Section Formosae (Benth. & Hkr. f.) Hkr. f. 1890

Dendrobium Section Formosae was described in 1890. The type species is *Dendrobium formosum*. The section is widely distributed in S and SE Asia from India east to Borneo and N to the Philippines. The plants are epiphytes with long, robust pseudobulbs with leaves along the whole length. The leaf sheaths are covered in black hairs, hence the other common name for the Section – Nigrohirsuitae. The sheath persist for several years and are the site of 1 to 3 flowers in a group on the upper stem. Flowers are large, showy, thin, waxy and long lasting. Flowers are predominantly white with a three-lobed lip apex. Some species are very showy and are popular in cultivation.1

This section is also known as Nigrohirsutae. It includes about 30 species, which are distributed from India through South-East Asia to Sumatra,. the Philippines and Borneo. South-East Asia from India to Indochina and Thailand appears to be the centre of distribution with about 20 species, while Borneo and the Philippines have about 12 species. It does not occur further east than Borneo. The plants are epiphytic in areas with or without a defined dry season. The section is related to section Dendrobium. The plants are made up of clumps of usually long, relatively robust pseudobulbs with leaves along their length. The leaf sheaths are covered in dark hairs and last for several years. The flowers are usually large and waxy or thin in texture, usually with white predominating, and are long-lasting. They are borne from the upper part of the stem in groups of 1 to 3. The lip is 3-lobed. Some species are among the most showy of all the orchids and the group is popular in cultivation.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.