**GENUS SUMMARY**

Coryanthes, Hook. (1831)

[ko-ree-AN-theez]

**General Description**

The AOS notes in nature, these orchids are encountered in so-called ant gardens. The symbiotic occurrences provides benefits for both; ants get nectar from extrafloral nectaries and can use the root ball for construction of their nests, the Coryanthes plant is protected and fertilized by the ants. The pollination biology is also very fascinating: trying to collect fragrance compounds below the upper part (hypochile) of the lip, the male euglossine bee falls in the liquid filled bucket of the apical part (epichile). It cannot escape flying because its wings are wet. The only way is to climb up an island (callus of lip) and to pass a tunnel formed by the tip of the lip and the column. Doing this the flower gets pollinated or glues the pollinarium on the bee. The whole passage is very hard for the bee and lasts about half an hour. The genus could be divided into two sections: Coryanthes with a smooth mesochile (middle part of the lip) and lamellunguis with warts or lamellae on it. Most species have pendulous inflorescences, some of them have upright ones. Coryanthes has the heaviest flowers in Orchidaceae, the biggest one Coryanthes *bruchmuelleri* have a weight of more than 100 grams.



Distribution of Coryanthes, image from Royal Botanical Gardens Kew

**Type Species:** Coryanthes *maculata*



Coryanthes *maculata*, unawarded

Photography by Dr. F. Thomas Ott

Native to:

Coryanthes natural habitat is Belize, Bolivia, Brazil North, Brazil Northeast, Brazil South, Brazil Southeast, Brazil West-Central, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico Gulf, Mexico Southeast, Mexico Southwest, Nicaragua, Panamá, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela **Heterotypic**

**Synonyms**

Heterotypic Synonyms

Meliclis Raf. in Fl. Tellur. 2: 99 (1837)

Panstrepis Raf. in Fl. Tellur. 4: 41 (1838)

**Coryanthes Species**

Coryanthes *albertinae* H. Karst.

Coryanthes *alborosea* C. Schweinf.

Coryanthes *angelantha* Archila

Coryanthes *bahiensis* Marçal & Chiron

Coryanthes *bergoldii* J. D. Kenn. ex Dodson

Coryanthes *bicalcarata* Schltr.

Coryanthes *boyi* Mansf.

Coryanthes *bruchmuelleri* Rchb.f.

Coryanthes *bueraremensis* Campacci & Bohnke

Coryanthes *cataniapoensis* G. A. Romero & Carnevali

Coryanthes *cavalcantei* M. F. Silva & A. T. Oliveira

Coryanthes *charlesiana* Marçal & Chiron

Coryanthes *dasilvae* F. Barros

Coryanthes *elegantium* Linden & Rchb.f.

Coryanthes *elianae* M. F. Silva & A. T. Oliveira

Coryanthes *erectiscapa* Marçal & Chiron

Coryanthes *feildingii* Lindl.

Coryanthes *flava* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *gerlachiana* Senghas

Coryanthes *gernotii* G. Gerlach & G. A. Romero

Coryanthes *gomezii* G. A. Romero & G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *gustavo-romeroi* Archila

Coryanthes *horichiana* Jenny

Coryanthes *hunteriana* Schltr.

Coryanthes *javieri* Archila

Coryanthes *jorgemarioi* Archila

Coryanthes *kaiseriana* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *lacerdae* Marçal & Chiron

Coryanthes *lachuensis* Archila

Coryanthes *lafontainei* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *lagunae* Manara & Bergold

Coryanthes *lanata* Marçal & Chiron

Coryanthes *leferenziorum* G .Gerlach, Senghas & Seeger

Coryanthes *leucocorys* Rolfe

Coryanthes *macrantha* (Hook.) Hook.

Coryanthes *macrocorys* Rolfe

Coryanthes *maculata* Hook.

Coryanthes *maduroana* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *marcaliana* Chiron

Coryanthes *mastersiana* F. Lehm.

Coryanthes *melissae* Archila

Coryanthes *minima* A. T. Oliveira & J. B. F. Silva

Coryanthes *misasii* G. A. Romero & G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *miuaensis* M. F. Silva & A. T. Oliveira

Coryanthes *mystax* G. Gerlach & J. B. F. Silva

Coryanthes *oscarii* Archila

Coryanthes *oscarrodrigoi* Archila

Coryanthes *pacaraimensis* Campacci & J. B. F. Silva

Coryanthes *panamensis* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *pegiae* G. A. Romero

Coryanthes *picturata* Rchb.f.

Coryanthes *pilosa* Marçal & Chiron

Coryanthes *recurvata* Archila

Coryanthes *schmidtii* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *seegeri* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *selbyana* Archila

Coryanthes *senghasiana* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *speciosa* Hook.

