

SPECIES DATA REPORT

Cattleya liliputana Pabst 1973

Common Name The Dwarf Laelia

Flower Size 4/5" to 1 1/4" [2 to 3 cm]

ORIGIN/HABITAT: Brazil. Plants are found in a small area of Minas Gerais, just south of Belo Horizonte in the Serra do Ouro Branco. They grow amid lichens on sloping granite and gneiss ledges and around the roots of Vellozia bushes at about 5250 ft. (1600 m). The McQueens (1993) report that, "The area experiences a long dry season relieved only by nightly dews. Plants are subjected to ten hours of direct sunlight each day, but good winds help to moderate temperatures."

PLANT SIZE AND TYPE: A very tiny, 0.7–1.8 in. (1.7–4.5 cm) sympodial lithophyte. **PSEUDOBULB:** 0.3–0.6 in. (0.7–1.5 cm) long by 0.2–0.4 in.

(0.5–1.0 cm) wide. The small round pseudobulbs are tightly clustered, and they are often tinged with purple when grown in high light.

LEAVES: 0.4–1.2 in. (1–3 cm) long. A single stiff, erect, succulent, boat-shaped leaf, which is often tinged with purple, is carried at the apex of each pseudobulb. **INFLORESCENCE:** 1.2–1.6 in. (3–4 cm) long. A single erect flower spike on each growth emerges at the top of the pseudobulb through a narrow sheath that is about 0.4 in. (1 cm) long. Flowers are carried near the top of each inflorescence.

FLOWERS: 1–2. The star-shaped blossoms, which are very large compared to the plant size, open fully and measure 0.8–1.2 in. (2–3 cm) across. Sepals and petals are 0.4–0.7 in. (1.0–1.7 cm) long by about 0.2 in. (0.4 cm) wide. They have a crystalline texture and vary in color from white to pale pink. The curved, 3-lobed lip, which is about 0.4 in. (1 cm) long, is yellow-orange on the inside with a white or pink edge. Side lobes curl upward to form a tube that encloses the column. The very wavy midlobe is strongly recurved.



Awards: *L. liliputana* 'Anton Ghillany' CBM/AOS 82 pts., 2 flowers on 1 inflorescence, 2.6 cm NS, on a plant 3 cm tall

Hybrids: total of 17 registered, to the 3rd generation; there are 4 awarded hybrids: *C. Little Cameo* 'Frostbite' (*C. liliputana* x *C. brevipedunculata*) 50% each, CCM,AM,HCC; *Rlc. Firestar* 'J.E.M.' (*C. liliputana* x *Rlc. Waikiki Gold*) 50% each, 1 HCC, 1 offspring; *Epc. Frank's Angel Candy* 'Seagrove's Friend' (*Epi. longipetalum* x *C. liliputana*) 50% each, 1 HCC; *Ctt. Japanese Beauty* 'Sakura' (*Ctt. Fairyland* x *C. Misaki Bells*) 1HCC, 25% *liliputana*, 3 offspring. Limited hybridization with this species.

Synonyms: *Cattleya liliputana* (Pabst) Van den Berg 2008; *Hoffmannseggella liliputana* (Pabst) H.G. Jones 1974; *Sophronitis liliputana* (Pabst) C. Berg & M.W. Chase 2000

References:
OrchidWiz Database
Orchidspecies.com



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