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Report of new cultivar

***Dendrobium* 'Maravillosa Habana'. New orchid hybrid for Cuba**

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ABSTRACT

Dendrobiums are part of the most cultivated orchid genus in the world, thanks to their easy cultivation and the large number of hybrids obtained in different shapes, colors and sizes. This paper presents the main characteristics of a new *Dendrobium* cultivar, 'Maravillosa Habana', which is the result of pollination between *Dendrobium* 'Tropical classic' and *Dendrobium* 'Olawan Lakeland'. It is registered and published in the database of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, Orchids Review Supplement 2020.

Key words: artificial pollination, *in vitro* culture, ornamental plants, ornamentals

INTRODUCTION

Several *Dendrobium* cultivars rank fourth in sales among floricultural products, after the *Palms*, *Dracaena* and *Anthurium*. The genus includes species native to all of East Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Genetic improvement has allowed them to be part of the most cultivated orchids in the world and their hybrids of various shapes, colors and sizes, give this genus great commercial importance at international level.

ORIGIN

Dendrobium 'Maravillosa Habana', is the result of artificial pollination carried out in November 2014 between *Dendrobium* 'Tropical classic' and *Dendrobium* 'Olawan Lakeland', both present in private collections in Cuba. The hybrid seeds were grown *in vitro* in Murashige Skoog culture medium at 75 % of total salt concentration and without growth regulators, at the end of 10

months after sowing plants that reached 5 cm in height and presence of roots were transferred to acclimatization. The first plants flowered in September 2019.

CHARACTERISTICS

Epiphytic plant. Erect stems with nodes. Lanceolate leaves 14.0 cm long and 3.0 cm wide. Terminal and subterminal inflorescence, 30.0- 35.0 cm long and variable number of flowers. Flowers 6.5-7.0 cm in diameter. Sepals and petals pink with deep purple veins. Sepals' linear, 3.0-3.5 cm long and 1.3-1.5 cm wide. Petals concave, oblong-lanceolate, reflexed, 3.8- 4.0 cm wide, 3.3-3.5 cm long. Labellum veined pink with purple ridges, 4.0 cm long, 2.5 cm wide covering pink column (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Front view of *Dendrobium* 'Maravillosa Habana'