

Species Data Sheet

Laelia anceps Lindl., Edwards's Bot. Reg. 21: t. 1751 (1835)

[LAY-lee-ah AN-seps]

This laelia, the most common from Mexico, gets its name from the two-edged flower stalk. Also, the pseudobulbs are distinctly two-edged and are broadly ribbed on the two opposite sides, resulting in a flattened, diamond-like cross section. This species has sometimes been called the "Purpurata of the North" in reference to *C. purpurata*, one of the most common cattleyas from Brazil. It has long been popular and has survived well in cultivation for more than a century. In Mexico it has been referred to as el toro.

The single, rarely two, leaves are oblong-lanceolate, of heavy texture, 15-20 cm. long and of a light green color. The flower stalk rises to as much as 3 ft. (almost 1 m.) and bears up to five flowers. The sepals and petals are usually a bright rose-purple with the lip a dark rich reddish purple. The throat is lighter in color on the sides and white centrally with radiating purple lines. There may be a definite yellow patch on the disc, or the white of the throat may be accentuated. Three central

thickened veins form a callus that is bright yellow in color, and terminates on the disc in either the yellow or white area.

Many color forms have been described over the years and current Mexican research indicates that this species may be a complex of three, four, or more separate species and not simply a single entity. It has long been realized that certain types of 'anceps' plants had distinct distributions and ecological characteristics with which certain color patterns and differences in column structure could be correlated. The four present regions and descriptive differences are:



Laelia anceps var. dawsonii
'Rio Verde' FCC/AOS
Nov 2001, NS 12.2 x 12.0 cm

- 1) in the mountains facing the Gulf Coast, plants tend to have smaller pink or white flowers,
- 2) around Oaxaca plants tend to have white flowers,
- 3) in the state of Jalisco are plants whose flowers are related to the Oaxaca forms,
- 4) in Guerrero plants bear distinctive blooms with more yellow on the lips.

Synonyms:

None in recent times.



Laelia anceps
'SanBar Gloriosa' FCC/AOS
Nov 1984, NS 12.0 cm



Laelia anceps f. lineata
'Feathered Lady NDT' FCC/AOS
Dec 2015, NS 11.5 x 11.6 cm

Variation in *Laelia anceps*



Laelia anceps 'Marble Monarch',
HCC/AOS. Grower: William Babb.



Laelia anceps 'SanBar Pink Flambeau',
AM/AOS. Grower: Santa Barbara Orchid
Estate. Photographer: Arthur Pinkers.



Laelia anceps 'Mono Lake', AM/AOS.
Grower: Santa Barbara Orchid Estate.
Photographer: Larry Vierheilig.



Laelia anceps 'Thanks Leonard',
HCC/AOS. Grower: Orchid Eros.
Photographer: Glen Barfield.



Laelia anceps 'SanBar Pink Envy',
HCC/AOS. Grower: Paul and Ann Tuskes.
Photographer: Arnold Gum.

Varieties / forms:

There are many varieties / forms, some from years ago and some recent. A partial list with descriptions is below (C. Withner, 1990):

Historic sub-varieties / sub-species:

'Dawsonii' has larger than average flowers, was the first form with white sepals and petals, appearing in T. Dawson's collection at Meadow Bank, Glasgow, Scotland, and was described in 1868. The lip was white, streaked thickly with red-purple veinings in the throat, and with the midlobe a rich purple edged in white. It was noted a 1922 article that many plants had come from the original area near Cordoba and all were called 'Dawsonii', the name not indicating a specific clone. Crawshay said in 1902 that the idea that they were all grown from one plant was an error. The original plant was found by John Tucker near Juquila, Mexico.

'Hollidayana' had a crimson midlobe and veining in the throat, instead of the usual dark red-purple, a shorter, broader lip and was equivalent to varieties 'Ashworthiana' (a slate blue form), 'Sirmondsii', 'Waddoniensis', and 'White Queen'.

'Sanderiana' is similar to 'Dawsonii' but with smaller, narrower sepals and petals, and the lip shows some purple in the veins, a rose-purple blotch on the front lobe, less yellow on the keels and is otherwise white. It was described in 1885 and was found with plants called 'Stella'. These had flowers with the same lack of coloration but had broader proportions in all parts. They came from the Pacific Coast areas.

'Schroederae', or Baroness Schroeder', described in 1887, was a satiny rose with purple tips on sepals and petals, and the midlobe deep maroon-purple toward its apex. This was considered equivalent to the following varieties: 'Amesiana', 'Ballantineana', 'Crawshayana', and 'Theodora'.

'Schroederiana', named in 1885, was distinct in the large, full form of both the petals, the lip and the color of the flower. It was white, and the only color was in the lines of purple in the throat.

Sub-varieties, distinguished on the basis of color variation from the usual, also peloria:

'Alba' or 'Virginalis', white flowers with yellow only on the disc of the lip. Also 'Bull's Alba' and 'Worthington's Alba' belong here.

