

SPECIES DATA SHEET

***Paphiopedilum lowii* complex**

***Paphiopedilum lowii* (Lindley 1847), *Paphiopedilum richardianum* (Asher & Beamen 1988), and *Paphiopedilum lynniae* (Garay 1996)
Subgenus: *Polyantha***

Many arguments can be found to justify treating both *Paph. richardianum* and *Paph. lynniae* as varieties of *Paph. lowii*.



Paphiopedilum lowii

General Information:

This species is found in Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Java, and Sulawesi. It usually grows as an epiphyte in thick moss and pockets of leaf litter. It occasionally grows on boulders or cliff faces with roots buried in moss or humus-filled pockets. Plants grow near water or in areas with heavy rainfall, and they are usually found in bright locations, frequently in full sun for part of the day. They normally grow at 700 to 1,400 m, but they are reported from as low as 250 m and as high as 1,600 m.

General Description:

Leaves are uniformly green, sub-erect, strap-shaped, obtuse, leathery, somewhat serrated at the margins, and folded at the base; their upper surface is somewhat grooved, and the underside is distinctly keeled. Leaves are up to 40 cm long by 5.5 cm wide. The flower scape is up to 1 m tall, erect, bright green to brownish purple, and densely hirsute. It carries about six flowers, rarely even more. The floral bracts cover 1/3 to 1/2 of the 6.5 to 8 cm long ovary, which is yellowish green to purple and distinctly hirsute. Flowers have a natural spread of up to 16 cm, and they are usually up to about 9 cm high. The dorsal sepal is about 4.5 cm long by 3.5 cm wide, broadly ovate, and shortly pointed. The edges of the basal half are reflexed, and the upper part is concave and curves forward. The yellow to chartreuse-green color is suffused at the base with more or less intense brown and radiating brown streaks that extend from the base to the dorsal half. The synsepal is about as long as the dorsal sepal but somewhat narrower. It is concave, stands away from the lip, occasionally has a double apex, and sometimes is distinctly divided into two separate lateral sepals. The petals, which are 6 to 9 cm long by about 1.5 to 3 cm wide, are spatulate, extend sideways with a slight downward curve, and are twisted so that the front surface faces upward in the apical half. The basal part of the petals is yellowish green, marked with brown spots that are sometimes eye shaped. The broader, apical end is violet to rose. The lip, which stands at a 90-degree angle to the ovary is distinctly saccate, up to 6 cm long and 3 cm wide at the mouth. It is greenish brown to dark brown, usually with a clearly visible darker veins. The lateral lobes are folded inward, forming a tube. They are lighter in color and spotted brown. The staminodal shield is an inverted heart shape, convex, and bordered with purple hairs. There is a small, erect, hairy horn at the base, and a blunt tooth in the sinus of the apical edge. The shield is about 1 cm long by 7 mm wide, cream colored to yellow and is suffused with brown from the lower areas in the center.

Botanical Varieties (if any)

Paphiopedilum lowii var. *lynniae* (Garay) O. Gruss & Roeth)

Paphiopedilum lowii var. *aureum* P.J. Cribb

Synonyms:

Cypripedium lowii (Lindl.)

Cordula lowii (Lindl.) Rolfe

Awards:

This species has been awarded by the AOS 142 times over the period 1965 through 2019 (FCC-4; AM-79; AQ-2; HCC-45; JC-4; CCE-1; CCM-7).

Hybrids:

Paphiopedilum lowii has 113 First Generation offspring, and Total Progeny of 32 (through the 4th generation). This species has also been involved in creating Primary Hybrids 68 times as both the seed and pollen parent.

Paphiopedilum Julius was registered in 1914 by Sanders (St. Albans) and is a cross of *Paph. lowii* x *Paph. rothschildianum*. The hybrid has 20 First Generation offspring, and 22 total progeny. The hybrid has been awarded by AOS 115 times (FCC-9; AM-51; AQ-1; HCC-43; CCE-3; CCM-8).



***Paphiopedilum* Julius
'Bloody Caesar'
FCC - 91 points
September 12, 1999**

References:

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

Orchids Plus 1.4

OrchidWiz 5.1