

Liparis

Pronunciation: LIP-per-ris

Tribe: Malaxideae
Subtribe: none

Louis C. Richard established this cosmopolitan genus in 1818. The generic epithet is from the Greek *liparos* = greasy or shining and refers to the shiny leaves of many of the species. Type species for this genus is *Liparis loeselii*. There are two distinct growth habits in this genus, terrestrial and epiphytic. The terrestrial species usually have a single large leaf on a single stem whereas the epiphytes have pseudobulbs, which are unifoliate. Commonly grown species are *Liparis condylobulbon*, *Liparis latifolia*, *Liparis nutans*, and *Liparis viridiflora*.

Number of species: The World Checklist of Monocotyledons recognizes more than 500 species and their varietal forms.

Distribution: Found throughout the temperate and tropical areas of the world.

CULTURE:

Temperature: Warm to cool.

Light: Filtered diffuse light although many have observed species growing in full sun at high elevations in the Philippines.

Water-Humidity: Keep evenly moist with high humidity. Constant air movement is also important.

Fertilizer: Once a week with a balanced fertilizer when plants are actively growing. Twice a month in the cooler weather.

Potting: *Liparis* grow very well in pots of sphagnum moss. Some species will prosper on mounts provided the mounts do not dry out.