



## **Cultural Requirements – Encyclia**

**Pronounced:** en-SIK-lee-ah | **Tribe:** Epidendreae | **Subtribe:** Laeliinae



Encyclia is a genus of orchids first described by Hooker in 1828, with *Encyclia viridiflora* as the type species. The genus has seen many changes over time, including the movement of many species to the genus **Prosthechea** by Higgins in 1997. Encyclias are known for their variability in size and their unique lip that enfolds the column, a feature reflected in their name, derived from the Greek word 'enkyklein'. Common species include **Encyclia cordigera**, **Encyclia cochleata** (now **Prosthechea cochleata**), **Encyclia tampense**, and **Encyclia alata**. As of 2007, there are 147

recognized species distributed from Florida to Argentina.

**Temperature:** Maintain a warm to intermediate environment.

**Light:** Provide bright light for optimal growth of most species.

**Water-Humidity:** Keep medium humidity levels. Allow potted roots to dry out between waterings.

**Fertilizer:** Use balanced fertilizer without a specific rest period.

**Potting:** Species thrive when mounted on cork or potted in a medium-sized mix suitable for the grower's conditions. Plastic or clay pots are suitable, and if high humidity and adequate moisture are ensured, plants can excel in baskets.

**References:** *American Orchid Society via [aos.org](http://aos.org)*

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