

Ambient Orchids

Dendrobium

Dendrobium Swartz is a large genus of tropical orchids that consists of about 1200 species. The genus occurs in diverse habitats throughout Asia, the Philippines, Borneo, Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand. The name is from the Greek *dendron* (meaning tree) and *bios* (meaning life).



Painting of a typical *Dendrobium*, by I. V. Passmoore; probably the hybrid *Dendrobium* Lucky Seven

The species are either epiphytic, growing on a tree, or occasionally lithophytic, growing over a rock. They have adapted to a wide variety of habitats, from the high altitudes in the Himalayan mountains to lowland tropical forests and even to the dry climate of the Australian desert.

The orchids in this genus develop large pseudobulbs, which unite into a long reedlike stem with a typical length of more than 30 cm. These are densely covered with short white hairs. The short, ovate leaves grow alternately over the whole length of the stems. The axillary flower buds develop into short flower stalks with one or two terminal flowers. The orchids grow quickly throughout summer, but take a long rest during winter. In the spring, new shoots are formed from the base of the main


plant and the dormant buds come back into action. The blooming flowers are found on pseudobulbs formed in the previous year.

Some species are in great demand by orchid lovers. This has resulted in numerous varieties and hybrids, such as the *Dendrobium nobile* varieties, which have greatly extended the range of colors of the original flower from the Himalayas.

Kimilsungia, one of the national flowers of North Korea, is the cultivar *Dendrobium* 'Kim il Sung'.

Species with a common name

- *Dendrobium aduncum* : Angelfish Orchid
- *Dendrobium aemulum* : Ironbark Orchid
- *Dendrobium aurantioseum* Aunty Rosie
- *Dendrobium beckleri* : Pencil Orchid
- *Dendrobium bigibbum* : Cooktown Orchid (also known as *D. phalaenopsis*)

<i>Dendrobium</i> ?	
	
<i>Dendrobium lindleyi</i>	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
Division:	Magnoliophyta
Class:	Liliopsida
Order:	Asparagales
Family:	Orchidaceae
Subfamily:	Epidendroideae
Tribe:	Podochileae
Subtribe:	Dendrobiinae
Genus:	<i>Dendrobium</i> Sw, 1799
Species	
1190 species; see List of <i>Dendrobium</i> species	

- *Dendrobium canaliculatum* : Antelope Orchid, Teatree Orchid
- *Dendrobium chrysotoxum* : Fried-egg Orchid
- *Dendrobium crassilabium* P.J.Spence (Papua New Guinea.)
- *Dendrobium crumenatum* : Dove Orchid, Pigeon Orchid, Sparrow Orchid
- *Dendrobium cucumerinum* : Cucumber Orchid
- *Dendrobium densiflorum* : Pineapple Orchid
- *Dendrobium discolor* : Golden Orchid
- *Dendrobium ephemerum* : Small white Orchid
- *Dendrobium falcarostrum* : Beech Orchid
- *Dendrobium farinatum* Schildh. & Schraut (Vietnam)
- *Dendrobium finisterrae* Schltr. 1912 : The End of the World Orchid (Papua New Guinea)
- *Dendrobium gouldii* (light coloured) : Guadalcanal Gold
- *Dendrobium gouldii* (blue form) : Florida Blue
- *Dendrobium goldiei* Rchb.f.
 - *Dendrobium goldiei* var. *karthausianum* Rolfe (Germany)
- *Dendrobium gracilicaule* : Leopard Orchid
- *Dendrobium hasseltii* : Spinach Orchid
- *Dendrobium kingianum* : Pink rock lily
- *Dendrobium kingianum* : Pink Rock Orchid, Pink Rock >Lily
- *Dendrobium lawesii* : Christmas bell Orchid
- *Dendrobium linguaeforme* : Thumbnail Orchid, Tongue Orchid
- *Dendrobium macarthuriae* : Vesak Mala
- *Dendrobium macrophyllum* (*D. musciferum*) : The Pastor's Orchid
- *Dendrobium mirbelianum* : Mangrove Orchid
- *Dendrobium monophyllum* : Lily of the Valley Orchid
- *Dendrobium mortii* : Pencil Orchid, Rattail Orchid
- *Dendrobium nindii* : Cowslip Orchid

- *Dendrobium ostrinoglossum* : May River Orchid, Sepik Blue Orchid
- *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* : Cooktown Orchid (preferably known as *D. bigibbum*)
- *Dendrobium pugioniforme* : Dagger Orchid
- *Dendrobium racemosum* : Rat tail Orchid
- *Dendrobium ruppianum* (*fusiforme*) Small Demon, Small lemon orchid
- *Dendrobium secundum* : Toothbrush Orchid
- *Dendrobium senile* : Old Man Orchid
- *Dendrobium smilliae* : Bottle-brush Orchid

- *Dendrobium speciosum* : Captain King's Dendrobium, King Orchid, Pink Rock Orchid, Rock Lily
- *Dendrobium striolatum* : Rat tail Orchid, Streaked Rock Orchid
- *Dendrobium superbum* : Honohono
- *Dendrobium taurinum* : Bull Orchid
- *Dendrobium tenuissimum* : Rattail Orchid
- *Dendrobium teretifolium* : Bridal-veil Orchid, Pencil Orchid, Rattail Orchid
- *Dendrobium tetragonum* : Spider Orchid, Tree Spider Orchid
- *Dendrobium victoriae-reginae* : Blue Orchid





Cooktown orchids
Dendrobium biggibum



Dendrobium delacourii



Dendrobium x delicatum
(a natural hybrid)



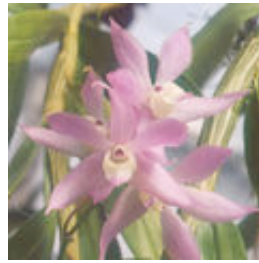
Dendrobium densiflorum



Dendrobium densiflorum
x farmeri pink (a
hybrid)



Dendrobium
fuerstenbergianum



Dendrobium
hercoglossum



Dendrobium kingianum



Dendrobium Mini
Brown (a man-made
hybrid)



Dendrobium nobile



Dendrobium parishii



Dendrobium unicum

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