

Filipinos in Conservation of the Albino Walingwaling

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The normal color of walingwaling is pink with maroon to brown blotches, mottling and spottings around the sepal area. The albino form results when the pink or red color compound is lost through genetic malformation and may be passed on to its progenies. Albinism cleaned up the color so that the resulting flowers are white with green markings.



There is only one documented albino Walingwaling in the history of orchid breeding. That is the *Vanda sanderiana alba* of Mr. Miyamoto of Miyamoto Orchids of Oahu, Hawaii. It came out of a batch of normal walingwaling imported during the 50's. All *Vanda sanderiana albas* all over the world were derived from this singular plant.

Romel Silva, the famous Plant Propagator of Foster Botanic Garden owns a plant from the breeding works of Randy Tajima. Out of the 10 plants given to Romel, only one was strong enough to withstand the unprotected garden of Romel. The plant refuses to get sick and is a very strong grower. It won during an HOS Show as the best Orchid.

We suggested that Romel breeds his plant to get the seeds to make it part of the Orchid Conservation we are doing in the Philippines. The true hearted San Pabaleno immediately agreed and bred his plant everytime it flowers. This year, another Filipino joined in: Dr. Jay See of North Dakota. A medical doctor, originally from Tawitawi, he established a home laboratory to plant orchid seeds as a hobby and is now catering to some *Vanda* breeders in Florida. Dr. Jay See has unselfishly donated lots of plants to Filipino growers in Philippines.

Part of last year's seeds was given to Dr. Bernardino Cagauan of Waianae. The Soil scientist operates a commercial nursery is now growing the walingwaling alba in flasks.

In the Philippines, Mr. Ramon A. Calado of Antipolo and Emil Yap³ of Manila are growing the walingwaling albas for the Philippines. Between these 5 Filipinos, the walingwaling alba is saved for the future generation to enjoy. Work is being done to develop the alba further by breeding them out to different forms of walingwalings.