

Laelia fidelensis (Pabst) Braem, Richardiana 6: 109 (2006).

SUBGENUS *Crispae* SECTION *Crispae*

Common Name: Saint Fidel's Laelia



Synonyms

Brasilaelia fidelensis (Pabst) Gutfreund 2006; *Cattleya fidelensis* (Pabst) Van den Berg 2008; *Chironiella* × *fidelensis* (Pabst) Braem 2006; *Hadrolaelia fidelensis* (Pabst) Chiron & V.P.Castro 2002; *Sophronitis fidelensis* (Pabst) C. Berg & M.W. Chase 2000³

Description

A summer blooming, miniature to small sized, cool to warm growing Brazilian epiphyte that has ovoid, laterally compressed pseudobulbs carrying a single, apical, oblong, obtuse leaf with a prominent mid vein that blooms with a 2 flowered raceme occurring in nature in summer.³

Compared with other laelias in its cattleya-like group, *L. fidelensis* is small in habit, growing about 30 cm. tall and with 2-3 cm. between growths. The leaves are a definite oblong shape with rounded tips and somewhat narrow, folded bases. There are 1-4 flowers, not more, about 8 cm. across. They are a lavender-pink or rose in color, almost a concolor, but with darker pigmentation along some of the veins and toward the edges of the

petals. The petals are somewhat long and pointed at their tips. The trumpet-shaped lip is palely colored in the throat, while the disc is almost white, veined in purple with a rim of darker rose-purple around its edge. The margin is frilled, and the apex of the lip is definitely pointed, the latter a characteristic that occurs in several laelias but in only two or three of their relatives among the cattleyas.²










Habitat

This laelia species was discovered in 1940 by Dr. Julio Sodre in the Sao Fidélis Mountains near his village of the same name in the state of Rio de Janeiro. It is located along the Rio Paraíba near Campos. Collected plants were sent to F. C. Hoehne, the Brazilian orchid expert, who declared it a new species, though he never published an official name. There were the usual questions relating to whether it was a natural hybrid or a species. But, after selfed seedlings produced by Rolf Altenburg of Floralia and raised by Orquidério Binot began to flower as a uniform population, it was recognized as a species. In the meantime both Prof. Hoehne and Dr. Sodre had died, and no one knew of the habitat locale where additional plants could be found.

In 1966 a plant in flower collected by a local farmer in Sao Fidélis was given to Guido Pabst by Lucilio Leite at a Botanical Congress in Rio de Janeiro. Prof. Brieger also agreed it was a species and not a natural hybrid, and anyway, what could the parents have been? So Pabst published the name in 1967. Later a pressed specimen was found in the Herbarium of the Jardim Botânica do Rio, but no one had previously recognized it as a separate species, nor given it a name. In any case, plants of this species are beginning to appear in American and other collections, most raised from seed.²

Brazil. Plants were discovered in Serra do São Fidélis near Campos in the northeastern part of the state of Rio de Janeiro. They grow near São Fidélis in the Paraíba do Sul River Valley at elevations below 650 ft. (200 m). -
- Source: Charles Baker⁴

Awards *Laelia fidelensis* has 4 awards, 2 from the AOS and 2 from Germany.

Org.	Award	Points	Genus	Name	Cultivar	Flwrs	Buds	Infl.	Avg.	P	Year
DOG	 BM		C	fidelensis	Sophia	 5		2	2.5		2015
DOG	 SM		C	fidelensis	Steffi						2015
AOS	 HCC	79	L	fidelensis	Patience	 2		1	2.0		2001
AOS	 CBR		L	fidelensis	Edmar	2		2	1.0		1978

F-1 Hybrids and Progeny

Laelia fidelensis has 13 F-1 grexes, all but 4 are primary crosses with Cattleyas. Only 1 of the F-1's has been awarded, a cross with *Cattleya loddigesii* registered as Lc. Won Hui. It received an HCC in 2001 in Oklahoma City. Two of the F-1 generation produced offspring, but neither went anywhere.



Lc. Won Hui 'Karl Siegler' HCC/AOS

Laelia fidelensis x *Cattleya loddigesii*



Lc. Angel Touch 'Moonlight'

Laelia fidelensis x *Cattleya* Angel Walker

Culture

Laelia fidelensis, according to Hamilton's data, flowers from July through August in cultivation; in January and February in Brazil. It is cultivated in baskets or on slabs so that its slightly rambling rhizomes can move about as they grow. The plants like intermediate to cool conditions with good light, like most other laelias.²

Spring, Summer
Blooming

Bright; 2500-3500
Footcandles (very
bright indirect light)

Cool, Intermediate to
Warm; 40°F min. to
95°F max. (tolerant of
extremes, favoring
cool)

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References

Aldridge, Peggy. 2008. *An Illustrated Dictionary of Orchid Genera*. Selby Botanical Garden Press.

¹la Croix, Isobyl. 2008. *The New Encyclopedia of Orchids*. Timber Press

Meisel, Kaufmann, Pupulin 2014. *Orchids of Tropical America*. Cornell University Press

²Withner, Carl L. 1990. *The Cattleyas and Their Relatives: Volume II* Timber Press

³www.orchidspecies.com

<http://apps.kew.org/wcsp/qsearch.do>

<https://secure.aos.org/aqplus/SearchAwards.aspx>

⁴OrchidWiz.Database X4.2

⁶www.andysorchids.com