Section Dendrobium Lindley 1844

Dendrobium Section Dendrobium was described in 1844. It is the type section for the genus as it contains the type species *D. moniliforme*. The section includes 50 to 60 species distributed from India to New Guinea and Australia and north to Japan and Korea. The center of distribution is Burma to Indochina. Most are low to moderate elevation epiphytes. The characteristics are stems swollen to form club-shaped pseudobulbs. The upper two thirds of stems produce leaves which are deciduous after a year. Flowers are born apically on long or short inflorescences. The flowers have an unlobed lip and bloom in the dry season.1

This is the type section for the genus as it includes the type species D. monilifirme. It is a large section of 50 to 60 species occurring from India to New Guinea and Australia in the east and Japan and Korea in the north. The centre of distribution lies in the area from India to Indochina including China and Thailand. This area is home to about 50 species, while Borneo has only 4, New Guinea 2 or 3 and Australia 1. They are mostly epiphytic plants of low to moderate altitude in areas with a distinct dry season. This section is related to Calcarifera, Pedilonum and Formosae. The stems are of moderate length and often swollen into club-shaped pseudobulbs. The leaves are borne along the upper two-thirds of the stem and are usually deciduous after a year. There is a leaf sheath. The flowers are produced from the apical part of the stem on long or short inflorescences in the dry season. The lip is entire and there is a short mentum. The flowers are often large and showy —many of the most popular species in cultivation are in this section.2

1Jay Pfahl's Internet Orchid Species Picture Encyclopedia at[www.orchidspecies.com](http://www.orchidspecies.com)

**2Lavarak, Bill; Harris, Wayne; Stocker, Geoff. 2000**. *Dendrobium and its Relatives,*

Timber Press.