'Blanda', with white sepals and the petals a light rose flush, the side lobes rose-purple and the midlobe deep purple.

'Hilliana', sepals and petals nearly white, the lip bordered with light rose. From the Gulf side.

'Holocheila', a distinctive peloric form with the lip like a petal; rosy lilac throughout.

'Lineata', a slight to distinctive splash petal rosy lilac form.

'Percivaliana', with white sepals and rose-purple petals, the lateral lobes of the lip tipped in amethyst-purple. From the Gulf side.

'Roebingiana' is another peloric form with the petals looking like the lip and colored in crimson-purple.

'Rosea', from the Gulf side, white delicately tinted with rose, especially on the lip.

'Veitchiana', with bluish instead of lavender markings. This cultivar, presumably all divisions of the original clone, has been given two HCC's and one AM by the AOS. New blue cultivars may have been found by now, or the original clone may have been selfed to raise new seedlings in captivity (maybe 'coerulea').

Other cultivars that have been singled out for larger-than-ordinary size or for superior coloring, and several authors made note of the white midrib area at the base of the petals-not an attractive feature in the eyes of most judges

'Irwin' AM/AOS clone with larger, darker flowers, the natural spread running 14.6 cm

'SanBar Gloriosa' FCC/AOS clone with flowers measuring 12 cm. across and remarkably colored, with sepals lighter than petals, a glowing rosy lavender, and much yellow prominent on the disc. This clone is an outstanding example of the Guerrero taxon mentioned above.

Hybridizers, using the peloric 'Roebingiana', have noted a new and intense rosy coloration of both sepals and petals in the offspring, an unexpected bonus.



Laelia anceps var. roebingiana
'La Jolla' HCC/AOS
Dec 2002, NS 6.5 x 9.0 cm



Laelia anceps (hort. F. veitchiana)
'Gold Country' AM/AOS
Feb 2017, NS 12.5 x 13.2 cm



Laelia anceps fma. coerulea
'Melana' AM/AOS
Jan 2005, NS 11.0 x 11.2 cm



Laelia anceps
'Irwin's' AM/AOS
Nov 1976, NS 14.6 cm

Awards:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	JC	CCM	CCE	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS	3	47	51	1	2	12	1	3	3	123
Year(s) Awarded	1984-2015	1966-2017	1979-2018	2006	2003-2008	1963-2012	2014	1978-1989	1964-1975	

This species has been heavily awarded with over 123 AOS awards, which includes 3 FCCs. The number of flower quality awards appears to be increasing since the first AOS quality award in 1966 to the latest in Feb. 2018 as reflected below.

Laelia anceps	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Flower Quality AOS Awards	1	3	11	20	28	38

Breeding Characteristics:

Laelia anceps tends to bloom in the winter, December through February, and is a good first-generation parent. It contributes a stately bearing, starry shape with elongated pointed petals, elongated flower stalk, lip coloration, cold- and drought- resistance are usually dominate.

	Registration decade													
	<1890	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Laelia anceps														
Crosses Registered	0	6	11	15	7	5	4	12	39	54	85	124	238	143
Awards to Crosses Regtr	0	20	17	9	0	2	0	1	22	40	82	52	106	30

As shown in the above table interest in Laelia anceps hybridization has increase in recent years with over 143 crosses register in this decade.

One thing that I did notice was that most of the awards are for first generation crosses, as shown in the table below.

7 Generations of Progeny				
G	Grexes	Awdd.	% Awdd.	Awds
1	307	85	27.7%	262
2	257	31	12.1%	69
3	125	20	16.0%	41
4	40	5	12.5%	7
5	9	1	11.1%	2
6	3	0	0%	0
7	2	0	0%	0

And is point is further emphasized when one removes the progeny of Lc. Puppy Love (the most successful Laelia anceps hybrid) as shown in table below (not 100% accurate since some progeny have been re-crossed with Laelia anceps):

Lc. Puppy Love Progeny Info		
Gen.	Crosses	Assc. Awds
1	67	39
2	97	39
3	18	5
4	1	2

Laelia anceps progeny info minus Lc. Puppy Love progeny info			
	Crosses	Assc. Awds	Pct. Ttl
1	306	244	87.8%
2	190	30	10.8%
3	28	2	0.7%
4	22	2	0.7%
5	8	0	0.0%
6			0.0%

Polyploid Laelia anceps (para-phrase / direct quotes from Dec. 1990 Orchids article by Gene Crocker):

In the fall of 1990 a polyploid form of *L. anceps* 'Irwin's', AM/AOS bloomed at Lenette Greenhouses in Kannapolis, North Carolina, in a group of plants of Carter & Holmes' mericlone # M2754. Other diploid plants from this population flowered at Carter & Holmes in the fall of 1989. The *L. anceps* 'Irwin's' clone is a very fine example of the typical lavender form of *L. anceps*. Mature plants produce six or seven flowers to the raceme, and the flowers are very large for this species. At the time of the award the natural spread of the flower was 14.6 cm (5.8 inches). The polyploid form is superior in shape, substance and color. All segments are wider than in the original plant, and the labellum is especially attractive — broader and more rounded than the typical labellum. The anther cap and column are significantly larger in the polyploid form, and the ovary is considerably thicker. Interestingly, there are no appreciable differences in the characteristics of the plants themselves — just in the flowers, column and ovary.



