

# **Flowering Orchids on my Window Sills (Update 2020)**

By Christian J Schousboe, 2020.04.14

## **Summary**

This article gives a list of 196 showy orchids that the author has grown successfully on window sills in Denmark. For each orchid the month(s) of flowering start(s) is given and it is stated if the flowers are fragrant. The main purpose of the list is to give information on a) what orchids can be grown successfully on Danish sills, b) at what time of the year blooming of the orchids can be expected and c) how variable the blooming initiation may be. As all 196 orchids have been grow on living room sills without additional artificial light, the main climatic factor influencing their growth and flowering is the daylight; the article gives a graphic representation of annual variation in Danish day length, and list of locations with corresponding day length variation is stated. As a supplement a list of plant name synonyms is given, facilitating the use of modern plant names (in Latin). (All together 11 pages)

The interest for growing orchids on window sills has increased greatly during the last decade, mainly driven by the numerous new *Phalaenopsis* hybrids that endure window sill conditions far better than the early hybrids and the species.

Although *Phalaenopsis* are wonderful plants, they constitute one a minor part of the orchids suited for window sill conditions. But what other orchids are suitable for window sills ?

For several years I have been growing orchids on my window sills, and below I have compiled a list of orchids that have managed to flower in these conditions (East and West windows in kitchen, bedroom and living rooms).

## **Explanation and codes**

In a number of cases the orchid growers' Latin plant names differ from the modern botanical names, so in the list I have stated the orchid growers' traditional Latin plant names in parentheses. And to facilitate navigation I have added a list of modern synonyms – which is where you might start (List of synonyms, page 10)

In the main list orchid flowerings are noted by codes: Month of coming out of first bud followed by a number (in parentheses) giving the number of observations. Example: "Sep (2), Oct (1)" should tell you that the orchid in question (not necessarily the same individual) have started flowering twice in September and once in the month of October (not necessarily in successive years).

Some orchids develop several flowers from the same spike, but each flower withers before the next bud comes out. Such comings out are noted individually in the list (*Bulbophyllum carunculatum*, *Psychopsis Mariposa*, *Psychopsis papilio*).

### **Do use the list**

The object of the list is to guide orchid growers that consider expanding their collections and would like to check

- a) what plants may be grown successfully on window sills;
- b) at what season flowerings may start;
- c) how variable the start of flowering may be.

As **flower fragrance** is a major character of orchid charm I have added a slim column giving an F for fragrant flowers.

### **What the list does NOT give**

A number of flowering orchids from my window sills are **not** included in the list:

- Unnamed hybrids – mainly *Phalaenopsis*, *Dendrobium* and *Oncidium* types;
- Flowerings occurring within 1 year from procurement of the plant;
- Plants grown with the aid of artificial light or hydroponic devices;
- Plants being placed outside (balcony) during the summer season, e.g. *Pleione* and *Bletilla*;
- Plants having so tiny or peculiar flowers that they will be of interest only to very few growers.

Thus it is not possible to extract information on either the number of flowers on the spike, or on the durability of the single flower or of the total flowering period.

