Plants may sometimes bloom before the leaves have dropped, however. Well grown, healthy plants may produce more than one inflorescence from each pseudobulb.

FLOWERS: 6-7 pleasantly fragrant blossoms are normally carried on each 1.2-3.1 in. (3.8 cm) raceme, but as many as 15 have been recorded. The bell-shaped flowers vary from deep rose pink to light pink. The flower parts are usually lightly colored at the base, with darker colors appearing at the tips. The sepals and petals all spread rather widely at their bases but then curve to point forward at their sharply pointed tips to form the cup-like flowers. The elliptic, boat-shaped dorsal sepal is about 0.7 in. (1.7 cm) long and 0.3 in. (0.8 cm) wide. The lateral sepals are about 0.8 in (2 cm) long and are also about 0.3 in. (0.8 cm) wide. They are connected to each other at the base for a short distance to form a mentum (projection) that is about 0.1 in. (0.2 cm) wide. The elliptic to egg-shaped petals are also about 0.7 in. (1.8 cm) long but are 0.5 in. (1.2 cm) wide, which is somewhat wider than the sepals. The transparent or translucent margins are irregularly notched and appear to be narrowly incised or slashed for a short distance in from the edge. The 0.7-0.8 in. (1.7-2.0 cm) long lip is obscurely 3-lobed and is egg-shaped in outline when flattened. It is almost 0.8 in. (2 cm) wide including the tips of the long marginal cilia (or hair-like projections) which are abundant on the small lateral lobes and especially on the terminal lobe as well as the callus in the apical region. The green column has a yellow spot at the base. It is 0.3-0.4 in. (0.8-0.9 cm) long and has a pair of wing-like projections at the tip. The pale, irregularly notched terminal appendage is about 0.1 in. (0.3 cm) long.

ORIGIN/HABITAT: This species is known to occur in southwestern Mexico and has been reported from locations in Central America and South America to as far south as Brazil. Modern writers, however, question its occurrence outside of Mexico where plants have been collected on the Pacific-facing slopes of the mountains in the States of Michoacan and Oaxaca. They grow on trees in seasonally dry oak or tropical deciduous forests at 1650-4250 ft. (500-1300 m).



Distribution Southwest Mexico from Kew



Clowesia rosea, unawarded, photography by Eric Hunt (permission to use

photograph provided by photographer)

**Awards:**

Clowesia rosea has seven AOS awards. See table below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | Total |
| AOS |  |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |  | 1 | 7 |
| Year(s) Awarded |  |  |  |  |  | 1971 - 2006 |  |  | 1958 |  |

Clowesia has 12 F1 offspring and 264 progeny. All offspring have been registered between 1959 and 2021. Clowesia rosea was used 7 times as the seed parent and 5 times as the pollen parent.

Of the 12 F1 crosses seven or 58.3% have been awarded.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| G | Grexes | Awarded | % Awarded | Awards |
| 1 | 12 | 7 | 58.3% | 54 |
| 2 | 86 | 40 | 46.5% | 125 |
| 3 | 88 | 27 | 30.7% | 138 |
| 4 | 59 | 13 | 22% | 37 |
| 5 | 19 | 2 | 10.5% | 4 |

**Major Hybrids:**

Clowesia Rebecca Northern (Cl. rosea x Cl. Grace Dunn) originated by W. W. G. Moir and registered by W. W. G. Moir in 1971. Clowesia Rebecca Northern has 39 offspring and 198 total progeny. Clowesia Rebecca Northern has 10 awards (AM – 3; HCC – 2; CCE – 2; and CCM – 3).



Clowesia Rebecca Northern ‘Grapefruit Pink’ CCM/AOS, 82 points; 2022,

photography by Fred Clarke

Clowesia Grace Dunn (Cl. *rosea* x Cl. *warczewiczii*) was originated by W. W. G. Moir and registered by W. W. G. Moir in 1959. Clowesia Grace Dunn has 9 awards (AM – 3; HCC – 1; CCE – 1; and CCM – 4).

A close up of a flower

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Clowesia Grace Dunn ‘Live Oak’ HCC/AOS, 77 points; 2003,

photography by Fred Clarke

**Webinar: Catasetums: Growing and Loving**

By Fred Clarke

Summary

1. Wait to irrigate until new roots ae 3 – 8” long.
2. Well drained potting media.
3. When in active growth, water and fertilize frequently.
4. Scout for insects early, treat accordingly.
5. Reduce irrigation when leaves begin to yellow.
6. Stop watering when bulbs are leafless.
7. Dimorphic

Re-pot and divide when new roots begin.

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**Mechanics of Judging**

**Houston Orchid Society Show**

1. Did not attend.

**Greater North Texas Orchid Society Show and Sale**

1. Attended.
2. Set up.
3. Took down.
4. Ribbon judged.
5. AOS student judged.
6. Developed and constructed Student Judges’ Display.
7. Constructed and presented two tabletop displays.
8. Entered plants in the GNTOS exhibit.
9. 9 ribbons: 2 selected for AOS judging, 4 first place ribbons, 2 second place ribbons and 1 third place ribbon.
10. 3 trophies: best amateur floral arrangement, best amateur tabletop display, and best grown Phalaenopsis.

**Sociedad Dominicana de Orquideología National Botanical Gardens in Santo Domingo**

1. Attended.
2. AOS student judged.
3. Toured Orchidom – Nancy Montford, owner.
4. Toured Orquideas Santo Domingo – Alex Wang , owner.