PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Dendrobium speciosum* Smith

**GENUS** *Dendrobium* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

**COMMON NAMES** King orchid, Rock Lily, Rock Orchid

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Pseudo-bulb, Stems, Flowers

The false bulbs are cooked by roasting and eaten.
The stems are grated and dried and stored for later use.

## DESCRIPTION

A large clump forming orchid. Clumps can be 2 m across. The false bulbs are about 40 cm long. They are swollen at the base and taper to the tip. The leaves are 25 cm long and 8 cm wide. They are oval and about 5 occur together. They are produced near the top of the false stem. The flowers occur in masses. They are creamy-white or yellow and 3.5 cm across. They are in clusters along a stalk which can be 70 cm along.

## HABITAT

It grows in tropical and subtropical places. It grows in coastal areas. It grows on rock faces and sandstone cliffs. It suits hardiness zones 9-11. It suits Mediterranean climates.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown by dividing large clumps. They can also be grown from aerial growth. It is possible to grow plants from seed.

## NOTES

There are about 900-1200 Dendrobium species orchids.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

## REFERENCES


Bodkin, F., 1991, Encyclopedia Botanica. Cornstalk publishing, p 334

Brickell, C. (Ed.), 1999, The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Convent Garden Books. p 354

Caton, J.M. & Hardwick, R. J., 2016, Field Guide to Useful Native Plants from Temperate Australia. Harbour Publishing House. p 280

Cherikoff V. & Isaacs, J., The Bush Food Handbook. How to gather, grow, process and cook Australian Wild Foods. Ti Tree Press, Australia p 194

Cribb, A.B. & J.W., 1976, Wild Food in Australia, Fontana. p 119

Cronin, L., 1989, The Concise Australian Flora. Reed. p 75

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 483

Elliot, R., 2003, Australian Plants for Mediterranean Climate gardens. Rosenberg. p 49

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1984, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 3. Lothian. p 233

Exot. bot. 1:17, t. 10. 1804-1805

Greig, D., 1996, Flowering Natives for Home Gardens. Angus & Robertson. p 140

Grieg, D., 2002, A photographic guide to Wildflowers of South-eastern Australia. New Holland. p 97

Hardwick, R.J., 2000, Nature's Larder. A Field Guide to the Native Food Plants of the NSW South Coast. Homosapien Books. p 58

Hedrick, U.P., 1919, (Ed.), Sturtevant's edible plants of the world. p 269

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 84

Hinton, B & B., 1982, A Wilderness in Bloom. Wildflowers of tropical Australia. p 53

Holliman, J., (Ed.), 2002, Orchids. Botanica's Pocket. Random House, Australia. p 214

Jones D, L, 1986, Ornamental Rainforest Plants in Australia, Reed Books, p 320

Low, T., 1991, Wild Food Plants of Australia. Australian Nature FieldGuide, Angus & Robertson. p 108

Low, T., 1992, Bush Tucker. Australia's Wild Food Harvest. Angus & Robertson. p 125

Melzer, R. & Plumb, J., 2011, Plants of Capricornia. Belgamba, Rockhampton. p 498

Nicholson, N & H., 1996, Australian Rainforest Plants 2, Terania Rainforest Publishing. NSW. p 24

Pearson, S. & A., 1992, Rainforest Plants of Eastern Australia. Kangaroo Press p 84

Ratcliffe D & P., 1987, Australian Native Plants for Indoors. Little Hills press. p 81

Young, P.A.R., 1991, Rainforest Guide. Brisbane Forest Park. p 27



**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International



**LICENCE** CC BY-NC-SA 3.0


**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/7cf4f24e-7dda-42f4-800c-f3acf0050166