**Mormodes**

**Mormodes** Lindl., *lntrod. Nat. Syst.* *Bot.,* ed. **2**, 446 (1836)

Type species: *Mormodes atropurpurea* Lindl.

Description: Epiphytic, rarely terrestrial, saprolignophilous herbs. Pseudobulb homoblastic, globose, ovoid or fusiform to cylindrical-fusiform, covered with leaf sheaths when young. Leave: several, distichously alternate along pseudobulb, plicate, the deciduous blade articulated at base with leaf sheath, blade narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, long-acute, leaf sheaths imbricating, disintegrating into ﬁbres after maturation of pseudobulb, lacking conspicuous spines at apex. Inﬂorescences 1 to several, lateral, erect, ascending or arcuate-pendulous racemes produced either from developing shoot (M sect. Cog/odar) or from mature, usually leaﬂess pseudobulbs, peduncle terete, with several obtuse, clasping bracts near base, rachis often ﬂexuous. Flowers showy, fragrant, perfect but always dichogamous, resupinate or non-resupinate (depending on species), either protandrous and monomorphic or functionally unisexual, with staminate and pistillate ﬂowers moderately dissimilar, differing mostly in that the former usually are larger, ﬂeshier, and long-lasting; both pistillate and staminate ﬂowers borne simultaneously on same raceme or on separate inﬂorescences in same or different plants (depending on plant vigour/nutritional status); ﬂoral symmetry distorted by lateral twisting of column and, to a lesser degree, at least part of perianth. Dorsal sepal free, spreading or more often incurved, oblong-elliptic, acute. Lateral sepals adnate to column foot, spreading to reﬂexed, less commonly incurved, obliquely oblong-lanceolate, acute, often shortly aristate. Petals free, spreading to incurved (sometimes so strongly that they form a hood over column and labellum), usually broader than sepals, provided with a thickening at base, obliquely ovate to elliptic, margins often erosule, apex acute. Lake//um fused at base with column foot, provided with a ﬂeshy, semiterete, basal claw, blade convex (saddle-shaped) to variously concave, entire to deeply trilobed or sagittiform, glabrous to pilose (this feature variable in some species), base cuneate, apex abruptly apiculate, seldom long- acuminate. Column trigonous below middle, semiterete above, wingless, acuminate, provided with a bristle-like, sensitive apical projection of clinandrium ﬁlament that acts as a ‘trigger’, effecting discharge of entire pollinarium when touched; at anthesis, column strongly arcuate and twisted 9O°—18O° to one or the other side (depending on position of ﬂower on raceme), with its apex and trigger of ﬁlament in contact with labellum surface and stigma facing to one side, i.e., away from labellum; in protandrous ﬂowers, about 24 hr after discharge of pollinarium the column will have straightened so that broadened stigma faces labellum; in functionally pistillate ﬂowers the column usually straightens soon after anthesis, with or without having discharged pollinarium, whereas functionally staminate ﬂowers usually senesce the day after they have discharged pollinarium without changes in position of column; column base projected as a distinct column foot; anther incumbent, fully ventral, rostrate, imperfectly two-celled, discharged together with pollinarium and remaining as a cover over pollinia for some time after discharge of pollinarium, drying out and falling about 15-30 min after discharge, pollinarium consisting of two pollinia attached by means of minute elastic caudicles to a tegular, oblong stipe ending in a viscidium, pollinia ellipsoid, hollow, abaxially sulcate, yellow to orange-yellow, caudicles amber-coloured, stipe oblong, strongly curled upon release from rostellum, becoming straight and adaxially channeled as it dries out after about 15-30 min, viscidium provided with a fast-drying adhesive; stigma oblong, occupying over half of the length of ventral surface of the column, strongly obliquely at anthesis, becoming elliptical as column straightens; rostellurn ﬂeshy, with an ovate, abaxial scar left by stipe. Ovary six-sulcate on the distal two thirds. Capsule ellipsoid to obovoid, dehiscing longitudinally from apex by three longitudinal slits. Seeds fusiform, usually tapering toward chalazal pole; testa cells rectangular with anticlinal Walls elevated and often bearing a waxy cap, cell walls of testa cells smooth to verrucose.

Reference:

Pridgeon AM, Cribb PJ, Chase MW, Rasmussen FN. 2009.*Genera orchidacearum, Vol. 5*.