

Accepted name: *Dendrochilum insectiferum* (Ridl.) J.J.Sm., Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, III, 5: 53 (1922)

### Subgenus – *Platyclinis*

#### Synonyms

*Platyclinis insectifera* Ridl., J. Fed. Malay States Mus. 8(4): 89 (1917).

#### Origin in the Wild

Sumatra

#### Elevation in the Wild

1,900 – 2,400 metres

#### Habitat in the Wild

This species has been found in open swamp forest on Mount Kerinci (Comber, 2001). The only swamp forest on Kerinci is the Ladeh Panjang wetlands on the SW slopes and where I saw many *Dendrochilum* species growing, but not this one. I did a non flowering plant 200 metres away in primary forest. A couple of the leaves show the distinctive narrowing at their apices, photos are lower down. Photos of the habitat are below.

The Singapore specimen states that it was collected on the Kerinci peak at 2,225 metres, which is 200 metres higher than the wetlands.

#### The Plants Description

Pseudobulbs cluster together along a short and branching rhizome. Pseudobulbs are spaced 7 mm apart, an oblong shape and narrowed at their apices. Pseudobulbs measure c2.3 cm long. Leaves are petiolate; petioles measure c3 cm long. Leaf blades are an elliptic-lanceolate shape and are abruptly narrowed at their apices. Leaf blades measure c11.5 cm long and c4 cm wide.

Inflorescences are synanthous and appear from the pseudobulbs at the same time as the leaves and are free from the subtending leaf at the time of flowering. Peduncles measure 8.5-17 cm long. Rachises are flattened and quadrangular in cross section. The flowers are spaced 5mm apart.

Jim Comber wrote that between 9 and 14 flowers grow on an inflorescence. Jim Comber gave the colour as pale, the sepals with 2 brown bars, the petals with 1 brown bar and labella brown with a pale line running the length (Comber 2001). Dorsal sepals are an oblong-ovate shape with shortly apiculate apices. Dorsal sepals measure c8.75 mm long and c4 mm wide. Lateral sepals are an obliquely-ovate shape and have apiculate apices. Petals are an obliquely-oblong shape and have acuminate apices that recurve. Petals measure c6.8 mm long and c3 mm wide. Labella are 3-lobed and recurved above their base and apices. Side lobes are short and rounded at their apices. Side lobes grow to about 2/5 the length of the labellum and the mid-lobe the other 3/5. Mid-lobes are a broadly lanceolate and have acute apices. Columns are narrow and curved and measure c4.4 mm long. Apical hoods have triangular apices. Stelidia grow from the bases of columns and do not reach the column apices. Stelidia measure 3 mm long, are broad basally and narrowed to thin and acute apices.

### Herbarium Specimens

Holotype

I could not locate the specimen

Other herbarium specimens

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (K)

[Specimen K000079114](#) (not designated as a type, however I am sure that it must be)

National Herbarium Netherlands (L)

[Specimen L0269617](#)

Singapore Botanic Gardens (SING)

[Specimen 0137354](#) (not designated as a type, however I am sure that it must be)

### Scent

I could find no record.

### Flowering Season

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

### Cultivation

I do not think this species is in cultivation

### Similar Species

*Dendrochilum simile*  
*Dendrochilum basale*

### Other Information

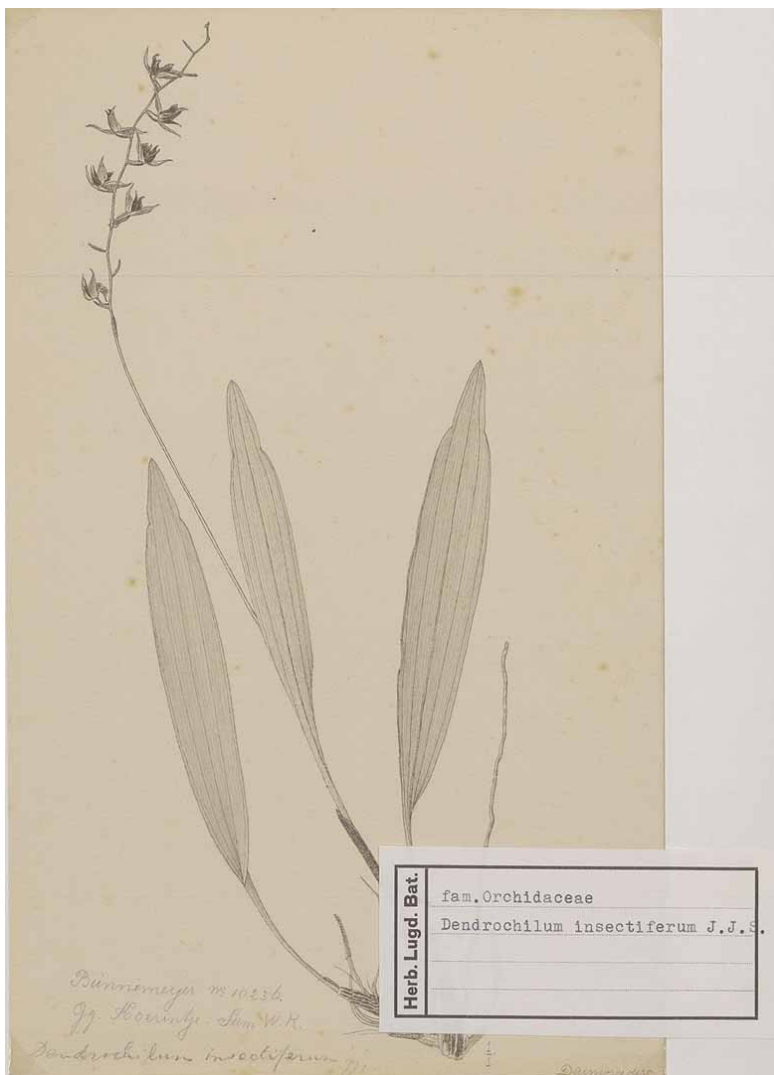
The name is given because the flowers are brown or black and insect like.

Ridley wrote that this species is similar to *Dendrochilum simile* but differs by the large and broad stamens.

When J.J. Smith wrote and published his description in 1922 he referenced Ridley's earlier description from 1917. I am unsure if J.J. Smith consulted the specimens Ridley used in his description. J.J. Smith did state that his specimens differed by the carinate petals. J.J. Smith's description was based on the specimens collected by Bunnemeijer. I can not locate these specimens and assume they were deposited in Bogor and are now destroyed.



An illustration by J.J. Smith based on the second collection placed in Bogor (now destroyed). An illustration does not yet exist of the specimens used in the Ridley description.



Left: An illustration from a herbarium specimen. Please note that the leaves on this illustration depict the narrowly abrupt leaf apices more dramatically that type held at Kew. Illustrator Darmosoediro



Above, this is Ladeh Panjang wetland, the habitat of *Dendrochilum insectiferum*. Photo Trey Sanders ©.



Above, the canopy trees surrounding the wetland. The thick mossy branches contain many species of *Dendrochilum*. Photo Trey Sanders ©.





Above: this unidentified non-flowering plant was found on a recently fallen tree. A couple of the leaves show the abrupt narrowing of the leaf apices. It may be, but until I return and search again, we will not know for sure.

Reference –

COMBER, J.B. Orchids of Sumatra, 2001, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

SMITH, J.J. 1922, Bulletin du Jardin Botanique de Buitenzorg, III, 5: 37.

World Checklist of Selected Plant Families. 09 January 2009. The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.kew.org/wcsp/> accessed **09 January 2009**.