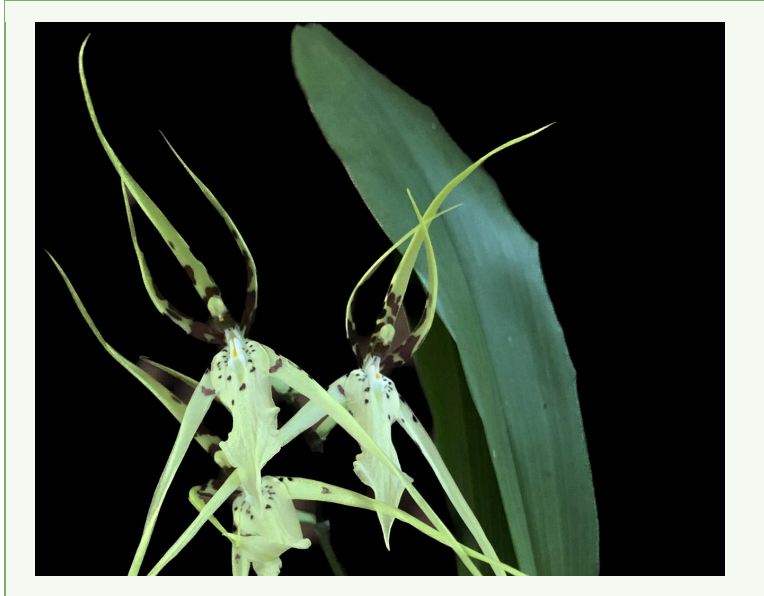


Brassia caudata

Spider Orchid • Cricket Orchid

◆ Florida Native ◆



Distribution: Southern Florida (believed extirpated since the 1990s), Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Mexico, and Central America.

Growth Habit: Epiphyte (occasionally lithophyte). Rockland hardwood hammocks — dense shaded canopy over limestone substrate, as in Everglades National Park.

Host Trees: Hardwood hammock species with rough bark. Mount so long flower spikes can drape freely.

Watering: Twice weekly in summer with good drainage; once weekly in winter with a short dry rest. Never allow roots to sit in standing water. 60–70% humidity.

Temperature: Intermediate, 65–75 °F days, slightly cooler nights. Protect from frost.

Light: Bright indirect — no direct mid-day sun. East or lightly shaded south exposure. Medium-green leaves signal correct light.

Additional Notes: Blooms in spring on dramatic arching spikes — long-limbed yellow-green flowers spotted brown, mimicking spiders to deceive spider-hunter wasps (no nectar offered). Believed extirpated from Florida wild; conservation propagation underway. Needs strong air movement.

BROWARD NATIVE ORCHIDS

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