



CULTURAL NOTES

# *Rodriguezia decora*

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THE SPECIES ORCHID  
SOCIETY OF WA

## Cultural notes - *Rodriguezia decora*

*Rodriguezia decora* (Lem.) Rchb. f. 1852 is a small sized, warm to cool growing epiphyte with slightly fragrant flowers found in Sao Paulo, Parana', Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul Brazil where it grows in cool, montane, humid but seasonally dry coastal forests and savannah. Vegetatively, it has well-spaced, ovoid, compressed pseudobulbs with single, apical, rigid, leathery, linear-oblong, acute leaves. Flowering in autumn and winter takes place on axillary, arcuate pendant, to 60 cm slender several [5-15] flowered inflorescences arising from mature pseudobulbs.



Photo source:

<https://www.orchidroots.com/detail/photos/179237/?gen=179211&pid=179237&type=species&role=pub>

In its natural habitat, this species forms large mats of plant material, held in place by fine long roots that firmly anchor it to surrounding trees and bushes, and enjoys bright light as can be seen in the in-situ photo. The plant material that we have given away came from a mat that grew on a frame at the top of a vertical rack on a rolling bench in a cooled glasshouse where it received maximum light, along with several large *Dendrobium* species. The plants were fertilised when spraying fertiliser onto the other orchids in the glasshouse. Tony Watkinson found that this species quickly attached itself to a treefern slab in his glasshouse, and I suspect that it would do just as well on hardwood slab, however the challenge might be to contain its wandering roots.



This species does not seem to attract many of the pests that we usually encounter when growing orchids, and, as it was living in the air, appeared to be less affected by common fungal and bacterial pathogens. I am not aware of successful pot culture for this straggly species with widely spaced pseudobulbs that is resistant to growing in a confined space such as a pot.

In situ photo source: <https://travaldo.blogspot.com/2018/02/rodriguezia-decora-care-and-culture.html>