

***Mexipedium* (Soto, Salazar & Hagsater 1992)**

Genus Summary

Type Species – *Mexipedium xerophyticum*



***Mexipedium
xerophyticum***

General Information:

Mexipedium xerophyticum is restricted to a single region in Oaxaca, Mexico, and is found at an elevation of 1,050 ft. (320 m) on eastern slopes that form part of the watershed for the Gulf of Mexico. *Mexipedium xerophyticum* grows on rocks in warm, humid conditions with other tropical, xerophytic vegetation such as Agave and Plumeria. Fearing overcollection, the describers gave no precise habitat location. They did, however, indicate that the habitat receives 98 in. (2,500 mm) of rainfall per year and has an average annual temperature of 77F (25 °C). The climate for Minatitlan, Mexico, was selected as representative of the general area, and the data agrees with the habitat description.

The name is derived simply from where the plant is found, Mexico, with the Greek add-on of '*pedilon*', meaning slipper or shoe.

This species is the only one in the genus.

General Description:

Mexipedium xerophyticum is a 4 to 5 in. (10 to 13 cm) sympodial lithophyte.

This species does not have a **pseudobulb**. New growths are spaced widely, about 1 to 3 in. (3 to 8 cm) apart, on a large, coarse, elongated rhizome.

There are 5 to 6 **leaves** per growth. The short, fleshy leaves are rigid, persistent, distichous, and arranged in a fan shape. They may reach a length of 4.7 in. (12 cm), though they are often much shorter.

Inflorescences for this species are from 2.6 to 5.3 in. (6.5 to 13.5 cm) long. The tall inflorescence, which arises from the center of the leaf fan, commonly produces 2 abbreviated **racemes**. It is covered with hairs along its entire length.

Flowers are generally 1 to 2 per inflorescence. The small, pink and white flowers are 0.6 to 0.8 in. (1.5 to 2.0 cm) across. The backs of the **sepals** are covered with hairs and often flushed with pink. The white **pouch** is suborbicular with a pink, hairy patch at the base. Flowers may be short-lived.

Species in the Genus:

The attached spreadsheet provides an overview of the only species found in this genus.

Name	Habitat	Day/Night Temperatures	Blooming Dates	Progeny	AOS Awards
<i>Mexipedium xerophyticum</i>	Oaxaca, Mexico	83F-84F/70F-71F	June and July	No offspring	HCC-2; CBR-1; CCE-2; CCM-3

AOS Scale for Judging *Mexipedium*:

Mexipediums are judged using the AOS *Paphiopedilum* scale.

Hybridizing:

There has been no hybridizing with this species.

References:

Pridgeon, Alec M., Phillip J. Cribb, Mark W. Chase, *Genera Orchidacearum, Volume 1*, Oxford University Press

Pridgeon, Alec M., The Coming Revolution in Orchid Hybrid Names, *Orchids*, December 2004, page 914 through 921

Braem, Guido J., *The Genus Paphiopedilum, 2nd Edition*, Self-Published, 2016

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