

Anguloa

Pronunciation: An-guoo-LOW-ah

Tribe: Maxillarieae
Subtribe: Lycastinae

The plants in this genus are quite large. Pseudobulbs can be over 9 inches tall and the plicate leaves on a well-grown plant can be over 4 feet long. This easily grown genus is terrestrial and the plant loses its leaves at the start of each season's new growth. There are two basic groups of anguloas, white and yellow/red. White anguloas can produce up to six inflorescences per pseudobulb and the yellow/red up to twelve in late spring and early summer. There is usually one cupped flower per inflorescence. The flowers of all species are strongly fragrant.

Number of species: With reference to Dr. Henry F. Oakeley's recent work, the genus is composed of nine distinct species and three natural hybrids. The species are: *brevilabris*, *cliftonii*, *clowesii*, *dubia*, *eburnea*, *hohenlohii*, *tognettiae*, *uniflora*, and *virginalis*. The three natural hybrids are: *xrolfei*, *xruckeri*, and *xacostae*.

Currently the World Checklist of Monocotyledons recognizes a total of 14 species and 4 natural hybrids (9/2007).

Distribution: Andean regions of Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru.

CULTURE:

Temperature: Mostly high elevation plants, they are best suited to cooler temperatures and vigorous air movement like odontoglossums, though an intermediate temperature does not appear to be detrimental to most of the species.

Light: Almost direct sun in summer and as much sun as you can give it in winter remembering that they need cooler temperatures.

Water-Humidity: Regular watering during the season when the plant is producing new growth and a dry winter rest will encourage flower production. Water just enough to keep bulbs from shriveling during rest and then heavily when the new growth appears in the spring.

Fertilizer: The plants should be fertilized at full strength at each watering when the new growths are forming so that the new pseudobulbs will become large and mature as soon as possible in the fall.

Potting: Anguloas are terrestrials and a finer mix such as that used for cymbidiums works very well.