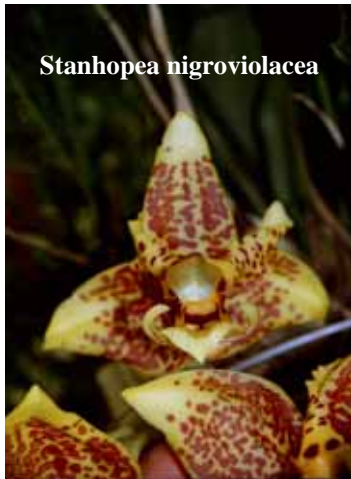


Collectors Corner Fact Sheet

Stanhopea — The Upside Down Orchid



Stanhopea nigroviolacea

The Upside Down Orchid.

This easily grown group of fascinating orchids have showy often highly perfumed flowers

10 - 15 cm across which are produced at the base of the pseudobulbs. They grow vertically downwards through the potting media and flower underneath the plant. Flowers can appear from Spring to Autumn with older plants flowering a number of times over the season. The spectacular waxy, heavily textured flowers are relatively short lived (up to 1 week) but are guaranteed to create interest and pleasure for the grower and their visitors.

Flowers range in colour from the brightest

yellow (*S. wardii*), through rich purple blotches on cream (*S. nigroviolacea*) to white (*S. ecornuta*).

ORIGIN

Stanhopeas are found from Mexico through Central America to the orchid rich forests of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil. They grow at a range of altitudes from 500 feet to 7,000 feet. Approximately 50 species are currently described, many of which are now becoming available to collectors in Australia.

CULTIVATION: PLANTING

As they flower underneath the plant, a wire basket lined with paperbark (a thin layer) and a medium pine bark (orchid bark) produces excellent results. However they can be grown as specimens on cork or fern slabs, mounted with a small amount of sphagnum moss or similar fibre.

REPOTTING

Repotting is best done in spring as the new growth appears. Older plants can be divided to a minimum of 3 bulb pieces. Best results are obtained with 5 - 10 bulb pieces.

WATERING

Water frequently during the growing season



Stanhopea tigrina

(Spring, Summer, Autumn) reducing to approximately weekly intervals in the colder months.

FERTILISATION

Fertilise with Osmaocote Plus every 6 months and orchid feed with a suitable orchid fertiliser (eg. Peters Yellow). Plenty of water and feeding in the growing season will be greatly appreciated by these plants and will repay the grower with rapid growth and a spectacular fragrant display of

flowers from late spring to early autumn.

POSITION

Generally Stanhopeas grow best in enclosed areas or areas protected from the weather. They can be grown on patios and covered areas, ferneries and under trees, but growth will be slower.

Species from higher altitudes, eg. *S. nigroviolacea*, *S. tigrina*, *S. wardii*, and *S. oculata* are very happy in Melbourne given some protection for their large leaves from the sun and wind in summer and from heavy frost in winter. Other cool growing species are *S. graveolens*, *S. shuttleworthii*, *S. embreei*, *S. jenishiana* and *S. hernandezii*.

Some species from lower altitudes require additional protection in cooler months eg. *S. anfracta*, *S. insignis*, *S. warscewicziana*, *S. indora*, *S. costaricensis*, *S. guttulata* and *S. panamensis*.

Some additional heat will be required to grow other lower altitude species eg. *S. ecornuta*, *S. saccata*, *S. connata*, *S. cirrhata* and *S. pulla*.

HYBRIDS

Some Stanhopea species have been hybridised to produce very beautiful plants such as *S. Mem Paul Allen* (*S. ecornuta* x *S. tigrina*), *S. Bellarensis* (*S. insignis* x *S. oculata*) and *S. Assidensis* (*S. tigrina* x *S. wardii*). These are quite suitable for local conditions.

Start a love affair with an extraordinary orchid.

Grow a Stanhopea or two!

Good Growing!

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Stanhopea ecornuta