

# Species of the Month

June 2003



.....  
□  
□  
□  
.....

## *Rhynchostylis coelestes*

### **Vandeous**

Widespread through Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, easy growing *Rhynchostylis coelestes* is best grown in baskets. The plants are found growing in deciduous forests that have a long dry season. They can handle warm climates very well if high humidity is maintained. These plants do not like their roots disturbed and they will not tolerate stale conditions around the roots. Let the long and numerous roots hang freely. If grown in open baskets without growing medium the plants should be watered frequently, as much as twice daily in very hot weather. Fifty or more flowers can be produced on each inflorescence.

### **LIGHT**

Very Bright; 3000-4000 Footcandles (very bright indirect light). Light should be as high as possible without burning the leaves. Strong air movement should be supplied.

### **TEMPERATURE**

Intermediate to warm; 55°F min. to 85°F max. Summer days average 87-89 degrees F and nights average 74-75 degrees F.

### **WATER**

Moist; daily waterings may be necessary (let the roots dry thoroughly between waterings. Reduce watering in autumn. In nature these plants endure a 4 – 5 month dry season in winter .

### **HUMIDITY**

In the natural habitat the humidity ranges from 80-85% in summer and autumn .

### **POTTING**

Plants may be mounted if humidity is high or placed in wood slat baskets. If potted, use an open fast draining medium. Repotting is best done in the spring when new roots are growing.

### **FERTILIZER**

Fertilizer should be provided on a regular basis during the active growing period, 1/4 to 1/2 strength applied weekly year round. Use a balanced fertilizer year round.