

Species
of the
Month

October 2003



Epidendrum ciliare

Cattleya Look-A-Like: Fringed Star Orchid

This easy growing epiphyte can be grown potted or mounted. The fragrant tropical American native is vegetatively similar to Cattleya. The plants can bloom twice a year producing up to 12 slender, graceful flowers on plants that are usually about 1 foot tall. The sepals and petals are yellow/green set off by a dainty three lobed white lip. The mid-lobe is needle-like with fringed side lobes. The epiphytic plants are very commonly found growing throughout Mexico. The inflorescence arises from a newly maturing pseudobulb that carries two elliptic leaves with 5 to 6 nodes that are covered by imbricating sheaths. Specimen size plants have been known to be more than 1 meter wide! Established plants can produce multiple growths.

LIGHT

Very Bright, Indirect; 2500 – 3500 Foot-candles.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to Intermediate; °60F min. to 90°F max.
Favoring warm. Summer temperatures can be a bit warmer.

WATER

Water heavy throughout the growing season. But let dry between waterings. Keep drier in winter.

HUMIDITY

80% or higher, but will handle less.

POTTING

Plants may be mounted if humidity is high. If potted, use a very open fast draining medium. Repotting is best done when new roots are starting growth.

FERTILIZER

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