L. anceps 'Mendenhall' (left, a polyploid) and *L. anceps* 'Irwin's' (right, the normal diploid)

The polyploid variant of *L. anceps* AM/AOS has been given the clonal name, 'Mendenhall' (and received an AM/AOS in Nov. 1991). This plant should be an extremely valuable parent, contributing heavier substance than in typical *L. anceps* hybrids. Cold- and drought-resistance, for which this species is noted, may also be enhanced in the polyploid plants. Polyploid parents are known to be more dominant in passing on their characteristics to their off-spring than are diploid parents

'Major' Hybrids (Top 4 Progeny and Awards):

Laeliocattleya Puppy Love (C. Dubiosa (1890) x L. anceps), 1970, Stewart Inc., 67 F1 and 183 total progeny, 8 AOS awards (2 AMs, 6 HCCs). There are four major progeny, all listed below.

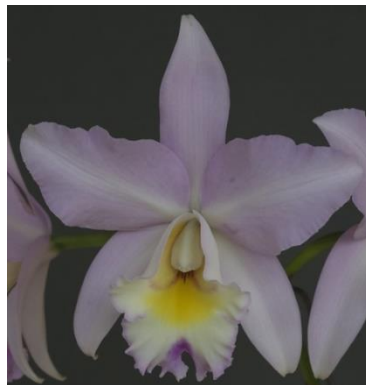
Laeliocattleya [Lc.] Miss Wonderful (C. Mari's Song x L. anceps), 2005, Santa Barbara, 4 F1 progeny, 17 AOS awards (11 AMs, 4 HCCs, 1 JC, 1 AQ). No major progeny

Laeliocatarrhon [Lcr.] Winter Fantasy (Cll. Snowflake x Lc. Angel Heart), 1998, H & R Nurseries, 4 F1 progeny, 8 AOS awards (6 AMs, 2 CCMs).

Laeliocattleya Santa Barbara Sunset (L. anceps x Lc. Ancibarina), 1980, Santa Barbara, 4 F1 progeny, 5 AOS awards (1 AMs, 4 HCCs).



Lc. Miss Wonderful
'Dark Beauty', AM/AOS
Nov 2016, NS 12.0 x 12.0 cm



Laeliocattleya Puppy Love
'True Bearty', HCC/AOS
Nov 2016, NS 12.1 x 12.7 cm



Lcr. Winter Fantasy
'Sun Bulb', AM/AOS
Feb 2015, NS 8.0 x 9.3 cm



Lc. Santa Barbara Sunset
'Peaches', AM/AOS
Jan 2012, NS 8.0 x 9.5 cm

Laeliocattleya Angel Heart (Lc. Puppy Love x C. Penny Kuroda), 1988, H & R Nurseries, 33 F1 and 43 total progeny, 9 AOS awards (3 AMs, 4 HCCs, 2 CCMs). Major Progeny: see **Lcr. Winter Fantasy** above.

Laeliocattleya [Lc.] Angel Love (Lc. Puppy Love x C. Angelwalker), 1988, Orchid Center, 22 F1 and 24 total progeny, 3 AOS awards (1 AM, 2 HCCs).

Laeliocattleya Ann Akagi (Lc. Puppy Love x C. nobilior), 1991, H & R Nurseries, 20 F1 and 24 total progeny, 4 AOS awards (2 AMs, 2 HCCs).

Laelianthe Wrigleyi (Gur. bowringiana x L. anceps), 1899, Wrigley, 14 F1 and 28 total progeny, 9 AOS awards (2 AMs, 4 HCCs, 1 JC, 1 CCE, 1 CCM).



Lc. Angel Heart
'Sumi', AM/AOS
Oct 2010, NS 10.4 x 10.3 cm



Lc. Angel Love
'Pinky', HCC/AOS
May 1996, NS 11.4 x 11.7 cm



Lc. Ann Akagi
'Hihimanu', AM/AOS
May 2014, NS 11.3 x 12.0 cm



Laelianthe Wrigleyi
'Katherine Ann' AM/AOS
Oct 2008, NS 11.0 x 11.3 cm

'Major' 2017 AM/AOS Quality Awardees or Higher (L. anceps progeny)
(not included prior, highest point if more than one, 5+ progeny):



Laelia Summit
'Tomiko' AM/AOS
Oct 2017, NS 7.8 x 8.7 cm
(L. anceps x L. lyonsii)



Lc. Coastal Sunrise
'Goodstuff' AM/AOS
Apr 2017, NS 11.0 x 10.6 cm
(L. anceps x C. Helen Veliz)



Lc. City Life
'Cat's Candy' AM/AOS
Mar 2017, NS 10.0 x 9.8 cm
Lc. Liptonii x C. Circle of Life

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Species Data Sheet

Laelia speciosa Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orchid. Pl.: 115 (1831), nom. cons.

