

# *Ludisia*

**Pronunciation:** loo-DIS-ee-ah

**Tribe:** Erythrodeae

**Subtribe:** Goodyerinae

Known more for its beautiful, deep red velvet-like leaves with attractive venation than for its small whitish to pinkish flowers, *Ludisia* is a monotypic genus, allied to the other “jewel orchids”, *Anoectochilus* and *Macodes*. *Ludisia* is found in many collections because of its beautiful leaves, although a specimen-sized plant with many several-flowered inflorescences can be a memorable sight. *Ludisia* is generally easy to grow given the right culture, and thrives on standard houseplant care, much like African violets. The only species to date in this genus is *L. discolor*.

**Number of species:** Monotypic (one)

**Distribution:** From China, Southeast Asia to northeast India

## CULTURE

**Temperature:** Intermediate to warm

**Light:** Medium light with no direct sun; shady.

**Water-Humidity:** Even moisture throughout the year; high humidity

**Fertilizer:** As for most orchids. A balanced fertilizer, diluted to 50%, every 2 weeks.

**Potting:** Shallow pans work best because of a creeping growth habit; any terrestrial-type mix or commercial potting soil; good drainage.