Bifrenaria *aureofulva* (Hook.) Lindl., 1843

(syn. Bifrenaria aureo-fulva)

**Common Name:** The Golden-Red-Yellow Bifrenaria



**Native**

Brazil Northeast, Brazil South, Brazil Southeast

**Homotypic Synonyms**

Adipe *aureofulva* (Hook.) M. Wolff in Orchidee (Hamburg) 41: 36 (1990)

Maxillaria aureofulva Hook. in Bot. Mag. 65: t. 3629 (1838).

**Heterotypic Synonyms**

Bifrenaria *secunda* (Hoehne) Pabst in Orquídea (Rio de Janeiro) 29: 165 (1967)

Maxillaria *stenopetala* Knowles & Westc. in Fl. Cab. 2: 112 (1838)

Stenocoryne *secunda* Hoehne in Arq. Bot. Estado São Paulo, n.s., f.m., 2: 13 (1944)

OrchidWiz noted Origin/Habitat: Brazil. Plants grow in the mountains of southern Brazil in the states of Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul. We have been unable to locate specific habitat elevations, but Pabst and Dungs (1975) indicate that Bifrenaria aureo-fulva grows in intermediate conditions. These conditions are also recommended by the McQueens (1993). Therefore, we have estimated habitat elevation to coincide with the reported growing temperatures, but the temperature extremes resulting from this estimation should be used cautiously until more exact information is available. The other elements in the climate table reflect seasonal weather patterns in the habitat.

Plant Size and Type: A 28 in. (71 cm) sympodial epiphyte.

Pseudobulb: 1.0-1.5 in. (2.5-3.8 cm) long. The clustered, strongly four-angled pseudobulbs are dark yellow-green or brown-green.

Leaves: Up to 28 in. (71 cm) long. This includes the petiole at the base, which may be up to 18 in. (46 cm) long, and the leaf blade, which is up to 10 in. (25 cm) long. Each growth carries a single rather leathery, oblong-lanceolate leaf with a prominent midvein and a sharply pointed tip at the top of each pseudobulb.

Inflorescence: 5-12 in. (12-30 cm) long. The slender, usually erect but sometimes pendulous inflorescence emerges from the base of the pseudobulb.

Flowers: 3-15. The nodding blossoms, which may not open fully, are carried on the upper third of each inflorescence. The orange or brownish yellow flowers, have a green tinge on the outside, may be marked with a dull red flush lines. Blossoms are up to 1 in. (2.5 cm) long by approximately 0.8 in. (2 cm) across the reflexed tips of the sepals and petals. The elongated sepals and petals, which are up to 0.6 in. (1.6 cm) long and taper to sharply pointed tips, point forward at the base then spread outward toward the tip. Lateral sepals join together at the base to form a spur. The lip is about 0.6 in. (1.6 cm) long, which is shaped like an elongated diamond with a narrow base, has rounded lateral lobes and a sharply pointed, triangular midlobe. The callus at the base of the lip is 3-lobed at its apex.

A close-up of a plant

Description automatically generated

Bifrenaria *aureofulva* ‘Skokie Bells’ HCC/AOS, 70 points, 1970

Photography by OWZ Libs



Bifrenaria *aureofulva*

Photography by Roland Amsler

Close-up of an orange flower

Description automatically generated

Bifrenaria *aureo-fulva*

Photography by Ed Cott



Bifrenaria *aureo-fulva*

Photography by Lynn O’Shaughnessy

**AOS Awards**

Bifrenaria *inodora*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBR | TOTAL |
| AOS | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |  |
| Years Awarded |  |  | 1970 |  |  |  |  |  | 2002 |  |

**Hybrids**

There are five Bifrenaria *aureofulva* FI generation offspring. *All have been* registered since 1987. Only one of the Bifrenaria *aureofulva* crosses has received an AOS award. Lycastenaria Tropical Honey, an intergeneric hybrid with parents (Bifrenaria *aureofulva* x Lycaste Jason). Lycastenaria Tropical Honey received an AD/AOS in 2004. Lycastenaria Tropical Honey has no AOS awards and no registered offspring.

Of the Bifrenaria *aureofulva* crosses, only one, Bifrenaria Haslemere has a registered offspring, which is Bifrenaria (*calcarata* x *auerofulva*). Bifrenaria Haslemere has one offspring Bifrenaria Jack Kings Legacy (Haslemere x *villosula*). Bifrenaria Jack Kings Legacy has no offspring and not received an AOS award.



Bifrenaria Haslemere

Photography by Harbinger Orchids

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