Coryanthes *tefeensis* Marçal, Chiron & G. Q. Freire

Coryanthes *thivii* Kropf & Seeger

Coryanthes *toulemondiana* G. Gerlach & T. Franke

Coryanthes *tricuspidata* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *trifoliata* C. Schweinf.

Coryanthes *vasquezii* Dodson

Coryanthes *velizii* Archila

Coryanthes *verrucolineata* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *vieirae* G. Gerlach

Coryanthes *villegasiana* Peláez

Coryanthes *vinosa* Sambin & Aucourd

Coryanthes *wenzeliana* G. Gerlach & J. B. F. Silva

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|  |

**Coryanthes Species Awards**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | CBR | TOTAL |
| *albertinae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *alborosea* | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| *angelantha* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *bahiensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *balfouriana,*  *~bruchmuelleri* | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| *barkeri ~maculata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | CBR | TOTAL |
| *bergoldii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *bicalcarata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *biflora,*  *~bruchmuelleri* | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| *boyi* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *bruchmuelleri* | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| *bueraremensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *bruchmuelleri* | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| *cataniapoensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *cavalcantei* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *dasilvae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *elegantissima, ~elegantium* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *elianae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *feildingii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *flava* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *gerlachiana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *gernotii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *gomezii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *gustavo-romeroi* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *horichiana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *hunteriana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *javieri* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *jorgemarioi* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *kaiseriana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *lachuensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *lafontainei* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| lagunae | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *lanata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *leferenziorum* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *leucocorys* | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| ***\*****macrantha* | - | 8 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |  | 13 |
| *macrocorys* | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| *maculata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *maduroana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *marcaliana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *mastersiana* | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| *melissae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *minima* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *misasii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *miuaensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *mystax* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *orbiculate, ~rivularis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *oscarii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *oscarrodrigoi* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *pacaraimensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *panamensis* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *parkeri, ~maculata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *pegiae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *picturata* | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| *pilosa* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *powellii, ~hunteriana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
|  | FCC | AM | HCC | AQ | JC | CCM | CCE | CHM | CBM | CBR | TOTAL |
| *punctata, ~speciosa* | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| *recurvata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *rodriguesii,*  *~bruchmuelleri* | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 4 |
| *rutkisii, ~boyi* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| *schmidtii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *seegeri* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *selbyana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *senghasiana* | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| *speciosa* | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| *splendens, ~speciosa* | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| *summeriana, ~speciosa* | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| *thivii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *toulemondiana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *tricuspidate* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *trifoliata* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *vasquezii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *velizii* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *verrucolineata* | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| *vieirae* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| *villegasiana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *wenzeliana* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| *wolfii, ~* *elegantium* | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |

**Coryanthes Species Offspring and Progeny**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | F1 Offspring | Progeny |
| *albertinae* | 2 | 2 |
| *alborosea* | 1 | 1 |
| *angelantha* | 0 | 0 |
| *bahiensis* | 0 | 0 |
| *balfouriana,*  *~bruchmuelleri* | 3 | 4 |
| *barkeri ~maculata* | 0 | 0 |
| *bergoldii* | 0 | 0 |
| *bicalcarata* | 0 | 0 |
| *biflora,*  *~bruchmuelleri* | 3 | 4 |
| *boyi* | 0 | 0 |
| *bruchmuelleri* | 3 | 4 |
| *bueraremensis* | 0 | 0 |
| *bungerothii, ~bruchmeulleri* | 3 | 4 |
| *cataniapoensis* | 1 | 1 |
| *cavalcantei* | 0 | 0 |
| *dasilvae* | 0 | 0 |
| *elegantissima, ~elegantium* | 2 | 2 |
| *elianae* | 0 | 0 |
| *feildingii* | 0 | 0 |
| *flava* | 0 | 0 |

