**GENUS SUMMARY**

**Mormodes** Lindley 1836

 [mor-MOH-dez]

**General Description**

*Mormodes*is an epiphytic genus ranging from sea level to 800 meters that seems to favor dead or rotting branches. This leads to many plants being found growing on the ground when the limbs break. The name of the genus comes from two Greek words that mean “phantom” and “resembling”. They are frequently called “goblin orchids” in English. Their name is based on the very strange lip shape and the relationship of the column to the lip. The lip is frequently reflexed in two or three sections with the column twisted to one side with the back resting on the lip. *Mormodes*are usually considered to bear perfect or bisexual flowers with both pollen and a stigma in the column. Like *Clowesia*and *Dressleria*, however, the stigma will not accept fertilization until the pollen has been removed. After the pollen is removed, the column straightens and raises back from the column to expose the stigma for pollination. A vegetative feature that distinguishes *Mormodes*from the other Catasetinae is that the inflorescences generally originate from the middle or lower nodes of the pseudobulbs. Another difference from the other Catasetinae is that the inflorescences of *Mormodes*project straight out or upward from the pseudobulb. There is less published information about *Mormodes*than about the other Catasetinae. In a subtribe that abounds with strange features, *Mormodes*may be the strangest of all. Some *Mormodes*species produce different types of flowers referred to as female-dominant, male-dominant and normal hermaphroditic or bisexual flowers. This variation in flower shapes and sizes on the same species has confused the identification of many species. There are also indications that a few species do produce on occasion small male flowers with only pollen and a vestigial stigma. The so-called female-dominate flowers are larger and heavier than the male-dominant or normal bisexual flowers. Although the flower has pollen, it probably would function well only as the recipient of pollen from another flower. *Mormodes sinuata,**M. rolfeanum, M. variabilis, Mormodes revolutum,*and the newer species described from Brazil are among species readily available in cultivation. The red species of *Mormodes*make them popular in intergeneric hybridization. The most highly awarded among this group is *Cycnodes*Wine Delight.

