



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 Columbia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. Typically found under scrub in shady conditions, they are most fragrant at night. Orchids grow in habitats threatened by logging, agriculture, development and especially 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 and cacti, have been accepted into the USBG collections through the Plant Rescue Center Program. These are used for conservation and education programs.

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