**Coryanthes Species Offspring and Progeny**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | F1 Offspring | Progeny |
| *gerlachiana* | 0 | 0 |
| *gernotii* | 0 | 0 |
| *gomezii* | 0 | 0 |
| *gustavo-romeroi* | 0 | 0 |
| *horichiana* | 0 | 0 |
| *hunteriana* | 1 | 1 |
| *javieri* | 0 | 0 |
| *jorgemarioi* | 0 | 0 |
| *kaiseriana* | 0 | 0 |
| *lachuensis* | 0 | 0 |
| *lafontainei* | 0 | 0 |
| lagunae | 0 | 0 |
| *lanata* | 0 | 0 |
| *leferenziorum* | 0 | 0 |
| *leucocorys* | 2 | 2 |
| ***\*****macrantha* | 12 | 13 |
| *macrocorys* | 1 | 2 |
| *maculata* | 0 | 0 |
| *maduroana* | 0 | 0 |
| *marcaliana* | 0 | 0 |
| *mastersiana* | 3 | 5 |
| *melissae* | 0 | 0 |
| *minima* | 0 | 0 |
| *misasii* | 1 | 1 |
| *miuaensis* | 0 | 0 |
| *mystax* | 0 | 0 |
| *orbiculate, ~rivularis* | 0 | 0 |
| *oscarii* | 0 | 0 |
| *oscarrodrigoi* | 0 | 0 |
| *pacaraimensis* | 0 | 0 |
| *panamensis* | 0 | 0 |
| *parkeri, ~maculata* | 0 | 0 |
| *pegiae* | 0 | 0 |
| *picturata* | 2 | 2 |
| *pilosa* | 0 | 0 |
| *powellii, ~hunteriana* | 1 | 1 |
| *punctata, ~speciosa* | 3 | 3 |
| *recurvata* | 0 | 0 |
| *rodriguesii,*  *~bruchmuelleri* | 3 | 4 |
| *rutkisii, ~boyi* | 0 | 0 |
| *schmidtii* | 0 | 0 |
| *seegeri* | 0 | 0 |
| *selbyana* | 0 | 0 |
| *senghasiana* | 0 | 0 |
| *speciosa* | 3 | 3 |
| *splendens, ~speciosa* | 3 | 3 |
| *summeriana, ~speciosa* | 3 | 3 |
| *thivii* | 0 | 0 |
| *toulemondiana* | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | F1 Offspring | Progeny |
| *Tricuspidate* | 0 | 0 |
| *trifoliata* | 0 | 0 |
| *vasquezii* | 0 | 0 |
| *velizii* | 0 | 0 |
| *verrucolineata* | 2 | 2 |
| *vieirae* | 0 | 0 |
| *villegasiana* | 0 | 0 |
| *wenzeliana* | 0 | 0 |
| *wolfii, ~* *elegantium* | 2 | 2 |

Type Species: Coryanthes *maculata*

[mak-yoo-lah-ta]

Meaning: spotted

Common Name: the spotted Coryanthes

ORIGIN/HABITAT: Panama, Venezuela, the Guianas (Guayanas), and Brazil. In Panama, plants are found near Gatun and in the hills east of Panama City at near sea level. Plants in this region frequently are found in the tops of slender trees in ant's nests, often in association with Epidendrum *imatophyllum*. Williams and Allen ([1946-1949 1980) reported that these plants "seldom thrive in cultivation, possibly from lack of some essential element contributed by the ants in their natural association." -- Source: Charles Baker.

Coryanthes *maculata* has received zero AOS awards.

Coryanthes *maculata* has no registered offspring.

A close-up of a flower

Description automatically generated

Coryanthes *maculata*, unawarded

Photography by OWZ Lib.

Coryanthes Species with the Most Offspring and AOS Awards: Coryanthes *macrantha*

*[mak-ran-tha]*

Meaning: large flowered

Common Name: The bucket orchid or monkey throat orchid in Trinidad

Synonyms:

Homotypic Synonyms

Gongora *macrantha* Hook. in Bot. Misc. 2: 151 (1831)

Heterotypic Synonyms

Panstrepis *paradoxa* Raf. in Fl. Tellur. 4: 41 (1838)

ORIGIN/HABITAT: Venezuela, Trinidad, British Guiana, Colombia, and Peru. In Peru, the plants have been found along the Rio Nanay near Iquitos in the Amazon Basin. In Venezuela, plants were found at about 1500 ft. (560 m) between the Icabaru and Uaiparu Rivers in the southeastern part of Bolivar Province. Plants were growing on trees in a fairly dense but not very tall forest. Some writers feel that the plants found in Peru may represent a separate species, but they have not been split out at this time. Specific habitat information was not given, but Coryanthes species are normally found growing in very acid conditions on the nests of ants. -- Source: Charles Baker r

Coryanthes *macrantha* has received thirteen AOS awards (CBM – 1; AM – 8; and HCC - 4).

Coryanthes *macrantha* has twelve first generation registered offspring. Of the twelve offspring four have received an AOS award. The first offspring was registered in 1995 and the last was registered in 2021.

Close-up of a plant with a few flowers

Description automatically generated

Coryanthes *macrantha* ‘Romelia’ *AM/AOS, 85 points*

Photography by Nicolas Gomez Rios

A close-up of a plant

Description automatically generated

Coryanthes *macrantha* ‘Meri of Millwood’ HCC*/AOS, 76 points*

Photography by OWZ Lib

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