

Species Data Sheet

Brassavola perrinii Lindl., Edwards's Bot. Reg. 18: t. 1561 (1833).

[bra-SAH-vo-la pe-REEN-ee-eye]

The first plants of *Brassavola perrinii* arrived in England in the 1840s in a shipment of orchids sent to Mrs. Harrison of Liverpool by her family in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The plants proved tough enough to survive the long sea voyage, Mrs. Harrison named the species *B. perrinii* after Mr. Perrin, her gardener-grower, who helped them to thrive.

The species has thin, hanging leaves and the flowers are smaller than those of *B. nodosa* or *B. grandiflora*, with a narrower lip. To compensate, there are usually more flowers per stem than the other two species usually bear.

In 1898, the first hybrid with *B. perrinii* was registered [Bc. *Belairensis* (*B. perrinii* x *C. guttata*)], followed in 1909 by Bc. *Joan* (*B. perrinii* x *C. warscewiczii*) and in 1925 by Bc. *Paulae* (*B. perrinii* x *C. dowiana*).

Apparently, these crosses disappointed the growers and hybridizers of *Cailleya* Alliance hybrids in England, for further hybridization of the species did not resume until the 1960s and with growing interest today. The total number of hybrids is 102, but with awards concentrated in a few impressive grexes. The AOS has given more than 34 awards to hybrids of the species, but only 10 grexes have been awarded. And of these 10 awarded grexes, four have received a single award and three have received two awards. That leaves three crosses winning 24 of the 34 awards to *B. perrinii* progeny.

Synonyms:

None in recent times, but.

In *The Cattleyas and their Relatives, Volume V. Brassavola, Encyclia, and other Genera of Mexico and Central America*, C. L. Withner writes "*Brassavola perrinii*, *B. fragrans*, and *B. flagellaris* are a complex of closely related forms that differ in their habitat locations – southern Brazil and farther south, Minas Gerais, and north of Rio de Janeiro, respectively. The plants of *B. perrinii* are most like those of *B. fragrans* and, in my experience, are slightly smaller-flowered and more floriferous.

It is easy to see that using flower size differences alone will not distinguish between *Brassavola perrinii* and *B. fragrans*. At this point I have no foolproof way of differentiating between the two. There is no good key character we can conveniently use to separate them other than their geography, and that is seldom known in a greenhouse collection. Then why am I listing them separately? I simply cannot quite believe they are the same."

Varieties / forms:

No official varieties or forms, the lip is always white sometimes with a spot of color, yellow or green, but the sepals and petals have a variation in color represented by the description of the awarded crosses: pale citron, cream-yellow, light yellow, greenish yellow, sea-green, and the other three awarded plants have no color description.

Awards:

	FCC	AM	HCC	AQ	JC	CCM	CCE	CHM	CBM	TOTAL
AOS						8				
Year(s) Awarded						1963-2012				



Brassavola perrinii

The uniformity in flower shape and color is reflected in the awards, or rather the lack of quality awards, but the cultural awards have truly been outstanding. An example of one of the cultural awards is shown on the right in cultivar 'Emily', when it received the CCM it had 319 flowers on 80 inflorescences in a 17.5 cm (7 inch) plastic pot. *Brassavola perrinii* 'Emily' CCM/AOS besides receiving a CCM/AOS in 1992 it also received the Butterworth Prize which is award to the plant exhibiting the finest orchid culture awarded by the AOS in 1992.



Brassavola perrinii
'Emily' CCM/AOS
May 1992, NS 8.0 x 7.8 cm

Breeding Characteristics:

The plants of *Brassavola perrinii* are April – July. The species is a good parent for hybrids. It contributes to heat tolerance, summer blooming, floriferous, contrasting lip color, substance, and intensification of color in the sepals and petals, and well-rounded lip. The negatives in hybridizing would be a stellate shape and flower size.

	Registration decade												
	<1900	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
<i>Brassavola perrinii</i>													
Crosses Registered	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	12	15	12	19	39
Awards to Crosses Regtr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	29	1	0	2
F1 Progeny to Crosses Regtr	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	3	0

As shown in the above table interest in *Brassavola perrinii* hybridization has increase in recent years with over 30 crosses register in this decade.

Recent Award Winners:

Only one new grex has been awarded recently, **Guarvolclia Valle Turabo**.

'Major' Hybrids:

Brassavola Adrian Hamilton (B. nodosa x B. perrinii), 2010, Claude Hamilton, no progeny, 1 no AOS awards. **Only *Brassavola perrinii* cross to receive any award.**

Rhynchobrassoleya [Rby.] Everything Nice (Rlc. Memoria Helen Brown x B. perrinii), 1981, Stewart Inc., 4 F1 progeny, 12 AOS awards (3 AMs, 8 HCCs, 1 CCM).

Brassanthe [Bsn.] Sunny Delight (B. perrinii x Gur. aurantiaca), 1987, L. Cox, 2 F1 progeny, 4 AOS awards (1 AM, HCC, 1 CCE, 1 CCM).

Rhynchobrassoleya Lahaina Novelty (B. perrinii x Rls. Waikiki Gold), 1985, L. Aotaki, 1 F1 progeny, 5 AOS awards (1 AMs, 4 HCCs).



Guarvolclia Valle Turabo
'Janairie Hernandez' HCC/AOS
Jan 2016, NS 5.0 x 5.0 cm
(Bsn. Sunny Delight x
Gcy. Kyoguchi)



Brassavola Adrian Hamilton
'4N', TRO/TOGA
Dec 2010



Rby. Everything Nice
'Wintergreen', AM/AOS
Sep 1997, NS 11.1 x 11.8 cm



Brassanthe Sunny Delight
'MAJ', CCE/AOS
May 2008, NS 7.0 x 6.2 cm



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

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www.orchidspecies.com

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