

# BUILDING BLOCK REPORT

*Phalaenopsis gigantea* J.J. Sim 1909

Subgenus: *Polychilos*



*Phalaenopsis gigantea*

### **General Information:**

This species is found in Borneo. Sabah (Merutai and Tiger Mountain areas) in northern Borneo where it is rare or extinct. It is also found on the west side of the Crocker Mountain range in Sarawak and in West Kalimantan. Plants grow as epiphytes in lowland and hill forests at elevations between sea level and 2950 ft. (900 m). Some writers in the past have reported *Phalaenopsis gigantea* as occurring in primeval forest areas of Java where plants were said to be easy to cultivate at an elevation of 500 ft. (152 m). Recent works, however, indicate the species is endemic to Borneo.

### **General Description:**

This species is an epiphyte. The leaves number five to six per stem, and are pendent, leathery, elliptic, broadly rounded, pale drab olive green, shiny on both surfaces and 68.5 cm long to 25.5 cm wide. The inflorescence is pendent racemes or sparsely branched panicles up to 40 cm long, obscured by the leaves, pale chalky green, the floral bracts triangular, acute, concave and up to 6 mm long. The flowers are showy, up to 5 cm wide, sweetly fragrant, very shallowly cupped, usually with overlapping segments, the sepals and petals white or yellow densely covered with transverse brown bars that align to form irregular concentric rings, the lip white with six purple longitudinal stripes on the middle and with yellow orange teeth on the lateral lobes, the column is white.

### **Botanical Varieties (if any)**

*Phalaenopsis gigantea* var. *aurea* Christenson 2001

*Phalaenopsis gigantea* var. *decolorata* Braem ex Holle-de Raeve 1991

### **Synonyms/Forms:**

*Phalaenopsis gigantea* f. *decolorata* (Braem ex Holle-de Raeve) Christenson 2001

### **Awards:**

This species has been awarded by the AOS 64 times over the period 1963 through 2019 (AM-22; HCC-22; JC-1; CBM-1; CCE-4; CCM-14).

### **Hybrids:**

This species contributes its round shaped and strongly barred, large flowers, borne on a pendent spike, that are well shaped and fragrant with a waxy substance. It also produces hybrids with handsome foliage, which is usually of normal size when this species is bred with a tetraploid hybrid. It can also intensify reds to produce spotted hybrids. On the negative side, it frequently passes on small lips and pendant flower, and it can be a reluctant breeder.

*Phalaenopsis gigantea* has 321 First Generation offspring, and Total Progeny of 6,938 (through the 11th generation). This species has also been involved in creating Primary Hybrids 41 times as both the seed and pollen parent.

*Phalaenopsis* Mok Choi Yew was registered in 1968 by C.Y. Mok and is a cross of *Phal. gigantea* x *Phal. violacea*. The hybrid has 36 First Generation offspring, and 158 total progeny. The hybrid has been awarded by AOS 5 times (AM-2; HCC-2; JC-1).



***Phalaenopsis* Mok Choi Yew  
'Mai Ling'  
AM-84 points  
March 11. 1983**

**References:**

Christenson, Eric, *Phalaenopsis, a Monograph*, Timber Press, Inc., 2001

Frownie, Steven A., *Moth Orchids – The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis*, Timber Press, 2008

Orchids Plus 1.4

OrchidWiz 5.1