

Building Block

***Vanda bensonii* Bateman, Bot. Mag. 92: t. 5611 (1866).**

Benson 's Vanda

Vanda bensonii is found growing in Thailand and Myanmar. This is a rather small, plant about 16 inches (40 cm) tall. The inflorescence usually carries 10 to 12 scented flowers that measure 2 inches (4 to 5 cm) across. The sepals of the flowers are recurved and the petals are both recurved and twisted. The flowers are pale brown, with faintly darker reticulation. The lip is lavender with darker striation at the base of the midlobe; the side lobes are white. The normal blooming season is Springtime. (Grove 2003).

The first *V. bensonii* hybrid known is *V. Charlesworthii*, a possible natural hybrid of *V. bensonii* and *V. coerulea*. It has been known since the middle of the 19th century. It earned one HCC/AOS in 1990. The next hybrid, Vanda Maurine Dalton crossed with *V. tricolor* was registered in 1945.

Vanda Charlesworthii 'Fuchs Indigo'
HCC/AOS (75 points)
(*Vanda bensonii* x *Vanda coerulea*)



Positive aspects from the breeder prospective should be the long stems of widely spaced flowers. Thai breeders have used this species in several hybrids, such as *Ascocenda* Nopawan and *Ascocenda* Wichot to create longer-stemmed *Ascocenda* with better spacing of the deep carmine flowers. A not-too-surprising result, in addition to spacing the flowers, was an intensifying of the color in dark blue flowers. (Motes 1988).



Photography by J. Frew

Vanda Wichot 'Tiny Tim' AM/OCNZ 82.25 Points
(*Vanda bensonii* x *Asctm ampullaceum*)

V. Motes Nutmeg (*V. bensonii* x *V. Queen Kaumana*), is a free flowering, characteristic imparted by *V. sanderiana*. It produces long, erect inflorescences of well-held flowers on relatively small plants. The clear tessellated pattern of the color is a pleasant bonus. The exceptional substance of these flowers gives them keeping qualities that usually last until the flowers on another inflorescence are ready to open.

Vanda Motes Nutmeg 'Redland Spice' HCC/AOS
(78 points)
(*Vanda bensonii* x *Vanda* Queen Kaumana)



9 Generations of Progeny				
G	Grexes	Awdd.	% Awdd.	Awds
1	341	83	24.3%	379
2	1,017	176	17.3%	583
3	1,202	300	25.0%	1,015
4	1,369	329	24.0%	977
5	1,080	309	28.6%	814
6	630	218	34.6%	589
7	399	129	32.3%	294
8	85	17	20.0%	33
9	3	0	0%	0

According to OrchidWiz x6.1, there are 97 progenies throughout fifth generations. *V. Memoria Kay Killington*, third generation cross had 4 awards from New Zealand.

V. Sweet Pea 'Ruby' HCC/AOS 76 points (*V. bensonii* x Ascda. Peggy Foo), just had 1 HCC/AOS, thanks to the influence of *V. bensonii*, flowers are oxblood color and more importantly well-spaced.

Vanda Sweet Pea 'Ruby' HCC/AOS (76 points)
(*Vanda bensonii* x *Vanda* Peggy Foo)



References

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