

***Gongora galeata*** (Lindl.) Rchb.f., Xenia Orchid. 1: 51 (1854).

SECTION Acropera

The Helmet Gongora



**Synonyms**

*Acropera atropurpurea* hort ex Heynh. 1841; *Acropera citrina* Rchb.f. 1854; *Acropera flavida* Klotzsch 1851; *Acropera fuscata* Heynh. 1846; *Acropera loddigesii* Lindley 1833; *Acropera luteola* Heynh. 1846; *Acropera luteola* Drapiez 1840; *Acropera pallida* Heynh. 1846; *Acropera purpurea* Heynh. 1846; *Acropera sulphurea* Heynh. 1846; *Gongora fuscata* (Heynh.) Gentil 1907; \**Maxillaria galeata* Lindley 1842

## Description

This is a medium sized, Mexican epiphytic, rarely lithophytic or terrestrial species found in mountain rain and cloud forests with liquambar at altitudes of 600 to 1800 meters that grows warm to cool growing epiphyte with ovoid-pyriform, longitudinally sulcate pseudobulbs with 2 apical, plicate, petiolate, elliptic, acuminate, leaves that blooms in the summer and fall with basal, 6 to 8" [15 to 20 cm] long, pendant, many flowered, racemose inflorescence arising on mature pseudobulbs and having a short to long-lived, fragrant flower with a fragrance akin to oranges. It is an evergreen species and requires a semi dry rest in the winter and is suited for wire basket culture with sphagnum and woodchips.

## Habitat

Endemic to southern Mexico. Plants are found mainly on the slopes facing the Gulf of Mexico in the States of Hidalgo, Veracruz, Puebla, Oaxaca and Chiapas. They are also found on the Pacific slopes in Chiapas. Plants usually grow as epiphytes in mountain rainforests and cloud forests at 1950-5900 ft. (600-1800 m), but they are occasionally found as lithophytes and terrestrials. -- Source: Charles Baker

## F-1 Hybrids and Progeny

9 First Generation (F1) Offspring Found; 1 Awarded (11.1%)										
	S/P	Genus	Name	=	Genus	Name	Originator	Year	Offs.	Awds.
x	Pollen:	 Gga	fulva	=	Gga	Clown	L.Glicenstein	2011	0	1
x	Pollen:	 Gga	quinquenervis	=	Gga	Galequindon	M.& M.F.Bourdo	1997	1	0
x	Pollen:	 Gga	cassidea	=	Gga	Gacadon	M.& M.F.Bourdo	1999	0	0
x	Pollen:	 Gga	grossa	=	 Gga	Gagradon	M.& M.F.Bourdo	2000	0	0
x	Seed:	 Gga	armeniaca	=	Gga	Galardon	M.& M.F.Bourdo	2000	0	0
x	Pollen:	 Gga	gratulabunda	=	Gga	Gagradon	M.& M.F.Bourdo	2002	0	0
x	Pollen:	 Stan	hernandezii	=	Stga	Ombelle d'Automne	M.& M.F.Bourdo	2004	0	0
x	Pollen:	 Gga	atropurpurea	=	Gga	Red Wasp	D.Janvrin	2006	0	0
x	Seed:	 Gga	flaveola	=	Gga	Canary	L.Glicenstein	2011	0	0

Gongora has produced p primary crosses, all within the genus. Only one, Gongora Clown was awarded an AM. Only one grex, Gga Galequindon, has produced an offspring by the Type (G. quinquenervis).



Gongora Clown 'Paraiso Tropical' AM/AOS

## Culture

**Light** should be bright, with direct sunlight diffused so as not to burn the leaves. Most growers suspend these orchids due to their pendulous inflorescences. This also brings the plants closer to the light. Light levels approximating those for cattleyas, around 3,000 foot-candles, are best.

**Temperatures** should be moderate: 52° to 60° F at night, with day temperatures 68° to 75° F in the winter. Plants can stand short spells of higher temperatures, but air movement, humidity and shading must all be increased. Many species flower in the summer, and putting them outside in the summer may be beneficial. Move into higher light slowly to avoid burn.

**Water** in ample quantities is important to produce strong pseudobulbs and prevent foliar spotting. Stanhopeas and their relatives can be sensitive to salt accumulation in the medium, so should never be allowed to dry out entirely, even during the winter months when growth may slow or stop. Poor watering habits are also conducive to root loss in these types, and some may be very slow to re-establish once they have lost their roots.

**Fertilize** at regular intervals. Most growers fertilize with a diluted concentration every week to two weeks. For plants in bark, use a 30-10-10 high-nitrogen formulation, alternating with a 20-20-20 balanced formulation; in the blooming season, which is mainly summer, use a 10-30-20 blossom-booster formulation. Plants grown in

osmunda need fertilization only infrequently.

**Potting** is done best right after summer flowering, as most plants seem to grow year round. Plants that rest in the winter can be repotted in the spring. The best flowerings come from large clumps of plants, so large baskets are usually used. An airy, yet moist medium seems to work best, such as medium-grade fir bark (often mixed with sphagnum peat) or osmunda fiber. Vigorous plants may need repotting every three years or so.

## References

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