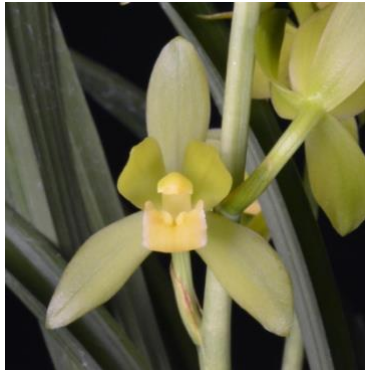


Genus *Cymbidium*

Cymbidium ensifolium is the type species for the genus *Cymbidium*. The name *Cymbidium* derived from Greek, means boat-shaped (kymbos). A reference to the shape of the lip of *Cym. ensifolium*.



Cymbidium ensifolium 'Pure Jadeite' AM/AOS
(80 points)

Cymbidium is one of the better known and widely popular flowers in the orchid family. There are 69 species and 15 natural hybrids. Their growth habitats are ample, can be sympodial epiphytes, lithophytes or terrestrial and there are a few uncommon saprophytes.

Cymbidium plants can be found growing in low to upper elevations, coastal to hill scrub, open savannas, rocky crevices and montane evergreen, semideciduous to deciduous forests ranging from India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar to Vietnam, Malaysia, southern Korea, Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines and New Guinea to coastal Australia (Western Australia to New South Wales). Most species are found in north-central China (Shaanxi to Henan) but also ranging southward from Xizang to Hainan.

The plants are characterized by very short pseudobulbs and sheathed by leaves which are long, narrow, and often leathery. The flowers are borne in racemes often two or three feet long. The sepals and petals are free and spreading and are similar in shape, the petals being narrower. The lip is three-lobed; the mid-lobed being recurved and heart-shaped, the side lobes erect and protecting the column. (Withner 1948).

Cymbidium plants often tall-growing, they have short, slightly elongate to indistinct, strongly compressed, ovoid to spindle-shape pseudobulbs, often subtended completely with leafy sheaths (rarely absent and replaced by a slender stem), each with several long, straplike, obscurely bilobed leaves. The erect or arched, solitary to numerous-flowered inflorescence has small to large, waxy, often fragrant, long lasting flowers. The floral shape is diverse as is the coloration. The trilobed lip is free or fused to the column base, the erect side lobes surround the long, often forward-bent, winged column and the midlobe is recurved. Two deeply grooved or four pollinia in two unequal pairs are waxy and attached by a very short or indistinct caudicle to a usually broad viscidium. (Alrich & Higgins 2018).

Despite larger numbers of *Cymbidium* species, only five have played a major role in producing standard-sized hybrids. These are *Cym. eburneum*, *Cym. hookerianum*, *Cym. insigne*, *Cym. sanderae* and *Cym. erythrostylum*. Of these *Cym. insigne* has played the major role.

Perhaps the most significant event in the entire history of *Cymbidium* hybridization was the appearance of a chance tetraploid from one of these crosses in 1922 named *Cym. Alexanderi* 'Westonbirt' (*Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* x *Cym. insigne*). *Cym. Eburneo-lowianum* (*Cym. eburnum* x *Cym. lowianum*). Although it wasn't proven to be a tetraploid until 1947, it quickly became recognized as a phenomenally superior parent which could transmit improved size, shape, color and substance to its progeny.

Three other chance tetraploids which occurred in this same period played significant but smaller roles in subsequent hybridization. These were *Cym. Rosanna* 'Pinkie' (1927), *Cym. Pauwelsii* 'Compte de Heptienne' (1911) and *Cym. Babylon* 'Castle Hill' (1942).

In the 1950s, a cross between two of these early chance tetraploids, *Cym. Alexanderi* 'Westonbirt' and *Cym. Rosanna* produced *Cym. Balkis* 'Silver Orb', which became the premier parent during the late 1950s and 1960.



Cymbidium insigne 'Memoria Blair Miller'
HCC/AOS 77 Points
Photo by OWZLib

Cymbidium Alexanderi 'Westonbirt' FCC/AOS

Photo by B. Klein



The genus *Cymbidium* was first formally described in 1799 by Olof Swartz who published the description in *Nova acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum Upsaliensis* based on the description of *Epidendrum aloifolium* L. (*Cymbidium aloifolium*). In 1848 Blume moved *Cymbidium elegans* to form the genera *Cyperorchis* on the basis of the sessile lip that was fused at the base and moved *Cymbidium iridioides* (as *C. giganteum*) to section *Iridorchis* in 1854. Following the discovery of more species Schlechter created more sections and merged. The genus was revised again in 1970 by P.F. Hunt who changed *Cyperorchis* to a section. In 1984 Seth and Cribb divided the genus into three subgenera *Cyperorchis*, *Jensoa*, and *Cymbidium* with multiple section.