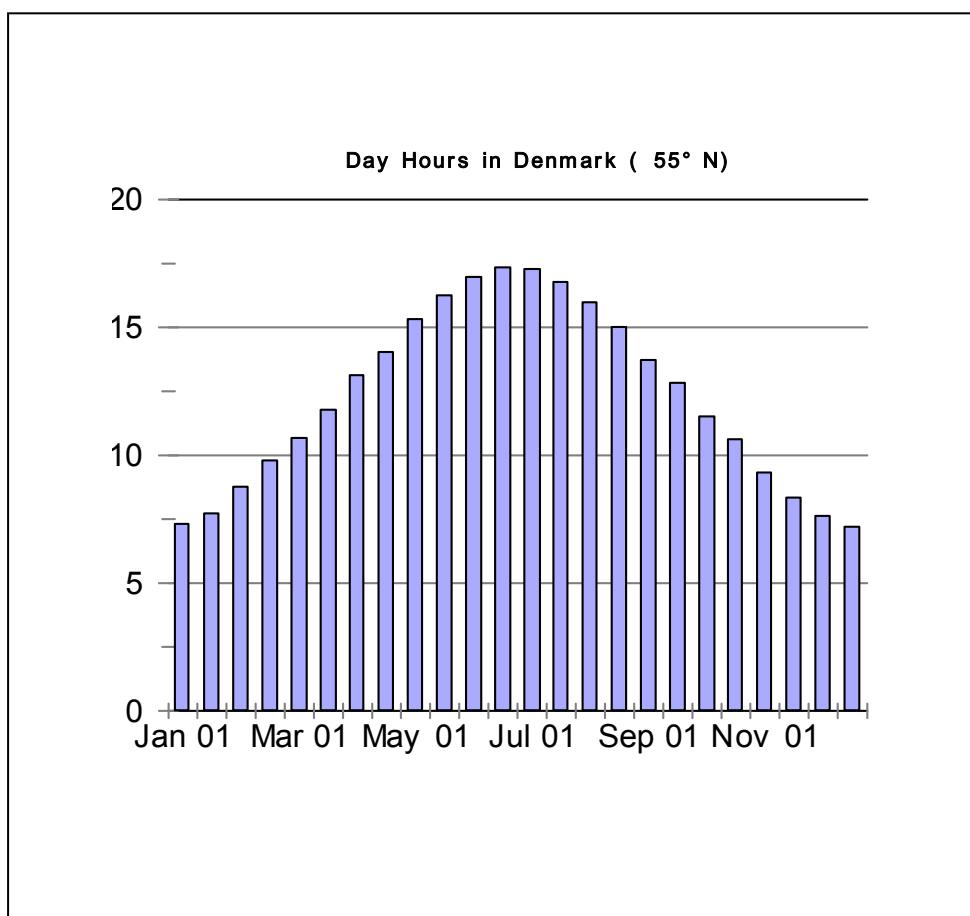
Furthermore the list is by no means exhaustive – many other species and particularly hybrids are very well suited for growing and flowering on window sills.

Therefore: Orchids not mentioned in my list may very well perform very well on your sills. Give it a try !

## Annual variation in day length

The principal climatic factor that influences plants on living room window sills is the annual variation in daylight hours or in most cases duration of nights.

As Denmark covers a rather limited area, the variation in Danish daylight hours can be illustrated fairly accurate by the variation at 55° N (below). This variation will cover other locations at about the same latitude, e.g. Latvia, Lithuania, Moscow (Russia), Kazan (Russia), Omsk (Russia), Novosibirsk (Russia), Bratsk (Russia), Skovorodino (Russia), Chumikan (Russia), Grande Prairie (Alberta Canada), Lac la Ronge (Saskatchewan Canada), Sherridon (Manitoba Canada), Schefferville (Quebec Canada), Belfast (Northern Ireland) and Newcastle (England). Apart from the southernmost tip of Chile there is no land at 55° S.



## The list of flowering orchids

Orchid name		Flowering
Aerangis biloba	F	Jul (1), Oct (1), Nov (1)
Aerides rosea (Aerides fieldingii)	F	Jun (2), Jul (1)
Amesiella philippinensis	F	Jan (3), Feb (1), Dec (1)
Barkeria skinneri	-	Nov (1), Dec (5)
Bifrenaria aureofulva	F	Jul (2), Aug (2), Sep (1), Oct (1)
Bifrenaria inodora (Bifrenaria fuerstenbergiana)	F	May (1)
BLC Cute Lady 'Christmas Candy' (Bowrialbida x Mellowglow)	-	Dec (1)
BLC Chia Lin "P.C.T."	F	Nov (1)
BLC Heide	-	Jan (1), Sep (1)
BLC Luckyman x Termthong	F	Dec (1)
BLC Mem. Crispin Rosales 'Victory' AM/SROC	F	Jan (1), Dec (1)
BLC Pamela Finney Large Ox	F	Jan (1), Feb (3)
BLC San Ruby "Orchis"	F	Dec (1)
BLC Tainan Gold "Orchis"	F	Nov (1)
BLC Triumphal Coronation "Seto"	F	Apr (7)
Brassavola cucullata	F	Jul (2), Aug (1), Sep (2), Oct (2), Nov (3), Dec (1)
Brassavola flagellaris	F	Jan (1), Dec (2)
Brassavola nodosa	F	Jun (3), Jul (4), Aug (6), Sep (5), Oct (3), Nov (1), Dec (2)
Brassavola perrinii	F	Oct (4)
Brassavola tuberculata	F	Oct (1)
Bulbophyllum amplebracteatum subsp carunculatum (Bulbophyllum carunculatum)	F	Jun (1), Jul (1), Aug (1), Sep (1)
Bulbophyllum dayanum	-	Mar (1)
Bulbophyllum gracillimum	-	Nov (1)
Bulbophyllum putidum	F	Oct (1)
Cattleya Chian-Tzy Guiding 'Chian-Tzu Red Top'	-	Dec (1)
Cattleya Dixon	-	Nov (2)
Cattleya grandis (Laelia grandis)	F	Jun (1)
Cattleya harrisoniana	F	Aug (1), Sep (2), Oct (6)
Cattleya intermedia	F	Mar (1)

