

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum elmeri* Ames, Leafl. Philipp. Bot. 5: 1558 (1912)

Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

Synonyms

Acoridium elmeri (Ames) Ames, Orchidaceae 7: 80 (1922).

Origin in the Wild

Mindanao

Elevation in the Wild

2,300 – 2,465 metres

Habitat in the Wild

Plants have been collected from Mindanao on Mount Apo and Mount McKinley (mountain has now changed name) in Davao del Sur Province.

This species was found growing in clumps of moss on tree branches.

The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster along a short rhizome. Pseudobulbs are a fusiform shape. Pseudobulbs measure 1.6-2.3cm long and 0.4-0.7cm in diameter. Pseudobulbs are dull green or brown. Pseudobulbs are covered by 4-5 cataphylls while they are growing. The cataphylls soon disintegrate into persistent fibres as the pseudobulbs mature. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure 3.0-8.2cm long. Leaf blades are a lanceolate shape and have acute apices. Leaf blades measure 13.1-21.0cm long and 2.1-3.3cm wide. Leaves are coriaceous, thin textured and have 5-7 distinct nerves.

The Inflorescence

Inflorescences are synanthous. Peduncles are suberect and measure 19-20cm long. Rachises are nodding and measure c7.9cm long. Flowers alternate distichously and are spaced 3.0-4.0mm apart; rachises twist to form a cylindrical spiral. There is one appressed non-floriferous bract at the base of the rachis. Flowers open from the proximal section of the rachis.

The Flowers

Wenzel's field notes described the colour as yellow. Henrik Pedersen wrote (1997) that the flower colour is yellow to dark yellow. Sepals and petals are reflexed. Dorsal sepals are an elliptic-oblong shape and have obtuse to subacute apices. Dorsal sepals measure 5.3-6.0mm long and 2.0-2.3mm wide. Dorsal sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Lateral sepals are an oblong shape and have obtuse apices. Lateral sepals measure 5.2-6.1mm long and 2.0-2.2mm wide. Lateral sepals are three veined and have entire margins. Petals are an elliptic shape and have obtuse apices. Petals measure 5.2-5.4mm long and 2.7-2.8mm wide. Petals are three veined and have entire margins. Labella are porrect and entire. Labella are an orbicular shape

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and have rounded-obtuse apices. Labella measure 5.7-7.1mm long and 5.5-6.0mm wide. Labella are five to seven veined and have entire to slightly crenate margins, the lateral margins incurve. There are two obscure swellings at the base of the hypochile. Columns are slightly incurved and measure 2.2-2.5mm long. Column feet are strongly concave. Apical hoods are prolonged into rounded quite entire apices which distinctly exceed anther caps. Stelidia grow upwards from the top of columns and are equal to column apices. Stelidia are an obliquely-oblong shape and have rounded apices.

Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

AMES

[Specimen 18872](#) (photo)

Isotype

New York Botanical Garden (NY)

[Specimen 39521](#) (photo)

AMES

[Specimen 18873](#) (photo)

Other herbarium specimens

National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden (L)

[Specimen L0322472](#)

Scent

No

Flowering Season

Flowering plants have been collected in the wild during May and September.

Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

Similar Species

Dendrochilum megacallosum
Dendrochilum rotundilabium

Other Information

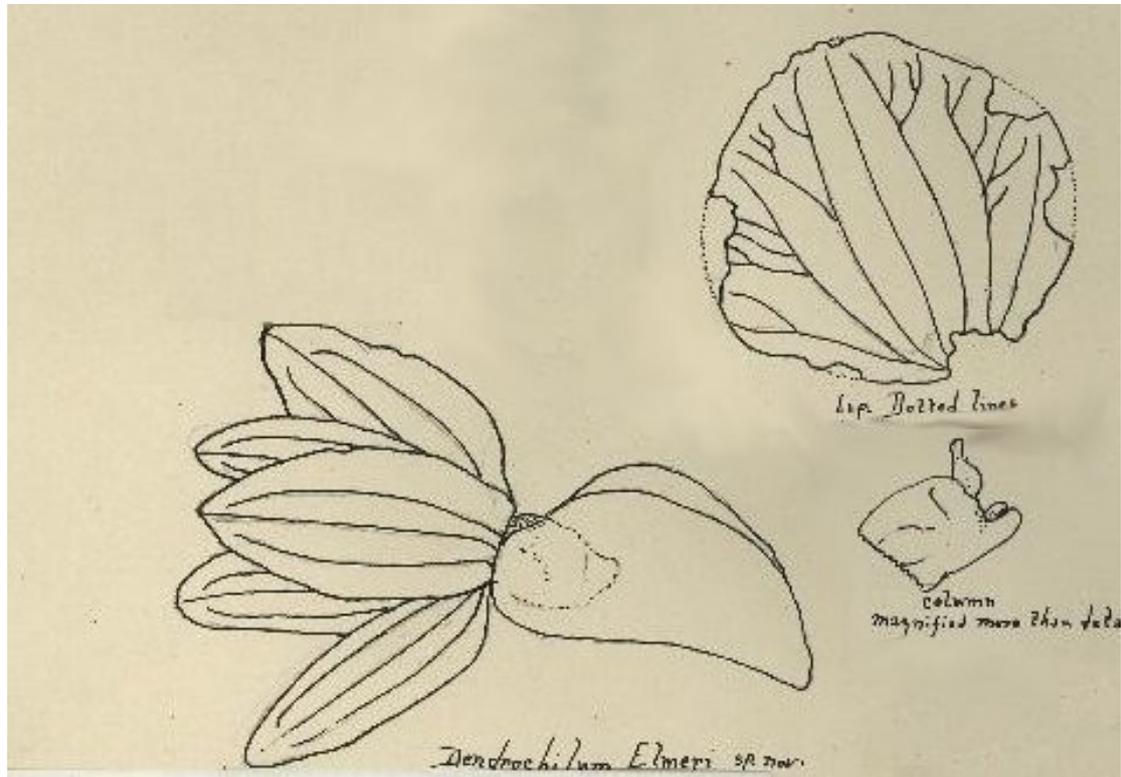
Oakes Ames considered this species to be closely related to *Dendrochilum turpe*. L.O. Williams placed this species in *Acoridium* stating that it was close to *Dendrochilum irigense*.

Henrik Pedersen placed (1997) this species in subgenus *Platyclinis* on account of its stelidia and distinct apical hood. Pedersen placed this species along with

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Dendrochilum longilabre in section *Mindanaorchis* because of its deeply concave column foot. In 2019, the section *Mindanaorchis* was no longer recognised (Pedersen 2019).



Ames drawings from the holotype

Reference –

PEDERSEN, Henrik. 1997, The Genus *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae) in the Philippines – A Taxonomic Revision. Opera Botanica, Denmark

PEDERSEN, Henrik., PETERSEN, Gitte., GRAVENDEEL, Barbara., BARKMAN, Todd., DE BOER, Hugo., SULISTYO, Bobby., SEVERGI, Ole. 2019, Phylogenetics of *Dendrochilum* (Orchidaceae): Evidence of pronounced morphological homoplasy and predominantly centric endemism. Taxon, International Association for Plant Taxonomy.

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 24 July 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **24 July 2009**.

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