

Coelogyne

Pronunciation: see-LODGE-eh-nee

Tribe: Coelogyneae

Subtribe: Coelogyneinae

This popular genus has pseudobulbs with one or two pleated leaves. These pseudobulbs vary in size and are mostly of an ovoid shape and can be closely or widely spaced on the rhizome. The leaves may also be closely spaced or far apart. The genus was described by Lindley in 1825. In reference to the hollow stigmatic area on the column, he named the genus from two Greek words: *koilos* (hollow) and *gyne* (female). The species of **Coelogyne** are popular in collections due to their mostly fragrant, free flowering, showy inflorescences. Those most often found include ***C. cristata***, ***C. speciosa***, ***C. fimbriata***, ***C. massangeana*** and ***C. dayana***.

Barbara Gravendeel of the University of Leiden, Netherlands published a reorganization of **Coelogyne** in 2000. She reports "Most species are epiphytes, occurring in tropical lowland and montane rainforests. In open, humid environments, some species may also grow as lithophytes or even as terrestrial plants. Most species are characterized by medium sized to large flowers with a sweet scent and are pollinated by bees, beetles or wasps. The number of recent artificial hybrids published, indicates the growing commercial interest in this group." The type species for the genus is ***C. cristata***.

Number of species: The World Monocot Checklist contains more than 200 accepted names (9/2007).

Distribution: Throughout Southeast Asia, with main centers of distribution in Borneo, Sumatra and the Himalayas.

CULTURE:

Temperature: Mostly intermediate temperatures, although a few species grow best in warm conditions and some such as ***C. mooreana*** prefer slightly cooler temperatures.

Light: As for phalaenopsis or oncidiums – 800 to 1,800 footcandles, with good air movement.

Water-Humidity: Constant moisture with good drainage throughout the year. New growths have tightly rolled leaves that tend to hold water. Care should be taken to avoid water standing in the new growths.

Fertilizer: A balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20, ½ teaspoon/gallon of water, applied every other week.

Potting: A variety of growing media will provide adequate cultural conditions: bark mixtures, sphagnum moss, coconut-fiber mixtures. Pot culture is recommended with repotting every 2 years at the least and every spring is not out of the question.

Page 1

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