Dupuy and Cribb modified the sections in 1988 The three subgeneras were confirmed by molecular phylogeny, however the sections did not show monophyly.

Species The following is a list of *Cymbidium* species accepted by the Plants of the World Online as at April 2022 separated into subgenera:

Subgenus *Cymbidium* Plants in this subgenus have two pollinia, each deeply cleft with callus ridges

Section *Cymbidium*

Cymbidium aloifolium (L.) Sw. 1799
Cymbidium atropurpureum (Lindl.) Rolfe 1903
Cymbidium bicolor Lindl. 1833
Cymbidium finlaysonianum Wall. ex Lindl.
Cymbidium puerense Z.J.Liu & S.R.Lan 2018
Cymbidium rectum Ridl. 1920

Section *Austrocymbidium*

Cymbidium canaliculatum R.Br. 1810
Cymbidium chloranthum Lindl. 1843
Cymbidium madidum Lindl. 1840
Cymbidium suave R.Br. 1810

Section *Himantophyllum*

Cymbidium dayanum Rchb.f 1869
Cymbidium lii

Section *Floribundum*

Cymbidium dianlan H.He 2019
Cymbidium elongatum J.J. Wood, Du Puy & Shim 1988
Cymbidium floribundum (Rolfe) Y.S. Wu & S.C. Chen 1980
Cymbidium hartinahianum J.B.Comber & Nasution 1978
Cymbidium suavissimum Sander ex C.H.Curtis 1928
Cymbidium viride Kumar 2018

Section *Bigibbarium*

Cymbidium devonianum Paxton 1843

Section Repens

Cymbidium repens Aver. & Q.T.Phan 2016

Subgenus Cyperorchis Plants in subgenus Cyperorchis have lips fused at the base to the base of the column.

Section Annamaea

Cymbidium erythrostylum Rolfe 1905

Cymbidium wenshanense Y.S.Wu & F.Y.Liu 1990

Section Cyperorchis

Cymbidium codonanthum Yuting Jiang, Liang Ma & S.Chen 2020

Cymbidium cochleare Lindl. 1858

Cymbidium elegans Lindl. 1828

Cymbidium sigmoideum J.J.Sm. 1907

Cymbidium whiteae King & Pantl. 1898

Section Eburnea

Cymbidium banaense Gagnep. 1951

Cymbidium concinnum Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen 2006

Cymbidium daweshanense G.Q.Zhang & Z.J.Liu 2018

Cymbidium eburneum Lindl. 1847

Cymbidium mastersii Griff. ex Lindl. 1845

Cymbidium jiangchengense Ying L.Peng, S.R.Lan & Z.J.Liu 2019

Cymbidium maguanense F.Y.Liu 1996

Cymbidium parishii Rchb. f. 1874

Cymbidium roseum J.J.Sm. 1905

Cymbidium wadae T.Yukawa 2002

Cymbidium erythraeum Lindl. 1859

Cymbidium gaoligongense Z.J.Liu & J.Yong Zhang

Cymbidium hookerianum Rchb.f.

Cymbidium insigne Rolfe

Cymbidium iridioides D. Don 1825

Cymbidium lowianum (Rchb. f.) Rchb. f. 1879

Cymbidium sanderæ Sander ex Rolfe 1904

Cymbidium seidenfadenii (P.J.Cribb & Du Puy) P.J.Cribb 2014

Cymbidium schroederi Rolfe 1905

Cymbidium sichuanicum Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen 2006

Cymbidium tracyanum Rolfe 1890

Cymbidium wilsonii (Rolfe ex De Cock) Rolfe 1904

Section Parishiella

Cymbidium tigrinum Parish ex Hook. f. 1864

Subgenus Jensoa Plants in this subgenus have four pollinia, in two unequal pairs; lips attached to the base of the column,

