

The Genus *Aerides*  
Lour., Fl. Cochinch.:525 (1790)  
[AIR-i-deez]  
subfamily Epidendroideae  
tribe Vandeeae  
subtribe Aeridinae



*Aerides crassifolia* Parish ex Burb. 1873

Connie Koehler  
Dallas Student Judge  
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*Aerides* is an orchid genus, containing approximately 28 orchid species with a collection of very fragrant flowers. The epiphytic growing *Aerides* genus was established by the Portuguese botanist, Jesuit missionary, paleontologist and physician Joao de Loureiro (1717-1791). This genus is widely spread over Asia and especially in South East Asia. They also are found in Southern China, Nepal, India,

The Philippines and New Guinea. The horticultural abbreviation is: Aer. Aerides literally means "child of the air". This particular genus is a strong-growing monopodial epiphyte and most resembles the genus Vanda. They are, however, different from the Vanda by having waxy, fragrant flowers with a spur differently pointed than Vanda's. They are distinguished with their pendent spikes of closely set, often fragrant blooms and are commonly called "foxtail" or "Cat's-tail" orchids and are often confused with Rhynocostylis.

The flowers are born in racemes with numerous flowers per an inflorescence. They are waxy, fragrant, long-lasting with forwardly-oriented spurs. They are typically cool to hot growing epiphytes, monopodial, and have strap-shaped leaves appearing outwardly to be Vandas. Their colors range from white, rose, purple to a rare yellow. They are formed in a dense, arching to pendent, simple or branched racemes. The sepals and petals are similar with the lateral sepals more or less decurrent on the bottom foot. The hinged, three lobed lip has the lateral lobes decurrent to the column. The spurred lip is usually bent forward and has swellings and calli within. There is a short column with a large foot and 2 cleft pollen on a narrow stipe. In all species, the column is dilated and beaked, the whole appearing as the head of a bird.

The genus Aerides is further divided in to 3 sections:

#### Aerides

The lip is 3 lobed, articulate, mid lobe erect and with the side lobes enveloping the column.

#### Falcata

Lip 3 lobed, articulate mid lobe flat and spreading

#### Fieldingia

Lip not lobes, not articulate, mid lobe flat and spreading.



## Table of species:

Kew name	Section	Habitat	Temp.	Season	Progeny F1 total	AOS awards
<i>Aerides lawrenceae</i> *	section <i>Aerides</i>					
<i>Aerides crassifolia</i>	section <i>Falcata</i>	Assam to Southeast Asia	cool to hot	spring-summer	23/29	4
<i>Aerides crispa</i>	section <i>Falcata</i>	India	warm to hot	spring-summer	5/6	0
<i>Aerides leeana</i>	section <i>Aerides</i>	Phillippines	warm to hot	winter	23/32	6
<i>Aerides falcata</i>	section <i>Falcata</i>	China to southwest asia	cool to hot	summer	20/25	2
<i>Aerides houlettiana</i>	section <i>Falcata</i>	Southeast Asia	hot	spring-summer	37/61	12
<i>Aerides odorata</i>	section <i>Aerides</i>	China to Tropical Asia	Hot	Summer-Fall	62/114	23
<i>Aerides krablensis</i>	section <i>Fieldingia</i>	Malaya, Thailand	Hot	spring-summer6/6	6/6	3
<i>Aerides multiflora</i>	section <i>Fieldingia</i>	Himalayas to Southeast Asia	warm to hot	summer	32/37	16
<i>Aerides rosea</i>	section <i>Fieldingia</i>	Himalayas to Southeast Asia S. China	cool to warm	spring-summer	19/26	16
<i>Aerides quinquevulnera</i>	section <i>Aerides</i>	Phillippines	hot	Summer-Fall	25/25	18

The \* denotes a building block species

## Hybrids of Note:

Blue Spur  
 50% *Aerides lawrenceae*  
 50% *V. coerulea*  
 2 Offspring (1st generation)  
 2 Total Progeny  
 4 Awards  
 16.5 Flowers per Spike  
 Natural Spread: 7.6 cm



Rhrds. Memoria Suranaree  
 50% *Aerides lawrenceae*  
 50% *Rhy. coelestis*  
 5 Offspring (1st generation)  
 5 Total Progeny  
 17 Awards  
 52.3 Flowers per Spike  
 3.3 cm Natural Spread



Aeridovanda Kinnaree 'Redland Gold'  
 50% *V. denisoniana*  
 50% *Aer. lawrenceae*  
 No offspring  
 11 Awards  
 20.3 Flowers in Spike  
 5.2 Natural Spread



Aeridovanda Photisan  
 50% *Aer. houlettiana*  
 50% *V. denisoniana*  
 2 Offspring  
 2 Total Progeny  
 2 Awards  
 18.5 Flowers per Spike  
 5.0 cm Natural Spread



References:  
 Orchid Wiz data base  
 Orchid Pro data base  
[Vandas and Ascocendas by David I. Grove](#)  
[www. orchids.org](http://www.orchids.org)