

Gongora

Pronunciation: gon-GOR-a

Tribe: Maxillarieae

Subtribe: Stanhopeinae

Gongora is an epiphytic genus of sympodial orchids that are usually found between 0 and 1000m in wet tropical forests. Pseudobulbs are ovoid, strongly ridged, with two-three plicate leaves. The pendulous inflorescences arise from the base of the pseudobulbs, are more than a meter long in some species, and bear many intricately-shaped, flowers. that are often scented. In general, gongoras are easy to grow into large and showy plants. This genus was named for Sr. Don Antonio Caballero y Gongora, Viceroy of New Granada (Colombia and Ecuador) and later Bishop of Cordoba; Governor of Peru during the Dombey, Ruiz & Pavon expeditions. The type species is **Gongora quinquenervis**, described by H. Ruiz & J. Pavon in 1794 in their *Prodromus Florae Peruviana et Chilensis*. Commonly grown species include **Gongora armeniaca**; **Gga. galeata**; **Gga. quinquenervis (maculata)**.

Number of species: About 55 species, subspecies, and varieties

Distribution: Tropical America

CULTURE

Temperature:	Warm
Light:	Bright shade with good air movement
Water-Humidity:	Maintain even moisture and high humidity
Fertilizer:	Balanced fertilizer weekly during growth; supplemented with slow-release pellet fertilizer.
Potting:	Grow hanging, similar to stanhopeas, although pots can be used because the inflorescences do not grow downward through the media. Suggest long-fibered sphagnum with bark, charcoal & sponge rock or coconut chips.

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