

Species of the Month

(Revisited—June 2005)

June 2007



Cynoches warscewiczii

Fragrant Swan Orchid Species

Easy growing epiphytic *Cynoches warscewiczii* and other *Cynoches* can be found growing at sea level to 1800 feet in hot lowlands from Mexico, Central America and into the Amazon Basin. This sympodial epiphyte has club-shaped pseudobulbs that can be up to 8 inches to more than 20 inches long with 5 to 7 arching lanceolate 12 inch leaves that are narrow at the base and taper sharply to pointed tips. This species can produce male and females flowers; however, male flowers are most commonly produced. The showy and very fragrant blossoms have yellowish green sepals and petals with a dark green lip. The name "cynoches" actually means "swan's neck" referring to the shape of the flower which resembles the body of a swan. During flower development leaves will begin to fall due to the deciduous nature of the plant. During its deciduous dormant winter period care should be taken to keep the plant quite dry. Begin regular watering again when the new grow has begun growing its own roots. After flowering and leaf drop, give plants a dry rest until new roots begin growing into the medium. The new growths can rot very easily. Mist only until the leaves begin forming.

LIGHT

2500-4500 foot-candles; high light. This orchid will bloom are varying light levels. Light level at or above those suggested for *Cattleya* culture.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to Intermediate; 55°F min. to 90°F.

WATER

Water thoroughly and heavily while actively growing. Even though the plants like heavy watering, never allow the roots to become soggy. This plant requires a dry winter rest period. Water or mist occasionally to keep the bulbs from shriveling. *******Let the new roots grow to an approximate length of 3-5" before beginning regular watering.**

HUMIDITY

70% - 80% is preferred.

POTTING

Pots or baskets with a medium that provides excellent drainage and aeration around the roots. Many growers use sphagnum moss. A medium fir bark is okay. The plants may also be mounted. Repot when new roots appear. Fred Clark uses a 50/50 mix of coconut husk chips and Maidenwell diatomite.

FERTILIZER

Cynoches are heavy feeders! Full strength applied weekly while plants are actively growing.

Note: Hybrids of this species require similar culture.