Section Axillaria

Cymbidium cyperifolium Lindl. 1833

Cymbidium shidianense G.Z.Chen, G.Q.Zhang & L.J.Chen 2019

Section Borneense

Cymbidium aliciae Quisumb 1940

Cymbidium borneense J.J. Wood 1983

Section Geocymbidium

Cymbidium biflorens D.Y.Zhang, S.R.Lan & Z.J.Liu 2020

Cymbidium lancifolium Hook. 1823

Cymbidium recurvatum Z.J.Liu, S.C.Chen & P.J.Cribb 2009

Section Jensoa

Cymbidium acuminatum M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones 1996

Cymbidium defoliatum Y.S.Wu & S.C.Chen 1991

Cymbidium ensifolium [L.]Swartz 1799

Cymbidium goeringii [Rchb.f.]Rchb.f 1864

Cymbidium haematodes Lindl. 1833

Cymbidium induratifolium Z.J.Liu & J.N.Zhang 1998

Cymbidium kanran Makino 1902

Cymbidium longipes Z.J.Liu & J.N.Zhang 1998

Cymbidium micranthum Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen 2004

Cymbidium munronianum King & Pantl. 1895

Cymbidium omeiense Y.S.Wu & S.C.Chen 1966

Cymbidium qiubeiense K.M.Feng & H.Li 1980

Cymbidium sinense (Andrews) Willd.1805

Cymbidium tamphianum Aver. 2018

Section Nanula

Cymbidium atrolabium X.Y.Liao, S.R.Lan & Z.J.Liy 2019

Cymbidium faberi Rolfe 1896

Cymbidium nanulum Y.S.Wu & S.C.Chen 2017

Cymbidium purpureisepalum M.J.Zhu & S.R.Lan 2022

Cymbidium serratum Schltr. 1919

Cymbidium teretipetiolatum Z.J.Liu & S.C.Chen 2002

Cymbidium tortisepalum Fukuy. 1934

Section Pachyrhizanth

Cymbidium macrorhizon Lindl. 1833

(Retrieve from Wikipedia).

Names	Progeny F1/Total	FCC	AM	HCC	JC	AQ	CCE	CCM	CHM	CBR	CBM	Total	Strengthen	Weakness
Cymbidium aloifolium	32/83		1	1				2	2					
Cymbidium atropurpureum	7/12		2						1					
Cymbidium bicolor	12/15			1					1	1				
Cymbidium canaliculatum	76/108		4	9	1			5	1		2			
Cymbidium dayanum	40/72				1		4	4	1					
Cymbidium devonianum*	230/1197		1	1			1	2					Solid color lip	
Cymbidium eburneum*	68/16578		1	2	2			3						
Cymbidium elegans	28/64			1				2	1					
Cymbidium ensifolium*	79/1406		5	10	2			5	2				Produce hybrids which bloom extremely early in September. Scent, erect blooming spikes and heat-tolerance	
Cymbidium erythraeum	53/69			4					1	1				
Cymbidium erythrostyleum*	95/8651		2	2				1			1		Early flowering	
Cymbidium faberi	13/30		3	1	3				2		1			
Cymbidium floribundum*	285/4241							3					Flower spike upright	
Cymbidium goeringii	94/205		20	15	1			2	6		1			
Cymbidium hookerianum*	54/14644		2	3						1				
Cymbidium insigne*	129/16944		1	4										
Cymbidium iridioides*	27/6965								1					
Cymbidium kanran	20/31		3	6	2					1				
Cymbidium lancifolium	14/13		1	1				2		1				
Cymbidium lowianum*	122/16823		1	3				2	2	1			Late flowering	
Cymbidium madidum	85/506		3	3			1	3					Produce hybrids which bloom extremely early in September. Scent, erect blooming spikes and heat-tolerance	Relatively large plant with small flowers
Cymbidium mastersii	36/1263								1	1				
Cymbidium parishii	53/241			1	2									
Cymbidium sanderae*	88/13572			1									Warmth-tolerant Cymbidiums in standard breeding.	
Cymbidium seidenfadenii	14/17			1					1					
Cymbidium sinense	126/294		4	15	1		1	3	5		1			
Cymbidium suave	40/84		1	1										Small size of flowers and sometime difficult to breed.
Cymbidium tigrinum	52/220			3				2						
Cymbidium tortisepalum	8/11	3	4	7	1				3	1				
Cymbidium tracyanum*	127/12291		1	9	3			1					Early blooming. Can be impart spot or lines to its progeny	
Cymbidium wenshanense	7/7		2							1				

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