

Phalaenopsis schilleriana

This species was named by Reichenbach in 1860 after Consul Schiller, the first person to flower it in Europe.

The species is endemic to the Philippines (Luzon and the Visayas), growing as an epiphyte at low elevations. A monopodial orchid, *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* has large, mottled leaves up to 40cm long, with upright, many-flowered branched racemes. The flowers are pink (although an albino form is known) and approximately 50mm in diameter .

These are tropical, warm-growing species and will need some heat to survive our cold, wet Perth winters. If you don't have any heat in your orchid house, I recommend growing them inside until mid-late spring. Any coarse bark-type media is suitable, and plenty of air movement to prevent water rots that can quickly kill *Phalaenopsis*. *Phalaenopsis* are susceptible to insect pests such as mites, mealy bug and slugs and snails, so it pays to keep up a regular pesticide and fungicide regime.