[LAY-lee-ah SPEE-see-oh-sa]

If there is a single Mexican orchid which ranks first in the favor of the natives, almost without question it is *Laelia speciosa*, better known as "lirio" or "Flor de Mayo." This hardy orchid of the central plateau and adjoining highlands is a cool to cold growing (will survive at temperatures as low as 28°F), small sized epiphyte with 1 to 2 leaves that is found in xerophytic conditions (a totally dry season as long as eight months) in open oak forests (will stand full noonday sun) at elevations of 4500 to 6500 ft (1400 to 2400 meters) with sub-globose to ovoid, wrinkled pseudobulbs carrying 1 to 2 lanceolate-elliptic, acute, leathery-fleshy, green suffused with purple, basally clasping leaves that blooms in the spring and summer with an apical, 5 to 6" [12 to 15 cm] long inflorescence which arises from a newly developing pseudobulb and carries 1 to occasionally 4, fragrant flowers. It is a very drought resistant plant and as such should be given a drier environment and a definite dry winter rest.

One does not hear very often that *L. speciosa*, despite its beauty, is being grown successfully in the United States, they gradually run downhill or fail to flower, rarely multiplying into huge clumps as in Mexico. Very possibly the difference between sea level and 6000 feet, the lack of a long dry season of virtually zero humidity, and the equal absence of almost year-round sunshine are factors difficult for a stateside grower to combat successfully. Nevertheless, for what they may be worth, here are a few suggestions for growing *L. speciosa*:



Laelia speciosa
'Bolin' HCC/AOS
Jun 1980, NS 17.0 cm

- (1) *Laelia speciosa*, while it can be grown on tree-fern slabs, seems to prefer the rough bark of a tree. My suggestion would be to tie your plant very firmly to a chunk of rough-barked hardwood resembling its favorite encino of Mexico. Fir bark might be acceptable with care in watering.
- (2) *Laelia speciosa* must have a long, completely dry, resting period. Do not water it at all from October to April; if you do, rotting of the roots is likely to occur and the growth cycle may be so disturbed that flowering will not result. Even sprinkling or misting is not desirable.
- (3) Short of burning, *speciosa* likes close to full sun. Under northern greenhouse conditions, a place at the top of the greenhouse would be ideal.
- (4) During the growing season, which starts in April, a handful of dried cow manure or an organic fertilizer sprinkled around the roots will be beneficial; this is the standard Mexican practice on the ranches.
- (5) If you live where winter temperatures do not drop below about 28°F., *speciosa* should do well outdoors, though if winter rains are expected, some sort of protection from them must be provided.
- (6) Even in summer, night temperatures in *speciosa* country run an average of a cool 55°F.; if you can, try to help your plant during hot weather.
- (7) The alba forms of *L. speciosa* are delicate growers and rarely multiply into large colonies; they require considerably more shade than the purple form, especially at flowering time when blasting of the buds is a danger.

Despite its seeming reluctance to grow as easily in greenhouse conditions as its well-known cousins, *L. anceps* and *L. autumnalis*, the challenge to flower this lovely Mexican species should be accepted; the reward of success will be well worth the effort expended as you admire the handsome six-inch blooms in early May.

Synonyms:

Laelia grandiflora

Laelia majalis

Varieties / forms:

There is large variation, in size as well as form and coloration in the flowers. The patterns in the lip are as variable as fingerprints, and therefore it can be said that each flower is unique. Completely white flowers are rare enough, but a fair number of them are however known. There are semi-alba flowers, with delicate tones, as well as flowers with very intense and contrasting coloration. Recently, flowers with white sepals and petals with dark, lilac borders have appeared. The flowers with biggest size and best form come from Michoacán.

Five color groups have been recognized in this species:

- (1) Rose-lilac, as the more common type in the wild;
- (2) Lilac-magenta, darker than usual, generally with contrasting pattern of the lip;
- (3) Very pale lilac, with delicate tones on the lip;
- (4) Albas, with only the callus slightly yellow,
- (5) Semialbas, with white to whitish sepals and petals with a very pale design on the lip.



Laelia speciosa var. alba

Awards:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	JC	CCM	CCE	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS		1	2		1					
Year(s) Awarded		1988	1970-1980		1973					

Probably due to difficulty in growing *L. speciosa* outside of its native habitat, there are very few AOS awards and none for any of the color variations mentioned above. The JC was for a *Laelia majalis* 'Oviedo Mota' and was commended for "unusual splashed variety; superior form" and was awarded in Mexico City, Mexico to Alicia Oviedo Mota from Mioacan, Mexico in 1973.

Breeding Characteristics:

Laelia speciosa has not been used much in hybridizing, probably due to difficulty in cultivation, weak substance, and drooping, arching petals which is not favored by breeders or judges. *Laelia speciosa* does have a total of 37 progeny, 30 being first generation with only two receiving awards.

