

*Jewel Orchids an Overview*  
*By Erich Michel*

*Subribe Goodyerinae*

*About 476 species, in 35 Genera.*

*Distribution: Widespread, mainly tropical, especially in tropical Asia.*

*Plant Habit: mainly terrestrial, occasionally saprophytic or epiphytic. Leaves in a basal spiral or rosette, often painted with intense veins, spots, or stripes. Roots fleshy with root hairs, commonly lack velamen layer.*

*Flowers: Small, commonly white or pale green. Lip saccate at base, or forming a spur. Column commonly asymmetrical and twisted. Pollen sectile.*

*Pollination: Bumblebee pollination reported in Goodyera. Butterfly pollination is reported in Ludisia.*

*Notes: This group has some fabulous potential for breeding ornamental leaved orchids. Most hybridizing was done a hundred and fifty years ago. In June 1861, Mr. James Veitch of the Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, registered the fifth Orchid Hybrid known to science *Dossinimaria X Dominii* (*Haemaria* {syn. *Ludisia*} *discolor* x *Dossinia marmorata*). In July, 1862 a sixth hybrid appeared, registered by Veitch *Macomaria X Veitchii* (*Haemaria* {syn *Ludisia* x *Macodes peteola*) in 1862. These were the first intergeneric Orchid*

*Hybrids, and when exhibited, received a First-Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society.*

*Culture: Many of these plants grow on rock outcroppings (lithophytic ) with their roots in detritus which has collected in the crevasses, like many species of Paphiopedilum . They will also be found growing as humus epiphytes on the forest floor in leaf litter. This leaf litter becomes `layered' with seasonal changes. This is why the plants grow with creeping rhizomes.*

*These unique environmental niches require growing conditions similar to Paphiopedilum. Shade, constant moisture, even drainage, neutral or basic PH range, and low mineral salts (minimal fertilizer). The recommended potting mix contains one part fine orchid seedling bark mix (with small amounts of perlite and charcoal)and one part of milled sphagnum peat.*

*Pests: The main pest for this group of plants is not insects but molluscs. Snails and slugs will devour a collection. Top dress pots seasonally with a commercial bait. Be careful to avoid the rosette of leaves when you apply the bait.*

