

Cymbidium Madidum



Cymbidium – from the Greek Kymbe a small boat, because of the shape of the labellum.

Described by John Lindley 1790 – 1863

Flowers – Spring to Summer – green – brown flowers on 60cm racemes.

On Bribie Island, this species has survived in the National Park and is found growing in stumps and fallen logs.

No known specimens on the southern end of the island due to land clearing and loss of suitable host trees eg. mature eucalyptus with hollows.

Seeds germinate in the broken down timber from the centre of trees and hollow stumps etc.

This orchid can be seen growing in trees on the mainland.

“Cymbidium Madidum” grows in rainforest situations also littoral rainforest.

This orchid is probably reliant on native bees for pollination.

Traditional aboriginal use – the pseudobulbs were used as food and to treat dysentery.

A photo of this orchid can be found in “Wild Flowers of Bribie Island” on page 77. The orchid is growing in a fallen log.

In April 1997 there was a report of a very large specimen growing in the Gallagher’s’ Gutter area, north of the White Patch.

Let’s hope there are more Cymbidiums growing in the remote areas of the island.

Growing areas range from Northern New South Wales to North Queensland.

By Ron Powell

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