



SINNINGIA: An Introduction

Sinningia is a New World genus native to Mexico in the north and ranging south through Central America to Argentina and Brazil in South America. The genus is primarily comprised of perennial herbs and shrubs, some of which are fragrant, for example, *S. conspicua*.

Most sinningias grow from woody tubers which can be rupicolous (growing on rock), terrestrial (growing on or in forest floor debris) or epiphytic (growing on trees) in nature. The genus is distributed in habitats ranging from sea level to cloud forest elevations (3,000 metres).

CLASSIFICATION



Family: GESNERIACEAE
 Subfamily: GESNERIOIDEAE
 Tribe: GLOXINIEAE
 Genus: SINNINGIA
 Sub-genera: None
 No. of Species: 75+
 Type Species: *Sinningia helleri*, described by Nees in 1825. (Presently assumed extinct.)

Distribution Range: Mexico, Central and South America.
 Name Derivation: Named for Wilhelm Sinning (1792-1874), Head Gardener and Botanical Instructor at the University of Bonn Botanical Garden (1818-1846).
 Root Structure: Tuberos, although some species and their hybrids are fibrous rooted and do not produce tubers, e.g., *S. schiffneri* and *S. 'Paper Moon'* (*S. schiffneri* x *S. pusilla*).
 Growth Habit: Rosette, e.g., *S. speciosa*, and *S. pusilla*; Cone, e.g., *S. guttata* and *S. aggregata*.
 Chromosome Count: 26

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 growing cycle.
 Light: Medium to high light.
 Humidity: 40 to 50 percent.
 Fertilizer: Continuously with a higher non-urea based formulation, e.g., 19-17-23.
 Soil: Neutral, heading downward to slightly acid; pH=6 to 7; Basic Potting Mixture is appropriate.
 Propagation: Asexually using crowns and sometimes leaves or sexually (seed) through self or cross pollination. The vast majority of hybrid plant material will only reproduce true using asexual propagation methods and techniques.



S. leucotricha



S. 'Merry Christmas'



S. conspicua