



NAUTILOCALYX: An Introduction

Nautilocalyx is a New World genus native to Costa Rica in the north and ranging southward to Ecuador and Venezuela in South America. The genus is comprised of terrestrial herbs distributed in subtropical or tropical lowland rainforest habitats.

Nautilocalyx are frost tender perennials principally grown for the wide range of handsome textures and coloration exhibited by their foliage. Their showy foliage, ease of culture and vigorous growth habit make them a valuable foliar addition to any plant collection.

Nautilocalyx flowers are small, short lasting and produced in axillary clusters which, in many plants, are often hidden amongst the foliage. Recommended species include *N. lynchii*, *forgetii*, *bullatus* and *pemphidius*.



N. forgetii

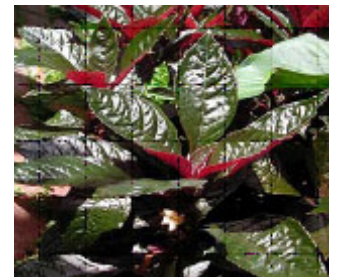


CLASSIFICATION



Family: GESNERIACEAE
 Subfamily: GESNERIOIDEAE
 Tribe: EPISCIEAE
 Genus: NAUTILOCALYX
 Sub-genera: None
 No. of Species: 50+
 Type Species: *Nautilocalyx bracteatus*, first described in 1854 by J. Hanstein

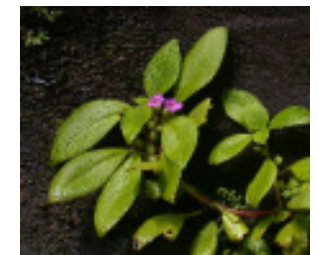
Distribution Range: Native to Central America (Costa Rica) and northern South America.
 Name Derivation: Greek, calyx resembling the shape of a nautilus shell.
 Root Structure: Fibrous with many species forming small tubers.
 Growth Habit: Whorled (decussate), shrubby and upright.
 Chromosome Count: 18 and 36.



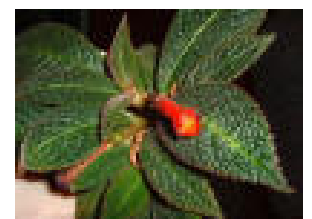
N. lynchii

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.
 Light: Low to medium light, must be shaded from direct sun.
 Humidity: 50 to 60 percent.
 Fertilizer: Continuously with a regular non-urea based formulation, e.g., Dyna Gro 7-9-5.
 Soil: Neutral, heading downward to slightly acid; pH=6 to 7; Basic Potting Mixture is appropriate.
 Propagation: Asexually using crowns, and offsets or sexually (seed) through self or cross pollination.



N. melittifolius



N. porphyrotrichus