	Registration decade												
	<1900	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Laelia speciosa													
Crosses Registered	4	7	3	1	0	0	0	2	2	5	2	2	9
Awards to Crosses Regtr	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
F1 Progeny to Crosses Regtr	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1

From the above table, there was an initial breeding interest around 1900s and 1980s with a recent peaking in using *Laelia speciosa* in hybridizing.

2017 Award Winners:

None.



Laelirhynchos Thwaitesii
'Starbek' HCC/AOS
Aug 1987, NS 16.5 cm

'Major' Hybrids:

Laeliocattleya Ballet Folklorico (C. Song of Norway x *L. speciosa*), 1975, Stewart Inc., no progeny, 2 AOS awards (1 HCC, 1 JC). JC comments "Flowers not of award quality, but represent a primary hybrid made with a hardy, cool-growing *Laelia* in an attempt to develop a cool-growing *Laeliocattleya* for outdoor culture in temperate areas. Flowers well-spaced on *Laelia*-type spike, quite large and nicely colored. No dimensions given."

Laelirhynchos [Lrn.] Thwaitesii (*Rl. digbyana* x *L. speciosa*), 1907, Thwaites, 1 F1 progeny, 1 HCC/AOS award.



Lc. Ballet Folklorico
'Eloquence' JC/AOS
May 1975

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Species Data Sheet

Laelia gloriosa (Rchb.f.) L.O.Williams, Darwiniana 5: 76 (1941)

[LAY-lee-ah glow-ri-OH-sa]

Laelia gloriosa is one of approximately 20 species that were part of the genus Schomburgkia that has since been had all plants moved to either *Laelia* or to *Myrmecophila*. The major differences between these two genera being that Myrmecophila have hollow core pseudobulbs that tend to be the home of ants and with a distribution from Mexico to Venezuela and the Carribean Islands, whereas the Laelia group have solid fusiform pseudobulbs and distributed in South America.

Laelia gloriosa is a member of the Laelia crisa complex with the major differences between Laelia gloriosa and Laelia crisa being the shape of the lip and column, see outline drawings in figure below. Due to the confusion associated with species identification within this complex, the distribution is debatable but is believed to be only in Venezuela and Brazil. The pseudobulbs can reach a length of 30 cm with 2-3 rigid 6 x 32 cm leaves and an flower stalk up to 75 cm long bearing 8-15 flowers. The



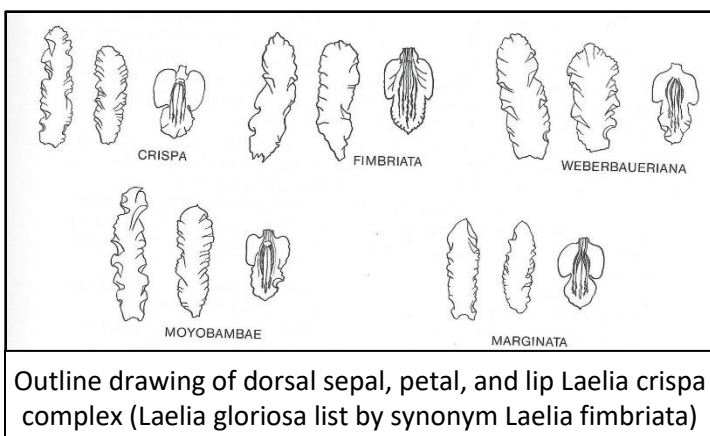
Laelia gloriosa
'Aura Josefina' AM/AOS
Jan 2016, NS 4.7 x 4.2 cm

thin undulating / curly sepals and petals are brown or chesnut and can have a purple tinge with tessellated veins. The lip is pale with purple or brown flushes, especially toward the margins, and has amethyst veing in the throat and five pale yellow, raised veins on the disc. The peak blooming season is January to February.

Synonyms:

Schomburgkia gloriosa
Schomburgkia fimbriata

There have been many others but not recently. The main issue with Laelia gloriosa is the confusion within the Laelia crisa complex especially between



Outline drawing of dorsal sepal, petal, and lip Laelia crisa complex (Laelia gloriosa list by synonym Laelia fimbriata)

Laelia crisa and Laelia gloriosa. A survey, 1977, of cultivated plants in Brazil found that the plants ascribed to L. crisa were in reality L. gloriosa.

Varieties / forms:

Laelia gloriosa f. alba



Laelia gloriosa fma. alba
'Bela Vista' HCC/AOS
Jun 2006

Awards:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	JC	CCM	CCE	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS		1	2			1				
Year(s) Awarded		2016	2006-2008			2008				

Three cultivars have received AOS awards with one, 'Casey Green', receiving both an HCC and a CCM in 2008.

Breeding Characteristics:

The first hybrid with *L. gloriosa* was registered in 1964, but in the past ten years over half of the registered crosses have been made and very few have received awards, as shown in table below.

