

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum crassum* Ridl., J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 32: 288 (1896)

Subgenus – *Dendrochilum*.

### Synonyms

None

### Origin in the Wild

Peninsula Malaysia and Sabah

### Elevation in the Wild

400 - 1,600 metres

### Habitat in the Wild

The type was collected on Peninsula Malaysia at Perak on Hermitage Hill.

This species has also been collected in Sabah near Nabawan; on Mount Kinabalu in the Minitinduk Gorge; on Mount Trus Madi; on the Sinsuron road in Tambunan District; within the Crocker range on Mount Alab and along the Keningau to Kimanis road.

Jeffrey Wood described the habitat as sandstone and shale outcrops on roadsides. This species can be found growing terrestrially with *Arundina graminifolia*, *Nepenthes fusca* and other plants. This species can be found on cliffs exposed to bright and direct sun, in hill forest and dipterocarp forest (Wood 2001).

### The Plants Description

This *Dendrochilum* can be found as a terrestrial, epiphyte or lithophyte. Rhizomes are orange, creeping, branching and grow to 60cm long. Pseudobulbs are a cylindrical or fusiform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 3-4cm long and 0.5-0.8cm in diameter and are an olive green or orange colour when growing in bright light. Pseudobulbs are covered by 4-6 cataphylls while they are growing. Cataphylls disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Cataphylls still enclose the pseudobulb at the time of flowering and are a dark brown colour and are sometimes speckled. Leaves are petiolate, petioles measure 0.4-0.8cm long. Leaf blades are an oblong-elliptic to elliptic shape and have obtuse to acute apices. Leaf blades measure 4-9.5cm long and 1.1-4cm wide. Leaf blades have 7-9 distinct nerves.

### The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are heteranthous. Peduncles are erect and measure 1.5-2cm long. Rachises are curved, arching or pendent and measure 8-16cm long. Rachises are quadrangular in cross-section. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 2-3mm apart. Flowers open from the proximal section of a rachis.

### The Flowers

Flowers are apple-green to creamy white. Labella are green and darkened towards their apices. Columns are pale green and anther caps are white. Dorsal sepals are an oblong shape and has obtuse apices that are apiculate in their centre. Dorsal sepals measure 4.9-5mm long and 2mm wide. Dorsal sepals are incurved, minutely papillose, have entire margins and are 3 veined. Lateral sepals are an oblong shape and have obtuse apices that are apiculate in their centre. Lateral sepals measure 4-

4.4mm long and 2mm wide. Lateral sepals are incurved, minutely papillose, have entire margins and are 3 veined. Petals are an oblong-spathulate or obovate shape and have obtuse apices that are apiculate in their centres. Petals measure 1-1.1mm long and 0.8-0.9mm wide, have entire margins and are 1-veined. Petals are directed forward and hide the column. Labella are entire and subpandurate. Labella measure 2.0mm long, 1-1.1mm wide basally and 0.8-0.9 wide at their apices. Labella are a broadly ovate shape and have obtuse apices that are apiculate in their centre. The margins of labella are entire. There are two keels that emerge from the base of each labellum and terminate midway. Columns are gently curved and measure 1.8-1.9mm long. Apical hoods are an oblong shape and have obtuse apices and entire margins. Stelidia grow from just above the base of columns, are a lanceolate shape, falcate and have acute apices. Stelidia do not quite reach the column apex.

#### Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

Not located

Isotype

NA

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen 50981.000](#)

[Specimen 61482.000](#)

[Specimen 50115.000](#)

[Specimen 54959.000](#)

SING

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0322440](#)

SAN

SAR

The Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh (E)

[Specimen E00233810](#)

[Specimen E00043220](#)

#### Scent

Yes, a sweet scent.

#### Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during March, April, May, June, October and December. I know of cultivated plants that have flowering during early summer in the northern hemisphere.

#### Cultivation

[www.dendrochilum.com](http://www.dendrochilum.com)

Written by Trey Sanders - Please use with permission

This species is very rare in cultivation but not unknown. The National Herbarium in the Netherlands, Leiden has a plant growing at the Hortus Botanicus.

#### Similar Species

*Dendrochilum pallidiflavens*

*Dendrochilum gravenhorstii*

#### Other Information

This species differs from others in the subgenus by its strongly incurving sepals, the broad base of the labellum and the fleshy keels.

The epithet refers to the thick leathery leaves and fleshy flowers.



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Reference -

SEIDENFADEN, Gunnar;; WOOD, Jeffrey;; HOULTTUM, Eric;. 1992, The Orchids of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore

WOOD, Jeffrey. Dendrochilum of Borneo, 2001. Natural History Publications (Borneo), Malaysia.

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 15 January 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **15 January 2009**.