

The Story of Mathilde and Chouke

I saw *Hoya carnososa* flowering for the first time in full sun on a terrace on Tenerife in the beginning of the seventies during visits to study the Canary succulent endemic flora. In 1977 I did some trading with Mr. Marcel Kroenlein of the 'Jardin exotique de Monaco' and got my two first hoyas, *Hoya australis* and *Hoya polyneura*. *Hoya australis* is still in my collection but *Hoya polyneura* I am looking for again. It was the first time I had seen hoyas growing in a greenhouse.

In 1984 I bought a cutting of *Hoya pubicalyx* by the name 'Silver Pink' from Mr. Van Donkelaar after a lecture he gave at the cactus club in Leuven. He was at that time the hoya specialist in the Netherlands. I was especially interested in the colour of the flowers.

In June 1986 I received a cutting of *Hoya*



Emilio Begine showing his *Hoya* cv. *Mathilde*. All pictures on this page by Emilio.

Bottom left: Emilio's seedlings.
Bottom right: *Hoya* cv. *Mathilde*





Photo: Emilio Begine

serpens from Mr. Pol Bourdoux and that plant flowered for me for the first time in 1988. I was surprised by the small leaves and interested in growing it, because the flowers smelled so nice. In 1989 I took some cuttings from that plant for exchanges and got the first seed pods. I have to mention that up until 2003 I had to move my plant collection twice a year. In the spring I brought them outside or under a roof of corrugated plastic. In the winter I brought them inside placing them all over the house and in the basement.

In 1992 my *Hoya serpens* gave me no less than 6 seed pods. In 1994 when I got flowers on my *Hoya pubicalyx* and my *Hoya australis*. I became more interested and I bought a book about hoyas from Robert Dale Kloppenburg.

The same summer I had both *Hoya serpens* and *Hoya carnosa* flowering at the same time and I discovered my first (and still unique) seed pod on my *Hoya carnosa*. I was not thinking about a cross at that time as all the *Hoya serpens* seedlings look exactly like *Hoya serpens*, but I was curious anyway. The seedpod split open in January 1995 and I collected

a few seeds that I sowed in a terrarium in October the same year.

In June 1997 I had only two seedlings left. I repotted them and I was surprised that the leaves did not grow as big as their mother *Hoya carnosa*. I took a cutting of both for safety's sake and waited to see the flowers. I had the first ones in 2000 and discovered that both plants had some differences in leaves, flowers and smell. The nicest one for me is 'Mathilde' in all aspects. I first gave them the name *Hoya carnosa x serpens* with a different clone number (BE 23 and BE 24), but some people in a discussion group under Yahoo asked me why I didn't give them a proper name. So I did in 2003 – Mathilde is after one of our princesses and Chouke is the name I used for my wife till she died in 2002. So both cultivars were accidentally born, but lovely and very easy houseplants. You have to smell them and taste their nectar.

Now I only hope that some day I will be able to make a cross between *Hoya pubicalyx* 'Red Buttons' and *Hoya serpens* and see the results.

Emilio Begine



*Hoya cv. Mathilde to the left and
Hoya cv. Chouke to the right*



Hoya cv. Chouke, photo: Emilio Begine



Hoya cv. Mathilde, photo: Emilio Begine



Hoya cv. Mathilde, photo: Eva-Karin Wiberg





Hoya cv. Mathilde



Photo: Birgitta Hellström

Facts about *Hoya cv. Mathilde*

Colour: White corolla, white corona with a red centre

Flowershape: Flat

Flowersize: 2 cm

Umbel: Hanging down, convex

Number of flowers: 15-20

Durability: 5-7 days

Time of flowering: All year around

Peduncle: Perennial

Scent: Sweet

Nectar: Yes, a little

Leaves: 3 cm long, 2 cm wide

Stem: 1,5 mm

Growth: Twining

Best place: Light placing

Temperature: Around 22 degrees C

How I grow *Hoya cv. Mathilde*

In the Spring of 2004 I went to Holland and visited Paul Shirley to buy cuttings. *Hoya cv. Mathilde* was one of the them who came home unrooted and with 6 pairs of leaves.

Since then it has grown in a small 4 cm pot on a shelf under artificial lights. The plants get 16 hours of artificial light since the shelves are downstairs in my recreation room. The plant has grown well and started flowering in March.

Until today it has flowered twice, but when I was going to take a photo I broke off a stem. (grrrr).

When you have small plants in small pots under artificial lights you have to water very often and a lot, not my strong side, but growing *Hoya cv. Mathilde* has been OK. The plant itself is very pretty with small dark green leaves with a lot of silver speckling. The fact that the umbel was bigger than the leaves was a nice surprise.

Birgitta Hellström



Photo: Emilio Begine

Hoya cv. Chouke

Facts about *Hoya cv. Chouke*

Colour: White corolla, white corona with a pink centre
Flowershape: Flat
Flowersize: 2 cm
Umbel: Hanging down, convex
Number of flowers: 15-20
Durability: 5-7 days
Time of flowering: All year around

Peduncle: Perennial
Scent: Sweet
Nectar: Yes, a little
Leaves: 5 cm long, 3 cm wide
Stem: 2 mm
Growth: Twining
Best place: Light placing
Temperature: Around 22 degrees C

How I grow *Hoya cv. Chouke*

I bought *Hoya cv. Chouke* in the Autumn of 2003 as an unrooted cutting. I planted it in a small pot and put it on shelves under artificial light. It took some time to start growing but now it's has increased in speed.

The leaves resembles those of *Hoya cv.*

Mathilde, but they have a bit more pointed tips. I take this as if it has inherited more from it's mother *Hoya carnosa*.

With the space situation being very crowded in my house I will soon put it in a hanging pot.

Carin Wahlström