

Grammatophyllum

Pronunciation: gram-at-oh-FILL-um

Tribe: Cymbidieae

Subtribe: Cyrtopodiinae

Carl Blume established this genus of sympodial orchids in 1825. The generic epithet is from the Greek *gramma* = letter and *phyllon* = leaf and refers to the conspicuous markings on the floral segments. Type species for this genus is the very large *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. There are two distinct growth forms in this genus: one with long spindle-like pseudobulbs reaching several metres in length; the others with distinct ovate pseudobulbs. Commonly seen species are *Grammatophyllum scriptum* and *Grammatophyllum stapeliiflorum*. All are very showy species.

Number of species: The World Checklist of Monocotyledons recognizes 11 species.

Distribution: South East Asia, New Guinea and some of the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

CULTURE:

Temperature: Warm.

Light: Bright light. I have observed *G. speciosum* and *G. scriptum* growing in full sun.

Water-Humidity: Require plenty of water and high humidity during the growing season. All species come from distinct wet/dry habitats. Less water is required during the cooler months.

Fertilizer: Half-strength balanced fertilizer weekly during the growing season. Twice a week during the cooler months.

Potting: Medium grade bark in terracotta or plastic pots. The mix should retain moisture.