Due to lack hybridization and awards to those created, very little can be determined. From the pictures available, it appears that the general shape is dominate (but not strongly), various shades of lavender, intensifies color, and floriferous.

	Registration decade							
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Total
<i>Laelia gloriosa</i>								
Crosses Registered	0	2	4	2	2	7	9	26
Awards to Crosses Regtr	0	1	1	0	4	1	1	8
F1 Progeny to Crosses Regtr	0	2	0	1	2	3	0	8

2017+ Award Winners:

No grex has been awarded recently.

'Major' Hybrids (Six have received AOS Awards):

Laelia Rocky Clough (*L. undulata* x *L. gloriosa*), 2000, G. Carr, 3 F1 progeny, 1 no AOS awards.

Laeliocattleya [Lc.] Angel Wings (*C. Little Angel* x *L. gloriosa*), 1964, Jones & Scully, 2 F1 and 3 total progeny, 1 AM/AOS award.

Laelianthe [Lnt.] Memoria Earl Blanford (*Gur. aurantiaca* x *L. gloriosa*), 1995, Arnold J. Klehm, 2 F1 progeny, 3 AOS awards (1 AM, 1 HCC, 1 CCM).

Caulaelia [Cll.] Margaret Klehm (*Cll. Snowflake* x *L. gloriosa*), 1997, Arnold J. Klehm, no progeny, 1 AM/AOS award.



Laelia Rocky Clough
'Rocky' HCC/AOS
Jan 2009, NS 5.3 x 4.0 cm



Laeliocattleya Angel Wings
'Emily' AM/AOS
Oct 2003, NS 11.4 x 10.4 cm



Lnt. Memoria Earl Blanford
'Cam-High' AM/AOS
Mar 1996, NS 4.4 x 4.3 cm



Caulaelia Margaret Klehm
'Pauka'a' HCC/AOS
Mar 2014, NS 6.9 x 7.5 cm



Laelia Princessa Veronica
'Que Linda' HCC/AOS
Mar 2015, NS 9.0 x 8.8 cm

Laelia Princessa Veronica (L. superbiens x L. gloriosa), 2015, Plantio La Orquidea C.A., no progeny, 1 HCC/AOS award.

Laeliocattleya Cinnamon Crisp (L. gloriosa x C. cinnabarina), 1972, C. Withner, no progeny, 1 HCC/AOS award.



Rby. Lahaina Novelty
'Remar', HCC/AOS
Sep 1994, NS 11.0 x 11.5 cm

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Species Data Sheet

Guarianthe [Gur.] skinneri

(Bateman) Dressler & W.E.Higgins, Lankesteriana 7: 38 (2003)

[gwar-ee-AN-thee Skin-er-eye]

A common epiphytic, Guarianthe skinneri is found from southern Mexico to Costa Rica at altitudes from sea level to 4100 ft (1250 m) in humid deciduous forests. The pseudobulbs are club-shaped, to 20 in (50 cm) tall, with a pair of oblong-elliptic, fleshy leaves (10-20 cm long by 2.5-6 cm wide) at the apex. The racemose, short 12 cm inflorescence with 4-14 flowers. Flowers medium-sized up to 5 in. (12.5 cm) across, showy, rose to vivid-purple, rarely white; lip entire (encircles the column), apex round with a white or creamy throat, disc whitish.

A well-flowered Guarianthe skinneri can look like an azalea in flower; covered in so many flowers that the foliage isn't even visible.

Gur. skinneri is one of the easiest of the orchids to grow. It is a vigorous plant and usually produces multiple leads, so you can develop it into an exhibition plant with very little effort.

In the United States, it begins sending out new growths in late summer and will complete these by late autumn or early winter. If you encourage the plant to begin growing a little earlier with frequent light sprays of water in late June, it can make two growths a season and bloom on both of them.

Gur. skinneri is one of the orchids whose bud sheath turns brown and paperish long before the buds show any signs of growth. Flowering is usually in the spring (March through May, with a peak in May).

Guarianthe skinneri is the national flower of Costa Rica, called the Guaria Morada, the Purple Guaria [Orchid].

Synonyms:

Cattleya skinneri



Guarianthe skinneri
'Carpinteria' FCC/AOS
Apr 1993, NS 8.6 x 8.8 cm



Guarianthe skinneri
'Carlos Solis' FCC/AOS
Feb 2015, NS 12.0 x 11.5 cm

Varieties / forms:

Shown in these figures are the various varietal colors. I was not able to find descriptions for most and will attempt to provide descriptive terms below.

hort. var. oculata, f. oculata, oculata alba, (Oculata) – can vary from pure white flowers with a spot of lavender at the base of the lip to white flowers with a blush of color. NOTE: The variety with a spot of lavender at the base of the lip is also sometimes referred to as ‘semi-alba’.

f. coerulea, (Coerulea) – the ‘blue’ form
f. alba – pure white flowers with a yellow throat.

f. rosea, (Rosea) – flowers with a light lavender color.

