

# SPECIES DATA SHEET

*Phalaenopsis corningiana* Rchb.f. 1879

Subgenus: *Polychilos*



*Phalaenopsis corningiana*

## General Information:

This species is found in Borneo, on limestone cliffs at 1500-2000 ft. (460-610 m). Plants are usually found near waterfalls 10-20 ft. (3-6 m) above the ground on huge, mossy trees. They die quickly if moved to the lowlands.

Confusion has ever surrounded the identity of this species and the various darker color morphs of *Phalaenopsis sumatrana*, compounded by repeated misidentifications of *Phal. sumatrana* and *Phal. corningiana*. The best way to separate the two is by floral fragrance. *Phal. corningiana* has wonderfully scented flowers similar to old-fashioned ribbon candy. *Phal. sumatrana*, on the other hand, has a mildly acrid fragrance without any of the spicy tones of candy.

### **General Description:**

This species is an epiphyte. The leaves are elliptic-obovate, tapered to the conduplicate base, rounded, acute to 32 cm long by 11 cm wide. The inflorescences are arching to sub pendent racemes or panicles 32 cm long by 11 cm long, the floral bracts are triangular, acute, concave up to 5 mm long. The flowers are fragrant, the sepals and petals cream to greenish cream overlaid with brown barring, the bars transverse toward the base of the segments and typically longitudinally aligned toward the apex, extreme individuals bear nearly solid red flowers, the lip white with broad longitudinal purple stripes all but obscuring the ground color, the column is white. The dorsal sepal is oblong-elliptic, obtuse, or minutely notched, convex, up to 40 cm long by 13 mm wide. The lateral sepals are obliquely oblong-obovate, obtuse, shallowly convex to 30 x 15 mm. petals oblong-oblongeolate, bluntly subacute to 35 x 12 mm. The lip is three lobed, to 20 mm long and 17 mm wide across the expanded lateral lobes, the lateral lobes erect, oblong-elliptic, truncate with the elongate corners, the posterior corner falcate, the mid lobe oblong, obtuse, with a central raised keel, with a boss of dense trichomes at the apex. The callus is apparently uniseriate, sulcate, bifid, at the base continuous with a structure analogous to a posterior keel, forming a sunken pit. The column is arching, with a coarsely erose-dentate hood over the anther bed. The pedicel and ovary are 4 cm long.

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

*Phalaenopsis sumatrana* var. *sanguinea* Rchb.f. 1881

### **Synonyms/Forms:**

None

### **Awards:**

This species has been awarded by the AOS 14 times over the period 1970 through 2014 (AM-6; HCC-3; CBM-2; CCE-1; CCM-2).

### **Hybrids:**

*Phalaenopsis corningiana* has 81 First Generation offspring, and Total Progeny of 265 (through the 5th generation). This species has also been involved in creating Primary Hybrids 28 times as both the seed and pollen parent.

*Phalaenopsis* Corning's Violet was registered in 1976 by C. Sheviak and is a cross of *Phal. violacea* x *Phal. corningiana*. The hybrid has 43 First Generation offspring, and 150 total progeny. The hybrid has been awarded by AOS 5 times (AM-2; HCC-3).



***Phalaenopsis* Corning's Violet  
'Sweet Mahogany'  
AM-80 points  
May 3, 1980**

**References:**

Christenson, Eric, *Phalaenopsis, a Monograph*, Timber Press, Inc., 2001

Orchids Plus 1.4

OrchidWiz 5.1