<b>Orchid name</b>		<b>Flowering</b>
<i>Cattleya labiata</i>	F	Nov (6), Dec (1)
<i>Cattleya loddigesii</i>	F	Sep (4)
<i>Cattleya lueddemanniana 'Tipo'</i>	F	Apr (1)
<i>Cattleya Lutens</i>	-	Nov (1), Dec (1)
<i>Cattleya mendelii</i>	F	May (2), Jun (2)
<i>Cattleya milleri (Laelia milleri)</i>	-	May (2)
<i>Cattleya mossiae</i>	F	Apr (5), May (3)
<i>Cattleya pumila (Laelia pumila)</i>	F	Feb (1), Aug (2), Sep (2), Oct (2), Nov (1)
<i>Cattleya schönbrunniensis</i>	-	Sep (9), Oct (3)
<i>Cattleya sincorana (Laelia sincorana)</i>	-	Jun (1), Sep (1)
<i>Cattleya x dolosa</i>	F	Oct (1)
<i>Cattleytonia French Night</i>	-	Apr (1), May (1), Sep (1)
<i>Caularthon bilamellatum</i>	F	May (1)
<i>Cirrhaea dependens</i>	F	Jul (1)
<i>Coelogyne cristata</i>	F	Feb (1)
<i>Dendrobium aberrans</i>	F	Jan (2)
<i>Dendrobium aduncum</i>	F	Apr (4), May (11), Jun (4)
<i>Dendrobium aphyllum</i>	F	Mar (16)
<i>Dendrobium bensoniae</i>	F	May (1)
<i>Dendrobium bigibbum</i>	-	Oct (1), Nov (1)
<i>Dendrobium cariniferum</i>	F	Apr (3)
<i>Dendrobium christyanum</i>	F	Jul (2), Aug (1)
<i>Dendrobium chrysotoxum</i>	F	Apr (2), May (2)
<i>Dendrobium compactum</i>	-	Sep (2), Oct (1)
<i>Dendrobium compressum (Dendrobium platycaulon)</i>	F	Oct (2)
<i>Dendrobium crepidatum</i>	F	Mar (1)
<i>Dendrobium crystallinum</i>	F	May (3)
<i>Dendrobium delacouri</i>	F	Jun (2)
<i>Dendrobium devonianum</i>	F	May (2), Jun (1)
<i>Dendrobium Enobi Purple "Splash"</i>	-	Aug (1), Sep (1)
<i>Dendrobium friedericianum</i>	-	Mar (1)
<i>Dendrobium gratiosissimum</i>	F	Mar (5)
<i>Dendrobium griffithianum</i>	-	May (1)