**Number of species:** The World Monocot Checklist contains 81 accepted names (9/2007).

**Distribution:** Mexico to Brazil and Bolivia



Distribution of Mormodes, image from Royal Botanical Gardens Kew

|  |
| --- |
| **--- C U L T U R E ---** |
| Warm to intermediate |
| Bright open shade with good air movement |
| Like Catasetum, Clowesia and Cycnoches, mormodes are seasonal growers whose new pseudobulbs develop and mature in a six to seven month period. When the bulb has matured, it flowers and then the leaves are normally dropped and the plants rest for one to four months before starting growth again. While in growth, water heavily and maintain high humidity. After maturity, watering should be reduced or withheld until new growth begins. Spider mites are a common enemy in hot dry conditions while the plants are in growth. While at rest, the bulbs should be watched and if they start to shrivel, spray them very lightly. |
| Use balanced or high nitrogen fertilizer while the plants are in full growth as for Catasetum, Clowesia and Cycnoches. See the section on fertilizing in Cycnoches. |
| Sphagnum in clay pots; medium-fine fir bark in clay or plastic pots; mounted with sphagnum at the roots on tree fern, cork, driftwood or in baskets. Remember that mormodes show a preference in nature to dead or rotting wood and use it if available. Suspending or hanging the plants helps provide good air circulation. |
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**Mormodes Species, Progeny, Awards**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species  | F1 | Progeny | Awards | Total Awards |
|  |  |  | HCC | AM | FCC | Others |  |
| amazonica (buccinator) | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 3  | 7 |
| andicola | 2 | 3 | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| andreettae | 2 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 2 | 5 |
| arachnopsis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| aromatica | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| atropurpurea | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| atropurpreum | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| aurantiaca | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| aurea | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| auriculata | 0 | 0 | 1 | - | - | 3 | 4 |
| badia | 21 | 54 | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| barbata | 5 | 13 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| brachystachya | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | 8 |
| buccinator  | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | 8 |
| buccinator var. aurantiacum | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| buccinator var. theiochlora | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| calceolata | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| carnevaliana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| cartonii | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| cartonii var. aurantiaca | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| castroi | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| chrysantha | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 |
| citrina | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | - | 1 | 11 |
| claesiana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| cogniauxii | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 4 | 5 |
| colossa  | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| colossus | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | - | 1 | 11 |
| convoluta | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| convolutum | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| cozticxochitl | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| cucumerina | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| dasilvae | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| dayana | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 4 | 5 |
| densiflora | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Species | F1 | Progeny | Awards | Total Awards |
|  |  |  | HCC | AM | FCC | Other |  |
| elegans | 6 | 10 | - | 1 | - | 3 | 5 |
| ephippilabia | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| escobarii | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| estradae | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| flavida | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | 8 |
| fractiflexa | 1 | 1 | - | 3 | - | 2 | 5 |
| frymirei | 5 | 12 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| greenei | 5 | 21 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |
| guentheriana | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| gurupiensis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| hirsutissima | 14 | 23 | 2 | 3 | - | 4 | 9 |
| histrio (lineata) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 4 | 7 |
| hoehnei | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| holochrysa (variabilis) | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 6 | 10 |
| hookeri | 5 | 13 | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| horichii | 5 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| ignea | 9 | 17 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 6 |
| igneum (ignea) | 9 | 17 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 6 |
| igneum var. maculata | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| incisa (unica) | 5 | 21 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| issanensis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| jamaxinensis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| kleberiana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| lancilabris | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| lawrenceana | 5 | 8 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| lentiginose (buccinator) | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | 8 |
| leucochila (buccinator) | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | 8 |
| lineata | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 4 | 7 |
| lineatum  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 4 | 7 |
| lobulata | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| luxata | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| luxatum h.v. eburneum | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0  |
| maculata | 12 | 30 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 5 |
| maculatum | 12 | 30 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 5 |
| marmorea | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 3 | 8 |
| mejiae | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| morenoi | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Species | F1 | Progeny | Awards | Total Awards |
|  |  |  | HCC | AM | FCC | Other |  |
| mutunensis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| nagelii | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| oberlanderiana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| oberlanderianum |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ocanae (speciosa) | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| ocanae var. brachylobum (speciosa) | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| oceloteoides  | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| oestlundiana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| oestlundianum | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| orinocoensis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| pabstiana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| paraensis | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| pardalinata | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| pardina (maculate) | 12 | 30 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 5 |
| pardina var. unicolor | 12 | 30 | 1 | - | - | 4 | 5 |
| peruviana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| platychila | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| porphryophlebia | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| powellii | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| punctata  | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| ramirezii | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| revoluta(warszewiczii) | 14 | 23 | 2 | 3 | - | 4 | 9 |
| revolutum(warszewiczii) | 14 | 23 | 2 | 3 | - | 4 | 9 |
| rodrigoi | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| rodrigesiana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| rolfeana | 6 | 20 | - | 3 | - | 6 | 9 |
| rolfeanum | 6 | 20 | - | 3 | - | 6 | 9 |
| romanii | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| rosea | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| saccata | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| salazarii | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| salvadorensis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| sanguineoclaustra | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| schultzei | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 4 | 5 |
| sinuata | 20 | 150 | 2 | 5 | - | 4 | 11 |
| sinuatum | 20 | 150 | 2 | 5 | - | 4 | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| skinneri | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 6 |
| stonoana | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Species | F1 | Progeny | Awards | Total Awards |
|  |  |  | HCC | AM | FCC | Other |  |
| speciosa (ocanae) | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| stenoglassa | 9 | 37 | 1 | 4 | - | 2 | 7 |
| tapoayensis | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| tapoayensis h.f. alba | 2 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| tezontle | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 |
| tezontle h.f. alba | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 |
| theioclora | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| tibicen | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| tigrine  | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| tuxtlensis | 8 | 17 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 4 |
| unica | 5 | 21 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| unicolor = maculata | 12 | 30 | 1 | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| variabilis | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 5 | 9 |
| vernixia | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| vernixioidea | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| ssp. autanensis | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| ssp. vernixiode | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| vernixium | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| vinacea | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| vitellina = buccinator | 9 | 37 | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 8 |
| wegeneriana = buccinator | 9 | 37 | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 8 |
| warscewiczii = lineata | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 4 | 7 |
| warszewiczii = lineata | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 4 | 7 |
| wendlandii = colossus | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 | - | 1 | 11 |
| williamii = luxata | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| wolteriana = warszewiczii | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 4 | 7 |
| wolterianum = warszewiczii | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 4 | 7 |
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