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Student Judge
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The Genus *Aerangis*
(air-ANG-giss)
Tribe: Vandeae
Subtribe: Aerangidinae



Aerangis somalensis 'Mitchell Park Domes'

The name '*Aerangis*' was first proposed as a genus in 1865 by H.G. Reichenbach. Making it its own genus (as opposed to *Angraecum*) was due to the long slender rostellum stretching forward from the apex of the column. And by the slender stipe located on the upper surface of the rostellum supporting two pollinia. In 1914, Rudolf Schlechter transferred some of the well known Madagascar species from '*Angraecum*' to '*Aerangis*'. The name is derived from the Greek words 'aer' (air) and 'angos'(urn)

referring to the form of the lip. The species are usually epiphytic and resemble Vandas. Their large, waxy, star-shaped flowers are mostly white, cream-colored or yellow. Their long nectar-filled spur is often longer than the flower itself. There is a single inflorescence with many flowers. The lip is flat and resembles the petals and sepals and have a pleasing fragrance. There are 6 to 10 parallel-veined evergreen leaves. The flowering time is usually during the rainy seasons of April and May or October and November in Africa and in January and February in Madagascar.

Cultivation:

Aerangis needs medium light for those with soft leaves. For those with thick leaves they need greater light but no direct sunlight. Temperature leans toward warm 18 to 30 degrees C. during the day and 15 to 25 degrees C at night. The species from higher elevation need cooler conditions than those that occur at or near sea level and those near the Equator require warmer conditions and higher humidity. The recommended humidity level is 60 to 80%.

Species:

Currently the Kew World Checklist recognized 51 species, 2 natural hybrids, and 4 varieties. The species most commonly found in cultivation include *Aerangis articulata*, *Aerangis biloba*, *Aerangis citrate*, *Aerangis ellisii*, *Aerangis fastuosa*, *Aerangis lutes-alba* and its variety *rhodosticta* and *Aerangis modesta*.

Distribution:

Africa and its adjacent islands to include Madagascar. Comoro Islands and Sri Lanka.

Aerangis Species Table (* denotes most common)

| NAME |
|---------------|
| alcicornis |
| appendiculata |
| arachnopus |
| articulata* |
| biloba* |
| bouarensis |
| boutonii |
| brachycarpa |
| calantha |

| NAME |
|---------------|
| carnea |
| chirioana |
| citrata* |
| collum-cygni |
| concupetala |
| confusa |
| coriacea |
| coursiana |
| cryptodon |
| decaryana |
| distincta |
| divitiflora |
| ellisii* |
| fastuosa* |
| flexuosa* |
| guscata |
| gracilima |
| gravenreuthii |
| hariotiana |
| hildebrandtii |
| hologlottis |
| humblotii |
| hyaloides |
| jacksonii |
| kirkii |
| kotschyana |
| luteoalba* |

| NAME |
|--------------|
| macrocentra |
| maireae |
| megaphylla |
| modestra |
| monantha |
| montana |
| mooreana |
| mystacidii |
| oligantha |
| pallidiflora |
| primulina |
| pulchella |
| punctata |
| rostellaris |
| seeker |
| somalensis |
| spicultat |
| splendida |
| stelligera |
| styles |
| thomsonii |
| ugandensis* |
| verdickii |

Awards and progeny:

| NAME | AWARD TYPE(s) | DATE Range | F1 Offsp | Progeny |
|------------|-------------------|------------|----------|---------|
| articulata | 8 AM 1 HCC | 1971-2014 | 7 | 11 |
| biloba | 2 AM 3 HCC | 1978-1994 | 7 | 7 |
| citrata | 1 AM 2 HCC | 1973-2015 | 6 | 6 |
| fastuosa | 2 AM 1 HCC | 1977-1988 | 8 | 9 |
| flexousa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| luteoalba | 13 AM 2 FCC 6 HCC | 1974-2016 | 13 | 13 |
| ugandensis | 2 CCM 2 CBM | 1975-1994 | 3 | 3 |
| ellisii | 2 HCC 2 AM | 1982-2017 | 2 | 3 |



Aerangis articulata



Aerangis biloba



Aerangis luteoalba