<b>Orchid name</b>		<b>Flowering</b>
Dendrobium heterocarpum	F	Jan (6), Dec (2)
Dendrobium jenkinsii	F	Apr (7), May (6), Jun (1)
Dendrobium lindleyi	F	Mar (2), Apr (6), May (10), Jun (12)
Dendrobium linguella	-	Apr (1), May (1), Jun (4), Jul (1)
Dendrobium lituiflorum	F	Feb (2), Mar (2)
Dendrobium Madame Pompadour	-	Feb (1), Nov (1)
Dendrobium moniliforme	F	Jan (3), Feb (2), Mar (1), Dec (1)
Dendrobium moniliforme 'albomarginatum'	F	Jan (1), Feb (2), Mar (1)
Dendrobium nobile	F	Feb (1), Apr (1)
Dendrobium parishii	F	May (5), Jun (1)
Dendrobium pendulum (Dendrobium crassinode)	F	Feb (1), Mar (1)
Dendrobium polyanthum (Dendrobium primulinum)	F	Apr (3)
Dendrobium pugioniforme (Dockrillia pugioniforme)	F	Feb (1), Mar (1), Sep (1)
Dendrobium signatum	-	Mar (1)
Dendrobium sulawesii x lawesii	-	Apr (2), Jun (1), Aug (1)
Dendrobium transparens	-	May (1)
Dendrobium trigonopus	F	Feb (1)
Dendrobium wardianum	F	Feb (1)
Dendrobium venustum	F	Aug (1), Sep (1)
Dendrobium victoriae-reginae	-	May (1), Sep (1)
Dinema polybulbon (Encyclia polybulbon)	F	Apr (1), Dec (1)
Domingoa gemma (Nageliella angustifolia)	-	Apr (2), May (4), Jun (3), Jul (2), Aug (1)
Domingoa purpurea (Hartwegia purpurea)	-	Jul (4)
Encyclia adenocaula	F	Jun (1)
Encyclia bractescens	F	Apr (1)
Encyclia cordigera (Encyclia atropurpurea, Epidendrum nemorale)	F	Jun (2)
Encyclia dichroma	-	Oct (1)
Encyclia hanburyi	-	Jun (1), Jul (1)
Encyclia incumbens (Encyclia aromatica)	-	Mar (1), Apr (2), Jun (1)
Encyclia tampensis	F	May (3), Jun (17), Jul (2)
Encyclia tampensis var alba	F	Jun (2)
Epicattleya Viola 'Susan'	-	Jan (1), Dec (2)

<b>Orchid name</b>		<b>Flowering</b>
Epidendrum capricorne	-	Jun (1)
Epidendrum centropetalum (Oerstedella centropetala, Oerstedella centradenia)	-	Jan (1), Feb (2)
Epidendrum ciliare (1-leaved fat bulbs)	F	Jul (2), Aug (2)
Epidendrum ciliare (2-leaved slender bulbs)	F	Dec (3)
Epidendrum falcatum	F	Sep (2), Nov (1)
Epidendrum fulgens (Epidendrum mosenii)	-	Jul (1)
Epidendrum longipetalum	-	Jan (1), Apr (1), May (1), Jun (1)
Epidendrum x obrienianum	-	Mar (1), Apr (1)
Epidendrum oerstedii	F	Jul (1)
Epidendrum radicans CT Vigor	-	Feb (3)
Epidendrum paniculatum (Epidendrum floribundum)	F	Jan (2), Feb (2)
Epidendrum (tripunctatum x semiptera) x vitellinum	-	Mar (1)
Gomesa barbata (Oncidium barbatum)	F	Aug (6), Sep (3), Oct (1), Nov (1)
Gomesa concolor (Oncidium concolor)	-	Feb (2), Mar (2), Apr (3)
Gomesa echinata (Baptistonia echinata)	F	Feb (1), Mar (1)
Gomesa flexuosa (Oncidium flexuosum)	-	May (2), Jun (3), Jul (3), Aug (2)
Gomesa longipes (Oncidium longipes)	-	Jul (1)
Gomesa macronyx (Oncidium macronyx)	-	Jun (1)
Gomesa pubes (Oncidium pubes)	-	Apr (3), May (1), Jun (3)
Gomesa radicans (Sigmatostalix radicans)	-	Oct (1)
Gomesa ranifera (Oncidium raniferum)	-	Aug (2), Sep (1), Oct (1)
Gomesa recurva	F	Jun (1)
Gongora galeata	F	Jul (2), Aug (2)
Gongora quinquenervis	F	Apr (1)
Grandiphyllum auricula (Oncidium harrisonianum)	-	Oct (1)
Guarianthe bowringiana (Cattleya bowringiana)	F	Oct (2)
Guarinanthe skinneri (Cattleya skinneri)	F	Feb (1), Mar (2), Apr (1)
Howeara "Lava Burst" Puanani	-	Sep (1)
Howeara Mimi Primi	-	Jan (1), Jun (1), Dec (2)
Laelia anceps	F	Jan (2), Dec (3)
Laelia gouldiana	F	Dec (6)
Laelia rubescens	F	Feb (1)

