

orchid-gami

NATIVE TO THE U.S. AND CANADA

Cyrtopodium punctatum Cigar Orchid





The Cigar Orchid was once common in the swamps of Florida and grows throughout Mexico and as far south as Argentina.

Over-collecting in the last

century reduced populations of this orchid to a mere handful in south Florida. Today, restoration efforts in Florida's Fakahatchee Strand have increased the number of Cigar Orchids to nearly 1,000 closely monitored plants. This orchid produces large pseudobulbs with leaves lasting only one season. The spotted flower has a ruffled, reddish brown lip with orange markings in the center. A single flower stem can have more than 500 flowers that release a fragrance which attracts numerous bees to the plant, giving this orchid its other common name- the Bee Swarm Orchid. The large fruit is shaped like a pear and takes a full year to mature.

To learn more about the Cigar Orchid, scan the QR code with your phone or visit the species page on *Go Orchids* at *goorchids.northamericanorchidcenter.org*

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