

Report of new varieties *Spathoglottis* 'SABRINA & ABEL', HYBRID OF NON-EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS FROM CUBA

Informe de nuevas variedades

Spathoglottis 'Sabrina & Abel', híbrido de orquídea terrestre obtenido en Cuba

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ABSTRACTS. *Spathoglottis plicata* is non-epiphytic orchids naturalized in Cuba, it is original from the southwest of Asia and it is considered as a plant of an easy growth. This paper presents the main characteristics of a new cultivar of *Spathoglottis*. 'Sabrina & Abel' is the result of cross pollination in April 2009 between *Spathoglottis unguiculata* var. Grapefruit and *Spathoglottis kimballiana* var. angustifolia. This new hybrid has a high potential for ornamental. It is registered in the database of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, in *Orchids Review Supplement* 121 (1303), September 2013.

Key words: hybridization, ornamental orchids, terrestrial

RESUMEN. *Spathoglottis* es un género terrestre naturalizado en Cuba, originaria del sureste de Asia y es considerada como una planta de fácil cultivo. En este trabajo se presentan las principales características de un nuevo cultivar de *Spathoglottis*. 'Sabrina & Abel' es el resultado de la polinización manual cruzada realizada en octubre del 2009 entre *Spathoglottis unguiculata* var. Grapefruit y *Spathoglottis kimballiana* var. Angustifolia. Este híbrido posee un alto potencial ornamental. Se encuentra registrado y publicado en la base de datos de la Sociedad Hortícola Real de Inglaterra en *Orchids Review Supplement* 121 (1303), Septiembre 2013.

Palabras clave: hibridación, orquídeas ornamentales, terrestre

INTRODUCTION

In the year 2012, the number of entries to the International Orchid Registry, Sander's List, published by the data base of the Royall Horticultural Society of England, maximum institution in charge of registering orchid hybrids, exceeded the figure of 152.600 hybrids. Each entry represents a grex name. The naming of orchid hybrids uses the grex name system (greges or gregi, refers to a group of seedlings) and started with the flowering of *Calanthe Dominii* in 1858.

Registries done by the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences (INCA), are an important contribution to the Cuban history of orchid hybrids since the first time in 2009, with the publication of a group hybrids in the Descriptive Variety Catalogue of the Ministry of Agriculture, standing out among non-epiphytic orchid hybrids, *Spathoglottis* 'Bella Lorena' and *Spathoglottis* 'Memoria Celia Sánchez Manduley'.

ORIGIN

This report shows the main characteristics of a new non-epiphytic orchid hybrid of the *Spathoglottis* genus. 'Sabrina & Abel', it is the result of the manual cross made in October 2009 between *Spathoglottis unguiculata* cv. Grapefruit and *Spathoglottis kimballiana* cv. angustifolia. Hybrid seeds were grown *in vitro* at the Biotechnology Laboratory of the Genetics and Breeding Department, and progenies were distributed in backyards from growers of this botanic family in the municipality of San Miguel del Padrón, Havana City

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province. The first plants flowered in July 2011, after 18 growing months. This new hybrid has a high ornamental potential. It is published in *Orchids Review Supplement* 121 (1303), September 2013.

CHARACTERÍSTICS OF THE GENOTYPE

Spathoglottis 'Sabrina & Abel' ground grass, tough, of 0,50 m or a little bit more including the floral scape. Plicate leaves, of 3- 5 per pseudobulbs. Cylindrical floral scape, of up to 3 per bulb, of 40-50 cm long, upward, densely bract distal part, elliptical to oval bract, of pink color, with only one flower in the leaf axil. Flowers of 5-5,5 cm of diameter, yellow petals and sepals with dark pink margins. Trilobulated label, lateral yellow suborbicular lobules with reddish points, stippled yellow central lobule with pink borders and two upward yellow callosity on the basis. Very short pink column of 1-1,5 cm. Green-purple fruits (Figure 1).



Photo: Courtesy of the author

Figure 1. The new hybrid *Spathoglottis* Sabrina & Abel

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