

# SPECIES DATA SHEET

*Paphiopedilum venustum* (Wallich ex Sims) Pfitzer 1888

Subgenus: *Sigmatopetalum*



*Paphiopedilum venustum*

## General Information:

This species is found on the southern slopes of the Himalayas in Eastern Nepal, Darjiling (Darjeeling), Sikkim, and Bhutan. They are also found in northeastern India in the Meghalaya district and in Assam north of the Bramaputra River. *Paph. venustum* usually grows at 1000-4450 ft. (300-1350 m). Plants normally grow in humus in dense jungle undergrowth at the base of cliffs, or in dense bamboo thickets. However, they are occasionally found in tree crotches with their roots in

composted leaf litter. Their habitats are situated in some of the wettest areas of our planet. This species usually flowers from December through March, but plants have been reported to flower all year round.

### **General Description:**

Although usually smaller, it is not uncommon to find plants of *Paph. venustum* as large as 45 cm from leaf tip to leaf tip. Each leaf is up to 25 cm long by 4 to 5 cm wide. Leaves vary in form narrowly oblong-lanceolate to broadly ovate. The somewhat older leaves are slightly undulate and curve downward toward the apex. The surface color is also variable in that the mottling can be faint to distinct. Leaves are often dull silvery green with a random, dark green, blotchy pattern on the upper side, and the underside is usually richly spotted with purple. The inflorescence is 15 to 20 cm high, terete, dark purple, shortly hirsute, and usually carries one or two flowers with a natural spread of up to 9 cm. The most striking feature of the flower is the deep green venation covering almost the entire blossom, which is masked only in the apical regions of the petals by an orange to red coloration. The dorsal sepal is pointed, and slightly cupped with the margins sometimes slightly waved. It is white with twelve to twenty deep green, longitudinal veins. The petals are more or less horizontally spreading, 4.5 to 5.5 cm long by 1.2 to 1.7 cm wide and the upper margins usually are undulate distally. The apical region of the petals is more or less recurved. The petal rim is irregularly ciliate and interrupted by sparse, randomly placed warts. Some brown spots are scattered irregularly over the light green basal area of each petal, from which dark green veins stretch out and fade into the orange to red apical region. A brown medial line with a high concentration of spots alongside it separates the more intensely colored upper half from the lower one. The lip is shaped like an inverted helmet. It is 4 to 5 cm high by 2.2 to 3 cm broad and stands at a 45-degree angle to the scape. Its margins are smooth. The infolded side lobes are rounded and light brown. The ground color of the lip is lightish brownish cream, sometimes suffused with reddish tones, and is always colored by dark green, web like veining, giving the pouch surface a distinctly marbled appearance. The staminodal shield is shaped like a crescent moon with strongly rounded tips. It is about 13 mm wide by more or less than 8 mm high, slightly concave with a raised center, and has a rounded inward pointing tooth at the lower rim. The glossy, light green staminode is marked with a dark green, web like pattern in the center. The rear of the staminodal disc is purple brown.

### **Botanical Varieties (if any)**

*Paphiopedilum venustum* forma *measuresianum* (Braem) 1999

*Cypripedium venustum*

*Paphiopedilum venustum* forma *pardinum* (Reichenbach fil.) Braem 1999

### **Synonyms:**

None

### **Awards:**

This species has been awarded by the AOS 82 times over the period 1965 through 2020 FCC-1; (AM-32; AQ-1; HCC-26; JC-3; CBM-1; CCM-19).

### **Hybrids:**

*Paphiopedilum venustum* has 139 First Generation offspring, and Total Progeny of 454 (through the 7th generation). This species has also been involved in creating Primary Hybrids 65 times as both the seed and pollen parent.

*Paphiopedilum* Double deception was registered in 1987 by J. Hanes and is a cross of *Paph. venustum* x *Paph. sukhakulii*. The hybrid has 23 First Generation offspring, and 53 total progeny. The hybrid has been awarded by AOS 15 times (AM-4; HCC-11).



*Paphiopedilum* Double Deception  
'Double Up'

**References:**

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

Orchids Plus 1.4

OrchidWiz 5.1