Genus Ionopsis

The genus Ionopsis is comprised of six species native to Mexico, Central America, northern South America, the West Indies and Florida. The sympodial plants have small pseudobulbs which are hidden by the leaf bases. The leaves are leathery green and folded upward with a distinctive keel on the underside. In full sunlight the leaves produce anthocyanins and are distinctly reddish-purple. The white to pale lavender-pink flowers are small with a bi-lobed lip.

The name Ionopsis refers to the genus resemblance to violets. These plants are twig epiphytes are generally short lived. Two species, *Ionopsis utricularoides* and *I. satyrioides*, are widely distributed and are best known to orchidists.