In the ‘Judges Commendations’ there has also be mention varieties, the first for are below:

- ... pale lavender flowers ... commended for color not usually seen in Gur. skinneri; presented as var. delicate.
- ... flowers white, slightly tinged blue; lip solid lavender basally, throat light yellow, ... commended for distinctive, unusual, very well-defined lavender ring around base of lip.
- ... flowers dark lavender; darker striation on outer edge of petals; darker lines on sepals; lip with dark lavender striation; throat white; commended for ununusal pattern of marks on sepals and petals, uniform on all segments.
- ... sepals and petals white with very light lavender tint; lip white with central portion cream colored surrounded by .5 cm lavender ring ... commended for unusual lip coloration.



Gur. skinneri (hort. var. oculata)
 ‘Maria Adelia’ FCC/AOS
 May 2010, NS 10.0 x 9.3 cm



Guarianthe skinneri (Coerulea)
 ‘Orchid Eros’ HCC/AOS
 Nov 2012, NS 8.2 x 7.6 cm



Guarianthe skinneri f. alba
 ‘Yolanda Cuesta’ FCC/AOS
 Mar 1996, NS 9.0 x 10.4 cm



Guarianthe skinneri (Rosea)
 ‘Isabella/La Amistad’ AM/AOS
 Mar 2017, NS 11.0 x 10.2 cm

Awards:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	JC	CCM	CCE	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS	13	56	15		12	41	4			141
Year(s) Awarded	1981-2017	1975-2017	1965-2016		1965-2009	1954-2017	2010-2017			

There appears to be a great deal of interest in Guarianthe skinneri, because since 2015, there has been 25 AOS awards, 18 being quality awards and five of them being FCCs. VERY impressive for a common species with 66 quality awards prior to 2015.

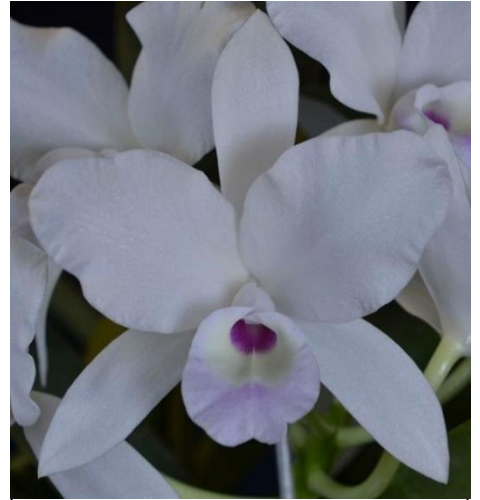
Of the 13 FCCs received for Guarianthe skinneri, this report has already provided pictures of four, on the next page are the other nine.



Gur. skinneri (hort. var. oculata)
'Leonardo Ulloa' FCC/AOS
Feb 2016, NS 10.2 x 10.0 cm



Guarianthe skinneri
'Casa de Campo' FCC/AOS
Apr 2016, NS 11.0 x 11.0 cm



Gur. skinneri (hort. var. oculata)
'Mariana Rodriguez' FCC/AOS
Mar 2017, NS 11.0 x 12.5 cm



Guarianthe skinneri
'El Nazareno' FCC/AOS
Apr 2015, NS 11.2 x 11.2 cm



Guarianthe skinneri
'Angela de Alvarenga' FCC/AOS
Mar 2005, NS 11.0 x 9.7 cm



Guarianthe skinneri
'JJ' FCC/AOS
Apr 2003, NS 9.2 x 11.0 cm



Gur. skinneri f. alba
'Florita' FCC/AOS
Mar 1989, NS 9.0 cm



Guarianthe skinneri
'Heiti Jacobs' FCC/AOS
Feb 1981, NS 11.1 cm



Guarianthe skinneri f. alba
'Debbie' FCC/AOS
Apr 1985, NS 10.5 cm

Breeding Characteristics:

The latest breeding information that I could find was back in 1982 when it was stated that :

Guarianthe skinneri does "... not make such fine hybrids and have poor lasting qualities."

As mentioned in the prior section, it appears recent line breeding has improved the species qualities and in turn improved the breeding stock. I suspect in the next few years we will see improved hybrids also.

Registration Decade

Gur. skinneri	<1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Register Crosses	5	6	2	0	0	6	6	38	15	27	31	42	27
Assoc. Awards	1	0	0	0	0	1	68	14	3	1	10	30	3
Registered F1's	5	6	1	0	0	6	2	15	7	10	13	21	16

There was an initial peak in breeding with Gur. skinneri in the 1960s and since the 1980s there has been a constant increase in breeding. The award peak in 1950 was when Gur. Guatemalensis was determined to be a hybrid.

'Major' Hybrids:

Top 6 awardees and top 2 number of progeny (OrchidWiz X4.1, Update: December 2017, RHS Regr Jul-Sep 2017) with at least one award.

