

The colour forms of *Vanda coerulea*

ERIC CHRISTENSON standardises the names of three colour variants of *Vanda coerulea* and highlights five varieties that can be disregarded



Vanda coerulea f. *delicata*



Vanda coerulea f. *luwangalba*



Vanda coerulea f. *rogersii*

THE RECENT publication of *Vanda coerulea* f. *luwangalba* highlighted the need to formalise the names of colour variants in the species. Three colour forms are worthy of recognition due to their importance in horticulture and orchid breeding. This note is intended to do that as well as highlighting five varieties that can be disregarded.

***Vanda coerulea* f. *delicata* (Hort.)
EA Christenson, stat. nov.**

Basionym: *Vanda coerulea* var. *delicata* Hort., *Orch. Rev.* 33: 318. 1925.

This is the pink form of the species. The original description states that the flowers were, 'pale pink with a bright red lip.'

***Vanda coerulea* f. *luwangalba*
Kishor *Orch. Rev.* 116: 224. 2008.**

Synonyms: *Vanda coerulea* var. *alba* Hort., *Gard. Chron.*, ser. 3, 44: 374. 1908. *Vanda coerulea* var. *charlesworthii* Hort., *Orch. Rev.* 16: 361. 1908.

This is the pure white form of the species. Presumably this form will come true from seed. The existence of earlier names at the level of variety has no nomenclatural significance since names have no priority outside their rank.

***Vanda coerulea* f. *rogersii* (Hort.)
EA Christenson, stat. nov.**

Basionym: *Vanda coerulea* var. *rogersii* Hort., *Orchid Review* 22: 31. 1914.

This is the albescent form of the species. Although a nearly white-flowered form, presumably this strain will not come true from seed. The original description states that the flowers were, 'nearly white'.

The following five published varieties do not appear to be worthy of recognition either because they are trivial variants (var. *grandiflora*) or hybrids.

- *Vanda coerulea* var. *concolor* Cogn., *Dict. Icon. Orch.* t. 5b. 1899.
- *Vanda coerulea* var. *grandiflora* Hort., *Rev. Hortic.* 53: 290. 1881.
- *Vanda coerulea* var. *peetersiana* Cogn., *Dict. Icon. Orch.* t. 5a. 1899.
- *Vanda coerulea* var. *sanderæ* Hort., *Gard. Chron.*, ser. 3, 48: 415. 1910.
- *Vanda coerulea* var. *wrigleyi* Rolfe, *Orch. Rev.* 19: 62. 1911. ■

ERIC CHRISTENSON often publishes habitat information to aid growers in *ex situ* conservation. He is currently researching in southern Peru (www.andesamazon.org), while maintaining his interest in *Maxillaria* and *Sobralia*