

## BUILDING BLOCK REPORT

***Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* (O. Gruss) O. Gruss & W.E. Higgins 2017**

**Synonym: *Doritis pulcherrima***

**Subgenus: *Phalaenopsis***



***Phalaenopsis pulcherrima***

The habitat for this species is widespread from northeast India through Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, then southward through Malaya, Sumatra, and Borneo. In Thailand, plants have been reported from all regions, except in the vicinity of Bangkok. Plants are usually found at relatively low elevations, but collections have been reported from as high as 4250 ft. (1300 m). Plants generally grow as terrestrials in the shade of bushes and shrubs. They are normally found in sandy, well-drained soil that contains an accumulation of organic debris.

This species is a terrestrial forming large clumps by basal offshoots. Leaves are oblong to elliptic, acute, concave, to 15 cm long by 3 cm wide. The inflorescences are stiffly erect racemes to 60 cm long, the peduncle to 30 cm long, the rachis many-flowered, the floral bracts minute, scarious. The flowers are brilliant saturated cerise, the erect lateral lobules of the mid lobe of the lip orange, the disk of the mid lobe is white, the column white. The dorsal sepal is elliptic to elliptic-obovate, cuneate, obtuse-rounded, to 1.2 cm long by 0.6 cm wide. The lateral sepals obliquely broadly triangular-ovate, obtuse, attached to the long column foot, to 1 cm long by 0.9 cm wide. The petals are sub similar and subequal to the dorsal sepal. The lip is three lobed, to 1.2 cm long, the lateral lobes antrorse, linear-lanceolate, lateral to the callus, the midlobe three lobulate, the lobes subequal, the lateral lobules erect, broadly elliptic, obtuse, broadly rounded, the middle lobule broadly triangular-ovate, deflexed, obtuse to subacute. The callus is uniseriate, small, transverse, with a rounded leading edge. The column is straight, stout, with a pair of knee-like projections at the base. The pedicel and ovary to 1.6 cm long.

### **Botanical Varieties:**

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* f. *alba* (O. Gruss & Roeth.) Christenson 2001

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* f. *albiflora* (Rchb.f.) Christenson 2001

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* f. *coerulea* (Fowlie) Christenson 2001

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* f. *regnieriana* (Rchb.f.) Aver. 2009

### **Synonyms:**

*Doritis pulcherrima* lindl. 1833

### **Hybrids of *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*:**

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* has produced 293 First Generation offspring and a total of 11,342 progeny, through 13 generations, over the period 1923 through 2022.

*Phalaenopsis pulcherrima* has also been involved in the creation of 65 Primary Hybrids.

Source: OrchidWiz 4.2

### **Awards for *Cattleya cinnabarina*:**

AD	AM	AQ	HCC	JC	CBM	CCM	CHM	Total
1	51	1	46	7	1	6	5	118

Awards cover the period 1959 through 2019

Source: OrchidWiz 4.2 and Orchids Plus

## Hybridizing of *Phalaenopsis pulcherrima*:

Like its close relative, *Phal. buyssoniana*, this species has been important in contributing its brilliant flower color, upright flower spike, and compact plant size to its offspring. The blue form is used to add bluish flowers to *Doritaenopsis* hybrids.

## Outstanding hybrids using *Phalaenopsis pulchimmera*:

1. ***Phalaenopsis Purple Gem (syn. Doritaenopsis)***-This hybrid was originated and registered by E. Iwanaga in 1963. The hybrid has 33 First Generation offspring and Total Progeny of 46 over the period 1968 through 2020. AOS awards number 30 (AM-12; HCC-14; JC 1; CCM-3) for the period 1966 through 2008.



***Phalaenopsis Purple Gem*  
'Mar-Jo'  
AM-80 points  
July 25, 1971**

## References:

Helmut Bechtel, Phillip Cribb, Edmund Launert, *The Manual of Cultivated Orchid Species, Third Edition*, MIT Press, 1992

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

Christenson, Eric A., *Phalaenopsis – A Monograph*, Timber Press, 2001

OrchidWiz 4.2

OrchidsPlus, AOS