<b>Orchid name</b>		<b>Flowering</b>
LC Chyong Guu Swan "White Jade"	F	Nov (3), Dec (1)
LC Culminant 'La Tuilerie'	F	Mar (11), Apr (15), Jun (1)
LC Gold Digger	F	Feb (1), Mar (1)
LC Hausermann's Gala Z1164	F	Jan (3)
LC Kupferprinz	F	Sep (2), Oct (3), Nov (2)
LC Mini Purple	F	Mar (1)
LC Mini Purple "Blue Hawaii"	F	Sep (1), Oct (1)
LC Taida Swan "Swan"	F	Mar (1)
Leptotes bicolour	F	Mar (2), Apr (1)
Lockhartia lunifera	-	Jun (1), Jul (2), Aug (1), Dec (1)
Ludisia discolor	-	Jan (1)
Maxillaria tenuifolia (Maxillariella tenuifolia)	F	May (1)
Meiracyllium trinasutum	F	Jul (1), Sep (1)
Odontocidium Susan Kaufmann	-	Feb (1), Mar (1), Jul (1)
Odontonia Samurai	-	Jul (1)
Oncidium cheiroporum	F	May (1), Dec (2)
Oncidium Gower Ramsey	-	Sep (2)
Oncidium incurvum	F	Jul (1)
Oncidium Joakim	-	Jul (2), Oct (1)
Oncidium Margareth Chenoweth	F	Aug (1), Sep (4)
Oncidium ornithorhynchum	F	Sep (1), Oct (4), Nov (2)
Maxillaria sophronitis (Ornithidium sophronitis)	-	Apr (1), Dec (1)
Otaara Hwa Yuan Bay	F	Sep (1)
Paphiopedilum exul	-	Mar (1)
Paphiopedilum ([Rosemarie Herrmann x Nettie McNay] x [Red Baron x charlesworthii "UM"])	-	Aug (1)
Paphiopedilum (Clair de Lune Edgar van Belle s III p' x Key Lime Double)	-	May (1)
Paphiopedilum Gold Dollar	-	Aug (1)
Paphiopedilum Maudiae coloratum	-	Feb (3), Mar (3)
Paphiopedilum purpuratum	-	Sep (1)
Paphiopedilum spicerianum	-	Oct (1), Nov (2)
Paphiopedilum sukhakulii	-	Jul (1), Oct (2)
Paphiopedilum tonsum	-	Sep (1)

<b>Orchid name</b>		<b>Flowering</b>
Paphiopedilum venustum	-	Jun (1), Nov (2)
Phalaenopsis amabilis	F	Jan (1), Apr (1), Jun (1), Dec (1)
Phalaenopsis Barbara Moler	-	Feb (1)
Phalaenopsis Cassandra	-	Aug (1)
Phalaenopsis celebensis x equestris	-	Mar (2)
Phalaenopsis deliciosa (Kingidium delicosum)	-	Jun (1)
Phalaenopsis equestris	-	Jan (1), Mar (1), Jun (1), Aug (1), Oct (1)
Phalaenopsis leucorrhoda (aphrodite x schilleriana)	-	Mar (1)
Phalaenopsis Lipperose	-	Feb (1), Jul (1)
Phalaenopsis Mini Mark "Maria Theresa"	-	Feb (1)
Phalaenopsis schilleriana	F	Jan (2)
Pinalia spicata (Eria spicata)	F	Oct (1), Nov (1)
Potinara Kat Green Power "Big Green"	F	Apr (1), Jul (2), Aug (1), Sep (2), Oct (2)
Potinara Little Toshie "Yellow Rose"	-	Apr (1), Dec (4)
Potinara Shinfong Little Sun	-	Mar (4)
Potinara Taichung Beauty "Cosmetic Bull"	F	Jan (1), Feb (1)
Prosthechea mariae (Encyclia mariae)	F	Jun (2), Jul (1)
Prosthechea calamaria (Prosthechea tripunctata, Encyclia tripunctata)	F	May (2), Jun (2)
Psychopsiella limminghei (Psychopsis limminghei, Oncidium limminghei)	-	Jul (2), Aug (1), Oct (2)
Psychopsis Mariposa (Oncidium Mariposa)	-	Apr (1), May (2), Jun (1), Jul (1), Aug (1), Sep (2), Oct (2)
Psychopsis papilio (Oncidium papilio)	-	May (2), Jun (1), Aug (2), Sep (2), Oct (1)
Renanthera matutina	-	Oct (1)
Renanthera monachica	-	Feb (1), Mar (3), Apr (2)
Rossioglossum ampliatum (Oncidium ampliatum)	-	Mar (1), Apr (7), May (4)
Rossioglossum grande	-	Dec (1)
SLC Ginny Champion "Prince"	-	Oct (3), Nov (2), Dec (6)
SLC Jewel Box "Scherazade"	-	Apr (1), May (4)
SLC Jira Dawn x BC Star Treck	F	Oct (1), Nov (1)
SLC White Chinderella	F	Jan (1), Feb (1), Mar (2), Jun (2), Jul (1), Aug (1), Oct (1), Nov (1)
Stenoglottis longifolia	-	Nov (1), Dec (1)