Guarianthe Guatemalensis, remake of natural hybrid (Gur. aurantiaca x Gur. skinneri), 1950, hort., 46 F1 and 87 total progeny, 49 AOS awards (14 AMs, 8 HCCs, 4 JC, 2 AQ, 20 CCMs, 1 CBM). Major progeny: **Ctt. Pixie** see below;

Enanthleya Pixie Charm see below.

Enanthleya [Eny] Pixie Charm (Ctt. Pixie x E. alata), 2001, H & R Nurseries, no progeny, 9 AOS awards (3 AMs, 5 HCCs, 1 CCM).

Enanthleya Banana Split (Ctt. Pixie x E. cordigera), 2006, H & R Nurseries, no progeny, 9 AOS awards (1 AM, 8 HCCs).

Guarianthe Tristan Fitch (Gur. Guatemalensis x Gur. skinneri), 1961, William Kirch Orchids, no progeny, 7 AOS awards (2 AMs, 4 HCCs, 1 CCM).



Guarianthe Guatemalensis
'Josh' AM/AOS
Mar 2014, NS 7.1 x 7.0 cm



Enanthleya Pixie Charm
'Stony Brook' AM/AOS
May 2017, NS 6.0 x 7.0 cm



Enanthleya Banana Split
'GANDS' AM/AOS
Apr 2010, NS 7.5 x 8.2 cm



Guarianthe Tristan Fitch
'Quest' AM/AOS
Mar 2016, NS 8.2 x 9.0 cm

Guarianthe Hail Storm (Gur. bowringiana x Gur. skinneri), 1961, Mrs. A. Ainsworth, 3 F1 progeny, 4 CCM/AOS.
Rhyncattleanthe [Rth.] Zul (Gur. skinneri x Rth. Orange Nuggett), 1997, Z. Ibrahim, no progeny, 3 AOS awards (2 HCCs, 1 CCM).
Cattlianthe Pixie (C. crispata x Gur. Guatemalensis), Woodlawn, 1954, 17 F1 and 25 total progeny, 1 HCC/AOS award;
Epicatanthe [Ett.] Pixford (Ctt. Pixie x Epi. stamfordianum), H & R Nurseries, 2001, no progeny, 2 HCC/AOS awards;



Guarianthe Hail Storm
 'Nilene' CCM/AOS
 Jan 1967



Rhyncattleanthe Zul
 'Wantana' HCC/AOS
 Feb 2010, NS 9.6 x 9.5 cm



Cattlianthe Pixie
 'Golddust' HCC/AOC
 Mar 1980, NS 7.9 cm



Epicatanthe Pixford
 'A. O. C.' AM/AOC
 Dec 2005, NS 3.8 x 4.5 cm

2017 Guarianthe skinneri Progeny (3+ members) AM+ Quality Awardees

Enanthleya Pixie Charm
 'Stony Brook' AM/AOS
 May 2017, NS 6.0 x 7.0 cm
 (Ctt. Pixie x E. alata)



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Award Descriptions



Cattlianthe [Ctt.] Synda Nelson – Quality Award Description

(Ctt. Aloha Jewel x Ctt. Orchidglade)

Five stellate flowers on an erect inflorescence; sepals and petals scarlet, lanceolate, sepals narrower than petals; lip yellow dusted maroon heavier on edges, apically transitions to heavy maroon overlay; substance firm; texture matte.

Enanthleya [Eny.] Don Eli – Quality Award Description

(Ctt. Cynthia Martel Utuado x E. tampensis)

Eleven flat stellate flowers on one multi-branched arched 30 cm inflorescence; sepals and petals light olive green; lip

white, entire, midlobe dot veined lavender, edge serrulate with some ruffling; column and anther cap white; substance firm; texture matte.



Laelia Grace Belle – Cultural Award Description

(L. anceps x L. speciosa)

Fifteen recurved stellate lavender flowers and three buds on twelve erect inflorescences presented on a robust plant with blemish-free light-green foliage in a 8 inch [21 cm] clay pot; sepals lavender, lanceolate; petals elliptical, dark lavender blotch apical; lip lavender, overlaid darker lavender with dark lavender blotches tend to veins basally, midlobe heavily overlaid dark lavender apically, small white disc, creamy yellow callus with a dark lavender vein; column white, anther cap with with a dark

lavender blotch apically; substance good; texture diamond dust.

Laeliocattleya [Lc.] Pretty Touch – Quality Award Description

(C. Final Touch x L. anceps)

Nine cupped stellate flowers on three erect inflorescences; sepals and petals light lavender lanceolate, petals twice as wide as sepals; lip orange-scarlet, entire, ruffled, midlobe heavily overlaid dark carmine, throat veined dark carmine; column and anther cap creamy orange-scarlet; substance firm; texture crystalline.



Laelia Venus – Quality Award Description

(L. Autoceps x L. furfurancea)

Six stellate lavender flowers and one bud on an upright inflorescence; sepals and petals lanceolate; petals twice as wide as sepals; lip darker lavender, typical Laelia autumnalis lip form and color pattern; column lavender; anther cap white; substance good; texture diamond dust.