Bulbophyllum *longissimum* (Ridl.) J. J. Smith 1912

[lon-GISS-ee-mum]

Nickname: The long petal Bulbophyllum

Origin/Habitat: Thailand. This rare orchid apparently is indigenous to the Thai Peninsula, with collections reported near Phang-nga. Habitat elevation was not reported, so the following climate table and cultural suggestions are based on an estimated elevation and should be used somewhat cautiously. The region is relatively low-lying, however, so the estimated elevation probably is not off by a large amount. -- Source: Charles Baker.



Natural Habitat by Kew

Native to: Thailand

Homotypic Synonyms

Cirrhopetalum *longissimum* Ridl. in J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 32: 280 (1896)

Plant Size and Type: A rather small epiphyte with growths to about 8 in. (20 cm) tall that are spaced approximately 2 in. (5 cm) apart on a creeping rhizome.

Pseudobulb/Stem: Up to 2 in. (5 cm) long. The glossy, egg-shaped pseudobulb often is vaguely angular.

Leaves: Up to 6 in. (15 cm) long by 2 in. (5 cm) wide. A single, rather rigid, leathery leaf with a blunt tip is carried at the apex of the pseudobulb.

Inflorescence: Up to 8 in. (20 cm) long. The mostly erect flower spike emerges from the base of the pseudobulb. Flowers are carried in an umbel at the apex of the inflorescence.

Flowers: 5-10 per inflorescence. The fragrant, short-lived blossoms are up to 11 in. (27 cm) long. They have a dorsal sepal that more or less arches forward over the column and extremely long, pendulous, thin lateral sepals that taper gradually for more than half their length and then split into two long, thin, threadlike tails toward their tips. The dorsal sepal is about 0.8 in. (2 cm) long, is minutely hairy, and is whitish green with red streaks. The lateral sepals are pale rose-red marked with darker colored veins. The very small petals are somewhat smaller than the dorsal sepal, have ciliate margins and are reddish in color. The small lip is green.

A close-up of a flower

Description automatically generated

Bulbophyllum *longissimum*

Photography Manot Quahphanit

Close-up of a flower

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Bulbophyllum *longissimum*

Photography by Kurt Keller

**AOS Awards:**

Bulbophyllum *longissimum*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | CBR | TOTAL |
| AOS | 4 | 5 | 4 | - | - | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 20 |
| Years Awarded | 2007  -  2016 | 1999  -  2017 | 2010  -  2016 |  |  | 1970  -  2011 | 2010  -  2012 |  | 1972 |  |  |

**Hybrids**

Of the twenty-eight Bulbophyllum *longissimum hybrid*s registered in the F1 generation two were registered in 1936, one was registered in 1969 and the other twenty-five were registered in 2000.

The Bulbophyllum *longissimum* hybrid with the highest number of offspring and awards is Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann, which is (*longissimum* x *rothschildianum*). Bulbophyllum Elisabeth Ann has eighteen AOS awards (CCE – 3; CCM - 10; FCC – 2; HCC – 1, and AM - 2).

Close-up of a plant with long stems

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Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann ‘Buckleberry’ FCC/AOS, 94 points, 2006

Photography by Judy Cook

Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann was originated by S. Low and registered by J. Chambers in 1969. Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann has seventeen F1 generation offspring and thirty-two progeny. Of the seventeen F1 generation offspring six or 35.3% received AOS awards.

The Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann offspring with the highest number of awards is Bulbophyllum Lovely Elizabeth, which is (Elizabeth Ann x *rothschildianum*). Bulbophyllum Lovely Elizabeth holds fourteen AOS awards (AM – 6; CCM – 4; HCC – 2; and JC – 2).

Bulbophyllum Lovely Elizabeth has three F1 generation offspring and four progeny.

A close up of a plant

Description automatically generated

Bulbophyllum Lovely Elizabeth

Photography by Chris Trudgian

The second Bulbophyllum *longissimum* hybrid with the most awards is Bulbophyllum Emly Siegerist, which is (*longissimum* x *lasiochilum*). Bulbophyllum Emly Siegerist was originated by and registered in 1989 by Suphachadiwong. Bulbophyllum Emly Siegerist has seven AOS awards (CCE - 2; CCM – 3; HCC – 1; and AM - 1).

A close up of a flower

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Bulbophyllum Emly Siegerist ‘A-doribil Too’ HCC/AOS 79 points, 2008

Photography by Bill Thomas

Bulbophyllum Emly Siegerist has five F1 generation offspring and six total progeny. No progeny of Bulbophyllum Emly Siegerist have received an AOS award.

**References**

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