

SPECIES DATA SHEET

Paphiopedilum helenae (Averyanov) 1996

Subgenus: *Paphiopedilum*



Paphiopedilum helenae

General Information:

This species is found near Cao Bang in the extreme northeastern part of Vietnam. This region has many ancient, eroded, limestone ridges and mesas which emerge from the relatively flat, alluvial valley. This species is usually found on open or lightly shaded ledges with a northern exposure. It grows near the top of vertical bluffs at 850 to 900 m, where it is found on small, narrow shelves and in rocky crevices. The plant generally blooms in cultivation between July and September.

General Description:

This species is a dwarf herb, growing as a humus epiphyte. Each growth produces three to five leaves. They are straight or slightly bent, rigid, sometimes thick, sub-succulent, very deep green with a yellowish-white or pale green edging along the margins of the upper side, pale green below, and often with some fine violet-purple marks at the base. The leaves are broadly lanceolate, obtuse, and minutely tridentate at the apex, and at 4 to 12 cm long by 1 to 2 cm wide. The inflorescence is generally one flowered, sub-erect, horizontal or slightly pendant. The peduncle is 4 to 8 cm long, slender, terete, and covered by short black hairs. The bract is ovate to elliptic, folded, obtuse at the apex, .8 to 1.9 cm long, about .4 cm wide, and covers about one quarter of the ovary. The flower is 5 to 7 cm across. The dorsal sepal is bright yellow with a white edging at the margin. It is ovate, sub-circular or circular, somewhat emarginate or obtuse at the apex, and 1.8 to 3.5 cm long by 1.5 to 3.0 cm wide. The synsepal is white, ovate-elliptic, obtuse at the apex, and 1.5 to 2.5 cm long by .8 to 1.6 cm wide. The petals are brownish orange with a few longitudinal reddish-brown stripes and straight (non-undulate) margins. The petals are ligulate or ligulate-spathulate, obtuse or truncate at the apex, slightly covered by hairs or sub-glabrous at the base, and 2.5 to 3.5 cm long by .4 to .8 cm wide. The lip is shaped like an inverted helmet, glabrous on both surfaces, brownish orange, sometimes slightly inflated at the apex, and 2 to 3 cm long by 1.5 to 2 cm wide. The staminode is usually circular with a diameter of about .7 to .8 cm and is papillose with a sub-central hemispheric yellow or green tooth. The pedicel and ovary, which are covered by short black hairs, are 2 to 4 cm long.

Botanical Varieties (if any)

Paphiopedilum helenae forma *aureum* (Gross and Roth) 1999

Synonyms:

Paphiopedilum delicatum (Z.J. Liu & J.Y. Zhang) 2001

Paphiopedilum helenae var. *peschtteri* (Roeth) 2010

Awards:

This species has been awarded by the AOS 29 times over the period 1998 through 2020 (AM-9; HCC-13; CCM-4; CHM-3).

Hybrids:

Paphiopedilum stonei has 62 First Generation offspring, and Total Progeny of 105 (through the 3rd generation). This species has also been involved in creating Primary Hybrids 23 times as both the seed and pollen parent.

Paphiopedilum Wossner Helene was registered in 2000 by F. Glanz and is a cross of *Paph. charlesworthii* x *Paph. helenae*. The hybrid has 2 First Generation offspring, and 2 total progeny. The hybrid has been awarded by AOS 1 time with an HCC of 78 points.



***Paphiopedilum* Wossner Helene
'Windy Hill's Teacup Cutie'
HCC - 78 points
October 12, 2019**

References:

Braem, Prof. Dr. Guido, *The Genus Paphiopedilum*, Self-Published, 2016

Orchids Plus 1.4

OrchidWiz 5.1