

Plant "Imagination"



Dracula simia, the rare and mysterious grinning Monkey Orchids

The scientific name of this very rare flower is *Dracula simia*, with the first part hinting at the resemblance between its two long spurs to the fangs of Bram Stoker's famous vampire count, and the second meaning "monkey" in Latin. It only grows in the mountainous regions of Ecuador, Colombia and Peru, at an elevation of between 1,000 and 2,000 meters above sea level, but there are a few lucky collectors who have managed to grow it in "captivity". The Monkey orchid is not season specific, and in its natural habitat it can flower at any time. As if its striking resemblance to a monkey's face wasn't astounding enough, this flower actually smells a lot like a ripe orange, as well. Which is kind of ironic, because with a face like that you'd expect it to smell like bananas, right?