

**CYMBIDIUM 'TIGER TAIL'**

In the July 2013 Issue of *Pollinia* (Volume 11, No. 4) the results of the I.O.S. show, held at the Dublin Orchid Fair 2013 were published. Best Cymbidium, Best Hybrid and Best in Show went to Cymbidium 'Tiger Tail' grown by Brendan Sayers. Needless to say, I am now delighted to repeat this trio of awards in 2015 and thought it proper to introduce this stunning, miniature Cymbidium in full.

Cymbidium 'Tiger Tail' was registered in 1960 by Stewarts Orchids Inc. and resulted from crossing the tidy flowered *Cymbidium tigrinum* with an old hybrid *Cymbidium Alexanderi*.

*Cymbidium tigrinum*, with greenish-yellow flowers and a white, red spotted lip hails from high altitude habitats in the Chinese Himalaya, Burma and the Indian state of Assam and hence is a cool to cold growing species.

*Cymbidium Alexanderi*, now known to have an earlier hybrid name of *C. Armainvillense* is the resultant hybrid of *Cymbidium eburneum* and *C. lowianum*.

These are also Indo-Asian species but from lower altitudes and more substantial stature compared to *C. tigrinum*.

The result of their marriage is clearly seen in the accompanying photograph (See Front Cover.) As the grex 'Tiger Tail' shows a lot of variability, there are a number of named clones. 'India', 'Canary' and 'May Day' are all yellow flowered selections, the latter received a Highly Commended Certificate from the American Orchid Society.

I grow both my Cymbidium 'Tiger Tail' side by side. They spend from late May to late September/October outdoors and the remainder of the year in a glazed, well lit corridor, warm by day, cool by night.

For the growing season of 2014 plants were fed with Osmo, a seaweed based liquid feed of the type manufactured specifically for tomatoes. As the plants are growing in 50/50 sphagnum/perlite they are fed often, almost at every watering.

It was therefore interesting to have one plant with five flower spikes and the other without a single spike!

We now await the results of the 2015 growing season and hope 'Tiger Tail' make a return showing.

**BRENDAN SAYERS**

Chairperson  
Irish Orchid Society

