

# Species of the Month

September 2006



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*Coelogyne nitida*

## Shining Coelogyne

*Coelogyne nitida* can be found growing on moss-covered trees and rocks in tropical wet forests at elevations of 4600 to 7550 feet where the regions are permeated by fog and mist year-round in Nepal through Sikkim and Bhutan areas of northeast India, upper Burma, Yunnan Province of southwest China, Thailand, and Laos. Plants found at the lower elevations occur growing on trees in mixed forests in areas with cool, sunny, dry winters. This sympodial epiphyte has 3 to 4 inch cylindrical oblong pseudobulbs with 6 to 8 elliptic lanceolate leaves. The 8 inch inflorescence emerges from the center of new growths before the leaves or pseudobulbs develop fully with 3 to 8 white flowers marked with a yellow disc and a yellow spot in the side longs of the lip. In the habitat, plants bloom in the late spring and early summer.

### LIGHT

1500 to 2500 footcandles, bright indirect light, shading us needed from spring though autumn. Do not exposed plants to direst midday sun..

### TEMPERATURE

Cool to Intermediate; 50°F minimum to 75°F maximum. Recorded low in the habitat is 27°F and recorded high is 77°F.

### WATER

Water thoroughly and heavily spring to autumn while plants are actively growing. DO not allow the medium to become stale or soggy. Reduced water after new growth mature in the autumn.

### HUMIDITY

85% - 95% lower in winter.

### POTTING

Plants do best if mounted on cork or tree-fern slabs. However, humidity must be high. Baskets also can be used with a open and fast draining medium. Repot only when absolutely necessary. Transplant shock may delay blooming for as long as 3 years!

### FERTILIZER

Balanced fertilizer should be applied weekly during periods of active growth, 1/4 to 1/2 strength.