Guarianthe 2003, Dressler and W. E. Higgins

Pronounced: Gwar-e-ANTH-e

Type Species: Guarianthe *skinneri*



Native to:

Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexican Pacific Is., Mexico Central, Mexico Gulf, Mexico Northeast, Mexico Northwest, Mexico Southeast, Mexico Southwest, Nicaragua, Panamá, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela

Introduced into:

Ecuador

The American Orchid Society notes this genus was segregated from Cattleya in 2003 by Dressler and Higgins based on several structural features of the plants and is supported by recent molecular DNA analyses. The genus comprises the following former Cattleya species: Guarianthe *skinneri* Guarianthe *bowringiana*, Guarianthe *patinii*, Guarianthe *aurantiaca* and the natural hybrid Guarianthe x *guatemalensis*. Guarianthe skinneri, Guarianthe *aurantiaca* and Guarianthe *bowringiana* are commonly seen in cultivation. All of the species are easy to cultivate.

Number of species:

The World Monocot Checklist currently recognizes 4 species and 1 natural hybrid.

The American Orchid Society notes in their offspring, have been used extensively in hybridizing to produce deeply colored, so-called cluster hybrids. Most Guarianthe produce offspring with limited to no fragrance. Guarianthe species tend to be dominant for shape, produce offspring with very vigorous growth habit, a higher flower count, most often strong pure color, and excellent texture.

Guarianthe Species F1 Offspring, and Progeny

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Species | F1 Offspring | Progeny |
| ***\**** *aurantiaca* | 304 | 5,770 |
| *bowringiana* | 281 | 2,323 |
| *deckeri,*  *~ x laelioides* | 24 | 29 |
| *hennisiana* | 5 | 5 |
| *patinii, ~ henisiana* | 5 | 5 |
| *skinneri* | 104 | 213 |
| *x guatemalensis,*  *~ x laelioides* | 24 | 29 |

Guarianthe Species Awards

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | CBR | TOTAL |
| *aurantiaca* | 1 | 24 | 20 | 2 | 4 | 9 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 62 |
| *bowringiana* | - | 7 | 6 | - | 1 | 7 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 25 |
| *x laelioides* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| *guatemalensis,*  *~ x laelioides* | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| *hennisiana* | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 5 |
| *patinii, ~ hennisiana* | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 5 |
| *skinneri* | 17 | 78 | 16 | 4 | 13 | 45 | 6 | - | - | - | 179 |

When considering which Guarianthe species is the building block for the genus, if you consider which species has the largest number of progeny, I would select Guarianthe *aurantiaca* as this species has 5,770 progeny. The second in line would be Guarianthe *bowringiana*, which has 2,323 progeny.

Close-up of orange flowers

Description automatically generated

Guarianthe *aurantiaca* ‘Palmeiri’s Tangerine’ AM/AOS, 80 points, 2019

Photograph by Jorge Carlos

Ascociacion Guatemalteca de Orquideologia Show

A close-up of a purple flower

Description automatically generated

Guarianthe *bowringiana* ‘Augusta’ AM/AOS, 80 points, 2003

Photograph by Fred Clarke

Chicago Judging Center

A purple flower with green stem

Description automatically generated

Guarianthe *hennisiana* ‘Munjeet’ AM/AOS, 81 points, 2016

Photograph by Judith Higham

Pacific Northwest Judging Center

Close-up of a purple orchid

Description automatically generated

Guarianthe *skinneri* ‘Carpinteria’ FCC/AOS, 90 points, 1993

Photograph by OWZ Lib

Pacific South Regional Judging Center

A close up of a flower

Description automatically generated

Guarianthe x *guatemalensis* (x *laelioides*) ‘Silva de Palmieri’ AM/AOS, 80 points, 2018

Photograph by Jorge Carlos

Ascociacion Guatemalteca de Orquideologia Show

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