

## RECENTLY IN FLOWER AT THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS



*Encyclia faustum* or more correctly *Anacheilium faustum*

Synonyms: *Encyclia fausta* (Rchb. f. ex Cogn.) Pabst 1972; *Epidendrum faustum* Rchb. f. ex Cogn. 1900; *Hormidium faustum* (Rchb. f. ex Cogn.) Brieger 1960; *Prosthechea fausta* [Rchb.f ex cogn.] Higgins 1997

The common name is the Luxurious Anacheilium.

“Faustus” refers to a medieval magician who traded his soul for fame and fortune. *Anacheilium faustum* is a native of southern Brazilian, found in humid montane forests at elevations around 700 meters; it is therefore considered a cool growing epiphyte. In cultivation it will tolerate as cold as 7° C.

This orchid has closely spaced, spindle-shaped pseudobulbs carrying two, apical, narrow, strap shaped leaves and blooms.

The inflorescence stem is erect 5" [12 cm] long, holding several [4-10] fragrant flowers on each stem.

The flower size is approximately 2" [5 cm] and flowers in the Brazilian summer and fall but in cultivation it can be free flowering throughout the year.

*A. faustum* prefers moderate bright light approx. 1500-2500 foot-candles or in other words indirect light with definite shadowing. With each flower lasting on average 20 days this is a popular plant in cultivation.

*A. faustum* grows best mounted on tree-fern or in baskets of chopped tree-fern and sphagnum. Water while growing 3-5 times per week, apply less water during the weather months and remember, as with nearly all orchids, feed weekly and weakly.

I recently saw plants for sale on an American website for \$35.



**MARIE HOURIGAN**

**CHRISTMAS WILDFLOWERS AT THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN**

**Sunday 14 December 2014**, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9  
Spread some Christmas cheer with wildflower expert Zoë Devlin who will have books and framed prints of her wildflower photos for sale at the annual Christmas fair hosted by the National Botanic Gardens. From noon.

This year, she will be joined by her husband Pete (with framed prints of his bird drawings) and their daughter Petra (who will bring along handmade jewellery). Profits from both stalls will go to the Bone Marrow for Leukaemia Trust.

