

***Paphiopedilum tigrinum* Koop. & N.Haseg., Orchid Advocate 16: 78 (1990).**

The Tiger Striped Paphiopedilum

Synonyms

- *Paphiopedilum markianum* Fowlie, Orchid Digest 54: 125 (1990).
- *Paphiopedilum smaragdinum* Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen, J. Wuhan Bot. Res. 21: 489 (2003).
- *Paphiopedilum tigrinum* f. *smaragdinum* (Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen) O.Gruss, Orchidee (Hamburg) 56: 71 (2005).
- *Paphiopedilum tigrinum* var. *smaragdinum* (Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen) Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen, Gen. Paphiopedilum China: 163 (2009).
- *Paphiopedilum markianum* f. *smaragdinum* (Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen) Braem, Richardiana 13: 173 (2013).

This species in section Paphiopedilum looks as if it is probably closely related to *Paph. hirsutissimum*. It shares similarly shaped petals and a floral sheath that appears long before the flower bud develops. It differs in the broad irregular stripes that occur on both the dorsal sepal and the petals. (Koopowitz, H. 2018).

Descriptions

Paph. tigrinum can be found on the western slopes of the Yunnan and apparently the population had been devastated in this site through commercial collection. According to Dr. Perner, the main distribution of *Paph. tigrinum* seems to have been in Northern Myanmar.

They can be found growing epiphytes or lithophytes, sometimes also terrestrial, at altitudes of 4,593 – 7,218 ft. (1,400 – 2200 m.). The single flower could be 3.2 to 3.6" [8 to 9 cm] and blooms in the Spring and Summer.

Hybridization and awards

According to Orchid Wiz X5.1 specimens of the species has been granted AOS award from 1990 to 2017. 40 flower quality award, 2 cultures awards and 1 CBR. From the same source, there are 33 first generation offspring and 5 awards.

Contrastingly, first generation hybrids using *Paph. tigrinum* have been giving just four awards under the AOS.

Paph. Wössner Tigerhenry (*Paph. tigrinum* x *Paph. henryanum*) HCC 79 points (2008)
Paph. Wössner Concotiger (*Paph. concolor* x *Paph. tigrinum*) HCC 75 points (1998)
Paph. Wössner Tigerprim (*Paph. tigrinum* x *Paph. primulum*) HCC 76 points (2002)
Paph. Tiger Mountain (*Paph. tigrinum* x *Paph. William Mathew*) AM 83 points (2016)

Why not too much awards and why scores are low?. I think bar is had been set higher by the parents and more works breeding should be done, for example the only AM, *Paph.* Tiger Mountain get improve the wide dorsal and the mixed well balance diverse colors.

The first from the list above, for me got better segment balance and form or fill up an imaginary circle with the dorsal sepal, petals and pouch, also the shape of the pouch seems to had a enhance form.

In general, *Paph. tigrinum* is rather uniform in coloration, color patterns and shape and size of flowers. But in the early 1990s, when the recently discovered wild populations were ruthlessly hunted by commercial collectors, unusual color forms used to appear now and then, and in 1998, such an aberrant color form flowered in the collection of Andrew Huber in California. Similar to *Paph. henryanum* forma *christae*, it lacked the dark brown patterns in the flower, i.e., the spotting and stripping so typical of *Paph. tigrinum* was missing, and the flower showed just yellow and magenta colors. The form proved to be stable and the plant produced similar flowers every year.
(Perner, H. 2015)

There are forma of this species showing nice colors like: *Paph. barbigerum* f. *aspersum* and *Paph. barbigerum* f. *aureum*.



Photographer: Tom Etheridge

Paphiopedilum Wössner
Tigerhenry 'Diana Hunter'
HCC/AOS 79 Points



Photographer: Melissa Garner

Paphiopedilum Tiger
Mountain 'Windy Hill'
AM/AOS 83 Points

A new form of this species had been described by Dr. Koopowitz, *Paph. tigrinum* forma *Huberae*. This shows pale yellow-green dorsal sepal, with similarly colored ventral sepal and labellum. The wide petals, reflexing back are pale lavender-purple at the distal portion.

References

Koopowitz, H. 2003. *Paphiopedilum tigrinum* forma *huberae* Koop. f. nov. A new color form of this unusual slipper orchid is named. *Orchid Digest*. Vol 67 (1): 58.

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Perner, H. 2015. The Tiger Orchid – *Paphiopedilum tigrinum*. *The Slipper Orchid*: Vol 16 (4): 2-6.

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