

'Cymbidium Chatter'

Edition 3 April 2020



Cymbidium Yai 'Monica' AM/AOS

Photograph: Andy Easton

Source: OrchidWiz 5.0

I hope this edition of 'Cymbidium Chatter' finds you well and finding enough things to do to keep you occupied! This new lifestyle is not without its challenges but I am sure that if everyone adheres to the directives of our government, we will all be that much better off! Take care!

Cymbidium Yai 'Monica' - is this a case of the wrong label?

I must admit to being a little confused over a recent posting on Facebook by Duy Nguyen. Duy who bought a large collection of plants from Andy Easton, New Horizon Orchids, posted the photograph below with the following caption: "As always a lovely hybrid. Also one of the famous parent.Cymbidium Yai 'Monica'". When another grower states, " This looks more like Kaylie to me. Duy responded, " It turns out more white this year because of light. But small flower compare to Kaylie if see it in person. And I trust the tag cause this came from Andy."

Now if you look at the two larger photographs on this page they are supposedly the same orchid. Certainly the lip on both flowers is very similar, however for me, that is where any similarities end, flower form and segment shape are just so different.

Cym Kaylie (small photo below) is an offspring of the cross (Yai x Isle), and it certainly does resemble the white flower featured here, the significant difference being the lip markings.

During the post Andy Easton adds, "The lip says Yai to me but Kaylie is similar in a photo but larger in flower size. I would trust Duy's judgement." Even with this confirmation from Andy I still have my doubts as to whether or not they are the same flower, however, I have been wrong before. If I was presented with these two flowers at a show and told they were the same, I would definitely question it!

Moving orchids is never an easy task, it is just so easy for labels to dislodge, whether or not this has happened to Duy on this occasion, time will tell, but I am sure that sometime in the future the real Yai 'Monica' will reveal her beautiful flowers! More on Cym Yai 'Monica' on the next page.



Above: Cym Kaylie

Photo: A Easton

Right: Yai 'Monica'???

Photo: D Nguyen



We have seen a number of Yai crossings flower here in Australia and like the Kaylie grex all have had that wonderful, standout lip! Flower shape closely resembles Yai 'Monica'. Colin and Karen Gillespie were able to source some flasks of Andy Easton's crossings several years ago.

Yai 'Monica' has been awarded twice in the US. In 2005 two different plants of Yai 'Monica' were awarded an AM/AOS and a BM/CSA. Both plants were grown by Ken and Amy Jacobsen, San Carlos, California.

There appears to be quite a variation, particularly in flower form and segment size and shape, between the various plants of Yai 'Monica'. Comparisons between flowers from the mother plant and clones usually display some differences. Variations between flowers can sometimes be put down to growing conditions or superior culture, but if you can afford it, it is always worth trying to get a piece of the mother plant or at least one of the original clones. I am unsure of how many times Yai 'Monica' has been cloned by various laboratories around the world but the differences in flowers would suggest far too many times! The three photographs below, all of Yai 'Monica', highlight this point!

WHICH ONE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



Yai 'Monica' Photo: R Copeland



Yai 'Monica' Photo: P Alonso



Yai 'Monica' Photo: A Easton

Some Cymbidium Yai 'Monica' offspring



Magic Bubbles x Yai 'Monica'
Photo: Jennifer Snyder



Yai 'Monica' x Rosy Cloud
'Paradise'
Photo: Bob Harris



Dural Snow 'Purity x Yai 'Monica'
Photo: Bob Harris

What's missing on the show bench?

If we think carefully about this question I'm sure we would all agree that as far as standard Cymbidiums go, both small and large, we have been well served by our hybridisers here in Australia. There really isn't much that we could improve upon. All colors are now fully represented at most shows. It was not all that many years ago, perhaps only two or three, that we would struggle to find a good large standard, white or green flower in the displays, but that is no longer the case.

Think intermediate sized flowers and I'm sure the shortage of quality green flowers still exists. I'm not sure how many shows I went to last year, where either Cym Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon' or Freeling 'Green Ice' were still winning their class. In the case of Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon', it was still winning best Cymbidium in the show. We are talking about flowers that are now 24 (Gentle Touch) and 37 (Freeling) years old. They are both quality orchids but the fact that they are still winning, suggests that hybridisers have largely ignored the development of intermediate sized flowers, not only green, but all colors. In recent years it is only David Wain who has managed to produce some outstanding intermediate flowers. The Templestowe's Charm grex has been a revelation and he was very unlucky not to receive an FCC with either of the two cultivars exhibited.

I'm not sure that there are green intermediate flowers out there, that can challenge these two old timers, if there are, I certainly haven't seen them. There is a wonderful opportunity for hybridisers to take up the challenge and to start producing seedlings capable of resting the crown from them. This situation doesn't only apply to the green class, think yellow flowers and more often than not it will be one of the Andy Easton created One Tree Hill (now 31 years old) cultivars that takes out Best Yellow. It is pretty much the same across all color classes in intermediate sized flowers, and the situation is fairly much the same for miniature flowers. While we may have led the world in the development of exhibition standard Cymbidiums, the rest of the world is certainly several steps ahead of us with regards to intermediates and miniatures. Maybe our judging guidelines are partly responsible, with their emphasis on size, thankfully David has shown that big isn't always better!

What has prompted this article, okay, I have to confess, green and red flowers have always been my favorites. Think Valley Zenith 'Green Orb', even one of the parents of Gentle Touch, Borough Green 'Conference', and you have the color combination I love!



Cymbidium Freeling 'Green Ice'
AM/OSCOV



Cym Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'
Photograph: Wains Orchids

Group of Hazel's Dragon (Hazel Tyers x Satin Dragon) (First bloom seedlings)
Hybridized, registered and grown by Weegie Caughlan, California, USA



Hazel's Dragon 'Princess Ziva'
AM/AOS



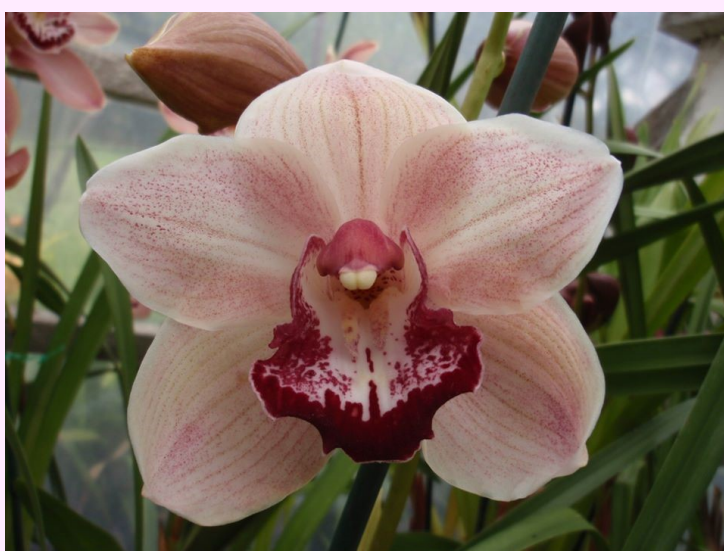
Hazel's Dragon #8



Hazel's Dragon #4



Hazel's Dragon 'Showtime'



Hazel's Dragon #3



Hazel's Dragon 'Loyola' HCC/AOS



Hazel's Dragon #9

There can be no greater thrill as an orchid grower than flowering some of the seedlings that you have created and then to get some of those flowers awarded must be incredibly rewarding — keep up the great work Weegie!