

Section Formosae

One group of *Dendrobium* species somewhat problematic in cultivation is the section *formosae*, formerly known as section *Nigrohirsutaes* (hairs) on the leaves and leaf sheaths. It includes about 30 species, distributed from India through South-East Asia to Sumatra, the Philippines and Borneo. South-East Asia from India to Indochina and Thailand appears to be the center of distribution with about 20 species, while Borneo and the Philippines have about 12 species.

The plants are made up of clumps of usually long, relatively robust pseudobulbs with leaves along their length. The leaf sheaths are covered in dark hairs and last for several years. The flowers are usually large and waxy or thin in texture, usually with white predominating, and are long-lasting.

They are borne from the upper part of the stem in groups of 1 to 3. The lip is 3-lobed. (Lavarack et. al 2006).