

SPECIES DATA SHEET

Paphiopedilum niveum (Reichenbach fil.) Stein 1892

Subgenus: *Brachypetalum*



Paphiopedilum niveum

General Information:

This species is found in a narrow zone on the Malayan Peninsula near the border between Malaysia and Thailand. Plants can also be found on the small limestone islands south of the main island in the Langkawi group, which is just off the west coast of the peninsula habitat and have been reported from the Tambelan Islands and mainland Thailand. The species grows at 10 to 60 meters above sea level on north or northwest facing cliffs in locations where it is protected from direct sun but receives bright, reflected light from the sea. Plants are found on limestone rocks in moss, in humus-filled cracks, or on moss covered tree roots. This species has been reported to bloom all year round. The main flowering season is from April through July.

General Description:

This species is a small herbaceous plant that rarely grows much taller than 25 cm. It grows as a humus epiphyte in leaf-mold. Leaves are elliptic and up to 15 cm long by 2.7 to 3.5 cm wide. The leaves are dark green, mottled with greyish green on the upper surface, and the under surface is spotted with purple. The erect inflorescence is up to 17 cm tall and bears one or two flowers which are about 8 cm across. The white flowers almost always have small purple spots on the basal parts of the petals and dorsal sepal, but flowers without the spots have been reported. The dorsal sepal is up to 2.6 to 4.2 cm long by 3 to 5 cm wide, is very broadly ovate, spreading, and concave. The backside is keeled and stained with reddish purple. The synsepal is ovate, concave, 2 to 3 cm long and 1.5 to 3 cm wide. Petals are spreading, slightly deflexed, and obtuse. They are elliptic, rounded, 3.3 to 4.4 cm long by 2.2 to 4 cm wide. The lip is rather small, and its main lobe is formed into an ovoid pouch with a contracted mouth, which is nearly covered by the column and staminode, and margins that are curved to the inside. Overall, the lip is 2.2 to 3.8 cm long by 1.5 to 1.8 cm wide. The highly variable staminode plate is yellow with a white border, keeled in the middle, and more or less elliptic to nearly kidney shaped. It is always broader than long and has one to three teeth at the apex. It is 6 to 9 mm long by 10 to 12 mm wide.

Botanical Varieties (if any)

Paphiopedilum niveum forma *album* (Ballif) Gross

Synonyms:

Cypripedium niveum var. *album* Ballif
Cordula nivea (Rchb.F.) Rolfe

Awards:

This species has been awarded by the AOS 94 times over the period 1960 through 2021 (AM-37; HCC-40; JC-5; CBM-2; CCE-1; CCM-8; CHM-1).

Hybrids:

Paphiopedilum niveum has 279 First Generation offspring, and Total Progeny of 3,735 (through the 9th generation). This species has also been involved in creating Primary Hybrids 86 times as both the seed and pollen parent.

Paphiopedilum Angela was registered in 1910 by Cookson and is a cross of *Paph. farrieanum* x *Paph. niveum*. The hybrid has 1 First Generation offspring and 1 total progeny. The hybrid has been awarded by AOS 50 times (AM-17; HCC-30; JC-1; CCM-2).



***Paphiopedilum* Angela
'Sister Dolores Jehl'
AM - 82 points
February 20, 2010**

Of the Primary Hybrids, *Paphiopedilum* Psyche (*Paph. bellatulum* x *Paph. niveum*), originated by Winn and registered in 1893 has produced the most First-Generation offspring at 97 (It also has Total Progeny of 2,690 through the 8th generation) and AOS awards of 43 during the period 1974 through 2009 (FCC-2; AM-16; HCC-24; CCM-1).

References:

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

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