



Lycaste orchid



Plant Botanical Name:

Lycaste ciliata

Plant Threat Level:

Vulnerable

Lycaste ciliata is an orchid species that grows on rocks (lithophytic) or other plants (epiphytic) at elevations up to about 9,000 feet in the mountains of Ecuador. Typically found under scrub in shady conditions, they are most fragrant at night. Orchids grow in habitats threatened by logging, agriculture, deforestation, and illegal collection, all of which upset the delicate ecological balance that orchids need. All orchids are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The U.S. Botanic Garden participates as a plant rescue center under CITES. Like this *Lycaste* species, hundreds of protected plants, mostly orchids,

accepted into the USBG collections through the Plant Rescue Center Program. These are used for conservation and education programs.

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