<b>Orchid name</b>		<b>Flowering</b>
Trichocentrum ascendens ( <i>Oncidium ascendens</i> )	-	Mar (2)
Trichocentrum lanceanum ( <i>Oncidium lanceanum</i> )	F	Sep (1)
Trichocentrum tigrinum	F	Jun (2)
Vanda falcata ( <i>Neofinetia falcata</i> )	F	Apr (1), May (2), Jun (7)
Zelenkoa onusta ( <i>Oncidium onustum</i> )	F	Jun (1)
Zygopetalum Blue Baby	-	Jul (1)

### List of synonyms

Aerides fieldingii, see <i>Aerides rosea</i>
Baptistonia echinata, see <i>Gomesa echinata</i>
Bifrenaria fuerstenbergiana, see <i>Bifrenaria inodora</i>
Bulbophyllum carunculatum, see <i>Bulbophyllum amplebracteatum</i> subsp <i>carunculatum</i>
Cattleya bowringiana, see <i>Guarianthe bowringiana</i>
Cattleya skinneri, see <i>Guarinanthe skinneri</i>
Dendrobium crassinode, see <i>Dendrobium pendulum</i>
Dendrobium platycaulon, see <i>Dendrobium compressum</i>
Dendrobium primulinum, see <i>Dendrobium polyanthum</i>
Dockrillia pugioniforme, see <i>Dendrobium pugioniforme</i>
Encyclia aromatica, see <i>Encyclia incumbens</i>
Encyclia atropurpurea, see <i>Encyclia cordigera</i>
Encyclia mariae, see <i>Prosthechea mariae</i>
Encyclia polybulbon, see <i>Dinema polybulbon</i>
Encyclia tripunctata, see <i>Prosthechea calamaria</i>
Epidendrum floribundum, see <i>Epidendrum paniculatum</i>
Epidendrum mosenii, see <i>Epidendrum fulgens</i>
Epidendrum nemorale, see <i>Encyclia cordigera</i>
Eria spicata, see <i>Pinalia spicata</i>
Hartwegia purpurea, see <i>Domingoa purpurea</i>
Kingidium deliciosum, see <i>Phalaenopsis deliciosa</i>
Laelia grandis, see <i>Cattleya grandis</i>
Laelia milleri, see <i>Cattleya milleri</i>

Laelia pumila, see <i>Cattleya pumila</i>
Laelia sincorana, see <i>Cattleya sincorana</i>
Maxillariella tenuifolia, see <i>Maxillaria tenuifolia</i>
Nageliella angustifolia, see <i>Domingoa gemma</i>
Neofinetia falcata, see <i>Vanda falcata</i>
Oerstedella centradenia, see <i>Epidendrum centropetalum</i>
Oerstedella centropetala, see <i>Epidendrum centropetalum</i>
Oncidium ampliatum, see <i>Rossioglossum ampliatum</i>
Oncidium ascendens, see <i>Trichocentrum ascendens</i>
Oncidium barbatum, see <i>Gomesa barbata</i>
Oncidium concolor, see <i>Gomesa concolor</i>
Oncidium flexuosum, see <i>Gomesa flexuosa</i>
Oncidium harrisonianum, se <i>Grandiphyllum auricular</i>
Oncidium lanceanum, see <i>Trichocentrum lanceanum</i>
Oncidium limminghei, see <i>Psychopsis limminghei</i>
Oncidium longipes, see <i>Gomesa longipes</i>
Oncidium macronyx, see <i>Gomesa macronyx</i>
Oncidium Mariposa, see <i>Psychopsis Mariposa</i>
Oncidium onustum, see <i>Zelenkoa onusta</i>
Oncidium papilio, see <i>Psychopsis papilio</i>
Oncidium pubes, see <i>Gomesa pubes</i>
Oncidium raniferum, see <i>Gomesa ranifera</i>
Ornithidium sophronitis, see <i>Maxillaria sophronitis</i>
Prosthechea tripunctata, see <i>Prosthechea calamaria</i>
Psychopsis limminghei, see <i>Psychopsis limminghei</i>
Sigmatostalix radicans, see <i>Gomesa radicans</i>