



KOHLERIA: An Introduction

Kohleria is a New World genus principally confined to Colombia in South America. Of the 17 described species, only 3 are found outside of Colombia: *K. allenii* and *K. rugata* are endemic to Central America and Mexico while *K. peruviana* is endemic to Peru. Kohlerias are perennial herbs and are almost exclusively terrestrial. They can be found in the rainforest growing in filtered or full sunlight at habitat elevations ranging from 1200 metres to 2200 metres.

With near optimum growing conditions especially strong light, kohlerias respond with sturdy growth and large flowers in attractive shades of red, orange, yellow, pink and green. In addition, kohleria flowers exhibit contrasting dots and lines in myriad patterns.



K. 'Brimstone'



CLASSIFICATION



Family: GESNERIACEAE
 Subfamily: GESNERIOIDEAE
 Tribe: GLOXINIEAE
 Genus: KOHLERIA
 Sub-genera: None
 No. of Species: 17
 Type Species: *Kohleria hirsuta*. First described as a genus in 1848 by Eduard Regel.

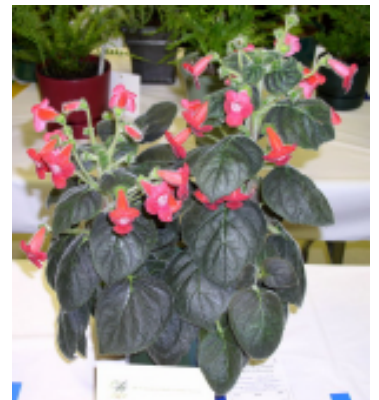
Distribution Range: Majority of species (14 of 17) are endemic to Colombia.
 Name Derivation: In honour of Michael Kohler, a Swiss biologist and natural historian.
 Root Structure: Scaly rhizomatous.
 Growth Habit: Cone, trailing or upright.
 Chromosome Count: 26



K. tubiflora

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

Temperature: Warm growing - 70 to 90 degrees F; 20 to 30 degrees C.
 Watering: Bottom, top or wick watering. Potting mixture must be kept constantly moist during active growth.
 Light: High light: once acclimated, kohlerias can tolerate full sun.
 Humidity: 40 to 50 percent.
 Fertilizer: Continuously with a higher non-urea based formulation, e.g., 20-20-20.
 Soil: Neutral, pH=6 to 7; Basic Potting Mixture is appropriate.
 Propagation: Asexually using tip cuttings, propagules or rhizomes. Kohlerias can exhibit varying degrees of sterility resulting in low fertility rates, i.e., little or no seed production. Hybrid plant material will only reproduce true using asexual propagation methods and techniques.



K. 'Strawberry Fields'



K. warszewiczii