

HEDYCHIUM

Koenig in Retz., Obs. 3:73.1783.

Terrestrial or epiphytic herbaceous plants. Leafy stem 50 cm to 3 m tall. *Leaves* distichous, elliptic, oblong or elliptic-oblong, rarely linear or lanceolate-oblong, sessile or shortly petiolate on the sheath, glabrous or hairy beneath; ligules membranous, (0.1-)1-5(-10) cm long. *Inflorescences* terminal on leafy stem, erect or eccentric; bracts broad or narrow, spirally arranged on the rachis, lax or closely imbricate, subtending 1 to 6 (up to 11 flowers in *H. stenopetalum*); bracteoles tubular or folded. *Calyx* tubular, slender, apex acute or unequally 2- to 3-toothed, often deeply divided along one side. *Corolla-tube* long and slender, lobes linear. *Staminodes* petaloid, broad or narrow. *Labellum* narrow at base or clawed, the blade broad with several shapes, more or less deeply divided. *Stamen* : filament slender, shorter or longer than the labellum; anther linear, rarely sagittate. *Ovary* glabrous or hairy, trilocular, placenta axile; ovules numerous. *Fruit* loculicidal capsule. *Seeds* many, arillate.