

Genus *Bifrenaria*

The species type is *Bifrenaria atropurpurea*, which was imported by the Loddiges from Brazil in 1828. The generic name was from two Greek words meaning two and strap and referred to the two-stalked pollinia.

Vegetatively these sympodial epiphytic Orchids are very much alike. The tightly clustered pseudobulbs are almost egg-shaped, two to four inches high and four angled. Each pseudobulb has one leathery leaf at its apex. Individual leaves are oblong to lanceolate an up to eighteen inches long and five inches wide. The inflorescence arises from the base of the pseudobulb and contains one to three flowers.

The two- to three-inch flowers are fleshy and long lasting. The sepals are alike in size, shape and color. Two lateral sepals are attached at the right angles to the dorsal sepal, as in *Maxillaria*, and are fused to the foot of the column forming a short spur. The dual strap connected the pollinia to the viscidium is a characteristic that separate *Bifrenarias* from *Maxillaria*.

The two lateral petals are similar to the sepals in shape but may be slightly smaller and often have wavy margins. The three-lobed lip is also attached to the foot of the column and forms part of the spur. The two lateral lobes partially enclose the column. The mid-lobe of the lip is sometimes reflexed. They are covered with numerous hairs and have a hairy yellow crest.

The column is almost round, narrow, usually widest near the stigmatic surface and has a foot at the base. The column is clothed in long hairs. The other cap has a slightly roughened surface. The four tightly arranged, yellow pollinia are born on a two-stalked foot. (Sheehan 1976).



Bifrenaria harrisoniae 'Howe'
CCM/AOS 82 Points

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Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AD	AQ	CC	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	Total
Bif. atropurpurea	4/4									1		1		2
Bif. aureofulva	5/6			1								1		2
Bif. charlesworthii	1/1			1								1		2
Bif. clavigera	0/0										1			1
Bif. harrissoniae	11/14		7	4	1					8			2	22
Bif. inodora	5/5		1	2						1	1		1	6
Bif. racemosa	0/0										1		1	2
Bif. silvana	0/0											1		1
Bif. tetragona	1/1									1	1		1	3
Bif. tyrianthina	5/5			2										2
Bif. verboonenii	14											1		1
Bif. vitellina	2/2											1		1
Bif. wittigii	0/0		1											1

I suggested using *Odontoglossum* scale or general scale for judging *Bifrenaria*

References

- Sheehan Marion and Tom. 1976. Orchid Genera, Illustrated – L - Bifrenaria. American Orchid Society Bulletin. Vol. 45 (3): 232.
- Orchidwiz Encyclopedia X9.1
- www.orchidspecies.com.
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